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The Prairie View...

GUARDIAN

A Newsletter for Parents and Guardians of Students Enrolled at Prairie View A. and M. College

Prairie View A. and M. College

March 4, 1971

Prairie View, Texas

TO: PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
FROM: President A. I. Thomas
RE: Student Disturbance at Prairie View A&M College

On February 25, 1971, a group of students marched on my home and read a list of demands. I indicated to the students that we do not feel that we should reply to any demands under threat, coercion, intimidation or disruption. We will not bow to unreasonable demands. We will, however, discuss any issues of concern to our students provided they are presented in an orderly manner by appropriate student representatives. Over \$200,000 in damage was caused before the students presented their demands to me. Many of the demands which were listed by a group called S. P. A. D. E. are already available to the students. None of the demands had been presented to me through official channels prior to the evening of the violence.

Below is a list of demands and a reply to each for your information.

DEMAND 1: We demand the immediate resignation of all administration personnel listed here: A. I. Thomas, Alvin McNeil, R. Bland Evans, Leroy Marion, George Stafford, William C. Clem, and T. R. Solomon.

REPLY: The employment of personnel at Prairie View A. and M. College is a personnel matter limited to the action of the College administration and the Board of Directors.

DEMAND 2: We demand total respect for students, their ideals, goals, standards and their expressions.

REPLY: Each student at Prairie View A. and M. College has a basic right to have his rights, goals and standards respected. This does not imply that others must agree or accept his views. A Student-Faculty Committee on Student Rights will be established immediately. Any student who feels that he has not been respected may present his position to this Committee.

DEMAND 3: We want our constitutional rights respected.

REPLY: The Constitutional Rights of each student shall be respected. Anyone who feels that his constitutional rights have been abridge shall present his views to the Committee on Student Rights.

DEMAND 4: We want student involvement in every facet of decision-making that affects us as students.

REPLY: Student Committees already exist for student involvement in all areas of the College. These Committees will be published and made available to each student. Where student committees are not functioning, every effort will be made to activate them. Students must be willing to work on the committees.

DEMAND 5: We want dialogue with administration with complete amnesty.

REPLY: Students will have complete amnesty in dialogue with administration.

DEMAND 6: We want an end to the slop the (Administration) calls food.

REPLY: Students pay 55¢ for each meal at Hilliard Hall. 22¢ is for food. The Hilliard Hall gives the best food possible for this cost. The management will make a concerned effort to improve all aspects of Hilliard Hall.

DEMAND 7: We want better living conditions.

REPLY: A full inspection of living conditions will be made. STUDENTS are asked to work with residence hall managers in promoting better living conditions. New residence halls are currently under construction and will produce better living conditions.

DEMAND 8: We want a compromise in the curfew, preferably 11:45 week-days and 3:00 weekends.

REPLY: The closing hour of women's halls is a concern of the Women's Council and the Women's Residence Hall Committees. This group will be asked to immediately complete the work they have already begun on the closing hours.

DEMAND 9: We want the complete elimination of the Student Handbook.

REPLY: The College must have a Student Handbook to comply with the standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. If students wish to make revisions in the handbook, they should submit their suggestions.

DEMAND 10: We want an active Student Government Association. (Not Lackeys and Pimps)

REPLY: Agreed. Prairie View should have an active and strong Student Government Association.

DEMAND 11: We want the immediate reinstatement of students expelled from school for voicing their opinions. Such as: Curtis Faulkner, Larry James Mass, Darron Hudson, and Geneva Chapman along with the other students who have been railroaded out of this mock institution, and are not declared by these organizations (S.D.I.A., S.P.A.D.E. as political administrative prisoners).

REPLY: No students have been expelled for voicing their opinions. . .

Curtis Faulkner - Scholastic Record - 5 F's - GPA .12
Larry J. Mass - Scholastic Record - 4 F's - GPA .25
Darron Hudson - Scholastic Record - 5 F's - GPA .47
Geneva Chapman - Social (Miss Chapman was on probation for repeated incidents. She was out of the residence hall without leave for three days without authorization. Geneva did not appeal the decision for suspension.

DEMAND 12: We want the liberalization of the faculty dress code.

REPLY: The College has no written dress code for its faculty. The faculty should be a model of the highest standards for its students in dress as well as in personal and professional areas.

DEMAND 13: We want the liberalization of the faculty and their ideas and expressions.

REPLY: The faculty is free to express its ideas consistent with the standards of Academic Freedom as stated by the American Association of University Professors.

DEMAND 14: We want involvement of P.V.C. in community affairs.

REPLY: Many student groups are already involved in community affairs. The College welcomes additional students committed to community services.

DEMAND 15: We want immediate investigations of all financial records in the Fiscal Offices.

REPLY: The records of the Fiscal Office are open to all qualified individuals. Since student records enjoy personal confidence, some system of inspection is maintained.

DEMAND 16: We demand the immediate cessation of all immorality directed toward the students.

REPLY: Any acts of immorality toward students should be reported immediately and action will be taken to bring the guilty party to justice.

DEMAND 17: The reinstatement of all Veteran Loans.

REPLY: Under the provisions of the Hinson-Hazelwood Loan Program, we have been advised that Veterans do not qualify for loans. The loans are based on need. The minimum veteran's allowances exceed the criteria for need.

DEMAND 18: The immediate firing of all student pimps (salaried student informers).

REPLY: The College has no salaried student informants. Many students are employed on student-jobs. Their views may or may not agree with their fellow students.

DEMAND 19: We demand a student newspaper (The Panther), not an administrations newspaper.

REPLY: If the students will adopt a newspaper fee to be charged all students to cover the total cost of personnel and production and be willing to put out a paper, the College will approve a plan.