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THE PANTHER

Vol. 23

Prairie View A. & M. College, Prairie View Branch, Hempstead, Texas, April, 1949

No. 4

STUDENT LIFE DEPARTMENT MAKES PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

By MRS. BLANCHE JOHNSON
Associate Director of Student Life

Student Life at Prairie View A. and M. College is full and vigorous intentionally so. Modern formal education is of such nature that Student Life must be carefully planned and put into execution in order that each student may have an opportunity to grow through all the processes of living. Opportunities for full and integrated personal development is the common objective of the Student Life Program. As our physical plant expands, our Student Life Program will expand with it. The final product will be intelligent, social minded men and women who will make



MRS. BLANCHE E. JOHNSON

Texas communities, our country, and our world better places in which to live.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

In planning student activities at Prairie View A. & M. College, it should be apparent that the planning is one of many details. It is impossible to mention all of the minute details that must be handled. It is the attention to these minute details that gives the activity support and helps in achieving the final goal. The immediate problems were the questions of sponsors and selection of officers and members. The students selected their own sponsors and elected their own officers and members. They made their plans for meetings, parties, and all the details that accompany such events. To

date, the campus boasts about fifty active student organizations. Prairie View activities add much to College life and help to maintain a high standard in student morale and relationships. Our activity program will continue to expand.

Of all our activities there are none from which we realize more value than that of the Panther Inn. It is the Center of Student Life at Prairie View. Between classes, during the morning, afternoon and evening a cup of coffee, a sandwich, a dish of ice cream or a soda around the table with a fellow worker or student provides an opportunity for discussing intellectual and personal problems in a friendly atmosphere. Under capable supervision it is adding much to our campus living. It, too, must continue to grow.

HOUSING PROBLEMS

Since Prairie View A. & M. College is not in a metropolitan area, housing facilities are a serious problem. The Dean of Women and the Dean of Men, with the hearty cooperation of the faculty and student body, have made use of every available nook and corner on the campus for housing.

Students cooperate in decorating their own living quarters. The faculty has gained the student spirit by beautifying their rooms, homes and grounds. Beautiful shrubbery and rose gardens may be found in almost every yard. The Academic offices have pots of Ivy that are inviting to the eye.

Together we are united on the housing front to make our, though crowded, situation a lovely and inviting place in which to live.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The student is becoming increasingly aware that he must stand on his own feet. That education is a means toward economic security. He no longer looks at education as merely a means of raising his social status. Things are different now; the modern college student wishes to stand on his own feet. To live fully day by day and at the same time prepare himself for civic living after college. Student Life at Prairie View looks forward to educational developments of the College under the capable leadership of the President.

STUDENT COUNSELING

There is much talk in educational circles today regarding the place

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OF MAN AND MEN

By L. E. SCOTT
Acting Dean of Men

Man, with all his knowledge, is primarily an animal. It is only that intangible something, the soul or mind, that links him inextricably to God, and causes him to hope and dream of a world in which human equality will be more than a high-flown phrase. It is to this end, the realization of man's hope and dream, that education must direct itself if it is to endure. It is this challenge that men, really educated men, must accept: That man, with an animal body, can achieve an inner discipline which will keep human destiny high, and insure to all men an opportunity to live the good life.

Prairie View, with its abundance of minds in the formative stage, is rather grimly engaging those forces which tend to satisfy solely the animal, though human, appetites leaving little or no opportunity for nurture of the mind. With limited facilities she attempts to portray the excellence of moderation, of self-respect, of respect for others, of a discipline by self rather than force. And only as we winnow these elemental truths from factual, book-found data will we become educated men. Basically, then, it is toward the production of a man who will first achieve an inner discipline, or a respect for self, and because of its excellence, respect for others, that Prairie

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Panther Editor



MISS ARTYE L. WASHINGTON... Trinity, Texas Music Major, Classification—Junior



MARY HELEN MICKENS... Second year college, Prairie View, Texas, Science Major

APPOINTED TO MADEMOISELLE'S COLLEGE BOARD

Miss Mary Helen Mickens who is a sophomore at Prairie View A. and M. College has been appointed a member of Mademoiselle's College Board. The appointment enables her to compete for a College Guest Editorship of Mademoiselle.

Twenty Guest Editors, who are chosen from the College Board on the basis of three assignments given by the magazine during the year, will be brought to New York City for four weeks (June 6 through July 1). They will help write and edit the annual August college issue and will be paid round trip transportation plus a regular salary for their work.

While in New York City, Mademoiselle's Guest Editors take part in a full calendar of activities designed to give them a head start in their careers. These include personalized career guidance as well as interviews with top celebrities in their chosen fields, and trips to newspaper offices, fashion workrooms, radio stations, stores, agencies and printing plants.

As Mademoiselle is one of the leading style magazines in the country of smart young women this is indeed an honor.

This issue of the PANTHER is sponsored by the Department of Student Life.

THE PANTHER

Voice of the Students

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

Miss Artye L. Washington Editor-in-Chief
Miss Loraine King Associate Editor
Mr. Ben Young Sports Editor
Mr. J. B. DeBose Feature Editor
SPECIAL FEATURE WRITERS
Mr. Clyde Messiah
Mr. Lewis Perkins
Mr. Samuel Collins
Miss Mary Dupont
Mr. Lavanell Henderson
Miss Vivian Brooks
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Mr. Theodore Davis
Miss Dorcas Lightfoot
TYPISTS
Miss Elizabeth Norton
Miss Loraine King
TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS
Mr. Herman Caldwell
Mr. Roy Patton
CIRCULATION MANAGER
Mr. Joe Kyle

The Editor Looks At Student Life

Student life is not all work, and neither is it all play, but a certain medium should be designated by the student himself whereby an intelligent sensitiveness of the finer things of life and the goals set to maintain them are realized.

Suppose we tour the campus in our minds, and let us stretch our imagination over all its broad areas of participation and activities.

Let us begin in our own room in the dormitory. Ask yourself these questions: Do I enjoy living here? Am I pleased with the atmosphere as it relates to a livable place in which to dwell and work? Do I strive to attain cleanliness, orderliness, and sanitation at all times? Is there a feeling of good will among all the occupants of this room? Will the activities carried on in this room make for worthwhile citizenship and will they be the makings of reputable citizens after college work is completed? These are just some pointers. Check yourself critically and see how you rate.

Now, let us go to our classrooms. As you go to them from day to day, are you "dead serious" in your work? Do you strive for perfection in the aims and objectives of each course? Is each class hour spent in day dreaming or in doing effective work? Truthfully, have you stopped to realize the importance of conscientious work and serious concentration? A positive answer to these questions might spell success instead of failure in your life in future years.

And, how good a worker are you? Do you just live for pay day, or do you try to make your job as effective as possible? A part-time job on the campus may pave the way for a decent fulltime job when studies are over. Are you honest and dependable on the job? Are you courteous, cheerful, and helpful? Does your countenance radiate any cheerfulness or good will to those whom you must serve?

Now comes Sunday, and off to Chapel you go. Are you going be-

WHY STUDY HOME ECONOMICS?

By MARY RUTH DU PONT

One of the prime objectives of Home Economics is to improve family life. Through the findings of science our pioneer leaders realized the supreme need of civilized and livable homes. To prepare individuals for such vocations is one of the most important functions of higher education. An author in expressing the significance of the woman to society states, "It is not forms of government by which men are made or unmade. It is the character and influence of their mothers and wives." I have attempted as briefly as possible to emphasize that being a home maker is the highest occupation of the land and calls for trained mental powers as well as great moral powers. In spite of the tremendous task of being a wife and mother, women ask for an opportunity to develop all sides of their nature, freedom as men to pursue profitable careers. In meeting this end, Home Economics makes available to its graduates

cause it is compulsory that you do so, or do you really feel that urge from within that says that you need some religious and spiritual inspiration? Do you serve God because of tradition or out of your own experiences in discovering his miraculous power and inestimable worth?

And how is your recreational and social side of life? Do you play and exercise enough? Do you keep your mind free from worry and fear by engaging in sports, and lively games of every sort? And how do you as men treat the ladies? If your girl friend is your first choice for something "extra special" do you cherish and respect her as such? Do you exhibit courtesy and manliness at all times? Do you act in any way to degrade her personality as well as yours? And, ladies do you act decent and respectable at all times? Do you give the men something to be proud of as far as decent companionship is concerned? Do all of you think that you could rate as ladies of dignity and honor in later life?

Your general conduct — is it acceptable or deplorable? Do you display good or bad manners in the Dining Hall? Do you appear collegiate or cattle-like? In the movies and at stage-plays, do you make audible comments at various passages or sit intelligently through them until they are completed? Do you listen attentively to a public performer or are you audibly critical at his every move?

Fellow-students, these are only challenges. Accept them for the best. Yours for a better Prairie View brought about through the type of student life existing here.



MISS MARY RUTH DuPONT... Rosenberg, Texas, Home Economics Major, Classification—Freshman

many vocational opportunities. It would be impossible for me to mention all of them but as a means of giving you an idea of the vocational possibilities in this field, I take great pride in relating to you my opinion of the annual style show that was presented by the Clothing Department.

The style show was a fashion preview of spring. Some of Prairie View's most glamorous and cultured young women modeled with grace and poise the garments that were their creations. I saw the lovely styling, superb workmanship, wise fabric selection, and color harmonies that made their suits, dresses, and gowns of exquisite beauty.

As I sat and watched the spotlight dance over the floor and boldly touch each smiling model, I began to slip into a world of make believe and I saw each young woman occupied in the vocation of her choice; some were designers, small shop owners, teachers, journalists, merchandise buyers and fashion experts. Why, I could continue indefinitely but all were using their education to the best advantage. Now the program was nearing a close and my imaginary voyage was also ending. So I stopped, collected my thoughts and made this decision: Home Economics occupies a distinct place in education.

Patient: Since we've known each other so long, doctor, I'm not going to insult you by paying my bill, but I'll leave you a handsome legacy in my will."

Doctor: "That's very nice of you, I'm sure. By the way, just let me have that prescription again. There's a slight change I'd like to make in it."

Certainly is easy to see through people who make spectacles of themselves.

Refuge In Words

By JEAN K. NORRIS

Poetry is a rhapsody
That captures all the melody of memories.

Poetry is a photograph
That grasps each moment's meaning,

And in phrases
It engraves these moments for tomorrow.

Poetry is a highway
That leads wherever I may wish to dwell.

Poetry is a wistful world
Where we may at will
Unfurl our dreams in all their splendor.

Poetry is enchanted lands
Where we have within our hands
The power to explore
Behind death's door,
Or on a star.

Or any place we seek afar to find.
Poetry is all these to me,
Fair fantasy.

Reality,
Wherever it may dare to be,
Caressing the expressions
Of an errant heart
Reaching for refuge
In words.

SO YOU LIKE DRAMATICS?

By LORAIN KING

Are you the young man or woman who has always been dramatically inclined but for some reason never attempted to exemplify this talent? If you are, or if you are one who is just developing an interest for dramatics then, my article applies directly to you. I should like to acquaint you with a brief history, the purpose, and a few productions of the dramatic club on our campus.

The Chas. Gilpin Dramatic Guild was first organized at Prairie View A. & M. College by Dr. Earl L. Sasser, a lover of Dramatics. Throughout the Guild's entirety it has been the proud presenter of many outstanding performances. Some of the more recent are "The Bachelor's Wife," "Icebound," and "Craig's Wife."

Mr. Malcolm A. Davis is the present sponsor of the Club. He makes it possible for the Guild to travel by exchanging plays with other colleges and universities, and by making engagements with the officials of leading city organizations.

The purposes of the Club are:
(a) To provide entertainment for students on the campus.

(b) To afford traveling experience.

(c) To develop social contact with other colleges.

(d) To increase the students' cultural and esthetic appreciation for dramatics.

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Moments Of Relaxation



LIFE IN THE RESIDENCE HALL. Reading from left to right: Walter Chandler, Curtis Williams, Vernon Baker and Charlie Rhodes. Men in bed from left to right Herbert Elmore and Frank Whitson.

Activities Of The Veteran's Club

By CLYDE J. MESSIAH

The Veteran's Club of Prairie View A. & M. College has a membership of 372 veterans.

The officers elected to guide the club for the 1948-1949 school term are as follows:

Clyde J. Messiah, president; Talmadge Sharp, vice-president; Clyde McQueen, secretary; Marcellus Harmon, treasurer; Lawrence Britton, reporter; Cleveland Williams, chaplain.

The Veteran's Club is the largest Club on the campus and is noted for its many different activities during the school year.

On February 22 last, the club gave its annual *Winter Ball* with music by the famous "Buddy Johnson" Band. The affair was acclaimed as one of the best entertainments ever given on the campus. The decorations for the dance were quite lavish and very artistic. From all indications the "Vets" and their guests enjoyed themselves immensely.

Veteran's Basketball Team

The Veteran's Basketball team finished its season on Saturday March 5, with the team participating in an invitational tournament at Liberty, Texas. The team went to the finals and lost to Hester House of Houston for the Championship.

The team finished the season with a record of 10 wins and 4 losses.

Eddie P. Johnson, who coached this team did a very good job, and the club regrets that the student body was unable to see this fast team in action as the gymnasium was not available, which made it necessary for all games to be played off the campus.

Plans In The Making

The Veterans Club has many plans and projects that they plan to do before the semester is over. I will mention only a few of these plans.

1. The Club is planning to beautify the Veteran's Dormitories and Guidance Center Area with Flower's and Shrubs with the capable assistance of the Agricultural Department.

It is felt by the club that this is a necessity, and this will give the men a feeling of home life with beautiful flowers and shrubs.

2. The Club also plans to present a Chapel program one Sunday in April (the date to be announced later). The club hopes to have one of Texas' leading ministers as the main speaker for this occasion. Also the club is asking that every veteran on the campus attend chapel this Sunday and contribute at least fifty cents in the Sunday offering. Plans are being made to make this chapel exercise one of the most

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STUDENTS' RECREATION CENTER

By J. B. DE BOSE

The health and happiness of an individual depends on the amount of recreation that he can get in a special place provided for such. The leisure hours that one can squeeze out of a day to just relax and take it easy for awhile means much to him after a busy day's work.

Both recreation and relaxation can be effected if a place is provided where one may go and feel perfectly at ease while doing either.

The Manager of the Panther Inn had such in mind when he set out to rearrange and reorganize our student center. An attempt was made to provide a snack bar and soda fountain that would serve most students with the greatest economy of time. This attempt saw fruit in the spacious snack bar and soda fountain which now comprise an important part of our student center. The removal of the combined snack bar and small kitchen from the middle of the floor to the east side of the "Inn" left a very large space for additional chairs and tables that make for the seating of a larger number of students. Although the students cannot "bop," their appreciation of this space is overwhelming.

The game room provides an opportunity for the students to play

table tennis, dominoes, cards, and other indoor games. In this room, students have an opportunity to recreate themselves after studying assiduously in their rooms or doing research in the library. After such seemingly arduous task, the student find that a little "recology" is not so bad after all.

The student lounge provides magazines, newspapers, and books for those who wish to keep abreast of the latest news or the current opinions on national and international problems. Occasionally, one might find a weary soul "slumbering sweetly" after having read and digested Drew Pearson's latest commentary on the Taft-Hartley Bill or Walter Lippman's opinion on the Arab-Jew dispute but who can keep awake after such mental maneuvering among the thoughts of the great.

The game room, "Inn," and student lounge comprise one of the best student centers that can be found among Negro Colleges. Students are urged to make the fullest and best use of its facilities because they are theirs.

Ever notice? A fellow who has time to kill usually spends it with someone who hasn't.

So You Like Dramatics

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(e) To increase student interest in dramatics in terms of a future career, and (f) To develop public speaking.

The leading production for the year 1948-49 is "Until Death Do Us Part." This three-act Psychological mystery drama was presented on the campus and at Wheatley High School of Houston on December 5 and 12, respectively. On March 17 the troupe motored to San Antonio to repeat this performance. The members of the cast are now anxiously anticipating their engagements with Tillotson College, Grambling College, Galveston, Texas, and Texarkana, Arkansas. Mr. Sidney W. Spalding is the director of this play.

Another play destined to rate second only to "Until Death Do Us Part" is the three act-play, "The Little Foxes."

With such outstanding personalities as Misses Jean LaNell Hines, Claudia Wilkinson, and Mr. Clarence Barrens, many say that there can be no failure. "Little Foxes" is under the directorship of Miss Emma L. Spencer. Many members of this cast played magnificent roles in Miss Spencer's one act-play, "The Bracelet of Doom."

Of Man and Men

(Continued from Page 1)

View's educational system is geared.

This is the goal we would reach: That each Prairie View man, having attained a thorough knowledge of his physical and mental capabilities and an intelligence about the world around him, will live with justice, faith and honor, and help make these ideals obtainable to all men. When this goal has been reached human equality will, indeed, become fact rather than fancy.

It was man, the dreamer, who dreamed of extracting radium from ore—of unleashing those forces wrapped in an atom—of flight in heavier-than-air machines, but it was man, the realist, who made his dreams come true. So, today, it is man, the animal, with only his intangible tie with God to pull him ever onward who dares to dream of a better world. And it is this better world that Prairie View men must help build.

Student Life Department

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of guidance in Higher Education. Guidance in Higher Education must presume objectivity and responsible performance, not irresponsibility and bias.

The Professors, Departmental Heads, President, Students and Counselors are charged with the responsibility of planning and putting into execution a guidance program carefully planned for full and intergrated personal development. As our guidance program expands, the Student Life Department looks forward to a well organized and coordinated program for guidance at Prairie View. Guidance at Prairie View will mean more than mere academic development. It will follow the student into his civic and economic development out side of college. Through guidance Prairie View looks forward to products with dignity, honor and integrity and also gainful employment of its Alumni. Most of all we look forward to producing men who can stand on their feet without faltering.

Decidely the Student Life Department at Prairie View looks ahead.

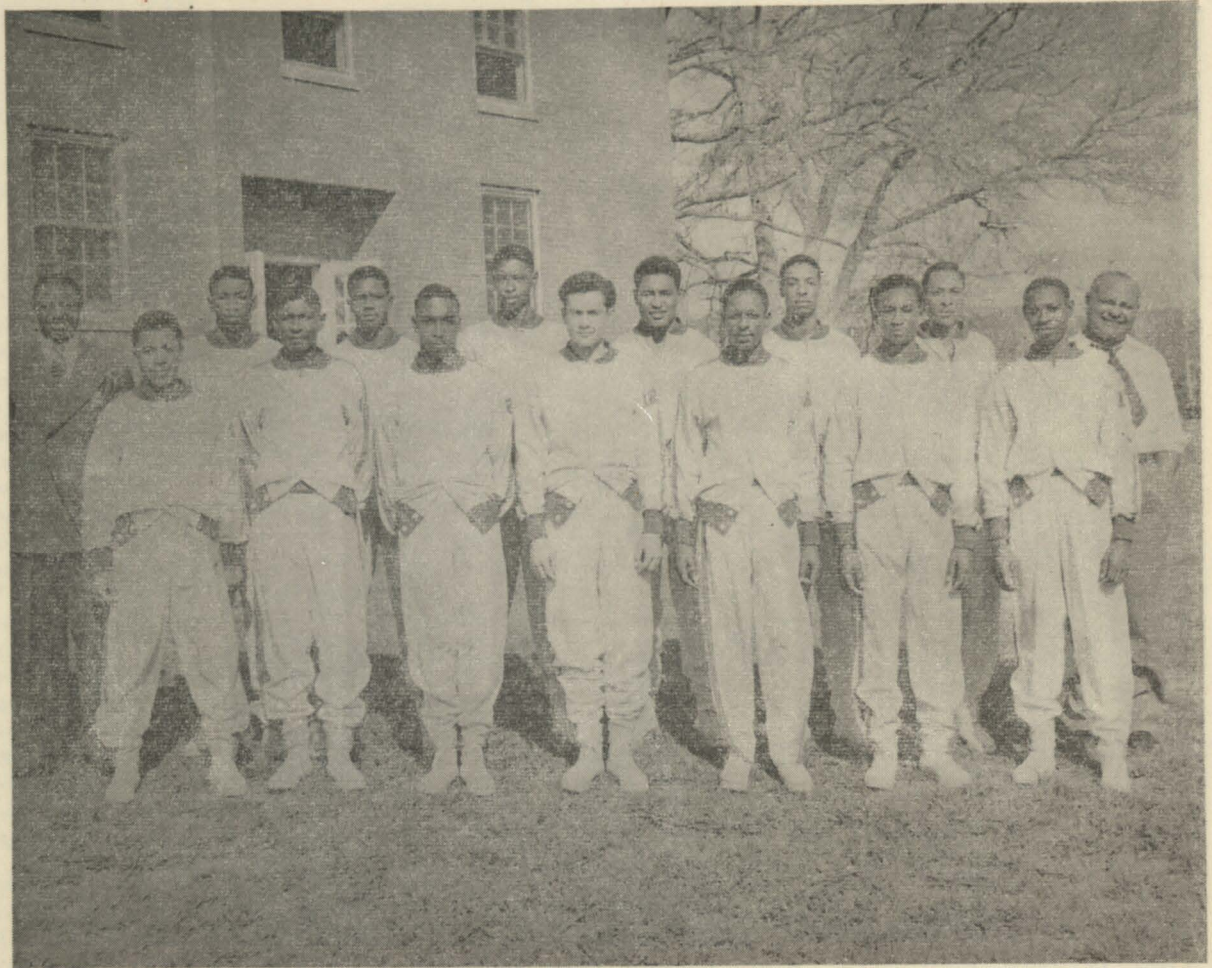
Activities Of Veterans' Club

(Continued from Page 1)

interesting the student body has witnessed.

3. The Club is also planning a softball team for the spring. Lawrence Britton has been signed to manage the team. Practice will start very soon (time will be announced).

Southwestern Conference Basketball Champions



Reading form left to right (Back row first):

Coach Jimmy Stevens, Joe Barnes, Earl Henson, Jackie Carr,

Ray Don Dillard, Arthur Materson, Perry Lemons, and Coach Fred Long.

Front row: Jordan T. Washing-

ton, Erby Johnson, Oscar Pipkin, Alton Bennett, Chris Sams, Captain Elmer Redd, and Jimmy Hall.

SPORTS TALK

By BEN A. YOUNG

As I walked across the campus February 27, 1949, I noticed a smiling man shaking hands with different individuals and waving across the campus to people. When I came close enough to see who it was, I saw that it was Coach Jimmy Stevens, who had assembled together the best group of basketball boys in the Southwestern Conference Champions of 1949.

This marked the first time in the history of Prairie View that a Basketball team had won a conference championship. Our hats off to Coach Stevens and his charges.

Such standout court veterans as

From all indications, Mr. Britton plans to have a championship team, with some of the "holdover" from last year's team the prospects look good. The club is behind the team 100 per cent.

4. The Club plans to participate in the Honors' Day Program in May.

This is some of the activities of Veterans Club. This article was written to give the Faculty and Student body an insight on the doing's of the Veteran's Club.

Captain Elmer Redd, Eric Johnson, Oscar Pipkins along with Freshmen Eural Henson, Perry Lemons and Arthur Matherson were the chief instruments of Coach Stevens' attack. During the current season Prairie View won 27 games and lost 8.

Coach Stevens has turned his attention to the Track team, who under his tutelage is the Conference Champions of 1948 season.

We see such standout tracksters as Matthew Clay, 100-yard dash man; Ray Harrison, pole vaulter, and many others getting around the track every evening. A great load rests on the shoulders of these young athletes as seven other schools are gunning for the track crown which now is tucked safely away here at Prairie View.

Coach Stevens has his old faithful back again this year in the person of Eural "Champ" Davis, Conference Broad Jump Champion for three years consecutively. Eural Davis is a product of Rockdale, Texas. Mr. Davis will compete this season for the last time.

Eural Davis was a strong contender for Olympic honors last year, going to Olympic Trial Finals in Evanston, Illinois. This year he predicts he will break his own record as a tribute to the school of

which he loves and is so proud of.

The talk of baseball is circling around the campus. Coach Fred Long assures us that it will be an actuality very soon. Practice will begin immediately following the end of spring football practice. The first game will be with Southern at Southern March 24-25, followed by games with Texas and Sam Huston here soon thereafter.

This is the first year for baseball in quite a spell but look forward to the future with much optimism.

It was spring football looming in our locale. Over the turf back of the New Administration building Coach Long's football aspirants for net season were hard at it every day getting ready for the oncoming season. The boys have been working out for nearly a month.

Gone are Morris Richardson, end and captain; Willie Gipson, center; Horace Beasley, quarterback; and Sam Briscoe, for the well-balanced team of last year, but promising freshmen material and reserves from last year are striving to fill the gap left by these players.

Coach Long is high in his praise of Edward Price, a Junior from Smithville, Texas, who is showing up good in spring practice.