

Fall 1993

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

News and Publications Office, UTEP

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/nova>

Recommended Citation

News and Publications Office, UTEP, "Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso" (1993). *NOVA*. 86.
<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/nova/86>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the UTEP History Resources at DigitalCommons@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in NOVA by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UTEP. For more information, please contact lweber@utep.edu.

NOVA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
Q U A R T E R L Y



FALL • 1993

FROM THE EDITOR

During the 1992-93 academic year, NOVA Magazine devoted additional editorial space to bring its readers more in-depth information about areas of the university too diverse to cover in a single feature story. We published special sections on UTEP's art and cultural offerings, nursing and health sciences programs that meet critical border health needs and teacher education initiatives that target public educational reform. We also reported on university research and outreach that address regional environmental concerns.

For us at NOVA, many of the stories in last year's special feature sections were an opportunity to explore the connections between the university and the city of El Paso. Learning more about UTEP's relationship to the community has broken new editorial ground for NOVA. In the future, NOVA will continue to explore university/community links. We hope to continue to tell the UTEP story from two perspectives: the outside looking in and from within looking outward. In a sense, the story of the university is an El Paso story. It is a story set within the context of the cultural, economic and political milieu of the Southwest border region. UTEP's response to its environment and its performance as a member of this community is evident in many of its efforts, whether they are well established programs or recent trends crystalizing into new and dynamic academic degree offerings.

In this issue, we aim the spotlight on UTEP's burgeoning creative writing program. This program is a good example of how UTEP is mining the rich cultural resource that exists here to shape a unique academic program—one that will feed back to the community new talent and literary works mirroring the borderland culture. As an added attraction, the special section features an excerpt by UTEP professor Ben Sáenz and an illustration (on the cover) by San Diego-based artist Michael Steirnagle. It is our hope that you will find this issue of NOVA not just informative, but entertaining as well.

Another example of a program that provides services beyond the traditional academic offerings and gives people the opportunity to make learning a life-long process is UTEP's Division of Professional and Continuing Education. Check it out. It offers something for anyone interested in acquiring knowledge for professional or personal growth.

And finally, this year's distinguished alumnus story clearly demonstrates the deep connection between the university and El Paso. Since its early days, UTEP has produced much of the talent that has driven the area's development. Our salute goes to Hughes Butterworth for the contributions he has made to this university and El Paso.

We are also introducing a new department in this issue. The UTEP Alumni Association has expanded its reach to more alumni in the El Paso area, and efforts are underway to form alumni association chapters in other Texas cities. Alumni meetings around in other parts of the country also demonstrate alumni interest in the current development of the university. With hopes of expanding communication with and among UTEP alumni, the Alumni Association in cooperation with NOVA introduces ALUMNEWS. This new department will carry information about issues and events affecting UTEP alumni. Feature news about the activities of the association and individual alumni will also be published. We hope this department will be a valuable service to all alumni.

As we progress through this academic year, we also would like to hear more often from our readers. We will endeavor to bring you UTEP stories in which you are interested. Write us with your comments and suggestions. And don't forget to join in this year's Homecoming festivities scheduled during the week of Oct. 11-16. See you there.

—Arturo Vásquez

Volume 29, No. 1; No. 115

Editor: **Arturo Vásquez**

Assistant Editors:

Robert McCorkle and Denise Bezick

Art Direction: **Geronimo Garcia**

Graphic Design:

John Downey and Bobby Daniels

Production Coordination:

Kathleen Rogers

Photography:

David Flores and Franklin Muñoz

Contents © 1993

by The University of Texas at El Paso

NOVA Quarterly (ISSN 1041-6900)

is published by the News and Publications Office, UTEP, El Paso, TX 79968-0522.

NOVA is sent without obligation to alumni and friends of the University.

Second class postage paid at El Paso, TX.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *NOVA Quarterly*, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968-0522.

NOVA Quarterly is printed by the University Printing Division.

On the cover:

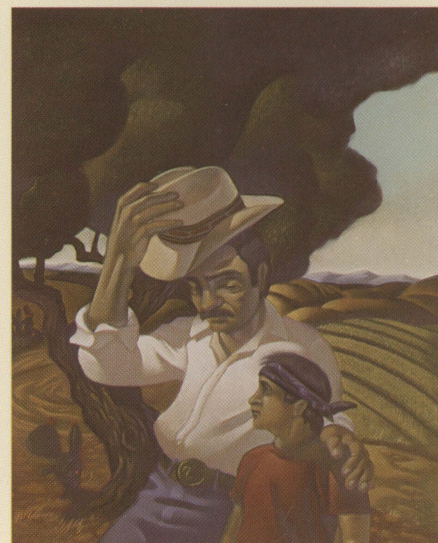
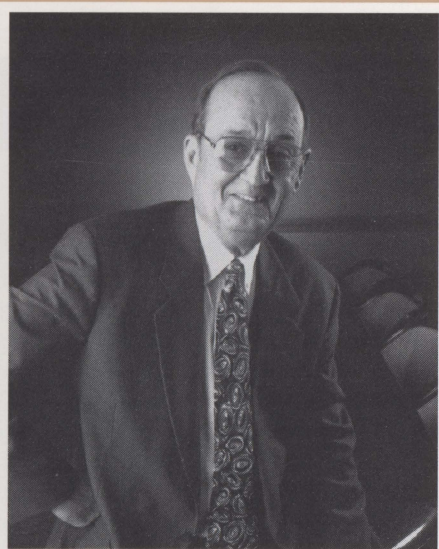


Illustration by Michael Steirnagle

Fall 1993

The University of Texas at El Paso



Page 2... 1993 Distinguished Alumnus Hughes Butterworth



Page 17... New MFA in Creative Writing



Page 6... Homecoming Calendar of Events in Alumnews

NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

- 2** **Hughes Butterworth:**
1993 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus
by M.A. Maier

- 10** **Satisfying a Thirst for Knowledge**
by Stacie Wilson and Robert McCorkle

- 12** **Conference Business Booming at UTEP**
13 **Specialized Programs Take Aim on**
Targeted Populations

- 17** **Creating Writers Who Break the Mold**
by Denise Bezick

- 22** **Cebolleros**
An Excerpt from a Short Story by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Departments

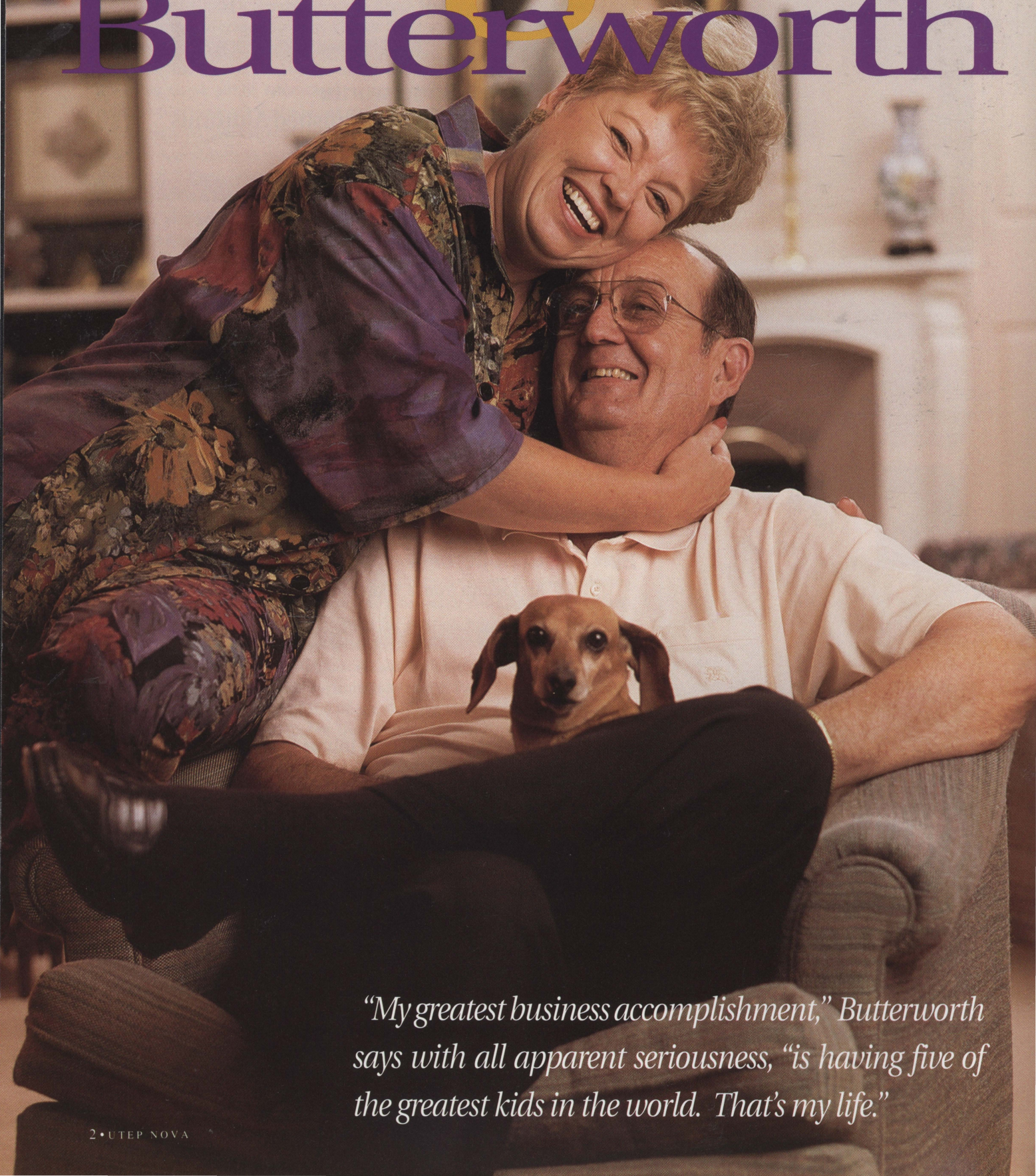
- 6** **Alumnews** by Jeannie Johnston
Beginning with this issue, NOVA will feature a new alumni section in addition to the regular publication of "Alumnotes." The added pages will highlight upcoming alumni events and provide an in-depth look at the numerous accomplishments and contributions of UTEP graduates and their impact on the communities in which they live.

- 14** **Highlights**

- 16** **Partners—Peter and Mei Chan**
by S. Gail Miller

- 21** **Faculty Profile**
Leslie Ullman: Painting the Desert's Poetry
by Denise Bezick

Hughes Butterworth



"My greatest business accomplishment," Butterworth says with all apparent seriousness, "is having five of the greatest kids in the world. That's my life."

UTEP 1993

Distinguished Alumnus

by M.A. Maier

Ask Hughes Butterworth about being named the 1993 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus, and he won't talk about himself. Instead, he'll launch into a discussion of outstanding students who attended UTEP with him.

"My class alone had some extraordinary talents," he recalls. "Warren Travis was extremely talented in the drama area as a costume designer. We had these old parachutes, and he'd tear them up to make costumes, his sister's formals — anything. I understand he's had quite a career in theater."

"And Conger Ballard — great musical talent. He's gone on to write hundreds of songs. These sorts of outstanding people have brought so much to the world with their talents."

Ask Hughes Butterworth about Lawyers Title of El Paso, the title insurance company he opened in 1974, and he'll seize the opportunity to tell you about his employees. "Lawyers Title isn't me, it isn't Hughes Butterworth," he says. "It's 80 people who give to this community and whom people in our community choose to do business with."

Ask Hughes Butterworth about his business accomplishments, and he'll turn the conversation into a discussion of his five children. "My greatest business accomplishment," he says with all apparent seriousness, "is having five of the greatest kids in the world. That's my life."

It doesn't take long to figure out that to know Hughes Butterworth is to know his family, his friends and his community. For this man, these are the elements of life itself.

Butterworth's earliest years were spent moving across the South, from Newport News, Va., to Birmingham, Atlanta and Jackson, Miss. His father's job with the Cotton Division of the Department of Agriculture kept the young family on the go until they were finally able to settle in El Paso in the summer of 1942, when Butterworth was just short of 11 years old.

Butterworth's mother, Ms. Mary Byrd Butterworth, sent her husband ahead to El Paso to find a suitable house for the family within walking distance of an Episcopal church, an elementary school and a grocery store. His choice was so successful that she still lives in the family home on Wheeling Street near Crockett School. Despite her strong ties to home and family in Virginia, Butterworth's mother fell in love with El Paso immediately.

"I just adore El Paso," she says with her soft Virginia drawl. "It's grand with the fine weather." Her five grown children all attended UTEP and have remained in El Paso with their own families.

Butterworth still has friends from his days at Crockett and later at Austin High, but many of his closest ties were forged during his years at UTEP (Texas Western College at the time) from 1950 to 1954.

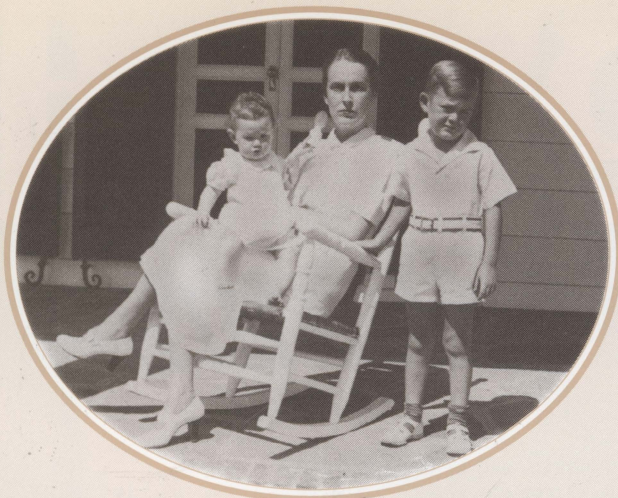
"I was very tied into the Greek world at Texas Western as an SAE," he recalls. "We had lots of beer on the levee, evenings at La Hacienda, and of course we went to Juarez a lot."

"A bunch of us — we called ourselves the hellion group — car-pooled to school over Scenic Drive every day. That was pretty much college life for me, since I was at work the rest of the time."

Dr. Dan Roberts, an El Paso dentist, remembers those car-pooling days with Butterworth and R.A.D. Morton, who's now a physician in El Paso: "One of the funniest times was one semester when we were all taking physics. Hughes picked me up in that old, faded red Packard of his with a horn that sounded like a cow bellowing. As we headed toward campus, Hughes had a wreck. It was just a fender-bender, but we'd hit the physics professor in his car. We were all afraid we wouldn't pass physics after that."



Left: Hughes Butterworth enjoys a moment of relaxation at home with his wife, Sharon, and beloved pooch, Sweetie. Right: 3-year-old Hughes and his father, Hughes Sr.



From left to right, Hughes' sister Molly and his mother, Mary Byrd Butterworth, with Hughes in Virginia, where the family lived before moving to El Paso.

That physics class seems to haunt them. Dr. Morton remembers: "The three of us, Dan Roberts, Hughes Butterworth and I, sat in the back row and talked about girls and our social lives. Then we had our first exam. Our total grades from the three of us together didn't add up to 100 percent. Our instructor very wisely split us up after that."

Butterworth was a pre-med biology major at TWC, but he didn't have the grades to lead him on to medical school. The loss of that first dream was not easy.

"Dr. Berkman, a stern, hard teacher who was head of biological sciences, took me in his office to tell me that he could get me into pharmacy school but not medical school," Butterworth recalls. "I felt like a total failure at that moment, but he told me not to give up, that I could do well at whatever I chose."

"After leaving his office, I began beating the streets for a job, and during that time I decided that I would never fail again. Dr. Berkman propelled me into the business world, and here I am today."

Where he is today is at the helm of the leading title insurance company in El Paso. Business associates use the same adjectives again and again to describe his work: astute, knowledgeable, thorough, creative and always ethical. Ray Marshall, a real estate and secured lending specialist at Kemp Smith & Associates law firm, calls Butterworth the most astute title insurance person he's found in 30 years of working with title people from across the country.

Joe Foster, an independent real estate broker, agrees. "He not only wants to help you, but he knows how to help you," Foster says.

Forty years of experience at every level of the land title business have played a big part in shaping Butterworth's skills and reputation. He started in the business while he was still in college as a runner and janitor for Southwest Title. Upon completing college in 1954, Butterworth landed his first full-time job, again at Southwest Title, for \$225 a month. He still had to do the janitorial work, but when he married his first wife, Pat Patterson, a few months later, the company hired a janitor to take over those duties.

Butterworth stayed with Southwest Title until 1974 when he opened Lawyers Title of El Paso, a company that has grown steadily in size and reputation since then. This year, Butterworth merged his company with Lawyers Title Insurance Corp. of Richmond, Va., while retaining control of the El Paso operation.

In Butterworth's eyes, each step forward in his career has been another gift from his beloved El Paso. The secret that got out very early is that Hughes Butterworth feels he owes the community tenfold for every-

thing it has given him, and he has worked tirelessly for 40 years to return the favor, with no end in sight. But rather than talking in any detail about his community service, Butterworth shares stories of those who taught him to give.

"My father was my first influence," he says, remembering the visits he and his father would make to the cotton fields and gins during the 1940s. "Dad was a deeply ethical person. He wanted to help every cotton farmer and ginner he came across."

"During the down season, he'd travel the valleys explaining how to improve the next year's crop. Nearly everyone offered to give him something in return — a Stetson, maybe, or a new suit of clothes — but Dad never accepted. I think I began to learn through this example the importance of giving back."

Butterworth credits some UTEP professors with teaching him more about life than its academic side. Key among them were Dr. Anton Berkman, who was head of biological sciences, and Dr. William Lake, who was head of the chemistry department.

"Those two great professors played a huge part in shaping my life," he recalls. Dr. Berkman, he believes, made him realize that his change in career direction was no reason — or excuse — to stop pursuing worthy goals.

Butterworth also recounts an event from early adulthood that has affected him profoundly ever since. It began with a loan from a great aunt when he was first married after college.

"I borrowed a little money from her to buy some furniture," he recalls. "When I paid her back, she asked me how much money I gave to my church." This puzzled him, but she persisted and finally asked him to consider tithing. After months of thought, he decided to make a one-year monetary pledge to his church.

Butterworth seems to feel the worry again as he recalls, "We struggled that whole year trying to reach the \$572 pledge we'd made. When I finally paid it off December 1st, it felt like the biggest relief I'd ever had."

"Then, December 23rd, I received my first work bonus ever. After taxes, that bonus came to \$572."

Butterworth continues to view this incident as an unambiguous reminder of the need to give back to his community. Yet he is careful not to look for a literal balance between giving and receiving. "If you start trying to make things balance, it's all over," he says.



Hughes Butterworth (kneeling on the left) with fellow Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity members Paul Huchton and Warren Travis. Standing are Robert Sonderson, R.A.D. (Dunny) Morton, Robert Heasley and James Neugebauer. 1953.

"Lawyers Title isn't me, it isn't Hughes Butterworth," he says. "It's 80 people who give to this community and whom people in our community choose to do business with."

Butterworth's generosity has never been limited to a particular cause. His second wife, Sharon, says, "If there's someone he thinks needs help and there's something he can do, he'll do it."

Car dealer Bob Hoy, a long-time family friend, says Butterworth has been "a major player in almost every good thing that's come to El Paso over the years." According to Jim Phillips, chairman of State National Bank, this involvement comes from Butterworth's having "a love affair with this community."

Butterworth admires those who have devoted themselves to a single community interest for the long haul, but he admits to getting involved in nearly every civic organization that has ever asked for his help. "I try to help everybody a little," he says, then looks concerned as he adds, "I don't know, maybe that doesn't help anybody that much."

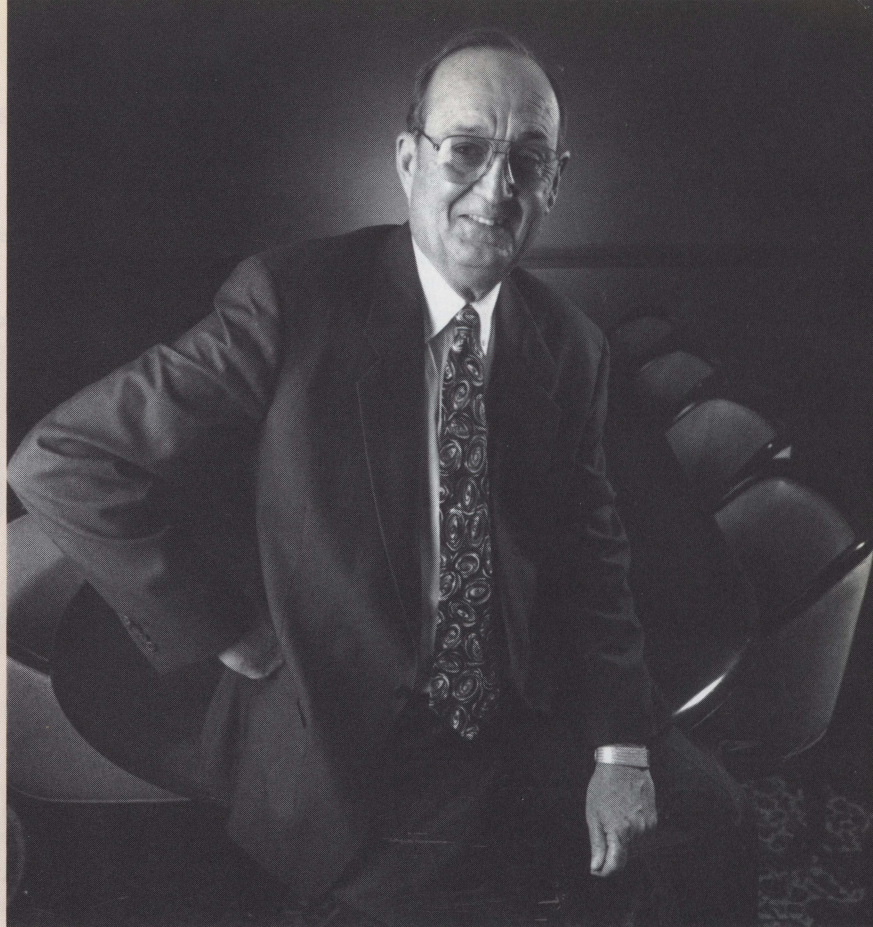
Most El Pasoans don't hear much about Butterworth's community service. Bob Heasley, an insurance executive at Lincoln National and Butterworth's friend since college, explains: "Butterworth is a leader, but he keeps a very low profile. He's never self-serving, which is a little unusual in the business world. I believe he's earned his graces in the hereafter already."

Butterworth does have two overriding concerns that have continued to spark his considerable community involvement over the years: El Paso's industrial development and UTEP, which he calls the city's greatest asset. Jim Phillips describes Butterworth as one of the top four or five people who have driven the industrial development of El Paso, primarily through the efforts of the El Paso Industrial Development Corp.

UTEP, Butterworth believes, is central to the area's industrial growth. "Any industry asks first what education is available in a community and second what cultural activities are available," says Butterworth, "and UTEP is absolutely fundamental in both areas." He also sees the university as the catalyst for El Paso's growth as an international center.

Butterworth has shown his concern for UTEP's development through extensive participation in university activities, including serving as president of the Alumni Association and chairperson of the Alumni Fund for Excellence. He has been an active member of the Matrix Society for 19 years and of the President's Associates for four years. He currently serves on UTEP's Development Board. Each year he presents a \$1,000 Lawyers Title of El Paso Scholarship to students in real estate at both UTEP and El Paso Community College.

Butterworth is an admitted workaholic who regularly spends 11- or 12-hour days at Lawyers Title. His wife, Sharon, adapted to this trait by teaching the kids to do their homework early so they could all eat dinner together later in the evening. Both parents felt this family time was especially important in their "yours, mine and ours" family, with two



Hughes Butterworth, founder of Lawyers Title of El Paso.

children each from their first marriages and a fifth child in common.

Butterworth's friends and family say that despite his schedule, he always has time for anyone who needs him. "He's one of the most caring, compassionate, even-handed, fairest people I've ever had the privilege of knowing," says John Schatzman, owner of Schatzman Construction.

ReAnn Gonzalez, Butterworth's stepdaughter, says that her recent wedding was a good example of his generous spirit. "It was hard to decide who to have walk me down the aisle," she says. "I'm close to my father, too, so I finally decided to have them both give me away. I discussed it with my stepdad, and he was willing to bow out, even at the very last minute, if I changed my mind. He's a real gentleman who's concerned about what all of us kids want and need."

His long-time friend Sonny Brown, of Sonny Brown & Associates, sums up what all his friends have to say about Butterworth: "He's about the best friend anyone could ever want to have."

When UTEP President Diana Natalicio telephoned Butterworth to tell him he'd been named the 1993 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus, he quipped, "Everyone's entitled to a first mistake, and you may have just made yours."

"I promise you," she replied, "we have not."

"I don't feel comfortable in this role," he admitted then, "but I'm going to accept before you take it back."

"I'm humbled," Butterworth says later, shaking his head in disbelief. "I'm not a brilliant person; my kids are much smarter than I. I've been fortunate to have been honored with many awards through the years. But to me, this is the pinnacle." ■

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UTEP's Alumni Association is an organization of former students and faculty members that promotes the interests and general welfare of the university and encourages unity and friendship among the university's alumni. The association assists UTEP in its mission for academic excellence, supporting and sponsoring valuable programs such as student recruitment, scholarships, the Top Ten Seniors Award, college and university Distinguished Alumni Awards and the annual Alumni Fund for Excellence telephone campaign.

The Alumni Association also serves as a conduit for fellowship. The association's sponsorship of several programs and projects provides opportunities for alumni to participate as a group in the growth of their alma mater. Some of these activities include:

- pre-game football parties held at the Alumni Lodge
- an annual kickoff picnic at the beginning of the fall semester
- "Follow the Miners" trips for sports fans
- alumni reunions
- participation in Homecoming festivities and promotions, including the post-bonfire party, and pre- and postgame parties held at the Alumni Lodge, plus discounts on Homecoming game tickets.

Joining the Alumni Association is one way UTEP graduates have demonstrated their commitment to the university and its past, present and future students. If you aren't a current Alumni Association member and wish to join, send a minimum annual contribution of \$25 per person to the academic program of your choice. Mail your donation to the UTEP Alumni Association, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, 79968. Include your year of graduation or the years you attended UTEP on your check, and indicate the college, department, academic program or scholarship for which your donation is intended. A membership card listing benefits of participation in the Alumni Association will be mailed to you upon receipt of your contribution.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- alumni updates
- annual Homecoming calendar of events
- special Homecoming discounts
- pre-game parties before all home football games
- invitations to special on-campus events
- library "community user" privileges
- use of university Career Services (involves a nominal fee)
- discount rates on tickets for programs sponsored by the Union Programs Office
- 20 percent discount on books published by Texas Western Press
- limited use of the university recreation facilities
- discounts on outdoor adventures programs
- use of the campus pool during open swimming hours
- membership in the El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union with a membership fee

1993

H O M E C O M I N G

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

► MONDAY, OCT. 11

- **"A Look Back at Homecoming Past,"**
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

An exhibit featuring pictures, collectibles and other items that

highlight the class of 1968 – UTEP's 25th anniversary class – and the honored classes of 1943, 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983 will be on display Monday-Saturday from Oct. 11-22 at the Union Gallery. Admission is free. Call 747-5481.

- **Art Gallery, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Visit the Fox Fine Arts Gallery during Homecoming Week. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday.

- **Annual Alumni Open House, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

All Mines, TWC and UTEP alumni are encouraged to stop by the Alumni Lodge (Office of Development and Alumni Affairs) during office hours through Friday to sign the 1993 Homecoming guest book. Refreshments will be served. Call 747-5533.

► TUESDAY, OCT. 12

- **Annual Alumni Open House, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **Reception for '93 Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Recipient, 8 p.m.**

The Department of Music will host a recital and reception in the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall to honor the 1993 Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Recipient. Call 747-5606.

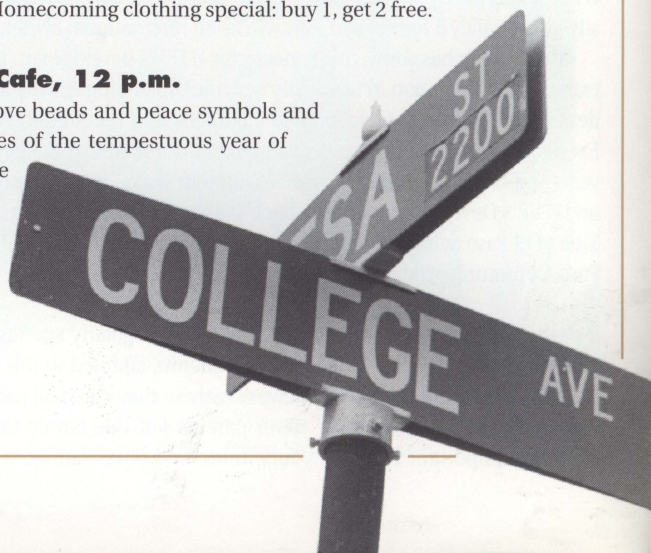
► WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13

- **Annual Alumni Open House, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **Homecoming Patio Clothing Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The UTEP Bookstore offers a Homecoming clothing special: buy 1, get 2 free. Call 747-5594.

- **Wednesday Music Cafe, 12 p.m.**

Pull out those bell-bottoms, love beads and peace symbols and listen to some of the top tunes of the tempestuous year of 1968 such as "Hey Jude," "Love is Blue" and "I Heard it Through the Grapevine." The revelry begins at noon and lasts for an hour. Bring your lunch to the Union Plaza to relax and reel in the years.



► THURSDAY, OCT. 14

- **Annual Alumni Open House, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **Homecoming Patio Clothing Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **Open House at the Honors House, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

The Honors House, located between the liberal arts and academic services buildings, will have an open house. Call 747-5858.

• **Informal Mixer for Golden Grads and Honored Classes, 3 to 5 p.m.**

Alumni Lodge mixer for the Golden Grads of 1943 and all years prior, the special classes of 1944 through 1948, the honored classes of 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983 and the 25th anniversary class of 1968. Live music and refreshments. Call 747-5592.

• **Alumni Mixer for Metallurgical Engineering Graduates, 4:30 p.m.**

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Murr will host at their home this annual alumni mixer. Metallurgy/mining alumni and current and emeritus faculty are invited for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Call 747-5468.

• **Reception for CBA's 1993 Gold Nugget, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

A reception honoring the College of Business Administration's 1993 Gold Nugget Recipient and an open house celebrating the 10th anniversary of the CBA building. Call 747-5241.

► FRIDAY, OCT. 15

• **Shirt Day**

Show your school spirit by wearing UTEP shirts or organizational outfits. Call the Student Association at 747-5584.

- **Annual Alumni Open House, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **Homecoming Patio Clothing Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- **Luncheon in Honor of the Special Reunion Classes, 12 p.m.**

The Golden Grads of 1943, the honored classes of 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983 and the 25th anniversary class of 1968 are invited to a complimentary buffet luncheon to be served on the patio of the Alumni Lodge. Call 747-5592.

- **Homecoming Parade, 12:15 p.m.**
- **Homecoming Rally, 1 p.m.**

Join us on the Geology lawn with the Homecoming Court and parade winners.

• **Education Issues Sponsored by Civil Engineering, 1 p.m.**

Alumni Information/Consultation on Education Issues will be held in the dean's conference room and CE labs. Contact Dr. Oey or Dr. Rozendal at 747-5464.

• **Languages and Linguistics Open House, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Liberal Arts Building, room 109. Contact Dr. Richard Ford at 747-5767.

• **English Open House, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Hudspeth Hall, room 100. Call 747-6240.

• **History Department's Wine and Cheese Reception, 4 to 6 p.m.**

Templeton Suite, Union East 313. Call 747-5508.



Class NOTES

40's

John F. Haynes (B.S. '48) of Plano, Texas, and his friend **Larry Staub** (B.S. '51) of Richardson, Texas, stopped by the alumni office recently on their way to Mexico. Although both claim to be retired from the mining business, the purpose of their trip was to look at Mexican mines!

Catherine Burnett Kistenmacher (B.A. '48) displayed her work in a two-woman art exhibit titled "The Second Time Around" in the student union building's Union Gallery during April and May. Her works include realistic florals, landscapes, Southwestern scenes in transparent watercolor and abstract subjects in acrylic. She credits her continuing interest in aquamedia to her mentor, the late Vera Wise, who established UTEP's art department and was its chairwoman for 26 years.

50's

Alfred E. Seddon (attended '50's) retired from the FBI as a special agent after 27 years of government service. He is a senior vice president and regional security director at Nationsbank in Charlotte, N.C.

Lorenzo LaFarelle (M.A. '56) is an instructor of Chicano studies and supervisor of student teachers in UTEP's College of Education. His book, *Bernardo de Galvez: Hero of the American Revolution*, has been published by the Eakin Press of Austin, Texas. The book depicts the role of Bernardo de Galvez in Spain's contribution to America's independence.

60's

David Klassen, Ph.D., (B.A. '61) is vice president for academic affairs and professor of chemistry at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. He serves on the university's research and planning committee, which is responsible for program assessment and long-range planning.

William B. Schwartz (B.B.A. '67), former resident of El Paso for 48 years, has relocated to Oklahoma City, where he has been named district manager of the Copeland Companies, providers of personal retirement planning services.

Carlos Villa (B.B. '67) has been appointed by Gov. Ann Richards to a six-year term on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board beginning Sept. 1. Villa, a graduate of Texas Tech University's law school, is the first Hispanic from El Paso to serve on the board. He will be one of three Hispanics on the 18 member board. He is a former member of the board of directors of the UTEP Alumni Association.

Roger C. Ellison (B.A. '68) currently runs West Texas Boys Ranch in San Angelo, Texas.

John R. Leathers (B.B.A. '68) has joined the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll in Lexington, Ky. Leathers is a 1971 graduate of the University of New Mexico's law school where he served as comment editor of the *New Mexico Law Review*. He earned a master of laws degree from Columbia University in 1973.

Elva Duran, Ph.D., (B.S. '69; M.Ed. '72) earned her doctorate at the University of Oregon in 1978 and has been given early tenure as a full professor at Californian State University in Sacramento, Calif. She worked as an assistant professor in the education department at UTEP from 1979 to 1990 instructing special education teachers.

70's

Barbara Finlay, Ph.D., (M.A. '72) has received the Jean Brown Scholarship, which is awarded annually to the top five scholars in each seminary class at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. Finlay holds a bachelor of arts degree from Texas Tech University and a doctorate from the University of Florida. She has served as a college professor and soci-

ologist and is now pursuing a master of divinity degree at the seminary.

Rick Moore (B.S.Ed. '72) is district manager for Shelter Insurance Co. in North Platte, Neb. He has recently completed a five-year, 10-part chartered life underwriter program and will receive his diploma from the American College at ceremonies later this year in Kansas City, Mo.

Margo (Ford) Vargas (B.S. '72; M.A. '75) was recently installed as president of Altrusa International, Inc., a women's service organization in Richardson, Texas. She serves on various community boards, including Leadership Richardson and Collin County United Way. Her husband, **Robert Vargas** (B.A. '71), has been the executive director of United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Dallas since 1985. He serves on the board of directors of the Dallas Theater Center and is a member of the civil service board of the city of Richardson.

Manny Soto (B.A. '73; M.Ed. '75), Ysleta Independent School District's top expert on Texas school finance issues, has been promoted to associate superintendent in charge of instructional support, special programs and planning. A 20-year district veteran, Soto was formerly assistant superintendent for special programs and support services.

Robert Wingo (B.B.A. '73), president of Sanders, Wingo, Galvin & Morton Advertising, has been elected to the board of directors of Sunwest Bank in El Paso. His extensive involvement in the El Paso community includes membership on the boards of directors of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Hospice of El Paso and the UTEP Miner Foundation.

Jeffrey B. Cassias (B.S. '74), a commander in the U.S. Navy, is currently deployed aboard the submarine USS Birmingham homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and is midway through a six-month deployment to the western Pacific and Persian Gulf as part of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz Battle Group. Cassias, a 1971 graduate of El Paso's Burges High School, joined the Navy in 1974.

Robert W. Elliott (B.A. '75), a commander in the U.S. Navy, recently assumed command of Patrol Squadron 45 in Jacksonville, Fla., at a formal change of command ceremony. The squadron flies surveillance and other missions on P-3C Orion aircraft.

Arnold B. Williams Jr. (B.A. '75) retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel and is director of communications at McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co. in Mesa, Ariz. He is a board member of the Black Board of Directors Project and was recently elected to the board of directors of Rainbow Way Inn, a group home for severely abused children in Phoenix, Ariz.

John B. Polizzi (B.A. '76) recently reported for duty at Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy.

Raul Armendirez (B.A. '77) has been appointed assistant vice president for human resources at the UT-Houston Health Science Center.

Delores Lucero (B.S.N. '77), a certified pediatric nurse at Thomason General Hospital in El Paso for 16 years, has been named the hospital's Nurse of the Year.

Dean Allcorn (B.B.A. '78), an international tax lawyer for Browning-Ferris Industries, was featured in *The Houston Post* recently as one of the many volunteers who cleaned up 170 miles of Texas coastline in the seventh annual Texas Coastal Clean-up sponsored by the Texas General Land Office and the Center for Marine Conservation.

Michele Monique Goddard (B.S. '78; M.P.A. '81) is employed by the Texas Department of Health as a policy and procedures coordinator. She has been a volunteer for the Austin Groups for the Elderly since 1986 and currently is an instructor at Austin Community College.

Marian Schultz (Miller) Cross (B.A. '79) was financial manager for the dental office of her husband, Willard, in Hollister, Calif., until his recent death. She has been accepted to the MSA program at San Jose State University in California.

80's ▼

Patricia Avila (B.S.Ed. '80; M.Ed. '87), a teacher of English as a second language at Del Valle High School in El Paso, has been selected one of Ysleta Independent School District's two Teachers of the Year and will now advance to regional and state competition.

Hector Zamora Jr. (B.S. '80), director of special programs for the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department, was awarded the Adult Proba-



• Barbecue at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, 4:30 p.m.

Join us for a Barbecue Patio Party on the College of Nursing and Health Sciences patio (1101 N. Campbell). Cost is \$2.00 per person. Call Ceci Luna at 778-7825.

• 9th Annual Homecoming Open Tennis Tournament, 5 p.m.

Contact Ruben Espinoza at 747-5103.

• 9th Annual Homecoming Open Racquetball Tournament, 5 p.m.

Contact Ruben Espinoza at 747-5103.

• Physics Picnic, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Leach Grove. Call 747-5715.

• The Distinguished Alumnus Reception and Buffet, 7 to 9 p.m.

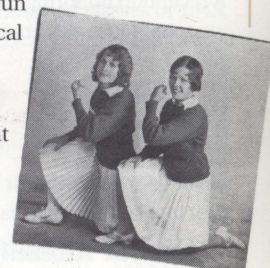
Join us at the University Library as we honor Hughes Butterworth, the 1993 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Prices for this coat and tie affair are \$25.00 per person and \$325 per corporate sponsor. Tickets are available at the UTEP Ticket Center, 747-5234. Call 747-5533 call for additional information.

• Homecoming Beach Party, 8 p.m.

Organizations will host an array of carnival booths featuring food, fun and prizes at the Fox Fine Arts Center while live bands provide musical entertainment. Call 747-5584.

• Homecoming Bonfire/Spirit Rally, 9 p.m.

The bonfire behind the Fox Fine Arts Center is sure to be the highlight of the spirit rally. Call 747-5584.



► SATURDAY, OCT. 16

• College of Engineering's Breakfast, 8:15 a.m.

Templeton Suite, Union East. Contact Concepcion Rodriguez at 747-5460.

• Coffee for Political Science Alumni, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Benedict Hall, room 205. Call 747-5227.

• Geology's Departmental Brunch, 9:30 a.m.

Geology Reading Room. Cost is \$8.00 per person. For more information, contact Sandy at 747-5501.

• Painting of the M, 10 a.m.

Watch the Student Association and engineering students participate in this renewed Homecoming tradition on Sun Bowl Drive.

• Coffee for Math Alumni, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bell Hall, room 125. Call 747-5761.

• Heritage House Memorabilia, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

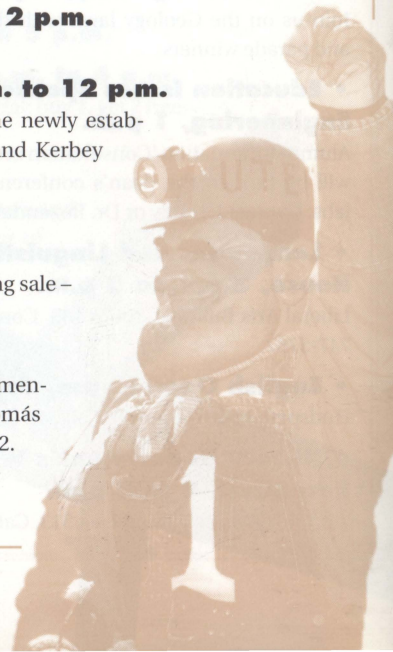
The UTEP Heritage Commission invites you to visit the newly established Heritage House on the corner of Circle Drive and Kerbey Avenue.

• UTEP Bookstore Insignia Sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The University Bookstore presents a special Homecoming sale - 20 percent off all UTEP insignia items. Call 747-5594.

• Golden Grads Luncheon, 12 p.m.

University President Diana Natalicio will host a complimentary luncheon for the graduates of 50 years or more. Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Building. Call 747-5592.



► SATURDAY, OCT. 16continued

• Academic Services Open House, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Office of Recruitment and Scholarships will host an open house for alumni and prospective students in the Academic Services Building. The event includes a demonstration of touch tone telephone registration. At 3 p.m., prospective students are invited to attend "Preview UTEP," an enrollment seminar. Call 747-5890.

• Alumni Band, 3 to 6 p.m.

Rehearsal at 3 p.m. in the Sun Bowl will be followed by a 5 p.m. reception in the Fox Fine Arts Center. Call 747-5606.

• Barbecue for Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A pre-game barbecue will be in the park next to Old Main. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Call 747-5740.

• 1950's & 1960's Reunion/ Alumni Association Pre-game Party, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Join the Alumni Association for the fourth annual Pre-game Party/Cookout/Reunion at the Alumni Lodge. Everyone is invited, and we especially welcome our graduates from the 1950's and the 1960's. Call 747-5533.



• Homecoming Football Game: UTEP vs. Utah, 7:05 p.m.

Congratulations to our 1993 recipients of the Gold Nugget Award. The following UTEP alumni will be honored Friday, Oct. 15, at the Distinguished Alumnus Reception:

- Mary Evonne Taylor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- George Bailey, College of Engineering
- Reese Rowling, College of Science
- Wynnell Dryden, College of Business Administration
- Abraham Chavez, College of Liberal Arts

tion Administrator Award for 1993 by the Texas Probation Association for outstanding administrative achievement.

Mike Weidel (M.B.A. '81) has retired after a long career in federal civil service and moved to his mountain home in southwestern Virginia. He married Marilyn Echavez in 1990, and they have a son, Thaddeus Michael, born in June 1992.

Delores Aguilar (B.A. '84) teaches seventh- and eighth-grade reading/English as a second language at Riverside Middle School in El Paso. She was recently chosen Educator of the Week by the *El Paso Herald-Post*.

Norma F. Dunn (B.B. '84) has been elected vice president of investor and public relations of El Paso Natural Gas Co. by its board of directors. She also serves on the board of trustees for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the El Paso Rotary Club.

Sandra Luna Magana (B.S.Ed. '84) has been named Teacher of the Year for 1993 at Presa Elementary School in El Paso.

Eileen Driscoll Rubens, J.D., (B.B.A. '84) graduated in June from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. She will join the Los Angeles law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy in October.

Patricia Klamborowski Williams (M.Ed. '84), a third-grade teacher at Del Norte Heights Elementary School in El Paso, has been chosen one of Ysleta Independent School District's two Teachers of the Year. She will advance to regional and state competition.

Paul Gay (B.A. '86) has been elected to a three-year term as director of the El Paso Bar Association. He also serves on the board of directors of the UTEP Alumni Association.

Joseph Anthony Giron, R.N., (B.S.N. '87), a captain in the U.S. Army, is an operating room nurse in the MEDDAC unit at Fort Knox, Ky. He received the Army Achievement/Commendation Medal for his service in Desert Storm. His wife, **Lorena Bernal Giron, R.N.**, (B.S.N. '87) is also an Army captain. She is an assistant nurse manager of a surgical ward with the 42nd Field Hospital at Fort Knox, Ky. In February, she was selected Nurse of the Year at Ireland Army Command Hospital.

Barbara R. Ratcliffe (M.A. '87) is a teacher at Bonham Elementary School in El Paso. She was awarded the prestigious Kappan of the Year 1992-1993 award for outstanding contributions to the UTEP Phi Delta Kappa Chapter.

Jorge M. Rivas (B.S. '88), received his doctorate of philosophy degree from the UT-Houston Health Science Center and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in May. Rivas has been accepted at the UT-Galveston School of Biomedical Sciences where he will pursue his medical degree.

Sylvie T. Stryker, R.N., (B.S.N. '88) has been promoted to captain in the U. S. Army. She cared for wounded soldiers in Saudi Arabia and Iraq during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She was transferred to the 2nd General Hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, in July.

Linda Holman (M.Ed. '89) presented a paper titled "Implications of High Stakes Testing in U.S.-Mexico Border Areas" at the American Educational Research Association's national conference in Atlanta, Ga. in April.

90's ▼

Deborah Martin (B.A. '91) has been appointed entertainment editor of the *El Paso Herald-Post*. Martin began her career in journalism as reporter, news editor and editor of the UTEP campus newspaper, *The Prospector*. She joined the *Herald-Post* as a reporter in 1991.

OBITS ▼

Pete R. Martinez (B.A. '68), died May 15, 1993, in Plano, Texas. He had been a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. At the time of his death, Martinez was president of Landlock Shrimp Co. in Carrollton, Texas. Survivors include his parents, two sons, one daughter, a sister, two brothers and several nieces and nephews.

Eron Dick Buckholts (attended late 20's) May 22, 1993. She had been a lifelong resident of El Paso and was an active member of First Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Walter Buckholts, one son, one daughter, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Mary W. Clifford (M.A. '56), died May 26, 1993, in Santa Anna, Texas. She was a long-time public school teacher in El Paso before retiring and returning to her home town of Santa Anna.

T. Marvin Britton Jr. (B.A. '38) died June 5, 1993, in Houston. He had practiced law in the Houston area for 35 years and was a member of the Houston Bar Association. He had been active in church and civic affairs and was a Harris County precinct judge for 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Patsy, two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren and a sister.

Thomas Patrick Love Jr. (B.S. '75) died June 9, 1993. He was a Vietnam veteran and a civil engineer for Mobil Oil Co. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Theresa, and his brother, Donald. Survivors include his wife, Patricia, one daughter, two sons, three sisters and several nieces and nephews.

Dorothy Plumbley Woodley (B.A. '50) died June 16, 1993. She was a retired school teacher and had been a resident of El Paso for 73 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur, and is survived by two sons, three daughters, 18 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Bernardo Villegas Sr. (B.S. '22) died June 22, 1993, in Rochester, Minn. After graduating from UTEP, he worked as a mining engineer in Mexico until changing to a career in optometry. He was the first optometrist to practice in Juárez, Mexico, and he served as president of the El Paso Optometric Association. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Consuelo, and his daughter, Delia. Survivors include two sons, one daughter and twelve grandchildren.

Oliver E. Goodman (B.B. '65) died June 25, 1993. After serving 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, he became the first person to hold the position of executive assistant to the mayor of El Paso and was the first director of the El Paso Civic Center. His support of UTEP included membership in the Matrix Society. Survivors include his wife, Julia, one son and one daughter.

Jose S. Garcia (B.S. '42) died July 7, 1993. A lifelong resident of the El Paso area and a member of the Catholic Church, he was self-employed at a rental trailer park. He is survived by one son, seven grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, two brothers and three sisters.

Thomas F. Lee (former UTEP dean of business) died July 9, 1993. He was owner and manager of Business Support Center, and he formed Tom Lee and Associates, a research company that often conducted polls on El Paso political races. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jo, a son and a daughter.

Leonard Edward Murray Jr. (B.A. '63), a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, died July 10, 1993. A veteran of World War II, he served more than 20 years in the Army. After his retirement, he was a teacher at Bel Air High School in El Paso. He is survived by his wife, Amy Louise, three sons and one daughter.

John G. Uranga (B.A. '53) died July 13, 1993, in California. He was a retired airline pilot and a member of the Masonic Lodge 1111. Survivors include his son, his daughter and his mother.

James H. Loper (B.S. '57), a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, died July 19, 1993. He served as a divisional director of the Associated Milk Producers Corporate Board and Research Board. In 1992, he was the recipient of the William Leyendecker Agriculturist of Distinction Award from New Mexico State University. Survivors include his wife, Glenell, two sons and his mother.

Robert E. Williford (B.S. '52) died July 24, 1993, in Dallas, Texas. He had been involved in the swimming pool business for the past 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, one daughter, two sons, a grandson and a brother.

Javier Renteria, a martial arts sifu, demonstrates a defensive maneuver during a children's Ping-Hung Fung-Ying class offered as part of a summer camp for youths.



SATISFYING A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

■ *Smoldering coals on the grill glow red then sizzle as homemade spicy barbecue sauce drips from meaty ribs and juicy chicken breasts that make up the main course of the latest recipe from the Bar-B-Que College.*

■ *The distinctive twang of country music echoes against gymnasium walls as men and women of all ages perform slap-leather line dances side by side.*

■ *A man in his late twenties loosens his tie as he pencils in payroll figures for the next budget year for a fictitious company during a CPA exam review course.*

■ *Two supervisors from a local company discuss the latest developments in Total Quality Management with their course instructor, a faculty member of UTEP's College of Business Administration.*

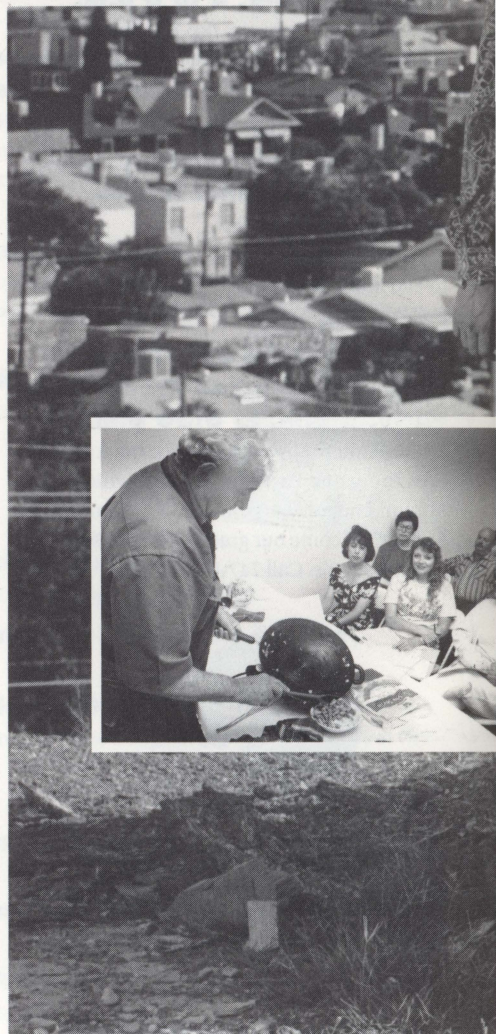
by Stacie Wilson and Robert McCorkle

El Pasoans seeking to expand their knowledge, to unleash their creativity or simply to polish their vocational credentials are turning in record numbers to UTEP's Division of Professional and Continuing Education to upgrade skills or to learn just for the fun of it.

The university-wide operation conducts more than 600 seminars, workshops, certificate programs and a wide array of non-credit short courses for the general public, private business and industry, government agencies and El Paso area professionals. Individuals can sign up three times a year for classes teaching everything from rifle shooting and ballooning to solar adobe construction and beginning fiction writing.

When UTEP's continuing education program lurched out of the starting gates more than 10 years ago, 700 people signed up for the informal classes the first year, paying \$50,000. Today, more than 10,000 youngsters and men and women of all ages and from all walks of life enroll each year, generating gross revenues of \$1 million, according to Robert Stakes, division director.

"Our most important programs are our broad offerings of community programs. I see them as the cornerstone of our operations," notes Stakes.



COMMUNITY SHORT COURSES

In a softly lit Hudspeth Hall classroom usually reserved for English instruction, a dozen people of various ages sit cross-legged on the floor. Visible through a slit in the blinds are students rushing to class, dodging a stream of vehicles whose windshields reflect the stark glare of a sweltering, non-blinking summer sun. Inside, instructor Joseph DeFlorio's

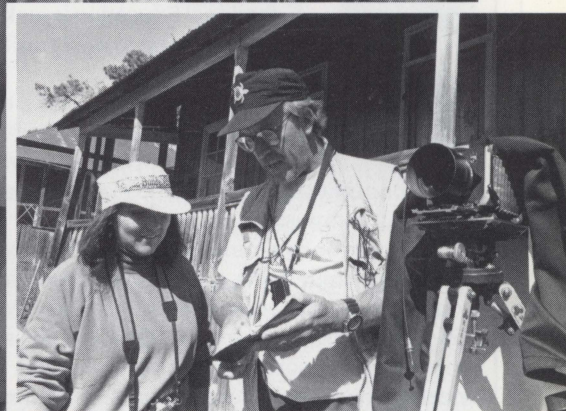


meditation class is engrossed in a relaxation exercise. The students, eyes closed, visualize a beam of light – a calming energy force – flowing down through their heads and throughout their bodies.

While the above scene may be somewhat a typical of what usually transpires in UTEP classrooms, the meditation course patterned on the Bhuddist philosophy is indicative of some of the un-

orthodox personal enrichment courses taught in the continuing education program.

DeFlorio, who has studied meditation for more than two decades with Tibetan monks and Indian Brahmas, has seen his classes grow each semester. He tells his students that 80 percent



(Main photo) Scaling new heights of success in the Division of Professional and Continuing Education are, from left, conference coordinator Nancy Wacker, director Robert Stakes, associate director Lee Nelson, computing programs coordinator Jerry Poe and assistant director Conni Quintana.

(Inset photos, counterclockwise) Scenes from several continuing education classes: Stir Fry IV, Meditation and Gathering of the String (fine art photography).

of the pain Westerners receive is "bad karma" brought on by negative thinking. Only 20 percent is physical in nature.

"Let's not be like the typical Westerner," DeFlorio tells his minions. "You must be patient. We can train our minds to see things differently, to love and practice forgiveness."

For recent California transplant Nancy Rivera, the meditation class is her first introduction to the UTEP continuing education program a friend told her



about. She says she's impressed with the class and the instructor. "I thought it would be a relaxing course, a course to teach you how to relax. That's what I need right now."

Will she take future continuing education courses? "I probably will," Rivera says, "now that I've found out how easy it is to get on campus."

Mediation is just one of more than 100 non-credit short courses that comprise the bread and butter of the Division of

Professional and Continuing Education. The compelling community courses offered each fall, spring and summer are marketed through a catalogue mailed to almost 100,000 El Paso area residents well in advance of each semester.

Assistant director Conni Quintana, who has worked with the division for six years, delights in the sustained success of the program that she's seen double in size during her tenure.

"I attribute the growth to more aggressive promotion of our offerings, which are greater in number and more diversified than ever before. And I believe El Pasoans are more aware than ever of the need to enhance their education and enrich their personal lives," Quintana says.

Most in demand, according to Quintana, are what she calls the core courses: Spanish, country western dance and cooking. Growing in popularity, however, are the more eclectic offerings, such as Tui Na Chinese Therapeutic Massage and Aikido, as well as programs aimed at newcomers to the border region like Travel on a Budget and Bienvenidos!, a class that highlights what to see and do in the multicultural border community.

Some individuals have made a particular course a regular part of their lives. For more than a year, El Pasoan Covie Herrera has attended all of the country western dance classes offered by the continuing education division.

"It's my cowboy aerobics!" exclaims Herrera. "I love dancing. It's great exercise and at UTEP I don't have to put up with the nightclub scene."

Classes are offered primarily in the evenings during UTEP academic semesters. Most classes meet on campus and are taught by instructors pulled from a pool of about 100 UTEP faculty and community consultants. Participants pay \$25 and up depending on the length of the course and materials required.

The continuing education program hasn't forgotten youngsters. Summer camps offer kids from 5 years of age through the teen years a host of fun diversions in theatre arts, gymnastics, sports, drill team, video production and even engineering.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS BOOMING AT UTEP



A year-old department within the Division of Continuing and Professional Education is making life easier for professors and administrators trying to host conferences and bringing greater exposure to the university.

During 1992-93, the Conference and Special Events Department coordinated 14 conferences and generated \$150,000 in revenues. Perhaps more importantly, the department provided the opportunity to expose visiting professionals from around the globe to El Paso and the UTEP campus.

What was once a minor function of the division managed by director Robert Stakes as time permitted, the conference scheduling and coordination business has blossomed under the coordination of Nancy Wacker, a former KCOS-TV development director. Wacker, who joined UTEP last fall, sees to it that scheduling conflicts among university-sponsored events are minimized, that the necessary accommodations and meeting rooms are reserved, that registration and other fees are collected, and that all organizational details are tended to.

"The idea behind hiring a conference coordinator was not just to generate more revenues, but to stress the importance of providing service and professional advice to university faculty and staff who are having a conference or seminar," says Stakes. "There was some initial reluctance (to turning over arrangements to the division) among some faculty to overcome, but now we're getting letters of commendation from those we've assisted."

One of the kudos comes from College of Business Administration dean Frank Hoy, who as chairman of an international organization, was given the task of hosting the group's annual convention in Las Vegas. A total of 259 participants attended the International Council of Small Business confab, 120 of them coming from South Africa, Germany, Korea and Australia.

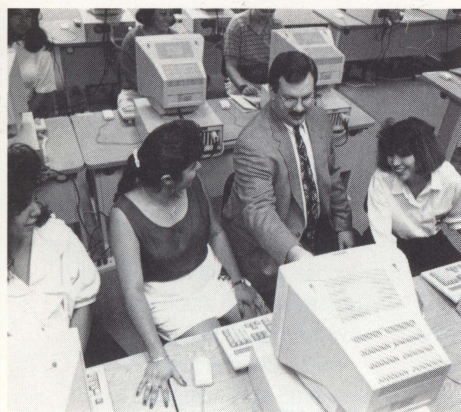
Says Hoy of continuing education's conference-planning staff: "I couldn't have pulled off the conference so successfully without them. It came off without a hitch."

Closer to home, UTEP is being utilized increasingly by organizations to host regional, national and international conferences. In some cases, conferees are housed in campus dorms.

The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science brought 380 members from throughout the nation to UTEP where they were housed on campus for six days. And this past May, more than 50 renewable energy researchers from around the world attended the third international Progress in Solar Ponds Conference hosted by the College of Engineering.

Wacker says that anyone at the university or in the community who wants to stage a seminar or conference can schedule it through her department, which will book conference dates, reserve a block of hotel rooms, design registration forms and flyers for the event, and handle all other necessary arrangements.

"The community at large benefits from our service because it brings into our city people who are spending their money here, eating in El Paso restaurants and shopping at the malls," Wacker points out.



Jerry Poe's computer classes are among some of the more popular professional education offerings.

A STEP UP THE CORPORATE LADDER

The business community also benefits from continuing education through the professional development component, which offers courses designed to meet the training needs of professionals in business and industry in the El Paso/Juarez area. Courses are predesigned, but can be customized for the needs of a particular organization or even taught on site if requested.

Tony Ayub, training officer for El Paso Emergency Medical Services (EMS), says his organization is pleased with the training it has received through UTEP.

"We even budget for it now," Ayub notes.

EMS selects up to three supervisors in a given year to complete the supervisory development certification series. Those moving up to management previously worked in some technical capacity, so their training abilities may be limited or rusty.

"The training enhances their ability to manage people," Ayub says.

The professional development component has served more than 300 companies over the years. Plans are in the works to implement more comprehensive courses and provide a broader range of training programs to entice more businesses seeking ongoing education for their employees.

"The whole issue of professional development should be of interest to most people because it's been documented that more people gain skills through job training than in any other way," says associate director Lee Nelson, who coordinates the professional development

program. "If we're going to raise the skills level of El Pasoans, there has to be more attention paid to employer-provided work skills training."

A number of border companies, including Furr's and Radiology Consultants, have turned to the UTEP program to bolster worker skills and drive home safety issues.

One of today's most popular courses is the 60-hour Supervisory Development Certificate Program offered in three interdependent courses designed to provide supervisors with a realistic understanding of their role and function as a supervisor. Lee says the course has been so popular that UTEP now offers a Spanish-language version taught in Juárez.

Longtime El Paso residents Les and Sharon Sherfy signed up for the classes voluntarily as a refresher course. Les, who's been in management for 27 years, recommends the supervisory course as a good way "to stay on top of things."

Unlike the Sherfys, Araceli Ramirez, who is new to management ranks at McGill Electrical, says her attendance was mandatory, but she admits she's learned a lot.

"Being a supervisor is very different from being a regular employee, explains Ramirez, who supervises employees on the night shift. "Things happen at work and you think you're the only one experiencing that, but when you come to class, you realize that almost everyone is in the same boat."

Whether it's computer training, a CPA review, estate planning or learning how to build a passive solar adobe home, UTEP has become a leading community resource for blue collar workers, business professionals, senior citizens and youngsters seeking to broaden their horizons and enhance their skills.

As program director Robert Stakes puts it, "Our programs are more than just something for 18- to 22-year-olds. The university is a knowledge resource for the community, and we must continually find a way to extend those resources. That's what continuing education does."

■

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS TAKE AIM ON TARGETED POPULATIONS

Among the seven program areas of the Division of Professional and Continuing Education are several specialized programs geared toward targeted segments of El Paso's population.

- **Elderhostel** is a national program offering week-long residential study to adults from all over the world who love to travel to different places to learn about various communities. Participants reside in campus dormitories, enroll in classes on a variety of topics, attend social events and special activities and tour the area. Information: 747-5142.

- **The English Language Institute** conducts intensive English training for individuals wishing to enter UTEP or who need to improve their English reading, speaking and writing skills for business or personal reasons. Students are evaluated and placed in one of four levels. The ELI also provides intensive English and Spanish testing and training for local industry. Information: Lynda Rushing, 747-6281.

- **The Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL)** is an educational program directed by and for retired individuals 50 years of age or older. The program offers learning opportunities for individuals who are interested in expanding their education. Since its founding in 1990, CLL membership has grown to approximately 600 people who pay a \$25 lifetime fee to join. More than 30 non-credit courses are offered each semester. Information: 747-6280.

- **Summer Camps/Athletic Programs** encompasses a wide variety of activities for youth, including commuter and residential camps in cheerleading, dance, basketball, volleyball and soccer, marching auxiliaries, and classes in a variety of areas, including acting/drama and gymnastics. Information: 747-5142.

- In addition to the various programs offered by the continuing education division, the **College of Nursing and Health Sciences** maintains its own continuing education program for nurses who must accumulate continuing education credits to renew their licenses. The program is designed to improve participants' nursing and administrative skills, boost educational levels and enhance research and theory development. Annual enrollment ranges up to 200 nurses some years. Information: 747-7269.

HIGH LIGHTS

SUPER-CLEAN TRUCK ENGINE

A Chevy pickup truck with a natural gas engine designed and modified by a team of UTEP students registered the cleanest exhaust of 24 vehicles in a Natural Gas Vehicle Challenge competition in Austin this summer. The UTEP truck also won first place for driveability and for lowest emissions.

Engineers from General Motors Corp. and other companies that manufacture vehicles and parts used to convert vehicles to natural gas are interested in finding out what the students did to make the engine run so cleanly.

The truck's emissions surpass the standards that the Environmental Protection Agency will require in California in 1997. The truck also meets the ultra low emissions vehicle standards of the Department of Energy.

"We are very interested in the vehicle because there is nothing really high tech on it," says Mike Duoba, transportation systems engineer at Argonne National Laboratory, which sponsored the contest. "It isn't a prototype, it is just tuned very well. This is a way of demonstrating what can be done with what is on the market today."

Engineering students Jeff Lindblom and Roberto Dominguez led the team that



Showing off their first-place trophy for producing the cleanest-running natural gas vehicle at an Austin competition are: (back row, left to right) Sergio Cardova, Dr. Carroll Johnson and Jeff Lindblom; and (front row, left to right) Roberto Dominguez and Ray Marquez.

put the engine together. Dr. Carroll Johnson was their faculty adviser. Lindblom designed and tested the engine modifications with technical help from the El Paso-based Autotronic Controls Corp., where he works part time. Dominguez designed and installed the natural gas storage system with technical help from Southern Union Gas Co.

The modifications include a high-quality ceramic piston and combustion chamber coating that keeps the engine from absorbing heat and an inner cooler that reduces the temperature of the exhaust gas before it is recirculated into the engine. Lindblom also modified a timing control designed by a UTEP graduate who works at Autotronic – and made it better.

"There is potential here that hasn't yet been tested," says Roger Priegl, the director of Autotronic's alternate fuels division. "There is good reason to believe that this would work on other vehicles."

Lindblom and Johnson estimate that the modifications the UTEP team made to the pickup would cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000 if they were done by a pickup manufacturer.

Other students who worked on the truck are Oscar Salcido, Sergio Cordova and Rey Marquez. Financial and technical support was provided by Rudolph Chevrolet, Walters Imports, Magic Muffler, Allied Signal and Performance Castings.

A NEW DIRECTION IN TEACHER TRAINING

The College of Education is making important changes that will put technology and more teacher education students into El Paso's public school classrooms.

With a \$1.6 million grant from the Texas Education Agency to create a Center for Professional Development and Technology and \$1.4 million in grants from the Department of Education (DOE) for bilingual and special education and substance abuse training programs, the College of Education is adding more on-the-job professional training to its strong theory-based instruction.

The Center for Professional Development and Technology joins the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence as a catalyst for improving El Paso's schools. While the collaborative helps teachers learn innovative instruction techniques, the center will ensure that new teacher instruction is relevant to public school classroom experiences.

UTEP will use about \$1 million to buy technological teaching tools, most of which will be installed in El Paso schools. The rest of the money will pay for curriculum revisions that will put junior and senior teacher education

students in the public school for four hours of daily training.

A \$700,000 DOE grant will fund Project BEEMS – Bilingual Education with Emphasis in Math and Science – for four years. More than 50 teachers will receive scholarships to pursue a master's degree in bilingual education. Graduate-level courses on using English-as-a-second-language teaching methods to teach subjects other than English will be developed, and a bilingual education professor who specializes in math and science will be hired.

A \$600,000, five-year DOE grant will provide stipends for 32 special education teacher aides to earn a bachelor's degree in special education. Eight special education teachers will receive financial assistance to earn a master's degree.

A \$127,000 grant from DOE's Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program will allow UTEP to develop a Border Academy for Substance Abuse Intervention Counselor Training, or BASIC Training. The program will train 70 Socorro Independent School District counselors to identify and prevent drug abuse.

The grants provide important programming content to an administrative restructuring of the College of Education approved this summer by the UT System Board of Regents. To reflect a renewed emphasis on site-based teacher training, the college has added a separate Department of Teacher Education to its two other departments, the Department of Educational Lead-

ership and Foundations and the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Services.



LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER AWARDS GRANTS

Five upper classmen have been awarded \$1,000 grants-in-aid from UTEP's Center for Lifelong Learning to help defray educational expenses during the upcoming school year.

The Center for Lifelong Learning, a program of the Division of Professional and Continuing Education, used to give two \$1,000 grants, but decided this year to increase that number to five because of the stiff competition among 40 adult, non-traditional students who applied.

"We are growing and our membership fees are very reasonable," says Herbert Schwartz, chairman of the center's executive board. "We had over 350 paying \$50 each to register for classes last spring and almost that many the semester before, which gave us enough income to more than cover the

costs of reimbursing instructors. So we decided to give a few more grants."

The 1993-94 grant recipients are: Manuel Caballero, Sara O'Connor, Michell McCarty-Tinnin, Judith Otero-Reed and Patricia Martinez-Wilson. The UTEP students will get \$500 at the start of the fall and spring semesters, provided they take at least nine credit hours.

Founded in 1990, the Center for Lifelong Learning boasts more than 600 members, age 50 and older, who may take non-credit courses offered through UTEP's continuing education program.

UTEP AMONG LEADING GRANT RECIPIENTS

A national journal lists the University of Texas at El Paso 59th among the nation's top 100 leading recipients of private foundation grants.

Based on 1991 data, UTEP received 14 gifts totaling \$7.2 million, easily outranking the University of Texas at Austin (84th, \$5.8 million), Brookings Institution (91st, \$5.7) and dozens of other non-profit organizations, according to a recent article in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

The list was compiled by the Foundation Center of New York and included in the publication "Who Gets Grants/Who Gives Grants." The Center tracked 48,554 grants by 837 foundations to almost 17,000 non-profits.

Topping the list was the

California Institute of Technology with 54 grants totaling \$80 million. Filling out the top five in ranking order were Harvard (\$38 million), Stanford (\$35 million), Galveston's Transitional Learning Center (\$33 million) and Yale (\$31 million).

Two Houston entities placed in the top 100 list. They were the University of Houston (27th, \$12.4 million) and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (78th, \$6.1 million.)

"We're extremely proud of our accomplishment," Jan Cavin, UTEP's director of development, said. "We're not just competing against 4,000 public universities, but against thousands of other non-profit organizations like the YMCA and public libraries."

Cavin said UTEP administrators grants from 61 foundations, one of the largest being a \$6 million public health grant from the Kellogg Foundation. In 1991, the year upon which the top 100 list was based, UTEP received donations from 14 foundations.

The new publication shows that major private and public universities receive more grant money from American foundations than do other non-profit organizations.

Copies of the publication may be purchased for \$95 prepaid plus \$4.50 postage and handling by writing the Foundation Center, Department PR8, 79 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003.

Recognizing that financing a college education is a herculean task for which most family budgets are inadequately equipped, a recent UTEP graduate and his wife have made an early commitment to support young scholars by endowing a scholarship for UTEP engineering students.

This year, Peter Chan and his wife, Mei, created the Anthony J. Tarquin Endowed Scholarship in Civil Engineering in honor of a professor who Chan says contributed greatly to his academic success.

"People establish scholarships at their alma mater for any number of reasons," says UTEP development director Jan Cavin. "And we are happy to accept them all, of course. But the history of this one is quite unusual. Peter Chan is such a recent graduate—1990. Creating an endowed scholarship means making a substantial financial commitment, an idea that most donors rarely think about until their careers are well established."

Endowed scholarships such as the one Peter Chan created are a continuous source of financial support that often help students stay in school and graduate sooner than they might otherwise.

The efficacy of completing a university education in the fastest time possible was not lost on Peter Chan. "Without numerous small scholarships from the engineering college, I would not have been able to even get through my undergraduate degree," Chan explained in a letter he wrote to the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs to confirm his contribution. Chan earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1989 and a master's degree a year later. He finished both programs with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

"My success at UTEP is due to Dr. Tarquin's efforts and numerous scholarships I received during my four years at

UTEP," says Chan, who adds that Tarquin, the recipient of UTEP's 1993 UTEP Distinguished Achievement Award, is a dedicated professor who "deserves more than a brief moment of honor for his 22 years of helping students achieve their academic goals."

The Chans' contribution was matched by his employer, the engineering firm of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper and by Sierra Medical Center, where Mei Chan works.



Peter and Mei Chan with their son Paul.

Peter and Mei Chan

"We've always had a close association with UTEP on various engineering projects," says Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Vice President Dan Knorr. "And the university has sent us some very good students over the years. Peter Chan is an exceptional employee."

The firm has specialized in waste water and storm drainage projects in and around El Paso since 1958, and it built El Paso's 10-million-gallon-per-day capacity Fred Hervey Reclamation Plant.

Peter Chan's job with the firm is a long

way from the Catholic orphanage in Malaysia where Chan grew up. Because non-Moslems cannot attend college in Malaysia, Chan always dreamed of coming to America. After high school, Chan dedicated himself to saving enough money to qualify as a foreign student at a U.S. university. He worked as a bank teller, a day laborer, an automobile rustproofer and as the proprietor of a small video rental store. By 1986,

when he was 25 years old, Chan was ready for college, and he was accepted at UTEP. Chan married Mei, his teenage sweetheart, when she came to visit him in El Paso, and she soon moved here to stay. The couple now has a 20-month-old son.

A registered nurse, Mei Chan has worked in the renal unit at Sierra Medical Center since 1990. One of El Paso's largest companies with more than 1,300 employees, the hospital is a long-time UTEP supporter that has made major gifts to the College of Business and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Commenting on the hospital's matching contribution to the Tarquin scholarship, Director Mark Fry said: "Sierra has maintained a strong commitment to the arts, education and local civic events since it opened its doors in 1976."

The hospital sponsors a tuition assistance program for employees who attend UTEP, and it supports UTEP's athletic program through sponsorship of the Sierra Medical International Track Meet and the Sierra Medical Sun Carnival Basketball Classic.

Peter Chan's philosophy about financing higher education is deceptively simple: "If every UTEP student puts back what he received from the university in scholarship funds, the college can build a strong base of available funds for future students."

—S. Gail Miller

Move over Shakespeare, Dickens and Dickinson. Make room for Cervantes, Fuentes and Borges. UTEP is about to begin a new program in creative writing, and we're doing it American style – that's Panamerican style.

CREATING WRITERS WHO BREAK THE MOLD

by Denise Bezick

More than a dozen novelists, poets and essayists embarked this semester on a bold experiment that will bring European, Latin American and contemporary North American literature traditions together in a professional writing program that draws inspiration from the geographic of North America and Latin America at the U.S.-Mexico border. They are the first class of writers to enroll in UTEP's master of fine arts (MFA) in creative writing program in which writers will study and compose in English, Spanish or both.

Chicano writers will feel at home here, but program director Leslie Ullman says she also expects UTEP to attract Southwestern writers eager to experience life on the border and authors who have grown up in the mix of North American and Latin American cultures that permeates rural and urban existence from Los Angeles to New York and Mexico City.

"Writing students from a Hispanic heritage will mingle with students from the English, white culture. It will be interesting to see what emerges," says Fernando Garcia, director of UTEP's master's program in Spanish. "This is the place – El Paso is the place – for the meeting of these two traditions. Maybe something new in literature will take shape from here."

RAIN IN THE DESERT

by Leslie Ullman

It leaves this city suddenly
porous, all windows
thrown open. Whatever grows

out there in the sand comes in
close, exhaling its own scent
like the gray horse that once

detached himself at dusk
from the dark end of a pasture.
I'd thought he was a shed

or space between pines
and I want to laugh
again, this time

having been right all day—
how my temples closed over
grievances fat around the heart,

then flared—I wanted sudden
stones across old water,
a vein of pure logic, someone

to grab my hands.
Now the sun offers the last
of itself, a bruised light

where the horizon has pulled
the sky apart. And the beaten
streets, dark rivers, shine

as though through tears.

THE WRITERS

A rich cadre of internationally known poets, novelists and short story writers from the United States and Mexico form a talented core of instructors for the new program, says interim English department chairwoman Mimi Gladstein. Many of them were drawn to UTEP by the dynamics of life at the edge of two countries and the harsh beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert.

■ Ullman grew up in Chicago and attended college in the East and the Midwest, but she has lived on a small piece of West Texas desert for much of the last 13 years, and she says she's found a home in El Paso. The Southwestern poet has been published in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review* and other national magazines. She is about to publish her third book, *One Side Sings to the Other*.

■ Rick DeMarinis is a novelist and short story writer who signed on at UTEP in the late 1980s. Among his nine books are the *The Coming Triumph of the Free World*, a novel cited by the *New York Times Book Review* as a notable work of fiction of 1989, and *Under the Wheat*, a collection of short stories that won the Drue Heinz Literature Prize in 1986. His most recent book, *The Voices of America*, is a touchingly funny collection of short stories that sample the pain and joy of life in the modern United States.

■ Benjamin Sáenz is a southern New Mexico native and one of the nation's most talented young Chicano authors. His published works include a collection of poetry titled *Calendar of Dust* and a book of short stories called *Flowers for the Broken*. His third book, a collection of poems titled *Dark and Perfect Angels*, will be released this fall. Sáenz holds a bachelor's degree in humanities from St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, a master's degree in theology from the University of Louvain in Belgium and a master's degree in creative writing from UTEP. He is a doctoral candidate at Stanford University.

■ Luis Arturo Ramos, the former director of the University of Veracruz press, writes about contemporary Mexico and directs some of his work toward children. His best-known work is the book *Este era un gato*.

■ Mexican poet Alberto Blanco is the newest addition to the faculty. Blanco calls himself the "black sheep" of a scientific family because, though he is trained as a chemist, he has dedicated his life to literature. He is perhaps best known for his poetry, including books for children illustrated with tapestries by his wife Patricia Revah. He recently has focused his attention on essay writing.

"I think it is a question of my age," Blanco, who is 42, said in a recent interview from his office in Cuernavaca. "The velocity of poetry is more suited to youth. That's not to say that there aren't good poets who are older, but I have found that my preference has shifted from poetry to short stories to essays as I have matured."

Blanco often writes about the U.S.-Mexico border, and, because of this interest, the Mexico City native has sometimes been described as hailing from Tijuana.



Leslie Ullman, director of the master of fine arts in creative writing program.



Rick DeMarinis, associate professor of English

THE PROGRAM

UTEP student writers will grow in an academic environment that recognizes that Latin American and Native American literature is as much a part of the heritage of U.S. writers as the European tradition on which much writing instruction is based, Sáenz says.

"We are starting to develop, to slowly evolve into an institution that focuses on the literary traditions of the Americas and to help our

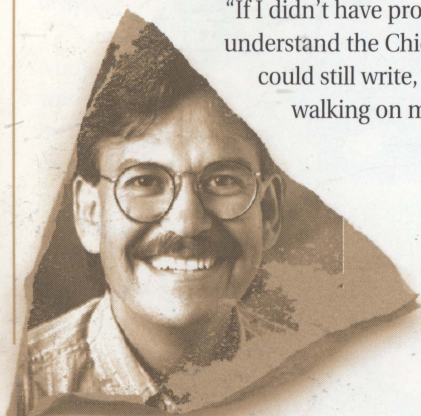
students discover the ways in which they fit into those traditions," says Sáenz. "We have an opportunity to begin and to define a very unique writing program. Our vision is a Writing Institute of the Americas. Eventually, with a lot of effort and a lot of dreaming and a lot of hard work, it will be very possible."

Manuel Vélez, a recent UTEP graduate, is one of the students who enrolled in the creative writing graduate program this fall. Vélez says he chose the UTEP program because El Paso can provide an audience for his work and a university that won't take him too far from the urban *barrios* that are the subject of his writing. His first published work, a short story called "En El East Side," appeared in New Mexico State University's *Puerto del Sol* literary magazine while Vélez was an undergraduate theater major. It is an account of a group of Hispanic teenagers who are cast out of middle class Mexican-American society because they find cultural identity in a Chicano, or *cholo*, gang.

"I write short stories in *Caló*, Chicano slang," Vélez says. "My work is very bilingual. I grew up in Central California and in El Paso, and I write what I know."

As an undergraduate, Vélez says he spent countless hours among the Mexican folk art in Sáenz's basement office discussing the role of the Chicano writer in society and literature, and he's depending on Sáenz and other UTEP professors for advice that will improve his work.

"If I didn't have professors who understand the Chicano community, I could still write, but I would be walking on my own."



Benjamin Alire Sáenz, assistant professor of English.

Alberto Blanco, assistant professor of languages and linguistics.

THE FUTURE

Vélez, like some of the others enrolling in the program, hopes to use the degree he earns to land a university teaching job that will financially support his art.

The MFA program is a collaborative effort between the English department and the languages and linguistics department, whose professors will oversee the Spanish instruction.

The MFA replaces UTEP's master's degree in creative writing and expands upon the master's degree in Spanish to give students a strong background in literature and literary criticism in addition to extensive writing workshops.

To be admitted to the program, students must submit a body of work for review by a selection committee. To earn a degree, they must complete a work of publishable quality – a novel, a book of short stories, a book of poetry.

"The students will have the opportunity to develop their writing skills beyond the level they would in a

master's program, and their thesis will be of a more complete nature. This is a degree for people who want to be writers," Gladstein says.

Because the master of fine arts degree is considered a terminal degree, its recipients are qualified to teach writing at the university, Gladstein explains.

Alberto Blanco, who is teaching his first semester at UTEP this fall, says the program will be a catalyst for the development of creative writing programs at Mexican universities. Many of its graduates likely will seek university teaching positions in Mexico, where creative writing as an academic discipline is almost non-existent.

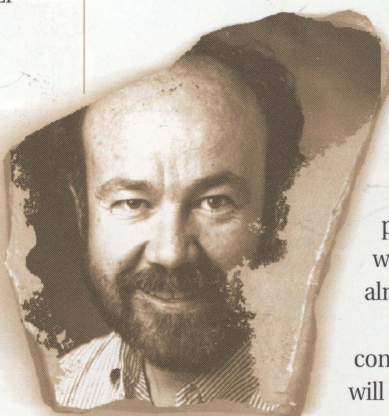
Fernando Garcia, an expert on contemporary Mexican literature who will initially direct the Spanish component of the program, is lining up Mexican professors and other talented writers who

will enroll in the MFA program next year. Though interest in the program is high, recruitment has been purposefully slow, Garcia says. UTEP is taking its time in finding students whose writing skills meet the standards.

Enrollment in the English and bilingual portion of the program has been swifter. Many of the students taking MFA classes this semester had been working toward a master's degree in creative writing and simply switched to the new program.



Luis Arturo Ramos, assistant professor of languages and linguistics.



THE WRITING

El Paso writer Steve Ersinghaus is one of those students. He already is working on his thesis – a novel set in New Mexico's Tularosa basin in the 1890s. With an eye for detail, Ersinghaus spent part of the summer staying in "ratty motels in Alamogordo" to research the landscape and the history he must understand if his fiction is to ring true. He explains: "You wouldn't want to put a stream where a stream wouldn't flow."

"I want to write novels that make me study certain things," says Ersinghaus, a graduate of El Paso High School who is already toying with ideas for future novels. "I want to write an environmental novel, something concerned with the history of the Southwest – everything from overgrazing of public and private lands to warfare, homelessness, population growth past and present."

Ersinghaus says he first enrolled in creative writing classes at UTEP because he was driven to put words on paper but thought he was "writing some pretty crappy stuff."

Influence and advice from Rick DeMarinis and the other instructors in UTEP's English department have improved his work.

"Rick DeMarinis is a writer himself, and he knows how to get things done," Ersinghaus says. "When you leave his class, you are thinking about the things that he said. He might say to stick with Anglo-Saxon words and to cut out as many latinates (words derived from Latin) as you can. The Anglo-Saxon sounds good. It is nice and choppy and the vowels and consonants move your

mouth around more than Latin words do. If you can take advice like that and make it a habit in your writing, your writing gets better."

Ersinghaus says his ultimate goal is to publish a novel, but that the desire to be published doesn't drive his work.

"Everybody wants to get published, but the real thrill is in the writing," Ersinghaus says. "The thrill is sitting at the computer and looking up and realizing that five hours have gone by and you didn't even know it."

DeMarinis, who has been incredibly successful at coaxing his own writing into print, says it is that kind of gumption, even more than gift, that makes a writer.

"The most important quality in a writer is tenacity," DeMarinis says. "If you want to be a writer, there are a thousand things that will discourage you. And talent is not the deciding factor. You have to be obsessed. You have to believe that if you don't write, you won't be able to go on living."

If UTEP's writing students have that drive, maybe some day Cervantes, Fuentes and Borges will have to move over to make room for a Manuel Vélez or a Steve Ersinghaus. ■

Assistant creative writing professor Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a mentor and role model for creative writing student Manuel Vélez, who often visits Sáenz in his office in the basement of Worrell Hall.



From the windows of the house where Leslie Ullman composes poetry, she can see birds jumping on the brush-covered dunes of the Chihuahuan Desert, slivers of irrigation water glimmering among rows of cotton plants in New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley and the sharp points of rock atop the Organ Mountains jutting into the ice-blue sky.

But before the UTEP professor's sharp blue eyes reach across that vast landscape, they must scuttle over clumps of purple and pink raw-cut gems, gray-brown pebbles rubbed smooth by weather and other chunks of nature scattered on a shelf mounted on the back of her wooden writing desk.

It is almost as if the landscape that Ullman has chosen to illustrate with her poetry has somehow transcended the barrier between inside and out and seeped like windblown sand through openings around a window into the house where the earthy poet lives.

"The rocks have found their way in here. I am not really sure how they came," Ullman muses, her words dusting magic over her writing place.

"A lot of this land has come into my poetry," Ullman says. "The land and the changing seasons and the space. It has opened me up to my inner life. I love the feeling of being out on the desert and then being with words and ideas. There is something in my spirit that has lived here before."

It is that sense of self and self-expression that Ullman takes from her home on a sand bluff outside rural Canutillo into UTEP classrooms, where it is her challenge to help budding writers discover the place or the feeling or the ideal that sparks their own passion.

"I think I probably am working with the whole person when I am working with a writer," Ullman says. "I am trying to help them be free and to be in touch with what is going on within them. I am trying to help people understand their own voice."

Ullman, a Chicago native with a master of fine arts (MFA) degree in creative writing from the University of Iowa, came to UTEP in 1979 shortly after publishing her first book.

"I hadn't even looked at El Paso on the map when they offered me the job," Ullman says. "I thought, well, why not? After I had been here for three weeks, I really liked it. I loved the students, and I still do. When I ask a question (in class), I get a response. I like to use dia-

logue in my teaching, and I found it wasn't hard to do that here."

A few years after joining the English department faculty, Ullman was drafted by languages and linguistics professor Ricardo Aguilar into an effort to create an artist's degree in creative writing at UTEP – the master of fine arts degree approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this spring.

As director of the MFA program she helped create, this internationally recognized poet brings to students a deep understanding of writing and how to teach it as well as a solid



Leslie Ullman: Painting the Desert's Poetry

grounding in the art of being published and a national reputation that helps her reach out and grab the financial assistance UTEP needs to support a solid writing program.

Ullman's poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Mademoiselle* and *American Poetry Review*. Her third book, *One Side Sings to the Other*, will be published this year.

Six years ago she won the UTEP English department's first-ever National Endowment for the Arts grant. The two-year award for audience development has since been renewed

three times. It brings bilingual and bicultural writers to El Paso to read their work, forming a strong basis of support for the bilingual MFA program by giving El Paso students, writers and literary experts wide exposure to a dynamic and diverse group of contemporary writers, interim English chairwoman Mimi Gladstein says.

Ullman inhales deeply of life – whether she is teaching, riding her horse across desert sand or discussing educational philosophy and drinking a cup of coffee in her living room. Her vigor is an inspiration to her students.

"Many of the people in Leslie's classes are women in transition – women in their late 30s or 40s who have always wanted to write but they didn't have anyone to give them inspiration and support," says Donna Weeks, a former *El Paso Times* reporter who has been working on a master's degree in creative writing and switched to the MFA program this fall. "Leslie is so intuitive when it comes to really pinpointing your strengths and weaknesses as a writer. She is a master at drawing talent out of her students."


When Ullman teaches, a pot of hot water for coffee or herbal tea always sits in the back of her classroom – an invitation to a meaningful but informal discussion about words and what they mean and how to put them together.

"Leslie comes from a viewpoint that everyone has something to say and that writing is one of the best ways not only to express yourself but to find out about yourself," says Robin Russell, a former folk singer who has discovered a new avenue of self-expression in UTEP's writing program. "She invests so much time in considering your poetry – more than you do yourself. She is that involved."

Talented instructors are the key to the success of any writing program, and Ullman throws more than 40 years of life's experiences into her work. She says, for example, that learning to jump and show horses – a hobby she developed after moving to El Paso – has given her a fresh appreciation of the learning process with which her students struggle.

"The animals have taught me a lot," she says. "They have taught me to listen in a different way. They have taught me to let go of my own will, and they have moved my basis of thought from my head to the rest of me, to my heart and my body."

–Denise Bezick



CEBOLLEROS

by Benjamin Alire Sáenz



The little boy and his father walked out of the barber shop on Picacho Street into the light of a summer evening. The boy thought the shadows were alive, speaking to him, whispering in his ears. He stared at the faded blues and reds of the barbershop pole winding forever down. The street was quiet, and the passing cars said things to the street, secrets the boy wanted to know, to touch. And for a moment, he imagined he was a car with tires talking to the streets in a language only the asphalt and the shadows understood.

The west side of town was dying. The hotels, peeling like sun-burned skin, no longer attracted overnight tourists on their way to California. Music floated out of the rooms, music, Mexican music, from another country. The boy liked the music, and he tapped his foot to the rhythm and heard his mother singing as she did the laundry. Somewhere inside of him she was smiling. He wanted to dance but didn't know how. No one had ever taught him. He was a tire; he was dancing on the street to the music, the Mexican music, and the street melted with his secrets. The shadows of the evening were dreaming of another country, and the boy was the heart of the country, a new country.

An old truck with the same sunburned skin as the hotels drove slowly down the street. The truck had a long bed full of migrants and a railing; the people looked as if they were surrounded by a fence. They were colored in sweat, shiny and smooth, and their smell mingled with the shadows and the onions they picked. Early evening air and summer onions. The boy wanted to know, wanted to be the sweat and the smells, wanted to be the deep blue in the sky that would be turning pink and orange in a matter of minutes, wanted to be the magic.

"¡Cebolleros!" His father yelled as the truck drove past them. His voice was deep and harsh. He laughed and yelled it again. "¡Cebolleros!" The sound echoed in the boy's ears. Cebolleros. Cebolleros. The boy stared up at his father's moustache. He didn't like the sound of the words, but the people didn't seem to mind. He watched the people in the truck, and his eyes caught the face of a sun browned woman who smiled at him. He wanted to ask his father why the people were fenced in, but his father didn't like questions. The boy looked at his father's moustache and then smiled back at the woman. She blew him a soft kiss and laughed.

The truck came to a complete stop. The boy stared at the tires and wanted to be the truck. If he were the truck he would let the people out of the fence. Some of the men jumped off the truck holding their sweaty shirts in their hands. The boy stared at the shirtless men, the muscles, the strong backs. Maybe someday he would be strong like them. The men were laughing and saying things to each other: "*Ahora si, unas cuantas cervecitas.*" The men laughed and went inside the hotel where the music was coming from. The little boy knew they were going inside to dance because they seemed happy. He glanced at the woman who had thrown him a kiss. He wanted to tell her she was good and beautiful. He couldn't take his eyes off her. "¡Cebolleros!" his father yelled again. The little boy didn't like the sound of it.

The truck drove away, the truck with the woman and the people and the fence around them. The boy watched them all disappear. "I wish I were a truck," he whispered. "*Pobres pendejos,*" his father said. The boy looked up at his father and wondered what he would look like without his moustache. When he grew up, he didn't want to have hair growing over his lip.

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL STEIRNAGLE

"We're here to work—not play. No anden jugando."

1967

My father lost his job that spring. That was the way of the construction business. That spring, no one was building. I heard my parents talking in the kitchen. I could hear them always—I could hear everything from everywhere. No one had any secrets. I was sitting in our room trying to read a book. I used to get lost in books, but that evening I wasn't lost. My parents were talking about what had to be done. The money my mother was making at the factory where she inspected pantyhose wasn't enough. It wouldn't be much of a summer without money. No swimming, no movies. No money, no summer. "I'll have to keep looking," my father said, "*tiene que haber trabajo*." And then he said that my older brother had to find a job to help out. I tried to imagine my brother working, the brother I always fought with, the brother who slept in the same bed I did, my brother who was only one year older than me. Fifteen wasn't old enough to get a job. "He's too young," I heard my mother say, "*no quiero que se salga a trabajar tan joven*."

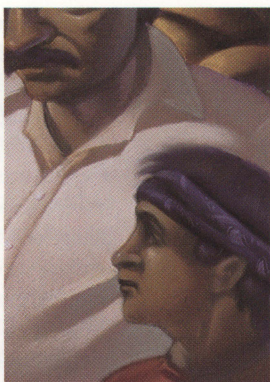
"He can lie about his age," my father said. But I knew no one would believe he was old enough to work. He couldn't even grow a moustache. After a long silence my father said there might not be a job for him anyway, maybe a job for no one.

I heard my two younger brothers arguing over what they should watch on television. They were always fighting, but they were always happy. School would be out in another week. They would laugh and fight all summer. I walked out of our room and told them both to stop arguing or I'd turn off the television. They made faces at me—then laughed. Julian, the youngest, told me he wanted a television that showed things in color. "Just pretend," I told him. "It's more fun that way." I walked into the kitchen where my parents were drinking coffee. My father kept combing his hair with his fingers, always working. He had big hands, rough, strong like his voice. I stared at his moustache that covered his whole face. I wanted to say something but didn't know what, so I said nothing. I looked at my mother and smiled. She smiled back—we had secrets. I remember that spring.

There wasn't much to do after school let out. My father was home all the time, so we had to ask him for permission to do everything. It was better when he was working—when he was working, we could go anywhere we wanted. We couldn't even have a good fight because it made my father nervous. My brother and I kept wishing Dad would find a job before everyone exploded.

I was always reading books. Library books; long books about English people, novels about men and women falling in love in London or in the country. I remember thinking that where they lived was not like New Mexico. It was green, not like the desert. I imagined their rivers were blue, and they probably had boats, and the people in all those books didn't need to work. But I knew they were just books, and people didn't want to read books about people's work—so they kept the work out of it. I kept an eye on my younger brothers as I read, and every day it was my job to make lunch. Mostly I warmed up the food my mother left for us. My father was very quiet when we ate.

After two weeks, I heard my father tell my mother that we were going to pick onions. "Not much pay," he said, "*pero siquiera no me vuelvo loco*." That Sunday, my father told us that the onions were ready. He had spoken to a man he knew, and the man told him to come to the fields. "We're all going," he said. My brother and I looked



at each other, but said nothing. "The kids too?" my older brother asked. "They can't stay here," my father said, "there's no one to take care of them. They can help us out."

Monday morning, when it was still dark, my mother woke us up with her whispers. She sounded like the rain. Everyone was too sleepy to say anything at breakfast, so we sat and heard each other eat. I watched my mother make the burritos, watched her hands move quietly. I watched her wide-awake face and the lines around her eyes. I wondered what she was thinking.

My father came into the kitchen and said it was time to go to the fields. I thought of the fields in the book I was reading, green and full of trees, English trees. My father reminded me and my brother that this was serious business. "We're here to work—not play. *No anden jugando*." We nodded and looked at each other. As we walked outside, the sky was already turning blue. The morning, cool and soft, reminded me of my grandfather. In the morning, his chocolate eyes had been almost blue, showing me everything I ever wanted to see.

My father had collected plastic buckets for the onions—empty five gallon paint buckets that had been washed out. I looked at the scissors and turned them over in my hands. "I don't know how to use them," I told my brother. "Dad will show us," he said, "it'll be easy." He thought everything was easy. To me everything seemed hard like the cement driveway my father had poured last year.

We reached the fields as the sun lifted itself into the sky, turning the sky dusty blue. The people in the fields, wearing reds and pinks and blues, began claiming their rows. My father claimed some rows, and we followed him. My younger brothers were excited, and they kept running up and down the rows like it was a playground. The onions had been turned up by a machine and were lying on the ground waiting to be picked up. The smell of earth and onions dug into my skin, and I wanted to be an onion. I wanted to be the earth.

Everyone was talking. No one spoke English. I liked the sound of Spanish—it made me happy like the songs of my grandfather. My father went to talk to some of the men and then returned to the rows we had claimed and said we had to get to work. He looked at my brother and me and showed us how to clip the roots and the wilting tops. "We should have bought some gloves," he said, "but we can't be spending money on them right now. Maybe next week. You'll get blisters." He laughed. "It's all right, men's hands should have blisters."

I thought of the English novels where the men had no blisters on their hands, smooth, white hands—not like my father's. Dad rubbed my hair, and that made me smile. We got to work. I bent down and scooped up a smooth onion and cut it with my scissors, just the way my father had taught me. The snip sounded tinny as I cut the roots and the stems. Cutting. One onion, then another, then another. I was careful not to cut too close, because if I cut too close to the onion I'd ruin it, and we didn't get paid for ruining good onions. I watched myself cut the onions, cut them, and toss them carefully into my bucket until it was full. I pretended I was filling a basket with Easter eggs, yellow eggs, but it was hard to pretend because my hands were already getting blisters. The eggs were growing on my hands. "My hands are too soft," I mumbled, "they're not a man's hands." I stood straight, unbent my back, and showed my hands to my brother. He grinned and showed me his. Onions, yellow onions the color of my grandfather's teeth.

"I'm an onion," I said out loud, "but I don't want to be one."

In the next row two women were talking as they worked. They were fast, much better than me and my brother. I thought of a man I had once seen drawing a church—he did it fast, perfect—perfect like the women in the next row. I heard them talking, voices like guitars singing serious songs: "*Bueno, mi esposo es muy bueno pero toma mucho. Y mis hijos salieron peor. Dios mio, no se que voy hacer con esos hijos que tengo—pero son muy trabajadores.*"

My youngest brother came to take the bucket to empty it into a gunny sack. It was too heavy for him. I picked him up and threw him in the air—he was so small and happy. "Do it again," he yelled, "do it again." My other brother showed up, and together they carried the bucket of onions away. "This is fun," they yelled. But it wasn't. My back was beginning to feel bent and crooked. I arched myself as far back as I could—my neck stretching away from the ground. The woman in the next row smiled at me: "*Que muchachito tan bonito.*" I bowed my head, bent my back toward the earth again—toward the earth and the onions.

By the end of the day I did not know how many sacks of onions we had picked. My brother asked my father. "Thirty," he said. Thirty, I thought, maybe a world record. My brother and I looked at each other and smiled. "Your nose is sunburned," my brother said. "So is yours." We fell to the ground wrestling and laughing. I heard my father talking to the men. They were laughing about something, too.

We walked back to my father's Studebaker, and my brother kept saying it was a dumb truck and that we needed a new one. He kept talking all the way home, but I wasn't listening. My nose was hurting; my back felt as if I had been carrying someone all day; my blisters were stinging. I wanted to go home and sleep. I didn't care how bad I smelled; I wanted to sleep or die or wake up in the fields of my novels. When we got home, my mother had dinner ready. She took my youngest brother in her arms and laughed. She looked so clean. She kissed me on the cheek and told me to take a shower.

I felt the hot water hit my body—I was a candle. I was melting into nothing. I ate the warm dinner but couldn't taste it. I was too tired to talk. My father told my mother we were going to have to work harder: "Only thirty sacks. A *viente y cinco centavos al costal nunca la vamos hacer*. Tomorrow we'll work harder."

I went to bed and did not read my English novel. My brother told me he was glad I wasn't going to read because he hated for the light to be on while he was trying to sleep. "You read too damn much anyway." I looked at him and wanted to stick my fist through his face. I threw my book across the room and turned off the light. I dreamed I had a horse and lived in a house where they played only Mexican music, a house where I could dance in every room.

The second day was the same as the first, only we worked harder, and wore hats. By the end of the day, we had picked fifty-five sacks. It was better, but it still wasn't enough. I dreamed I was standing on a hill made of onions. There was a huge crowd of English people yelling at me: "*¡Cebollero! ¡Cebollero!*" I woke up and smelled the onions and the dry earth. I walked into the bathroom and threw up. I didn't read any more books that summer.

The whole week was the same. We worked, we ate, we slept. The second week was better. I was getting used to the work, and we were up to seventy sacks of onions a day. I started hating the sun and the earth and the onions, but the voices of the people played over and over in my mind, the music. The music kept me working.

We moved to another field in the middle of the second week. When

we left the old field I felt I was leaving something behind, but when I searched with my eyes, I saw nothing but graying earth and sacks of onions waiting to be picked up by other workers who would sort them. I half-thought that if I looked in each sack, I would find people hiding.

The first day of the third week was the same—until the afternoon. The sun was hotter than usual—white, blinding, everything feeling as if it were touched by flames. My father made sure we were drinking plenty of water. The afternoon was too hot for talking, and everyone worked quietly. In the silence all I could hear was the onions being dumped into gunny sacks and scissors snipping at roots and stems, but the sounds were distant—almost as if the sun were swallowing all the sounds we made with our work. The fields were strange. We were in another country, a country I didn't know.

"I'm an onion," I said out loud, "but I don't want to be one." My brother looked at me and told me I was saying dumb things. "If you say something like that one more time, I'm going to tell Dad you've had too much sun." "I am an onion," I said, "and so are you." He shook his head and kept working.

In the heat I heard a voice yelling, and some of the people working in the fields ran and hid in a nearby ditch. Other people just kept working. I didn't know why people were hiding, and the woman in the next row told me not to say anything to the *Migra*. "*Nomas no digas nada, mijo.*" I nodded, but I wasn't sure what she was talking about. I was keeping a secret but I didn't know the secret. I looked at my brother and again I knew I was an onion.

The Border Patrol van stopped at the side of the road, and some men dressed in green uniforms got out and walked into the fields. They looked like soldiers. The men stopped and asked people questions. Some of the workers showed them pieces of paper and others showed them their wallets. One of the men in green came closer to our row. He asked the women in the row next to ours a strange question: "*¿Tienen papeles? ¿Permisos?*" I smiled at his Spanish, not like music, not even like a language. The women spoke to him in fragmented English. "I don't need paper," one woman told one of the men in green. Her voice was angry like a knife. She showed him a driver's license and what I thought was a birth certificate. The officer reached for the document. She pulled it away. "I'll hold," she said, "don't touch." He nodded, and walked away. "*Muchachos,*" he said to my brother and me, "*¿tienen papeles?*" Neither one of us said anything. I moved closer to my brother. He asked his question again. "I don't know what that is," I said. He smiled. "You're a U.S. citizen, are you?" "Yes, sir," we both said. "Who was the first president?" He asked. "That's easy," I said, "George Washington." He winked at us and kept walking down the row. I didn't go back to work until I knew my father was safe.



1970

The boy had grown up, looked almost like a man, but his eyes were still those of a child. These days were different for him: days of black armbands to protest the war that had lasted as long as the boy could remember; days of draft cards and draft numbers; days of putting up posters on his walls and making his father angry; days of examining his face in the mirror looking for signs of manhood; days of joining sit-down strikes to change the dress code at school. The boy was still listening to music, still in love with sound: Three Dog Night, Grand Funk Railroad, Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. In his spare time, the boy stared at the posters that surrounded him: Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin and Che Guevara. There were farm worker boycotts, but the boy

"Just graduate and go to college. Do whatever it takes, just don't join the army."

did not think of the boycotts: he was in love with Joan Baez, dreamed of the barefoot madonna. He wanted to grow his hair long, but his father would not let him. He got angry but said nothing. Sometimes he was happy and angry at the same time, though he didn't know why. This was the year he was going to graduate. This was going to be *the* year, he told himself, the best year of his life.

Some nights he wrote to his brother who was in the war, and when he signed the letters he hated the whole world for taking his brother away.

His last semester in high school, the boy was confused, but he tried not to think about the chaos in his mind. Words swam up there like fish at the edge of a lake trying to flap themselves into the water, back into life. He tried not to think about the future since his father had already decided he would go to the local college, but he knew it wasn't just his father—it was money, no money, no money to go to a school far away. But the boy blamed his father. He tried to focus his attention on the enemy at hand: the high school. He fought his final days at school as if everything were a protest song—a stubborn song being banged out on a guitar.

He was getting good grades in everything except chemistry. If he didn't pass, he'd have to go to summer school because it was a required course. All those good grades, and it had come down to this. He was a borderline student in that class and he knew it, but there wasn't any time. There wasn't any time. And the teacher hated him. He could feel the teacher's hatred, the blue-eyed wrestling coach who favored athletes and nice-looking white girls. His brother wrote and told him to calm down, told him everything would be all right: "Just graduate and go to college. Do whatever it takes, just don't join the army."

His father had been sick, had been taken to the hospital where the doctors discovered he'd had a stroke. He was recovering at home, slowly, and the boy's mother signed up to work longer hours at the factory. The boy came home after school, made dinner for his younger brothers and his father. Afterwards, he went to work at a hamburger joint. He studied late at night, and he was too tired for chemistry. Sometimes, he would stay home from school and keep his father company, even though his father didn't say much. Talking didn't matter to his father—he just hated being alone. The boy wanted to speak, to say something, but there was little to talk about when he tried. He sometimes looked at his father's face, his graying moustache, and wondered if he would die, but then put the thoughts away like dirty clothes in a hamper. He thought instead of the chemistry teacher. He might have a better chance of passing the class if he took off the armband he wore every day to school, but his father was happy his son was wearing it. The boy and the father were together on the subject of the war.

The boy had missed too many days of school when his father had been unable to care for himself, but when he improved, the boy started getting back to his studies, back to his chemistry. "I have to pass this course," he told himself, "I have to. This can't keep me down. *This won't keep me down.*" He thought of all the work he'd done, all the A's he'd made for his father, and now this—because the old man had gotten sick. "He had to get sick," he mumbled. He clenched his jaw, did not say a word to anyone.

His father mentioned to him that the Brown Berets were coming to town. The boy laughed when his father told him his uncle had said they were just a bunch of punks. "Yeah," the boy answered, "Uncle Nacho also says that the peace sign is the footprint of the American chicken." They both laughed. The boy was happy when his father laughed.

"Chicano Power," the boy repeated to himself. The words sounded strange. The movement, the movement, it had come, had finally reached his hometown. It would change everything. Would it change everything? Anything? Anything at all? He read a poster calling for an all-out student strike, and music played in his head, music like he'd heard floating out of a forgotten hotel from his childhood. His father said they had the right idea but growled that they needed haircuts. The boy shook his head.

The Chicanos were going to strike. The boy wanted to be with them, wanted it, wanted to march. He was afraid, and he was angry with himself for being afraid. He kept studying. The students were asked to walk out of their classrooms, and the blue-eyed coach kept talking about what chemicals, when combined with others, caused an explosion. The boy smiled. He could hear the Chicanos coming down the hall: "...Chicano!" a voice yelled. "POWER!" the voices shouted back. Music, the boy thought, music. "Chicano ... POWER ... Chicano ... POWER...Chicano...POWER..." The voices grew louder. The sound of marching feet echoed down the hall. They're dancing, the boy thought, and his feet shuffled under his desk. "Chicano..."

The wrestling coach stared at his class as the voices came closer. "No one is to leave this classroom—no one."

"... POWER! ..."

"I don't like my class being interrupted. This is a school, not a playground for idiots." The boy listened to the sound of his teacher's voice. It sounded as if it were made of cardboard—nothing at all original in what he said, nothing interesting, just a voice, a voice addicted to the attention of his students.

"... POWER! ..."

The boy's friend looked at him, and words were written in his eyes: "The hell with him, come on..." The boy looked at his friend, and his eyes nodded. He wanted to dance, he wanted to sing, he wanted to answer: "The hell with him."

"If anyone leaves this classroom, I'm suspending them." The coach shut the door, his eyes bulged at his students. His eyes erased the color of most of his students. "We're all equal here—nobody's better than anybody else. They're just noise. This is the age of noise. No need for any of you to get involved. This is not the place. . ."

The boy's friend looked at him again.

The boy looked back, his brown eyes speaking: "I can't. He'll flunk me. Do you understand that I can't?"

"Chicano . . ." They were marching past the classroom. Hundreds of them. *Millions of us, millions.* The boy's heart shook. He thought it would shake forever.

"... POWER! ..."

His friend stared at him: "Now. Let's go. Now!"

I'll suspend anyone who leaves this class. The boy looked toward the door; he heard every footstep.

He looked at his friend and shook his head.

One of the marchers opened the door—raised a fist at the students sitting at their desks.

The boy's friend raised a fist, too. A salute; he held his fist high like a man reaching for something.

The wrestling coach glared at him.

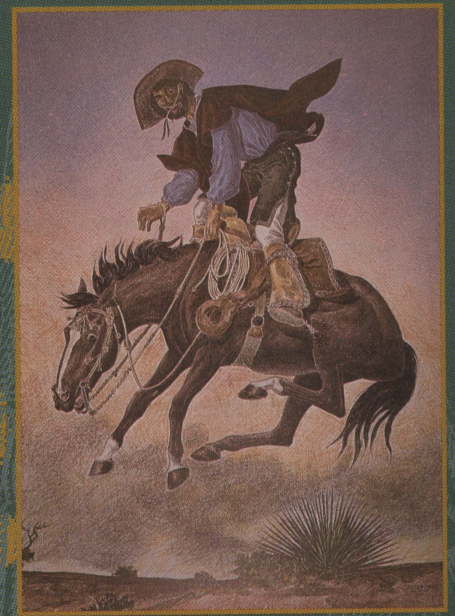
The boy's friend glared back. He kept his fist up, then put it down—slowly. Deliberately. He smiled at the teacher.

The boy smiled, too. He didn't march. He passed the course. He graduated. ■

CISNEROS

AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY

BY JOHN O. WEST



This book is a retrospective of the life, of over eight decades, and the work, covering seven of those eight, of an extraordinary man and artist, El Paso's legendary wizard of pen-and-ink, Jose Cisneros. In *Jose Cisneros: An Artist's Journey*, the artist's longtime friend, John O. West has written the most extensive biography of Cisneros extant and with the artist's cooperation has compiled a collection of Cisneros works: magazine, newspaper and book illustrations, calligraphy, cartography, sculpture, and stained-glass.

Available November 1993
ISBN 0-87404-231-3 Cloth \$50.00
200 pp. 120 b&w, 40 color illus.
NOVA readers receive a 10% discount
To order: Texas Western Press
1-800-488-3789



NOVA

The University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, Texas 79968-0522