

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Prairie View A&M University

Low grades a problem

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

Almost 20 percent of the students enrolled at Prairie View A&M University in December 1984 were placed on scholastic probation. But President Percy Pierre says the school is battling the problem with counseling on the university level and tutoring within the colleges.

"This is not a new problem at Prairie View," Pierre said. "It's been going on a while."

Of the 3,700 students enrolled in the undergraduate school, 766 students are on scholastic probation because they have a grade point average lower than 2.0, and 219 students, about 6 percent, are on the university's honor roll with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

"Some of our students have problems, and some of them don't," Pierre said. "I don't like to generalize. We have some students who are well prepared (for college), who achieve a lot. And we have some who have problems."

The best way to solve those prob-

lems is by helping the student, Pierre said, so the university provides counseling for students having problems with grades, and individual colleges provide tutoring programs.

Wayne Perry, dean of the College of Engineering, said his college has three tutoring programs: individual counseling, evening problems classes and an engineering concept program.

Individual counseling involves improving communication between students and faculty. In this program, students meet with department chairmen and faculty and discuss their problems, Perry said.

Evening problem solving classes are for classes identified as problem areas for a number of students, Perry said. Instructors for those classes explain what they expect in terms of deadlines and quality of work to the students, he said.

The third program, an engineering concept program, is held during the summer. The main purpose of this pre-engineering course

is to prepare high school graduates for classes in engineering, Perry said.

Though problems can arise at any time during a student's education, certain periods are considered more dangerous than others, Perry said.

"The main thing we're concerned about is the first two years," he said. "That's why we have the pre-engineering program, and we even have a grade school program."

Once they're enrolled at Prairie View, students must maintain a 2.0 average. If they are placed on scholastic probation, students have one semester to raise their grades, or they face suspension.

Pierre said the university has higher standards than some Texas colleges.

"Our requirement is that freshmen get a 2.0," he said. "That's higher than the requirements at many campuses. We are not surprised (by the number of students on probation). It just means we need to work harder."

Aggie college bowl team gets 2nd at regional meet

By KATIE DICKIE
Reporter

Don't you hate to play Trivial Pursuit with someone who knows all of the answers? If so, there are five Texas A&M students you should avoid.

Alan Fryar, Doug Spence, David Jansen, Todd Brown, and Jay Schroeder are members of the Texas A&M college bowl team.

They capitalized on their knowledge of trivia to place second at the regional competition at Rice University on Feb. 17.

Seventeen teams from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas competed. The team from Tulane University won the competition.

Gregg Steele, chairman of the Memorial Student Center committee that sponsors the A&M team, said that college bowl is "the official varsity sport of the mind."

Technically the college bowl is a contest between two four-member teams in a head-to-head competition.

Like the television game show from which it evolved, a moderator asks a toss-up question for either team. Correct answers are worth ten points.

Answering a toss-up correctly means the team becomes eligible to answer a bonus question worth up to 30 points. The team with the most points at the end is declared the winner.

College bowl began as a television show in the 1950s and continued until 1970.

The competition was designed to test college students' knowledge of history, current events, arts, literature, sports, music and just about any other subject.

Questions for the official contests are compiled by Time magazine.

Fryar, the captain of the A&M team, says the contest is more fun and slightly more serious than Trivial Pursuit.

Spence says he does not own a Trivial Pursuit game, but has played a few times.

"However, my friends make me go around twice to win," he said. Spence describes college bowl as an "active accumulation of useless knowledge."

A&M has the largest following in this region. Last fall at the campus College Bowl tournament, 32 teams participated. From the 32 teams the members of the official team were chosen to represent A&M at the regional tournament.

Steele said the team practices a few hours each week. Trivial Pursuit questions are asked as well as questions from previous competitions, he said.

Brown said playing Trivial Pursuit helps him practice, but extensive reading helps him the most.

The team will be invited to the National Invitational Tournament at Emory University in Georgia, possibly as a wild card team. Fryar said due to a lack of funding, however, the contest may be cancelled.

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- Bike Maintenance; March 20, 27, April 3, 10; 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Cross-Stitch; April 10, 17, 24; 6-8 p.m.
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