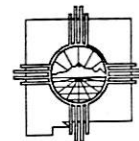


PAYDIRT



Volume 18, Number 2

New Mexico Tech's Newspaper

Monday, February 26, 1990

Tech Accreditation Almost Complete

by Bobby Kehrman
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

New Mexico Tech is in the process of re-accrediting several of its engineering programs. The accreditation is done by The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), who is responsible for the creation of the minimum requirements for an engineering or science degree. This provides an "academic yardstick" to employers and graduate schools as to how knowledgeable the student is. To have a program accredited, Tech needed to prepare a report on the degree detailing items such as: the number of faculty members in the department, textbooks that are used, samples of the tests and homework, the curriculum distribution, and number of credit hours. Tech also needed to prepare a report on facilities such as the library, financial aid; teaching loads, and the administration hierarchy. Each program must be reviewed at least every six years. After receiving this information during a visit to Tech, ABET reviews NMIMT's programs in comparison to the minimum existing requirements. The seven programs currently under review are Petroleum Engineering, Geological Engineering, Mining Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Materials Engi-

neering, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering Science; the first four have passed, and the last three are still under review.

One of the major problems that Tech ran into was what ABET classified as an "Improper amount of Design" — namely the degrees need more "design" in the design classes. This problem is still under debate between Tech and ABET in the cases of the Engineering Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Materials Engineering programs.

Mining and Geological Engineering had to reinstate Differential Equations in their course of studies after Dr. Griswold (now retired) was unsuccessful in convincing ABET that this class wasn't practical.

Mining Engineering, at the time of the ABET visit, failed because of the loss of several faculty members, Dr. Kevin O'Connor, Neal Nagel, and the retirement of Dr. Griswold. But with the hiring of Dr. Claudio Faria and Navid Mojtabai the program became accredited.

New Mexico Tech, in order to keep its reputation of one of the finest institutes of learning, must continually change and upgrade each of its individual programs to the standards that ABET has set.

Tech Receives Core-Level Funding

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

The State Legislature has approved as part of the State Budget core-level funding for New Mexico Tech, meaning that Tech will receive no less than the amount of funding it received this year in the future. (Normally, funding is a direct function of enrollment.) This came as a significant relief to those responsible for determining the budget of the Institute, for without core-funding, Tech would have faced significant cut-backs.

While most of the public colleges in New Mexico had requested core-level funding, only Tech was granted it.

Dr. Lattman informed the faculty of the state legislative session's impact on Tech in a memo dated February 16.

The governor has not yet signed the budget, though, and can line-item veto any portion.

Tech was also the only school to receive equipment and replacement funds, to the tune of \$100,900. This is because Tech was the only school to have a "prepared, detailed equipment inventory" available to present the legislature.

\$500,000 was also granted for the planning stages of the multi-million dollar Workman Center remodeling. Full funding was delayed until (hopefully) next year, possibly because the Socorro sewage treatment system received funds for an overhaul.

\$20,000 had been allocated to Tech's sports, especially rugby, in earlier versions of the budget. This was trimmed in the final version submitted to the governor.

The PRRC suffered a significant blow when the legislature declined to replace \$500,000 in funding it had previously received from another source.

Coming Next Issue...

What's Going On At the Post Office?

An in-depth investigation of the Campus Post Office—Why Fees are up and Hours are Down

New Alcohol Policy Under Review

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

A new policy which would allow students of legal drinking age to consume alcohol on campus is currently being reviewed by the campus administration. Once the policy is reviewed by students, it will be presented to Tech president Lawrence Lattman, after whose approval it will be submitted to the board of regents for approval and implementation. There were no estimates available of how long this process could take.

Currently, no one is allowed to consume alcohol on campus except at "licensed facilities" such as Macey Center. State laws have no special provisions for college campuses.

The policy was created by a committee specially gathered for the purpose, and is currently being presented to the student body for comments and suggestions. It has already been reviewed by the Student Association Senate.

Some of the major points of the new policy as it currently stands are as follows:

- All state laws pertaining to alcohol will, of course, be in effect on Tech Campus. These include laws against serving alcohol to any person who is intoxicated with a blood alcohol content of (0.10% or more); driving while under the influence; and consuming or carrying alcohol in an open container on any street, sidewalk, alley, automobile, or other public place in the state. (All open areas on campus are defined as "public" except licensed facilities.) The state also sets the drinking age at 21 years.
- Students who are over the age of 21 will be able to consume alcohol on campus only in residence hall rooms or in licensed facilities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4, COLUMN 4

THE NEW SA SENATE



Tech's new Student Association convened on February 19. **Back Row:** Aaron Schnell, Paul Houle, Eric Roberg, Shawna Smith, Alan Kerr (President), David Oakes (Vice-President), Kevin Dorff, Michelle Edwards, Bobby Kehrman (Treasurer & Senator), Robert Solomon. **Middle Row:** Sean Kelly (Supreme Court Justice), Amy Stoklas (Parliamentarian), Kim Bell, Amy Koerner (Secretary), Philip Bernick. **Front Row:** Shiloh Johnson, Laura Buxton, Shawn Clever. Not attending this meeting were Jason Covington and James Gilson (Supreme Court Justice). All individuals shown are senators, unless otherwise noted. Photo by John Goshy.

TECH'S BOOKSTORE PRICES 14% HIGHER THAN AT UNM

by Brett Palmer and Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTERS

Textbook prices at the New Mexico Tech bookstore are, on average, priced 14% higher than the same books at the University of New Mexico (UNM) bookstore. Auxiliary Services director Rhonda Savedge St. George stated that the primary causes for the differences in prices is Tech's lower volume of books sold, the type of textbooks required for Tech's scientific curricula, and professors' ordering incorrect numbers of textbooks or ordering them late.

A survey was conducted of Tech's textbooks, and, of the five books also stocked by the UNM bookstore, the average difference was 14%, with the Tech price always being higher than the UNM price. For books required for some core-level classes, comparisons were made between the Tech Bookstore price and the official list price as given in the current edition of *Books in Print*. (See box, below.)

The textbook market is different from that of other books in that the cost of textbooks has been rising substantially faster, and that the standard bookstore markup is lower on textbooks.

According to Ray Gadena, manager of the UNM bookstore, the standard industry-wide profit for textbooks is 20%, or a 25% markup. (Profit is different from markup in that profit is the percentage of the purchase price that is profit to the bookstore, and markup is the percentage that the store raises the book price over their wholesale cost.) The UNM pricing policy follows this procedure. According to Rhonda, last semester, the profit was 25% (33% markup) plus \$1, except for shipments requiring second-day air delivery. This semester, the profit was raised to 30% (43% markup). This was done to reduce the bookstore's budget deficit, which has been significant for the past several years.

Rhonda also stated that the primary reasons for the price difference were the frequent new editions being produced for

scientific books, and the large number of instructors ordering books after the deadline, forcing the bookstore to ship the books by second-day air, and instructors failing to order enough books, requiring additional shipments by second-day air as well. Approximately half of Tech's books must be shipped second-day air. This can add from \$1.00 to \$3.00 to the cost the bookstore must pay for those texts. An extreme example, *Fundamentals of Chemistry*, was ordered via second-day air, and shipping for those heavy books was \$4.76 per copy.

Mr. Gadena said that the problems with instructors ordering books late is also a problem at UNM. Rhonda estimated that the problem is more prevalent at Tech, although quantitative data were not available.

In some cases, professors order too many books, requiring the bookstore to ship some back to the publisher in cases where the book will not be used in subsequent semesters. Sometimes, the bookstore must absorb the loss if new editions are printed, since the publisher will not accept outdated editions.

Several instructors at Tech were contacted regarding the problem of late orders, and most admitted that they understood the difficulties. They cited that sometimes they were not sure which courses they were going to be teaching in a given semester, or how many students would be enrolled in the class. Some departments with multiple sections of classes have also experienced problems with determining who is responsible for ordering the books for all sections. Most professors interviewed said that they did take student cost into consideration when they selected textbooks, but that there are often very few books that meet their criteria.

Both Rhonda and Mr. Gadena stated that the UNM bookstore has an advantage over the Tech bookstore in that a significant percentage of UNM sales are in clothing and other merchandise that has a substantially higher markup than textbooks, often 100% or more. (The markup on such items at

UNM is also higher than that at the Tech bookstore.) Tech's bookstore, however, has an advantage over UNM in that it is incorporated in the SUB, while the UNM bookstore is a free-standing building, resulting in lower maintenance expenses for Tech. UNM also sells a much higher number of books, allowing UNM to sell the books at a slightly lower cost. Both stores hire temporary student labor during busy times.

Several particular Tech textbooks have been the cause of many student complaints. *History of Art* by Jansen is a Fine Arts text stocked by the Tech Bookstore as a two-volume paperback edition for \$34.95 each. The UNM bookstore carried the consolidated hardbound version for \$29.95. The professor had ordered the paperback edition, not knowing that the hardbound edition was still available. UNM received one of the last large shipments of the one-volume edition, and obtained a substantially discounted price. Both stores had followed their standard pricing procedures to determine the cost of the books. After learning of the availability of the one-volume edition, the professor has ordered 30 of the less expensive edition, but they have not arrived at the Tech bookstore yet.

How to Write a User's Manual, a Technical Communication text, has the list price of \$14.95 printed on the cover, but the Tech bookstore placed a price-tag of \$20.00 on top of that price. The publisher was out of stock of that title, and the bookstore was forced to order it directly from the author, who charged them \$20.00 per book for the first ten they bought and \$15.00 per book for subsequent copies, to which shipping costs were added.

Face A Face, the introductory French text, had a list price of \$27.50, but was priced in the bookstore at \$40.00. The publisher had raised the wholesale price to \$28.00 since *Books in Print* was published, and the stated list price was no longer accurate.

The lack of used books represents a significant complaint of students, as well as the prices paid by the bookstore to students selling their books. Most of Tech's used books are obtained from and sold to Follet's, the largest used book distributor in the nation. According to Rhonda, they use a standard pricing of 50% of list price paid to students selling their books, and charging 75% of list to those buying them. Rhonda attempts to order up to 90% used books on popular titles, but this many are seldom available. Used books sell much more quickly than new books, and used books for many titles sell out on registration day. Used books are usually only available for introductory classes because there are more of these books in circulation, and owners of advanced books rarely sell their books back, choosing to use them as reference. For books that are likely to be used in subsequent semesters, the Tech bookstore often holds them itself, not selling them to the national company, but the bookstore then runs the risk that a newer edition may come out or that the instructor may change texts.

Rhonda stated that she encourages students to sell their own books to each other, and that she would be in favor of the establishment of a used-book co-op like that which exists at most large universities.

She has attempted to interest bookstore contractor companies in managing the Tech bookstore, which would theoretically lower prices, although contractors are reluctant because of Tech's small size and remote location. A disadvantage of contracting the bookstore, cited by Mr. Gadena, is that employees hired by contractors might take less interest in the institute than the current Auxiliary Services management and employees do, and service to students could worsen.

Rhonda also would be interested in the formation of a student advisory committee concerned with books and clothing sold in the bookstore.

PRICE COMPARISONS: Tech vs. UNM & Tech vs. List Price

Course Title	Author	UNM	Tech
Physics Optics, 2nd ed	Hecht	\$56.15	\$61.75
Eng. Statistical Mechanics	Pathria	35.00	40.00
CS Fractals Everywhere	Barnsley	39.95	45.75
Math Introduction To Vector Analysis	Davis&Snider	44.20	52.50
CS The C Programming Language	K&R	30.25	34.00
Mechanics Problem Solver		28.85	28.95
200 Sheet Engineer's Pad		3.50	4.75
Hewlett-Packard 28S Calculator		195.00	178.00

Course Title	Author	List Price	Tech
Physics Physics, 2nd ed	O'Hanian	\$49.95	\$60.50
Math Calculus with Analytic Geometry	Anton	58.95	63.50
French Face A Face	Steele&Frommer	27.50	40.00
Chem Fundamentals of Chemistry	Brady&Holum	54.95	54.95
Chem Lab Manual for Fun. of Chem.	Brady&Holum	28.95	30.95

Shown above are price comparisons between the University (UNM) Bookstore and the New Mexico Tech Bookstore, for all books found in stock at both locations, and comparisons between the list price of textbooks as stated in *Books in Print* 1989-1990 and the Tech bookstore for selected introductory texts. Comparisons were made during the first week of February 1990.

PAYDIRT

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SA Elections Restore Senate Alan Kerr Elected President David Oakes New Vice-President

by James Gilson
STAFF REPORTER

In the run-off election for student association officers that took place on February 7, Alan Kerr was elected SA President. David Oakes is the new vice-president of the SA with the withdrawal of Laura Buxton as the other run-off competitor for that slot.

Two elections were necessary due to a three-way tie for president and a tie between the two candidates running for vice-president. In the first election, which took place on February 2, the presidential ballots were cast as follows:

- 46 Alan Kerr
- 46 Ash Walker
- 46 Seb Thompson
- 43 Gary Adams
- 20 Jason Errett

Because of the tie, a run-off election for the presidency was held on February 9, although Ash Walker withdrew from the race. The outcome was:

- 126 Alan Kerr
- 79 Seb Thompson

The two candidates running for vice-president in the election on the first ballot were tied:

- 90 Laura Buxton
- 90 David Oakes.

After this tie, Laura Buxton withdrew from the race to allow the SA

government to get back on track more quickly, and also eliminated the vice-presidential office from the run-off election.

The ten-candidate race for the nine open seats in the SA Senate was decided as follows:

- 108 Bobby Kehrman
- 103 Robert Solomon
- 102 Shawna Smith
- 87 Jason Covington
- 83 Kevin Dorff
- 79 Eric Roberg
- 73 Elizabeth Bizardi
- 56 Phillip Bernick
- 56 Paul Houle
- 47 Bill Perkins

The voter turnout for both elections was higher than that for those of the recent past, but was still less than a quarter of those eligible. 212 ballots were cast in the first election, and 207 were cast in the second. Nearly 1000 students are eligible to vote.

In all cases, votes for write-in candidates were not counted, regardless of whether the name written-in was fictitious or not. Two ballots were spoiled in the presidential run-off as a result. The decision reached by the Justices of the SA Supreme Court was that for a candidate to be eligible for election, that candidate must file a declaration of candidacy with the SA officers five academic days before the election.

Physical Plant News

by Jason Coder
PHYSICAL PLANT CORRESPONDENT

In response to student complaints about the voltage spikes in the campus power that are causing problem with some computer users, P-Plant would like to state that the problem is with the Socorro Electric Co-Op, not anything on campus. It seems that high winds cause problems with transmission lines, resulting in the spikes.

The following list is of current or recently completed Physical Plant projects, and has been supplied by P-Plant:

1. Flower bulbs have been planted in the flower beds around campus, in preparation for spring. Students are asked to please not cut across these beds, as damage to the bulbs results. Barriers have been erected, but many have been blown or torn down. Even if barriers are not in place, please avoid stepping on the beds.

2. The swimming pool's heat exchanger blew up, resulting in the cool temperatures in the bubble. It should be replaced by the time you read this. On a related topic, P-Plant is working at diverting the air coming from the heaters in a more circular flow throughout the bubble, reducing drafts to swimmers.

3. The renovation of the old post office in the basement of Brown Hall has been completed, and the Travel & Key and Grants & Contracts offices have moved in. Only the installation of the bathrooms needs to be finished.

4. Algae-eating Cattail fish have been introduced to Turtle Bay, to help clean up some of the pond scum. The general clean-up and expansion of the bay has been put on hold, however, pending the approval of a dam permit for the storage area of Lattman Well.

Projects currently on the drawing board include: a parapet wall for the roof of the SUB to conceal the ventilation equipment; renovation of the old, and completion of a new, golf driving range; and the leveling and lighting of the additional parking area for South Hall. This last project includes the proposed pavilion behind the SAC, which P-Plant would like to have student input on. If you have any ideas about the area, now is the time to express them, not after construction begins.

As always, should anyone have suggestions on how to improve campus in general, or complaints on subjects that P-Plant is responsible for, they should write to this column, and I'll see what can be done. As Mr. Shaffner, Physical Plant Director, stated, "If the students don't inform us that something is broken, then we won't know to fix it." Write to: Paydirt, Attn: Physical Plant Correspondent, Box GG, Campus Station.



TRY OUR NATION'S BEST YOGURT
COLOMBO



CAMPUS CANTINEEN

TECH'S ANSWER TO FAST FOOD SERVICE, THE CANTINEEN OFFERS A VARIETY OF FOOD ITEMS FROM FRENCH FRIES TO FRESH BAKED PASTRIES. THE CANTINEEN IS OPEN FOR BREAKFAST AND OFFERS SPECIALS DAILY. SO STOP BY!



NEW ADDITIONS
TANDOORI CHICKEN
BAKLAVA
GREEK KASAS

UP & COMING SPECIALS

MARCH 5th
HOMemade SANDWICH IN A BOX \$2.00!! (REG. \$2.30)
MARCH 12th-15th
POULTRY EXTRAVAGANZA
BUY TANDOORI CHICKEN FOR \$1.50!! (REG. \$2.00)
MARCH 26, 27, 28th
BANANA SPLIT WEEK!!!
FOR JUST \$1.00!!!
MARCH 29th
50¢ HAMBURGER DAY!!!



Financial Aid Notes

FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Any student experiencing academic difficulty should stop by the financial aid office and discuss what effect this may have on financial aid.

Reminder: All students who have not yet submitted the Financial Aid Form (FAF) for Summer 1990 and academic year 1990-1991 are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Caution: The FAF must be completed in pencil. To minimize delays in processing corrections, students are strongly encouraged to use actual income figures directly off the tax form rather than estimating figures.

NO EXIT by Erik Andresen

WHAT NOT TO SAY TO A HIGHWAY PATROLMAN!

TELL YOU WHAT- I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU BY DRIVING TEN MILES UNDER THE LIMIT FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP!

I'LL GIVE YOU A NICKLE IF YOU JUST FORGET THE WHOLE THING!



I WAS ONLY SPEEDING 'CAUSE I'M DRUNK!

I GUESS THEY LET JUST ABOUT ANYBODY INTO THE ACADEMY THESE DAYS, HUH?

I HAVE AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT? WHY THANK YOU!

I WAS IN A HURRY TO MAKE A BIG DRUG DEAL!

JUST DON'T LOOK IN THE TRUNK 'CAUSE THERE'S A DEAD BODY IN THERE!

YOUR FLY'S OPEN! HA! MADE YA LOOK!

NO EXIT'S ADVICE TO FRESHMEN PART FOUR.

HOW TO SURVIVE A PARENTAL VISIT!

BEFORE YOUR PARENTS ARRIVE, CHUCK EVERYTHING UNDER THE BED...

DON'T LET THEM LOOK THROUGH YOUR DRAWERS!

DON'T LET THEM MEET YOUR FRIENDS!

AND DON'T FORGET TO DISMANTLE YOUR BURMESE TIGER TRAP!

SO YER RUMKHEADS OLD BAG! CAN DRINK ME UNDER THE TABLE!

Paydirt is distressed to state that, last weekend, our assistant editor and friend, Melinda Bailey, was involved in a car accident in Phoenix where the SCA war was being held. Melinda is doing fine, but her mother, Janet Bailey, is in the hospital after a spleen removal operation, and her friend, Helen Patton, is in the hospital with a broken neck, but fortunately with no nerve damage. Melinda will probably be returning to Socorro sometime this week.

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

by Stephen Legate
STAFF REPORTER

It was 4:00 PM on the Thursday of 49'ers weekend. George and I were sitting on the balcony of the third floor of South with large cups of tea in our hands. George's speakers (which are roughly the size of young wildebeests) were proclaiming, "s'been a long, lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely time," at a respectably loud but not cochlea-shattering level. Things were beginning to hop and George and I were looking forward to a most enjoyable weekend.

Someone tapped me on the shoulder. I looked up into the face of an RA from the second floor. He scowled slightly as he shouted, "PLEASE TURN IT DOWN!"

The disbelief with which I regarded him was far from feigned. Quiet hours on 49'ers? But, he was the boss, so George grabbed the remote and zapped the volume down a few notches. The RA departed and while George and I finished our tea we discussed what exactly would motivate a person to become a fascist bully-boy.

We were able to overcome the tragedy of not being able to finish Zep IV (an increased intake of tea improved the situation greatly), but the event sticks in my mind as the first time I had any real difficulty with an RA. Shortly thereafter, I began to ask questions. What exactly was an RA's job? Did other residents have similar experiences? How do students regard RAs?

When the chance came to write an article on RAs, I jumped at it. I grabbed my pen and pad, and sallied forth into the morass of overdeveloped intellect that is the Tech student population. My first question was directed towards a Tech graduate.

"What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear RA?" I asked.

"Dicks," said the alumnus, "and then Ming, 'cause Ming wasn't a dick, he was cool. In those days they didn't give you any shit as long as you didn't hurt anybody. There was none of this 'Oh, we've got all these rules and we've got to follow them to the last letter' crap."

I accosted the next passing student. "What do you think of RAs?" I asked.

"I dunno..." He paused and eyed me suspiciously. "Are you one?" Before I could answer, he walked swiftly away.

Another hapless victim passed within hearing range. "What do you think of RAs?" I shouted.

"Can't be said in public!" he shouted back.

"What do you think of RAs?" I asked the student sitting next to me. He paused for a moment, as if he were formulating a socially acceptable response.

"Well, first I think that four out of the seven that I know of don't have phone numbers listed in the student directory, and another two are emotionally unstable and should be put away. I also think that RAs should be here to serve the students, not to be Auxiliary Services' secret police."

These were typical responses to my informal poll of the student body. I found student attitudes on RAs ranged from neutral (bordering on disgruntled) to fanatic hatred. Individual responses pertaining to individual RAs ranged from "she doesn't bother me, she's okay," to "he's a hemorrhoidal fascist!"

Specific complaints about the practices of individual RAs were too numerous to be cataloged. The most frequent complaints had to do with availability. Cries of "He's never in his room!" or "She's almost impossible to get in touch with!" were disturbingly common.

It is apparent that a great many students are displeased with their current RA. And it is also apparent that they have no qualms voicing their opinions when they know their names and residences will be kept confidential. But why don't they voice these complaints to the RAs themselves?

There are several reasons why students keep quiet in the face of authority. The first and most obvious is a fear of retribution. An incensed RA could make life rather difficult for a resident that he had a particular grudge against. Another reason for silent suffering on the part of residents is a common conception that no matter how loudly you complain, nothing will change.

Many students feel that RAs exist to ensure that no one has any fun within their jurisdictions. But how do the RAs themselves view their positions? What do they consider their purpose for existence?

"My job is to provide a better environment for students who live on campus," said one RA in a very matter-of-fact tone.

"As an RA, I have two primary functions," said another, "the first is

to ensure the safety of the residents. Sometimes this involves enforcing Tech dorm policies, including the ones about drinking and partying. My second function is to maintain a good environment for studying. We're all here to get a degree and part of my job is to ensure that the dorm environment is conducive to obtaining that degree."

The RAs I interviewed felt that, although safety and environmental matters were their first concern, students called on them most often to check out vacuum cleaners or VCRs. Distribution of toilet paper was a close second.

The RAs also agreed that most often they would not intervene in a potentially raucous situation until a resident complained. One RA did mention an exception: "I am also a resident of this dorm, and if some one is being loud or whatever and disturbing me, then I'll ask them to quiet down, whether or not another resident complains."

Obviously, RAs do not exist to protect every resident's right (real or imaginary) to party hearty. The do exist to ensure that residents do not bend, fold, spindle, mutilate, maim, or otherwise discomfit their surroundings, themselves, or their fellow residents. They do exist to ensure that George's wildebeest speakers do not blast "Cum on Feel the Noize" at 110 decibels at 2:00 AM the morning before his suitemate has a Neuropsychopharmacology midterm. And they do exist to distribute VCRs and toilet paper.

Residents who are still unsatisfied, take heart! According to Trish Garduno, Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services, the situation should change soon. She is in the process of instituting several reforms which could alleviate student grievances.

According to Garduno, the past system for selecting RAs was woefully inadequate. She has recently installed a system which puts RA candidates through rigorous selection process. The process uses group dynamics and roleplaying techniques to assess a candidate's leadership capabilities, creates a tangible and definitive personality profile of each candidate, and culminates in final candidate interviews conducted by upper-level administration personnel (including the Director and Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services and the Dean of Students) and four veteran RAs.

Another improvement in the works is a resident-elected govern-

ment for each dormitory. The residents of each dorm would elect a President and a Vice-President who would have limited disciplinary jurisdiction over that dorm. "This system would allow a resident's infractions to be judged by his peers," says Garduno, "and it would take the bad rap off of RAs for enforcing Tech's policies."

For now, individual problems can be solved by better communication. In spite of my findings of student dissatisfaction, Garduno receives an average of three RA related complaints a semester. "If you have a complaint about RAs, you should apply to be one," says Garduno. "If you have a specific complaint about a specific RA, talk to them first. If they don't respond, then come to me."

So if your RA keeps unpredictable hours, ask him to post his schedule. If he refuses to post a schedule, or posts a schedule and refuses to follow it, go tell Trish (SUB 201) that your resident assistant isn't very resident.


If, however, a certain RA tells you to turn your stereo down on 49'ers, George recommends that you "grab him by the ankles and dangle him three stories over a cement sidewalk until he sees it your way."

New Alcohol Policy Under Review

continued from page 1

- Kegs, party balls, and other bulk containers will still be prohibited.
- No social event where alcohol is served shall include any form of "drinking contest."
- Non-alcoholic beverages must be available during campus functions at the same place as alcoholic beverages, and featured as prominently as the alcoholic beverages. Food must also be available in "appropriate quantities."
- Selling alcoholic beverages in residence halls will still be prohibited.
- Students objecting to consumption of alcohol by their roommate will be given priority in seeking alternative on-campus housing.
- If most of the residents of a dorm desire, the entire dorm will be designated "alcohol free" for the entire semester.
- No alcohol may be taken into or out of a licensed alcohol-serving facility.
- A student who violates the policy once will be required to have a conference with the Dean of Students and possibly the housing director.
- A second violation will result in disciplinary probation, and possible eviction from campus dorms.
- After a third incident, disciplinary suspension, and mandatory eviction from campus residents.
- Students accused of violating the policy will be able to request an appellate review by the Alcohol Committee established by the policy.

The complete text of the proposed policy has been posted at various locations around campus. Anyone with questions, comments, or suggestions should direct them to the Student Services office in Brown Hall.



CAMPUS CAFE LaCite

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

TREAT YOURSELF ALL THE TIME

RIGHT

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Student Government Chronicles

by Shawn Clever
STUDENT GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

As reported on the front page, Alan Kerr is the new SA President, and David Oakes is the new Vice-President. To date there has been some confusion as to whether or not the graduate students were allowed to vote in the elections on February 2 and 9. This was cleared up in the February 19 SA meeting when a representative from the election committee (judiciary) stated that only the Graduate Students who had paid an activity fee and had their ID card punched were allowed to vote. Many senators felt this ambiguity was a serious problem and that it should be cleared up with the adoption of the new constitution. The election results were not close enough in the runoff election to necessitate a new election including the few graduate students that voted, and as of this date the election results stand.

The new senators elected to the SA and their respective committees are as follows:

Phillip Bernick—Disciplinary, Investigative, and Lobbying committees
Elizabeth Bizardi—Campus Space
Jason Covington—none currently
Kevin Dorff—Movie
Paul Houle—Campus Space, Movie
Bobby Kerhman—Finance, Lobbying
Eric Roberg—Investigative, Library
Shawna Smith—Spring Fling / 49ers Review, Dance
Robert Solomon—Dance, Investigative.

A few of the senators were reached for comment and had this to say regarding their new senate positions and priorities within the SA Senate:

David Oakes cited a "...better relationship with the Administration and less student apathy as major priorities." The new SA President, Alan Kerr was unavailable for comment.

Paul Houle stated that he would like to "...enlist the student body into getting involved with SA activities." Paul sees student apathy as a serious problem for the SA. Bobby Kerhman said he would like to improve the reputation and integrity of the SA.

A few important items of business were concluded Monday night and should be noted. Bobby Kerhman was appointed the new SA Treasurer, and club budgets were discussed and approved with the exception of Yaht, Combat Simulation, and Adrenaline clubs who are all in the process of submitting revised budgets. A listing of the funding that each club received will follow in a later issue. Two other items of great importance were discussed: A resolution expressing discontent with the handling of the 'November 14 incident' by the Institute Senate was discussed and approved (Refer to separate article in this issue.) A copy of this resolution will be read by either Dr. Etscorn or Alan Kerr at the next Institute Senate and Board of Regents meetings. These will be open meetings to all interested. In other business, Sal Maestas, a representative from CLUB NMT presented a proposal for the hiring of a part-time technician to operate and maintain student owned equipment in the SAC. The funding for this would come from student funds, (money allocated by the SA) and the technician would be at work whenever the equipment was in use for student-sponsored events. If you have any questions or input about this, drop Sal a note at POB 3455. A revised proposal will be up for SA approval at the next regular Senate meeting.

If you have any questions or comments about the SA, please write to Paydirt, Campus Political Correspondent, Box GG, Campus Station.

Auxiliary Report

by Laura Buxton
AUXILIARY SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE NEW RA SELECTION PROCESS: In the two years Trish Garduno has worked in Auxiliary Services, she has constantly looked for ways to change and improve their programs and procedures. This semester she has changed the process for Resident Assistant (RA) selection in order to better replace the six "seasoned" RAs who are going on to bigger and better things. Those RAs are: Jessica Arellano, Lee Jackson, Lisa Spinks, Matt Brady, Laura Buxton, and Ray Pribble (of the Graduate dorm). Brett Liggett will take Ray's place next fall, leaving Baca.

In the past, RAs have been selected by filling out an application and, if they made that cut, going to a formal interview with a panel consisting of Ms. Garduno, Rhonda Savedge St. George, Frank Etscorn, Judith Raymond, and at least one current RA. Ms. Garduno felt that it was too difficult to make the first cut based on the application alone. She did not wish to waste the panel's time with interviewees who looked good on paper but had poor interpersonal skills. She also wanted all the current RAs to have some input, not just those who had the time to be on the interview panel.

The result of Ms. Garduno's efforts is the "Survival of the Fittest" program of RA selection. The process began with the application. Twenty-five students applied for fall positions. This field was narrowed to twenty because some applicants did not meet requirements such as a 2.2 GPA and 30 credit hours. Those remaining were invited back for a "group interview" that took place on February 16. This consisted of the applicants splitting off into small groups and working on exercises such as prioritizing a list of tasks ranging from dealing with an unknown "crisis" to watching LA Law with a friend. The current RAs observed and took notes on the applicants' behavior and interaction. After the applicants had left, the pros and cons of each were discussed by the current RAs, and Ms. Garduno used this discussion to further narrow the field. Candidates who were excessively timid, dominating, or who would otherwise not hold the respect and friendship of their residents (and fellow RAs) were eliminated. The rest will go on to a formal interview board similar to those in the past. After being interviewed by the administrators and three returning RAs, the candidates will go on to an interview board consisting of the rest of the RAs. Final selection and placement of new and old RAs will take place on March 9.

After they have been selected, the new RAs will attend meetings and training sessions this semester. Ms. Garduno hopes that the new staff members will be well suited to carry out all the new programs she has in mind for the dorms next year.

Police Blotter

by Taige Blake
CAMPUS POLICE CORRESPONDENT

This issue has no installment of Police Blotter. Look for it in the next issue.

EXPRESS YOURSELF!

If you have something to say but your voice is lost in the crowd, Speak Up!

Write a letter to Paydirt!
Letters to the Editor
Box GG, Campus Station

SA Approves New Resolution Regarding November 14 Incident

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

On February 19, at its most recent general meeting, the Student Association (SA) Senate approved a resolution that will be presented to the Institute Senate at its next meeting. [Other events at that meeting are covered in the Student Government Chronicles column which appears elsewhere in this issue.]

The resolution is in response to the Institute Senate's lack of discussion about the incident of November 14, in which President Lawrence Lattman made objectionable statements about a student attending Tech. At a closed Institute Senate (IS) meeting last semester, then-SA President Matt Jones read a prepared statement to the IS, but, according to the minutes of that meeting,

he did not state that any particular action should be taken by the IS. No action was taken, and the meeting was adjourned almost immediately thereafter.

The resolution states that the IS should investigate the incident substantially more thoroughly than it has already done, and that the SA feels that it has "received an uninterested, disrespectful, and hostile response" from the IS on the issue.

The motion to affirm the resolution was presented to the SA by senator Philip Bernick, and was approved unanimously by the SA Senate. As part of the approved motion, the resolution will be read at the next Institute Senate meeting, by either Alan Kerr, SA President, or Dr. Frank Etscorn, Dean of Students. Following is the complete text of the resolution:

Resolution:

Be it hereby resolved that the Student Senate is displeased and disappointed in the Institute Senate's response to a problem the former president of the Student Association was instructed to present to the Institute Senate for information and investigation.


The decision by the Student Association to bring the problem before the Institute Senate was not entered into lightly. As students we were confronted with what we perceived to be a serious and intimidating series of events with which we were not able to deal. Our best response was to look to those whose opinions we respect, whose judgment we trust, and whose ethics we rarely question, to investigate and determine the validity of and, if warranted, determine an equitable solution to this problem. It was our effort to appeal to a higher authority to resolve a situation we felt unable to address properly.

Instead of support we have received an uninterested, disrespectful, and hostile response. This response has left us feeling disheartened. A problem which should have been resolved by now, as a result of not

having been heard formally by either the Student Association or the Institute Senate, is now to be heard by the Board of Regents.

Informally the faculty did meet to discuss the issue. Ethically, they had an obligation to interview all parties to the problem which they did not meet. Morally the faculty has a responsibility to present a model for behavior to which students can aspire. Is this then the manner in which problems ought to be resolved in a professional environment? If these kinds of problems are best not dealt with then what kinds of problems deserve serious consideration?

As students, we came to Tech to learn. We have not limited ourselves to learning a trade or profession, but also we include the learning of acceptable standards of behavior within a group. A set of rules has been established to assist us toward that end. It would appear to us that these rules have been seriously violated. When rules are broken the infractions need to be investigated. If the rules are no longer valid then they need to be changed. But the rules, once established, should never be ignored or applied arbitrarily.



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OPINION

Editorials, Commentary, and Letters to the Editor

Mail letters to: *Paydirt*, Box GG, Campus Station [Socorro, NM 87801]. Computer e-mail is also accepted at the address paydirt@nmt.edu. (For computers, unformatted text is preferred.) Letters are welcome from students, faculty, staff, and other concerned persons. All letters submitted for printing *must* include the author's name and telephone number, although names will be withheld on request. *Paydirt* reserves the right to edit all letters as it deems necessary, and also to accept or reject any letters as it sees fit. Letters should primarily concern a current or recent incident or situation. Letters concerning controversial, previously unprinted topics will not be printed in the last issue of any semester, in order to permit timely responses from other concerned individuals.

Alcohol Policy

Some of you particularly astute folks may have noticed that, from time to time, there are people on Tech campus who drink alcoholic beverages. (Or so I hear. Ahem.) You may also know that such imbibing is against the current rules, even if the imbibers are of age 21 or over. While not being a law expert, it would seem that there is a potential legal problem, in that people over the drinking age are entitled to drink in their place of residence, and dorm rooms are people's place of residence. But there's no need to call Judge Wapner, for the policy is soon to be revised. In the works is the new policy that allows those of drinking age to drink on campus, within "reason." In this respect, Tech will be following the policy of many other colleges throughout the country. While the new policy will obviously still forbid drinking by those under 21, it is highly sensible in spirit. There are a few technical glitches in the version being circulated. (Such as the lack of the word "alcohol" in the definition of an "alcohol-related-offense"—if you file a complaint with the police department about your car being stolen, it would fit the definition.) But reformulating the policy has been long overdue, and those who have composed the new one are to be commended.

Apathy

You've read things about student apathy before, and this is just another. It was hoped that, with the re-generation of *Paydirt*, people might be compelled to express opinions in the form of letters to the editor. So far, we have received a number of letters complimenting us on the new newspaper. (Thanks!) But other than these, only two letters have been received. One was from an individual who stated that the former SA President should have resigned earlier last semester, and the other was from a bewildered woman in Rochester, New York, who was concerned about peoples' freedom and how God is securing their rights. The latter was not printed because it made little sense and had no special bearing on Tech students. The former was not printed because it concerns a dead issue. Not only has the infraction about which the author complained passed six months ago, but the person in question is no longer in office. Anyone who wishes to complain about Herbert Hoover's presidency should do so in history journals, not newspapers. One of the more useful things *Paydirt* can do is investigate things that people have complaints about. The bookstore article in this issue is a good example. But in order for us to know what you're complaining about, you have to tell us. Perhaps there are disadvantages to having such investigations—it is more exciting to think that maybe the bookstore is funnelling millions of dollars to the Contras in Nicaragua than to be shown that it's more expensive to run a small bookstore in the middle of nowhere than a large one in Albuquerque. But, hopefully, all those people who were complaining about the bookstore's prices will read the article and consider it. In order to investigate other things, we need your input. Some people have complained that the Yacht Club "controlled" *Paydirt* last semester, in that only pro-Yacht Club letters were printed. It's rather evident that no other letters were printed because no other letters were received. But apathy is not unique to *Paydirt* readers. In the SA elections, less than 25% of the students voted, and, as you can see on the front page, one vote *can* make a difference. (A big one, too!) The Valentine's Dance Contest in the cafeteria was, shall we say, a miserable flop. Not one couple danced. You didn't need to dance for the prizes (teddy bears and Itza Pizza sun-shields) necessarily, but how about showing some spirit? Not necessarily school spirit, or alcoholic spirits, but spirit meaning interest. Perhaps Tech is apathetic because it is small, and there aren't enough NCAA sports teams and cheerleaders around. But, come on, folks. If I can sit here and be fool enough to run this newspaper, surely you can sit there and show some interest in *something*.

SA Movie Schedule Spring 1990

March 2	Rebel Without a Cause
March 9	Student Bodies
March 30	Dr. Strangelove
April 20	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
April 27	Tootsie

All movies start at 8:00 PM in the SAC.

Tech Students and one guest: Free

All others: \$1.00

Movies selected by the SA Movie Committee

File 13

by James Gilson
STAFF COLUMNIST

Welcome back to the sporadic meanderings of my deranged mind that I choose to call File 13. For those of you who have not seen this column before, or have ignored it in the past, all opinions expressed in this column are those of the author, not necessarily the editors, and all comments should be directed to me personally, either in writing at Box 3336 C/S, or in person.

With that out of the way, I will vent my spleen on the latest topic to cross my mind, that being the responsibility of the government to the governed and vice-versa.

As other *Paydirt* articles have mentioned, there were two elections held recently by the Student Association. The results of that election and the ramifications thereof are detailed elsewhere, but there is one comment that remains to be made. The voter turnout for these two elections was very poor. Granted, twenty percent voter turnout is almost a school record, but that is still very low considering how many people are affected by the decisions made by the elected officials of the student government.

I realize that taking two to five minutes out of the busy day of a Tech student may seem to be a bit much without some obvious return, therefore, I will endeavor to explain just what it is that the SA government is supposed to do, and to some extent what it has done or tried to do in the past.

All the dances, regular Presidential and Vice Presidential elections will be held. Please take (49ers and Spring Fling) are controlled by the SA government. That thirty-two and carefully consider the candidates for dollar activity fee you pay each semester each office. After all, the people who are allocated, to a fair extent, by those very same elected officials.

If control of your money is not enough justification for you to at least won't know what you want unless you tell take some interest in SA government, them, just as the people can not make they are also a link between the students informed decisions at the polls unless the and the administration, and, occasional government lets them know what is ly, they even do some good. The SA happening.

government has been known to help

solve problems by putting student sakes.

pressure on the offending persons. Unfortunately, the power of the SA in general to do anything to help individual students is directly related to the number of students who stand behind their representatives. In other words, if very few students bother to vote or express an opinion to their elected officials, the SA government will effectively have no power except those granted by the Tech Administration.

The people must be responsible to their government, then, or the principles of democracy can not work. By the same token, the government must be responsive to the people. They need to let the people know what is going on, and what they plan to do. After all is said and done, the real purpose behind the Student Association is to support our fellow students, and to insure that all students at Tech get a fair shake in their dealings with Administration or other officials.

Later this semester, the SA Senate will consider the latest in a long line of SA Constitutions. This proposed Constitution should be on reserve in the Library, and is available from the SA Secretary, phone 5217. Please take a look at it, and if you have comments on it, show up at a Senate meetings, or address a Senator. Their names are published elsewhere in this issue. Should the Constitution pass the Senate, it will go before the students in yet another general election. Please take a look at it before then and vote on the issue.

During the month of April, the regular Presidential and Vice Presidential elections will be held. Please take the time to vote in that election as well, by the SA government. That thirty-two and carefully consider the candidates for dollar activity fee you pay each semester each office. After all, the people who are allocated, to a fair extent, by those very same elected officials.

If the people do not want them too. They will represent the people as a whole even if the people do not want them too. They enough justification for you to at least won't know what you want unless you tell take some interest in SA government, them, just as the people can not make they are also a link between the students informed decisions at the polls unless the and the administration, and, occasional government lets them know what is ly, they even do some good. The SA happening.

government has been known to help

solve problems by putting student sakes.

VOTE!

for Tech's best & worst instructors

Paydirt is conducting a survey to find out who are the best and worst instructors at Tech.

We're not exactly sure what were going to do with it yet, but if you send us your feelings, they will be included. Vote for your favorite professor, assistant professor, or instructor. In three weeks, look to see what everybody else thinks!

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why? _____

WORST INSTRUCTOR: _____

why? _____

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IN MY DAY—Tech Life in the Late Sixties

THE GREAT ROCK REMOVAL

by John Shipman
STAFF COLUMNIST

[This is a true story. The names have been changed because the people involved have bragged about it too much already.]

Win Crowe was famous for his pranks, but he had high standards. He had a strong aversion to destroying anything that anybody wanted. Blowing minds, though, was fair game.

One campus guard that worked the graveyard shift had a habit of spending most of the night sleeping at a certain corner where three streets came together. Once he awoke about four in the morning to find a brand new phone pole right outside the window of his truck. He was sure there had been no pole when he went to sleep. He noticed that there was a wire going to the pole. The wire ran down to a small metal cabinet with some light showing through the cracks around the door. The door wasn't locked, so he opened it, and inside was a fresh pot of coffee. The guard figured it was another of Win's stunts, tried the coffee, and said later that it was fine coffee, good and strong. When he came back from his next round all traces of the pole and wire were gone.

"Radio Hour" Comes to Macey

by Kathleen Hedges
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

It's Christmas-time, 1942. You are the studio audience at a radio show. The "On the Air" sign flashes, the band strikes up, and the show begins.

"The 1940's Radio Hour" is a re-creation of a live radio broadcast, complete with lively swing numbers, comedy acts, a narrated drama, a give-away contest, commercials, and even a jitterbug number (which home audiences never say). You, as the studio audience, see other things the home audience never saw: performers squabbling or playing cards or gossiping or surreptitiously snuggling. "The 1940's Radio Hour" is more than just a musical performance—it's a play about a radio show.

Will comic Neal Tilden win promotion to crooner? Will vocalist Ann Collier dump her boyfriend for flirting with every passing skirt? Will Pops, the elderly doorkeeper, hear word about his son, who has gone overseas? While we wonder, we're entertained by some of the most popular tunes of the time: Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Our Love is Here to Stay, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, and many others. And we watch what the sound effects man really does to make those noises.

Whether you remember the 1940's like it was yesterday or whether this is your first time at a radio show, you'll love "The 1940's Radio Hour."

"The 1940's Radio Hour" will be presented at Macey Center at 7:30 PM Monday, March 12, as part of the Performing Arts Series. There are a limited number of free passes available to full-time students in Brown 216. For others, admission is \$6.00 for general admission, and \$3.00 for those under 12 and over 65. (The same show was presented at Popejoy Hall in Albuquerque for a much higher price.) Advance tickets are available in Brown 216, or at Fabbie's Fine Shoes in town.

Win's finest hour was inspired by a certain two-ton boulder on the quadrangle. This particular rock was right by the walk between Weir Hall and Brown Hall, a busy spot where half the town would go by on an average day. It was not a bad-looking rock when the grounds crew rolled it off the back of a six-by-six. This was supposed to be landscaping.

After Joe College and his friend Muldoon got through with it, though, it was one ugly rock. When Joe cleared out of Tech, as a farewell gesture he dumped a can of yellow paint on the rock. This particular shade of yellow is the same color they use to paint no-passing stripes on the highway; second ugliest color in the world, after olive drab. Muldoon didn't want to be outdone. He was leaving at the end of that semester too, and he had a can of olive drab paint, so he poured that over the rock.

This was when the rock got to be unpopular. The grounds crew was asked to get rid of it, but it's not easy to deal with a two-ton rock. Somehow they never quite got around to it, and it got to be a running joke. "When are you getting your degree?" "Oh, about the time they get rid of that ugly rock."

One Monday morning there was a big pile of little rocks where the big one used to be. Some of the pieces had yellow and olive drab paint on their sides, but most of the fragments had nice clean fractures, as if someone had blasted the rock. But how could this be? One of the mining professors said it would take about a half stick to do the job, and that would probably have made some noise and probably broken a few windows.

Some people are probably still wondering how it was done. Now it can be told—I hope the statute of limitations is shot by now.

The preceding Friday night I had been in my room in West Hall when I heard a bunch of people out in the hall. I heard a knock on my door, and looked out to find Win with that dangerous-looking lopsided smile on his face, and several of his friends

knocking on doors looking for hands to help.

My own part in the actual removal was pretty peripheral. Win gave me a double handful of cherry bombs and told me to run a diversion somewhere around South Hall. I took the screen out of the window of the study lounge in room 318 so I could throw lit cherry bombs out the window without being out on the balcony. I figured this would draw any idle passersby away from the action on the quadrangle.

I was worried about the guards coming to check me out, but Win had taken care of them too. He was on pretty good terms with them. When he came to the guard shack and suggested that they stay inside and drink coffee for the next half hour and ignore any strange noises they might hear, they decided that would be a pretty good idea.

Elsewhere, the hard work was underway. A large squad with two-by-fours got the rock levered up just far enough to run some chains under it. Another task force hot-wired a five-ton crane and drove it, along with a six-by-six truck, right onto the quad. It took only minutes to hoist the rock up onto the six-by.

Only one snarl developed. On the trip back, the crane ran out of gas just outside the compound gate, so another detail went into town to get a gallon of gas so they could park the crane back where it was supposed to be.

I missed the scene on the quadrangle, but I did get to ride down the canal with the truck. Win drove a few miles south of town, then drove the six-by about halfway up one of the ramps going up on the levee. He stopped and we pushed the rock off the back of the bed. It landed on the ramp with a loud plop. Win mud-packed a couple of quarter sticks onto two faces of the rock, connected them with primacord, and added a three-minute fuse. We all got a lecture about how important it is to walk away from explosives and not to run. Win had a powder license, and was always very careful. The shot went off and we heard pieces of the rock landing all over. In a half hour or so under the full moon, we found a pretty good stack of the fragments to dump back by the sidewalk on the quadrangle.

SA MEETINGS

The next two Student Association Senate meetings will be held on the Monday evenings of **March 5 and March 26**. As usual, they are at 8:30 PM in the SAC conference room. Come on out and find out what's going on.

KTEK DANCE MARCH 10

9 PM – 1 AM IN THE SAC

Tech students and one guest free with ID. Others \$2.00 admission.

CLUB NMT DANCE MARCH 3

9 PM – 1 AM IN THE SAC

Tech students and one guest free with ID. Others \$2.00 admission.

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* GOOD THUR MARCH 90' 1 COUPON/PERSON *

STEPHEN SMOOGEN'S HOROSCOPES

(Paydirt accepts no liability for the content of these horoscopes. Cast your own if you like.)

The art of astrology has been going on for thousands of years. It began with men thinking that the stars ruled their lives and has evolved through the centuries into a form of entertainment that hundreds of millions enjoy to read. It is the purpose of this column to keep up the tradition of enjoyable reading. In the coming issues, I will give predictions good for the three weeks between issues. Plus, for those novices in Sunsign Astrology, I will outline the generalized personality traits of several signs per issue.

Aries: This is the sign of people born between March 20th and April 20th. The Aries personality is typified by the ambitious leader who, like the symbol of his sign, the ram, will go charging with his head down battering all that stands in his way. However, the ram is also tempered with patience, kindness, and consideration.

Taurus: People born from April 21st to May 21st are on the average gentle and trusting. Don't try to take advantage of them, though for they are as firm as rock in what they believe in. Push them too far and they'll trample you down. The Taurus person often prefers the natural landscapes of the outdoors to the crime and grime of modern urban life.

Gemini: The only definite thing about the Gemini is that they are born between May 22nd and June 21st. Gemini people are never one personality for too long. One moment coldhearted, the next tender and loving. Due to their dual natures, these people are the most versatile of all the signs. They can be whatever they want (which is usually more than one thing at a time.)

Aries (March 21—April 30): The next three weeks are going to be somewhat trying times, as you struggle from one class to the next. Money matters will improve slightly. Saturday night I see a chance for romance blossoming anew.

Taurus (April 21—May 20): School life is going to be good in the coming weeks. If you don't get extravagant you should have no problems with money. However, your romantic life will see a slight decline by next weekend.

Gemini (May 21—June 21): Though Jupiter resides within your sign, there will be no change with your academic prowess. Pluto is not communicating with his brother so there will be no major improvement in money matters.

Cancer (June 22nd—July 22): Be careful with financial dealings this month, for money will flow like water through your hands. Diligence is also the word as Spring Break nears. Your love life will improve around the second Saturday.

Leo (July 23—August 22): School will be good as your hectic schedule begins to even out. You will see a monetary boon appearing in three weeks. Your love life could use a romantic boost from yourself sometime soon.

Virgo (August 23—September 22): Love is definitely not in the picture this time around as Venus scorns your sign. You must become more responsible in money matters. Academics are good, and will continue to get better.

Libra (September 23—October 22): If you are thinking about goofing off at school these coming weeks, forget it. School needs all the attention you can give it, and more so. That significant other is out there if you only look.

Scorpio (October 23—November 22): Remember the last three weeks and how great they were. Well, get used to a long dry spell. Money matters are going to be rotten. School will be the toughest it has been in semesters. Good luck.

Sagittarius (November 23—December 21): The planets are leaving your sign so the coming weeks will see change. School will get better. Don't start any romantic interests, but there may be someone out there to be a good friend.

Capricorn (December 22—January 19): The good news is that Venus is in your sign, and she is liking what you've got. Look for that person you've always wanted, but remember, no guts, no glory. Look out for budget cuts.

Aquarius (January 20—February 18): Look for a message around the first. Your love life will remain about the same, but there is somebody watching you. Your tests will become infamous as those that broke the curve.

Pisces (February 19—March 20): This is your month as the glorious sun enters your realm. Money will be a slight problem. If you want to start a romantic interlude in your life, you may wish to start soon.

CONCERT REVIEW:

Strange Angels

by Laurie Anderson

by R.E. Mace
INDEPENDENT TECH WRITER

"Yankee Doodle went to town/ Riding on a pony/ Stuck a feather in his hat/ And called it macaroni." 'If you can understand this, you can understand anything going on in the avant-garde today,' said one of Laurie Anderson's 'characters' in her concert at Popejoy hall 6 Feb 90.

Ms Anderson is no doubt the crowned princess of the avant-garde with her record successes and completely awesome performances of which 'Strange Angels' is the most recent. Mind you a Laurie Anderson concert is something out of the ordinary. No guitar slinging here, no head bashing in the front row, and Laurie wears most of her clothes. Rather it's more like a modern opera: you sit down and simply absorb. A small boat drifting in the ocean of life.

Laurie's shows are of a variety type in a warped sort of way. She's the only performer but from her there is social comment, nice little folksy pop songs, experimental meanderings, stand-up comedy, and electronic and visual wizardry. Indeed, something for everyone in the family. And O my God, she sings! I was dismayed to hear she was straying from her 'news at five' daunting whispers, but if the truth need be told, the woman can sing damn good.

Her social comment ranged from politics (they're singing to you) to the national deficit (do you know where your paycheck is going?) to women's issues (men make more!). Often she ran her voice through a multiplexer to lower it an octave and sound like a man. When she sang (or spoke) she usually had two microphones with different effects so she could be her own back up singers.

The visuals were simply fantastic. My seat was three rows from the back wall in the balcony and I felt I wasn't missing anything. (Try that at a Bananarama concert.) She had all these different screens with appropriate images popping up and filling the entire stage. I was wowed.

In her last piece she told a true story about how she stepped out of a cab in New York and fell down an open manhole. At the hospital she saw the suffering people: People brought in that were shot and the homeless people. A somber conclusion that meant that although everything is going great in the world, there are some serious problems at home that deserve twice as much energy as the 'red scare.'

'Strange Angels' was an excellent concert and well worth the time and money. Her performances make you laugh and at the same time think. And come to think of it, 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' doesn't make much sense. But to me, Laurie Anderson is crystal clear.

THE GREY AREA by Derek T. Jones



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