

7-1991

Nova Quarterly: The Magazine of the University of Texas at El Paso

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News and Publications Office, UTEP, "Nova Quarterly: The Magazine of the University of Texas at El Paso" (1991). *NOVA*. 114.
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NOVA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Q U A R T E R L Y

JULY/AUGUST • 1991

FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past two years, *Nova Quarterly* has focused most of its editorial space on

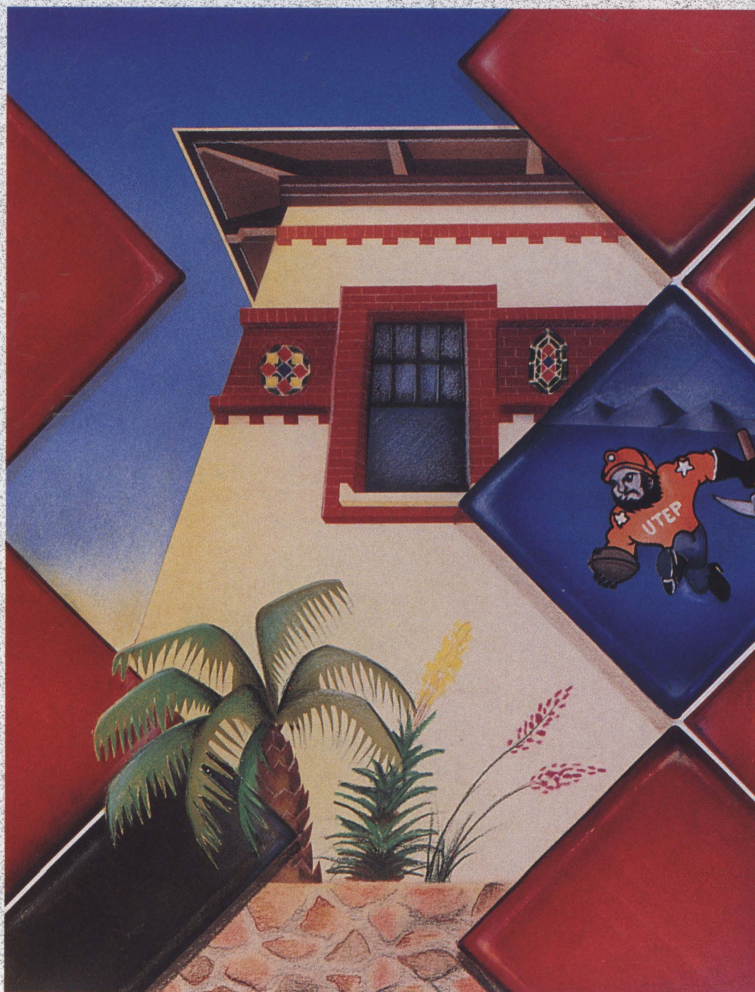
the coverage of University programs and accomplishments, future trends, and alumni personality profiles. While we have featured several cultural subjects—the Union Dinner Theater, the UTEP Jazz Lab Band's trip to Switzerland and W.H. Timmons' celebrated publishing of *El Paso: A Borderlands History*—we have yet to showcase any fine literature.

The debut of Rick DeMarinis' *The Voice of America: Stories* offers us a special occasion to spotlight one of our own. DeMarinis, a UTEP professor of creative writing and nationally acclaimed author of several books, has given us permission to publish an excerpt from one of the short stories in his most recent book. Among other accolades, DeMarinis has been described as a writer whose "Art is comedy of a very high order," and as "a superb stylist." You'll want to read more of his work as you finish this excerpt.

We're glad to have Trudy Laffler write for us again. She has painted a vivid word picture of one of UTEP's thriving landmarks—the Library building and its bustling activity. In this issue, we also feature the winner of the "Views of UTEP" art competition, an annual student competition sponsored by President Diana Natalicio. The winner's work will be hung in the President's office in the Administration building.

—Arturo Vasquez

VIEW OF UTEP



1991 Winner of the "Views of UTEP" student art competition by Grace Cordero (mixed media).

NOVA



**July/
August 1991**
Volume 26, No. 4; No. 106

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Franklin Muñoz**

Contents © 1991 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*, The University
of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX
79968-0522.

Nova Quarterly is printed by the
University Printing Division.

On the cover:

"End of the Trail with
Electric Sunset" sculpture by
Luis Jimenez.



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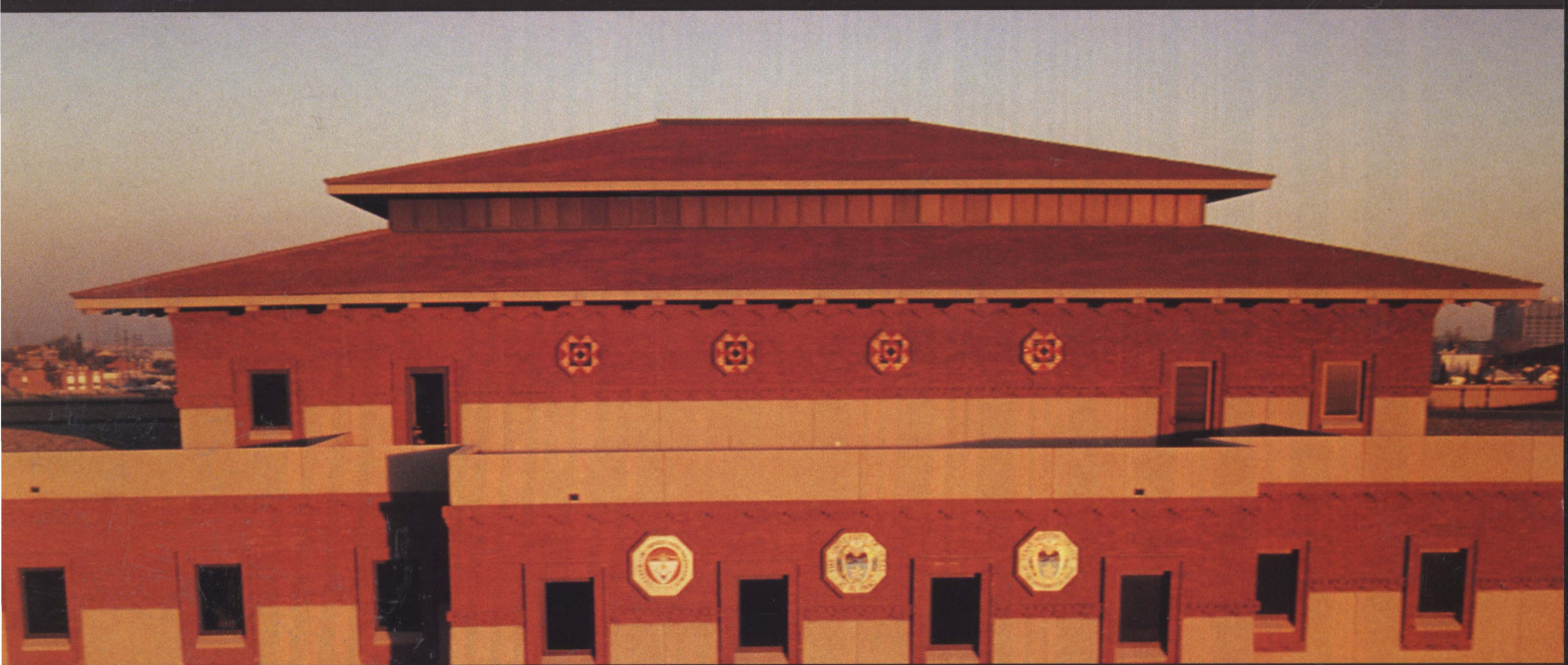
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*Fifth floor and the Special
Collections penthouse of the
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James R. McBeth's environmental sculpture, "Texas Wedge."



Renascent Treasures

by Trudy Martin Laffler



he Bhutanese-styled architecture of the University of Texas at El Paso's Library blends with the angular cacti and succulents punctuating the arid southwest terrain. The vertical thrust of the Library's four sloping towers leads to double, low-hipped roofs that surround the terrace outside the sixth-floor penthouse. Treasures in rare books, artworks and documents dating back to the 15th century are preserved and displayed in the Special Collections complex on the top floor. A striking blend of regional, oriental and European artworks throughout the six-story building creates an international character and refined charm conducive to an institution of higher education. The thoughtful planning that went into all aspects of the Library's requirements, including state-of-the-art technology, is also represented in the quality of the Library's professional staff under the direction of Librarian Robert A. Seal.

The Library's form resembles the definitive Bhutanese style of Old Main, opened in 1917. The variety of activities taking place in the seven-year-old library reflect the functions of Bhutan's fortified monasteries which serve as art, cultural and educational centers in the arid Himalayan kingdom.

UTEP library facilities exist today primarily to serve the needs of students, faculty and staff. But since the opening of the building in 1984, the abundant space available has evolved into the primary setting for a variety of annual cultural events that includes rotating art exhibits, a lecture series, plus a number of other activities for not only the UTEP community, but for the general public as well. For instance, in January a visiting Tibetan monk performed a religious ceremony which launched the International Year of Tibet. In February, this year's Carl Hertzog Lecture included the first Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design and serves as a living memorial to the originator of UTEP's Texas Western Press. The competition was open to publishers throughout the country, and over 100 entered.

Upon arrival at the Library's front steps, the visitor receives a visual and auditorial aesthetic treat in the form of James R. McBeth's environmental sculpture, "Texas Wedge." The

serial imagery of its 196 aluminum tubes produces a sensorial play with ever-changing sun rays and winds. This piece of art is just one of the hundreds on permanent display in the Library, many of which are the works of local artists. UTEP students study among a multi-media array of art works, the harmony and composition of the entire collection becoming more apparent with each visit.

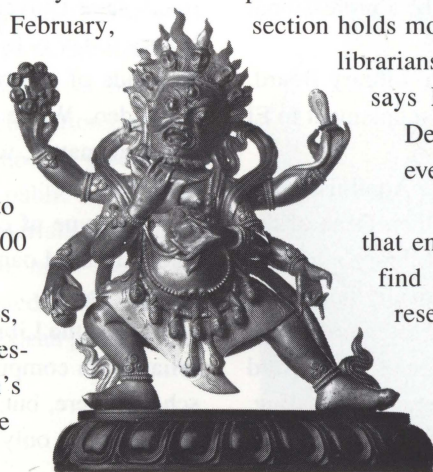
The entrance of the Library is an atrium with spatial relationships dramatized by a soaring three-story ceiling. A twelve-by-sixteen foot silk Bhutanese Tapestry dominates the area, on the main/second floor. The hanging is counter-pointed by horizontal oak-railed balustrades of plexiglass on the third and fourth floor mezzanines above the atrium. The plexiglass reveals the symmetrical rhythm of Jose Cisneros' 100 ink-and-color drawings, "Riders Across the Centuries," on the walls of the fourth-floor mezzanine. Warm hued, fabric covered walls flank all three stories of the atrium. A Wall of Honor displays UTEP's major Benefactors, Endowed Chairs and Professorships, and Presidential Scholarship recipients on the atrium and third-floor mezzanine walls. The ambience created by the multi-media sculpture, "End of the Trail with Electric Sunset," by El Paso artist Luis Jimenez, permeates the third-floor mezzanine. The work is a satirical comment on the commercialization of the classic piece, "End of the Trail."

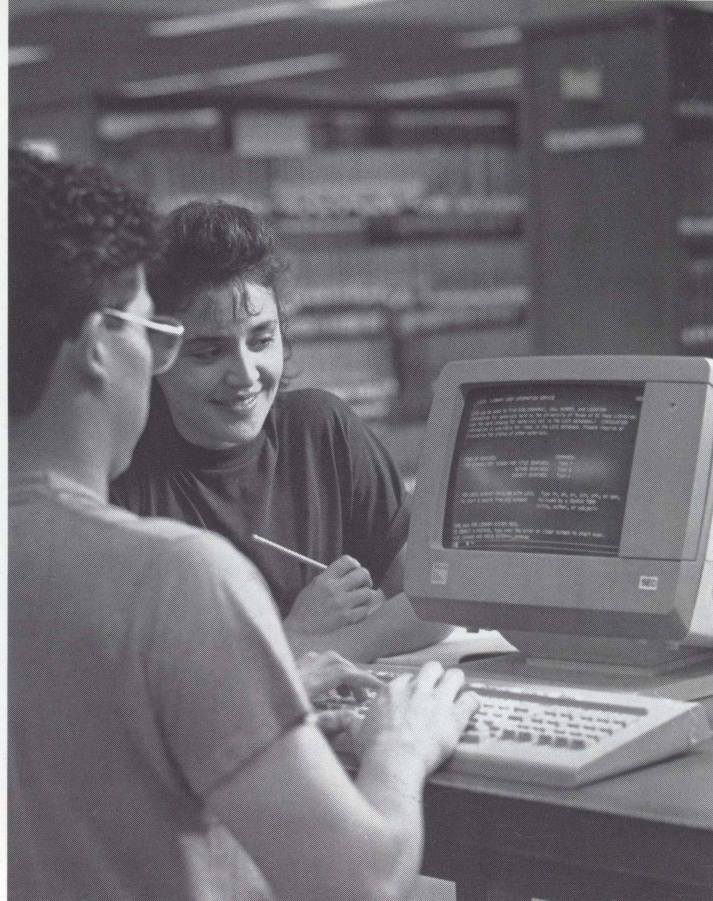
Conversational groupings of oriental-styled armchairs and tables provide a succession of restful refuges throughout the atrium, mezzanines, and on each floor. Just beyond the atrium, turnstiles lead to the heart of the Library—the Reference Department—where a library users' initial search begins. "This section holds more challenges and gained knowledge for both librarians and its users than any other department,"

says Luke A. Jastrzebski, head of the Reference Department. He adds that he learns something everyday from helping students and faculty members.

"We are a mid-sized university library, and that enables us to not only personally help students find material, but also to teach them how to do research," Jastrzebski says.

Juan A. Sandoval, the assistant head of the Reference Department, also believes that the size of the Library contributes to the quality





Far Left: "Word in the Night", a 1961 oil painting by Tom Lea, is one of several in the Library's collection.

Left: UTEP students accessing the Library's computer catalog and circulation system in the Reference Room.

of service the staff offers its users.

"My greatest satisfaction," he explains, "comes from the countless students I've seen blossom from shy freshmen to confident graduates." Sandoval has worked at the Library for the past nine years.

On a typical weekday morning, students fill the numerous study tables throughout the Reference Department and on each floor. Muffled voices come from one of the Library's 29 private group-study rooms that accommodate students' busy schedules.

"I have never seen a library with as many spaces for students to study in as I've seen here," says Jastrzebski, who worked at the New York Public Library before joining UTEP's Library staff. The Library's system and services impress not only its students and scholars, but community users as well. El Paso novelist Robert Skimin says, "I am privileged to have access to such a fine library." He does international works on history and fiction, and says that one does not have to be a professional writer to benefit from the UTEP library.

As a former director on the El Paso Public Library Board, Skimin sees the Library functioning as "a fine supplement to El Paso's public library system."

In 1989 when UTEP's College of Business Administration received accreditation, Dr. Ronald W. Hasty, then Dean of the College, attributed part of the success to the Library's helpful staff. The Business College's resources dramatically improved, especially through the Library's acquisition of reference materials. The Library obtained the complete collection of the Harvard Baker Core Collections, a major business college book holding.

"Accreditation standards require 75 to 80 percent of book

holdings, and we now have 100 percent of everything in print thanks to the Library's staff. It's really first class," says Hasty. The book holdings were funded by the Permanent University Fund allocations. Hasty adds that alumni and businesses contributed substantial funds for the business journals' collection. No matter what discipline a course may encompass, gone are the days when one text was adequate to cover the subject matter. In these times of rapid dissemination of research findings, no single university or research library can afford to possess, or store, the immense amount of new information available. For over twenty years, university libraries have turned to computer technology for help.

UTEP students have access to the Library's holdings via computer terminals located on each floor, as well as using microcomputers in the Reference Department.

"One might think that computers and books are incompatible," says University Librarian Robert Seal. "But a quality library today is fully automated, as are we. We have access to all kinds of information in a variety of formats...print, audio and video. We're connected to all libraries in the United States. For that matter, we have access to any library in a developed country."

The type of computer access Seal refers to is through the Inter-Library Loan Department—the fastest growing department in the Library.

"I see the Library continuing its present course of increased reliance on computer technology to help not only students and scholars here, but at universities in Mexico as well. Given that UTEP is the only major American university along the entire

U.S.-Mexico border, we are expanding UTEP's tradition of cooperative efforts with Mexico's universities.

"Last year, we formalized an international Inter-Library Loan agreement with seven universities in Mexico. All requests go to, and from, the Ben Franklin Library at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City to UTEP's Inter-Library Loan Department," Seal says.

"Our Library has had about one-third of the materials requested on hand. Other material requests are passed on to other university libraries in the southwest through our Inter-Library Loan Department," Seal explains.

Many requests from Mexico include census data on Mexico. The Library is this region's repository for Northern Mexico's census data, including New Spain Archival materials. Scholars from around the world come to UTEP's Library on monastic searches.

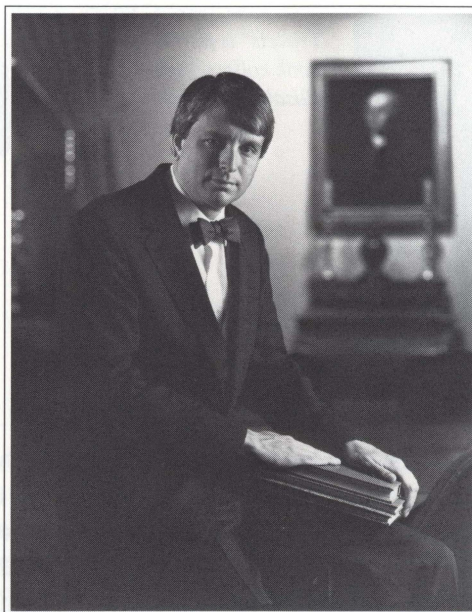
"Our foreign scholars come from all over the world, and most visit during the summer," says Cesar Caballero, Curator of the Special Collections Department, who began working at the Library in 1968 as a work study student.

The Special Collections Department Complex consists of six rooms, three of which are named in honor of the men who started the special-interest collections in their respective areas of expertise: the Carl Hertzog Collection room, housing finely printed and designed books; the S. L. A. Marshall Military History Collection room; and, the John H. McNeely room, housing the Library's rare book collection. The McNeely Room is decorated in an arresting blend of 18th century formal splendor and luxury mixed with a variety of fine porcelains from around the world, which Dr. McNeely donated. The room functions both as a rare books room and VIP meeting room.

The entire penthouse is filled with rare appointments and treasures in rare books and art spanning the centuries from Mexico, Europe, the Middle and Far East, and the United States. They remind the visitor that the finest treasures of every age remains as timeless as when they were first created. Caballero started the Chicano Studies Collection 20 years ago.

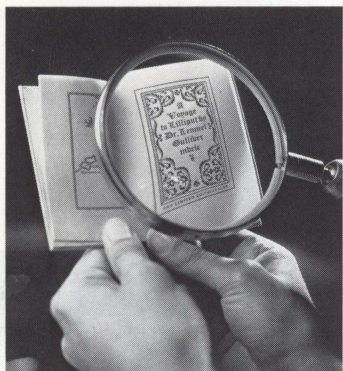
"We were just about the first university in the nation to initiate Chicano and Border Studies," he says. The Chicano Studies Collection is just one of the Library's major special collections that cover subjects pertinent to the Southwest's culture. Works cover nonfictional and fictional materials.

The Library's reputation for the quality of its various collections and repositories, plus the care given to the materials and the public's supervised access to those materials continue to draw donations. The most recent sizable collection entrusted to the Library came from famed Mexican photographer Manuel Carrillo.



Above: University Librarian Robert A. Seal. Cesar Caballero, head of the Library's Special Collections, and the Curator of Manuscripts and Art, Ann Massmann, examining an example of a fine printed book.





Miniature book "Gulliver's Travels" is part of the fine print book collection donated by Elizabeth Rempe.

This extensive collection of photos and slides spans a 25-year period documenting the working people of Mexico through Carrillo's poetic style of photography. Upon learning the collection was available after Carrillo's death, Seal and Caballero went to Mexico City in March, 1990, and packed the material that filled 46 large cartons. This collection was purchased with permanent University fund dollars. The Library's Archivist, Ann Massmann, is still documenting and preserving each piece with the help of community volunteers.

Another recent major addition to Special Collections is an assemblage of fine designed books donated by Library patron, Elizabeth Rempe. She and her late husband, Peter J. Rempe, aquired the books through the years from the Limited Editions Club of New York. Classics and rare books are specially bound in an exotic array of textures ranging from cloth to fur. These and most of the other rare books on display were donated by generous El Pasoans.

Access to the Library's resources is encouraged by Seal who served as the catalyst in the formation of the community support group, The Associates of the University Library, in 1987. The group sponsors a lecture series, several cultural events and the twice-annual used books sale.

"I choose to put my support toward the Library because of the love I've had for libraries since my childhood, and because of the fine work Seal is doing here," says Cynthia Farah, president of the Library Associates. Farah, a busy photographer, writer and UTEP graduate student, encourages alumni members to donate old books to the Library. "What better recycling program could there be than recycling knowledge?" asks Farah, a Stanford University graduate.

The world's great libraries are driven by the combined vision of their patrons and professional staff. At UTEP's Library, the focus on service through modern technology connects its users to information world-wide. And, the emphasis on the preservation of fine book collections and art assures that the UTEP Library will continue to evolve as one of this region's cultural and intellectual treasures. ■

Trudy Martin Laffler's article "Monitoring the Global Waltz" appeared in the September, 1989 issue of NOVA Quarterly; a freelance editor and copywriter, Laffler lives in El Paso.

UTEP Library Facts

OPENED: October, 1984.

ARCHITECT: Jose Gomez: Fouts, Gomez Inc. of El Paso.

COST: \$23 million.

SIZE: 275,000 gross square feet in six stories.

BOOKS: 800,000 volumes.

MICROFORMS: over 1 million.

SHELVING: 42 miles worth of shelving.

ARTWORK: 400 pieces of various media, including works by El Paso artists Jose Cisneros, Tom Lea, Bassel Wolfe, Manuel Acosta.

SEATING CAPACITY: 2,305.

MEETING PLACES: Blumberg Auditorium seats 90, 29 meeting and group-study areas are available.

SPECIAL FACILITIES: Typing areas, equipment to assist the visually handicapped and hearing impaired, audio-visual carrels.

AUTOMATION: Computer catalog and circulation system, acquisitions and serials control, checking out books, reference information services.

LUIS: Computer catalog and circulation system terminals located throughout building and can be accessed from your home or office with personal computer, telephone, and modem.

DISCLOSURE: Software package with information on any public U.S. business—its directors and financial activities, can copy information on to personal diskette—no fee.

STUDY SPACES: 192 graduate carrels and 74 faculty studies.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS & MAPS: Library is a selective depository for Federal and Texas documents accessed with specialized indexes.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: Penthouse, sixth floor, rare books and special collections, archives.

SECURITY: Computer controlled—motion detection and fire extinguishing system tied in to police station.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

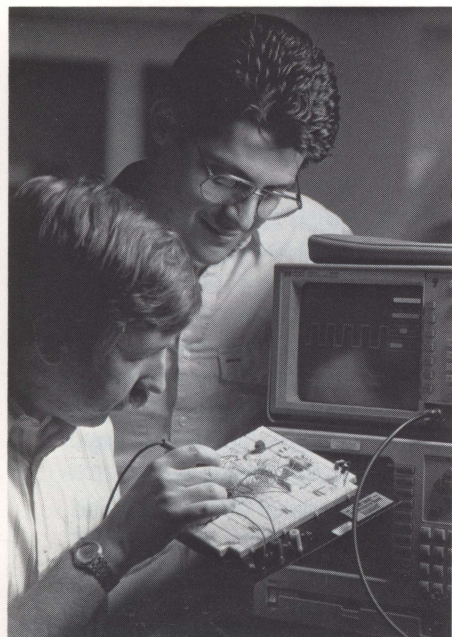
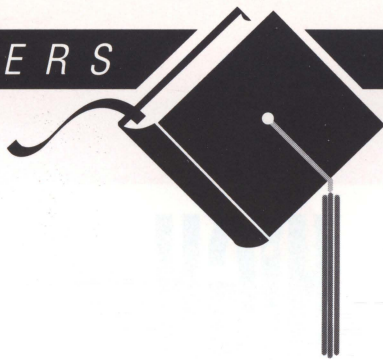
Sunday: 12 noon - 11 p.m.

Special Collections and Reading Room

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

GENERAL & LIBRARY ASSOCIATES INFORMATION:
747-5684



Hewlett-Packard Company

In this column, UTEP honors individuals for their contributions to the University. Over the years, UTEP has been the recipient of gifts from an array of private foundations and public corporations. When we read in the newspaper, for instance, that the Hewlett-Packard Company has donated either equipment, services or personnel to UTEP, we might be inclined to think "well, that's nice—they probably can afford it anyway."

Hewlett Packard Company's contributions to UTEP since 1980 have amounted to approximately \$1.2 million and, in

addition, since 1986, the company has "loaned" an experienced engineer to the University to teach a variety of courses.

Hewlett-Packard's contribution to higher education falls into two categories: (1) to bring targeted universities' technical expertise up to a critical mass and (2) to augment established, sound engineering programs that already produce solid graduates.

"UTEP falls into the latter category," explains Jim Williams, H-P's corporate college recruiting liaison. "Its engineering programs are fundamentally strong, and to maintain this strength we've helped with equipment and personnel."

The College of Business Administration, the College of Science and the Departments of Electrical, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering have all benefited from H-P's generosity. The list of donated equipment includes office equipment, business computers, personal computers, electrical measurement equipment as well as software packages for all hardware systems. In addition, yearly H-P gives UTEP about 1,000 pocket calculators.

Brian E. Lenharth, an electrical engineer who joined H-P in 1984 and who has worked on dozens of projects in a manufacturing environment in one of H-P's semi-autonomous divisions, is H-P's current visiting professor.

"The company moved us and took care of our housing, both back home and here," explains Lenharth. He's still in charge of engineering work on H-P's Dynamic Signal Analyzer System and, at UTEP, he's teaching electronics, lab courses and senior engineering design courses.

"Dave Rasmussen and Dr. Norman Dillman both made a big impact on our programs," says Dr. Michael Austin, UTEP professor of electrical engineering. Rasmussen came to UTEP for two academic years between 1986 and 1988.

He inaugurated the Rasmussen Poster Session for senior projects and arranged for prizes to be given for the best projects. Dr. Dillman's forte during his two-year tenure (1988-1990) was to elevate the quality of a variety of UTEP projects in progress.

Of Hewlett-Packard's 92,000 employees, several UTEP graduates among H-P's ranks have taken an interest in the Hewlett-Packard-UTEP partnership. Felipe Borrego, now based in Colorado Springs, earned a B.S. and an M.S. in electrical engineering from UTEP in 1967 and 1969 respectively. He joined H-P's radar group in 1973 after a stint in the U.S. Army and one at Texas Instruments. At present, he works with a team of engineers in production transfer—bringing new product design to on-line production.

"This kind of job is what UTEP trains its engineering students to do, and it's very satisfying to now be in a position to assist my alma mater," says Borrego. His outreach activities now include math and science projects in the Denver schools.

Bob Porcelli, a UTEP mechanical engineering graduate, is active in H-P's summer internship program in San Diego.

"We've had UTEP interns here...I believe the experience is invaluable," says Porcelli.

For the 1990s, Hewlett Packard Company, whose products and services are used in industry, business, engineering, science, medicine and education in approximately 100 countries, is shifting its educational outreach effort towards grades K-12. Although the \$13.2 billion company will no longer have a visiting Hewlett Packard professor on UTEP's campus, the company will remain active in recruiting, secure in the knowledge that its foresight has generously contributed to the continuing quality of UTEP graduates.

—S. Gail Miller.

HIGH LIGHTS

Sandia National Laboratories

For years, the nation's research laboratories and universities have created working relationships that benefit both parties. This year, through UTEP's Office of Sponsored Projects, the University has formed a unique cooperative arrangement with one of the nation's foremost research labs—New Mexico's Sandia National Laboratories.



John Otts, Director of University Liaison for Sandia has taken up residence in UTEP's Physics Department for the purpose of expanding collaborative research efforts between Sandia and UTEP's scientific community in the following areas:

technology transfer with UTEP faculty, industry and Sandia; the facilitation of loan/transfer of equipment from Sandia to UTEP; arranging sabbaticals for UTEP faculty; and, assisting UTEP students with Sandia internships through its Outreach Education Program.

Otts, a mechanical engineer by training, joined Sandia in 1962, first in the area of environmental testing and then in solar-thermal energy. Before assuming his duties as director of Sandia's \$5 million a year Outreach Education Program, Otts spent two years at the University of Turabo in Puerto Rico as the dean of engineering.

Otts is in the process of meeting UTEP college deans, department heads and faculty members in the sciences. "I'm particularly interested in matching UTEP faculty and researchers with their appropriate counterparts at Sandia."

A formal agreement between Sandia and UTEP is expected to be finalized sometime this summer.

Bullseye: NCAA Champion

In 1954, a Texas Western College team won the school's first national collegiate title. The sport was rifle and the ROTC team was all male. In 1991, a shooter on the UTEP rifle team became the nation's smallbore champion; six members of the team were female. This year's championships were held at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York where the diminutive Soma Dutta scored a 1,171 out of a possible 1,200 in the .22-caliber rifle competition.

"When I was 5 or so, my mother used to read me stories about hunting tigers and I couldn't stop talking about them. Eventually, she took me to the shooting range...she said I'd have to learn to use a gun if I wanted to hunt tigers."

At age 7, Soma Dutta won her first national competition in the under 12-year age group at the Indian national championships. By age 9, she'd won three national championships.


"Then I got addicted to winning," she says. "And

I forgot all about hunting tigers."

Now 22 years old and 5' 1" in height, she's not much taller than the Walther rifle she has learned to use with astonishing accuracy.

As a high school student, Dutta moved to Seguin, Texas, the home of Lenny Bassham, the 1976 Olympic gold medalist and twice world champion. After graduating, she attended Texas Lutheran College for two years, and transferred to UTEP in 1989 because "UTEP had the tradition of a rifle team, a great coach and they offered me a scholarship."

Tony Hammett, an ex-green beret and an expert in the world's light and heavy weapons, became the UTEP rifle team coach upon his retirement from the Army five years ago. Rifle became a competitive sport in the NCAA in 1980 and although other UT-System schools offer rifle, only UTEP trains and fields teams for the NCAA rifle championships. This year's competition drew 11 qualified air rifle teams



and 40 individuals in the smallbore competition.

"I knew she'd be the collegiate national champion because she's been shooting great all year." And says Hammett, "World class rifle shooters develop a high degree of mental stamina and a finely tuned capacity for extraordinary precision."

In the five years Hammett has been UTEP's rifle coach, the number of women qualifying for the team has risen.

"In 1988, we had two...then four in 1989. In 1990 and 1991, we had six female team members. This fall, the number one junior shooter in the country will enroll at UTEP. Her name is Deanna Rich and she's from Comfort, Texas."

Having won the NCAA title, Soma Dutta will finish her degree over the next year and then return to Calcutta to run her family's pharmaceutical business.

"She's an outstanding student," says Dr. Wilke English, marketing professor. Dutta has maintained a 3+ gpa

while training 5 days a week for 4-6 hours and attending 13 or 14 competitions a year.

The 1992 Olympics in Spain will be Dutta's third Olympics. At age 15 she placed in the middle of the pack at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles and in Seoul in 1988, she placed 10th.

"Soma has done very well as a junior," says Hammett. "At the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand, she earned two bronze medals—54 countries competed. At last year's Benito Juarez Invitational in Mexico City, she ranked 8th overall, competing against the Chinese and the Russians, among others. From Mexico City we went straight to the Los Angeles World Cup, where she placed 5th in smallbore and 8th in air rifle. At the Asia Games in Beijing, China in November 1990, Soma took third place in .22 competition and finished 10th in air rifle."

Soma Dutta is aiming for the Gold in the 1992 Olympics and the title of World Champion.

"UTEP will probably be



Soma Dutta

at the 1992 Olympics too," says Tony Hammett. "Both Deanna Rich and Troy Bassham have been at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and Deanna is currently short-listed for the U.S. team."

—S. Gail Miller

Safe Forever

by
Rick DeMarinis

A member of the UTEP English Department's Creative Writing Program faculty, Rick DeMarinis is author of such acclaimed novels and story collections as Under the Wheat, The Year of the Zinc Penny and The Burning Women of Far Cry.

His new book, The Voice of America (W.W. Norton), has been the focus of rave reviews in Publishers Weekly, the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and the New York Review of Books. The following is an excerpt from The Voice of America:

MORE PEOPLE HAD been blown up or burned to death in 1945 than ever before in history thanks to aerial bombardment. I was eleven years old and in love with aerial bombardment. What could be more elegant than a squadron of B-29s unloading five-hundred-pound bombs or clusters of incendiaries on Tokyo, Nagoya, or Yokohama? My nightly prayer to Jesus included a plea that the war last at least until 1952 so that I could join it. I wanted to be a pilot or bombardier aboard a stratosphere-skimming Superfortress, our first true strategic bomber. So, when VJ Day came on August 14, all my dreams were vaporized in mushroom clouds of despair.

I was out on my ice-cream route in the Oakland suburb of Sobrante Park when victory was declared. My pushcart was full of 7-11 ice-milk bars, fudgesicles, and orange sherbet push-ups but sales were slow. I rang the bells that were wired to the handle of the pushcart hard and loud, but the streets remained empty. Then, as if they had been given a signal, people rushed out of their houses. I gave credit to my energetic bell-ringing. I felt the power of my bells. But they didn't approach me. They gathered on their lawns and in their driveways, drinking liquor directly out of bottles. Some were singing and cheering. Men and women kissed each other wildly and children, infected by the frenzy of the adults, ran in circles, screaming. It was a warm afternoon and there was no reason these people shouldn't have wanted ice cream. I rang my bells at them. I yelled, "Seven-eleven bars! Fudgesicles! Push-ups!" My ears rang from my own clamor.

Two men approached my cart and yanked open the heavy, insulated lid. They reached into the smoking cold box and helped themselves to boxes of my stock. They started passing out handfuls

of fudgesicles, 7-11 bars, and push-ups to the cluster of children that had followed them. I held out my hand for payment, but they ignored me. They reached past my outstretched arm and helped themselves to more of my stock. "Wait!" I said. "You have to pay me!"

"The war's over, buster," one of them said. "The Japs said 'uncle.' "

I tried to grab back a carton of fudgesicles, but he held it over his head. Women and children began to reach into my cart as if it were their right. "Don't!" I said. "You can't do that!"

"What are you, some kind of war profiteer?" one of the men said. "I got news for you, the war's over." He was about twenty-five years old and healthy-looking. Though I was panicky now, wondering how I was going to explain the loss of my stock to my boss and stepfather, Dan Sneed, a calmer part of my mind wondered why this man wasn't in uniform. Why weren't *all* these men in uniform? Dan Sneed was 4-F. What excused them?

I guess the question was visible in my eyes. It made him nasty. "Put a smile on your kisser," he said. "This is the happiest day of your life. Or maybe you're a Jap-lover."

He took my pushcart and wheeled it away from me at a fast trot. When he made a severe turn, he dumped it. The rest of my stock, along with several steaming blocks of dry ice, shot into the street. The children swarmed on it, screaming happily. Then someone came up behind me and untied the strings of my change apron. All my quarters, dimes, and nickels fell around my feet. I dropped to my hands and knees to retrieve them, but I had to compete with other children and a few adults.

I was paralyzed by defeat. I sat on the curb. After the money and ice cream were gone, the crowd moved away from me. I righted my cart and wheeled it back the way I came, my

bells hanging silent.

An elderly woman who lived a few houses from ours tried to buy a 7-11 from me. I told her I was sold out. She put her dime back into her change purse. "You be sure to pray thanks for our atom bombers," she said, as if scolding me for taking victory over Japan for granted.

"I will, ma'am," I lied. I felt no gratitude. God had not granted my prayer that the war go on for another seven years. Why should I be thankful for early victory?

"Many won't have to go now," the woman said. "Many will be safe forever."

She looked at the closed lid of my pushcart and sniffed. "Sold out already?" she said. "That seems unlikely."

I pushed my cart away from her.

"You remember to pray thanks," she said. "Your mother might have lost you to the war, save for our bomb."

"I know," I said, gloomily.

The house was empty. Mother and Dan Sneed were still at work. I fixed myself a bacon and American cheese sandwich and listened to my radio programs. Terry and the Pirates were still fighting Japs somewhere in Burma. Jungle Jim was still tracking Nazi agents in a South American rain forest. Superman had located Hitler's secret weapon that would have guaranteed a German victory and was carrying it into outer space where it could be disarmed safely. It was all anticlimactic. The war was a dead issue.

I switched off the radio and carried my plate back into the kitchen. That's when I saw Mother's note, taped to the icebox.

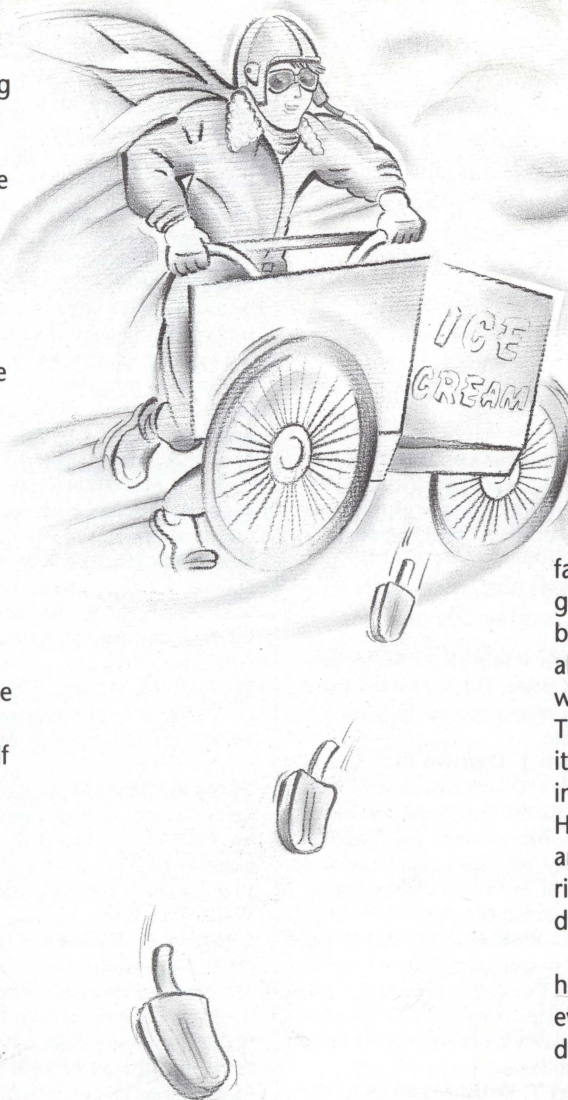
"Charlie, put the roast in the oven at 3:30. 300°. Boil ten spuds. Wash some lettuce. Shell peas. Set up the bar. Company tonight." It was almost four. I'd been doing all the cooking since Mother had been hired as a welder at

the Kaiser shipyards up in Richmond. Dan Sneed worked until dark, managing twelve pushcart boys as well as operating his own ice-cream truck in the Piedmont and Emeryville areas. He wore an all-white uniform. The jacket had a "Mr. 7-11!" patch stitched over the left breast pocket. I put the bloody rolled rib roast into the oven and turned on the gas. After I rinsed the lettuce and shelled the peas, I carried the card table out into the living room and covered it with a white tablecloth. I took Dan Sneed's stock of liquor out of a kitchen cabinet and set the bottles in a neat row on the card table. I set a row of drink glasses in front of the bottles. Later, I would chip enough ice from the twenty-five-pound block in the icebox to fill the pewter bucket. I rechecked Mother's instructions to make sure I hadn't forgotten anything, then went back to the bar and poured myself enough sloe gin to darken my tongue. A thread of fire tickled my throat. "Banzai!" I yelled, holding my glass high. "Take that, Jap!" I yelled, making ack-ack sounds between my teeth.

I went out to the garage, light-headed, to visit my B-25. It was spread out on the workbench, half finished. It had been the hardest model I'd ever attempted to build. I knew I would not finish it now. A freewheeling sense of despair overcame me. The B-25 Mitchell was the first bomber to strike at the heart of Japan, back in 1942. But now it was ancient history, just as the war itself would soon be. Next to the B-29 and its atomic bomb, the Mitchell was as dated as the Wright brothers' "flyer."

The two Olson gasoline engines that would have powered my B-25 sat in their mounts, bolted to the workbench. I primed one of them with a little gas, connected the spark-plug wire to the big Eveready dry-cell battery, and spun the prop.

The little engine sputtered, then caught, instantly filling the garage and neighborhood with a high-pitched roar. I opened the needle-valve throttle all the way, my mind happily saturated with noise. A haze of pale smoke hung in the garage in layers. I filled my lungs with it. Burning gasoline was one of my favorite aromas. I bent down to the exhaust port, mindful of the invisible propeller, and sucked fumes up my nose. A climbing tide of vertigo rocked



me back.

The concrete floor of the garage felt like rubber. So did the driveway and sidewalk. I knelt down and ran my hands through the dry August lawn to see if the grass felt rubbery too, but it felt like the weak legs of docile insects. I pulled a gray tuft out of the dry ground and tossed it across the street. Then I went next door to see Darwin Duncan, not my best friend, but convenient.

"You want to go to Hayward?" I asked him.

Darwin was a small boy with an unhealthy yellow glow. His mother was a registered nurse. She kept a bookcase full of medical texts. Darwin and I would often study the *Human Anatomy for Nurses* text when no one was home.

"What for?" Darwin asked suspiciously. He was wearing heavily padded earphones. There was a soldering iron in his hand.

"What do you mean, what for? To

go swimming, why else go to Hayward?"

Darwin and I went to the Hayward Plunge at least once a week during the summer. It was a big indoor pool. I'd learned how to swim there, and how to dive. My favorite dive was illegal, but the lifeguard didn't stop you unless you were bothering people with it. You'd sprint along the edge of the pool, then dive with a kind of spinning, corkscrew twist. The motion caused your body to auger its way to the bottom. It was frightening because you didn't have control. Hydraulic pressure seized you, applying an uncancelable torque that you had to ride out. You had to see the corkscrew dive to its end.

Then, when you hit bottom you had to figure out which way was up, even though it was obvious. You were disoriented.

But Darwin didn't want to go swimming. He was working on his radios. He was a radio nut. His room looked like a repair shop. Every flat surface, even his bed, was littered with the scavenged parts of old radios. His current project was a nine-tube, four-band superheterodyne. He was a genius, but his parents worried about him. They wanted him to be normal, like me. "Why don't you play baseball, like Charlie?" they'd ask him, in my presence. "Charlie, why don't you teach Darwin how to throw a football?" But they were wrong about Darwin. He was probably a better athlete than me. I knew he could beat me in a footrace, at least. He just preferred to work out technical problems in the privacy of his cluttered bedroom.

His room was hazy with solder smoke. I liked the smell of solder smoke, too. Not as much as the smell of exhaust fumes, but the nose-pinching, acrid taste of hot solder had its appeal. It was like sour incense. I cleared a spot on Darwin's bed and sat down to watch

(continued on page 13)

ALUM NOTES

▼40s

Eddie Mae Duty (B.A. '43) lives in San Diego, California, where she will celebrate her 87th birthday in November.

▼50s

Ernest Leonard Keily (B.B.A. '50) retired on June 29, 1990 after a 39 year career with Furr's Inc. (formerly Safeway). For the past 27 years, Keily was the company's distribution center manager in El Paso.

Roy Wilson (B.S. Ed. '51), has retired from his position as principal of Bonham School after many years in education; he was the first band director at Jefferson High School in El Paso.

Libby Wright Masarie (Attended '51, '52) lives in Eugene, Oregon where she and her husband, Fred, participate in art shows. Masarie is a calligrapher.

William F. Quinn (B.S. '54), manager of the codes and standards division for El Paso Natural Gas Company, is the recipient of the Stephen D. Bechtel Pipeline Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Henry H. Masterson (B.S. '57) was selected as a national finalist in the Tandy Technology Scholars program for outstanding math, science and computer science teachers. He was also named Teacher of the Year in 1990 by the Rio Grande Chapter of the American Chemical Society. Masterson teaches chemistry at J.M. Hanks High School in the Ysleta Independent School District.

Reynaldo Sanchez, MG/USNG, (B.S. '57; M.S. '82) is the first Hispanic to be promoted to the rank of major general in the Texas Army National Guard.

Bruce A. Black, Ph.D.-RADM/USNR (B.S. '59) was promoted to the rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Naval Reserve. A resident of Farmington, N.M. he is also president of Black Oil, Inc. In September, 1991, Black will become the commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Intelligence Command in Dallas, Texas, a group of 5,000 Naval intelligence selected reservists.

Robert Moran (B.S. '59) was named Engineer of the Year for 1990 by the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

▼60s

William Kiely (B.S. '64) is president of Sofec, Inc., a Houston based marine engineering and construction company.

William J. Denton (B.B.A. '65), formerly Chief of Environmental Litigation for the Air Force, has joined the law firm of Gage and Tucker in Kansas City, Missouri. Denton, a partner in the firm, is chairman of the environmental department.

Dale L. Walker (B.A. '65) has been invited to speak at the Ozark Creative Writer's Conference to be held in Eureka Springs, Arkansas on October 10-12. Walker is director of UTEP's Texas Western Press.

Robert T. Williamson (B.A. '65) has been working as a consultant for user services with the computing center at the University of Kentucky since 1988.

Mary Ann Tankersley Petrey (B.A. '67) is pursuing a career in social work with the Texas Department of Human Services. She works as an adult protective specialist in San Angelo, Texas.

Marian Morrison Chavez (B.M. '69) has retired from the Dallas, Texas school system. She continues to teach voice.

Frank L. Hernandez (B.A. '69) has been named senior vice-president of the Commonwealth Land Title Company of El Paso.

Karen Falwell Mische (B.A. '69) was appointed by the governor of New Mexico as one of 30 outstanding women of the state. She was honored for establishing the Battered Women's Shelter in Carlsbad during 1990.

▼70s

Mary Ann Robbins (B.A. '70) is director of healthcare marketing for Marlborough Hospital in Marlborough, Massachusetts. She and her husband, **Terry Robbins**, also a former UTEP student, reside in Harvard,

Massachusetts. Terry is employed by the Federal Railroad Administration.

David C. Ray (B.B.A. '71) is president and publisher of Sentinel Newspapers in Denver, Colorado.

Rose Mary Bombela (B.A. '72) has been appointed director of the Department of Human Rights for the State of Illinois by its governor, Jim Edgar. **Peggy McNiel** (B.S. '72) has joined the Dallas office of the Austin-based firm of Sicola Martin Koons Frank, a full-service marketing, advertising and public relations agency. She is working as management supervisor for the company.

Frank A. Merriman, LT/USNR, (B.A. '73; M.A. '78) was one of thousands of Naval Reservists activated in support of Operation Desert Storm. He served at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. as a public affairs specialist, manning telephone hotlines established to provided information to reservists' families.

W. Patrick Resen, LTC/USAR, (B.A. '73) has been appointed as a military judge in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Peter Ashkenaz (B.A. '74), the former director of special projects for the Rio Grande Council of Governments in El Paso, is now U.S. Rep. Ron Coleman's press assistant in Washington, D.C.

Charles C. Walden, COL/USA, (M.A. '74) received the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service as a member of the U.S. Army. Walden is deputy chief of staff for logistics at the Information Systems Command in Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Jaime Galindo, L.P.C., N.C.C. (B.A. '75; M.Ed. '79) practices as a psychotherapist in El Paso. Galindo is also president of El Paso Professional Growth Associates and works part-time with UTEP Counseling Services. **Michael A. Jacques** (B.A. '75), formerly the information management coordinator for the Rio Grande Council of Governments, is now a systems analyst with El Paso Healthcare Services.

Henry Quintana, Jr. (B.A. '75) is Supervisor of Corporate Communications at the El Paso Electric Company. He is past president of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Charles K. Cooper (B.B. '76) has been named chairman of the Downtown Area Council of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. He is president of the local investment and development companies of PasoTex and Franklin Land and Resources, Inc. **William Varela** (B.S. '76) was honored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York for CINEPROBE, a one-evening retrospective of his independent films. He is a past member of the media panel for the Texas Commission on the Arts and continues to serve as executive producer and host for "Out of the Mainstream: A Tele-

vision Showcase for New Film and Video" on KCOS-TV, a PBS affiliate in El Paso.

M. Monica Morrison (B.B.A. '76) supervises automation in the information systems department of Southwest Airlines in Dallas.

Michael L. Tobin, LCDR/USN, (B.S. '76) has reported for duty at Naval Station—Rota, Spain. In 1982 he received his M.D. from Texas Tech University and joined the Navy.

Lawrence J. Giron, LCDR/USN, (B.S.N. '76) was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving at the Naval Hospital Branch Clinic in Naval Shipyard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is currently serving at Navy Recruiting District, Albuquerque.

Jeanne Teresa Reardon (B.S.N. '77) was named administrative director of oncology programs for Dallas Methodists Hospitals. She received her M.S.N. in 1981 and her O.C.N. in 1986. Reardon also serves on the board of directors for the High Risk Insurance Pool in Austin, Texas.

Ghassem Safakhoo (B.S. '77) lives and works in Iran as a building engineer in the city of Tehran. Before moving to Iran, Safakhoo worked for the board of commissioners at the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana for five years.

Randall Johnson, Ph.D., (B.S. '79; M.Ed. '85) received his doctorate in sport pedagogy in December, 1990 from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Beverly Alexander, Ph.D., (B.S. '79; M.A. '83) received her doctorate in psychology from Texas Tech University.

Michael J. Hutson (B.B.A. '79; B.A. '80) practices corporate, banking, real estate and general business law with the El Paso firm of Grambling and Mounce.

David A. Zeitz (B.S. '79) has assumed duties as manager of electrical maintenance at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

▼80s

Margaret Michal Decker (B.S.Ed '80) has returned to the workforce after taking a few years to start a family. She is employed as a teaching assistant at Covenant Pre-School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. **Carlos C. Guerra** (B.S. '81) is now staff geologist with the El Paso office of Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc. He was previously employed by Gulf Oil and Chevron USA as a petroleum geologist and independent consultant.

Victor M. Firth (B.B.A. '81) practices commercial, real estate and business litigation law with the El Paso firm of Grambling and Mounce.

Alejandro B. Gonzalez (B.B.A. '81) has become an associate in the

law firm of Mayfield and Perrenot of El Paso.

Jim Wilkerson (B.S. '81) received his M.A. in adult and higher education from the University of Texas at San Antonio in December, 1990. He has been accepted into a doctorate program at Texas A & M University this fall. Wilkerson teaches at the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio where he has worked for the past ten years.

Brian P. Hamilton, CPT/USA, (B.B.A. '82)—Distinguished Military Graduate) was deployed with Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia where he commanded a 110-soldier tactical army signal company.

Jim S. Fierro (B.A. '82) is president of the Long Bear Company, a real estate firm based in Manhattan Beach, California.

Jorge Daniel Mota (B.A. '82; M.A. '87), director of El Paso Community College's Project Upward Bound, was recently elected to the board of directors for the National Council of Educational Opportunity Associates (NCEO).

Lisa Murray (B.B.A. '82) is a field and regulatory quality assurance technologist for the Taco Bell Corporation in Irvine, California.

Maria (Molly) A. Arroyo, CPT/USAF, (B.S.N. '82; M.S.N. '87) was recently transferred to Osan Air Force Base in Korea.

Randy A. Mauldin, CPT/USAF, (B.S. '83; M.S. '85) has been promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force. He recently returned to his home at George Air Base, California after serving with Operation Desert Storm.

James M. Briggs, Ph.D., (B.S. '84) received his doctorate in theoretical organic chemistry from Purdue University in May, 1990. He is living in Houston where he is a visiting assistant professor at the University of Houston and director of chemical computing for the Institute for Molecular Design.

David F. Garcia (B.S. '84) has been certified as a professional engineer by the State of Texas and is working for the City of Dallas.

Julie Gonzalez (B.B.A. '84), a staff attorney for the El Paso Legal Assistance Society, now works in the El Paso County Public Defender's Office.

Mary Evonne Taylor (B.S.N. '84; M.S.N. '87) was recently selected as "Nurse of the Year" by the Texas Nurses' Association, District One, for outstanding contributions to the nursing profession. She is currently Chief Nursing Officer at Thomason Hospital.

Shayne Kroodsmas (B.S. '87) received an M.D. from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in May, 1990. She has been accepted into the psychiatry residency program at Duke University.

Enrique Ornelas (B.S. '87) received his Master of Science in Elec-

trical Engineering in December, 1990 from UTEP.

Katherine Gibson (B.S. '88) has joined the El Paso office of Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc. as an environmental engineer. She moved to El Paso from a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Maryland.

Bret Hendricks (B.A. '88) works as the assistant tennis professional at the Plano Tennis Center in Plano, Texas. His recent accomplishments include winning championships in the 1990 Plano Open Doubles and the 1989 Arthritis Foundation Pro-Am tennis tournaments.

Suleiman Nyambui (B.S.Ed. '88), a silver medalist in the 10,000-meters at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, was inducted into the UTEP Track Hall of Fame this year along with Ted Banks, a former UTEP track coach. Nyambui competed for UTEP in the late '70s and early '80s.

Carlos Napoles, PO3/USNR, (B.S. '89) is a petty officer third class in the Naval Reserve. During Operation Desert Storm he served aboard the USS Acadia, a destroyer tender homeported in San Diego.

Dora Alicia Shank (B.A. '89; M.Ed. '90) teaches third grade bilingual education at Ysleta Elementary School. She was a nominee for that school's award for the first-year teacher of the year.

OBITS

Henry Martin Padilla (B.S. '89) Feb. 16 in Seattle, Washington, of leukemia. Survivors include his parents and one brother.

Pina Mae Earp (B.A. '40) March 12 at the age of 82. She was a resident of El Paso most of her life and retired from the El Paso Independent School District where she had been a teacher and counselor. She is survived by her husband, Dean; two daughters and a son.

Jerry Karl Mueller (B.S. '46) April 4, in Boise, Idaho. Mueller was a retired executive of Morrison-Knudsen Construction Co. Survivors include his wife and four sons.

Lewis F. Hatch (former UTEP Vice-President and Dean of the College of Science; '67 - '75) April 8. After leaving UTEP, Hatch joined the faculty of the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia where he taught and supervised research until 1983. Survivors include his wife, Marie; two daughters, one stepdaughter, and two stepsons.

Hollis F. Sheldon, MAJ (ret)/USA, (B.S. Ed. '68) April 16. He had been a resident of El Paso for 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Doris; three daughters and one son.

Thelma M. Hurd (B.A. '83) April 26. Survivors include his parents, two brothers and five sisters.

Safe Forever (from page 11)

him work. He slid a thin screwdriver into a tangle of multicolored wires to make an adjustment of some kind. "I'm aligning the intermediate frequency amplifiers," he said. Darwin was a year older than me and had skipped the fifth grade.

Human Anatomy for Nurses was shoved under his night table. I picked it up and thumbed it open to the section on Human Reproduction. The illustration of a woman lying on her back with her legs up and thighs held wide always made my heart lurch. This reaction was instantaneous and reliable. Then my mouth would go dry, and if I swallowed my throat would click. All her parts, interior and exterior, were flagged with Latin labels. In my bed at night, after my routine prayers, I would whisper the forbidden Latin names as if I were preparing myself for some dark, subterranean priesthood. The pages of this section of the book were greasy with use. I thumbed ahead to the cutaway view of a tumescent penis fully encased by a vagina. My throat clicked loud enough to be heard, but Darwin didn't look up from his delicate adjustments. I'd seen this drawing a thousand times, but the red machinery that allowed human beings to repeat themselves endlessly down the centuries made my palms sweat.

Darwin handed me the earphones. "This is London, England," he said casually. "Loud and clear, with some selective fading."

I put the earphones on. Behind a roar that sounded like a waterfall, I heard two comedians exchange quips about Adolf Hitler as if he were still alive and subject to the sting of ridicule. They were hanging on to the war, too. ■



Author, Rick DeMarinis at an El Paso mall book signing for his new book, June 9, 1991.

Henrietta "Peggy" Goodnough Hull (1889-1967) came out of a small Kansas prairie town and rose in journalism to become the first woman ever accredited by the U.S. State Department as a war correspondent. Her "wars" began on the U.S.-Mexico border in 1916, included World War I in France, the Siberian Expedition of 1918, the Sino-Japanese War and Japanese attack on Shanghai in 1932, and World War II in the Central Pacific.

THE WARS OF PEGGY HULL

The Life and Times of a War Correspondent

by Wilda M. Smith & Eleanor A. Bogart

Winner of the C.L. Sonnichsen Book Award



Texas Western Press
The University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, Texas 79968-0633
(915) 747-5688

300 pps, illust.
ISBN 0-87404-215-1; \$30 (cloth)

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