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Harvey on Job

"Harvey," the talking bear, tells Jeff Pohl and Cecilia Benalite how much he enjoys working at the Arizona Training Center with them and their classmates. "Harvey" arrived at the center shortly before Christmas, donated by the Phoenix Telephone Pioneers, he is used by teachers to "elicit spontaneous response from non-verbal children."

Dominic DiGiovanni, school principal, says, the telephone service club also donated an electronically "beeping" softball to help children with impaired vision to play games. An instructor can talk with children through a speaker mounted within Harvey and via the bear can carry on a conversation without confronting the child with an adult.

(Dispatch Photo)

In Cold-Blooded Crimes

Nixon Calls for Death Penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nixon administration says it will call for a mandatory death penalty for "cold-blooded, premeditated" crimes, but a Democratic senator is proposing a bill that would leave imposition of the death sentence up to the jury.

The two opposing viewpoints could presage a major congressional battle over use of capital punishment. And opponents of the death penalty already have begun to form battle lines.

Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst announced Thursday that the administration will seek legislation requiring the death penalty for such crimes as kidnaping, assassination, bombing a public building, killing a prison guard and air hijacking.

Meanwhile, Sen. John L. McClellan D-Ark., introduced a bill that would reinstitute the death penalty, but only if a defendant, in the course of a serious crime, intentionally takes another person's life. The jury would decide guilt and punishment separately.

Kleindienst suggested at a news conference that a mandatory death penalty, where the jury in effect decides guilt and imposes punishment at the same time, would be acceptable to the Supreme Court. The court ruled 5 to 4 last summer that because the death penalty has been applied unevenly in state and federal courts, it violates the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

Included on the Senate subcommittee on criminal laws and procedures, which would handle such a bill, are two ardent Democratic opponents of capital punishment, Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Philip A. Hart of Michigan.

More opposition apparently would come from Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., a member of the parent Judiciary Committee. Bayh said one of the problems with the death penalty is "that it is possible for our system of justice to make a mistake." A Bayh aide said the senator would like to see a life sentence mean a life sentence and a tougher policy toward parole.

However, Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he would favor the administration's proposal.

The ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, said also the death penalty should be imposed for some crimes.

"The world has not reached a point yet where other countries would do away with the death penalty for such offenses and I doubt it would be good policy for us to do it," Hutchinson said.

Woman Enlists

National Guard Opens Ranks

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Army National Guard opened its ranks to women today and enlisted the first woman in its history, dating back more than a century.

SP5 Jody Rasmussen, 22, of Phoenix, became the first woman to enlist in the guard when she was sworn in today by Adj. Gen. Charles W. Fernald. A veteran of Army service, Specialist Rasmussen is an apprentice dental technician.

Spec. Rasmussen will serve as a supply specialist with the Army National Guard's 222nd General Supply Company of Phoenix, a unit charged with providing supplies to a corps area on the battlefield. Her assignment is the same as the one she held on active duty, said Fernald.

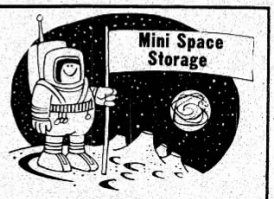
Fernald said he expects women will be authorized to serve in most guard units except for the 1st Battalion 180th Artillery, a combat unit. Regulations prohibit women in combat or direct combat support units, he said.

But women are authorized in a wide variety of military specialties in the company in which Spec. Rasmussen enlisted and the 222d's Transportation Company in Tucson. Of 121 positions in the Transportation company, Fernald said 96, including the company commander's slot, are open to women.

Spec. Rasmussen, a native of Rockford, Ill., joined the Women's Army Corps there and served two years at Ft. Sill, Okla., before being released to serve in a reserve component.

She said she joined the Army partly "because women have the same obligations as men to contribute to the defense of the nation." Spec. Rasmussen applied for enlistment in the Army National Guard last August but had to wait because WAC enlistees were not authorized at that time.

After the swearing in, Fernald said women are again sharing frontier burdens as in the national defense.



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For Schools Budgets

Nader Skeptical About Computer System

Casa Grande Union High School's superintendent has expressed skepticism about some parts of a state-proposed plan to put Arizona schools budgets onto a computerized accountability system.

While conceding the idea behind the plan, mandated by the state Legislature, is good, Alex N. Nader wondered aloud Thursday about the consequences if all school districts, regardless of size, must participate.

Redistricting throughout Arizona, Nader said also, probably must be done before the system could be put into operation, some sort of trial run should be conducted first as well and he suggested an alternative system.

The new system was outlined at a conference Nader attended Wednesday in Phoenix and Thursday he reported on the discussion before the district's board of education.

The Wednesday session was devoted to a report from the Ernst & Ernst company of Phoenix which the Legislature hired to conduct a $175,000 study and develop the computerized system so that each district could be held accountable for funds in its budget and what it costs to educate each pupil.

Nader said he asked in a study session at that conference what it would cost each district to get into the system and was given the rough estimate of $7.30 per pupil.

The state would match district funds. Nader said he was told, but the local schools still would have to budget for the additional money.

Montgomery said when the program is developed fully, it will require $3 million annually to maintain.

"I think the idea is good but I'm not sure it's workable, it may have some bugs that need to be worked out. If it's made optional it'll be good, but if the state makes it mandatory, even if a district has 12 students, they may have some problems," the superintendent said.

He added that Casa Grande already has a good accountability system working with the county school superintendent's office.

Redistricting throughout Arizona, Nader said, may have to be conducted before the system can be used and if so, "immediately they're going to have problems." Number one priority for many districts is local autonomy, he explained, and redistricting may entail some consolidations.

Instead of the program to put all school budgets on the central computer, Nader said he suggested a system where each district could have its inventory placed on the machine.

"It would be good if they could put in a perpetual inventory system with daily printouts (for the districts). If they wanted them so they could set a depreciation schedule and would know exactly what the district is worth," Nader explained of his idea.

Each year the district's value is estimated by an insurance appraiser and the school's insurance premiums are based on what the appraiser thinks the property, equipment and other items are worth.

The insurance estimates "generally are accurate, but they don't give a real picture," Nader said.

If an inventory system could be devised on the computer, he would and local school boards in budgeting for future needs because they would know the value of each piece of equipment, how much had been spent to maintain it and whether it needed replacement, the superintendent said.

Called TIES, for Total Information Educational Systems, the plan offered Wednesday may need advance work before it can be put into operation, specifically redistricting, Nader told the board. While the plan is just that, and not a final system, Nader said he wanted to tell the board about what had been discussed because the district might start looking ahead to what it may have to do in the future if it is implemented.

What may happen appears uncertain as Montgomery said Wednesday that unless the Legislature comes up with $800,000 early in its session this year, the system will have to be scrapped.

Three school districts, including Marana, have been used during the past year to test the idea.

Kaye Gives First-Hand Look

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedian Danny Kaye has given almost 4,000 children a first-hand look at the backstage workings of the Metropolitan Opera.

Kaye conducted the opera's orchestra during the two-hour tour Thursday. The 3,856 children, aged 10 to 14, were participating in the first "look-in" at the Met.

The program was the idea of the late Goeran Gentele, the Met's general manager who died last July. Gentele had sponsored similar programs for children at the opera house in Stockholm.

Cruz Named To Head Board

Casa Grande businessman Albert Cruz was chosen unanimously to head the high school Board of Education Thursday afternoon, with Elden G. "Jack" Gillespie retained by acclamation as board clerk.

First action of the reorganized board was to continue Alex N. Nader's contract as district superintendent for the 1973 to 1976 school years.

Principal Scott McEuen was granted a contract for the 1974-75 school year and two assistant principals were extended contracts for the 1973-74 school year.

Salaries for the administrators will be based on the pay schedule for teachers which still must be negotiated. Advance contract approvals are used to allow the administrators to begin determining what teachers will be rehired or let go. Teachers must be notified by the middle of March as to their fate.

In other business during the hour and a half meeting Thursday afternoon, the board:

—Approved expenditure of $633 of budgeted funds to send Robert L. Plunkett to San Diego for the American Personnel and Guidance Association Workshop Feb. 9-12. Major speaker at that meeting will be Sidney P. Marlen, a federal official who devised the career education concept to which the workshop will be devoted.

—Heard reports that the new swimming pool heater paid for by the school has been installed, that a new school bus should arrive in about three weeks, and that progress is being made on plans to purchase land north of Rancho Grande.

Nader told the board the heater at the pool owned by the city in Pearl Park is ready to be used except that there has been some trouble with a pool filter which has delayed the start of a winter swimming program.

The school owns the land on which the pool is located and the city leases it. The pool belongs to the city but the school has use of it during the winter months. Until July 1, the city will pay for maintenance of the pool because the district does not have the funds in its budget, according to Dave White, city parks and recreation director.

The joint city, elementary and high school district attempt to purchase a section of land at the corner of McCartney and Trekell Roads north of Rancho Grande from the state has reached to the point of getting a price, the superintendent reported.

Appraised value of the location is $700 an acre and the district wants about $5 acres as its share, which would have to be paid for with bond money. No final price has been set, however, the superintendent said.

STATE GIVEN $3 MILLION FOR TRAFFIC PROJECTS

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky has received almost $3 million from the federal government in the past five years to finance traffic safety projects ranging from driver training to computerizing records.

For Library

Dedication Event Reset

Casa Grande Union High School library dedication ceremonies, originally planned for next week, have been rescheduled to Saturday, Jan. 20.

A three-day state school board association meeting in Phoenix next week interferes with the original Jan. 11 date, Alex N. Nader, district superintendent, told the school's board of education Thursday.

New time for the ceremony was set by the board as 3 p.m., Jan. 20.

Loren Curtis, former superintendent to whom the new facility is being dedicated, will attend the program, along with Vada Le Smith, former board president, who is to make the presentation.

City, county and education officials have been invited and the event will be open to the public.

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