

5-20-05

Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
1500 S Ave K
Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable James H. Bilbray,

I am not, nor have I ever been employed by the Air Force, or any other branch of our nation's military. I am, however, very concerned about the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. What attributes and accolades the base brings to our nation's national security are beyond the scope of this letter; for this letter addresses the concerns of the community, more so, the concerns of two students about the future of their school. I am writing to you as a concerned graduate student of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM.

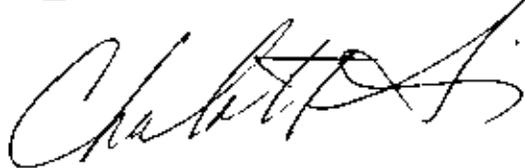
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The reason why I am taking time to describe my plight to you is that this scenario is shared by the myriads that choose schools like Eastern to pursue degrees and if you close Cannon you close Eastern. I am not interested in what the statistics say, I have heard that only twenty percent of Eastern students are stationed at Cannon but this is only part of the equation. Most of the students I know are in some way related to Cannon Air Force Base, it is safe to say that fifty percent or more have either had a relative stationed at Cannon some time in the past or have been stationed at Cannon themselves and are going back to school. For instance, one of my classroom acquaintances was stationed at Cannon ten years ago as enlisted but was injured and released from the Air Force with a medical discharge and attends here now with the hopes of becoming a physicians assistant. One of the girls in my office is here because her dad was stationed at Cannon when he retired and stayed in Portales after his Air Force career. Also, my next door neighbor is in Korea for a few weeks visiting her father who was stationed at Cannon in the past. I had another neighbor recently move-out because her father needed someone to stay at his home while he served a tour in Korea also. My wife used to come out to Cannon with her father who is a retired Colonel in the Air Force, to go shopping at the BX because Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas was closed in 1997. This leads to me, I would never have known about Eastern if it weren't for my wife and her trips out to the BX with her father. It would take a great deal of cost to run an analysis of this depth on the student body at Eastern to show this relationship between Eastern and Cannon, so my hope is to bring this to your attention. As you can see, the school supports the base in a mutual relationship which is why I fervently attest, that if you close Cannon you close Eastern. So, please reconsider for the welfare of the students of Eastern, that our dreams and aspirations can be attained, to keep Cannon open.

Respectfully Yours,

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Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
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Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable Phillip Coyle,

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The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The top signature is more fluid and appears to be 'C. J. J.'. The bottom signature is more detailed and appears to be 'Charles J. J.'. Both signatures are written in black ink on a white background.

5-20-05

Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner,

I am not, nor have I ever been employed by the Air Force, or any other branch of our nation's military. I am, however, very concerned about the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. What attributes and accolades the base brings to our nation's national security are beyond the scope of this letter; for this letter addresses the concerns of the community, more so, the concerns of two students about the future of their school. I am writing to you as a concerned graduate student of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM.

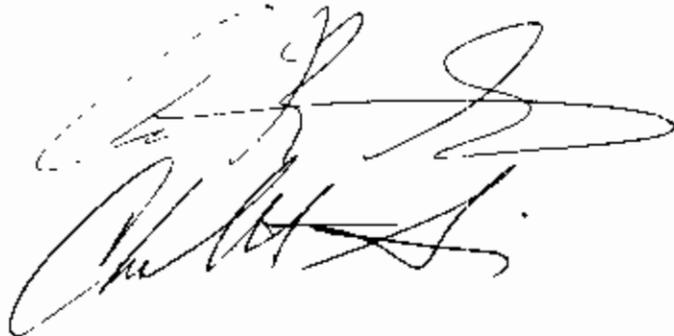
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Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris S.', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the 'Respectfully Yours,' text.

5-20-05

Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
1500 S Ave K
Portales, NM 88130

General James T. Hill,

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5/23/05

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Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
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Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner,

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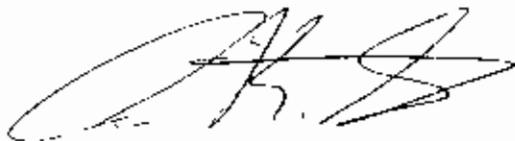
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15/25/05

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Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.,

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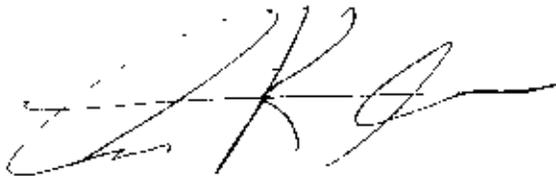
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The Honorable James V. Hansen,

I am not, nor have I ever been employed by the Air Force, or any other branch of our nation's military. I am, however, very concerned about the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. What attributes and accolades the base brings to our nation's national security are beyond the scope of this letter; for this letter addresses the concerns of the community, more so, the concerns of two students about the future of their school. I am writing to you as a concerned graduate student of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM.

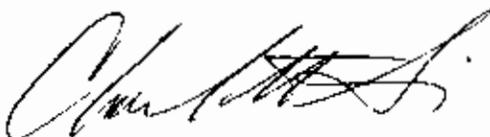
Despite being the third largest university in the state of New Mexico, Eastern New Mexico University, Eastern to those whom it is well acquainted with, is not very well known by most outside of New Mexico but, as I can attest, is of great value to our nation's future. Since, my wife brought me out here to finish her undergraduate degree; I have been drawn into this school by the warmth of the people who comprise it. This is why I refer to Eastern as I would a friend. I graduated from Texas Tech University in the Fall of 2002 with a BBA, too soon after the fall of the World Trade Center. The nation's economy was still very wounded and not able support the entrance of most of the unfortunate graduates at that time, so I with countless others did all I could to make ends meet. I worked all sorts of jobs varying widely, including being an insurance agent to moving two hundred pound windows for extra cash. Because I was not working jobs that I could see myself doing as a career choice, I decided it wouldn't be fair to keep my wife out of school so we moved to Portales to further our education. The stark contrast between the learning environments at Texas Tech and here at Eastern is profound. Texas Tech has a regimental environment in which you are a student amongst tens of thousands. Eastern, because of its size, is much more accommodating to the individual needs of the student. There is a personal relationship between the students and the professors here at Eastern which Texas Tech cannot provide with its 450 students per class on average. In addition the student body at Eastern is more humbled, most students like myself, cannot afford "big" schools. For the most part we are on our own, trying to balance our educational responsibilities with financial responsibilities. We choose Eastern because the tuition is lower, and the hidden student fees which are usually overlooked are miniscule in respect to the larger universities, more importantly the cost of living is much lower than that of larger metropolitan areas. I understand the magnitude of the difference, as far expenditures are concerned, that a "little" university such as Eastern makes when compared with universities the size of Texas Tech. I worked my way through my undergraduate, and can brag about not taking out a single student loan until my junior year which is a great feat that most who attend schools of Texas Tech's size are unable to do. Furthermore, most students at Texas Tech that I was familiar with had additional financial support from their families where most here don't. With the cost of a

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higher education skyrocketing, Texas Tech's cost went up by more than thirty percent over the last three years since I left, because of this, schools like Eastern are gems to students such as my wife and I. I would not have even considered paying the higher prices that would have been required to get my masters degree from Texas Tech. It is hard enough trying to find a job in a troubled economy but to have to look for one with a mountain of debt burdening you down in addition would be exasperating. Unfortunately, this scenario is being asked of students more and more as the cost of a higher education exponentially grows.

The reason why I am taking time to describe my plight to you is that this scenario is shared by the myriads that choose schools like Eastern to pursue degrees and if you close Cannon you close Eastern. I am not interested in what the statistics say, I have heard that only twenty percent of Eastern students are stationed at Cannon but this is only part of the equation. Most of the students I know are in some way related to Cannon Air Force Base, it is safe to say that fifty percent or more have either had a relative stationed at Cannon some time in the past or have been stationed at Cannon themselves and are going back to school. For instance, one of my classroom acquaintances was stationed at Cannon ten years ago as enlisted but was injured and released from the Air Force with a medical discharge and attends here now with the hopes of becoming a physicians assistant. One of the girls in my office is here because her dad was stationed at Cannon when he retired and stayed in Portales after his Air Force career. Also, my next door neighbor is in Korea for a few weeks visiting her father who was stationed at Cannon in the past. I had another neighbor recently move-out because her father needed someone to stay at his home while he served a tour in Korea also. My wife used to come out to Cannon with her father who is a retired Colonel in the Air Force, to go shopping at the BX because Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas was closed in 1997. This leads to me, I would never have known about Eastern if it weren't for my wife and her trips out to the BX with her father. It would take a great deal of cost to run an analysis of this depth on the student body at Eastern to show this relationship between Eastern and Cannon, so my hope is to bring this to your attention. As you can see, the school supports the base in a mutual relationship which is why I fervently attest, that if you close Cannon you close Eastern. So, please reconsider for the welfare of the students of Eastern, that our dreams and aspirations can be attained, to keep Cannon open.

Respectfully Yours,



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6/25/09

5-20-05

Aaron & Charlotte Sims
ENMU 4180
1500 S Ave K
Portales, NM 88130

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

I am not, nor have I ever been employed by the Air Force, or any other branch of our nation's military. I am, however, very concerned about the closure of Cannon Air Force Base. What attributes and accolades the base brings to our nation's national security are beyond the scope of this letter; for this letter addresses the concerns of the community, more so, the concerns of two students about the future of their school. I am writing to you as a concerned graduate student of Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM.

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Respectfully Yours,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'C. S. S.'. The bottom signature is more legible, starting with 'Charles' and ending with 'S.', likely representing Charles S. S.