



NEWSBRIEFS

New buses

The El Paso County Rural Transit System has announced the purchase of two new buses to improve service on the San Elizario/Fabens/Tornillo route. The 20-passenger Ford vehicles, geared for use of propane fuel and wheelchair-lift equipped, were displayed to the public earlier this week. Bob Geyer, County transportation and environmental manager, said the new buses would replace the two oldest vehicles in the fleet, both of which have more than 240,000 miles on them. The County's Rural Transit System consists of six vehicles, providing service to four routes on the east and west sides of the County. "One advantage is that the new buses did not cost County taxpayers a cent," Geyer said. "The \$63,968 cost of each bus was funded by the Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Dept. of Transportation."

22nd Annual Fair

The tradition of the Lower Valley Health Fair continues on April 17 at the Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda, for the 22nd year, sponsored by the Lower Valley School Nurses Association, the El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District and Del Sol Medical Center. Free screenings for a variety of diseases will be offered, and childhood immunizations offered at \$10 per child — no one denied service. Registration for the "AmberCard" program will be offered by the El Paso County Sheriff's Dept. and Thomason Hospital staff will check car seats for safety. Registration for a Family Fun Walk will begin at 9:15 a.m. Food and beverages will be on sale. Call 937-4044 for more information.

Play ball

Boys and girls, ages 7-12, who would like to play youth baseball in the Horizon City area may sign up for one of two leagues — machine pitch for ages 7-9 and kid pitch for ages 10-12. Sign up will be at Horizon Vista Food Store, 121 Eastlake Blvd., Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sundays 1-3 p.m., March 13-21. Registration fee is \$25. There will be 12-15 games per season with practice twice per week one hour each on local fields. Auditions are to be held on March 28 at 1 p.m. at the Horizon City Park. Season begins mid-April. Parents are required to fulfill volunteer time, and coaches and umpires are needed. For more information contact John Dixon at 852-9349.

In other news

■ Each of the four Tornillo ISD schools will host Parent Nights this week. On Wednesday, March 10, Tornillo Elementary and Tornillo Intermediate Schools will hold their Parent Nights starting at 5 p.m. Tornillo Junior High will also host their

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Why can't life's problems hit us when we're eighteen and know everything?
— Quips & Quotes

City of El Paso to buy up more Hudspeth County water rights *Hunt applies for permit to dump desalination waste on salt flats*

Courier Staff Reports

EL PASO/HUDSPETH COUNTY — The City of El Paso has begun negotiations with major interest holders in the Dell Valley of Hudspeth County to acquire about 25,000 acres that officials say could provide enough water to sustain the city for a century. The acquisition is part of El Paso's long-term water importation plan.

"The Public Service Board (PSB) and the Dell Valley Water Rights Owners have agreed to work towards developing a purchase option contract that would allow El Paso to obtain approximately 25,000 acres of land with underlying water rights in the Dell Valley," a release from the PSB said on Tuesday.

The Public Service Board already holds option on about 29,000 acres in the Capitan Reef Aquifer just east of Dell City, the small farming community which anchors Dell Valley. Importation will supplement El Paso's existing water supply resources and planning which include Rio Grande surface water, mining Hueco and Mesilla Bolson groundwater, de-

salination, and water reclamation.

"Water Rights Owners represents members of the Dell Valley agricultural community who are interested in selling land and water rights to El Paso under arrangements that would preserve their ability to continue farming for a number of years," the release said. "The acreage under negotiation is located over the Bone Spring-Victorio Peak Aquifer."

The PSB said the aquifer "is a sustainable and rechargeable source of supply" and is managed by the Hudspeth County Undergroundwater Conservation District No. 1.

During exploratory meetings, the PSB has agreed that lease-back arrangements will be considered in the contract to allow farming to continue for the near-term for participating farmers until the water is needed by the PSB on a yet-to-be-determined phased basis.

"For non-participating farmers, the sustainable approach the local groundwater district has taken toward aquifer management will continue to ensure adequate water availability for irrigation of crops, even after PSB begins to import the groundwater," the release said.

Under a Letter of Intent approved Monday, the parties will negotiate "in good faith" for

90 days to develop a formal purchase option contract giving the PSB the right to purchase property and associated water rights permits, during which neither party will negotiate with other parties for the sale and purchase of Hudspeth County water and water rights. Purchase price and other terms will be the subject of the negotiations.

The option to buy covers about 40 percent of the farm land around Dell City.

The Dell Valley Water Rights Owners is represented by three large landowners, including a company owned by El Paso developer Woody Hunt and Bill Miller, president of C.L. Land Co., which owns about 17,000 acres.

The PSB and the Dell Valley group describe

See WATER, Page 5

Canutillo artwork pays tribute to music legends

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, Janis Joplin, Ritchie Valens, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Buddy Holly, John Lennon, George Harrison, Jerry Garcia, Carlos Santana are among the rock legends that grace the walls of the hallway that leads to Dave Hendrix's art classroom at Canutillo High School.

The larger than life paintings are part of a mural that pays tribute to rock and roll legends whose music have been influencing youth since the 1950's. The rock legends mural is the second of a series of paintings that CHS advanced art students have been working on to acknowledge famous individuals and to improve their art skills.

The first mural, which was completed in the fall 2003 semester, depicts famous painters from around the world including Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso of Spain, Vincent Van Gogh of Holland, George Surratt of France, Leonardo De Vinci and Edgar Degas of Italy, Keith Herring, Andy Warhol, Grant Wood of the United States, and Diego Rivera and Freda Kahlo of Mexico.

"Last semester seven advanced art students painted a mural that pays tribute to great artists and art history. There is another group of advanced art students who are currently working on another mural that pays tribute to famous rock musicians," Hendrix said.

"We initiated the mural project to study art and music history and to share this history with the entire student body. It also is a great way to beautify the campus hallways," said Hendrix. "Through the project, students are learning how



ROCKIN' ART — Canutillo High School Advanced Art Students work on their mural project. Front, from left, Diana Hernandez and Kellum Stephens mix paints. Eddie Ruiz, rear, is also part of the project.

to do research, mix colors and work as a team," he said.

"Mural painting is a lot harder than I imagined because getting the right color mixtures is difficult," said Kellum Stephens, CHS senior art student.

"Painting murals has been a new experience for me. One of the biggest lessons I've learned is to not be afraid to try something new in mural design. I have to trust my instincts and what happens, happens," added Eddie Ruiz, CHS junior art student.

Advanced art students who worked on the famous artists mural last semester include Debbie Cantu, sophomore; Sergio Muñoz, freshman; and seniors Carol Rivera, Pedro Rodriguez, Frank Flores, Joe Melendez, and Chris Ibarra.

Plans are to continue the mural project with portrayals of famous scientists for the science department hallway, according to the art teacher. The special murals project is made possible by a \$1,000 Service Learning grant for supplies, materials, and equipment.

City of Socorro welcomes organization that supports independent businesses

By Arleen Beard
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO — Citizens of Socorro wanting to own their own business received a little encouragement at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Thursday, March 4.

City Council received a presentation from Chuck Wehmhoner, Chapter Chair of The Service Corps of Retired Executives Association (SCORE) which expressed interest in placing a SCORE satellite office within the City of Socorro. SCORE is an organization offering free counseling to people who have that dream of owning their own business.

The volunteers consist of retired or active business owners or managers. Some of the volunteers are also attorneys, CPAs or Insurance experts. The counseling sessions help prospective and established small business owners and managers identify problems, determine the causes and find solutions to aid them in being successful. In addition to offering free counseling, SCORE chapters offer low-cost, pre-business workshops that address topics such as assessing entrepreneurial potential, developing a start-up checklist, selecting a legal entity, creating a business plan, and securing funding. There are also other workshops offered.

Socorro Council unanimously supported the decision to place a SCORE satellite office in Socorro. For more information regarding SCORE, call 534-0585.

In other business, City Council appointed a new Interim Chief of Police, due to the position being left vacant by former Interim Chief of Police Jesus Ortega who resigned earlier for reasons unknown. Manuel Ponce, Jr. is the new Interim Police Chief.

Mayor Irma Sanchez said she hoped the city could identify a potential candidate for a permanent Chief of Police in the near future. A step in that direction was made when City Council agreed to obtain informal quotes from Employment Consultants to conduct a candidate search for vacant positions, including the Chief of Police position.



One perspective

By Francis Shrum

Having it both ways

They used to say you can't have your cake and eat it, too. I guess that old adage doesn't apply anymore.

Take, for instance, the horrific contradictions in the way our nation deals with the issue of harm done to unborn children.

On one hand it's not against the law if you kill your unborn baby because you don't want it.

On the other hand, if you harm your unborn child in any way other than outright murder — like abuse of drugs or failing to arrange for prenatal care — they may charge you with a crime.

In other words, it's not murder if you intended to kill it, but it's a crime if you harm it but didn't mean too.

Go figure.

The contradictions are so glaring that there are few issues — other than presidential elections — that so painfully illustrate the identity crisis this nation faces. We want it both ways.

Life when it suits us, not life when it doesn't.

A vehicle traveling both ways on a road at the same time is bound to either break in two or collide with itself. Makes about as much sense, doesn't it?

I heard on the news not too long ago about a pregnant lady who didn't believe in the use of medical doctors. She was arrested because she was pregnant but had not made an appointment with a doctor for prenatal care. Similarly, some states are enacting laws that require doctors to report pregnant women who are abusing drugs — not to protect them but to protect their unborn children.

Now, if we're spouting freedom of choice, I wonder who is looking after the one lady's freedom of religion or the drug-addict's right to damage her own body.

I had to scratch my head in wonder recently when the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, otherwise known as "Laci and Conner's Law."

It said that any "child in utero" — meaning a human being at any stage of development in the womb — who is injured or killed during the commission of a federal crime of violence can be recognized as a legal victim.

However, the Act carried an explicit exclusion that exempts "abortion or any act of a woman affecting her own unborn child."

I don't know about you, but it seems to me this creates two categories of human beings — the one who has rights because his mama wants him and the other who exists but has no status at all because his mama doesn't.

Aside from that, however, the baby who is killed by an attacker is just as dead as the baby killed by his own mother who had him injected with poison and dragged in pieces from her womb. Seems to me they're both on the losing end — the only "individual" who may benefit from such a law is the state, which can then bring stiffer charges against the non-mother assailant.

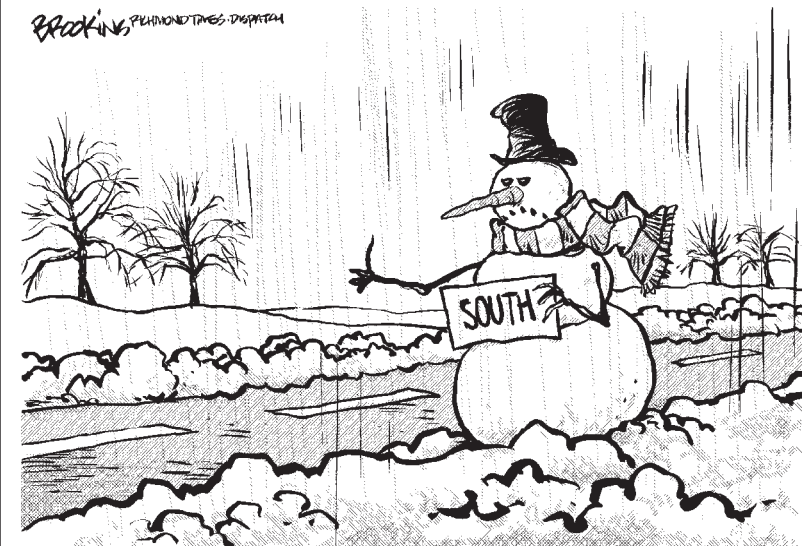
Though it may give some small comfort to the families of the children who were wanted, it won't give them back their lives.

I felt terrible for the Kentucky mother who testified on Capitol Hill about the murder of her teenage daughter who was pregnant with a baby boy. She recounted wrapping her grandson in a blanket she had made for him and placing him in her daughter's arms before closing the casket for the last time.

Tragic as that is, I can't help but feel equally terrible for all the thousands of innocent lives destroyed every year in this country with society's permission. These are living, nameless children who pass with silent screams into oblivion, with no choice at all because their mother wants to exercise hers.

While we engage in futile wrangling over terms like "fetal homicide," "single-victim substitute" or "interruption of a pregnancy" when it comes to the destruction of children who have not yet drawn independent breath, the simple truth remains.

Either life is life, or it isn't. There are no two ways to have it.



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YEARS

OF PUBLICATION

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View from here

By Michael Quinn Sullivan

Splitting the property tax rolls between business and residential has promise, problems

AUSTIN — As the prospect of a special session focusing on public education finance increases, some state leaders are considering a proposal that would separate the way property taxes are levied on residences and businesses. In a report issued today, the chief economist for the Texas Public Policy Foundation notes such a move represents a mixed-bag of positives and negatives.

"In a split roll, you would essentially tax business property by the state and residential property by the local districts," explained Byron Schlomach, Ph.D., author of the report titled "Splitting the Difference."

"When you realize almost half of Texas' \$1.16 trillion of total property value is considered business property, even when apartments are included in the residential category, it is easy to understand why some would like to bring those dollars into the state coffers."

Schlomach warns such a move cannot necessarily be viewed as a solution to what some consider high property taxes in the state.

"A split roll tax system does not necessarily result in lower property taxes. It simply converts what was once local tax revenue into state tax revenue," he said.

One proposal under consideration would link any future increases in the business property tax rate to increases in residential rates. Schlomach says such a move might alleviate concerns expressed by business groups about splitting the rolls.

"There are more homeowners than there are business owners, so the political calculation isn't hard. For elected representatives seeking more tax revenues, fewer voters are made angry by a property tax increase on business than on residences. So without a constitutional tie between business and residential rates, the risk for business owners in a split system is clear: they are likely to eventually shoulder the lion's share of property taxes."

But businesses would also benefit from a split roll system, Schlomach noted. At present, there are more than 1,000 school districts, each with slightly different tax rates. And each with the authority to raise taxes as they see fit for their district.

"A split roll system would also pit the current practice of communities bidding against each other through tax abatements to bring new business, letting Texas compete as a whole against other states," Schlomach added.

One important consideration: no state has a true split roll, though Schlomach says Minnesota's complex state property tax system, with numerous categories, does approach the "split role" concept.

Ultimately, Schlomach said legislators need to first focus their attention on overall education spending before attempting to restructure the tax system.

"The issue of property taxation is more properly framed around the amount of money that the public education system seems to be insatiably able to swallow up rather than the structure of the property tax itself. In the final analysis, taxes are always a function of spending. Tinkering with the tax structure can be a worthwhile exercise only after reforms of the expenditure side of the equation take place."

Shapleigh touts his tax plan in East El Paso County

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — El Paso State Senator Eliot Shapleigh brought his proposals for financing public education to Socorro High School’s Band Room on March 3. Socorro ISD Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Duron introduced Shapleigh to about 40 people who attended the meeting to hear the senator’s proposals for a five-percent state income tax.

Under Shapleigh’s plan, two-thirds of the income tax would offset property taxes. The remaining one-third would fund public education in Texas.

The meeting was the fourth in a series of five El Paso neighborhood meetings the senator is conducting to

explain his proposals. Shapleigh has also presented the plan to audiences in Dallas, Austin, Houston, San Antonio and Westlake, and he said that votes taken after the presentation have shown the plan to be well received.

Besides school finance, Shapleigh was also encouraging citizens to go to the polls.

“I can’t emphasize enough how important it is that people vote. When I walk into the lieutenant governor’s office to ask for something for El Paso, the question is always there: how many people voted in El Paso? The senator from Houston, Florence Shapiro, brings in 256,000 votes, and

I bring in about 120,000, or about half what she does. In my Senate district we have about 659,000 folks. 304,000 are registered to vote — and how many voted for Cornyn versus Kirk? 104,000. Therein lies the issue — we do not have political power because we do not vote,” Shapleigh said.

One of the ways the tax burden has been shifted, Shapleigh said, is in the recent college tuition hikes. “We transferred a load from people who have enormous resources — the 700 wealthiest families in the state — to students who have no resources, and they’re now being required to pay 28 percent more for their education.”

The road to the Capitol

The halls of our nation’s Capitol are filled this month with students. Young adults from across America are given one week every spring to break away from the books and take a rest from their classroom studies. Hundreds of these students choose Washington, D.C. as their travel destination.

I love this time of year. This week alone, I’ve met with dozens of students. We discuss everything from how a bill becomes a law to my favorite football team (the Cowboys, of course!).



Eye on D.C.

By U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

banker. After moving to California she founded the ChildCare Registry, the first company to provide background information on child-care providers.

Congress has attracted its share of athletes over the years. Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma was a college All-American football player at the University of Oklahoma. He went on to play for the Canadian Football League, and after that became a youth minister. Rep. Steve Largent, also of Oklahoma, was

another professional athlete. He played for the Seattle Seahawks for 14 years and was inducted to the NFL Hall of Fame after retiring as the third all-time leader in pass receptions in 1989. Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky was a Major League pitcher and is also a Hall of Famer.

Congress is also honored by the service of true heroes — its war heroes. Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano, Texas, is a retired Air Force colonel who endured nearly seven years of brutality — over half of that period in solitary confinement — in a North Vietnamese prison camp. He then went-on to fly with the Air Thunderbirds Supersonic Flight Team before running for political office.

Congress is full of people from all walks of life, many who never ran for office before coming to Washington. My colleagues have included a great songwriter (Sonny Bono), a winemaker, a restaurant manager and a self described “journeyman” carpenter, just to name a few.

America is still a country where the American Dream can become a reality. It’s a country where a child living in a public housing project can grow up to become whatever he or she dreams of becoming.



Reyes Reports By U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

Fabens native son Shoemaker honored by U.S. House of Representatives

The United States House of Representatives honored one of Fabens’ own this week.

Willie Shoemaker, who was born right here in Fabens, is arguably the most successful jockey in the history of thoroughbred horse racing. Shoemaker retired from the racing world with a record-setting 8,833 victories. However, in addition to his athletic feats, Shoemaker also distinguished himself as a man of character and spirit beyond the racing world. His death in October of last year saddened his many fans and admirers in our community and across the country.

I introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives honoring Willie Shoemaker’s life and career and expressing condolences to his family and friends. The House of Representatives unanimously passed this bill.

Many of us are familiar with Shoemaker’s unique start in life. Born premature, legend has it that

Shoemaker’s grandmother put him in a shoebox and placed him next to the oven to keep him alive during the first night of his life. From this humble beginning, Shoemaker, known as “The Shoe,” led a life of champions.

Shoemaker got his start in the world of horse racing cleaning stables on a thoroughbred ranch in Southern California. He quickly began racing and registered his first victory about a month into his career in 1949. With a career that spanned over 40 years, Shoemaker retired in 1990 with a record-setting number of victories under his belt. Fellow jockeys marveled at Shoemaker’s style and jockey Chris McCarron once commented, “It’s a puzzlement to me how the guy got runs out of horse after horse after horse. His smooth, calm style was deceiving.”

Shoemaker’s “smooth, calm style” and unparalleled skill won four Kentucky Derbies, five Belmont Stakes, three Preakness Stakes, and membership in the National Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Following his retire-

ment as a jockey, Shoemaker immediately began his career as a trainer.

Just over a year after his retirement, Shoemaker suffered serious injuries in a devastating car accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. Following this accident, though, Shoemaker continued to assert the determination and empathy he was known for in the racing world. He continued to train horses, served as an honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Paralysis Project of America, and created his own organization, The Shoemaker Foundation, dedicated to helping those in the horse racing industry who have suffered catastrophic accident or illness. His efforts greatly accelerated progress towards finding a cure for paralysis by spinal cord injury.

It is fitting that the House of Representatives voted to honor such an outstanding individual from our community. Willie Shoemaker’s depth and courage as a jockey and a person are unparalleled and we are all proud that he called Fabens home.



Por la Gente By State Rep. Chente Quintanilla

School property tax may be replaced with state property tax

Hola mi gente — If you recall in my last article, I encouraged your input regarding public education school finance — I want to thank all those people who sent their ideas and/or concerns. Many ideas regarding public education funding are being tossed around in Austin without addressing how the state will pay for equitable public education and lower the local tax rate on our school property taxes.

The majority of you are familiar with the idea of implementing a state income tax. The proposed plan addresses a state personal income tax that would absolve the school property tax across Texas to equitably fund the majority of our property poor districts. According to many, this income state tax plan will be difficult to pass in both houses and has aroused skepticism from citizens who question if all funding will go into public education. Well, what about a state property tax vs. a school property tax?

A week ago, I was called to meet with the speaker of the house, Tom Craddick who was interested in discussing the House Select Committee on Public School Finance draft plans

to fund public school education and reduce local school property taxes. The options that were presented were several — all with one issue in mind — to create a uniform State Property Tax and absolve Texas citizens from continuing to pay for school property taxes. All options presented would raise \$17,261.60 million additional money to fund public education. Currently, our state law allows Texas school districts to tax a maximum cap rate of \$1.50 per \$100 property value under their Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Tax for upkeep of the school and operative system. Some school districts have an additional tax called the Interest and Sinking tax (I&S) to pay for expansion projects and bonds. Most school districts have reached the \$1.50 M&O tax and have an additional I&S charge that they pass on to their district property owner. The outcry is all around Texas — property owners are burdened with high school property tax rates with scarce or no state fund relief for public education. For example, currently a property owner in the Socorro Independent School District pays \$1.30 (M&O tax) and .36 cents (I&S tax) a total of \$1.66 per \$100 property value. In the event a uniform state property tax is implemented, a

SISD property owner would be taxed \$1 per \$100 property value. According to this plan the state will shift the burden and pay a state share of 90 percent vs. 38 percent the state is presently funding. This will help property poor districts by dispersing the wealth evenly and allow for surplus revenue. However, this plan would have to pass the house and senate and receive voter approval.

Several options — all of which include implementing a uniform state property tax rate of \$1/\$100, a proposed tax on cigarettes of \$1 per pack and the Video Lottery that has an estimate revenue of \$561 million, are included under the state property tax proposal. They include raising the tax rate on the existing base from between 6.25 to 8.5 percent; increasing motor vehicle sales tax to somewhere between 7.15 and 8.5 percent, reforming the Franchise Tax, and/or broadening the sales tax base to cover items currently exempted, such as food and utilities.

Meanwhile, I will continue to meet with the speaker and voice my ideas/ concerns regarding these plans. Contact me with your ideas and concerns. Until then, I remain your friend y public servant, Chente for La Gente.

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THE TEXAS FACTS by Roger Moore. In 1879, Oscar Roberts spent 35¢ on his entire campaign for Governor. The 35¢ paid for a telegram accepting the nomination.





Mr. and Miss SHS have high hopes for future
MOTIVATED SENIORS — Socorro High School seniors Eric Hernandez and Toni Marie Ramirez were selected as Mr. and Miss Socorro High School and received plaques Feb. 27 from SHS Principal Oscar Troncoso. Hernandez plans to study business administration at New York University and enroll in law school as preparation for a career as a chief executive officer for a Fortune 500 company. Ramirez has been accepted to Brown University's eight-year program of liberal medical education. She also wants to volunteer for the Peace Corps and eventually return to El Paso and establish a medical clinic.

New Education Commissioner to speak at BEEMS pre-conference institute

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo Independent School District, in conjunction with UT El Paso College of Education and the General Consulate of Mexico, will co-sponsor the Eleventh Annual BEEMS (Bilingual Education for the Enhancement of Mentors) Conference, March 25-27.

This year's theme is *The Power of Two Languages*. Featured speakers will be Dr. Virginia Collier, Dr. Wayne Thomas, and Dr. Stephen Krashen, nationally recognized experts in language development.

A pre-conference institute for school administrators and board members from Texas, New Mexico, and Ciudad

Juarez will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, at the CISD Administration Building, 7965 Artcraft.

Guest speakers for the pre-conference institute will be new Commissioner of Education Shirley Neeley and State Senator Eliot Shapleigh. Moderator will be Dr. James Vasquez, Region 19 Executive Director.

The BEEMS conference also will offer a series of institutes for parents, secondary teachers, and school visits. In addition, over 50 concurrent presentations will be available for participants. Among the presentations will be *Educare Pavilion*, an innovative web-based student data system designed by CISD administrators to provide educators with comprehensive, longitudinal data.

For information, call 747-8420.

Winford Rushing, longtime Horizonite, dies

HORIZON — E.W. Winford Rushing, a 32-year resident of Horizon City, died on March 1.

He was well known for his beautiful rose garden and yard, and he did yard work for other Horizon City friends and neighbors for many years.

Rushing and his wife, Helen Louise, celebrated 64 years of marriage last year.

He is survived by his wife, his three children — B. Katherine Stern-Gilbert and husband Wayne; Kenneth W. and wife Cindy; and Helen R. Park and husband Jerry — seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on March 5, and cards may be sent to 3710 Roslyn Drive, Horizon City, 79928. He was deeply loved and will be missed by all who knew him, family members said.

Briefs

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Parent Night on Wednesday, starting at 6 p.m. Tornillo High School will hold their Parent Night on Thursday, March 11 at 5 p.m. For further information, call 764-2366.

■ The Board of Trustees of the Socorro Independent School District is seeking applicants to serve on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. This committee will serve as a means to engage the public to increase accountability and to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively, efficiently and equitably. Applicants must be a resident in the Socorro school district and may not have any business affiliations with the district or entities contracted by the district. Deadline to apply is March 12, 2004. For more information, contact Vicki Icard, Director of Special Projects at 937-0090.

■ For the 29th consecutive year, the Kiwanis Club of Horizon City will sponsor an Easter Service at Emerald Springs Golf and Convention Center, located on Ashford Road. The Service will begin at 7 a.m. on Sunday, April 11. Clergy from Horizon City churches will take part in the service. Plenty of parking will be available. After the service, a buffet breakfast will be available at Emerald Springs.

support of the City of El Paso Arts and Culture Department and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

■ The Special Education students of Montwood Middle School have presented funds raised by their efforts to Dr. Gilbert Handal, Chairman of Texas Tech Health Sciences Center's Pediatric Dept. to support the Always Kids Miracle Hotline, a 24-hour community hotline which receives between one and two thousand calls monthly.

■ Lorenzo G. Loya Primary in San Elizario will host new student registration for ages three to five on March 30, noon to 5 p.m. and March 31, 8:30-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Parents should bring birth certificate, Social Security card, proof of address, hot records and proof of income for pre-K registration. A shot clinic will be held March 30, 2:30-4:30 p.m., 872-3940.

■ The El Paso Symphony is having a rummage sale in early May and as is currently soliciting items. Quality items may be dropped off at the Promenade Shopping Center, 7500 N. Mesa, Suite 316 every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., March 6 through April 24. Proceeds from this rummage sale benefit the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. For more information on the sale or the 2003-2004 El Paso Symphony Season call (915) 532-EPSO (3776). The El Paso Symphony is made possible with the

novative program benefiting rural Texans. TRC is a nonprofit organization created in 1934 by the then-Rural Rehabilitation Administration to resettle the family farmer after the depression. TRC is still providing loans for farms, ranches, small businesses and development programs in rural Texas. Sandra Tenorio, TRC Executive Director, said, "The El Paso Collaborative innovative program received the award for its financial education program intended for colonia residents. The El Paso Collaborative has taken great care to develop culturally sensitive, comic-book style publications to teach rural residents about budgeting, savings, and borrowing money. The input from community members has added so much to the publications and we feel that they will be able to be duplicated throughout the state to help rural residents in other areas." The National Endowment for Financial Literacy funded El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development to develop the program.

■ The Texas Gas Service has contributed an additional \$25,064 to the United Way in El Paso, a one to one match from its corporate foundation, ONEOK, for contributions made by TGS employees in the 2003-04 campaign.

■ Ron Bloxom, of El Paso, has been appointed to serve on the executive committee of the Special Olympics Texas Board of Directors. Bloxom was selected as a member of the board of directors in 2002 in an at-large position and was appointed to the executive committee for 2004. The executive committee of the board of directors reviews committee and staff recommendations before bringing them to the full board in regards to strategic and financial planning and all other major policies and planning. The committee also provides guidance and direction to the Special Olympics Texas President and CEO. In addition, Bloxom sits on the finance committee for the organization.

■ The Texas Rural Communities, Inc. (TRC) Board of Directors announced the selection of the El Paso Collaborative for Community and Economic Development as the recipient of the 2004 Texas Rural Best Award. The \$10,000 grant is awarded annually by TRC to an in-

ter rights lease proposals on other water management strategies presented in the Far West Texas Regional Water Plan, and a consideration of the relevance of the TWDB's stream flow assessment procedures to the region. Other agenda items include a consideration of a regional definition of drought of record, consideration of a proposed Bylaws amendment concerning the replacement of WPG officers, and a presentation on the Forgotten River segment of the Rio Grande. Also, at 7 p.m. (Central time) on Thursday, March 25, at Sul Ross State University in Lawrence Hall, Room 300, the fifth and final Stakeholder Advisory Forum will be held for the West Texas Bolsons and Igneous Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model.

■ Spring is ProRodeo Tour time in Texas when the top cowboys compete for the National finals, and Texans break out their boots, get in their jeans and head to the rodeo. It's also a good time to learn the history behind cowboys, when men roped calves for necessity, not for sport. The Texas Historical Commission's Texas Chisholm Trail brochure details historic and cultural sites related to the Texas cattle industry. To request a free Texas Chisholm Trail brochure, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/travel or call toll free at 866-276-6219.

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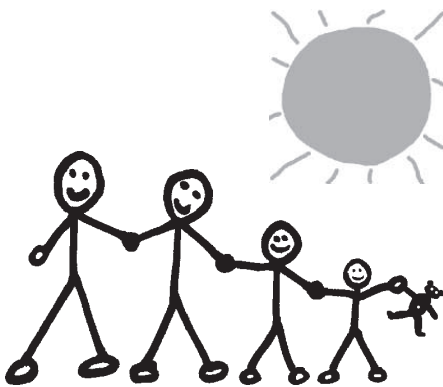
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SIR — San Elizario High School NJROTC Cadet Lieutenant Mike Torrez (at right) addresses Major General John J. McCarthy (left), the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division during the battalion staff briefing portion of the NJROTC Annual Military Inspection.

San Eli High NJROTC gets special visit

By Phillip Cortez
Special to the Courier

Major General John J. McCarthy has traveled the world far and wide. Whether it was a duty in Southwest Asia or a stint in Saudi Arabia, McCarthy has seen a lot during his illustrious military career.

On March 5, 2004, Major General McCarthy, who oversees artillery batteries throughout Texas, including El Paso, got to see San Elizario, Texas, home of the state ranked San Elizario High School NJROTC. What he saw put a big smile on his face.

During his visit, Maj. Gen. McCarthy witnessed the unit’s armed and unarmed drill teams perform their competition drills and inspect personnel during the NJROTC’s Annual Military Inspection.

“I’ve been in Texas all week conducting visits,” McCarthy said. “Since one of the batteries is here in El Paso, it was easy for me to tie this visit into my schedule. The presence of such a high-ranking officer “gets those kids pumped up and adds to their self-esteem.”

Judging by the performance of the armed and unarmed drill teams,

McCarthy was right, as the units showed the Major General and his escorts, Captain Jarrod Stoutenborough and 1st Sergeant James Porter, why they are ranked in the state’s top 15. Even more impressive, however, was the battalion briefing before the drill teams showed their stuff.

During this formal presentation to the Major General, platoon leaders thanked the Major General for his attendance and explained how far the NJROTC program has come in such a short time, but more importantly, how far they’ve come in their own personal lives.

“NJROTC has provided me with a family of friends,” Miriam Eguade told McCarthy. Eguade is the battalion commander and McCarthy smiled when she announced her plans on attending Texas A&M to be a cadet in the fall.

“It’s pretty evident that you’ve made strides,” McCarthy told cadets, referring to the early success the NJROTC program has earned in just three years of existence and two years in competition. “There’s no such thing as failure if you’re a kid in this program... I don’t care what background you come from, the opportunities are there for you.”

Water

From Page 1

the contemplated agreement as a “win-win” solution for both the people of El Paso County and the Dell Valley agricultural community, a PSB spokesman said.

However, not everyone from the Dell Valley area thinks so, especially in light of a request by Hunt to state environmental officials for a permit to discharge brine and other by-products from desalinating water onto the salt flats of Hudspeth County.

Reporting in the *Austin American-Statesman* on Feb. 4, Robert Elder Jr. said Hunt Natural Resources LP, an affiliate of Hunt Building Co., filed the application Dec. 17 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The commission could grant the permit as early as June.

Elder quotes Ron Glover, president of Hunt Natural Resources, as saying the company is simply planning for the day when it has enough water rights, and permits, to ship underground water for sale to El Paso or other West Texas markets.

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, the Texas Senate Select Committee on Water Policy met in El Paso to hear public testimony on some of the issues involved with acquisition by large, affluent entities in small, isolated West Texas communities.

“The most compelling testimony Tuesday concerned the Hudspeth County area,” Elder reported, “ — not Hunt’s application, which isn’t

widely known, but El Paso’s aggressive acquisition of land and water rights in the region.”

The PSB has also acquired land for water rights in Valentine and Van Horn, more than 100 miles away.

“Hunt’s discharge application could tie into El Paso’s plans, although both sides say discussions so far have been informal,” Elder wrote. “The permit application indicates that Hunt has bigger plans than just pumping water from under his land. The application says the desalination plant would initially treat 22,500 acre feet of water a year, or more than 7.3 billion gallons. The filing says the plant could be expanded to treat 60,000 acre-feet a year — a hefty supply that would be of interest to El Paso or other cities.”

Elder reported that PSB officials indicated El Paso is looking at using Hunt’s discharge area for its own wastewater discharge if the permit is approved. El Paso, Hunt Natural Resources, billionaire Philip Anschutz and others hold the rights to vast amounts of groundwater in the Dell Valley area.

“A contingent of Hudspeth County farmers attended (the Feb. 2) hearing to express concern that the many water deals being explored threaten the agriculture business in Dell City,” Elder continued. “James Rascoe, who grows alfalfa, chiles and other crops on 3,500 acres there, said ‘there won’t be a Dell City’ left if some of the potential water deals with El Paso go through. ‘Their agenda is to sell that water. Our agenda is, stay in business. Not enough people are thinking about that.’”

400-year history exhibit now housed permanently at Juarez Museum

EL PASO — The 14-panel detailed historical exhibit chronicling more than 400 years of battles, breaches, crossroads and collaborations is now displayed permanently at the Museo Histórico de Cd. Juárez at Avenida 16 de Septiembre and Avenda Juárez in the Ex-Aduana (Old Customs House). During eight months of regional travels since its June 2003 debut, the exhibit was displayed at Consulado General de México en El Paso, Texas, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (Library), Centro Municipal de las Artes, and the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Campus Ciudad Juárez). “This exhibit will provide our residents as well as our visitors with a more precise appreciation of what the Mexico-United States border has gone through over time,” said José Manuel Mascareñas Haas, executive director of the Fundación Mascareñas. “It is very educational as far as knowing exactly how the border between our countries has developed.” Free and open to the public, the Spanish-language exhibit is the only one of its kind that encapsulates the centuries-long U.S./Mexico border’s creation with a specific focus on the El Paso/Juárez region, including the Chamizal settlement. Authored by Dr.



Oscar J. Martinez, noted borderlands historian, *The Pass of the North and the Creation of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary* tells the story of how the U.S. expanded westward and eventually established its southern boundary at the Rio Bravo del Norte, or the Rio Grande.

— Contributed by Michelle J. Brown

Work of Socorro ISD media personnel noted at state level

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro ISD’s Communications Services Department brought back seven awards from the Texas School Public Relations Association’s annual meeting in Austin on Feb. 18-19. The awards were presented for articles appearing in the District’s @socorro newsletter, photographs and special publications.

Graphic Artist Gabriela Warren and writer Jim Braden earned a Silver Star award for the @socorro community newsletter, while Warren’s “Media Awards Invitation” gained a Gold Star award.

Braden received two Gold Star Awards, one each for his “Remembering Fallen Heroes” and “Success Follows

SHS Freshman Initiation,” pieces which were published in the @socorro.

Warren and Director of Communications Services Minerva Baumann received Gold Star Awards for their “Teacher of The Year” image/identity package. Baumann received a Gold Star award for a photo in the “Remembering Fallen Heroes” feature, while George Cordova earned a Silver Star award for another photo in that layout.

All Socorro awards were entered in the “More than 10,000 Students” category.

TSPRA is the professional association of those involved in publications and media relations for Texas schools and educational organizations.

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Modern day bad boy, Owens, needs an old-fashioned time out

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Nowadays, all parents know what to do with their children when they act up. American parents have all been taught the one procedure that will truly punish a child when he begins to act badly or in a socially unacceptable way.

That magical method is called a “time out.” You threaten a kid with putting him in “time out” and the child immediately comes to attention. A time out has become the equivalent to what my parents used to threaten me with when I was a child... and believe me, my parents’ solution was much more painful.

Anyway, the words “time out” begin with a T and an O. And after studying this for a while I came to the conclusion that this was not a coincidence.

The letters T and O also stand for another kind of way to deal with a child. In this case the letters simply stand for Terrell Owens.

Owens, the soon to be former wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers, proved once again this past week why he is considered the biggest

cry baby in the NFL, if not professional sports.

Terrell Owens, the talented but painfully self-indulgent pass catcher is not happy... again. First, he puts down his team, his quarterback, and a number of teammates, then demands to be traded to a team that will appreciate his services.

So the Niners give cry baby... ah, I mean Owens... what he wants and they trade him to the most self-indulgent team in the NFL, the Baltimore Ravens.

So is Owens happy? No. He doesn’t want to play for Baltimore and he tells them so. Owens said he would rather play for the Philadelphia Eagles. I’m not sure how you spell nah-ni-nah-ni-poo-poo, but I’m almost positive it’s a part of Terrell’s vocabulary.

Would somebody please explain to me the difference between Terrell Owens and my two-year old niece... if there is any.

Other players have to go and play the hand they are dealt, but not Owens. He believes there is a separate set of rules for him. And why not, Terrell Owens has never cared about the team. His actions have always been more about how much attention he can draw for himself.

And he’s drawn a lot. None for the right rea-

sons, though.

Word is that Owens may even file a lawsuit against the NFL in an attempt to block the trade so he can go play where he wants. If he keeps this up he’s going to force every NFL team to look the other way.

Who’s going to want to put up with this “me only” prima donna?

Whether he’s pulling out a sharpie and signing a football on the field, or grabbing a cheerleaders’ pompoms and cheering for himself or standing in the middle of the star on the Cowboys’ 50-yard line, Terrell Owens has respect for very little beyond himself.

The most unfortunate thing is that he is the poster child for what professional sports has become in this country.

The saddest thing of all is that this is obviously what the American sports fan wants because they continue to shell out the bucks to attend these spectacles no matter how much the price skyrockets.

So does Terrell Owens need a time out? No. The most damaging thing you can do to Terrell Owens is nothing. Paying no attention to Owens at all is his kryptonite.

So let’s put him out of our misery and forget him. Boy, I feel better already.

Baseball says good-bye

Nobody should ever root for the demise of another human being but sometimes you have to be honest about the legacy they leave, even if it isn’t very popular.

Major League Baseball saw two of its more notorious personalities pass away last week.

Former Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, 75, and son of the great Ted Williams, John Henry Williams, 35, both died last week.

Schott was eventually suspended from baseball for her derogatory comments about blacks and Jews while Williams became famous for sticking his famous father in a cryonics lab in Arizona, freezing his remains with the intend of bringing him back to life in the future.

It’s kind of ironic that two of the most disliked baseball people of recent times should pass away at the same time.

Does their passing give me joy? Of course not. Does their passing mean we should forget their misgivings? Of course not.

I just think the timing is ironic.

SHS rifle team one of only two in state to go to national competition

EAST EL PASO COUNTY — Socorro High School’s Navy Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps battalion is preparing for the Navy’s National Rifle Championship March 22-23.

The Rifle Marksmanship Team will compete as one of two teams from Texas in the Navy’s National Rifle Championship in Fort Benning, Georgia. The team of four cadets — Kris Hemme, Luis Silva, Jeannette Ponce and Edgar Sosa could earn a spot to represent the Navy’s JROTC program against the best of the Army, Marines and the Air Force during the Fort Benning competition.

The unit’s drill team recently competed against 15 other NJROTC units during the state drill meet at Texas A&M University, where the Socorro cadets earned a state championship in Color Guard and Armed Drill Team Regulation.

Cadet Jesus Gallegos was named best Navy Drill Team Commander in Texas, and the entire team of 38 cadets made third placer in the Unit Inspection program.

Lt. Comdr. (ret.) Gerald Mangrum is the senior military instructor of the group.

Canutillo High Health Occupations Students of America advance to state

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

UPPER VALLEY — Canutillo High School Health Occupations students advance to state competition after placing among the top three finishers in area contests during the annual Area IV HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) leadership conference held in Amarillo recently.

First place finishers include Ruby Albidres and Cinthia Gallegos. Second place qualifiers were Ariana Garcia, Angelica Sanchez, and Kathleen Norris. Also qualifying for state with a third place finish was Claudia Iglesias.

Other CHS students who competed and placed in their events at the area competition include: Alfredo Alvarado and Michael Arroyo.

The Area IV HOSA conference included students from high schools and magnet school health occupations throughout West Texas including the El Paso area, Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Abilene and San Angelo.

The April 1-3 state level competition will be held in Houston. Participants include students



HEALTHY WINNERS — Canutillo High School HOSA state qualifiers are shown from left, Angelica Sanchez, Kathleen Norris, Ruby Albidrez, Ariana Garcia, and Cinthia Gallegos, junior. Also qualified but not shown in photo, Claudia Iglesias.

and instructors from seven different areas throughout the state of Texas.

“We want to thank our 21-member delegation for their outstanding character, good manners and wonderful representation for Canutillo High School. We are very proud of all of you,”

said Julie Vinikoff, CHS health science teacher and HOSA sponsor.

“We also want to thank all who have supported HOSA through mentoring and fundraising,” said Marc Wilson, CHS health science teacher and co-sponsor.

King Super Crossword

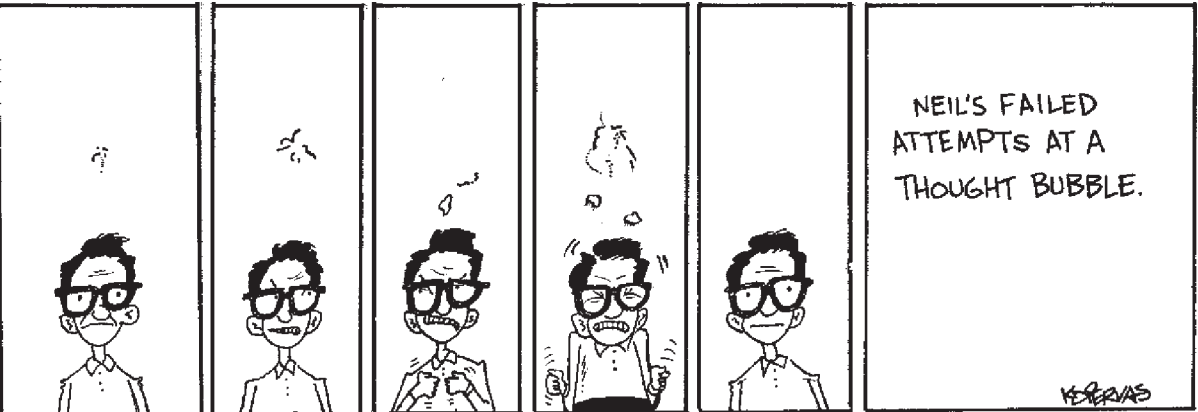
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1 In addition	67 Rounded roof	Lauder	39 Gladden	95 "Alceste" composer
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18 Soprano Mitchell	80 Ipanema's locale		47 Smell	103 Tenor Beniamino
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by Kirk Kirkpatrick	90 Detection device	2 Utah city	54 Queue tip?	113 Drawing room
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27 "The Woman _" ('84 film)	97 Northern hemisphere?	5 Little rocker?	61 Namely	119 Ending for leather
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30 Can't stand	104 Santa -, CA	8 Oafs	66 Irish county	124 "Dark Lady" singer
31 Like sale	105 Sojourn	9 Smidgen	68 Hua's predecessor	126 Sheep shed
merchandise	106 "Ben-_" ('59 film)	10 It should be square	69 Monitor message	127 Interrogates
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35 Sunflower support	108 Rock's Stefani	12 Type of muscle	74 Infinitive splitter, often	130 Craven or Unseld
37 Aye opponent	109 Brit. fliers	13 _ -de-lance	75 Desert refuge	131 " _ Paula" ('63 song)
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41 Close	114 Female elephant	15 Big guy		
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46 Marge in the fridge	meany	17 Cagney's partner		
48 Every last bit	118 Pennsylvania port	19 Leon of "Mister Ed"		
49 Singer McKee	120 Bite	24 Minnesota city		
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55 Taco topping	sitcom	29 Couturier Jean		
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59 Braga or Sanchez	128 A Dead End Kid	34 Handshakers		
60 That's no bull!	130 End of remark			
61 Petite pie	133 Subside			

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Comix

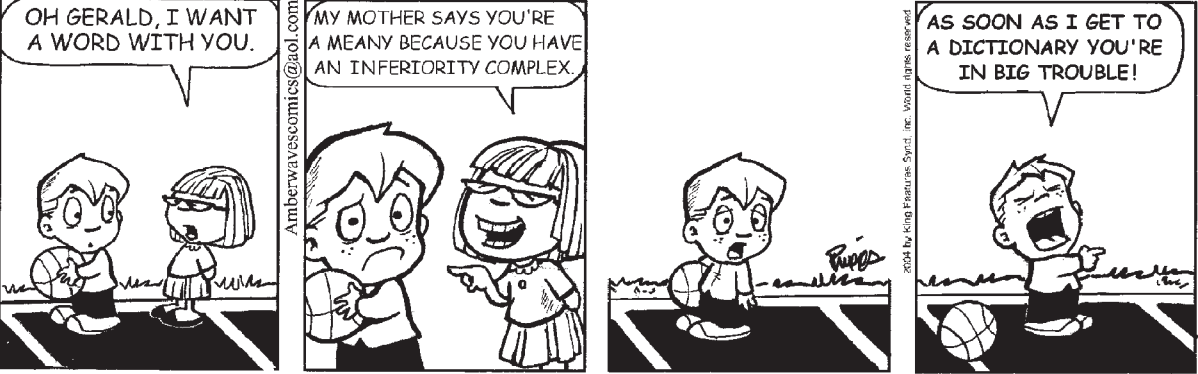
OUT ON A LIMB

By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES

By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS

By Jeff Pickering



R.F.D.

By Mike Marland



For dolls, breaking up is easy

By Don Flood

They were made for each other — literally.

First there was Barbie, originally manufactured by Mattel in 1959.

But Barbie needed a helpmate, someone to tell her how terrific she looked in all her clothes and accessories.

And so Mattel made Ken, who for 43 years was her designated boyfriend.

And now, suddenly, it's over.

The two decided they needed "quality time — apart," a Mattel spokesman announced recently.

According to some reports, Barbie dumped Ken, describing him as "cold" and "artificial."

But others say the trouble stemmed from Ken's own dissatisfaction with his "boy doll" status.

"People don't realize this, but Ken always saw himself as an Action Figure like his friend GI Joe," said one source close to both Ken and Barbie.

Several years ago, Ken decided to pursue his dream, asking Mattel to equip him as a Navy Seal Action Figure.

After that idea was axed, he asked to be Secret Agent Ken, but that too was rejected.

"Look," the toy executives told him, "you're going out with Barbie! Think how many action figures would kill to go out with Barbie!"

After that, inanimate sources say, Ken went into an emotional tailspin.

"When he started talking about becoming Serial Killer Ken, we knew he was in trouble," said one action-figure friend who asked to remain anonymous.

Unlike GI Joe, a professional military man, Ken didn't even have a job, much less a career.

His entire life revolved around serving as a kind of prop for Barbie's increasingly bizarre and

unstable lifestyle, which included attempted stunts as a ballerina, soldier, dentist, police officer, astronaut — even candidate for president of the United States. (She received no votes.)

To those on the outside it seemed cute when Barbie dressed in different outfits to try out a new career.

But for those on the inside it was a different story. "She's an absolute psycho," said one synthetic friend. "Every day she decides she wants to be something different."

Some friends see a trend in her choice of male companions.

"Barbie seems so confident, but for some reason she's attracted to losers," said one doll who spent many a night in Barbie's Dream House. "First there was Ken, who never worked a day in his life, and now there's Blaine, whose only occupation is boogie-boarder. I mean, hello?"

Blaine, of course, is the other figure in the rumored love triangle.

In his own way, he's as mysterious as Ken, described only as an Australian boogie-boarder.

Barbie's friends are concerned. "After being out of circulation for so long, naturally Barbie's thrilled to be attracting the attention of a handsome male doll 45 years her junior."

But they don't expect Blaine to hang around long. "To him," said one friend, "she's just another piece of plastic."

But will Ken still be single when Barbie gets dumped?

At least one confidant thinks so. "If he didn't pop the question to Barbie in 40 years, he's not going to ask someone else. He's a momma's boy."

A Ken's Mom Doll was never manufactured and so was unavailable for comment.

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Sealed bids/proposals/CSP to furnish the District with the following products and/or services will be accepted at the following times:

CALCULATORS CSP NO. 199-0318-0454 THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004, AT 2:00 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928

until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-03/11/04

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PAPER SUPPLIES CSP NO. 199-0322-0461

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2004, AT 2:30 P.M.

Proposals will be received at Business Services Dept., 12300 Eastlake Drive, El Paso, Texas 79928 until the specified times. Detailed specifications are available from the above office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. WTCC-03/11/04

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BARGAINS

MOVING SALE: Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Furniture, antiques and glassware. 15099 Darrington in

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Women's Health Awareness Seminar March 13th Bali Bodyworks 13484 Horizon Blvd. 3:30 p.m.

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L	E	O	N	A		V	I	L	L	A		E	G	O		E	R	I	K	A	
S	H	O	W	M	E	A	G	O	O	D		A	N	T	A	R	C	T	I	C	
I	N	R	E	D		S	I	D		P	L	E	A	D		H	A	T	E		
		A	S	I	S		S	P	A		S	T	E	M		N	A	Y			
L	E	A	P		N	I	G	H		O	T	T		O	L	E	O				
A	L	L		M	A	R	I	A		L	O	S	E	R	A	N	D	I	L	L	
S	A	L	S	A		T	I	S	S	U	E	S			S	O	N	I	A		
S	T	E	E	R		T	A	R	T					S	A	L	A	R	I	E	S
E	N	E	S	C	O		D	O	M	E		E	S	E		T	U	T			
			S	H	O	W	Y	O	U	A	M	A	N		W	H	O	S			
S	H	E			R	I	O		T	O	A	D			A	R	A	M	I	S	
T	I	M	B	U	K	T	U				I	V	A	N		S	O	N	A	R	
E	L	M	A	N			N	O	G	A	L	E	S			I	G	L	O	O	
P	L	A	Y	I	N	G		G	O	L	F		R	I	G	G	S		A	N	A
			S	T	A	Y		H	U	R		B	A	L	I		G	W	E	N	
R	A	F		S	I	M	S		C	O	W			O	G	R	E				
E	R	I	E		S	N	A	C	K		R	O	C		L	O	R	C	A		
H	U	N	T	Z	H	A	L	L			W	I	T	H	I	S	B	O	S	S	
A	B	A	T	E		S	O	O		E	S	T	E	E		S	I	T	K	A	
B	A	L	E	D		T	N	T			S	T	O	R	Y		L	E	S	T	

