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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

Prairie View, Texas

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT PRAIRIE VIEW A&M COLLEGE

February 24, 25, 26, 1971

Wednesday, February 24, 2:00 p.m. - Two students block entrance to College Exchange in an attempt to start a boycott. Many students and staff ignore efforts to start boycott.

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Repeated attempts are made by Dean of Men, Dean of Women and Security Department to counsel with students who attempted to block College Exchange. Each time they return.

5:00 - 10:30 p.m. - All Quiet.

10:30 - 11:00 p.m. - Disturbance reported in Freshman Area of Suarez-Collins Halls. Male students stone halls forcing females out. Females are encouraged by two female students to come out of Suarez-Collins. Students overturn Security Car and set it on fire. Students march to College Exchange.

11:00 - 11:30 p.m. - Students break out windows to College Exchange. Begin looting and stealing.

11:30 - 12:00 p.m. - Students march 3/4 miles to residence of President A. I. Thomas with sticks, stones, pipes and bottles. Threaten to break in. Group was wild and profane.

12:00 - 12:30 a.m. - President Thomas comes from the campus and appears before group. After many threats and much profanity, a student reads a list of demands and indicates President Thomas has until 3:00 p.m. Friday to answer. Students return to campus.

12:30 - 1:00 a.m. - Students march up highway and when on campus resume looting and stealing from College Exchange. Most students return to Residence Halls.

1:00 - 1:30 a.m. - Three students are seen setting fire to Dean of Men's Office. The wood frame building a total loss.

2:00 a.m. - Trash chute in Fuller Hall reported on fire. Occupants extinguish fire.

2:30 - 3:00 a.m. - Three to six students break into laundry, loot and steal all men's dry cleaning. Damage and destroy women's laundry and dry cleaning.

3:00 - 6:00 a.m. - General milling around; no further violence or disruption.

Thursday, February 25, All Day - Classes normal. Many students leaving campus. College convocation is attended by over 1800 students.

6:00 - 2:30 a.m. - Faculty patrols campus. No incidents.

2:30 a.m. - Man sighted in Spence Hall. Fire set by fire bomb. Fire limited to one room in Freshman Studies Department.

During the night, two students identified as leaders are arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety.

Friday, February 26 - 8:00 - 12:00 Noon - Classes as usual.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Students hold rally in Front of Administration Building.

3:00 - 9:30 p.m. - President Thomas meets with Students. Distributes answers to demands. Answers are rejected. President Thomas advises students to sit with him and responsible school officials to talk out problems. Students refuse. President Thomas advises students that disorder cannot continue. Unless they are willing to restore order, school will be closed. Students indicate order will not be restored. President Thomas announces that school is closed. Approximately 100 students were active in the rally. About 50 were spokesmen. About 300 observed.

Saturday, February 27 to Friday, March 5 - Faculty meeting to determine how school can be operated in an atmosphere of order conducive to learning.