

Pauline Pratt, Pauline Pratt!

There's a Wedding at Magnolia Hill; And Guess Who's at the Altar?

Editors' Note:

any similarity to actual personalities or events is merely coincidental.

For those who missed the first six episodes of *Pauline Pratt, Pauline Pratt*, the characters will be listed again for your benefit.

Dexter Pratt: President of Magnolia Hill College.

Pauline Pratt: 250 pound wife of P. Dexter.

Flora Lou Belle: Operator of Belle's Bouffants, and executive secretary to the president of Magnolia Hill.

Armedy: Janitor in the Administration Building; Stella's "father."

Bobby and Sissey Trotter: Professors of social graces and field hockey, respectively.

Stella Boredeaux: A star student but social misfit at Magnolia Hill College.

Mike Machonelli: Transfer from Chihuahua Tech, horticulture major, tenor in the college choir, and captain of the football team.

Felicia Quagmurst: Eighty-eight year old former belly dancer and missionary to coastal Namibia turned grouch.

Sister Anna Maria Smith: Bedpan angel and head nurse at Sisters of Solomon General Hospital and Convention Center in Peaks, Georgia.

Our Last Episode:

When last we left the residents of Magnolia Hill, Mike Machonelli, consumed by love for Stella, entered her semi-private bungalow at Sisters' General, professing his "love, true love" for Stella. Since Mike's pronouncement, events have snowballed at Magnolia Hill: from the fervent proposal proffered on the bedded knee at Stella's (and Felicia's) bedside to the hectic pace of prenuptial plans.

Magnolia Hill has buzzed with the mentalating news of Stella's betrothal: Bobby, ever-conscious of trends in after-seven wedding receptions, has topped even Madame du Mammie's culinary skills in his petit fours creations ... Sissey has made all the arrangements for the stag party, including the 17 tier Sara Lee cake complete with pop-up girl Bertha Bartalski, parliamentarian of the Magnolia Hill Missionary Society and president of the local 'Search for Yesterday' fan club. Sissey has also ordered for the party, the latest in porn flicks--'The Three Little Pigs Go to Sweden'.....Barney is hard at work sewing on the last of the Nicaraguan lace, so dear to Stella's heart, on her Peruvian llama wedding tunic (ordered

direct from Inca Instincts, Inc. located in New Rurubomba, Georgia, haven for unwed Peruvians and llama lovers)..... Flora Lou Belle, confused by the coincidence of Stella's hospitalization and sudden engagement, plans a baby shower, inviting all of Magnolia Hillian society (Grace, of buffeteria fame; Pauline, local adulteress, and Sister Anna Maria Smith, bedpan and now bosom buddy of Stella's).....Felicia Quagmurst, having secured a rare copy of *Namibia, My Blessed Namibia*, vocalizes daily in preparation for her debut at Stella's nuptial.....

Our Story Resumes:

The big day has finally arrived. The entire population of Magnolia Hill is gathered at the Free Will Pentecostal Orthodox Church. Notes and erotic rhythm swell from the Kimball 450 electric organ. Inside the vestibule, a frantic Bobby, who has been placed in charge of the wedding ceremony, cues Felicia to begin her African aria.



Felicia, still disabled, is wheeled into the sanctuary by two elderly Namibian pygmies (converts from Felicia's belly dancing and gospel singing days). While they take their places down front, Bobby is heard to whisper to one of the guests, "Have you ever tried to fit a Namibian pygmy in a tux?" As Felicia begins her melodious rendition of the Namibian national anthem, Flora Lou Belle, referring to the nonexistent baby, 'whispers' to one of her customers seated across the aisle, "Was it a boy or a girl?"

Meanwhile, in a side room, the disgraught Stella dons her Guatemalan garter while Barney nervously gropes for the right words to tell Stella of wedding wonders and woes. "Stella, I have been meaning to tell you something since you were a teenager. Remember that story about the stork--it's not true." Stella, aghast at this sudden revelation, exclaims, "Oh, no, 'Papa!'

Back in the sanctuary, the pre-ceremonial events continue as Felicia soars into the thirteenth verse of her solo, the pygmies singing the descant. P. Dexter leans to the old man seated beside him and inquires, "Now what was the name of this group?" To which the old man replies, "I believe it's Felicia Knight and the Pygmies. Far out man, out-of-sight!"

At the back of the church, Bobby pauses from arranging the attendants to enlist Sissey's help in removing the somewhat repetitive singing trio (since half of the guests have already dosed off)! Get the old bag and her bongo bangers out of here quick, Sweets." Sissey lumbers down to the front clutching the be-tuxed pygmies and simultaneously wheeling off the unwilling Felicia (who has just finished the refrain to the fifteenth verse). Stella and Barney appear in the doorway. As Sissey wheels the trying trio past them, Felicia is heard to mutter under her breath, "Why the hell didn't you let me finish all 25 verses, you ungrateful hussy!" Stella, already flustered by Barney's shocking stork story, is thrown into a maniacal frenzy by Felicia's unexpected fury.

The first notes of the wedding march are heard, and Bobby cues the attendants to start the procession. Mike, along with his favorite brother from Eta Beta Pi, emerges from a side door and takes his place at the altar. As Sister Anna Maria Smith, Stella's one and only attendant, reaches the front, Bobby notices that Stella is minus her bouquet. Rising to the occasion, he grabs the nearest potted poinsettia and thrusts it into Stella's quaking hands, and Stella is on her way. All goes well until the minister asks the customary question: "Are there any gathered here who know of any reason why this man and this woman should not be joined in holy matrimony? If so, let him speak now or forever hold his peace." From the back of the church, a gruff voice answers, "Just hold on, now. I've got something to say, and I want you all to listen."

Who is this man who holds Stella's future in the balance?

Will Felicia ever forgive Stella for truncating her solo?

Will Stella's poinsettia need watering before the end of the ceremony?

Find out the answers to these and other exciting questions in February, as you follow the continuing newspaper drama, *Pauline Pratt, Pauline Pratt*.