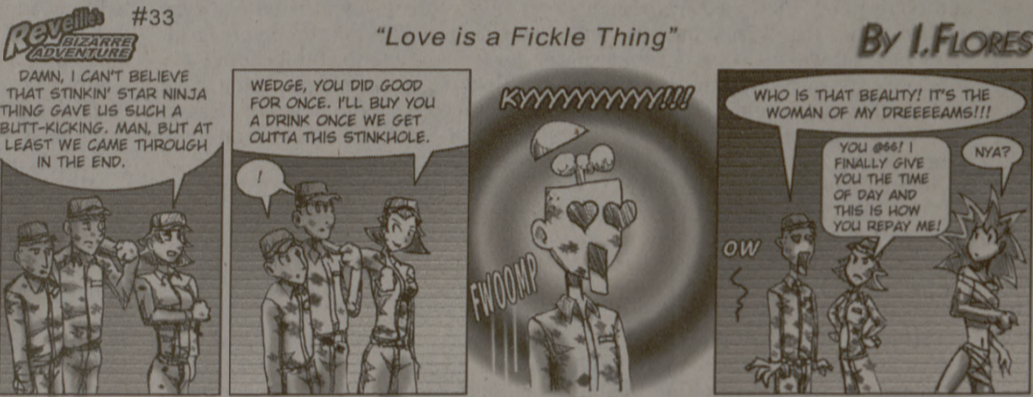


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Full Moon



Hope

Continued from page 1

went into one of his monologues, it was almost as though the world was conditioned to respond. No matter that the joke was old or flat; he was Bob Hope and he got laughs. Hope and he got laughs. "Audiences are my best friends," he liked to say. "You never tire of talking with your best friends."

Along with family members, Hope's longtime caregivers and a priest were present when he died. "I can't tell you how beautiful and serene and peaceful it was," daughter Linda Hope told a news conference. "The fact that there was a little audience gathered around, even though it was family, I think warmed dad's heart."

"He really left us with a smile on his face and no last words. ... He gave us each a kiss and that was it," she said.

Hope earned a fortune, gave lavishly to charity and was showered with awards, so many that he rented a warehouse to store them.

Though he said he was afraid of flying, Hope traveled countless miles to boost the morale of servicemen. His Christmas tours became tradition.

He headlined in so many war zones that he had a standard joke for the times he was interrupted by gunfire: "I wonder which one

of my pictures they saw?"

So often was Hope away entertaining, and so little did he see his wife, Dolores, and their four children, that he once remarked, "When I get home these days, my kids think I've been booked on a personal appearance tour."

Hope had a reputation as an ad-libber, but he kept a stable of writers and had filing cabinets full of jokes. He never let a good joke die — if it got a laugh in Vietnam, it would get a laugh in Saudi Arabia.

On his 100th birthday, he was too frail to take part in public celebrations, but was said to be alert and happy — and overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection. The fabled intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street was renamed Bob Hope Square, and Bush established the Bob Hope American Patriot Award.

"He can't believe that this is happening and that he's made it to his Big 100," son Kelly Hope said at the time.

Leslie Towns Hope was born in 1903 in Eltham, England, the fifth of seven sons of a British stonemason and a Welsh singer of light opera. The Hopes emigrated to the United States when he was 4 and settled in Cleveland. They found themselves in the backwash of the 1907 depression.

The boy helped out by selling

newspapers and working in a shoe store, a drug store and a meat market. He also worked as a caddy and developed a lifelong fondness for golf. A highly competitive golfer, he later shot in the 70s and sponsored the Bob Hope Golf Classic, one of the nation's biggest tournaments.

Hope changed his name to Bob when classmates ridiculed his English schoolboy name.

He boxed for a time under the name Packy East — "I was on more canvases than Picasso" — and tried a semester in college before devoting himself to show business. He quickly veered from song and dance to comedy patter, and his monologue routine was born.

By 1930, he had reached vaudeville's pinnacle — The Palace — and in the '30s he played leading parts in such Broadway musicals as "Roberta," "Ziegfeld Follies" and "Red, Hot and Blue" with Ethel Merman and Jimmy Durante. During "Roberta," he met nightclub singer Dolores Reade and invited her to the show. They married in 1934.

After a few guest radio spots, Hope began working regularly on a Bromo Seltzer radio program. In 1938, he was hired by Pepsodent to create his own show, and that led him to Hollywood.

Workers

Continued from page 1

her retirement benefits.

"I was upset because sometimes we stay and work here and take less pay because of the benefits," Becvar said. "I was in total shock about the whole situation."

Although the changes in age and years of service are very different to those as of now, Becvar believes they are still fair.

"The new employees will know coming in how it is," Becvar said.

She said she feels fortunate to be able to continue as she had planned.

Energy

Continued from page 1

projects have been completed, he said.

The Board of Regents approved three projects within the plan that total \$4.3 million. The projects include a new chiller and boiler for the central utility and West Campus plants.

There is also a \$5.8 million new boiler that is 90 percent complete, which will go to the central plant on campus, Sippial said.

Also within the energy plan are two projects under design.

One idea is a \$ 5.4 million, 138 kilovolt electrical transmission line that will provide the campus with a backup commercial electrical power source, Sippial said.

"If we lose the power feed that comes to us from off campus, 60 percent of our facilities would be affected," he said.

The project has been in the works for several years, and is not a result of the three hour blackout that occurred in the spring of 2003, Sippial said.

Sippial said A&M has a policy that is called the Continuous Commissioning process that continually improves systems in buildings on campus.

The process observes systems such as thermal and mechanical systems. For example, if a building has a change in design, the Energy Systems Lab will reevaluate the load requirements of the building and make the systems energy efficient. It will then monitor the adjustments.

Democrats

Continued from page 1

days."

Other senators said they have compelling reasons not to be in New Mexico.

Sen. Mario Gallegos Jr., said his grandson, Jake, was born a few days ago.

In May, during the regular spring session, Republicans tried to push redistricting toward a vote in the GOP-controlled state House. But 51 Democrats in that chamber fled across the state line to Oklahoma to block a quorum, killing the bill.

On Monday, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst began the new session

by ordering the 11 who left back to the chamber.

"I'm asking our Senate Democrats to come back and work with us. But I've got to share with you I'm disappointed, very disappointed," Dewhurst said.

He said he expects the Senate ultimately will pass a redistricting plan. "If I read the tea leaves correctly, we will pass a fair redistricting plan now or later," Dewhurst said.

Dewhurst said he would enlist the Senate sergeant-at-arms and possibly off-duty police officers to retrieve the 11 lawmakers, but acknowledged that Texas authorities likely could not cross state lines.

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