

Reagan meets with Caribbean leaders

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Democrats unite to select Ferraro

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — A united Democratic Party nominated Geraldine Ferraro for vice president Thursday and heard its new presidential candidate, Walter Mondale, vow to fight President Reagan "for the American future."
The history-making Mondale-Ferraro ticket — the first in America with a woman — began the 100-day war for the White House as underdogs, but also as the beneficiaries of a party united after a long and bitter primary season.
In the emotional highlight of the four-day Democratic National Convention, Rep. Ferraro was nominated by acclamation in a frenzied demonstration as tears streamed down the faces of many madly cheering delegates.
Some 3,000 miles away in New York's borough of Queens, her 78-year-old Italian-American mother, Antonetta, sat in a big bentwood rocker and watched her daughter on television — smiling, laughing and

blowing kisses at the screen.

A sea of American flags waved across the massive convention floor as Mondale came before the convention to accept the nomination he wrestled from Sen. Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson.

Mondale, in a personal and emotional plea to the nation, asked not only the support of party loyalists, but of those Democrats who defected by the thousands in 1980 to vote for Reagan.

"Over the next hundred days, in every word we say, and every life we touch, we will be fighting for the American future," Mondale said. To those who deserted four years ago, he said: "I heard you. And our party heard you."

"Tonight we come to you with a new realism, ready for the future, and recapturing the best in our tradition," he said. "We are wiser, stronger and focused on the future."

Mondale, 56, one of the last old-time liberals out of the New Deal mold, won the nomination on the

first ballot Wednesday night. Despite his acceptance speech, the spotlight on the final night of the convention was on Ferraro, 48, the feisty three-term congresswoman from New York's borough of Queens.

"By sending an American woman to run for our nation's second highest office, you send a powerful signal to all Americans," she said.

"There are no doors we cannot unlock. We will place no limits on achievement," she said.

Mondale, who picked Rep. Ferraro from a field that also included other women, blacks and minorities, said: "Tonight we open a new door to the future. Mr. Reagan calls that 'tokenism.' We call it America."

Sen. Edward Kennedy, who introduced Mondale, said that by picking Ferraro, "Walter Mondale has already done more for this country in one short day than Ronald Reagan has done in four long years in office."

System notified of suit by former Tarleton prof

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M University System received official notification about a lawsuit filed by a former Tarleton State University professor for now late Thursday afternoon.

In the lawsuit, Dr. James W. Shores, an assistant professor of social science, claims he was denied tenure at Tarleton "because of his race, black, and because of his exercise of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution in challenging the traditions and existence of the Purple Poo on behalf of himself and in behalf of black students."

The Purple Poo is a student spirit organization in which members wear purple hoods and robes and members' identities are kept secret.

"He was likewise denied tenure at TSU because he served as an advocate for black students at TSU generally," the suit states.

System officials have not yet commented on the lawsuit.

Shores, 53, was the first black, full-time faculty member in Tarleton's 81-year history. He is suing the System Board of Regents, the System, Tarleton President Barry B.

Thompson, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Tarleton Robert C. Fain, Tarleton Tenure Committee members Don M. Beach, Lamar Johanson, Jesse L. Tackett and Robert H. Walker and Tarleton faculty member Russell C. Long.

Shores claims the System maintains segregation of its university faculty through policies, practices and customs that discourage black academicians from seeking and continuing employment with system schools.

"TSU fostered such segregation by supporting and encouraging an official University organization known as the Purple Poo," the suit states.

Shores claims the attire of the Purple Poo is reminiscent of Ku Klux Klan outfits. Maurice Hamonn, president of the male division of the Purple Poo, said Thursday that the robes and hoods have a historical background.

In the early days of the organization, the students had a curfew. To get out to hang signs, Purple Poo members had to wear hoods and robes to avoid being caught and possibly punished, Hamonn said.

The group has 20 members, 10 men and 10 women. The mem-

bership includes one black and one Hispanic.

Besides promoting school spirit, Purple Poo members also hang signs around campus commenting about university issues. On one occasion cited in the lawsuit, a sign was hung containing a riddle to which the answer was "fifty niggers."

Hamonn said that the person responsible for it was reprimanded. Purple Poo adviser Dr. Mike Leese, vice president for Student Services, said Shores complained about the Purple Poo about two or three years ago.

About a year after the initial complaint, Leese said Shores spoke with him again and said that after researching the Purple Poo, he no longer objected to the organization.

On May 24, 1983, Shores was denied tenure at Tarleton by a majority vote. The majority consisted of Beach, Johanson, Tackett, Walker and Melvin M. Crawford, also a member of tenure committee.

Shores is suing for immediate tenure at Tarleton and that he be treated no differently than any other faculty member or that he be awarded \$750,000 for loss of pay for the 17 years of tenured employment at Tarleton.

Prairie View A&M: Looking beyond the cracks

By REBECA ZIMMERMANN
Editor

(Editor's note: This is the third of a three-part series on Prairie View A&M University.)

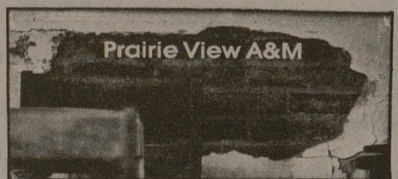
At Prairie View A&M University, facilities are inadequate and academic standards have been low — a result of almost 106 years of neglect by the Texas A&M University System.

"There's so much to be done that you don't know where to start," says Dr. William V. Muse, Texas A&M System vice chancellor for academic programs.

But the president of Prairie View A&M and System administrators foresee a bright future for the university.

"We've made some significant steps forward," says Dr. Percy A. Pierre, president of Prairie View.

"I think we're on a course



Many improvements are already in the works. The university has committed \$55 million to various construction and renovation projects as part of a long-range plan for Prairie View A&M. A large clearing marks the site for a \$16 million library. An \$8.5 million engineering technology building and extensive landscaping are among other scheduled projects.

"Capital investment in this place over the last 20 years has been a pittance," Pierre says. "In the last five years significant improvements have been made."

One such improvement has been installation of sidewalks and streetlights — a simple yet major im-

provement. An All Faiths Chapel will be completed in April or May 1985. Alumni Hall, the dining facility on campus, is spacious and modern — providing a sharp contrast to some classrooms that still lack air conditioning and have crumbling walls.

But Pierre has more planned than improving facilities. The university is upgrading academic programs and standards. The university's course inventory has been pruned. Two-year vocational programs are being phased out.

"It's becoming more academic," says Student Body President Kevin Dennis. "It's slowly getting a brain-bank type thing."

A new scholarship drive will focus on academics rather than general need, and recruiting of non-black students — 92 percent of Prairie View A&M's students are black — will receive more attention.

In addition, admission standards have been raised. Until this year, stu-

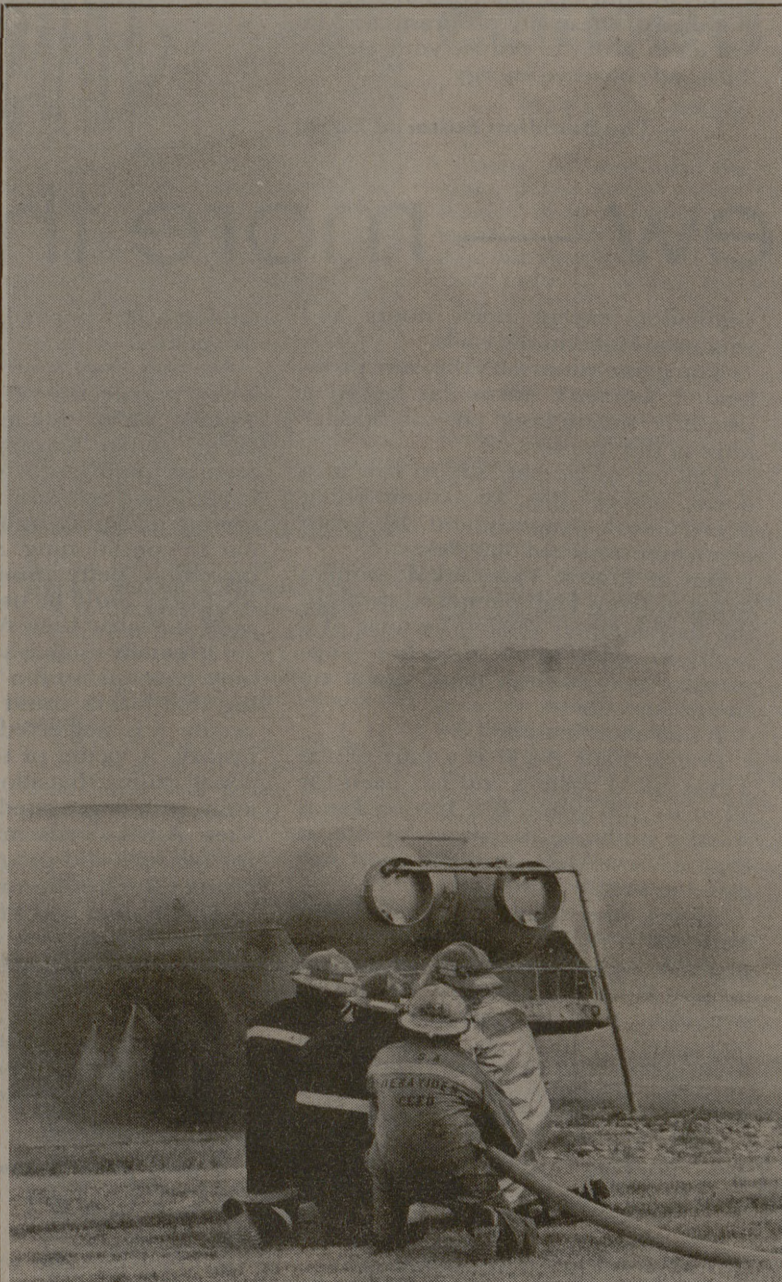


Photo by PETER ROCHA

Hot practice

Firefighters at the Texas Firemen's Training School work with overturned tank truck. See story and pictures page 5.

Enrollment highest ever

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Enrollment figures are the highest ever for Texas A&M University's second summer session, with a record 13,034 students registered.

Based on figures from the Registrar's office, this is a two-and-one-quarter percent increase over last year's second summer session enrollment of 12,746 students.

More students also were registered for the first summer session this year than ever before, with 14,486 enrolled.

"The second summer session is al-

ways lower than the first," Associate Registrar Don Carter said Thursday, "but this is the highest second session enrollment we've ever had."

Don Wood, of the office of Planning and Institutional Analysis, said a possible reason for the high second summer session enrollment is that more students are being encouraged by their advisors to attend summer school.

Tougher fall admissions standards also could be a factor in the high second summer session enrollment.

Associate Director of Admissions Gale Wood said that before the standards were raised in 1982, about 160 to 175 freshmen registered for summer school under the Provisional Admission Program, which allows freshmen who do not meet the entrance requirements to attend summer classes.

The registration procedure this summer was changed to facilitate the process. The Registrar's office is using a system of alphabetically dividing students into six groups instead of five.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• Steve Holik, 74, remembers when all Texas Avenue had was a one grocery-gas station. See page 5.

State

• Dallas Cowboy Randy White fails to report to training camp. See story page 7.

National

• Gang robs Brinks armored car in California. See story page 3.

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