

Voters will decide future of Dona Ana Branch

On Feb. 26, voters in Dona Ana County's three school districts will go to the polls to decide the future of the Dona Ana Branch Community College.

Designed to provide one- and two-year programs in a variety of vocations as well as Adult Basic Education and specialized counseling for area residents, Dona Ana Branch Community College was first opened under

New Mexico State University's College of Human and Community Services in 1973.

Present enrollments of 715 students in vocational-technical programs, 961 in adult education and 334 benefiting from other instructional and counseling programs have outgrown the present facility occupied in 1978. All space is now in use.

Through the recently-approved statewide General Obligation

Bond, the New Mexico legislature provided \$1.3 million for the community college and its programs. But to be realized, a General Obligation Bond must be passed in Dona Ana County.

To provide expansions essential to meet the requirements of Dona Ana County residents, the Community College district Board (Las Cruces Public Schools, Gadsen Independent Schools and Hatch Valley

Municipal Schools) voted to seek approval of a \$2.9 million General Obligation Bond.

Approval of the local bond issue plus the state appropriation will yield a total of \$4.2 million for physical expansions and equipment. A new technical wing of 32,000 square feet will be constructed and 9,470 square feet will be added to the present structure.

Without additional space and equipment, Dr. Lowery Davis, dean of the College of Human and Community Services, said, "We will be locked into present programs and will have difficulty handling anticipated increases in enrollment in all areas. And there is a demand for new programs." One present program, microcomputer technology, he said, is "already operating in borrowed space."

Dr. Patricio Quintana, campus director of Dona Ana Branch Community College, said, "With the help of Dona Ana County residents, we can continue to expand our services to meet the demands. We cannot claim the state appropriation without the passage of the bond issue on February 26. The Community College is now providing services in all segments of the entire county according to the mandate given the institution by the

citizens in the 1973 election that created the Dona Ana Branch Community College."

The new wing will allow addition of five new programs: Microcomputer Bookkeeping, Electronics, Microcomputer Service Technician, Computer Aided Graphic Arts and Dental Aide. It will also house Microcomputer Technology, now in borrowed space.

Additions to the present building will make possible expansion of programs in Retail Marketing and Distribution and Occupational Business as well as in student counseling and registration. The Adult Learning Center and the Learning Media Center plus Handicapped Student Services will get additional space.

The Community College District Board proposes to pay back the bond issue on a ten-year maturity schedule. Based on the 1984 valuation of the county, annual cost to the taxpayer is estimated at \$1.15 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (one-third market value).

Further, Dr. Quintana, in the interest of the youth today, urges all registered voters to vote "yes" in their consolidated polling places.



Ticket sales...

The announcement of the Prince concert that will be held on March 7 and 8 brought out the campers for tickets Thursday night. With the crowd constantly increasing, people didn't want to be left without tickets. One student said she had been camped at the Pan American Center since Wednesday evening.

Round Up / Mike Harrigan

Chemical danger lies in dosage

The difference between a remedy and a poison is the dose. A little of the worst chemical won't hurt, but a lot of the safest one will, a world-renowned toxicologist told Las Cruces during a recent lecture at New Mexico State University.

Dr. Curtis Klaassen, a professor of toxicology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, said, "Chemicals are not all good or all bad—it just isn't that simple. Every chemical can be bad if used improperly, and if used properly (a chemical) almost can't be harmful."

Klaassen was in Las Cruces recently as a participant in the NMSU Distinguished Visiting Professorship program which allows NMSU faculty to invite professors from other universities to spend a week at NMSU. These professors are chosen on the basis of outstanding achievements, national and international reputation, expertise in an area with interdisciplinary appeal and ability to communicate with students, faculty and the general public.

Using press cartoons to illustrate a public address entitled "Toxicology and the Press," Klaassen discussed media influence on the public's perceptions and concerns for chemicals and their effects on people and the environment.

Cancer has provided cartoonists with ample material, the toxicologist said showing a cartoon with two laboratory scientists arriving at the conclusion: "No doubt about it, living causes cancer."

This is a case where too much media attention has focused public opinion into an "everything causes cancer mentality," Klaassen said.

"Less than 10 percent of the chemicals under the worst possible conditions cause cancer. It is important to understand the dose response concept in cancer-causing chemicals. A small percentage of the people are going to respond to a low dosage and most to a high dosage, and whether or not a chemical is harmful depends on how much a

person is exposed to it," he said.

As with the exaggerated fear of chemicals and cancer, the public also has an exaggerated fear of radiation, the toxicologist said. Showing a cartoon of a woman commenting that her son has grown a foot recently—a foot with five toes growing from the top of the boy's head—Klaassen said the public has a fear that radiation is causing monsters.

"Actually, radiation is probably more easily controlled than chemicals and the risk has definitely been blown out of proportion," he said. "There is an unwarranted fear of radiation that is not going to change soon because people are more used to using fossil fuels.

But fossil fuels are more toxic and have more potential to cause problems than radiation. In fact, more radiation comes out of fossil fuels than out of atomic energy plants, and it is interesting to note that we have thousands of fossil fuel-related deaths each year, but have not had one per-

Police now to tow violating vehicles

New Mexico State University Police announced today that they will be cracking down on parking violators on campus, particularly those people who park in the designated handicapped zones without proper stickers authorizing them to do so.

Lt. James McKinney said that the police have been issuing tickets up to now to owners whose vehicles were parked in the blue-painted areas but added that the problem has grown to the point that towing has become necessary.

Those cars which are towed will be impounded locally and the owners will be responsible for paying the fine associated with the illegal parking violation as well as any costs incurred for towing the vehicle and storing it.

Persons who need more information on the campus parking rules and regulations can consult the NMSU Student Handbook or call the NMSU Police at 646-3311.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Campus Briefs	pg. 2
Frosted Window	pg. 4
Bloom County	pg. 4
Guest Columnist: Marlatt	pg. 4
Letters to the Editor	pg. 5
Arts and Entertainment	pg. 8
Classified ads	pg. 14
New Cartoon	pg. 14
Sports	pg. 15

continued on page 6