



Eldorado students lounge along "Jock Wall," the popular hang-out outside the high school's media center

(Tribune photo by Mike Douglas)

## There's more to EHS than the '3 Rs'

This is the fourth in a series of articles by 24-year-old reporter Leslie Linthicum about her experiences posing as a senior at Eldorado High School.

By **LESLIE LINTHICUM**  
Tribune Staff Writer

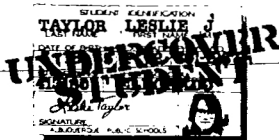
On the color television screen at the head of the freshmen civics classroom, a man lectures on rape.

The 14- and 15-year-olds snicker as he advises young women to go along with an attacker, or "you may end up dead."

The speaker is a brassy New Yorker who does the college-campus circuit, delivering his rape message in a stand-up comic manner.

Do not scream or fight when forcefully propositioned or attacked, he says.

Pretend, instead, to be attracted — kiss the



would-be rapist, express secret longing for him, fondle him.

Perhaps a moment of escape will come. Even if it doesn't, a victim can escape with her life.

Teacher Dennis Sanchez shows the videotape after reports of three recent rapes near the Eldorado High School campus. Two days earlier, the stocky government teacher

lectured on how women could defend themselves against assailants.

His suggestions of a knee jab to the groin, a pencil stab to the eye or a notebook-blow to the neck were met with nervous giggles.

More than reading, writing and arithmetic are taught at Eldorado High School these days. During my 11 days as an "undercover" student, only a few lessons could be considered traditional high-school fare.

When teachers taught, their discourse topics ranged from the evils of communism and "fishy" handshakes to the blessings of the upcoming school bond election.

In some classes, lively discussions ensued.

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The 13 students in Jerrett Koenigsberg's

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# There's a lot more to EHS than the '3 Rs'

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newspaper class have two editions of *Eagle Spirit* behind them and are catching mistakes they've made and planning the next school newspaper.

For several days they have poured over the latest eight-page issue, correcting spelling, punctuation and grammar errors.

Today, lanky, laid-back Koenigsberg lets them delve into meatier matter.

Should a school newspaper examine off-campus issues that affect high school students? Are the economy and the military draft important issues on campus?

Koenigsberg lets the discussion run loud and rambling, interceding only when the argument gets too clamorous.

From the front of the room, a sophomore on the track team argues that his peers don't care about city, state or national issues. Even if they did, he contends, who on the staff understands the questions well enough to report on them?

In the back of the room, a long-haired sophomore in blue jeans and matching jacket pushes for forcing the student readership into greater awareness of the world outside Eldorado's fences. He eventually is joined by a majority in the class.

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In Human Development class, well-tailored Kathryn Meloy stirred boys and girls alike with the topic of child care and feeding. Prompted by a worksheet that asked, "What would you serve a 3-year-old child at a mid-morning snack?" students launched a lively discussion of the dangers of junk food.

Many of the youths strongly opposed feeding children refined sugar, pointing to evidence linking sugar to hyperactivity. Juice, graham crackers and fruit were the top snack choices.

The "practical arts" are emphasized in Albuquerque Public Schools these days.

Gone is the criticism that graduates can't even balance a checkbook. AFS students are required to take two semesters of society-survival lessons before they can earn a diploma.

Since my record showed I'd never taken a practical-arts class, I was served a double dose to catch up.

Both classes — "Independent Living" and "Human Development" — covered exactly the same material while I was at Eldorado. Often, the two classes met together, with students in one moving into the other across the hallway, carrying in their chairs or just sprawling out on counters and sewing tables.

For four of those class periods, speakers from two Albuquerque trade schools pitched their post-secondary programs.

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— Leslie Lintinich  
"Undercover" student

One day, Rod Stewart (not the pop-singer Rod Stewart, as he pointed out repeatedly) told the youths about the advantages of Parks College.

The slick and animated spokesman described the vocational school's technical programs, passed out brochures outlining course offerings, schedules and tuitions, told us that the school's job-placement rate was near 90 percent, explained financial-aid possibilities and gave a pep talk on self-motivation and self-respect.

Two days later, Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute speaker Larry Perez addressed the same double classes, detailing T-V-I's selling points. His presentation was more low-key than Stewart's, as he explained the tuition-free public school's good points and bad.

In the same practical-arts classes, students spent periods learning to fill out job applications, heeding admonitions to print, to fill in all blanks, to give complete names and addresses of references and to tell the truth.

A Human Development class period was spent in mock-job-interviews. Under a substitute teacher's direction, a football-playing senior took the role of employer, and students marched up to him, knocked on an imaginary door, shook hands firmly and were careful not to sit down until invited.

The "fishy" handshake was often decried. Snappily dressed Pat Sutton, our Independent Living teacher, also warned that deserved job promotions would not be forthcoming if spouses displayed poor table manners.

"This is more or less common sense," Mrs. Sutton said as she handed out her test. One of the true/false questions asked if it was best to arrive five minutes late to a job interview.

Practical-arts lessons also touched on finance charges, home-buying and insurance policies, though often lectures veered into a spectrum of other topics.

Mrs. Meloy began a lecture on the shift from a producer economy to a communication-systems economy, noting

that foreign countries are eclipsing the American auto industry.

The lecture soon shifted to how little money teachers make. The Human Development instructor told how her eldest son, an Air Force officer, makes more money than she does and how a former student who took only a two-year data-processing class now makes twice as much as she does after 20 years of teaching.

"Tell your parents to vote for the (APS) bond issue," Mrs. Meloy further advised, saying the bonds would mean more high school computer training.

Teachers seldom proved shy about sharing their personal philosophies.

In civics, Mr. Sanchez introduced the freshman students to communism:

"In the United States, we're blessed because we have all the right things, specifically right," he began.

"Under socialism the people have little choice. The communists are simply against the United States because they feel the United States is the only power that has the ability to get in the way of their goal to communalism. I control the entire world.

"Beware! Be very leery of the communists. The Polish people, they want to get out, but they can't. Many people come into the system. They want socialism — 'the government helps' — but then they get caught in communism. They want to get away from a communistic economy, a communistic government."

On another day, Sanchez opened his class with a lecture about "vegetarianism."

"Have you heard about the 1920s? Have you heard about the 1970s?" Sanchez asked his freshmen. In those periods of American history people were rich and lazy, their complacency reflected in their music: ragtime and disco, he explained.

He warned his charges not to become soft with their easy lifestyle and stop learning and growing. Otherwise, the United States could go the way of the downfallen Greek, Roman, French and Spanish empires.

Three requirements for passing Sanchez' class were writing a book report, making a scale model of a monument and baking a dessert in the shape of a New Mexico symbol.

Evidence that students fulfilled that final requirement included cake pans and serving utensils coated with hardened crumbs and frosting, stacked under a table in the back of Sanchez' classroom.

**NEXT: How do Eldorado students view their school days?**

## Eagle Speak 'bags it' with everyday English

Like the San Fernando Valley where "Val Speak" has become a celebrated language unto itself, Eldorado High School has its own special phraseology. This is a partial glossary of "Eagle Speak."

**BAG IT** — What you do with something you don't like or don't want to do. "Bag this assignment!" A phrase used by students and teachers.

**BLOW OFF** — Something you do to another person when you don't like them anymore. "He's so O.T.S. (Out: There Somewhere) that she blew him off."

**BOOK** — To leave a place. "Let's book."

**BUMMIN'** — An expression describing a feeling of sickness, depression or fatigue.

**DUDE** — A generic reference to an individual applicable to women and men. "Hey, dude" is a common greeting.

**FREAK WALL** — The wall between the Vocational Building and Media Center, populated by freaks.

**FREAKS** — Are you more interested in Ozzy Osbourne than Calvin Klein? Do you wear a denim jacket, smoke a lot and talk about drugs and heavy-metal music? Do you have either very long or very short hair? If so, you are a freak.

**GET REAL** — An expression indicating you don't believe what you're being told. (See "I'M SURE.")

**I'M SURE** — A popular expression of disbelief. (See "GET REAL.")

**JOCK WALL** — The wall in front of the Media Center, where sports enthusiasts and the popular gravitate.

**JOCKS** — Are you a member of an Eldorado sports team? The drill team? Band? Chorus? Then you wear a orange and

yellow Eagles jacket and you are a jock. Or, if you just dress nicely and haven't missed a single Graham (nightclub) dance, you are also a jock.

**LATERS** — This ends most conversations. It's short for "see you later."

**O.T.S.** — Stands for Out: There Somewhere. Someone who is absent-minded is O.T.S.

**QUARTERS** — A drinking game that involves bouncing a quarter into a glass of beer to win a drink.

**TOASTED** — The state of being either very drunk, stoned or tired.

**TRASH** — To destroy or disregard. "We trashed the house," or "Let's trash this new seating chart."

**TOGETHER** — A description of a relationship less than going steady. "They have been together for two months."