

Administration responds to dorm rate hike petition

by Tom Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

Tech Vice-President for Institutional Development Dan Lopez responded to a student petition concerning the 3.5% dorm rate hike scheduled to go into effect for the Fall 1992 semester.

The petition was organized by Kim Bell, a graduating senior and Resident Assistant, and was signed by more than 165 students. It questions the housing budget, compares Tech's rates to those at other state schools, and states that it is currently cheaper to live off-campus.

While Dr. Lopez's memorandum response to the petition only dealt with the Auxiliaries budget, Vice-President for Administration and Finance Denny Peterson, who recommended the increase, provided information concerning the Administration's viewpoint on the other concerns.

Mr. Peterson stated that the 3.5% value was selected to equal the inflation rate last year and the average staff salary hike to go into effect this year.

He explained that the primary purpose of the

recent rate hikes has been to establish a long-term fund for the dorms. The six dorms are collectively valued at about \$9.5 million, and the intent is to form a five-year rotating fund consisting of 9% of their value, to pay for long-term expenses and unforeseen catastrophe repairs. This works out to \$171,000 per year added to the fund.

Dr. Lopez's memo referred to money spent on the dorms in the past five years: \$26,702 to renovate the South Hall Roof, and \$57,780 to renovate Baca. It adds, "even with this very substantial investment, we still need to do a lot more to bring dorms and other student facilities to a standard more appropriate to the quality of the school. We will do everything we can in the coming years to continue to improve in this area." Mr. Peterson stated that Fitch and Presidents dorms are in need of major overhauls, and that South Hall will be remodeled, all as soon as money is available.

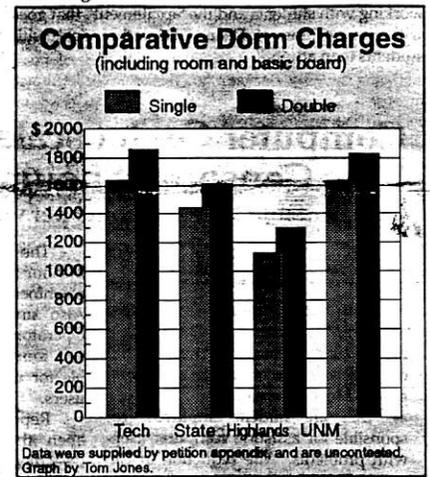
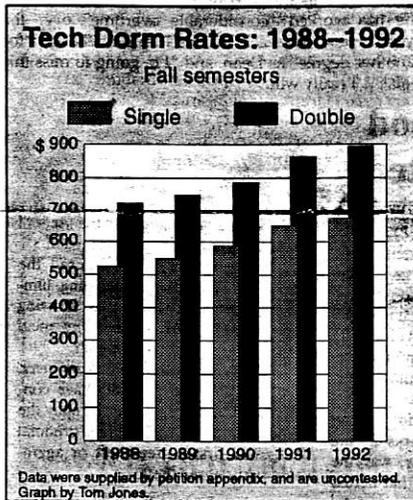
The student petition also questioned why Tech's dorms are more expensive to live in than are New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, Highlands University in Las Vegas, and the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Mr. Peterson responded that UNM and State have substantially larger student bodies, and are able to distribute administrative costs over more students as a result. He also questioned if State were currently reserving money for a long-term repair fund, and pointed out that UNM, which he believes is establishing a fund similar to Tech's, has rates comparable to Tech. He also stated, "I don't know that we want to compare ourselves with Highlands," adding that he was not familiar with their dorm facilities.

The student petition requested information on why the projected increase in student enrollment would not reduce the need for a rate increase. Mr. Peterson replied that, assuming that the dorms are currently 70% occupied, moving to full occupancy would result in additional income of approximately \$36,000 per year, which would not make a substantial dent in the \$171,000 long-term fund.

The Housing petition stated that the dorms had an estimated 1990-1991 fiscal year profit of \$48,714. Mr. Peterson stated that, even adding \$22,000 from the savings of eliminating the position of Housing Director, the \$171,000 figure is still some distance away. He added that the budget also changes

dramatically from year to year, as different buildings under the auspices of Auxiliaries need to be renovated, stating that in other years, when substantial projects were done on the dorms, the dorms ran major losses. He feels that housing is a break-even enterprise over the long term; but that fluctuations are necessary over the short term because dorm rates remain steady while dorm expenses change dramatically from year to year.

In addressing the petition's statements that it is cheaper to live off-campus in facilities of similar quality to the dorms than on-campus, Mr. Peterson stated, "I have not seen any evidence to support this. . . I don't absolutely refute this, but it's. . . my understanding." The petition stated that the average cost to live in a two-bedroom apartment off campus was \$250 to \$325 per month, according to Middle Rio Grande Real Estate. (The petition did not state if utilities are included in this figure, and does not include housing subsidized by the federal government.) Concerning the quality of the dorms versus substantially less expensive housing available in town, Mr. Peterson added, "We have no intentions of becoming a slum landlord."



Faculty Council debates raising admissions standards

by Tom Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

The Faculty Council debated a proposal by its Academic Standards and Admissions (ASA) Committee to raise admissions standards for incoming Freshmen at its monthly meeting on April 7.

After thirty minutes of debate on the subject, the issue was eventually referred to the Admissions Department, which will examine high school course offerings throughout the state to determine if students from state high schools will be able to meet the standards. It is unlikely that further action will be taken until the fall semester, as the faculty council generally does not meet during the summer, and the May meeting usually has as its sole purpose the approval of the list of graduates.

According to a chart prepared by the ASA Committee, Tech's present standards for English, mathematics, and foreign language are less stringent than those of the University of New

Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, and New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces. Tech's Science requirements surpass NMSU's and are approximately equivalent to UNM's.

Tech currently requires three years of social science from entering high school graduates, compared to two years at UNM (one of which must be US history), and no social science requirement at NMSU.

The proposed changes would make Tech's requirements more stringent than UNM's and NMSU's in English, science, and mathematics, and equal to UNM in foreign language.

The English requirement would continue to require four years, but would add the requirement that both of the final two be composition courses. NMSU and UNM require only one year of the final two to be composition.

The science requirement would change from two years, including one year of laboratory study, to two years of laboratory in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. NMSU requires any two years beyond general science, and UNM

requires two years, with one of those in a biology, chemistry, or physics class with lab.

The mathematics requirement would change from three years, with at least two beyond general math, to three years including second-year algebra and/or trigonometry. This would be generally equivalent to NMSU and UNM.

The foreign language requirement would be changed from none to two years of a single language, although this requirement would be waived for students fluent in another language. This requirement would be identical to UNM's, while NMSU requires only one year of either foreign language or fine arts.

Dr. Lattman emphasized at the meeting that any changes to the admissions requirements should be announced several years before they go into effect, to allow high schools and their students to adjust their courses to suit them.

Etscorn resigns as Dean of Students

Will continue as Psychology instructor and researcher

by Tom Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

Frank Etscorn, Dean of Students since 1985, is resigning from that position effective June 30. Dr. Etscorn states that he will remain as a Psychology Professor, conducting research and teaching classes.

In a letter to Carl Popp, Tech Vice-President for Academic Affairs, dated March 17, Dr. Etscorn stated that his reasons are "to spend more time with my family, and...to spend more time in the lab." He stated in an interview that he wants to devote more time to "some nifty projects" that he is working on in his research lab.

He stated that he's enjoyed his seven years as Dean of Students and supervisor of Student Services. He attributes his immense popularity with students to his view of the job—in his words, being "an interface between upper administration and students," and his open-door policy, being willing to talk to concerned students as much of the time as possible. He said that students sent to him for disciplinary action are sometimes surprised when his first question is "What's your side of the story?"

He said that he saw the most important aspect of being Dean of Students as "being there"—spending as much time as possible in Student Services. The position of Dean of Students has traditionally been a half-time position, given to a faculty member who maintains a half-time instruction and research schedule. The position does include a salary increase.

He added that he has particularly enjoyed working with students and the "excitement" that goes with the position of Dean—"I'd rather deal with students than adults."

He is not resigning as Dean for any political reasons, he continued. In the letter, he thanks Dr. Popp for being an "outstanding boss." When asked if he is resigning as a result of his recently receiving the first royalty payment from his nicotine patch patent, he said, "No—but it did make it easier, I guess." The position of Dean includes a salary increase.

He stated "Everything looks bright for Tech... Everything," and that he is very pleased that all of Tech's profits from the Nicotine patch, an invention coming from Dr. Etscorn's research, will be going toward student scholarships. Dr. Etscorn has contributed \$25,000 of his personal royalties from the nicotine patch patent to pay for a new computer system at Student Services.

Dr. Etscorn announced in 1988 that he was stepping down as Dean. His reasons then were principally the same as they are now—"It's not that I don't like being Dean; it's just that I'm a bit tired of it," a *Paydirt* article quoted him at the time. He stated that he was convinced to remain Dean for the several more years by two student petitions that were circulated.

Dr. Etscorn stated that he has invested huge amounts of time into Student Services—"working [as Dean] all day and working on lectures all night." He added that he is recommending that the position of Dean be expanded to full-time, from its present half-time status.

Dr. Popp, whose office oversees Student Services, and who is responsible for determining Dr. Etscorn's replacement, stated that such an expansion is not likely. Dr. Popp said that Student Services does not have enough money to pay for a full-time Dean, and also expressed concern that the Dean remain an active faculty member, in order to "keep in touch" with

students and other faculty. He added that the overall budget for Student Services has expanded substantially in the past decade, and that new staff at Student Services have comprised most of that expansion. There are currently no full-time academic administrators, he said; Dr. Popp himself is a part-time Chemistry Professor.

Dr. Popp stated that he hopes to find a new Dean by July 1, in order to avoid a vacancy in the position. He stated that, similar to the selection process that picked Dr. Etscorn, he does not intend to form a selection committee, but that he will take the views of students into consideration. He added that he is expecting to fill the position with a current, tenured, faculty member, and that the opening is being officially advertised internally.

Both Drs. Etscorn and Popp stated that they do not know who will be the new Dean of Students, although Dr. Popp said that he was "considering a few people for the position."

Two former Deans of Students are still on Tech campus—Gary Olsen of the Humanities department and Robert Cormack, Chair of the Psychology department. Dr. Cormack stated that, while he has not ruled out returning to the position of Dean, he does look forward to the prospect of Tech having three full-time Psychology faculty.

Dr. Etscorn stated that he will begin moving out of his office in Student Services a month early, citing that he originally took the position of Dean a month earlier than his annual contract specified, and also that he has worked "considerable overtime" over the years. He said he feels that he's learned enough "for another degree" as Dean, and "I'm going to miss this job... I really will."

Computer Center scales back User Consultant hours

UCs available 16 fewer hours per week; Sparc room 6

by Tom Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

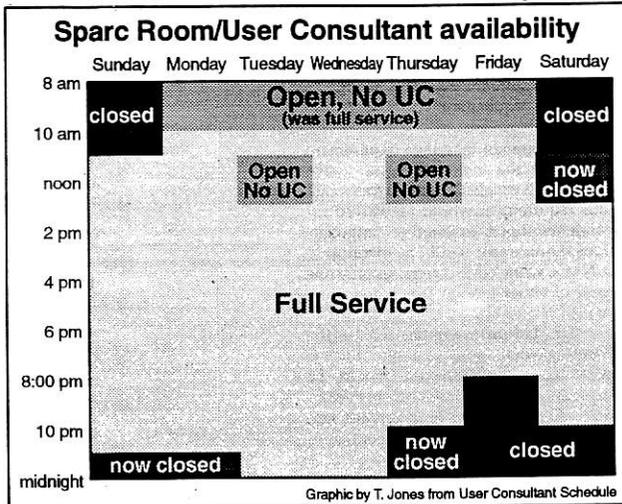
The Tech Computer Center now has User Consultants (UCs) available for fifteen fewer hours per week than it did last week, according to a schedule posted Monday evening.

UCs are student employees responsible for assisting computer users with problems. The reduction in UC hours also reduces user access hours to the Sparc Room, containing the most sophisticated machinery in the Computer Center: 8 black and white Sun Sparc machines, and five color machines.

The change will not affect the 24-hour access to the nine Sun 3 machines next door in the User Area. Also unaffected is the schedule of Operators, one full-time professional and four part-time students responsible for making printouts available to users.

Reportedly, other TCC staff will open the Sparc room at 8:00 am weekdays, although UCs will not be available until 10:00 am. The room will also be open without UCs from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

TCC Director Mike Ames was not available for comment at press time.



Cafeteria food scam reported

PRESS RELEASE

If you ask other students, the motive had to be financial - good taste certainly had nothing to do with it.

Police at Oregon State University have uncovered a scam involving 27 students who falsified computer records to receive free food from university food services.

Police allege that junior Rehan Ahmed Zakai, 23, who works in the student identification center, was the main instigator of the scam that netted over \$25,000 worth of university food

over a one-year period, the school paper *The Daily Barometer* reported.

Police believe Zakai entered the names of 27 students, including himself, into university records showing that they paid for a university meal plan, when in reality they hadn't.

According to the *Daily Barometer*, 25 of the 26 other students have confessed and all have agreed to repay the school's food services and face criminal charges of first-degree theft or aggravated first-degree theft.

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

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No commencement speaker this year; graduation schedule available

by Tom Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

This year's graduation ceremony will not have a keynote speaker, according to Tech President Laurence Lattman. Dr. Lattman, who made the decision, breaking with recent Tech tradition, stated "The graduates are there to graduate, and very few people remember the speech given at their graduation, anyway." While the omission of a speaker will reduce the length of the ceremony, some of this time will be taken up by, for the first time having the advisors of advanced degree candidates place the hoods on the graduates. Nonetheless, Registrar Joyce Aguilar stated that she doesn't expect the ceremony to last for more than an hour.

The graduation is scheduled to start at 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 9. After the ceremony, a reception will be held at the Centennial Plaza. In the event of rain or high winds, all activities will be moved into Macey Center.

In addition to the degree awarding process, a number of special awards will also be presented.

The Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Researcher awards will be presented; nominations are still open.

The Student Association Senate will determine at its meeting on April 27 the recipient of the Tech Service

Award, "the graduating senior who, in the estimation of the Senate, has done the most for the students of Tech," according to the current Tech catalog.

The Faculty Council will select the Brown Medal recipient, "who ranks highest in scholarship, conduct, and leadership." The Brown Medal includes an award of \$250.

The Cramer Awards are presented to the male and female engineering graduates ranking highest in scholarship, and include a \$100 prize.

The Founder's Award will be presented "to the recipient of an advanced degree who has made an outstanding contribution to Tech through scholarship, research, and involvement in campus affairs." The recipient will be determined by the Faculty Council.

The Langmuir Award will be presented for an outstanding scientific research paper by any student or graduate; the selection is made by the Faculty Council's Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee.

The Alumni Association will also present Distinguished Achievement Awards to Gilbert R. Griswold, Larry D. Hartzog, and Axel Scherer; and will also present the Service Award to George H. Westbrook.

There are no honorary degrees to be presented this year, as no candidates were nominated by the Faculty Council.

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Vice-President-elect responds to the SA Supreme Court's actions

At the last SA election, an amendment was presented, which would have allowed students to recall their elected officials. Currently, as Tom Jones so eloquently stated in the last issue of *Paydirt*, there is no way for students to do this. The amendment received 197 "pass" votes, 71 "fail" votes, and 87 people didn't put down a vote at all.

The SA Supreme Court wants to call blank ballots "fail" votes. I think that this is the stupidest decision the Supreme Court has ever made. And concerning some of their decisions, that's a big statement. I know of no federal or state election where empty ballots were counted at all, as anything. They are always treated as if the person

didn't even turn in anything.

However, at least at the last senate meeting where this all came up, no amount of reasoning could convince those justices present that they were in the wrong. While I appreciate the fact that these people give their time in service of the student body, I hope the next president reviews the history of each justice, and removes those who can't intelligently interpret the constitution. It's hard to make progress with reforms while being dragged back by senseless court decisions.

Eric Wagoner
SA Senator and
Vice-President-elect

OPINION

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.

New Mexico Tech professor involved in Antarctic robot mission

by George Zamora
PIO PRESS RELEASE

A New Mexico Tech volcanologist has joined a research team that is developing a robotic explorer which will retrieve information later this year from inside the crater of one of Antarctica's active volcanoes.

Dr. Philip R. Kyle, professor of geochemistry at Tech, is in charge of field support for the Erebus Project, an unprecedented mission jointly sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The yearlong project-named after Mount Erebus, the 12,447-foot-high volcano the robotic explorer will ascend and then rappel into will involve engineers, scientists and students from Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute in Pittsburgh, as well as Kyle and his field research group at New Mexico Tech.

The Erebus Explorer, as Carnegie Mellon's robotic unit has been dubbed, will consist of two mobile robots: the transporter and the rappeller.

The transporter, or "mother ship," will be a wheeled mobile robot which, with an on-board computer, will navigate its own route up the steep, snow-covered, boulder-strewn slope of Mount Erebus. In addition to providing the primary power, computing support, anchoring point, and communications relay for the

Erebus Explorer, the mother ship will carry the robotic rappeller that will descend the near-vertical sheer walls of the volcano's crater and conduct various scientific experiments on the crater floor, going from extreme cold to extreme heat.

The rappeller itself is designed to be a walking eight-legged robot, resembling a large mechanical spider and tethered to the parked transporter vehicle by a 350-meter-long "umbilical" cable. Once inside the volcano, the rappeller robot will begin videotaping observations, taking samples, and transferring information directly from Mount Erebus' lava lake.

"this is the first time that the robotic observation approach has been taken to study an active volcano," Kyle points out.

Kyle is a familiar face around Mount Erebus. He has spent most of his Novembers, Decembers, and Januaries for the past 20 years in Antarctica studying Erebus and other antarctic volcanoes. "I was involved with several unsuccessful attempts by researchers to climb into Erebus' crater to collect volcanic gasses," Kyle relates, "but these attempts were all stopped by the constant small eruptions from Erebus' permanent lava lake."

Kyle, who will specify requirements for the rappeller's internal payload of scientific instruments, says the walking robot will, for the first time ever, sample pristine high-temperature gases directly from vents near the lava lake. "The only way of getting a really pristine gas sample

is to sample the gas as directly from the lava as is possible," Kyle notes. These types of gases are important, Kyle says, because they reveal much about what is going on deep inside the volcano's magma chamber.

The rappeller also will simultaneously relay other data from its payload sensors, by way to the mother ship, to Mount Erebus base camp and to the mission's control station at Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute via satellite communications.

Other proposed experiments include having the rappeller collect fresh samples of lava, as well as measure the magma temperatures of the lava lake. In addition, the rappeller will retrieve soil samples and specimens of sublimates-condensed materials from the gases which usually form white, chalky powder on rocks and soil near the lava lake.

After the rappeller has completed its experiments, it will then clamber back up to the mother ship, using its umbilical cable as a climbing rope, and return with the transporter back to the base camp.

A geological curiosity specific to Mount Erebus is the yet unexplained process in which gold particles sublimate from the volcano's vented gases, Kyle notes. Mount Erebus, he says, is the only volcano in the world in which these types of gold sublimates have been found.

Not only will the Erebus Explorer provide new geological information for volcanologists, but it will also establish a competitive advantage for the United States by generating innovative ideas in the technology of robotic systems. Additionally, the robotic mission to Antarctica will serve as an example for NASA scientists and engineers to draw analogies from when they plan future unmanned planetary explorations.

"Erebus itself is a volcano of unusual composition," Kyle observes, "and is of great interest to volcanologists because we currently have no gas data from such a volcano." Kyle and his students currently are trying to find out what the environmental impact of Mount Erebus may be; they have preliminary data to suggest Erebus may be a source of chlorine found in the Antarctic snow. "It also has been proposed that Erebus is very rich in carbon dioxide emissions and as such could be contributing to overall global emissions of carbon dioxide," Kyle says. "With data provided by the Erebus Explorer, we might be able to figure out how much carbon dioxide actually comes from volcanoes and therefore obtain a better understanding of global change."

Kyle will be joined in Antarctica later this year by four robotics experts from Carnegie Mellon, two field assistants, several geoscience research assistants, and a robot unit named Erebus Explorer.

Another peaceful change of government

by Eric Wagoner
SA CORRESPONDANT

The biggest news in the Student Association right now is, of course, the elections. With many of the students asking for change, very few incumbent senators running for re-election, and with both the President and Vice-president leaving after this semester, change was assured. Up until the final days before the election, campaigning was some of the most subdued this campus has seen in a long while.

The numbers were close between Jason and Matt, and since neither had a majority, the two candidates will face off again in a runoff election on Tuesday, April 14, the day the paper is scheduled to come out.

Eric did obtain a majority, and his term as Vice-president will begin May 10, and will run until next year's Commencement Day.

For the first election in a while, a full slate of senators and alternates were elected.

The constitution calls for the top ten vote getters to be awarded with a seat on the senate. It also states that one person can't hold two positions, so Eric Wagoner will have to resign his senate seat when becoming Vice-president.

The amendment, which would have allowed students to recall elected officers, either failed or passed, depending on what the Supreme Court decides. It needed a two thirds vote to pass. However, the same Supreme Court members want to count ballots with no votes as

a "fail" vote, and if this happens, the amendment failed. The numbers were:

Pass	197
Fail	71
Abstain	87

After the surveys are read, any changes students want will be persued.

This past weekend was, of course, Spring Fling weekend. The whole affair was coordinated by Jack Onsurez. Any comments on how things went can be directed to him or the SA senate.

The last dance of the semester will be held on April 25. Two bands will be performing: Animal Opera, a world beat band (like Paul Simon's latest stuff) and The Ant Farmers, a progressive rock band that is quite popular at Tech and just finished opening for the Bonedaddy's recent New Mexico mini-tour.

Again, don't forget to vote for SA President April 14. The two candidates are Jason Stiffler and Matt Wells. Look for posters, or if you care enough, find them and ask where they stand.

Bus may have been traveling too fast

CP PRESS RELEASE

The National Transportation Safety Board, investigating a bus crash that killed two University of Notre Dame students returning from a swim meet, says the vehicle may have been traveling too fast for road conditions.

Investigators say the driver was not under the influence of drugs nor did any mechanical problems contribute to the crash.

The accident occurred on January 27 in the midst of a blinding snowstorm as the Notre Dame women's swim team returned from a meet against Northwestern University. Two freshmen died and another was seriously injured in the accident. The swim team resumed competition on January 29.

Presidential Race Results	
The results for the Presidential race were as follows:	
Jason Stiffler	130
Matthew Wells	125
Stephen Smoogen	77

Vice-presidential Race Results	
In the Vice-presidential race, the results were:	
Eric Wagoner	191
Darren Hart	107
Aimee Partain	43

Senatorial Race Results			
Eric Wagoner	174	David Ennis	65
Jarrett Airhart	151	Chris Miller	63
Melissa Allison	128	Andrew Jandacek	60
Shannon Hudson	95	• Joseph Dineen	59
Matt Chrisman	94	• Timothy Bright	44
Steven Caldwell	88	• Jim Dewald	40
Amy Key	87		

Those marked with bullets will serve one semester terms as senators.

This is the last live music Tech will see this semester. So, mark down

April 25th

9:00pm

Watch for the return of

The Ant Farmers

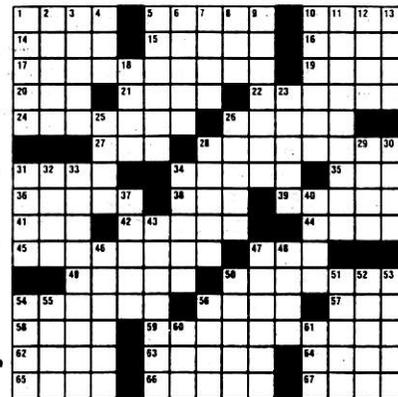
with
special guest

the Gutter Leaves

Again, that's Saturday, April 25th in the SAC.
Admission is free to Tech students with a valid ID and a guest. All others \$5.00.

The special guest is subject to change without notification, although there will probably be none. And if there is a change, it will be changed to the best.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tiny spots
 - 5 Insolence
 - 10 Barge's relative
 - 14 Beige
 - 15 Of a royal court
 - 16 Inking
 - 17 In a -- (soon)
 - 19 Pawn
 - 20 -- de Triomphe
 - 21 Words of distress
 - 22 Cook of film
 - 24 Heckles
 - 26 Esteem highly
 - 27 Tot up
 - 28 Rocket launchers
 - 31 Coaster
 - 34 Law man
 - 35 Comp. pt.
 - 36 Wanderer
 - 38 Thumb or Brown
 - 39 Series of rooms
 - 41 Priest's garment
 - 42 Building beams
 - 44 End of mob or job
 - 45 Bumbershoots for shade
 - 47 Relative of 29D
 - 49 As directed
 - 50 More shabby
 - 54 Poetess Wylie
 - 56 Hector Hugh Munro
 - 57 Victory sign
 - 58 Nitwit
 - 59 Corner
 - 62 --deuce
 - 63 Stan's partner
 - 64 Mine finds
 - 65 Russ. villages
 - 66 Flashy signs
 - 67 A Jane



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ANSWERS

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|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Have a bite 5 Used a tub 6 Spoils 7 Counter-tenor 8 --'em! 9 Symphonic offering 10 Psycho relative 11 Tightly linked 12 That hurts! 13 Flightless bird 18 Auctioneer's word 23 Celebrities 25 Art style 26 Tropical trees 28 Bumpkins 29 Part of A.M. 30 Vaticinator 31 Easy thing 32 "Whatever -- wants" 33 Exaggerate 34 Like a twice-told tale 37 Place to dance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40 Previously owned 43 Whiskey 46 Pesters 47 Teas 48 Control 50 Shiny fabric 51 -- tower | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 52 One who sniggles 53 Della of song 54 Cheese 55 Sites 56 WWII town 60 Rubber tree 61 Garden tool |
|--|--|--|

NMT - A new hit on TV?

by Dawn Thatcher
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

Frank's World! Frank's World! (New-knee! New-knee! New-knee! -vocal sound effects). It should be a sitcom, but it's not. Who's Frank, you ask? For probation's sake, I promise I won't tell anyone you said that. Frank is none other than Dean Frank Etscorn, head of the department of students and the man most likely to tell you that life at

Tech is a world of its own. Since strangeness seems to sell these days (Geraldo, Alf, Married With Children, Wayne's World, and Saturday Night Live, in general), it makes you wonder why we're still taking tests instead of making TV takes.

Tech can do strange. Why Steven Spielberg hasn't thought of this before. The way I see it, why pay two guys (Wayne and Garth) to be weird when you

can have a whole campus for free? Besides, Tech could start a new trend in entertainment. We'd be the first prime time ad lib series. At least then we'd come by our lack of plot honestly.

While Techies may lack plot (confusion is O-kay), that's not to say they have no substance. Techies have a lot of it. Just listen to all the things I pick up everyday in class for free!

Substantial thoughts by deep Techies:

Tech - defined as brains lost to science at the expense of a social life.

A lot of us confuse the smile with the primate fear grin.

What is rapid breathing leading to laughter?

The shortest distance between two Tech points is never the sidewalk.

Do you dream different things depending on which side of your head you sleep?

Driving a car is not commutative. Otherwise you could steer while you were in the garage and then go out into the street and accelerate.

Denny's plates resemble large red blood cells (Structurally speaking, of course).

Gasoline - just think, thousands of dinosaurs died so you can use it.

The wages for sin is death...but after taxes it's just sort of a tired feeling.

Ask guys a question that can't answer, "Women?" They could think forever on this one. Except for some. Some say, "Women, who cares!" My roommate... I don't think he sleeps at night. I think he stays up thinking about girls.

Good stereos are like good headphones.

College gives new meaning to the term "whining and dining."

Chubby cheeks evolved to enable sleep on hard things (like desks).

Some say that plants scream as we cut them.

Do we think in words or do we just think?

The general rule here at Tech is that you are either strange or you are planning to transfer really soon. There is only a certain breed of people that can survive here. Kind of like there are only certain breeds of people that can be a nurse or doctor, the kind that can cheerfully say to patients coming to them with sickening health and/or missing appendages, "Hello, and what can I do for you today?"

Pretty deep, eh? And if that's not enough to entertain the average couch

potato, we could feature instead such daily Tech attractions as Step Aerobic Tai Kwan Ninjas in "Achilles Revenge." Even more exciting, we could have CNN do a series on modern day Tech squirt gun warfare where the law of might be the ever familiar trauma, "Attack of the Freezing Cold Sprinkler Heads." However, if it's real entertainment they're after, we all know there's nothing more real than a cafeteria segment of WWF (World Food Wrestling Federation). Who ever said eating is not a sport, has obviously never had a New Techian Burrito. A lot like contests of lumberjacking long ago, consumers of

this burrito are to saw their ways through hard tortilla growth rings. The winner never makes it.

If all else fails, we could at least be able to gain Channel 7 status from a few well-placed local service announcements soon to be advocated by the government, "Warning! Tech has been found to cause rapid bar pressing in laboratory rats. Caution! Do not try this at home. Come here if you want to be weird."

Then again, maybe Tech will just remain the same - America's Best Kept Scholastic and Celebrity secret since 1889. Shhhhh! Don't laugh, Ed McMahon (Star Search) might hear.

Police Blotter

by Toby Click
CAMPUS POLICE CORRESPONDANT

On March 21, two fire extinguishers had been removed from their holders. They were later found discharged and were turned in to the Physical Plant for re-charging. Also, a fight was reported at Olive Lane and Campus Drive near Driscoll Hall; an individual was taken to Socorro General Hospital for observation and then released. The incident is currently under investigation.

On March 24, a lamp post was knocked over by an unknown vehicle at the west side entrance to the north parking lot of Brown Hall. A repair order was submitted to the Physical Plant.

On March 27, a vehicle was reported broken into at the Swim Center parking lot. A car stereo was removed, and damage was caused to the dashboard.

On March 28, a fight was reported at the gymnasium. The argument was resolved by the responding police officer.

On April 6, unknown individuals pried open a control box and altered the settings on one of the golf course sprinkler mechanisms. Also, a hood ornament (estimated value - \$30 to \$60) was removed from a vehicle parked at Macey Center.

College has innovative approach to deadbeats

CAMPUS PRESS RELEASE

A small liberal arts college has come up with a plan to put an end to delinquent billpayers.

Students with overdue tuition bills have been locked out of their dormitory rooms at Hiram College.

Last fall, the school warned students of the move after estimating that unpaid bills totaled hundreds of thousands of dollars. When students returned this year, the locks on their dorm rooms had been changed. To get new keys, students and parents had to work out payment plans with school officials.

Campus Dining 1992-2000

Administration to recommend ARA to Regents April 21

by Tom Jones
PAYDIRT STAFF REPORTER

The Tech Administration intends to recommend ARA to the Board of Regents as the contractor for Tech's food service for the next eight years, according to Denny Peterson, Tech Vice-President for Administration and Finance. The recommendation is on the agenda for the Regents' meeting next Tuesday, April 21.

The Regents have the final say in nearly all Tech decisions, although it is likely that they will follow the Administration's recommendation without substantial modification.

In deciding on recommending to keep ARA as the contractor, the Administration ruled out PFM Corporation of Jupiter, Florida. The Institute

Food Service Selection Committee eliminated Service America and Marriott from the running in February. Negotiations were held between the Administration and the two finalists to determine which company would present the best offer.

Mr. Peterson stated that the main reason that ARA was chosen was that its pricing structure was more economical than PFM's.

The Regents have been sent a complete report of the recommendation, written by Mr. Peterson and Dan Lopez, Tech Vice-President for Institutional Development. The contents of that report will be described in the next *Paydirt*, as well as a description of the winning contractor's plans for Tech as outlined in their proposal.

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Rape Awareness Week at Tech causes students to do some thinking

by Carol Morgan
RAPE AWARENESS COORDINATOR

Rape: it's a topic no one wants to think about. It's a topic I don't want to think about, and I have the honor of organizing Rape Awareness Week.

Rape is a fear that lies in the back of almost every woman's mind and is a concern to a great number of men. Statistics don't convey the reality of rape: telling you that one out of every six women on a college campus are raped (or one out of four, depending on which study you give credence to) doesn't tell you which one of those six women is someone you know, someone you like, someone you'd never know was dealing with the trauma of having been a victim of rape.

Rape happens to men too. The latest statistics say that by the age of 18, one out of every five men will have been the victim of some sort of sexual abuse. One out of fifteen men are raped, which again doesn't tell you which one of your fifteen male friends has been raped.

Rape is a violent crime. It's not about sex, it is an act about power: who's got it, who doesn't. The gender of the potential rape victim doesn't usually matter to a rapist, but that's a fact that has little power against the violated emotions of the victim.

Rape isn't just a stranger jumping out of the bushes; most victims know their rapist, which makes the violation even more brutal, that someone you knew and

liked could treat you that way.

Rape always has a victim, but he or she doesn't have to remain a victim. The first step is to tell someone: a friend, a crisis line worker, an RA. The someone you choose will tell you it wasn't your fault, that you didn't deserve to be sexually assaulted. They'll encourage you to continue to take back the power that your rapist took from you: file charges, even if you don't plan to follow up on them. Go to the hospital so they can make sure you are okay physically, and collect evidence. Call a trained rape counselor so they can help you through the process. Most of all, don't remain a victim. You can be a survivor instead.

You are probably tired of the sensational posters around campus during Rape Awareness Week, and I would apologize for getting on your nerves, except for the fact that it works. Women ask what they can do to be safer, men take stock of their values, and everyone does some hard thinking. Maybe not much of it, but if any one person goes "hmmmm..." then I've done my job.

Rape Awareness Week isn't the only time to care about rape, it is just a time when you'll see people being active about their concern. The rest of the year the same people still care, just in a quieter way, and they'll be glad to help in any way they can: answer questions, listen to someone's story, whatever is needed.

How can we prevent rape in our daily lives? As a woman, I resent having to be careful of where I go, of having to protect

my safety, but it's true. Acquaintance rape is more difficult to be aware of; we need to know our acquaintances, and be clear about what we want and don't want. Be careful about how much you drink, or what sort of drugs you take: these substances impair our ability to make decisions, and if you're not in an absolutely safe space, it's better to keep yourself sober. If the other person doesn't respect your wishes, pressures you, becomes domineering or belittles you, get out. If you can't get out, scream. Better to sound like a fool than to risk rape.

To avoid the nightmare of perhaps becoming a rapist, the first thing you can do is listen to your partner. If he or she says no, respect that person's statement, even if you know otherwise. Don't assume anything. I stopped when someone said no and meant yes, and got thoroughly ostracized by my friends (cuz this is Tech, after all, and people talk, but don't always tell the other side of the story) but my conscience is clear, and that will last a lot longer than any physical gratification.

And a point of interest for those of you who feel that the Administration doesn't give a damn about students: materials purchased for Rape Awareness (posters, video, etc.) were funded by Dr. Lattman, President of New Mexico Tech, and Auxiliaries pays my salary for organizing the event. To be sure, it took some lobbying by me, Steve Deiker, Head RA, and Rhonda St. George, former Director

of Auxiliaries, but it happened. The SA has also been supportive, and through ICARE, is funding the speaker from the Albuquerque Rape Crisis Center.

If you were actually interested enough to read this far, you may wonder why I got involved in this to begin with (besides the money, which doesn't begin to cover the emotional strain). I began the lobbying effort because two of my friends were raped on this campus, and I was tired of being one small voice in the darkness. Being the one who brought up the whole distasteful subject, I was the one who got the job.

Most fundamentally, the thing that kept me going was the thought that perhaps I could prevent even one person from experiencing the numbing fear and desperation I felt when a man (whom I later found out had spent three years in the state pen for rape) I didn't know asked for things I didn't want to give, and I didn't know how to get away. I used the only weapon I had, my mind, and prayed that it was sharp enough to get me away safely. It was, but the verbal fencing, the fact that I had to fight to protect myself from his impositions, left me feeling like I was somehow to blame, and I was too ashamed to tell anyone for years. No one should ever have to feel that way, and that's why, no matter how tired I get of talking, reading, organizing about rape, I keep pressing on: no one should ever have to feel ashamed for something they didn't do.



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REFILLING IS RECYCLING!

from the desk of Tom Jones

Ramblings from the viewpoint of somebody who's been there and isn't quite sure why.

Tech's Faculty and Staff

Donut shop classes, tuition increases, and the Large Class Instructional Failure Syndrome

The Tech environment cultivates certain personality traits of its employees, traits that are principally absent from larger campuses.

At the tippy-top of the chain of command sit the Regents. This board of four men and one woman is officially responsible for making virtually every decision at Tech. While they have the decision-making authority to close the entire campus, fire every employee, and move their own families into Cramer Hall, in reality they nearly always do exactly what the Tech administration suggests.

Nonetheless, compared to other Boards, they do seem a wholesome lot. NMSU in Las Cruces seems to have gotten the proverbial bottom of the Regental barrel. Their Board held its most recent meeting, at which they approved a 7.9% tuition increase, in Albuquerque. The only reason they raised the tuition 230 miles away from their students is that they wanted to attend the Aggies game, and the Regents were too lazy to hold another meeting in Las Cruces so that the students could have a chance to attend. The awards for Lamest Excuse of the Year and Most Insensitive Bureaucrat in the State must both be awarded immediately to NMSU Executive Vice-President William Conroy. According to the UNM *Daily Lobo*, he stated, "[The Regents] don't mean to exclude the students from the decision process, but under the current situation [with the game] we thought it would be best to move the meeting to Albuquerque."

Of course, it is comparatively easy for the Tech Regents to raise tuition; the Tech students are the only ones in the state willing to swallow another 10% tuition hike in the interest of the faculty's salaries.

The next level down the chain is the Administration. Tech's VP for Academics is also a teaching faculty member; the same is true for the Dean of Students. At many schools the Dean of Students is a crotchety old full-time nut whose main thrill in life is the sentence "No!"—denying all sorts of student schemes from getting into full classes to taking higher than authorized courseloads. As many people have discovered, there are very few things to which our Dean will respond with a vigorous and immediate "No."—even if one proposed demolishing Brown Hall as part of the Explosives

lab. Dr. Frank would probably look into the idea to *make sure* it wouldn't be a good plan, with more patience and diplomacy than King Solomon. (He surely will be missed as Dean.) No other school's dean is earning millions of dollars stemming from nauseated rats.

Many offices on many campuses hire student workers by the dozen with the job description of hurling form after form at fellow students who come in for something. Here the offices are small enough so that nearly all of them can answer questions quickly, even if you ask a student who's only worked there for two months.

Many of Tech's faculty are amazing, having such characteristics as friendliness, congeniality, and humor, characteristics cultivated by the informal Tech atmosphere. All professors are human—Tech's let it show. (For example, the professor in my very first class after Freshman registration appeared hung over that hour.) There are no pompous robes or tuxedos covering the faculty here. (Most aren't paid enough salary to afford extensive formal wardrobes.)

At very few schools do students ever get to know professors by their first names—or go to their houses. While I have not conducted a study on the subject, I suspect that very few college presidents nationwide have their home phone numbers listed in the telephone directory.

Small classes breed friendliness—in very few Quantum Mechanics classes do students get in front of class and read "I am an electron," or do professors bring in cookies, but they do here. Very few Psychology classes meet in donut shops, but they do here. Very few professors hold class or department parties at their houses, but they do here.

At all schools, students talk about professors—here, students *know* professors. Most professors here give their home phone numbers to students; they encourage questions. At any reasonable university, you're lucky if you can ask a graduate student your question at the next seminar.

Many schools advertise "Look at our list of award-winning faculty!" But those famous faculty teach one graduate course every few years, if any at all. (UNM got into a spot of trouble a few years back for paying a renowned Texas professor quite a nice salary for being

willing to let UNM use his name on its proposals, even though he almost never even went to Albuquerque, and made no other contribution to the school.) Here, freshmen are taught by Manhattan Project Physicists and Nicotine Patch Inventors.

Of course, it is a common misconception that eighty-five percent of any population is above average. Tech has a fair share of below average instructors and staff.

Auxiliary Services continues to astound with its abysmal public relations skills. They take various difficult-to-beliked-at jobs and make them impossible-to-be-liked-at by pulling such stunts as barging through dorms with inspections a day earlier than posted, charging everyone in a male or co-ed dorm dubious "dorm damage fees" after they've checked out without a hitch, and only last week posting signs stating that all students will be thrown out of the dorms Friday of finals week at noon—an hour before the last final begins, and 28 hours before graduation, leading on-campus graduating seniors to think that they should have moved off campus long ago as they find a place to spend the night before graduation. (I try to justify my staying on campus all these years in part by recalling the statements of some of my fellow students that I was the only person outside of Brown Hall that the Auxiliaries management feared.) I do not criticize most of the policies set by Auxiliaries—just how they are sometimes implemented without regard for the students that the department is supposed to be serving.

Every school has graduate teaching assistants (a misnomer—students in their classes never see the professor the TA is supposedly "assisting."). A popular university stereotype is the TA who has very little idea about how to use the English language, or grade in the American system. There are a few Tech departments that emulate this pathetic syndrome by sending completely inexperienced English-speakers to teach classes, demonstrating total disregard for both the TA and the students who are supposed to learn something from the TA. (There is nothing wrong with learning a foreign language, but such activities should be confined to foreign language instruction—not Algebra class or Chemistry lab.)

While many of Tech's classes are

wonderfully small and personal, there are nearly a dozen different Warehouse Lectures in Freshman-level classes. While some Warehousing departments assign their most animated and interesting professors to these classes (which largely reduces the Large Class Instructional Failure Syndrome), other departments manage to assign their most hideous babbling drones to teach eighty students simultaneously, virtually ensuring that all non-majors will leave that class despising the subject. Humanities and Physics are to be congratulated for being the only departments with mandatory freshman classes that they don't warehouse, but divide into numerous smaller sections instead.

Students at any school find it far more interesting to collect stories of total ineptitude on the part of their professors than to collect stories of instructional success. New students quickly hear the stories of the Biology instructor who, when asked a question in class, usually responds by asking that exact question back at the inquiring student. Most students know of the droning Physics instructor who includes jokes in class notes, down to the exact number of "ha's, and whose written lecture notes all start "Good afternoon, class. I am Dr. X." The most recent ineptitude to enter common knowledge is the Chemistry professor who failed to notice that the periodic chart in Weir 120 now has the elements listed in alphabetical order, and in lecture kept pointing at where the elements belonged. (And in the ~~Totally Unconfirmed~~ but Amusing Nonetheless Rumor Bank, lie tales of the professor who gives higher grades to her male students who wear tight shorts and sit in the front row.)

But stories like this can only be found to describe a small minority of Tech's instructors, and it is wrong to judge an Institution by its worst—one must consider the balance.

Learning doesn't have to be fun. Overall, the Tech faculty do a far better job at making learning enjoyable than do their counterparts at many schools, and the Tech staff does a better job of making sure that students can avoid wasting their time waiting in lines and being frustrated, so the students can actually spend their time learning. The Tech faculty and staff overall do an outstanding job of providing a good education.



CREATURES OF THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL:



