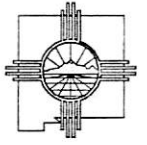


PAYDIRT



Volume 18, Number 5

New Mexico Tech's Newspaper

Friday May 3, 1990

Kerr retains SA Presidency; Gilson elected Vice-President; Constitution ratified

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

As determined by the two elections on April 12 and 27, Alan Kerr was re-elected President of the Student Association; James Gilson was elected Vice-President, and the proposed constitution was ratified by the student body. The new Senate was also elected.

The new constitution is hailed by most of the SA as an immense improvement. This is the first new constitution to be approved by the students in "a very long time," according to SA officials.

Alan Kerr has been SA President since the February special elections. James Gilson is currently an SA Supreme Court Justice.

Constitutional Referendum:

In order for the constitution to be approved, two-thirds of those completing ballots would have had to vote 'yes' for the new constitution. (It was ruled that those voting in other races, but not in the constitution referendum were not counted as voters for that issue.) On April 12, the results were:

151 yes

68 no

19 abstaining

The new constitution went into effect immediately after the vote was tallied.

Presidential Race:

In the first election, on April 12, the results were as follows:

71 Ash Walker

61 Alan Kerr

48 Gene Olona

27 Terry Lyons

24 David Robert Morgan

7 abstaining

Since none of the candidates received more than 50% of the vote, a run-off election was held on April 27 between the two candidates who had received the most votes. In this race, the results were:

100 Alan Kerr

96 Ash Walker

8 abstaining

Mr. Kerr's term will run until the day after commencement next spring.

Vice-Presidential Race:

The results from the April 12 election were:

88 James Gilson

69 Amy Koerner

43 Terri Gilbert

31 Aaron Schnell

7 abstaining

A run-off was necessary in this race as well, and its results were:

104 James Gilson

93 Amy Koerner

8 abstaining

Continued on Page 2, Column 1.

"Tech Fellows" mount letter campaign against Tech

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

A group identifying itself as the "Concerned Fellows of New Mexico Tech" recently mailed letters criticizing Tech to an estimated 125 prospective students. Previously, the group had mailed similar letters to high school counselors throughout New Mexico, and to all state legislators during the last legislative session.

The letter states, "One of the greatest problems facing NMT is the declining enrollment, which is blamed on many things. We believe it is the apathy towards the welfare of students that is responsible for this decline." Accompanying the letter were "clippings and statements" concerning the Incident of November 14, in which Dr. Lattman lost his temper and swore at a student. Both students involved have since accepted his apology. The letter also concerns depleted uranium weapons testing at TERA.

Have a nice summer....

Paydirt will not be published during the summer session, mostly because our senior staff members will be out of the state. Publication will resume in the fall semester, with an orientation issue. Congratulations to graduates!

The letters were signed "Concerned Fellows of New Mexico Tech." In a postscript, the letter stated that they would provide their names except that they fear possible retaliation from Tech President Laurence Lattman. Dr. Lattman denied that any retaliation would occur.

Michael Bannister, Yacht Club Vice-President, approached *Paydirt* and stated that, contrary to rumor, the Yacht Club was not in the least associated with the letter campaigns, and that "This is not the way to solve differences."

It is reported that the Alumni Association is sending out letters to parents of prospective students in response to the one sent by the Fellows. The letters will emphasize Tech's academic quality.

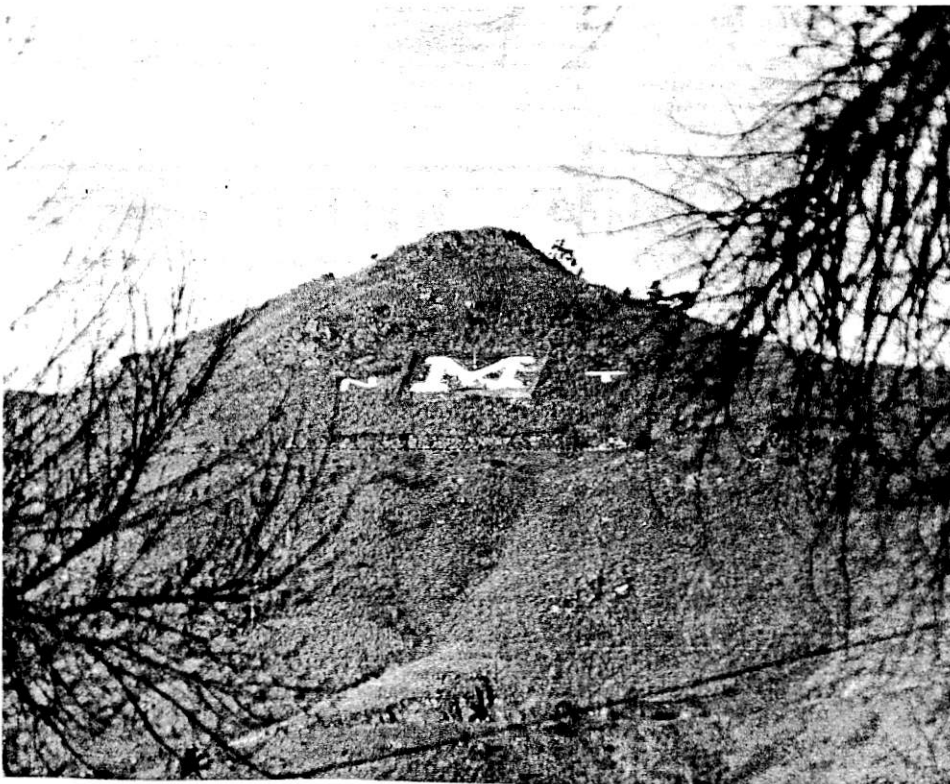
During the SA meeting on April 30, copies of the letter were distributed, and the letter was briefly discussed. The senate made no motions regarding the letter.

Dr. Lattman stated, "In my opinion, these letters were an attempt to injure Tech's budget and adversely affect Tech's reputation among high school counselors, thereby affecting enrollment." He continued, "In all my years in academe, I have never seen such unrestrained attacks upon an institution. The obvious attempt to hurt Tech and Socorro is appalling. I am certain that the people connected with Tech and the town are as concerned as I am."

Dr. Lattman later stated, "Working with the advice of counsel and the assistance of governmental agencies, we are investigating this matter to the full extent of our resources. When the evidence is sufficient, we will press the case to the limit of the law."

The letter describes "environmental problems concerning the testing of depleted uranium weapons at NMT [at TERA]. This testing is conducted only two to five miles downstream and downwind of campus. [sic] Certain areas of campus have already been determined to be contaminated with this toxic substance." In a Public Information Office release, Tech responded that "TERA officials emphasize that all DU testing is done under carefully controlled and monitored conditions and in compliance with stringent state and federal regulations....To ensure the safety of the Tech community as well as Socorro, conditions at all test sites are monitored by the TERA Radiation Safety Office and specialists of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division (EID)." The release continued to say that funds have already been set aside for the eventual cleanup of all test sites to "natural radiologic conditions. ...well within the scope of modern technology."

Due to their anonymity, the Concerned Fellows could not be reached for further comment.



The "M" at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden was flanked by an "N" and a "T" during Spring Fling. "Unidentified vandals" performed the task, which was the highest point-ranked item on an unofficial scavenger hunt. Refer to the Spring Fling article on pages 6-7.



PAIGE ASHMAN AWARD RECIPIENTS: Four New Mexico Tech students recently were honored as recipients of the college's annual Paige Ashman Memorial Award—an award founded in honor of a Tech graduate student who died in an automobile accident shortly after receiving his master's degree in metallurgy in 1980. Pictured from left to right: Ron Heaps, a senior materials engineering major; Murat Bengisu, a Ph.D. candidate in materials engineering; Michael Brooks, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in materials engineering; John Kinker III, a recent graduate of Tech's environmental engineering program, and award presenter Dr. Osman T. Inal, chairman of the materials and metallurgical engineering department. This photo and information were supplied by the Public Information Office.

SA Senators elected for Summer & Fall semesters

(from page 1)

Senatorial Elections:

Elections were held on April 27 for senatorial positions, as called for in the ratified constitution. This constitution calls for eventual staggered year-long terms for senators, with ten senators elected in the spring and ten in the fall. In order to adjust to this schedule, half of the senators will serve a full year's term, and half will serve through the fall semester. All those who ran were elected.

The ten candidates who received the most votes are elected for a full year:

- 81 Terri Gilbert
- 76 Kim Bell
- 71 Phillip N. Jones
- 62 Sebastian Thompson
- 52 Charlene McBride
- 51 Eric Wagoner
- 48 Shari Colella
- 48 Shiloh Johnson
- 48 Aaron Schnell
- 45 Debbie Crane

Of the remaining eleven candidates, one (Alan Kerr) was elected President, and thus resigned his senatorial position. The following individuals will serve through the fall semester. An election to be held in the tenth week of that semester will determine their successors.

- 44 Susan Keeney
- 40 Jason Stiffler

(39 Alan Kerr)

- 38 Shawna Smith
- 32 Jeffrey Allen
- 30 Karl Jonander
- 28 Greg Schwarz
- 24 Sandra Tompkins
- 23 Stacie Isaacson
- 21 Paul Houle
- 17 Nathaniel Airhart

Since there were more vacancies than candidates, there were no Senatorial candidates who did not obtain an office as full Senator or alternate.

Election Controversy:

Former SA President Matt Jones was told by Supreme Court Justice James Gilson that he could not run for the Senate because he is still on probation. That probation will conclude with this semester. Later, however, the two other Supreme Court Justices, Stephen Smoogen and Amy Stoklas, dissented with Mr. Gilson, ruling that Mr. Jones could have run, since his term in office would not include his probation. However, this decision was not made until *after* the deadline for Declarations of Candidacy had passed, and Mr. Jones had not submitted a candidacy form. The Supreme Court declared that it was the responsibility of Mr. Jones to have applied for candidacy pending the decision, and declared the election therefore valid.

LEAVING TECH?

Whether you're graduating into the real world, transferring, or taking time out, you can keep up with what's going on at Tech with a mail subscription to *Paydirt*. It's only \$5.00 per academic year, less than 4% of what *Time* costs! Once you're gone from Tech, there's no reason to lose touch. Especially for a measly \$5 a year. Send your name and address to *Paydirt*, Box GG Campus Station along with your payment and start receiving *Paydirt* at home next year.

Top SA officials will receive pay increase next semester

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

Under a clause in the recently approved new SA constitution, the SA President and Vice-President will receive a salary increase, to twice in-state, full-time, undergraduate tuition per semester. Using tuition figures supplied by the registrar, this salary will be \$973.00 per semester.

The old constitution states that those officials will receive a salary equal to the cost of resident tuition and mandatory fees. For current Vice-President David Oakes, this came to \$677.70. For the current President Alan Kerr, who is only enrolled in one-credit, the pay was \$83.30 for the semester. The new constitution changes these figure to twice resident tuition, excluding fees. Since the salary is indexed to the tuition, they will receive an additional ten percent increase as tuition increases to \$486.50.

The President and Vice-President will receive the \$973 pay for each fall and spring semester they serve, and a proportionately smaller amount each summer.

The Vice-President elect and chair of the committee that wrote the new constitution, James Gilson, stated that "Both President and Vice-President spend 10-20 hours on SA and student business each week. Under the old constitution the salaries were...paid at or below minimum wage...."

SA Senator and former Vice-Presidential candidate Ash Walker stated that, while the old constitution refers to "mandatory fees," "I understand that *all* tuition [and] fees have been waived in the past." According to the current President, this is not presently the case.

While the President and Vice-President are paid a salary, the SA Secretary and Treasurer are currently paid \$4.25 per hour.

These four officials are paid by Student Activity money collected from all students at the time of registration.

Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and other SA officials receive no pay for their posts in the student government.

At their meeting on April 30, the SA also corrected an "error" in the new constitution, which would have resulted in any President or Vice-President receiving full pay for any semester in which he served, even if he served for only a day. A Vice-President who succeeded a departing or temporarily un-serving President would have received *twice* the salary, or four times in-state tuition.

The by-law that was passed arranges for the top SA officers to be paid a salary distributed over the pay periods during the course of the semester. Previously, the pay was administered through financial aid in a lump sum at the beginning of the semester, which sometimes resulted in these officials losing their scholarships from that office.

Spring NMGS Meeting

by Meiko Haushalter
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

On April 6, the annual spring meeting of the New Mexico Geological Society was held at Macey Center. Scientists from all over New Mexico came to Socorro to attend and participate in the day-long series of lectures. The talks were divided into four sessions: Stratigraphy-Sedimentation and Geophysics-Petrology-Structural Geology in the morning, Economic Geology-Geochemistry-Coal and Paleontology-Environmental-General Geology in the afternoon.

The two sets of lectures were divided by a luncheon and the keynote address. The keynote speech was given by Gene Crabtree of the Office of Recycling, Solid Waste Department, in Albuquerque, and emphasized the importance of recycling in today's environment.

Many local scientists from Tech and the Bureau presented talks, as well as several Tech students. The students who presented lectures were: William C. Beck, Isaac Boadi, Tanya Brickell, Luis Changkuon, R. Bruce Hallett, Ellen Limburg, and Randall Phillips.

PAYDIRT

Box GG, Campus Station
Socorro NM 87801
(505) 835-5996

The official newspaper of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Editor-in-Chief	Thomas Jones
Assistant Editor	Melinda Bailey
National Advertising Manager	Warren Martis
Local Advertising Manager	Bobby Kehrman
Staff Reporter	James Gilson
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Covington removed from SA Senate for absenteeism

by Thomas Jones
STAFF REPORTER

Jason Covington was removed from the SA Senate at their meeting on April 23, for being absent from too many Senate sessions. Under the recently approved constitution, any senator who misses two consecutive regularly scheduled SA meetings, or three (non-consecutive) meetings during any Fall or Spring semester is presented to the SA for consideration of removal from that body. (SA meetings are customarily held every alternate Monday evening.) A simple majority vote of the senate is

required to bring the removal motion into effect.

Susan Beall, another SA Senator, was similarly brought up for consideration of removal, but the motion was to remove her did not pass because her absences were arranged in advance (excused), and it was felt that she had been doing a considerable amount of SA work outside that required at the meetings.

Another senator, Shawn Clever, resigned after missing several meetings.

Mr. Covington was absent from the April 23 SA meeting, and was, therefore, unavailable for comment.

Regents increase tuition, review plans for library & plaza

by Thomas Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

The following issues were dealt with by the Tech Board of Regents at their meeting on March 17, according to a release by Kimberly Eiland of the Public Information Office.

Tuition Increase Approved: Final approval was granted to the tuition increase described in the last issue of *Paydirt*. In-state tuition will increase by 10%, and out-of-state tuition will go up by 5%. The increase will generate a projected \$106,000 for the school, which will be directed to increasing faculty and lower-paid staff salaries.

Library and Centennial Plaza Plans Reviewed: Regents approved final plans for these structures, which

now go out for bids. The library will be constructed on the corner of Leroy and Bullock, where Eaton and Gibson halls are now, and the Centennial Plaza will be located east of Workman Center.

Tenure Grant: Dr. Naresh Thadhani of CETR was granted tenure.

Budget to be Reviewed: The administration will present the 1990-1991 fiscal budget to the regents at their May meeting. President Latman said that the budget would be "leaner than any time over the past several years." Rising costs include the state-required and state-managed risk management insurance program, increasing from \$98,000 to \$270,000, and a possible 67 percent raise in the workmen's compensation package.

Tech researcher garners NASA award for lightning study

by George Zamora
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Dr. Marx Brook, professor emeritus of physics at New Mexico Tech and former director of the college's Research and Development Division, recently was honored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for developing a method to determine stroke polarity of distant lightning.

Brook, an active research physicist with Tech's Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research, was granted NASA's Space Act Tech Brief Award in recognition for his technical innovation which allows scientists to determine at distances up to 3,000 kilometers whether a lightning stroke is carrying a positive charge or a negative charge to ground. Former methods of determining a lightning stroke's polarity limited researchers to studying strokes occurring less than 600 kilometers away.

NASA probably will use the new polarity identification method in the space agency's lightning mapping program which utilizes tracking and additional information from a network of ground-based stations to monitor lightning, Brook says. "This new method will allow the network to look out to greater distances and to look out farther over

places where there are no stations, such as the oceans, for instance," Brook relates.

Brook, an atmospheric physicist who specializes in lightning and thunderstorm research, says that "knowledge of the polarity derived from the new method is also indicative of the existence of along continuing current—the type of lightning stroke which is responsible for starting most lightning-caused fires." Brook anticipates that this new method may be useful for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service in their efforts to control fires set by lightning.

"Positive lightning strokes are relatively rare," Brook adds. "Ninety-nine percent of all of them are negative strokes...But, it's the one percent that are positive which are especially troublesome in electric power transmission; they can cause severe equipment damage."

"Positive lightning strokes are also especially important in aircraft operations because they signal one of the most critical stages of a thunderstorm's development — the onset of the severe downdraft, or downburst stage. This stage is extremely hazardous for aircraft during takeoff or landing operations," Brook points out.

Western Movements to premiere

by Kathleen Hedges
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

A theater piece for string quartet and narrator, composed and written by two New Mexico Tech faculty members, premieres on Sunday, May 20, as part of the Placitas Artists Series, which commissioned the work. The piece will be performed in Socorro next fall.

"Western Movements" by Michael Iatauro and John McKee is a series of portraits of the historical West. Iatauro's music and McKee's words depict personalities of the old West: women pioneers, Native Americans, and mountain men. Iatauro is associate professor of music at Tech; McKee is professor emeritus of English.

Iatauro says, "I wanted this piece to focus on certain specific types of people, to remember the role they played in settling the West. Events move so quickly today that often technology outstrips the human factor. Surrounded as we are by microwave ovens and modern conveniences, we forget that a mere hundred years ago people settled this land by blood and sweat."

"Western Movements" will be performed by the Helios Quartet and narrator Richard Hopkins. The premiere is set for 3 pm, Sunday May 20, at the First Presbyterian Church in Placitas. Tickets are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

ARA & SA Food Committee host Recycling Seminar

by Laura Buxton
AUXILIARY CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on recycling was held on campus April 27. The event was arranged by ARA and the SA Food Committee. The presentation was made by Virginia Schroeder of the Preferred Brokerage Company and Gene Crabtree of the Albuquerque recycling program.

Both speakers emphasized that there is no one solution to the solid waste problem. They stated that we needed to reduce the amount of disposables we use, collect recyclable materials, insist that government and companies used recycled products, and educate the next generation.

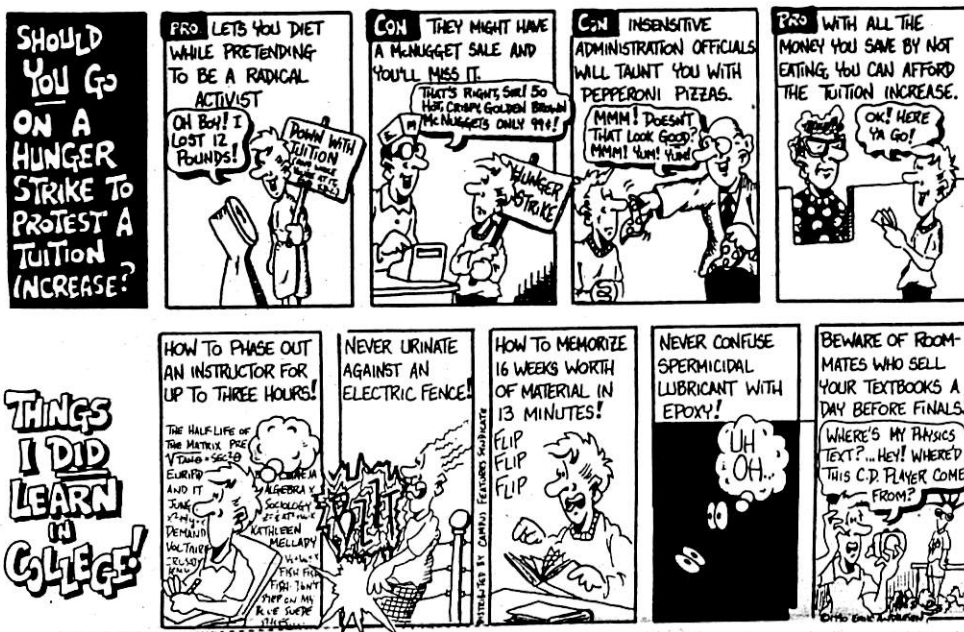
Attendance by students was disappointingly low. Of the twenty or so people there, five were students. The rest were community members interested in starting a recycling program in Socorro. Mr. Crabtree suggested that recycling can be done on a cooperative system, with volunteers collecting materials weekly and trucking them to Albuquerque to sell. He suggested that the city government needs to know that "recycling isn't a money-maker up front," so that they will be prepared for a slow start on any recycling program.

In the last session, the state legislature passed a bill requiring every community in New Mexico to reduce its garbage flow 25% by 1995. An organized recycling program is absolutely necessary to achieve this goal in Socorro.

Some recycling is already being done on campus. Driscoll Hall is saving cans, with the proceeds to be used to buy a new microwave oven for the kitchen. Many departments around campus save copy paper. There is still much to be done, however. *Paydirt* encourages students to contact their SA senators and request a campus-wide, comprehensive recycling program.

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NO EXIT by Erik Andresen



The WIPP controversy: a Geology Club Trip

by Sal Maestas
STAFF REPORTER

By now, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), as an issue of both political and scientific interest, is familiar to just about everybody at Tech. However, for the majority of people, nearly all of the information we get comes through the popular news media which tends to cover the political and often emotional aspects almost exclusively. It can be difficult to find factual information about WIPP but, on March 30, the New Mexico Tech Geology Club toured the WIPP facility to see for themselves.

WIPP is a pilot project in which the goal is to determine how to safely and permanently store materials which have been contaminated with radioactivity. Currently, such materials are stored in a variety of above-ground and shallow-land burial methods. These methods are not intended to be long-term solutions and so presently, WIPP is a study of the feasibility of storing radioactive waste in deep geologic repositories. WIPP, by U.S. Congressional mandate, has been constructed as a research and development project, located 26 miles east of Carlsbad, NM.

WIPP is designed to achieve two primary objectives. First, WIPP is to perform investigations into the behavior of salt rock and into the interactions between the rock and radioactive wastes in a variety of forms and in a variety of conditions. The second objective is to store trans-uranic wastes. (TRU-waste has been contaminated with 'heavier than uranium' elements which have very long

half-lives; e.g., plutonium which has a half life of about 24,000 years.) The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate the safe handling, transport, and emplacement in an actual facility. This demonstration is scheduled to continue for a 5-year period, at which time the performance of WIPP as a storage facility will be reviewed.

If the demonstration is successful, the U.S. Department of Energy will make a decision as to whether or not to permanently store defense-generated TRU-waste at WIPP. (The wastes to be stored are categorized as medium-level waste and will not be from the commercial nuclear industry. High level waste such as spent fuel rods will *not* be stored at WIPP.) The scientific investigations will test the hypothesis scientists have about the process of long-term storage of TRU-waste. All waste storage during this 5-year demonstration period must be done in such a manner that all materials are retrievable. During this period, approximately 1/4% of the total capacity of the facility will be brought in and maintained.

In the mid-1950's, the National Academy of Sciences recommended salt deposits as the preferential medium for the storage of radioactive wastes. The principal advantages of salt include the facts that 1) vast deposits of salt are found in stable geologic areas with little earthquake activity; 2) salt deposits demonstrate the absence of circulating ground-water (for water would have eroded the salt beds had it been present); 3) Salt has the ability to heal fractures because of its plastic quality (i.e., salt will

move in or creep to fill a void or to seal the rooms of a waste repository). The WIPP site contains salt beds that are nearly 3000 feet thick. The formation itself is approximately 225 million years old and has a composition of 98-99% salt with about 1-2% water.

WIPP is currently operationally ready to receive waste. However, final governmental approval has not been given. WIPP is a project of the federal Department of Energy, but the facility must meet standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA is still testing at WIPP and any introduction of radioactive material has not yet been approved. (Currently, there is no radioactive material at the site.) Two of the major concerns are the presence of brine (fluid inclusions) and the ensuing gas-generation potential. Whereas 1-2% water in the formation is less than that of cured concrete, there is still some uncertainty about the tendency of that fluid to migrate within the formation, particularly in the direction of a radioactive (and thus, warmer) body in the salt. Some speculation is that if large amounts of brine collect around the radioactive waste, it might continue to migrate afterward, carrying the contamination with it. This question is currently being examined. Other areas of concern involve the transportation of waste to the site. The TRUPACT-II is a container designed for the overland transportation of TRU-waste and has only recently been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Transportation. Also recently approved is

a software package enabling the location of transportation vehicles to be monitored via satellite by various local agencies.

One of the crucial and final steps necessary to open WIPP is the completion and passage of the Land Withdrawal Bill. This bill will establish administrative controls to prohibit the future exploration of deep natural resources within a site boundary having a two-mile radius. The bill will also include funding for the improvements of roads leading to the facility throughout New Mexico. \$43 million has already been allocated to the state. A 1987 pact between the New Mexico state and the federal governments had pledged \$190 million. However testifying before the Senate Energy Committee in April, U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins said he opposed giving New Mexico the \$190 million, feeling that \$43 million was sufficient. At that time, both senators Pete Dominici (R-NM) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) opposed the passing of the Land Withdrawal Bill. They agreed in Senator Bingaman's saying "We need to get some answers to several questions before we know the legislation is necessary," referring to the Energy Department plans to experiment with waste at WIPP. Some of the questions the senator referred to concern the completion of the Final Safety Report, which is still in review, and the completed Test Plan, under the direction of Sandia National Labs, which is also in review.

Some of the documents published about WIPP are the WIPP Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Site and Preliminary Design Validation, and the Safety Analysis Report. Copies of all documents published about WIPP are sent to public libraries in Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Socorro. Additional detailed information can be obtained through the US Department of Energy, WIPP Project Office, PO Box 3090, Carlsbad NM 88221; phone (505) 887-8817.

Tours and information packets for either individuals or organizations are available through the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division, Public Affairs, WIPP project, PO Box 2078, Carlsbad NM 88221; phone (505) 885-8883.

P-Plant builds Weapons Plant for Aerojet

by Melinda C. Bailey
STAFF REPORTER

Tech's Physical Plant is constructing a plant on M-Mountain for building non-nuclear conventional weapons for Aerojet. The types of warheads to be produced are the TOW #2B and the Hellfire. These are both wire-guided missiles. Aerojet is producing them for the Army. When asked to comment on the dangers associated with the plant, Edith Cartwright, Aerojet's Public Relations Representative, stated that the dangers are "no worse than anything else being tested up there [on M-Mountain]."

The US Department of Defense's Pentagon, which is actually in Virginia, has four zip codes.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Commencement Schedule

May 7 thru 11 Pick up cap and gown — Brown 100, Registrar
Pick up graduation brunch tickets, Brown 100, Registrar

Friday, May 11

10:00 am Institute Senate Meeting, Weir 120

1:30 pm Regents' Meeting, Macey Center

6:00-8:00 pm President's and Alumni Association Reception in honor of all graduates, Macey Center

Saturday, May 12

9:30 am Candidates for degrees and faculty assemble and line up for processional — front of Brown Hall*

11:00 am Commencement — Lawn — South of Brown Hall*

11:30 am Graduation Brunch, free to graduates. Tickets required. Please make reservations and pick up tickets no later than Thursday, May 10, at the Registrar's Office, 835-5133. Cost to non-graduates: Adults \$5.35; Children \$3.25 At the Tech Dining Hall in the Student Union Building

* In case of rain or snow, commencement will be held in Macey Center

The commencement speaker is Dan Sosa, Jr., Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court

There will be a table by Brown Hall to pick up your miniature diploma, staffed by alumni.

Any questions concerning Commencement should be directed to the Registrar's Office, Brown 100, 835-5133.

All faculty are reminded to return their caps, gowns, and hoods to Brown 100 immediately following graduation ceremonies.

Financial Aid Notes

FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Don't forget to check the status of your 1990-91 financial aid prior to leaving campus for the summer. If your address will be different than listed, please advise the financial aid office where to reach you.

If you have had academic difficulty, be certain to leave an address and phone number where the appeal forms may be sent or you may be reached in connection with your appeal.

Students who have been recipients of student loans at New Mexico Tech and who plan on not returning for the following academic year *must* stop by the office of financial aid to complete an exit interview.

We appreciate the dialogue we have had with you during this academic year and hope you have an enjoyable summer.

— Financial Aid Staff

CS Student receives BDM fellowship

by Kathleen Hedges
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Paul Hinker, a New Mexico Tech graduate student, is the first recipient of a newly-established BDM fellowship in computer science. Hinker was selected for the fellowship by New Mexico Tech's computer science faculty and by Dr. Donald Wunsch, BDM senior vice-president.

Hinker plans to specialize in parallel algorithms to be used on supercomputer systems. Parallel algorithms are problem-solving methods which allow more than one computer at a time to work on a single problem. Hinker received his bachelor's degree in computer science from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He has also worked for ETA systems in Minneapolis, a manufacturer of super computers. Hinker is originally from Redfield, South Dakota.

BDM, a subsidiary of Ford Aerospace Corporation, specializes in high-technology applications.



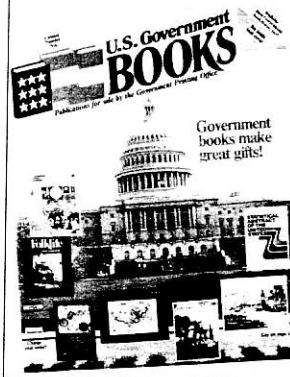
A Helicopter on the Athletic Field: On 5 April, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pense (shown) flew an individual to Tech from the Nuclear Effects Lab at White Sands. This UH1 helicopter is capable of speeds up to 140 miles per hour. Photo by Jason Coder.

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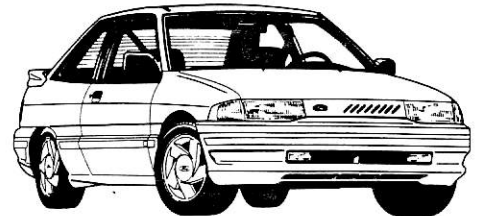
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Spring



The "New Mexico Style Raft Race" during Spring Fling consisted of a hand-carried "raft." Shown is the winning team en route to the finish line. This photo was supplied by the Public Information Office.

by Sal Maestas
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

It all started Wednesday night when a bunch of (most likely drunken) fools piled into vehicles and started driving toward Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico. It seems these young men had an appointment with a Lobo in need of a little plastic surgery (baa).

Thus began Spring Fling '90, and when it was all over, even the authority figures had to laugh.

Spring Fling *officially* began Friday afternoon with the Turtle Bay raft race. Having won the raft race, the Pygmies were out in force and putting on a show of team determination at the grease pit pole digging party. But, by this time a small band of Techies had already logged 1000 miles in the name of Spring Fling. On the unofficial side, the team scavenger hunt (a throwback to the old St. Patrick's Day celebration of years past) was underway by Wednesday night and the antics were plentiful.

The products of scavenger hunt silliness began to appear bright and early Thursday morning. "Vandals," probably the same "vandals" that "dubiously did" the UNM Lobo, managed to unbolt all 180 seats in the Weir 120 lecture hall and refasten them facing backwards. ("Power tools? What power tools?!") Four classes had to be canceled and another was moved. The first class of the day belonged to none other than President Lattman who, contrary to rumor, stated flatly, "I thought it was funny as hell." Among many other dirty deeds: one of the teams claimed to have dyed Dr. Lattman's swimming pool green; however, no independent confirmation could be obtained and Dr. Lattman denies

that it took place. Several road signs were reportedly missing as well as a set of letters from the Loma theater marquee, and even a nearly complete set of flags from the golf course. Negotiations are currently underway for the release of the hostage pins.

Back in the old days when Tech still celebrated St. Pat's, there was a tradition of defacing the "M" at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. Their letter is actually larger than the one on Socorro Peak, and it is lit every night, visible even in neighboring Denver. It had been several years since any attempt had been made on CSM but one was made this Spring Fling. On Friday morning its success was apparent to the entire town of Golden (see photo). "We have an 'M' just like yours," went the interview on KBCO radio, "but now yours is ours!"

Friday night a dance at the amphitheater featured "Puppies with Guns." The Puppies are a regular, familiar fixture at Tech's big bashes. This time, however, was by far the worst Pups performance that this reporter has seen. The sound was muddy, sometimes distorted, and the band has become so aware of their popularity at Tech that they simply forgot their musicianship. Despite this, the beat and the beer were there, the tunes were popular and recognizable, and Techies appeared to be having an especially good time. Incidentally, some time during the dance a continuous line of (water soluble) green paint magically appeared, extending from the steps of Brown Hall, across campus, and through the front door of the campus police station. Dr. Lattman's reaction to the still apparent green line was, "I laughed

Scavenger Hunt

These are the points for this years unofficial St. Pat's / Spring Fling scavenger hunt as reported by the alleged judges who shall remain nameless. Several teams claimed to be participating but only two had points confirmed and recognized.

iGreen Sheep F- kers!

Turn the "M" at CSM into an "NMT"	500
Turn the UNM Lobo into a sheep	100
One green streak at the amphitheater on Saturday afternoon	20
Reversing all the seats in Weir 120	100
Team completing the continuous green line from Brown Hall to front of campus security	200
Any girl taking off her shirt on command	25 + 25*
3 "Pump first then pay" stickers from Circle-K gas pump placed in Driscoll Hall windows	150*
2 Shamrocks on Campus Police cars	80*
Shamrock at intersection of Olive Lane and Canyon Road	50*
Shamrock at the amphitheater	15*
Total:	1265

Eight Ball Club

One green streak at amphitheater on Saturday afternoon	20
Team flags hanging from 12 campus buildings (1.75 ¹²)	825
Complete set of golf course flag sticks	100
Green shamrock on the side of the pool bubble	
50pts + 10pts/foot diameter	90
B.C.H.	5
Any girl taking off her shirt on command	25
3 guys removing their pants for a female judge	75 + 6*
Total:	1146

* bonus points were awarded for creativity



Chad & Guy Tipton

Fling '90

at the line—not that I wanted to encourage it....”

Saturday kicked off about noon with the waterslides being the major attraction. Various competitors were held throughout the day. The Pygmies, the only really organized team, won every single event from this year's theme competition, Typhoon, to the standard wet T-shirt and shorts contests. Four people successfully crossed the greased pole, but it was quickly pointed out that this year's pole was only about half the length of the old St. Pat's pole crossings. In days past, typically only one person would successfully make it across and he became the following year's reigning St. Pat.

Festivities (meaning the beer truck) moved over to the SAC in late evening, and another dance was held featuring the ever-popular Strawberry Zots. The beer garden in the back patio was a smashing idea and the Zots were, well, the Zots! They were fantastic and the evening's screaming good time topped even that of the previous night.

Spring fling culminated on Sunday with the traditional painting of our own "M." About thirty people attended and the overall opinion was that the view alone was worth all the labor.

In many ways this Spring Fling was a trial run in hopes of getting back the original St. Pat's Day celebration. Although the administration had been particularly leery of the scavenger hunt and other unofficial events, their post-party reaction was quite favorable. Dr. Frank Etscorn stated, "I am very happy with the way students conducted themselves. I can't say enough good about it."

Dr. Lattman remarked, "I thought Spring Fling was successful...I heard students having a good time at the amphitheater while I was playing golf." In general Dr. Lattman was pleased that the campus suffered no damage but he did comment, "With our tight budget I'm worried about things Tech has to repair because the money comes out of the general budget." Apparently, two incidents of damage occurred, both involving paint that was not water-soluble. The ARA pizza truck was painted blue, and a segment of green line was painted between Brown Hall and Cramer Hall. The Student Senate will most likely have to pay for the repainting of the pizza wagon. Concerning the incidents at CSM and UNM, our administration has not yet heard anything, although the CSM *Mimes-Oredigger* newspaper did print a front-page photo identifying Tech as the perpetrators, along with a blatant mis-quote of one of the perpetrators. (While the *Albuquerque Journal* printed a photo of the UNM Lobo on the front page of its metropolitan section, the *Daily Lobo* ignored the event.) However, keep in mind that a challenge was issued to CSM to come to our 'M.' (Of course, no one told them about our 'M' being in a restricted military zone.)

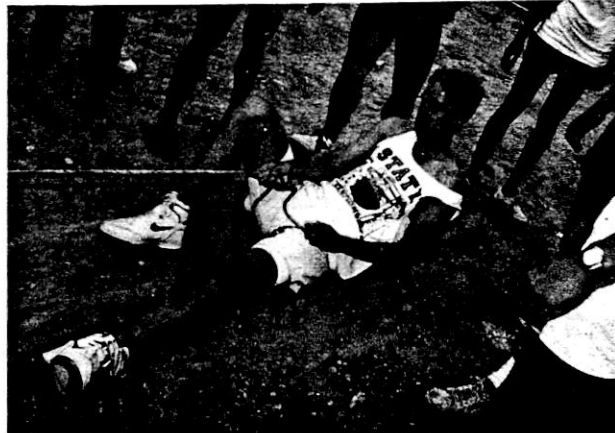
Overall, this Spring Fling seemed an overwhelming success down to the last detail. For those unofficially responsible, good job! For those officially responsible, really totally good job, guys! This is one to remember.

Going on Probation?

Student Services wants you to know that, should you be placed on probation, there are appeals processes available. Go to Student Services, which has moved into Wells Hall, for more information.



Some tired and some unoccupied souls digging the pit Friday afternoon for later festivities. Photo by Bob Hall.



call it a draw. Photos by Bob Hall.

Scavenger Hunt

If you haven't already seen the Scavenger Hunt List, here are the items that the participating teams didn't get. Some items were either acquired or accomplished but were not brought to the attention of the judges.

Photo of "exotic sheep" sign from Magdalena.	25
Paint all four tires of any campus police car green (water soluble paint)	40
Each person's Pink streak at amphitheater on Sat. afternoon	20
Both Pink and Green streak within one hour (same person)	50
Photo of Rhonda's belly button	20
Photo of Lattman picking his nose	50
Full size ore cart	50
Live duck	10
duck crossing sign (in one undamaged piece)	10
Giving Lattman's license plates to judges	20
Spurgin magnetic security sign	15
Gallon of muck from Turtle Bay	5
50% off sign from Yellow Front	10
Watney's beer tap from Capitol bar	10
Largest bra actually worn at Tech	20
Largest panties actually worn at Tech	20
Largest boxer shorts actually worn at Tech	20
Each <i>Sonic</i> tray	5
Each rule from board game C. Assault	5
Set of pool balls from Capitol	10
Disabled vet's coffee sign	20
R.C.H., per source	10
Used condom (in baggie)	5
Used contraceptive sponge (in baggie)	10
Fully functional four wheel motor vehicle reassembled in any campus building (with permission of owner) and no damage to any building.	50
Tires or tubes stacked all the way up flag pole in front of Brown	100
5 empty party balls or 125 uncrushed beer cans	125
Functional golf cart	25
Mud wrestling demonstration...	-100 to 100

Police Blotter

by Taige Blake
CAMPUS POLICE CORRESPONDENT

This article cites incidents that occurred until April 27, 1990.

On March 22, at 3:45, a two-vehicle accident occurred in the Macey Center parking lot. No injuries were reported. A one-vehicle accident, with no injuries, was reported in the Brown Hall parking lot on the morning of April 5. A stop sign citation was issued at the intersection of Campus and Navajo Drives on the evening of April 25. On April 27 at 4:07 pm, a one-vehicle accident was reported on Black Mesa Road, and an injury was reported.

On April 11, after midnight, the huge golf ball in front of the Pro Shop was discovered painted with graffiti. Graffiti was also discovered on the sidewalk in front of Cramer Hall on the morning of April 11. Five subjects were cited. One was arrested, then released. On April 11, campus police were advised that a fire extinguisher had been discharged in Wells Hall. Other rooms in Wells were also vandalized. On the afternoon of April 13, in the SUB parking lot, an individual discovered that the convertible roof of his car had been cut open. Damage was estimated at \$600. In the early morning of April 20, three individuals were observed painting a green stripe from the North side of Brown Hall to the Cramer greenhouse. Individuals were questioned, and no other action was taken. At 5:30 am on April 20, the Itza Pizza delivery cart was found in the middle of the athletic field. A small evergreen tree was later reported damaged. The cost to replace the tree is \$50.00.

On the afternoon of March 24, a rim and tire were reported taken off a car in the Swim Center parking lot. On April 2, two competition floor mats were discovered missing from the gym. At 9:00 am on April 8, a possible prowler was reported in the area of Family Student

Housing. No one was found after the area was checked. A residential burglary was reported on South Drive on the evening of April 8. Several items were taken, and the case is still under investigation. On the afternoon of April 11, campus police was advised of a missing watch in the gym. Campus police was notified that someone attempted to break into a home on North Drive. No entry was made; no damage was done. On the evening of April 14, a party reported her laundry missing from the laundry room of West Hall. The laundry was later found. At 12:30 am on April 14, several golf course flags were taken from various locations on the golf course. On the morning of April 18, a book valued at \$70 was reported missing from the Bureau of Mines. At 11:30 am on April 20, a pump motor valued at \$65 was reported missing from the TERA Field Garage. At 1:15 pm on April 25, a residential burglary was reported on Apache Drive. The case is still under investigation.

On the afternoon of April 4, an individual broke his leg while playing a softball game on the athletic field. The individual was taken to Socorro General Hospital and released. A camera and rifle were found in an alley on Campus Hill on the evening of April 14. The camera was later turned over to the owner. On the evening of April 19, an individual was taken to Socorro General Hospital after collapsing at South Hall. The individual was discovered to be diabetic. Before midnight on April 19, an individual was arrested and transported to Socorro County Jail for public incarceration. At 10:25 pm on April 21, two subjects were incarcerated for twelve hours for failure to obey a lawful order to leave campus. On April 12, an industrial accident occurred on West Road 0.7 miles from the CETR intersection. No injuries were reported. On the morning of April 27, in the Brown Hall parking lot, an individual found a bullet hole in the driver's door panel of his car.

41st Truth or Consequences Fiesta is this weekend

FIESTA PRESS RELEASE

The 41st annual Truth or Consequences Fiesta will take place this weekend in the city located on the banks of the Rio Grande five miles below Elephant Butte lake.

What started out as a "one-show" promotion of a radio program has turned into a highly successful community celebration which provides lasting worldwide fame for the city of Truth or Consequences.

In 1950, upon the 10th anniversary of the "Truth or Consequences" radio program, NBC television and radio producer Ralph Edwards called a staff meeting which he opened saying, "I would wish that some town in the United States liked and respected our show so much that it would like to change its name to 'Truth or Consequences.'"

The residents of Hot Springs, New Mexico, a small retirement community just off I-25, endorsed the idea and approved—by a vote of 1,294 to 295—changing the name of their city to Truth or Consequences.

The first Fiesta was celebrated on April 1, 1950, when Ralph Edwards and his entire NBC production, acting and show, came to New Mexico, and the first live, coast-to-coast broadcast of the first Truth or Consequences Show from the City of Truth or Consequences was aired.

The broadcast took place on a Saturday night. Earlier that day, the first Truth or Consequences Fiesta Parade was watched by approximately 10,000 persons who lined the two-mile route and marveled at the greatness of the event, which was arranged upon very short notice.

The Sierra County Sheriff's Posse appeared with eighty of its members mounted upon their horses and several more riding in their jeeps. Ralph appeared leading the parade attired in a Sheriff's Posse uniform, as earlier in the day, he was made an honorary member of the group in an initiation ceremony during which he was undressed on Broadway, presented with the Posse's regulation uniform and mounted upon a palomino stallion. His wife, Barbara, rode with the Posse Auxiliary.

Another highlight of the First Fiesta occurred during the broadcast when a contestant was instructed to go to Elephant Butte Lake, find and bring back the elephant. The contestant was surprised as the members of the audience to return to the stage with a real, live pachyderm, brought for the show on loan from a circus.

This began a friendship between the residents of a city and a humanitarian who, during the past 40 years, has made an annual trip here, bringing with him a host of national radio, movie and television stars.

Thousands of dollars worth of prizes, most of which have been supplied by Ralph, have been awarded to contestants in the various Fiesta events over the years.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Reflections of the Southwest."

The Ralph Edwards Stage Show will feature Shelly West in Concert on Saturday May 5 at the T or C Civic and Activities Center at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at the Fiesta Office, 894-2946. Seats are priced at \$7.50, \$12.50, and \$15.00, on a first-come basis.

NO EXIT by Erik Andresen



The joys of off-campus housing

by John Shipman
STAFF COLUMNIST

It used to be impossible to live off campus. Just after Tech built South Hall, you were required to live in the dormitories, unless you did something monumentally evil, like shredding someone's door in West Hall with a half-stick.

I didn't really mind dormitory life. South Hall was alive with music, as people from all over the country brought in their regional favorites to supplement the ubiquitous Beatles, Doors, and Stones. After growing up in Hobbs, starved for musical variety, the dorm was great—a continuous smorgasbord of new, terrific music.

The stereo wars went on day and night, and people spent a lot of time, money, and energy building up their sound systems. There was always a lot of wrangling about what album to put on. We made it into a great game: anyone can veto any musical selection at any time. If someone complained about something you were playing, you had to take it off and then try to find something that was so good that no one could possibly complain about it. People who played this game worked hard to build a collection of killer albums so they would always have a few trump cards to play when guests were getting picky. I've noticed that most of these killer albums (like Jimi Hendrix) are still in print, and a lot of them are coming out on CD. Most of the ones that people complained about are forgotten now (for example, *Ultimate Spinach*).

Most rooms were doubles then. We had a great arrangement in our South Hall suite: we got four night-owls together and moved all the beds into one room (the "back room") and the desks in the other (the "front room"). This allowed us to keep whatever hours we wanted; the back room was always quiet and dark, except for major parties. In those days the canteen was open around the clock, and there were always some folks awake in the small hours.

Somewhere along the way, I lost the ability to sleep through the stereo wars—when the front room was playing *Led Zeppelin II* at 110 decibels so they wouldn't have to listen to the clowns playing *Ultimate Spinach* on the other side. So moving off campus was necessary just to get a decent amount of sleep. Another important motivation was to get away from cafeteria food. By this time, Tech was also encouraging upper-division students to move off campus because they were short of rooms.

Two friends of mine were looking for a third roommate in a three-bedroom house that rented for \$90. This was a lot of money back then. (After a couple of years living there and paying \$30 a month, I was really incensed when I moved to the Bay Area and a cheap one-bedroom apartment cost \$150—a fivefold increase in rent! Of course, that same apartment is a "condominium" now and sells for \$200K.)

Our cheerful, wacky landlord was an older gentleman I'll call "Slummie Lord." It's hard to believe that a \$90 three-bedroom house could be a bad deal, even at

1969 prices, but this house was a bad deal. Slummie had a whole row of low-grade properties that were so wretched that only students would live there. He had originally built them where the bypass is now, so that when the bypass went through he could collect on the condemnation, move the houses, and rent them again. He lived in Albuquerque and tended to show up occasionally on weekends.

In our house, we always smelled gas in the winter, and we had a lot of headaches. We suspected that the gas heaters were not working right. In theory, the vent pipe for a gas heater should be double-walled and both sections should go well above the roof. This heater vent was double-walled, but one day we took a closer look and found that the outer wall stopped at the ceiling, and the inner wall was half-rotted, so running the heater pumped a lot of carbon monoxide into the ceiling.

Slummie was a stupid, rude man. When two women lived in the house next door, one of them came out of her bedroom one Saturday morning to go to the bathroom and found him sitting on the can, with the door open. He didn't even bother knocking, just let himself in and made himself at home. He didn't even understand why she was ready to kill him.

At the other end of our little six-house student ghetto was a very popular house named 1028, where three of my friends lived. Their girlfriends were there most of the time too. One morning after a dance, when the members of the band had crashed on the floor the previous night, Slummie showed up, observed the vast pile of bodies, and remarked, "how many people live here, anyway?"

Another morning he knocked and the door was answered by a very well-built woman who was wearing only a man's shirt, unbuttoned. He was standing on the ground and she was at the top of the steps. She snapped, "What the hell do you want?" Poor Slummie's jaw dropped so fast he almost broke his mouth. He stammered, "I'll be back later," and fled.

This was a fun house. They had an excellent sound system and a fabulous record collection. The policy was that whoever was closest to the stereo when a record ran out had to pick another album to put on. Whenever a record was about to run out, you could see the residents starting to edge away from the turntable so they could stick one of their guests with the duty.

When the famous Socorro bon vivant Larry Boucher started selling waterbeds at the low price of \$60, pretty soon everyone had one. Three friends of mine who lived at 1028 each bought king-size waterbeds. I was skeptical about them at first, but then I noticed that all my lower back problems went away when I slept on one (I still prefer waterbeds). I was worried about their ruggedness, so when the first one was set up, I stood in the living room, shouted "gangway!" and took a running jump onto the middle. The waterbed held up just fine, but in retrospect, I'm kind of amazed that the floor survived; I was pretty heavy even then.

A filled

king-size waterbed weighs about a ton, and the three waterbeds at 1028 all wound up along one outside wall. One of the residents was wondering how the building was holding up, so they went and looked, and noticed that the plaster on the outside wall was buckling and in some places was several inches away from the wall. They looked underneath the house and were shocked to find that there was no foundation on that side; the nearest support was twelve feet inside the wall.

Fortunately, by then they were moving out. They pumped all the water out the window. One of the beds was full of water dyed red with food coloring, and the hose spewing red fluid looked a little strange to Slummie. He asked what was going on. "We're emptying our waterbeds." He walked about ten feet, stopped, and looked back. "What's a waterbed?"

Slummie's places were never known for their solid foundations. Our place didn't have a real foundation, just piles of cinder blocks holding up the joists. The gas line came out of the ground and ran along, propped up on scattered piles of broken cinder blocks, up to the place where it went into the house. If the house had shifted on the flimsy foundation, the gas line would probably have ruptured.

During the Great Cold Snap of January, 1971, when the high temperature for the week was ten below, we had the only running water in the neighborhood, because our toilet had a steady leak that kept the pipes open. At the end of the week, I looked into the

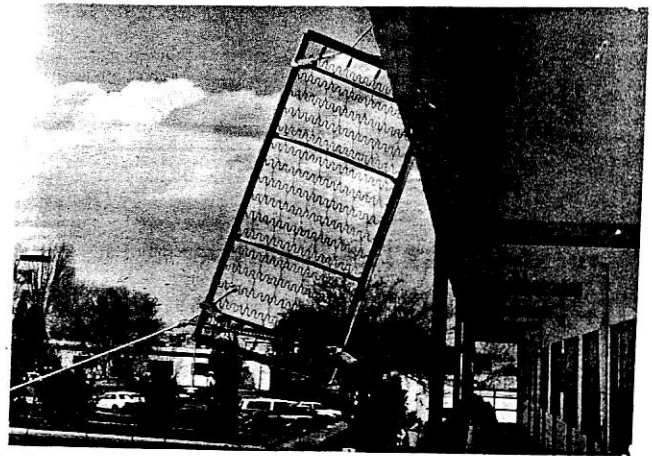
crawl space under the bathroom and found that a solid column of ice had grown around our leak, about twelve feet in diameter. That was probably the only time the house was on a solid foundation.

Even when it wasn't twenty below, our house was always cold. At one point we pulled off a sheet of paneling in the living room to do some modifications to the wiring and found that there was no insulation in the walls—nothing between the paneling and the outer wall. Next time Slummie was in town, we took him to task about this. His reply was a masterpiece of slumlord logic.

"Well, this friend of mine, he had him a house over across town, and he put his insulation in the walls instead of the ceiling. Place was always colder than hell. I did some research and found out that 90% of your heat loss is through the roof, so when I built this place, I put the insulation in the roof, and you ought to thank me for it!"

Some years after I moved away, one of the old 1028 crowd saw an article in *Parade* magazine about Slummie. There was a picture of him under someone's kitchen sink, brandishing a pipe wrench. It seems he was involved in a program to help senior citizens keep busy by helping out on home repair. I found this concept fairly mind-boggling, but then came the capper: they mentioned that before Slummie was retired, he had been a federal dam inspector.

Gives you a lot of confidence, doesn't it?



Furniture is rapelled down the West side of South Hall to clear the way for a new student study lounge. Auxiliary Services provided the room with furniture. The lounge, in South 320, is open to all students, but only as long as it remains quiet and unvandalized. Photo by John Goshy.

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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 paydirt@nmt.edu. 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. If the identity of the author cannot be verified, the letter will not be printed. *Paydirt* reserves the right to edit all letters, and to decide which letters are printed. Letters should primarily concern a current or recent incident or situation related to Tech. Letters regarding 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.

SA Progress Report

Now that the SA elections are done for the semester, it's time to take a step back and look at how the SA is doing.

This semester, the SA government (and its assigns) accomplished quite a bit. They managed to: put on nine dances (with an average quality substantially better than those of last semester); organize a successful Spring Fling; manage sixty-four student clubs, and distribute \$12,463.30 to those clubs; showed eleven movies; brought in a comic-magician; and dealt with some pretty hefty problems they didn't cause.

But the SA certainly had some severe problems that they (and its individual members) *did* cause. First, at the beginning of the semester, seven senators, the vice-president, and the president simultaneously resigned. As if this weren't bad enough, the former members of the SA who had, years ago, written the constitution, had not bothered to provide a cause of action for mass-resignations.

This is a major reason why the senate re-wrote the constitution. And the new one is a lot better. Not that it's a shining star of democracy in action, but at least the SA should be able to function on a regular basis.

Function, yes, but not necessarily efficiently. The SA meetings are often a better show than the Carson & Barnes Circus that came through town a couple of weeks ago. Members repeat things others have said, bicker about completely useless topics, and come to meetings entirely unprepared.

That is, assuming that they *come* to meetings. At several meetings this semester, fewer than two-thirds of the undergraduate senate showed up. Without this quorum, the senate can't do anything. Some frequently absent or tardy senators said that they didn't have enough time to come to the meetings. If they don't have enough time to perform their required tasks, they should *resign*.

And the senate doesn't have a monopoly on not showing up. For this entire semester, the SA President and Vice-President had *no posted office hours*. If they're elected to represent the students, how can they if the students can't find them? Both of these individuals say that they are frequently in the SUB, but students and faculty need to be able to find their representatives without hunting around campus for them. These elected officials are paid a salary by the students to do their jobs. That salary will increase substantially next semester. (And the SA managed to sandbag the students by putting the raise into the constitution, a constitution which the SA [not invalidly] said desperately needed to be passed. Thus, students could not disapprove of the raise without vetoing the constitution as well.) If you are going to force us to pay you more, make sure you earn it. The treasurer and secretary both posted hours this semester, but lately have not been there much of that time. SA Officers (especially the President and Vice-President), if we are going to pay you, *show up for work!*

Paydirt announces the following expectations of the SA for next semester: First, the President and Vice-President need to have office hours. Not all of them need to be in the SA Office — posting hours that they promise to be available in the SUB would be fine. Second, all SA officials should take some time and learn how their meetings should work. Over the summer, every senator and official should become at least vaguely familiar with Roberts' Rules of Order, which are designed to prevent crowds from abandoning the circus to come to the SA meetings for more entertainment. Committee chairs need to present complete, coherent, and concise reports. And finally, senators need to show up to meetings. If you're going to run for senator, realize that it's not just something to stick on your resume. It takes some *work!* Perhaps, if students felt that senators were spending their time doing their jobs effectively, the students would support giving senators some kind of pay. If all these steps are followed, the SA meetings will become tremendously more efficient, more will get done, and the SA will gain respect, with both students and faculty.

Most of the SA officers put a lot of work in this semester. Others did not. Because of those who put in work, many aspects of student life this semester improved dramatically. And because of those who didn't put in work, it didn't improve even further. The SA could do with substantially more organized and efficient meetings. Next semester is a fresh start, with a new constitution and some new officials. Let's make it a good one.

A Suggestion for SA Efficiency

Dear Editor:

It has been my observation that one of the major limitations of the Student Senate's productivity is the lack of knowledge of governmental procedure, particularly rules of parliamentary order. The only remedy for this, in my opinion, is adequate education in these matters. Perhaps a mandatory one-credit pass/fail

course in government specifically tailored to educate the senators in areas needed to increase the efficiency of the Senate could accomplish this. This would minimize valuable Senate meeting time wasted arguing over trivial matters and also increase the effectiveness of Senate investigations since the senators would have a better knowledge of how to conduct them.

Brett Palmer

"Concerned Fellows"

A "group" of individuals claiming to be composed of both students and faculty is in the midst of a campaign to hurt Tech in any way it can. First, it sent letters to New Mexico high school counselors, encouraging them to rethink recommending Tech to their students. Then, when that tactic proved ineffective, they sent letters to State Representatives, presumably hoping Tech's funding would be cut. Finally, when this was not successful, they sent letters to the parents of prospective students, apparently in another attempt to hurt recruiting.

This group is doing its best to reduce Tech's enrollment and its budget. The overall intent, therefore, would appear to be the closing of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Why? Are these "students and faculty" so disgruntled about Tech that they are willing to attempt to shut down the school? What other purpose could they have? Or are they just angry at Dr. Lattman and are willing to sacrifice the entire Tech community (including their own jobs) just to get back at him? If they are so concerned about possible retaliation from Dr. Lattman that they are too cowardly to reveal their identities, have they considered what would happen if the school were to close?

The letter says that "one of the greatest problems facing NMT is the declining enrollment, which is blamed on many things." The writers say the cause is apathy towards the welfare of students. It would seem that another factor could be a group of so-called "Concerned Fellows," who are working hard to see that enrollment decline further.

An open letter to the "Concerned Fellows"

Recently, anonymous letters have been received by parents and guidance counselors claiming to be from a group composed of students and faculty. Three issues of concern to students at Tech were addressed in this letter, and it included a postscript stating that the authors of this letter were anonymous because they feared reprisals from the administration, especially from President Lattman.

The first issue that was mentioned in the letter was the November Incident involving President Lattman's extreme response to a letter that was sent by a student. I think that the general consensus of both the students and the faculty of this college is that a number of people share the blame for this unfortunate incident, and that it is significant only that it has succeeded in drawing our attention away from the real problems facing us.

The second issue of concern was declining enrollment. The reasons for declining enrollment are many, and although the administration might contribute to the problem, the root cause is the economic decline of the petroleum and mining industries which mean that fewer people want to major here in two of our strongest specialties. Tech appears to be in a state of transition — note that the Electrical Engineering department, although only a year old, has the second highest number of potential entering freshmen of any department while petroleum and mining engineering are well behind the pack.

Thirdly, the authors express concern over the testing of depleted uranium ammunition at TERA. The fact is that the contamination has been so far confined to TERA (whose land does belong to the campus) and shows no immediate sign of being an immediate health risk to the bulk of the Tech community.

I feel that, although the authors of this document have legitimate concerns, they could best deal with constructively and through proper channels when possible. The administration will likely not be hurt by this document, but I can easily imagine how a drop in enrollment, coupled by a loss of core funding could eliminate a number of needed faculty members from this school. This is something none of us want to happen.

More seriously, the authors of this document have undermined the respect of the administration and the general community for the students and faculty of Tech. If we want more control of our own affairs, we need to behave in a responsible and mature manner. Acts of underground terrorism will do *nothing* to improve the situation and are likely to make it worse. The only way that we, the students and faculty can bring about constructive change is by achieving involvement and unity. It's not an easy answer to our problems, but it is the correct answer.

Paul Houle
SA Senator

Congratulations to the Perpetual Beardists

Alan Kerr
SA President

James Gilson
Vice-President

for their sweep of the Spring 1990
Student Association Elections.

Paid for by the Perpetual Beardist Action Committee.

Campus Tree Complaint & Physical Plant's Response

Dear Editor:

For countless years we have remained silent as our homeland has been blatantly desecrated by the perpetual mismanagement of campus trees by the Physical Plant. Now, however, the time has come to unite and put an end to this needless destruction. We strongly appeal to the students, the faculty, and the administration of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to aid us in our battle to protect nature's beauty: *trees!*

We cite the following as examples of blatant mismanagement by Physical Plant.

Case 1: The trees west of South Hall.

Originally there stood poplar trees. These were cut down (for valid reasons). However, they were not replaced for two years! Finally oak trees were planted there (Fall 1989). These trees were only watered once in six months, even though a sprinkler system was installed for this purpose (at great expense). Thus all of these fine trees perished due to thirst. Fortunately they were replaced (Fall [sic] 1990). Yet again however they were quite neglected by Physical Plant who watered them barely four times this year. Now 75% of the locust trees have died (due to lack of water and due to girdling also caused by the actions of Physical Plant). Who has been paying the costs for replacement of these trees? Certainly not the worker in charge of watering them, nor his supervisor, for not making sure the job was done properly (which it wasn't). The bottom line is the students are paying the bill through increased tuition costs. According to the *Paydirt* Correspondent to Physical Plant, Jason Coder, Jim Shaffner doesn't know the oaks were ever replaced and he thinks that the trees there now (locusts) are doing quite well. In fact one of the groundskeepers actually wasted an afternoon pruning these obviously dead trees! Yet these people remain on the payroll wasting our tuition money to do an incompetent job. Why?

Case 2: The trees south of South Hall's parking lot.

A decision was made that South Hall needs more parking space. The site of the old married student slum was chosen. This area was to be paved and connected to the current parking lot. Thus logically the intervening trees (piñons) needed to be removed. A very few days later Physical Plant workers with numerous implements of destruction (chain saws and such) cleared the way. Approximately one year (or more) has passed since then yet still no one can locate anything resembling a parking [lot] (except of course the old road). Perhaps Jim Shaffner can see one...after all he sees dead trees as living ones. Rumor has it that the parking lot is still in the planning stages. If so why did Physical Plant cut down the trees so quickly, and why is it taking so long to plan such an easy project (does it really take a competent civil engineer more than a year to design a parking lot)?

I could ramble on for days about similar incidents (like the lack of watering of the trees in Workman parking lot, except by a few nature lovers on occasion), but nothing will get done unless we unite in our efforts to protect and preserve the few trees we have on campus. Incidentally, Dr. Lattman, this is but one of many problems with campus life that leads to declining morale and enrollment.

Rick Szekeres

[Editor's note: A copy of this letter was given to Physical Plant, and their response is printed at the above right.]

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Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter regarding the trees on campus. In reference to the Idaho locust [trees] west of South Hall: The fact that the tops of these trees appear dry is not necessarily an indication of under-watering. These trees have been watered regularly. We are also having similar problems with other locusts on campus which have been growing for several years now (specifically the row along the street north of MSEC and two large trees in the northeast portion of the SUB parking lot). We have contacted authorities around the state about these trees, and the only feasible explanation I've been given for their condition is that trees in the black locust group (Robina) are much more susceptible to winter damage when they have put on a lot of fast growth in the fall due to either over-watering our frequent fall rains. As a consequence, these trees do not harden off properly before the temperature drops, and the top growth dies. This weak growth is also damaged by the extremes we have on some winter days in New Mexico when it is quite warm during the day and very cold at night. The trees in center of the strip at South Hall received more water than those on the ends which are planted on more of a slope, and the center trees are not leafing out this spring.

Incidentally, these trees had been loosely staked last spring to help them develop rigidity (trees tightly staked stay floppy—the movement of the tree triggers development of woody tissue.) However, sometime during the summer, someone outside of the Physical Plant tightened the ropes, and it wasn't discovered until the damage had been done and girdling had occurred.

The well-intentioned but misguided watering of the SUB parking lot by "nature lovers" (your term) is causing problems for the trees there. We have been monitoring that area and for the past six weeks it hasn't had a chance to dry out between these floodings. The deciduous

trees growing there are barely leafing out and are already showing signs of chlorosis, and the pines in that area are very susceptible to over-watering. When these trees begin to visibly decline, the Physical Plant will be given the blame for your actions.

The fact is, we lose far more trees and shrubs to theft, vandalism, and carelessness than we do to any sort of natural attrition of neglect. Several of our newly-planted trees along the athletic field have been broken off. Native plantings south of Driscoll are being crushed by pedestrians daily. Just two days ago, rose bushes were stolen from the center of campus. Trees are regularly driven over and other plantings are walked on. Mountain bikes are extremely hard on shrubs and flowers. It probably hasn't occurred to you that our morale is also affected by your actions.

The Physical Plant has a very ambitious tree-replacement program. This spring alone, over 200 trees were planted on the campus and golf course.... The decision to plant the locusts west of South...was a bad choice because of the many problems they have. We really do try to give the trees on campus the best care possible, but there are few of us and hundreds of trees....

If you truly care about the trees on campus and aren't just writing letters to avoid studying, tell people to stop walking on them, peeling bark from them, and carving names on them. If you see a tree damaged by maliciousness or carelessness, let us know.... If you do in fact know of an area that needs water tell us.... And please, *don't* take it upon yourself to over-water trees in the name of kindness—trees cannot grow in saturated soil. Finally, if you are really interested in making a contribution to the greening of the campus, come up and apply for summer work, and maybe you can get a taste of what we're up against.

Karen DeBonn
Mgr., Greenhouse & Landscaping

Socorro Thrift Shop

by Gwen Nace
INDEPENDENT WRITER

Students come and students go. Those arriving at the beginning of a semester often come to the Thrift Shop to purchase a few necessities to furnish their room or apartment. Departing students frequently donate things to the Thrift Shop when they no longer need them or perhaps don't have room to pack and take them home.

New Mexico Tech students, faculty and staff have been most generous in their support of the Thrift Shop, which is located next to Crabtree Hardware, just west of the Plaza. Recently, a member of the SA Senate pointed out that despite their support, he felt that only a small percentage of the student body was aware of the existence of the Thrift Shop—and that many who knew about it did not understand its function.

Very simply, the Thrift Shop survives entirely upon donations, and they accept nearly anything that could be of use to somebody: clothing, household items such as dishes, pots and pans, bedding, furniture, and any type of hardware item. Books and pictures are welcome, as well as various parts that can be used for repair. All donated items are sorted and displayed by a group of volunteers. The monies derived from the sale of these items are donated to various organizations for the benefit of senior citizens in Socorro County.

During 1989, proceeds totaling approximately \$10,000.00 were donated by the Thrift Shop to various senior programs. The seniors are not the only ones who benefit. Donors have a place to dispose of items they no longer need or use, and customers are able to purchase usable items at garage sale prices.

The Thrift Shop is open from 12 noon until 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. During the last week of each month all clothing, shoes, and books are sold at ten cents per item.

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STEPHEN SMOOGEN'S HOROSCOPES

Welcome to the last of my articles. Yes, as you all know well, the semester draws to a close very soon. I want to thank everyone this semester for putting up with this column, and thank y'all for your responses. To celebrate the fact that most of you will be able to leave Socorro this summer, I have tried to predict what will happen then. Of course, seeing so far into the future is very unpredictable so I can't promise anything. As someone else said, "Like, look at those lights in the sky, man, I think those are, like, stars."

Capricorn: The headstrong Capricorn is birthed from December 22nd to January 19th. Their well known strong wills often get them into many a conflict that often mire relationships. However the Capricorn's brain power is such that no problem is too much.

Aquarius: While the age of Aquarius shouldn't really begin for another hundred years, those born from January 20th til February 18th are ruled by this sign. They are most noted for their love of peace, liberty, and patience. Strong equal rights supporters.

Pisces: This sign controls the dates February 19th to March 20th. The Pisces is probably the most hard working of the signs. In fact, a lazy Pisces is like a fish on dry land. Their deep love for family has kept many a relationship through rough times.

Aries (March 21—April 20): Beware a nasty final as a teacher realizes that you haven't been tested on that old material. Relax, though as your love life improves this summer. A job outside Socorro gets you money and lets you meet someone new.

Taurus (April 21—May 20): Finals will go smoothly as Uranus looks favorably on your sign this month. The number 3 is special this summer. A new companion wishes to make your relationship much closer than you had anticipated.

Gemini (May 21—June 21): This next week is time to crawl under a rock. Your sex life is a jumble, your academics shot, and you may lose your job. But, in June, Mercury plans a long trip, though Pluto may be stingy about funds. Love comes in July.

Cancer (June 22—July 22): All that studying has paid off as you leave this semester with a better GPA than expected. Luna dominates your sign this summer as your plans go through never ending changes. A job dealing with petroleum gets you far.

Leo (July 23—August 22): A visit to your parents brings some unexpected rewards. A new job may be in order as needed changes occur. A close relationship gets much closer as Venus smiles. July sees long trips to recuperate from a stressful time.

Virgo (August 23—September 22): A mysterious anomaly in your bills causes headaches. Neptune makes a trip to the sea much easier than expected. Be careful of romance in the coming months as the planets align against love.

Libra (September 23—October 22): A slightly romantic interlude may occur in May. There are signs of this relationship becoming lasting if you go slowly. Pluto sends a job your way that will help your finances. Be wary of the number 7 this summer.

Scorpio (October 23—November 22): This is definitely a bad time to get mystery meat of any kind. A new rival for your heart makes for an entertaining summer. An old friend gives good advice that may help. Wednesdays are good to you.

Sagittarius (November 23—December 21): A mysterious, long-haired person comes into your life to sweep you off your feet. New romance will offset a new job challenging your intellect. Ceres changes houses in June, so a new residence is in order.

Capricorn (December 22—January 19): Your sense of well-being improves drastically as you quit school and join an order of Tibetan monks. Beware falling rocks when mountain climbing in July. Money is scarce later as you try to get back to Socorro.

Aquarius (January 20—February 18): You are feeling really out of place. Sudden changes show that money is not the all-important goal it used to be. A romance may occur in May, and if not there will be the usual sordid sex, but, oh well.

Pisces (February 19—March 20): The coming months are definite times not to borrow money, clothes, etc. Money in June will improve your financial matters. Unexpected romance comes next fall with someone new. Beware strange men with fish.

Brass Quintet to play at Macey

by Kathleen Hedges
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

The New Mexico Brass Quintet wraps up this season's New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series with a concert at Macey Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4. The program includes pieces by Bach and Handel as well as works by two modern composers, Peter Lieuwen and Michael Colgrass.

The New Mexico Brass Quintet is in residence at UNM and consists of three faculty members and two graduate assistants. Since its founding in 1977, the NMBQ has established an international reputation as one of the finest ensembles of its kind. Following two highly-acclaimed European tours, the group is preparing for its third this summer. In addition, the quintet has been at the forefront of commissioning new works, with 35 premieres to its credit by composers from all over the world.

Quintet members are: Richard Cederberg, trumpet; Karl Hinterbichler, trombone; Dan Meier, horn; Jeffrey Piper, trumpet; and William Stanton, tuba.

Tickets, available at the door, are \$6 for general admission and \$3 for those under 12 and over 65.

GOING AWAY?

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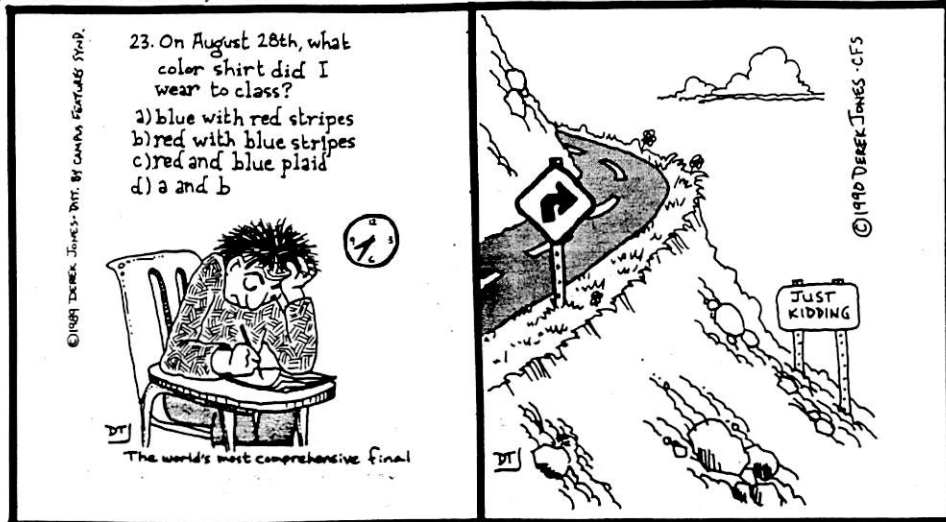
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THE GREY AREA by Derek T. Jones



My Home

by Bert Peters

My home is dirty and filled with trash. Styrofoam plates are strewn about. I stick my head into a plastic bag. Gasp! I can't breathe! I wiggle and squirm! I toss my head from side to side! The bag flies free. Time to eat. A piece of hamburger bun, filled with maggots. Time for a drink. But the soda cans are all empty, except for the dried syrup inside. I cut myself on the edge of a can. Mealtime is over. I ignore the plate with the splotch of green ketchup, that floats by, spinning slowly in the water. The glass, I carefully avoid. I pick my way through some old magazines. Nothing interesting to read. The letters are starting to run. Oh, excuse me! I've been terribly rude! Please, allow me to introduce myself. I am a duck, swimming in Turtle Bay.