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THE PANTHER

Vol. 22

Prairie View A. & M. College, Prairie View Branch, Hempstead, Texas, February, 1948

No. 2

CRITICISM OF THE NEGRO PRESS

By DAVID R. PRICE

According to the 1943 Census there were 164 active Negro newspapers, including weekly and daily editions.

There were three states which had more than 8 active Negro newspapers. Texas had 12 and the state of Illinois had 9. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia were represented by from 5 to 8 Negro newspapers.

The average circulation during the period of July 1, 1942, to June 30, 1943, was 1,613,255.

During World War II there were 20 Negro war correspondents.

This data gives us some idea of how the Negro press has advanced since its beginning in 1827, some 121 years ago. Although there are numerous criticisms concerning the Negro press, the press remains active.

Some of the criticisms are: Negro newspapers are biased; they carry too much scandal, and are not organized. Excessive advertisements, and, most of all, too much agitation characterize the Negro press. These criticisms were made by members of a student group.

Personally, I agree with the criticisms as set forth in the foregoing passage. Negro newspapers are biased. They build up the Negro in his achievements over the whites. The whites are praised at times when they have done something in favor of the Negro which will assist the Negro with his racial problems, but not primarily when the whites have done something which will assist humanity as a whole.

On a whole, it is said that Negro newspapers are full of scandal. According to a reporter of the *Houston Informer*, newspapers sell faster if they are built around the principle of alarm. Alarm and the unusual are what the people in general like to read.

Negro newspapers are full of insignificant advertisements. Whole pages, throughout the paper, regardless of the classification of the pages, are dedicated to the cause of advertisements, which, in

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Journalism As A Vocation For Men

By ALLISON B. POWELL

Journalism has become a big business and an important profession. The distinction, as Dean Ackerman of the Pulitzer School of Journalism, Columbia University, has drawn it, is between the business of the publisher and the profession of the editor.

Journalism offers much to the alert young man of today. Usually journalism is thought of in a reporting sense; reporting is only one of the phases of this fast growing profession. There are too many numerous phases to mention, but if one is interested, it is wise to study the particular phase desired and pursue that phase.

Years ago very little education was needed to do journalistic work, but now one must have a degree in journalism before being considered for a journalistic occupation.

All high hopes of getting rich quick should be abandoned because disillusionment is surely to befall. It is a long, tedious grind before reaching the high wage bracket. Journalism cannot afford, anymore than medicine or law, to look upon its enterprise as a plain business proposition. Journalists must feel the urge to work, not look at the business only in terms of dollar signs.

Hundreds of periodicals are published by Negroes. The majority of these periodicals are published in the southern states. Young men in this section have no worry as to obtaining a position once they are fortified with a degree in journalism.

Richard W. Thompson wrote rather sadly in 1902:

"It is a stinging indictment of our much-lauded 'race-pride' that the greater portion of our Negro journalists are compelled to depend for a living upon teaching, preaching, law, medicine, office-holding, or upon some outside business investment."

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Journalism As A Vocation For Women

By ETHEL MCKINNEY

Until recent years only men were interested in the field of journalism. Today the huge enrollment of women in schools of journalism throughout the country shows a marked trend of the entrance of women into the field.

The accomplishments of women already in the field are noteworthy. The renowned reputation of Miss Dorothy Thompson, leading woman journalist and publicist, is universal. Miss Dorothy Dunnigan who was recently appointed to the Press Gallery in Washington, D.C. is a Negro journalist who is making rapid strides in the field.

There are many phases of journalistic writing in which women are engaged. Some of the most lucrative positions are in advertising, promotion, publicity, printing, technical journalism, publishing, teaching, and free lance writing. Women also serve in lesser positions as columnists, editorial writers, society editors, linotype operators and syndicate writers.

Women journalists are successful largely because the field of journalism calls for certain natural gifts as shrewdness, cleverness, excessive curiosity which women are endowed with by nature.

In addition to having a natural aptitude for the profession, women must also have thorough training through education. A successful journalist must have the broadest possible liberal education with emphasis on political science, sociology, current events, and literature. The possession of intensive knowledge of a special field makes one indispensable to a publication. The experience of life is also an indispensable teacher for the potential writer.

Approximate figures concerning the earnings of the salaried woman writer range from \$10 a week to \$300 a week. Newspaper salaries range from \$10 a week to \$210 per week with a median salary of \$32 per week; magazine salaries range

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INNOVATIONS OF THE NEGRO PRESS

By OMEZELLE QUARLES AND LENA FREEMAN

Developing from a ridiculed and lowly status, the Negro press has grown into an influential institution and is given serious consideration by local, state, and national administrations, historians, and sociologists when problems affecting Negro life are treated. Although it has been in existence in this country for more than a century, the Negro press has experienced during the last two decades an unparalleled rate of development.

The growth of Negro news agencies and the accrediting of Negroes as foreign correspondents marked a new era in the development of modern Negro journalism. It widened the horizon especially of editors of small papers in small towns by making available more news of a universal nature which was inaccessible to them heretofore. That the "... vision of the Negro press has gradually widened in the last ten years is proved by the following indices of somewhat increasing maturity":

The organization of press and syndicate services; the printing of national, and local editions; an emergent use of color presses by the more opulent weeklies; the appearance of strong newspaper chains; the growing patronage of white business enterprises evidenced by a larger number of "ads" from this source; the creation of extensive promotional activities among both their colored carriers and the Negro public; and the increasing space that is allotted to foreign news that offsets the fate of all colored peoples of the world.

Numerous studies made recently attest the great improvements in policy, news coverage, news channels and advertisement which were made in the last decade.

THE PANTHER

"Voice of the Students"

Published by the students of Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Editorial

SCHOLARSHIP TAKES THE BACK SEAT

By T. ROOSEVELT DAVIS

During our present age of progressive education and scientific achievement, the demand for youthful initiative is greater than ever before in the history of this country and nation.

Emphasis is not only placed on the individual's ability to achieve on the technological fronts necessitated by greater demands for comfortable living, but it is required that these same individuals possess the knowledge and acumen to set forth original ideas and inventions.

It is unfortunate that too many of today's youth lack the attributes which are direct outgrowths of good scholarship and sound thinking.

The bulk of the blame for the great dilemma into which many students have fallen, relative to scholarship, may be placed on the background training received in many of our modern colleges. This is especially true of the Southern Negro College where, seemingly, grades are of more paramount importance than good scholarship.

In the above regard, Prairie View is singular in this respect.

It is not unusual to meet daily those students from this institution, who are exemplifying the poorest type of leadership and achievement in life, while having maintained straight "A" averages in school.

The primary reason for this great fiasco in Prairie View's educative process is embodied in the fact that policy has demanded that a student's record be "good" irrespective of the fact that they do not exhibit the least bit of scholarship.

On this particular aspect of the question, some are wont to ask: "How can a student maintain a straight "A" average without exemplifying scholarship?"

The obvious answer is that these individuals were successful in attaining the desired result without putting forth the knowledge and skill supposedly required. This "end" was accomplished by a gamut of "means" which range from "riding ponies" to stealing the instructor's examination.

Consequently, there is little left upon which a person, who is aware of these facts, could establish a

criterion, or set up a yard-stick to measure the degree to which one was or was not a good student.

Scholarship has taken the back seat again because certain existing elements of school life have tended to starve initiative and emasculate originality. Strict conformity to institutional patterns has suppressed and thwarted the most ambitious of Freshmen who sought to make education mean more than passing of a particular course.

As evidence that scholarship has taken the back seat in Prairie View's great emporium of knowledge, one has only to converse with the average student on subjects requiring sound and basic thinking. That the average student is not aware of the world about him is again evidenced by the lack of interest, and in many cases a total lack of knowledge, concerning the most current national and international occurrences.

Many misconstrue the idea that information is knowledge, thus weaving one of the greatest patterns of hypocrisy in the minds of a public whose educational dependence is centered around those graduating from college. Little do they realize that knowledge comes as a result of assimilating and using the information obtained through proper study, concentration and objective thinking. How is it possible to demand of an individual the best of finished products if his training has been directed towards its rudiments only?

Scholarship has taken the back seat again because of the stagnant ideas of instructors that their antiquated methods of instruction and notes of information are just as new today as they were twenty years ago when first written.

That students must suffer under this type of instruction is one of education's greatest injustices. Is it small wonder that scholarship has taken the back seat?

In direct contradiction to practices of progressive education, many instructors will not condone, and some few refuse outright, to tolerate disagreement with their ideas by their students.

Until that day arrives when institutional policy demands that a student strive to develop his thinking capacity instead of aiming for good grades, one might reasonably expect Prairie View's finished products to be the acme in mediocrity.

Scholarship has taken the back seat because THINKING is on the gallows and GETTING BY is on the throne.

Is Physical Education An Aspect of Education?

By GEORGE BLANTON

All phases of activity are being transformed within the department of physical education in the conduct of its program from an educational viewpoint.

"Out of new statements of aims, objectives, methods, principles and programs, have come more clearly than ever before recognition of (1) the unique, educative values in physical education (2) its opportunities for wholesome development of young people and (3) the contribution of its learned activities to life, its work and its pleasures."

What values may be derived from physical education?

"These values may be grouped in three categories: socialization, setting of standards, and formation of attitudes."

With many opportunities in the school and elsewhere for social contacts, those offered by games and sports would not appear, at first thought, to be unique. On the contrary, nothing in the school or home offers situations so acute as those presented in team games. The urge to win, to achieve group approval is so great that only competent leadership prevents the situation from breaking down. Such conditions promote socialization under conditions of stress. "The setting of standards in play, enter into not only the games of the school, but become indeed a part of business and industrial affairs." "Follow through" are not mere cards to decorate the outer office, but are a portion of a realistic language for human conduct. It has not been claimed that the standards learned on the playing field will operate in all situations of life, nor that school experience will function as learned skill or ability. The unique educative role of physical education in setting up attitudes is demonstrated by every adult reaction to sports in the American College.

The attitude of the usual alumnus toward games is characterized by the kind of experience he went through when he was in college. He cares little about changes the college may make in the English courses, the new professor selected for freshmen zoology, but he is most voluble in his criticism of the coach of sports. These activities have entered into his life and formed strong attitudes toward or away from certain things. That his

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Chemistry Staff Does Research

By ALONZA O. C. SARGENT

Dr. E. E. O'Banion has done research on the sulphur drugs and vitamin K and is at the present time doing work on the catalytic oxidation of Organic compounds and the metabolism of ascorbic acid in ducks. Dr. O'Banion has submitted several of his works to the Journal of Chemical Education. He is having two of his majors: Raymond Alexander and O. Jordan Rodgers oxidize furfural and leptidine.

Mr. W. A. Samuel is doing research on the complexes of Manganic Acid and has published a preservation of starch solution.

The derivatives of furfural is the work which is of interest to Mr. A. Clyde Herald.

Mr. Cedric Stubblefield is studying the senna bean which grows prolifically in this area and he is also doing florimetric methods of analysis.

Mr. High, another member of the department is at the present studying at Indiana University.

The Mechanic Arts Division

A \$101,000 new turbine Generator will be installed in the power plant in the near future. This unit will produce 500 Kilowatts. This badly needed generator will guarantee an adequate amount of power for the school and balance the load on the much over-worked generator.

* * *

In the near future our telephone system will be insured against interruptions of communications by laying the telephone cables underground.

* * *

A wheel alignment machine has been ordered for the auto-mechanic shop. This will enable the instructor to teach the students a technical job. This is a highly specialized job, some mechanics prefer this kind of job because it pays a higher salary.

* * *

A course in Refrigeration is being planned by the directors of our division. This trade is young and is growing very fast. There are many opportunities in this field.

The Mechanic Arts Department is still offering a prize to the student with the best grades in the four-year course and in the two-year trade course.

The Dilettante Literary Society

By JOYCE WILSON

The word "Dilettante" means a lover of fine art. The Dilettante Literary Society is composed of the English majors and minors.

Each of the regular meetings are very interesting and valuable to each member. In the first meeting after its organization this year, the senior Shakespeare students presented an interesting program based on the life and familiar works of Shakespeare. Each member seemed to have enjoyed the program immensely and the students who have not taken the course were highly motivated.

The Dilettantes' Christmas entertainment is a memorable event. The members of the society presented their most admired and respected sponsor, Miss Offutt, with a lovely pink and solid gold bracelet.

The interest of the members seem to grow each year and we are hoping that the society will continue to grow and bring valuable as well as entertaining projects to its members and the students of Prairie View.

Physical Education

(Continued from Page Two)

attitudes seem often unsound and of no great help to the college is beside the point (the college should have educated its alumni when they were undergraduates.)

The important fact remains that these are vital activities touching people emotionally and building attitudes that seek expression and satisfaction.

I believe, therefore, that physical education provides through its sports and games, unique educative opportunities in socialization, the setting of standards, and the formation of attitudes. This is the first argument for viewing it as an aspect of education.

Journalism for Men

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Since 1902 journalism has made a vast independent rise. Journalists are able to work at journalism alone and thrive without holding other positions. World War II brought about many improvements in the Negro journalistic status. For the first time, the Negro correspondents played an active part in world affairs.

Sports Highlights

By RAYMOND ALEXANDER

ANALYSIS OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM

The 1948 edition of the Panther basketball squad is one of the best to date. The team's greatest weakness is its inability to make free shots. It usually keeps up with a team with field goals but lags behind on the free shots. The Panthers also need additional height as every team that played to date has always towered over the Prairie View men. The extra height would enable them to retrieve many balls from the backboard and also to get more shots at the basket.

The Panthers may not win all games this season; however, other teams will know that they have encountered stiff opposition. This is much better than the usual varsity squad of previous years who was a pushover for the conference teams.

TRACK TEAM TRAINS

Every day about 4:00 p.m. if one were to look out towards Blackshear Field one would see the new edition of the Panther Track Team hard at practice.

Lost to the team from last year are Leon English, dash man who graduates in February; A. J. Murphy, distance man who graduated last year; and Chester Harde-men, sprint man who also graduated last year.

Last year varsity returning are Cyrtis Williams, Mathews Clay, Fronchel Reece, Joe Rodgers, Raymond Graves, and Raymond Alexander sprints; Boston P. Grant, Reginal Sapenter, Delbert Dawson, Obie Robinson, Herbert Chambers, and Claude Dabbs, middle distance; Vandy Murphy, Willie Nickson, Loyis Taylor, Louis Coruthers, and Joe Scott, distance. In the field Eural Davis is a broad jumper, Ray Harrison and George Blanton are pole vaulters, Harry Bilton II a high jumper, and Sherman Malone a hurdler. Many Freshmen are out for the team.

Journalism for Women

(Continued from Page One)

from \$15 a week to \$300 per week with a median salary of \$44 per week; advertising and publicity range from \$14.50 a week to \$152 a week.

The field of journalism is a very fertile field for women as there is a constant opportunity for advancement.

P. V. Five Wins Two; Loses Four

By RAYMOND ALEXANDER, ALONZO SARGENT, MARION HACKETT, AND GEORGE STAFFORD

Prairie View's basketball five does not have a very impressive record from the six basketball games that they have played to date, but there is only one team that has really outranked them, and that is Langston whom Prairie View lost to by the score of 55 to 49 in the first game after leading them at half time. Langston then beat Prairie View in the second game by the score of 71-48.

Prairie View has beaten Texas State University and Southwestern Business College while losing to Southern in the Prairie View Tournament, Tillotson recently in Austin and two to Langston on the 18 and 19 of January.

Prairie View beat Texas State in a game packed with thrills 53-49, winning it in the last six minutes of play.

In the tournament Prairie View was defeated by Southern in a very good battle and it turned out that Southern was the best team in the tournament as they won the event. The score of this game was 53-44.

After this the team took to the road and played the Southwestern Business School defeating them by the score of 60-56; while losing to Tillotson College 47-46.

Criticism of the Press

(Continued from Page One)

the final analysis, cause the papers to be berated on a level that at many times are unjust.

Last, but not least, the element of agitation does not assist our papers in being classified as the nation's best papers. Agitation from the Negro press has done the Negro more harm than that done by Bilboa, Jim Crowism, and the Ku Klux Klan combined, or any other anti-Negro organization. The average Negro reads his newspaper and mis-interprets it. His mind is filled with hatred and fear. His mind is filled with the wrongdoings of the whites and he never knows the two sides of the story.

In my opinion, the Negro press makes the Negro narrow minded. P. L. Prattis of the Pittsburgh Press and Louis R. Lautier of the

Fashion Parade Of 1948

By TESSIE PORTLEY

Everywhere the creative minds of the clothes' designers are striving to bring about that new look in fashion for men as well as women.

The forerunners of fashion predict that women clothes are getting longer for day wear and shorter for evening wear. The Gibson girls of the 1900's made the ballerina skirts and blouses the latest style of the year.

The coats are longer to correspond with the longer skirts lengths, they have flared backs and hoods.

Shoes of gray, palomino, wine, green and gold are the latest trend with stockings of red, blue, green and pink to accentuate the latest shoes and the spring outfit. Bags of irregular shapes are used to match the shoes also.

A black ballerina skirt with a white blouse, a dad or brother's tie, gold belt, gold shoes, black mist stocking and a black and gold knitted cloche, will bring women up to-date on the latest in this year's style.

Men styles have varied somewhat also; their shirts are in very bright colors as red and maroon. Ties are also very colorful. The Joe Louis haircut is making its way into their lives also.

The men styles haven't changed too much; however, the ladies definitely have the NEW LOOK for '48.

Atlanta *Daily World* appealed to a press conference committee in the Nation's capitol for the privilege and use of the Capitol Press Galleries for the purpose of informing its colored citizens as to the stability of the Negro press. Lautier's appeal was rejected. The reason why he was turned down, according to the committee, was that only press agents whose chief attention is given to telegraphic correspondence for daily newspapers and news associations, will be allowed to use the Capitol's press galleries. So, as you can see, there is another criticism of the Negro press.

In conclusion, I will say that the Negro press has advanced greatly, but there is room for much more improvement.

CHAPEL NOTES

By ODOM AND COLLIER

On Sunday evening December 7 the whole student body was thrilled when they witnessed "The Nativity", a Christmas pageant presented by the Junior Department of the Sunday School. The pageant was composed and directed by Mrs. M. F. Bradley, an active member of the Sunday School.

* * *

"Universal Military Training" was the theme of a panel discussion which was presented by the senior class on its annual vesper program January fourth. Interesting facts were pointed out by Dr. H. A. Bullock and Colonel W. A. Hamilton, the guest speakers. The program afforded both thought and culture for the students.

* * *

Rabbi Bertran Klausner, a representative of the Jewish Society, delivered an address to the student body Tuesday, January 14 at 4 P.M. Rabbi Klausner spoke on "America; a Land of Multiple Faiths and Cultures" in which he stated that peace and brotherhood can only come through God who is at the root of "one world."

* * *

The Social Protection Institute held its annual meeting at Prairie View A. & M. College, January 16-17. "The Attributes of an Educated Person and his Responsibility to Society" was the theme of the meeting. Visiting educators of leading high schools and colleges presented inspiring addresses on such topics as "Profanity and Alcohol" which was discussed by W. L. Davis, Field Executive Secretary of United Drys of Houston; "Personal Hygiene" which was discussed by Dr. Beal, practicing physician of Houston, and "social graces" was discussed by Dr. Brett, Assistant Personnel Advisor at Tuskegee Institute. Topics concerning student problems were thoroughly discussed in separate class divisions. The meeting concluded with response to discussion topics and the adaptation to student life which was stressed by the class presidents. Rev. Earl R. Boone of Houston, Texas closed the Institute with an encouraging and stimulating message.

Reading Interest Of Students

By WILLIAM FARRIS

The time spent reading current materials and books by the average student of this campus is shamefully too little.

While it is our purpose to develop into well rounded individuals at this institution, we cannot do so by digesting the static material encouched in a prescribed course, or by just doing the additional research required by such a course.

The radio and the newspaper are the two man sources of information that are current and up to date. While our library facilities afford us newspapers, we do not expose ourselves in proper proportion to the availability of these facilities.

Beyond this fact, we neither subscribe nor become associates of subscribers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals. The number of radios found in the possession of individuals relative to the number of students enrolled here is comparatively small. The number of subscribers to newspapers, magazines, and periodicals is very small.

Therefore, the determination to develop into a well read human being who is able to express himself with aptness on current, foreign, or domestic problems should be a retroactive resolution of the new year of every student at Prairie View A. & M. College.

When the Music Department presented four members of its staff in a recital Sunday, January 19 the entire student body was both responsive and attentive. The program opened with three vocal selections rendered by a tenor soloist, Curtis King, an instructor of voice followed by three piano selections by Charles Branche, instructor of orchestration, and three vocal numbers by Margaret Montgomery, a contralto and recently added voice teacher. Rudolph von Charlton, head of the Music Department, concluded the program with three well rendered numbers. A token was presented to Mr. von Charlton who is to leave for Columbia University where he will resume his studies. Mr. von Charlton will return in June to continue his work at Prairie View A. & M. College.

CAMPUS GOSSIP

By SNEAKY PETE

To the social elites of the campus this is "Sneaky Pete" again sneaking in to bring you the latest bits of gossip ever to come out in the *Panther*.

Well, Miss Carrie McKnight has blown in here from Los Angeles, California with all the latest styles of 1820, right out of Paris. All right girls don't envy her, just get like her.

It seems that "Miss Prairie View" has been handcuffed with diamonds by her fiance, Carl Martin.

Clifford Coit seems to be playing a mad role lately, who is she? M. J. Wynn or Bobby?

Miss Estella Williams and Harold Stevens have been bound together in matrimony. "We wish you all the happiness and success."

Miss Wailie Mae Snotty and Mr. Marvin Williams are really close, I wonder what's cooking? HUH!

Mr. A. C. Collins seems to have the inside tract with Miss Ollie Townshed.

Gail Shannon and the rest of the Ft. Worth friends of her seem to be "the" girls on the campus. Just watch your steps girls so you won't be pushing up daisies too soon.

Alzonia Harold, Prairie View is small enough for all the girls to know that A. C. Colbert is strictly yours, so loosen your grip and give him a chance to speak to the other girls.

Mr. Mose Brown better known as "Chico" and Miss Alice Davis seem to be hitting it off OK lately. Is it because he is afraid some other guy is pushing his way into the spotlight with her.

Rose Bradley it is being whispered around that you are trying to make the whole Martin family. Don't keep us in the dark too long.

I wonder what the "cockey nine" are going to do since the Re-Bop gang is taking over.

Miss Stella Johnson and Mr. Monmouth you two are keeping us in suspense too much about your love affair, do let us hear more of you.

Alonzo Sargent when are you going to come down to earth? That is where all the girls are floating.

Where Do I Go From Here?

By CONNIE WRIGHT

As I walked out on the campus I saw a lonely black pup lying on the side of the walk. I noticed he was unusually quiet; whereas, heretofore, he had always been so frisky.

Drawing nearer, I happened to glance into his eyes — eyes that seemed to have been begging for comfort and understanding. When I began talking to him he generously thumped his tiny black tail against the pavement in a moanful manner, as if to say "I'm very lonely." The expression of such loneliness in a dog was of the most amazing intensity that I have ever noticed.

With much interest, I continued to talk to him. Feeling my affection, he began reacting in his usual manner.

The reason for his sadness was later revealed to me. His mother had died two weeks before, leaving two pups who were very much devoted to each other.

Later his little brother died, and he was left alone. This puppy seems to find his only happiness in the affection of the passing students. Daily he seems to whine, "Where do I go from here?"

Mr. Edgar Orange what are you doing playing the roll of "papa cool breeze." Is it because the ladies have found other playmates?

Once a poet said that old love never dies. I am afraid that Ollie Berry and Bubba Wooten can verify that.

Our most noted lovers are Miss Ida Keith and Mr. Clovis Graves; Miss Vaughn and Mr. Hunt; Miss Marie Brown and Mr. Pace; "Buckwheat" and Francis Boone; and, but definitely, Miss Harold and Mr. Colbert who rate special mentioning.

Miss Nellie P. Baldwin and Bobby McDonald tend to represent the "Romeo and Juliet" role on the campus.

Miss Ruth Clifton and Charles Cook are "playing it steady." When will the wedding bells ring?

So long gang—look for the next issue of the *Panther* and you will find "Sneaky Pete" back with more of the campus lovers' highlights.