

6-1980

## NOVA: The University of Texas at El Paso Magazine

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NOVA. 158.

<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/nova/158>

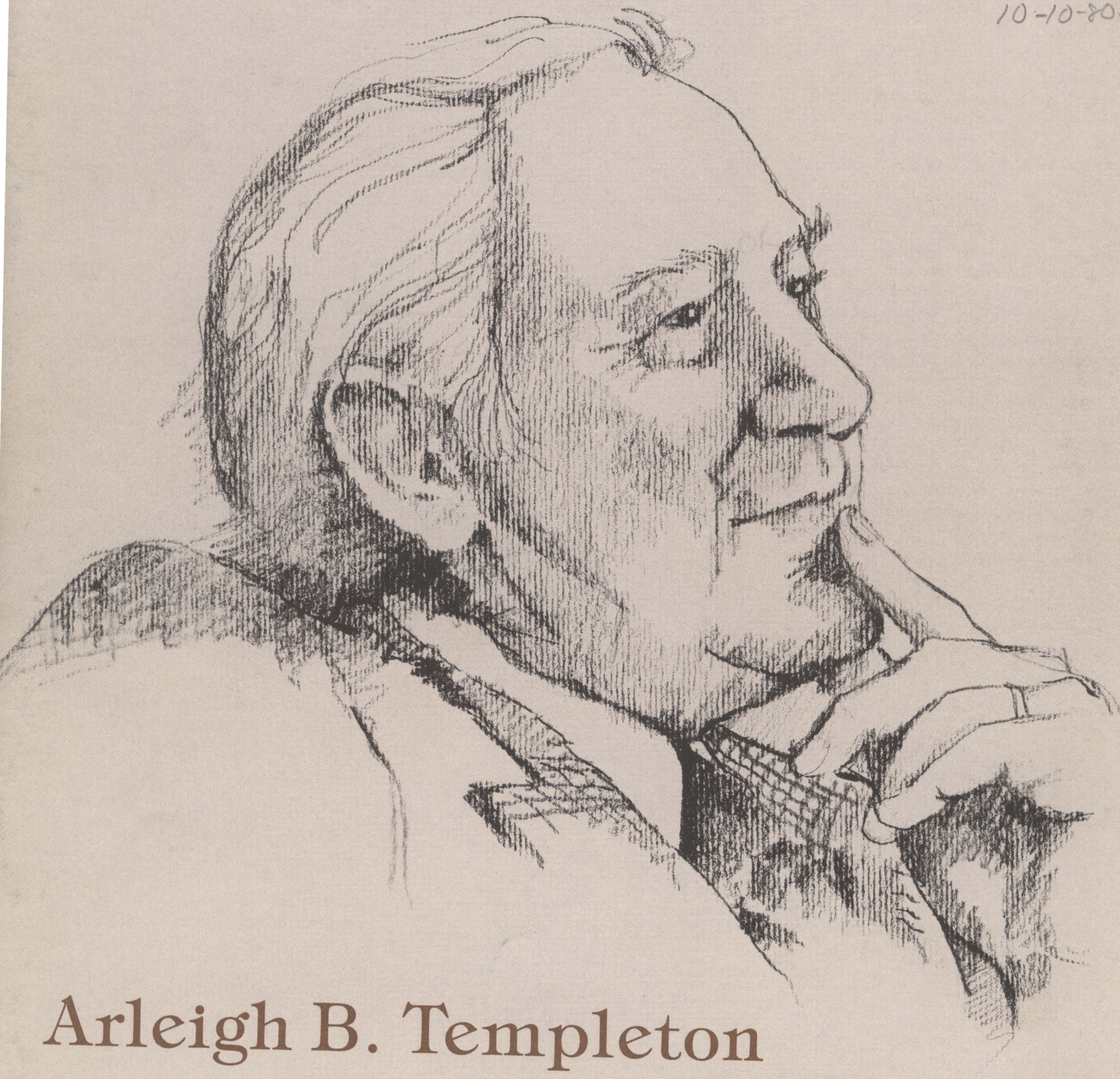
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# NOVA

The University of Texas at El Paso Magazine

Deaths checked  
10-10-80 JRB



Arleigh B. Templeton



# The View from the Hill

Those NOVA readers out of earshot of the discussions of the Alumni Association Board, and non-subscribers to either the El Paso Times or the Prospector, may not have seen or heard the bandwagon. If not, now is the time to either climb on it, slow it down, or let it pass by.

The issue is the orange and white UT El Paso colors and the school song ("The Eyes of Texas") and whether either or both should be dumped and new ones adopted.

The argument that both should be changed—an argument which thus far has had only the meekest opposition—is based on the fact that both the colors and the song are UT Austin's and do not give UT El Paso an "identity" of its own.

Opponents of the proposed change, when they can be found, say the colors and song are *traditional* Mines-TWC-UTEP stuff and that both serve to show that this institution is the second oldest academic component of the UT System.

Proponents of the changes are urging that blue be added to the orange and white and that a new school song be composed, perhaps by UT El Paso's own music department.

You might think that an issue as important as changing half-century-old traditions would take a lot of head-scratching and hand-wringing, that Regent's Rules would be pored over and local and System administrators consulted, that a blizzard of correspondence would be generated.

As far as we can ascertain, none of this has been done. What *has* been done is that a few people have taken an idea and taken it for granted.

In March, an Alumni Association Board straw vote on the color change got unanimous approval for the blue-orange-white combination. The Student Association is including the changes of color and song on a referendum ballot April 9-10 and one officer of the SA says an "informal poll" of students shows most in favor of the changes. Somebody is arranging a golf tournament to build a kitty for the new athletic uniforms that will have to be purchased. A TV sportscaster on March 20 showed a "logo" spelling "Utep" in blue-orange-white script and said *this* would be adopted. By whom he did not say, by whose authorization he did not say.

The point of this column is not to urge yea or nay on the colors and song issues, but to point out that all alumni ought to have a stake in the matter.

John Laird, sports editor of the El Paso Times, among those most active in supporting the changes, wrote on March 9: "Since my first plea, in a Dec. 21 column, for new colors and school song at UTEP, the response has been heavy and undivided. Not one die-hard fan calling to protest any mutation of his precious tradition. Nary a single former letterman screaming out in defense of the ol' alma mater."

Laird is a graduate of West Texas State University.

If you'd like to put your oar in the water, write to me. I'll see that your letter or card is forwarded to the President's Office (it is he, after all, who will ultimately have to carry the matter to the Board of Regents), to the Alumni Association, to John Laird and whoever else is interested in the issue.

— Editor

## School colors may change

By WALLI HALEY  
Prospector Staff Writer

"We've been a little sister to UT Austin for too long," Eddie Forkerway, Student Association President, says.

He explains the University's duplication of the UT Austin school colors of orange and white and school fight song is the basis for a proposed change.

On April 9 & 10, the students will be able to vote to add royal blue to the original school colors as well as a new fight song.

The referendum will be included on the student government ballot. Paul Yetter, SA internal affairs vice-president, explains.

## Color change needed for identity at UTEP

Fan Feedback is a forum for readers who wish to express their opinions on the performance of teams, coaches, athletes, fans, even the press. Signed letters must include an address and telephone number, although only the writer's name and hometown will be published. Letters should be limited to 400 words and must conform to standards of taste, legality and accuracy. Interested readers should address letters too Ben Feedback, El Paso Times Sports



fan feedback

What has not been fully explored, however, is the extent of the damage that has been done to the image of UTEP by having the same colors and school song as this monster in the heart of Texas.

As a native Austinite, I can testify

such unanimity El Paso sports endorsing the issue or UTEP athletes

lea, in a Dec. 21 colors and school he response has divided. Not one ig to protest any ecious tradition. rmer letterman defense of the ol'

for those of you ed UTEP's Or- "Miners Fight" Eyes of Texas" ack of personal-



John Laird  
Times Sports Editor

the same token, Austin must not be too crazy about a losing football program somewhere beyond the setting sun wearing Orange and warbling UT's holy anthems.

Thus, the challenge was issued. UTEP's student body should answer its obligations and give the athletes something they could proudly hang their mining hats on.

The UTEP Student Association received over 100 letters following

## UTEP seeks new identity

## CAMPUS QUOTES

by SHEELA HASTINGS

Do you favor the changing of the school colors and song?

green, though to the proposed orange, white and blue.

June 1980 NOVA  
Vol. 15, No. 3  
Whole Number 59

Editor: Dale L. Walker  
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Cover: A.B. Templeton, drawing by Kathleen Rogers

Back Cover: L-R, Student Dean Joe Avila and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joe Olander, after St. Pat's engineering initiation, 1980.

Contents © by UT El Paso

Second class postage paid at El Paso. NOVA (UPS 398-820) is published quarterly by the News and Information Office of The University of Texas at El Paso (El Paso, TX 79968). It is sent without charge or obligation to alumni and friends of the University.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NOVA, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968. This University is an Equal Opportunity Institution.





A.B. Templeton: A Farewell

# INTERVIEW

**Q:** The first question is a long one: New statistics from the Department of Labor predict that 80 percent of all new jobs in this country by the mid-1980s will not require a college degree but will demand specialized career-oriented expertise.

The DOL also states that only 61 percent of today's college graduates are working in the fields in which they were trained in college.

What do you think has happened in higher education to bring such figures as these about?

**A:** We simply have to face the fact that the social structure of this country is changing so rapidly we can barely keep up with it. Much of it is tied to the miserable state of the economy and the disillusionment of people trying to make ends meet and to make for themselves the kind of life they want. Many people have found that the road to success does not necessarily include a stop-over at college and four years' work on a baccalaureate degree. By the same token, business and industry are more and more being disappointed by the ability

of the college graduate they once sought so eagerly.

**Q:** Are community, junior colleges and trade schools getting the benefit of this trend?

**A:** Well, let's take an example I know something about—computers. A person who is seriously interested and is somewhat math-and-science oriented can take a two-year intensive program in a junior college and often come out with a better offer from a major company than the offer that is waiting for a current four-year liberal arts graduate. And that JC computer certificate person can continue to improve his chances of climbing the ladder simply by enrolling in some evening courses in management, banking, economics and so on.

**Q:** What do those in the four-year institutions have to do to reverse this trend?

**A:** We have to have an attitudinal change to begin with, especially one that inspects very closely the kind of out-moded things we teach, and one willing to look ahead at what is being demanded of us in the market. Some universities that *are* looking ahead are blending such subjects as accounting, management, and finance into the liberal arts degree. Business and industry is beginning to look at this type of degree. They are saying, 'Here is somebody with writing skills and reading skills, somebody who understands the cultures of the American society—and has some basic skills we can use.'

**Q:** Does this mean we have to retrogress into market-demand education?

**A:** I don't think we understand what the market demands are right now, much less what they will be down the road. But we are not going to be able to stand on the *status quo* and say 'This is the way it ought to be.' The way it *is* is what we have to face and we are going to have to live with it or move aside. We have plenty of opportunities to do new things and attract new student constituencies: We have to push harder and get excited about doing new things.

**Q:** What happens if we don't adopt the 'this is the way it is' attitude and prefer to stick with the 'this is the way it ought to be'?

**A:** One thing that will happen is a day of reckoning. If we do not act, I am afraid there will be even greater State-wide control of curriculum content one of these days. The State will make decisions for us by the simple expediency of not funding programs and courses *they* do not judge as meeting a greater goal. The State will say 'You can keep this



course if you want to, but we are not going to pay for it.' Another part of the day of reckoning, if we do not act on our own initiative, is that students will become much more selective and less willing to have 'traditional educational requirements' dictated to them.

**Q: What happens then to the traditional liberal arts degree?**

A: It must become more interdisciplinary. As I pointed out, some universities are offering business courses in certain liberal arts curriculums; a science or engineering course or two added to a liberal arts curriculum might be a very good mixture.

**Q: What are some of the changes in store for faculty members?**

A: I can give you an illustration of this: There is a large and very influential committee in Austin, set up by the last session of the Legislature. Among the members are the Lieutenant Governor, the Dean of the Senate, Speaker of the House, a couple of House members, former Regents Chairman Frank Erwin, Chancellor Emeritus of SMU, Willis Tate—and others. They are recommending on such things as faculty salaries, tenure, unionization, among other issues. They are talking about *mandated* responsibilities to go with them: a mandated 12-hour teaching load required class 'preparation time' and mandated evaluation criteria—this will be a jolt to many faculty members.

**Q: What do you think about unionization?**

A: It might just be a good thing. If there was a union contract, tenure would take a back seat to such things as pay and performance. A union contract would define precisely the duties and responsibilities of the faculty member and there would be dismissal provisions, regardless of tenure status for those faculty members who did not live up to the same contractual obligations which are now only 'professionally' expected. The faculty had better look long and hard at what they will be giving up before embracing unionization. Most importantly, it will dissolve the partnership between faculty and administration which has effectively developed this country into the best educated society in the world.

**Q: Under the present tenure system?**

A: Yes, but I think we've overworked the tenure system. It originally was a super idea—it allowed the teacher to expound on new ideas without the danger of being fired for saying something controversial or expressing an idea that was

different. Now, tenure is little more than job security.

**Q: Let me skip over to another subject here: One of the great cries heard on this campus and every other is that we are getting students who are ill-prepared to cope with university-level work. English composition and math are particular cases in point. How is this situation to be repaired?**

A: You've heard this before, but it is a simple truth: We are as much responsible for the situation here at UT El Paso as is anyone else. We are producing the teachers who are teaching the students coming back to us. If we do not prepare the teacher to teach composition, we can hardly expect the student to come here with great preparation. Frankly, I believe we have overemphasized teaching *techniques* and underemphasized providing *fundamental knowledge*.

**Q: What can we do?**

A: We can stop right now and regroup. We should establish a program to attract math and English teachers, give them mathematics and science and composition courses to upgrade their teaching performance. These should be *credit* courses toward graduate degrees, and the public schools should support it by giving everyone who completes these courses salary incentives. We have to take the initiative on this.

**Q: In 1936 you were the youngest high school principal in Texas—19 years old and principal at Willow Hole High. You remember what your kids were like in those days and what they were like through all the years that followed. What has been the difference in them?**

A: The differences are almost too great to mention. The public school first grader today, through television and communications of all kinds, has had exposure to about everything by the time he gets to school. In 1936 at Willow Hole they were farm kids out of the Great Depression, from parents who were poor. They sat down when you told them to and stood up when you told them to. If you gave them an assignment, they brought it in the next day. The point is discipline, both at home and at school. I don't know whether that's good or bad but I do know that those kids were motivated to learn, appreciated school, and were eager.

**Q: Today?**

A: Today in this country we can't cope with our affluence. And with the higher education revolution since World War Two, we might be over-

educated in certain ways: in the ways of the classroom as contrasted with the ways of the world and everyday life. Now, going back to those figures from the Department of Labor you quoted, the wheel has taken a full turn and 80 percent of the new jobs opening may not even require a college education.

**Q: How has the job of the educational administrator changed in your 44 years' experience?**

A: Back then you did the job no one wanted to do, much less felt trained for, and you were respected for it. Now, you've still got the job no one wants but everyone thinks they are qualified for and can do better.

**Q: What about the college presidency?**

A: Have you noticed that the average tenure of university presidents is down to about four and a half years now? The job of the university president today has almost no bearing on what it used to be like: The job today is tough and thankless and if you do it right, you won't be pleasing too many people. In the first place, the president *must* be astute in securing funds from state and federal government. Many faculty members find this boring but they are the beneficiaries of the results of it. The president must also relate to the business community—*be* a businessman—and stay on top of the budgetary and appropriations process. It sounds simple—you've got to know where the money is, how to get it and how to spend it wisely—but it isn't simple and it is not something you can learn by enrolling in a course in college. You learn it as you go along. The main thing for a president to understand is that it has to be done and done well or your institution will suffer.

**Q: What are your plans after September 1?**

A: I'm not going to be idle. I'll be going directly into Job Corps work, developing programs for drop-out kids. That's what I'm going to do the rest of my life.

**Q: Will you be working out of San Antonio?**

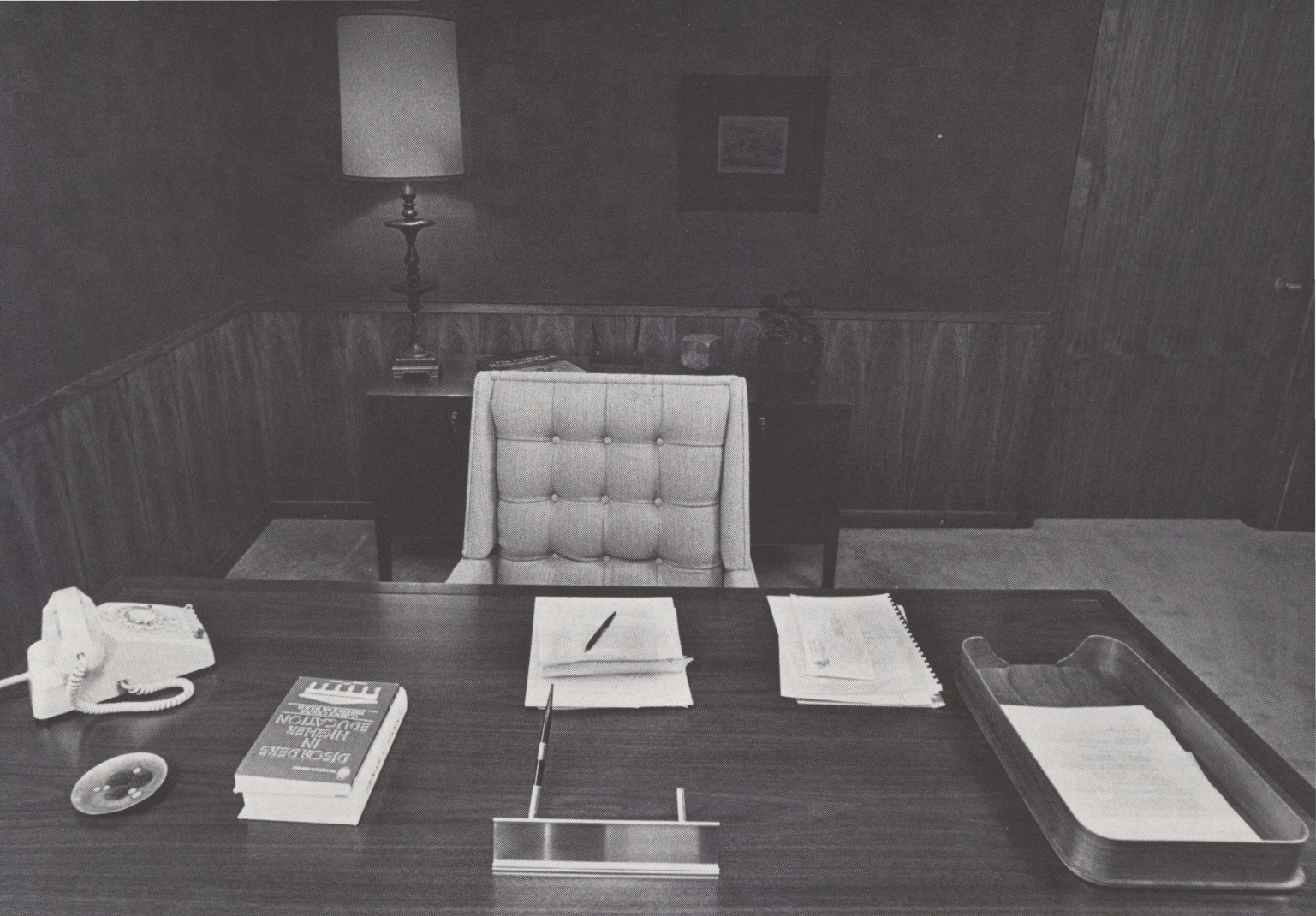
A: San Marcos, McKinney and El Paso also. I'll be opening a center in San Antonio, one in Corpus Christi and another in Houston.

**Q: You mentioned doing a little fishing...**

A: I couldn't think of anything else to say. I might do a little fishing but I won't be devoting my life to it. I'll be serving on some boards and doing some

(to page 17)





A Personal View of the Presidential Selection Advisory Committee:

# An Enfolder of Things to Be

by James M. Day

**W**alt Whitman once professed to being, on behalf of humanity, "an acme of things accomplished" and an "enfolder of things to be." Some of us on campus related to that statement when Regent Dan C. Williams appointed us to the advisory committee to recommend nominees for the presidency of The University of Texas at El Paso.

A committee of 17 is unwieldy at best. And this University has not had so much attention since the basketball team won the NCAA national championship in 1966. Over a period of five months the committee formally met 11 times during which we deliberated and interviewed for some 40 hours. Ten of the meetings were in El Paso, where the group was referred to on campus as "our blue ribbon committee," and one, the last, was

held in Austin.

The logistics of the search were rather prodigious. From the beginning the chairman made it clear that exactly the right amount of money would be used to select the best candidates to recommend to the Board of Regents. Though not a committee member, Art Dilly, director of development in the chancellor's office, was always on hand to see that the proceedings went smoothly. He collected the applicants' vitas and issued the calls to meetings, handled transportation arrangements, and saw to housing, food and general comforts. Dilly proved to be serviceable, durable and pleasant. He said once that normally the chancellor's executive assistant would be performing his task, but since he, Dilly, had served search committees

before, the chancellor had assigned the chore to him, and he was pleased to perform. He meant it.

Wherever we went there was no end of hospitality. On campus we met in the president's conference room in the new addition to the Administration Building. The screening sessions, the second, third and fourth meetings, ran from noon until four or so in the afternoon. This was planned so the out-of-town members could catch their late afternoon flights. The chancellor said we would have a sandwich for lunch as we worked, but Director of Auxiliary Services Jack Baker does not know what a sandwich is. He served blue ribbon meals to this blue ribbon committee.

When we had morning meetings, there was always coffee, tea and an



assortment of rolls on hand. When we met with the six finalists, we dined at either the El Paso Club atop the El Paso National Bank Building or the International Club in the State National Bank Building. Both sport breath-taking views of the city and both serve excellent food. Someone gave Wynn Anderson, assistant to President Templeton, credit for these arrangements. They were appreciated. During meetings the committee members lacked not for comforts.

We turn our attention now to the purpose for which we were brought together.

Just listing the 17 is a burdensome task. At the helm was Chancellor E. D. (Don) Walker. Those who knew him alternately referred to him as "Mr. Chancellor" or as "Don" and most of us soon fell to the same habit. The three members representing the Board of Regents were Jane Weinert Blumberg (Mrs. Roland K.) of Seguin, James W. Powell of Fort McKavett, and Howard Richards of Beaumont. Mr. Richards had to absent himself after the first two meetings, but both Mrs. Blumberg and Mr. Powell attended regularly. Both missed only one meeting; both contributed positively to the result. They were interested, informed, and alive, the way regents ought to be. Regent Powell is a cattle rancher, something of a rugged individualist, a man unabashed and not at all hesitant to speak his mind. Regent Blumberg also serves on the governing board of Texas Lutheran College at Seguin, so she has plenty to do. There is a joke in Seguin that her husband, Roland, is an adjunct to the airport because he is always dropping his wife off to catch a plane or waiting to pick her up. Her uncle, Rudolph Weinert, was her idol during childhood, and she picked a good one, for he was a senator in Austin, a real force in the Texas Senate at mid-century. Mrs. Blumberg is active in Democratic Party politics and as a result she was absent from the second committee meeting, the only thing she missed along the way.

Representing the UT System was Ernest T. Smerdon, vice-chancellor for academic affairs. Art Dilly called him "Ernie," so others of us were soon at that too, and he took it well. Serious by nature and a little shy, it got to be one of life's joys to greet him with a big smile and watch him respond in kind. Imagine the "step-children" smiling with the vice-chancellor for academic affairs! The gods certainly must have smiled also. That is additionally so for the

three institutional heads. James W. Wagener of UT San Antonio, Wendell H. Nedderman of UT Arlington, and Charles C. Sprague of UT Health Service Center at Dallas, were all prompt and faithful in attendance and, it should be added, wise in their counsel. Sprague's suggested "straw vote" on an issue during the deliberations seemed a little silly while it was happening, but it worked out satisfactorily, so it must have been right. That must have something to do with testing the water with one toe before you jump in. Charles Sprague is a caution.

These members were matched by eight persons who were campus-oriented. Two students, David Downie and Guillermo (Butch) Camacho, represented the student body; Robert C. Heasley, an insurance man with an astuteness denied to most, represented the ex-students; and Rudolph Gomez, the graduate dean, represented the Deans' Council. Five faculty—M. Lawrence Ellzey, Jr. of Chemistry, Charles W. Etheridge of Drama and Speech, Judith P. Goggin of Psychology, L. Phillips Blanchard of Business, and this writer—rounded out the committee.

This tale is not our story so much as it is my own, but the point needs to be made here that some of us who had fallen into personally antagonistic positions on campus through the years perforce found ourselves thrown together in a common cause. As a result, our understanding of each other's points of view changed somewhat, in spite of unspoken reservations at the opening of the session.

The first meeting was a little bit like the sparring of gamecocks, but Chancellor Walker set a proper tone, putting the committee at ease as he let us express our thoughts. He persuaded us to get acquainted. At no time did he let us stray from our purpose. It impressed me favorably that we were not choked but were able, yea encouraged, to be candid. Later, as I came to know Don Walker, a man who had progressed a long way from Livingston, Texas, and Sam Houston State University, I came to realize that he was espousing a philosophy when he told me at one of the socials, "Do your job and do it well, but don't take yourself too seriously." He chuckled as he said it. To meet Walker for the first time is to be overwhelmed by his size, at least 6'6". Later one is impressed with his political astuteness and his dedication to his position. In discussing socially some of the

problems UT El Paso has had in meshing with other schools in the System, Walker gets convincing when he talks about building a unified System which has a place for each component.

He did melt my heart when he acknowledged that a high campus priority must be the building of a new library for UT El Paso. The chancellor is a good story-teller when it is story-telling time, and he is adroit at controlling a meeting. Perhaps a part of the fascination here has to do with a close-up look at the person who has the power. It was a pleasant contrast to watch someone at work who controlled enough money to do a first rate job.

As time passed the members of this committee grew together rather than apart. Wagener is a good example of this. During the first meetings he stayed more with the members he already knew, but when he came to know those of us from El Paso, he incorporated us into his conversation. Wagener is fairly new at "presidenting," but Nedderman and Sprague are both old hands at it. And they are genuinely interested and interesting. It was good to meet them off their home turf in a position where they could relax and enjoy, unfettered by the problems that beset them every day. Nedderman and I were joking one evening about getting acquainted the way we have and I said that if I were on his faculty he would not even know me. His ready reply, given with a friendly grin, was, "Oh I think I'd know who your were!" And that is just the point. Now, as a result of our working together, he not only knows who I am, he knows a goodly part of me. And I know that the man at the helm of UT Arlington has a straight-thinking head.

Getting out of the International Club in the State National Bank at 10 in the evening is not too easy to do. One ends up in the subterranean depths and has to negotiate a series of long corridors to finally emerge in the parking lot across Kansas Street. One evening, after we had socialized with a candidate from Michigan, we emerged from this hole, headed home. Wagener, Nedderman and Sprague started walking up the street with Dilly. I stood beside my car, suddenly realizing that they were going to walk the six blocks to their hotel. I shouted to them, asking if they wanted a ride, and they all shouted something back to me which meant they preferred to walk. And as they trudged happily along the then quiet and lighted streets of my town, their humanity came into focus. I identified with them,



remembering the dozens of times in strange towns, mostly at conventions, I had pounded the pavement back to a hotel. Even though we did not ride together, we were closer for having tried.

The six faculty members on campus each served as host for two of the presidential candidates. Each of them had a luncheon with the Ex-Students Association Board, and on one occasion it fell my duty to escort one of the candidates to this function. Bob Heasley invited me to stay. It was an informal affair with chatting all around the table, and I tried to stay quiet. But there was too much getting acquainted to do. It soon became apparent that a huge gap in understanding existed between these ex-students and me as a faculty member. Our hearts were right in regard to the University but we were not on the same train in going to the station. This was a revelation to me because I thought all ex-students understood that the faculty really does work every day for a better University. And some of them really thought (and perhaps still think) that the faculty of this University is made up of radical thinkers selfishly uninvolved. At the end of the process, Bob Heasley said he was pleased to find out how interested the faculty were—and how interesting. As a leader in the Ex-Students' Association, he professed to have gained greater understanding about the University's operation. Certainly I learned something of the attitude of our graduates.

We did a lot of growing as we performed our work. The work consisted of advertising for and receiving nominations for 139 candidates. Ninety-eight of those nominated presented credentials which were studied. The committee ultimately screened down to six candidates, each of whom was brought to campus for a two-day interview. It was a grueling, enjoyable process for all concerned, but out of it came what the committee considered to be the three top choices.

The evening of February 22, 1980, reproduced a scene out of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, where people "came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars." That was the time that Chancellor and Mrs. Walker gave a party for the committee at Bauer House, the chancellor's residence in Austin. For some time he had been joking that he was going to have us all over to his "cottage." Ernie and Mrs. Smerdon drove some of us out from the Driskill Hotel,

into the Tarrytown section off Enfield Road, past the Deep Eddy and Breckenridge Apartments where Jim Wagener had lived when he went to school. We circled behind Bauer House, a block sized affair with stone fences and spreading live oak trees. It should be mentioned that the weather was made to order—light humidity, 78 degrees, no wind—a picture perfect evening wherein the stars accented the picturesqueness of the point on the Colorado River where the prairie melds into the rolling hills of the Edwards Plateau, the famed Hill Country of Texas.

After circling behind the place we approached the gate, where a guard was stationed, and passed up the circular drive out of reality and into fairyland. Everything was velvety green and soft. The live oaks, which spread their branches to shade the green lawn, had soft lights planted among the boughs to produce an eerie effect. Even in February, the shrubs, grass and trees were green. Bauer House's grounds showed no signs of neglect and no signs of winter harshness.

The sprawling two-story structure was lighted across its front as doors akin to a Southern mansion beckoned. They opened as we approached and we were greeted by the Walkers. From the living-room came strains of 17th century parlor music provided by a UT Austin sextet dressed in white and black and equipped with recorders, flute, cornet and bombardons.

Beyond the living-room was the library where everyone browsed the shelves. The television set was pushed up to a bookshelf and behind it was a rather hefty printing of *The Holy Bible*. Someone remarked (was it Nedderman?) that the chancellor's TV certainly had strong backing, and we all laughed. Out back, through the high ceilinged entry hall, was the swimming pool with its blue waters and beyond it, in contrast, was the lemon chiffon decorated bathhouse, which on occasion served as a guest house. Dilly stood out back and gave a vignette history of the growth of Bauer House, how it was donated to the University System and how Chancellor Charles LeMaistre had had to enlarge it to accommodate his large family. Dilly looked at the windows and told the names of the LeMaistre children and where their rooms were.

We also, from somewhere, learned that ours was the fourth social function at Bauer House that week. Don Walker

had said he wanted to open the place up a little and it sounded like he succeeded. We drank and ate and laughed and left at a comfortable hour.

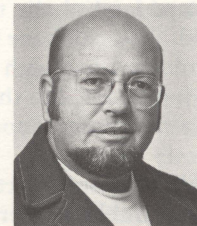
Next morning the committee met in the Ashbel Smith Building in the chancellor's office complex, an edifice named after that veteran surgeon of the Republic of Texas Army. The business was tended to before Dilly, at the chancellor's request, handed everyone a framed certificate from Regents Chairman Williams thanking us for our service. After adjournment we all said we would miss each other and Regent Blumberg jokingly suggested that we might have a reunion each year. Sprague, Nedderman and Wagener were more practical. They all suggested that the faculty "get this guy fired" (we did not know the final result at that time) so we could do it all over again. Everyone shook hands all around (I did get to kiss Regent Blumberg on the cheek) and at 12:15 on February 23, 1980, the Presidential Selection Advisory Committee ceased its labors.

So far as I am aware, there was not a harsh feeling among the group. We had differed, naturally, from time to time, but an air of respect and genuine conviviality reigned. As a faculty member I had gained respect for the chancellor, vice-chancellor, regents and presidents I had met. I came to realize that the administrators work for the Regents—and so does the faculty. Distance had dimmed this fact over the years. The experience seemed something of a rebirth for this faculty member who, even as he remembers deep emotional strain that reaches back into the heart of the UT Austin campus, hopes Don Walker can put together his dream of a unified System.

The University of Texas at El Paso will have its president come September. He may very well prove the "enfolder of things to be," but the campus is already healthier because of the process that was followed and because the Regents selected a candidate from the committee's recommendations. □

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JAMES M. DAY is a Texas historian, editor and writer and a member of the UT El Paso Department of English faculty.



His latest publication is *Morris Parker's Mules, Mines and Me in Mexico, 1895-1932*, edited for the University of Arizona Press.





# Haskell Monroe

## P R E S I D E N T - E L E C T

by Dale L. Walker

**I**t is tempting to draw a complicated analogy about bricks and Haskell Monroe, president-elect of UT El Paso: You know, how an administrator works with bricks and mortar and builds an edifice of learning and such as that.

It is tempting but it is boring.

Instead, let us simply point out that Dr. Monroe *collects* bricks, bricks from historic sites and "name" bricks—the kind found in old pavements and streets that carry the name of the town on them.

"I started picking them up in the mid-'50s," he says, "in Charleston, North Carolina. I was in the Navy then, and I'd visit historic sites in my off-duty time, invariably finding piles of rubble. I'd pick up a brick and I.D. it. I have about 300 of them and when I get ready to move to El Paso I'll have a strange story to tell the moving people: Be careful with my bricks!"

One of Dr. Monroe's prizes is a brick from Ford's Theater in Washington. He got it by the simple expedient of walking into the side of a dump-truck.

"I was working in the National Archives and at lunch was walking down the street, reading the Washington Post. They were doing some renovation work at Ford's Theater and I happened to walk into the side of a truck loaded with rubble bound for the city dump. I asked the truck man if I could have a brick and he said, 'You can have the whole load if you want 'em.' The only problem I had with it was explaining my brick to the guard as I went back into the National Archives. It took even more explaining when I took it *out* later in the day."

Another thing Haskell Monroe collects is information. He soaks it up like a nonsaturable blotter. Part of this is his

background as historian (B.A., M.A. in history at Austin College, Ph.D. in history at Rice), part is an inquisitive nature, part is his need to know as much as he can about El Paso and UT El Paso before taking over the presidency September 1.

Whatever the reason, during his visit to El Paso March 9-12, following his being named president-elect by the UT System Board of Regents in Houston on February 29, Dr. Monroe not only "touched all the bases," he got to know something about the team, the ballpark and the fans. (If analogies fail, stretch a metaphor.)

He walked around the campus in the early morning hours before his series of meetings began at 8, talked with students and passersby. He met faculty, deans, chairmen, directors and staff members—the majority utter strangers—with a natural ease.

An impromptu outdoor news conference, necessitated by an uncannily-timed power failure in the Administration Building 10 minutes before he was to meet reporters there, resulted in his fielding questions as well as tossing out a few of his own. (Laurie Paternoster of the Times wrote in the following morning's paper: "Monroe, 49, sat on the edge of a concrete planter, his hands casually hooked around one knee. He was at ease with the questions, his head cocked to one side as he freely bantered with his interviewers.")

He met with Beth Waters, editor of the Prospector, for a half-hour, one-on-one interview. ("The administrator shows an intense interest in the interviewer," she wrote later, "often shifting the roles. But this is not a tactic, it is an exploration...")

He chatted with Barclay Jameson, editor of the El Paso Times, and collected a few more scraplets of information. ("What is the Times circulation?" he asked Jameson, and in the elevator, asked me: "Is the Times locally owned?" I said not anymore, that it is owned by the Gannett chain. "The Herald-Post?" he asked. Scripps-Howard, I said. He nodded.)

He chatted with the Herald-Post's managing editor Bob McBrinn, with city editor Butch Freeman, his assistant Dennis Kincaid, with columnist Virginia Turner, and traded place-name pronunciation lore with reporter Frank Ahlgren: "Anahuac, Texas, is pronounced locally as 'Anniewhack'."

With his easy, approachable, affable manner, inquisitive and open to the questions of others, Haskell Monroe was a hit.

When he left to return to College Station—after the camping trip he promised his family: wife Jo, daughter Melanie, sons Stephen, Mark and John—his VW van was packed with UT El Paso and El Paso reading material: books from Texas Western Press, reports, data, newspapers and publications of every description.

By now he's probably read them all and has a few more questions to ask. □



# By Elroy Bode

## *Three Pigeons at Dusk*

The neighbor is mowing his lawn, July clouds are in the sky, winds sweep the Upper Valley from late afternoon rains, and the three white pigeons are soaring. From where I sit in the back yard I can see them winging it. All night and most of the day they seem captive and subdued—sitting on top of the chicken house or in the overhanging limbs of the elms—but now they belong to no one. They are free wavy lines to the east, squiggles against the clouds.

They return in a huge circle, pass over the house like destiny's hell-bent messengers, head east once more. I know they are mine—that out of all the places of greenery they can see from above they will finally come back to this one familiar square of land that is my house and lot, that is their home—but for the moment they know no boundaries, no loyalties. There is nothing between them and the mountains, nothing around them but air.

Perhaps it is their bulk that makes them more memorable, more dramatic in the sky than birds. Perhaps it is the thought of their many sober hours in the shade of the chicken pen; the quiet un-



moving eye of the female looking back at me as I look at her settled on her nest; their rather stout pedestrian marching in the grass, posturing to one another when the day begins to cool: their whole Ma-and-Pa Pigeon domesticity under the trees. Perhaps it is all of this, and then, suddenly, for exercise, for pleasure, for whatever reason—they are into the sky like white arrows from a bow.

The winds shift, thunder rolls about in the desert, the pigeons are in their

third flight toward the mountains. It is as though they are swimming in air—or singing. They are, for the moment, whatever in nature that is efficient, beautiful and wordless.

Three pigeons above the green of valley trees, against the blue-purple of mountains: smooth, white-bright, making neat circumnavigations of our piece of local sky. They punctuate the end of the day, giving it a touch of drama and grace.

And the thought comes to me that when I die it would be good to have three such pigeons salute my grave at dusk. No quivering hymns, no handkerchiefs and tears. Just a single sweep of wings that almost seem to smile in the precision of their passing: just a brief focus of white out of the sun-lit desert air. □

## *Window Scene*

I sit in the living room, looking out, and the afternoon is framed within the window. Just that: a window scene, an everyday moment. But momentous. Summer light, like invisible acid, is etching the trees and houses and grasses. It is a timelessness that I see—a moment of eternity under the sun—and it burns in the creosote depths of a telephone pole, in the gleam of a mailbox.

The radiance of the ordinary is what I am talking about.

Everything just is, yes, but *supremely*. There is a drama in the undramatic, an awesomeness in the commonplace.

Creation happened today; if we can see it. Not to see it is to rob the earth of its mystery and depth.

So I sit and I look and I say: I would not trade lives with anyone. I like, too much, the way I see the days—the earthly paradise of sun and greenery, of rocks in a field and fences standing in the shade. I take too much pleasure in a patch of dirt, a weed; in flies in the air and buildings at rest and mountains jutting through the morning haze; in a wheelbarrow, a gum wrapper in the grass.

To be sure, there is nothing grandiose about a beetle or a gourd, yet any living thing, seen clearly, is stunning. I look about me and I see sacred substances, for wherever we walk is holy ground. □

## *Duty*

A young Juarez immigration officer walks along the top of a sloping embankment leading down to the Rio Grande. He wears a neat blue uniform, well-shined black boots, a purposeful air. After picking his way methodically across little erosion ditches and around clumps of weeds, he pauses beneath a big cottonwood to smoke a cigarette and observe the half dozen or so barefooted boys who are roaming around below him. It is June and the Rio Grande has shrunk to a thin, negligible stream in the center of the river bed. The boys pool around in the water with their pants rolled up, laughing; the young officer, in the shade, watches them indulgently and smokes.

He sees three boys running toward the river from the El Paso side. They zigzag a bit, stop to hide in the bushes along the bare flat, then run a little more. The immigration officer flips away his cigarette and begins a slow half-walk, half-slide down the embankment. When he reaches the river bed he begins to step gingerly from one dry spot to

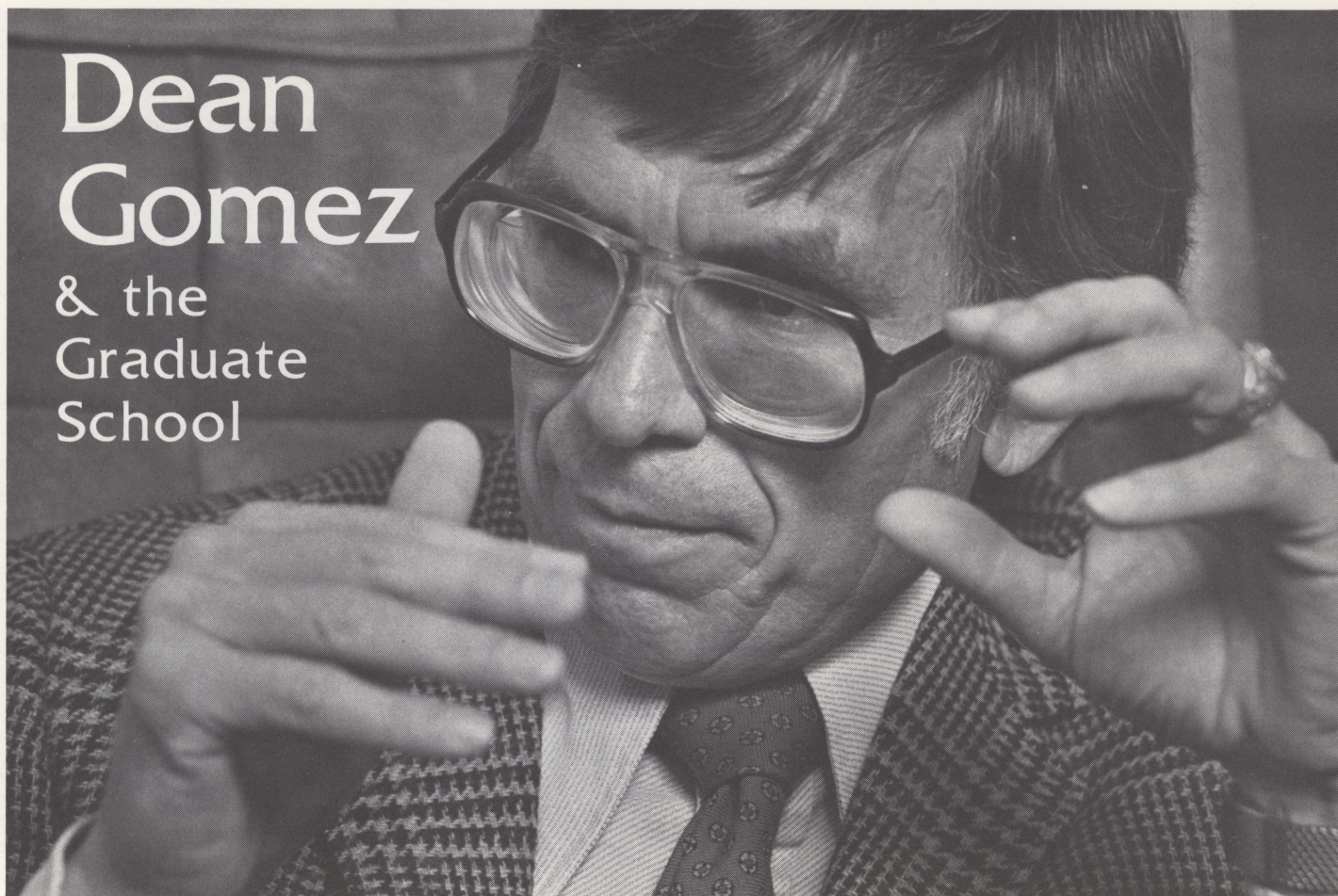
another, trying to keep from dirtying his boots. The three boys see him and begin to run hard, keeping behind a line of bushes. They are splashing across the stream and slanting up the embankment toward their west Juarez homes while the young officer continues to pick his way toward their first hiding place. He is in no hurry—indeed, although he cannot see them, he seems to know that they have already crossed the river. Yet he paces along the bushes at his same steady gait.

The officer stops finally and after professionally surveying the empty flat he lights another cigarette. He stands a while—looking serious and reflective, as if thinking Hmmm, so the little devils have given me the slip again—and then turns back to the river. Still walking cautiously, as though he might be surprising the boys at any moment, he returns to his original crossing place on the bank. He closely inspects his boots, adjusts the bill of his cap, and, yawning a little, begins to carefully retrace his steps across the mud. □



# Dean Gomez

## & the Graduate School



**T**wenty-eight graduate degrees are offered at UT El Paso, degrees which cut across all Colleges of the University's academic structure—Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Science, and Nursing.

There are 10 Master of Arts programs, 11 Masters of Science, four Masters of Education, one Master of Business Administration, one Master of Public Administration, and one Doctor of Geological Sciences.

The person who administers these programs has the entire University as a constituency, has special management problems no other dean has, must cope with the sometimes opposing forces of intellectual achievement and the demands of the marketplace, and must keep an eye on the past, present, future, and availability of research funds—all at the same time.

Graduate Dean Rudolph Gomez is mild-mannered, but he does not change clothes in a telephone booth and go racing off to rescue Lois Lane. What he does routinely, however, is meet the extraordinary demands of his office, run 40 miles a week, frequent weekend flea markets looking for antique fountain

pens and penknives for his collection, read the writings of the Danish philosopher and theologian Soren Kierkegaard, and maintain a good family life with wife Polly and their two sons. And when the need arises, as it did between July and September, 1979, he will take over on short notice such a job as Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dean Gomez is a native of Rawlins, Wyoming. His father was from La Barca, Jalisco; his mother from Jacona, Michoacan, the two coming to the U.S. during the Mexican Revolution. Rudy is one of seven children and the only one to graduate from college.

"Digging ditches and working as a section hand for the Union Pacific Railroad," he reflects, "was a very good way to get a young man to look for something better in life."

The Korean War got him out of Wyoming and the GI Bill benefits he accrued got him into Utah State University where he received his B.S. degree in 1959. ("Without the tutoring program in freshman English," he says, "I would never have made it through.")

A year later he had earned his M.A. at Stanford as a Woodrow Wilson

Fellow and in 1963 earned his Ph.D. in political science at the University of Colorado. In 1967 he served as Fulbright Professor of Political Science at the Catholic University in Lima, Peru.

In 1972, he came to UT El Paso's Department of Political Science from Memphis State University's faculty, and two years later was named Dean of the Graduate School.

With a staff of seven, Dean Gomez administers the 28 graduate degree programs and the 1,897 graduate students (fall, 1979) enrolled in them, and he enjoys his work, even the inevitable conflicts all administrative officers must face.

"Administrative work is fun for me," he says. "I like to resolve problems that seem unresolvable by finding a common ground and working them out. I consider that kind of work creative and very satisfying."

The Gomez method of management stresses the building and maintenance of good work habits which include a willingness to do the drudgery of detail. "Willingness to engage in some drudgery," he says, "is useful because it lessens dependency upon the expertise of subordinates. At the same time it



provides you with information you can use to selectively delegate responsibilities.

"I think the best leaders are those who have sufficient confidence in themselves that they are willing to trust their own judgments in the face of the inevitably conflicting advice they receive. I'm not certain that I am that sort of leader—if I am not, it is not because I don't know better."

It is axiomatic these days that the public perception of graduate education is changing. How has this perception attitude affected graduate study?

"We take our direction from social forces, whether we like it or not," the Dean says. "The public questions the value of a graduate degree that does not result in a better, higher-paying job. I think it is fair to say that graduate programs today are more and more designed for the marketplace."

He points out that among UT El Paso's most popular graduate programs are the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Public Administration, launched only last fall and the source of younger graduate students seeking careers in mid-management, and of older students seeking career enhancement; and the Master of Education degrees, designed for professional development and administrative advancement.

Looking ahead, Dean Gomez points to faculty discussions on graduate programs in sociology with a focus on

gerontology; and a doctoral-level program in general administration which would cross over such administrative areas as health care, business, public and educational administration.

The newest doctoral proposal at UT El Paso, passed by the Board of Regents and awaiting Coordinating Board approval, is an interdisciplinary degree in environmental sciences and engineering. "Like our doctorate in geological sciences," the Dean points out, "the environmental program is industry-oriented."

Despite what seems to be a pronounced "marketplace" consciousness in many graduate programs, he says, the University must preserve the intellectual nature of such programs. "I do not think the two aspects are incompatible. Graduate work by its very nature is intellectual—it requires a great deal of the student's ability."

Ask Dean Gomez about his goals for the Graduate School and you will hear a good many listed. One is his interest in keeping flexible the administration of the GRE [Graduate Record Examination] score. "The score is not the sole criterion for admission to the Graduate School," he says. It is one of the *several* criteria for admission; others include grade-point average in undergraduate studies, the undergraduate institution attended, letters of recommendation, and very importantly—student motivation. There is no way to measure the latter, but if a student is really motivated

he can perform successfully."

Another Gomez goal is the elimination of dual membership—the "two-tiered system"—on the Graduate Faculty. As presently composed, the graduate faculty has senior members with six-year appointments who are required to have scholarly stature of regional and national repute, and "members," appointed for three years, required to have at least regional reputations for their scholarly achievements.

"I think these honorific distinctions lead to sterile bickering more than anything else. The functions of the senior members and members are narrowly, if at all, different. (Only senior members may direct doctoral research, but so far we have only one active doctoral program.) Therefore, I'd like to see this bickering eliminated and see each member of the graduate faculty treated at the same level with the same responsibilities. There is too much work to be done to devote time to determining who has more scholarly renown. All have scholarly renown or they wouldn't be on the graduate faculty."

A third goal, Dr. Gomez says, is the development of more doctoral programs for UT El Paso. "Since the doctorate in geological sciences was launched in 1974, I think we have become more conscious of what such programs can do for the University: doctoral-level work means the student must conduct original research, this gives the faculty member a chance to develop sponsored research, and to attract research funds, such as those available from the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, from the Departments of Defense and Transportation, and from various private agencies.

"The whole process puts all of us ahead—the student, faculty member, administrator, the entire University grows as a result of it."

Cases for doctoral programs, he says, can legitimately be made at UT El Paso in such areas as a professionally oriented degree in administration, in inter-American studies, and in Spanish. ("It is incomprehensible to me," he says, "that we do not have some very strong, upper level program in Spanish. You can't name a place where it would be more appropriate.")

Dean Gomez is married to the former Polly Petty and they have two sons: Robert, a senior history major at McMurry College in Abilene, and Clay, a senior at Coronado High in El Paso. □



GOMEZ' STAFF—Back row, L-R, Luis Castaneda, Martha Perez, Dean Gomez, Leticia Sanchez; front row, L-R, Florence Mitchell, Gloria Ansara, Mary Altizer, Yolanda Ruiz.



# Books/South by Southwest

## THE CHICANOS OF EL PASO

by Oscar J. Martinez  
El Paso: Texas Western Press, \$3  
(Southwestern Studies, No. 59)

by Ricardo D. Aguilar

This book is a most revealing vision of the reality which the majority population of El Paso has experienced. It is a naked document which tells the long truth about the dominant and the dominated of our community. It should be welcome and refreshing to all those who struggle for equality in this land of plenty.

The study is divided into three sections. The first of these is a historical summary which includes several little known bits of information such as a 1916 incident:

Following the Villista massacre of fifteen American Engineers at Santa Isabel, Chihuahua, on January 13, an estimated 100 revenge-seeking Anglos marched on the Chicano community of El Paso, vowing to drive out the residents.



Section II, *Measuring Chicano Progress*, offers a statistical view of the economic, social, and political growth of Chicanos which it becomes the more interesting due to the information provided through a series of tables. This

section includes a statement regarding Chicano representation in UT El Paso's professional ranks:

The University of Texas at El Paso continues to have an extremely low representation of Chicanos in faculty and administrative positions. As of the 1977-1978 academic year, only 8.4 percent of those occupying such positions had Spanish surnames.

In *Explaining Underachievement*, Section III, Martinez attempts to account for the slow headway Chicanos have made into high-level positions in the community. He makes reference to age-old stereotypes which have been utilized by those in power in order to discredit and suppress local Chicanos and gives examples of actual discriminatory practices leading from such stereotypes:

Ramona Gonzalez...recalled one instance during the 1920's when she was paid \$5 a week less than an Anglo female employee whom she had trained as a bookkeeper, and whose work...was less satisfactory than hers. What made it worse was that the Anglo woman had no formal training in the field, while she did...

Dr. Martinez ends his study with a summary and conclusion section which alludes to the Chicano experience as a form of "internal colonialism." He says:

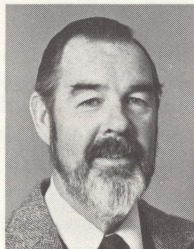
Briefly stated, Chicanos are seen as colonial subjects because they were incorporated into this country as a result of war, were quickly relegated to second class status and kept there by oppressive, rigid institutions, and were forced to endure the effect of racism.

*The Chicanos of El Paso* is a laudable effort towards telling a history little-known or willfully ignored. It is yet more worthy because as Martinez says: "It's the first publication by Texas Western Press which directs its attention totally to the local Chicano community and presents a model for doing community studies." □

## EL PASO'S GEOLOGIC PAST

by Earl M.P. Lovejoy  
El Paso: Texas Western Press, \$3  
(Science Series No. 7)

The El Paso area—as all former UT El Paso geology students will attest—is rich in examples of many types of geologic phenomena. The river valley cuts between mountains that were thrust upward about 50 million years ago. In the strata of the mountains can be found fossils from the periods when seas covered the land. A volcanic field lies a few miles to the west.



Earl M.P. Lovejoy, member of the University's geological sciences faculty since 1965, prepared this handy guide to the area's geologic past at the request of the El Paso Geological Society. He has plentiful drawings and photographs to illustrate such aspects as the Fort

Hancock formation of layered river sand, the Lanoria quartzite of the Franklins, and the igneous rock core of Cerro de Cristo Rey.

He includes a geologic time table for local formations, suggestions for further reading, and directions (complete with mileage) for taking a self-guided tour to see first-hand the places illustrated in the book.

"Earth history started 4.65 billion years ago," states Professor Lovejoy, "but in the El Paso region evidence exists of only about 300 million years, or about 6% of geologic time. The evidence is incomplete even for that 300 million years, so the record may be closer to 3%, about the same proportion as that representative of man's history."

That 3 to 6%, however, is of interest to El Pasoans, former residents, and visitors who wonder about those massive rock formations and the winding river valley. The paperback book is concise and informative, a welcome addition to the El Paso lore in which Texas Western Press specializes. □

*Dr. Aguilar is the former director of UT El Paso's Chicano Studies Program and is currently serving as assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.*



It is raining in El Paso on this Wednesday morning and I am standing under the eaves of the Chevron Truck Stop east of the city, listening to the rush hour traffic booming in along I-10, stamping my feet against the cold sidewalk and trading inanities about the weather with Dennis Scott, sports anchorman for KDBC-TV, the local CBS affiliate. Though it is only February 20, it is for the sake of football that we are standing out in the rain instead of sitting inside with steaming coffee like sane folk. We are waiting, in fact, for Bill Michael, just completing his third season as head coach at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Scott and I will be joining Coach Michael for a drive to the Lower Valley farming community of Fabens so that we can record the signing of a document by a young man the Coach hopes will be of historic importance to the school's athletic program. Today is known as National Signing Day by those familiar with NCAA terminology, that annual occasion when young men across the country will fill in their names on the all-important Letter of Intent. By signing, they commit themselves almost irrevocably to play all their college days at the school named thereon.

We arrive in Fabens at 8:10, delayed slightly by the need to return to the truck stop parking lot for the camera tripod Scott has forgotten. He is extremely apologetic and mentions that he usually has a cameraman to worry about packing the equipment around. I volunteer to be in charge of the tripod. The entire business seems not to bother Michael in the slightest. The upcoming signature is in the bag. The player is

Randy Hodges, star running back with over 1,600 yards amassed during his senior year for the district champion Wildcats. However, Fabens plays in class AAA, roughly the equivalent of baseball's Triple-A leagues, and the competition for players from other than 4-A Texas schools is not so keen. Also, the coach of the Fabens team is Moe Hodges, father of Randy, and Coach Hodges and Coach Michael go back a long way.

"I left the decision up to the boy," Coach Hodges says while Randy undergoes the filmed interview. But he indicates that he is comfortable to see his son in the care of Coach Michael. "He's absolutely honest as a recruiter," Hodges says. "And he doesn't put pressure on the kids either. He wants it to be their own decision too. As a coach he emphasizes the student side of college life and he's concerned about values and discipline."

Randy, a National Honor Society member, later elaborates. He says that he turned down several schools in larger conferences, even an offer from one Ivy League university, to come to UT El Paso. I ask if he did that hoping to start playing sooner for the Miners, who have totalled six wins in the past four years. "No way," he answers. "I honestly feel I'd have been closer to starting if I went to Texas. I think great things are going to happen up there," he nods toward the distant Franklin Mountains that bisect El Paso, and adds, "I want to be a part of it, eventually."

Moe Hodges sent a player named Ed-die Foster to Oklahoma when Michael was a chief recruiter there several years back. Foster became an All-American.

It is clear from the firm handshakes and open smiles that conclude this morning's visit in Fabens that all the principal parties would love to see history repeated.

By the time we are back on I-10 toward El Paso, the heavy clouds have passed on north to the New Mexico desert and the sun has dried the highway. I tell Dennis Scott that I have forgotten his tripod and Michael laughs. Scott threatens to edit my background appearance out of his film report. It has gone without a hitch and everyone feels the camaraderie which follows the successful hunt.

Michael has a tense day in front of him, however. He will return to his offices in the newly renovated building between the Sun Bowl and the University's Special Events Center to await the calls from his eight assistants who will be fanned out all day repeating the process across Texas and beyond.

The news will be good, by and large. He will sign 13 or more high school players on that opening day as well as a handful of junior college transfers. Adding a few scholarships awarded to walk-on players who have proven themselves the preceding season will leave Michael three or four short of the yearly limit of 30.

"We probably won't fill those slots for a month or so," Michael explains. It is a cool, sunny afternoon, more than a week after Signing Day. We are sitting in his office, a room at least 25 feet long that seems to swallow up its furniture. At one end sit a black vinyl couch and matching chair; at the other is Michael's desk where he tends to the lighting of a cigar stub while I make notes. The



## The Game of Numbers

by Les Standiford



bookshelves behind him hold several volumes on football and NCAA rules. There are three or four photographs of game action on the beige walls, none of which include the coach.

A photograph of his family faces out from the credenza: his wife Gail, his daughter Liz—age 15, and Mark, who is 10. Michael is obviously pleased to talk about his family. His son is pursuing a love affair with soccer and his daughter is head majorette in Hanks High School. "I don't care if my son plays ball or plays in the band," he says. "I want my children to become *involved* in school life, period. That's the important thing."

When I ask how much of his job he carries home, Michael responds by saying firmly, "If my wife gets any information about the football team, it has to be from somebody else." He admits that his children do not hesitate to second-guess his game plan on Sunday mornings, however. "They get their looks and brains from my wife and their hard-headedness from me," he says, at last giving up on the cigar stub and taking a fresh El Producto from his shirt pocket.

We are interrupted then by Jim Bowden, UT El Paso's athletic director, who ducks in to tell us that the University has just named its new president. It is to be Haskell Monroe, currently an associate vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M. He will assume his new post in the fall, which will mark the beginning of Michael's fourth season as Head Coach. Although he holds distinctive credentials as a scholar, Monroe has previously expressed his interest in seeing the school maintain an excellent program in athletics as well as in academic programs. The news of Monroe's appointment seems to create no shock waves in the building.

"We've got the money we need to do our job," Michael explains. "The athletic dorm is now renovated to equal the other dorms. We've got a weight training facility that far exceeded my expectations." He feels that despite the fact that UT El Paso's football budget is the smallest in the Western Athletic Conference at \$590,000, the team should become competitive in its league with the upcoming season. Even though some schools in the conference spend well over a million dollars on the sport, and super powers such as Ohio State and Oklahoma are likely to budget close to twice that amount, Michael feels that his five-year program to rebuild the Miners' fortunes is about to bear fruit. The recently adopted 30 scholarship

rule is the reason. No longer can the leviathans such as Texas and UCLA deal out unlimited grants-in-aid. In addition to the yearly limit, no more than 95 players can hold scholarships at any time. In the halcyon pre-limit days, for example, Wyoming is said to have had 125 players on its freshman team alone.

"That rule gives us the opportunity to build a team," Michael says, pointing out that every year there are 600-700 boys graduating from Texas high schools alone who could qualify for major college scholarships. "Even if every Southwestern Conference team expended its entire limit on Texas players, we'd still have an equal number left over to go after."

The yearly limit of 30 scholarships also has its drawbacks. It takes time to build up a decimated program to the magic number of 95. "Every coach we interviewed mentioned five or six years as the minimum time needed to turn things around," says Jim Bowden. "Five was the absolute minimum."

When Michael arrived, there were 42 players to come out for spring practice. Adding his 30 incoming players for the following season gave him 72. But 18 were to be graduating or otherwise completing their eligibility following the season. Thus, he had a net gain to 54 by his second spring. Though he again awarded 30 scholarships, 28 players graduated the next year, leaving him with 56 his third year. At present, there are 66 scholarship players, and with luck, the fall of 1980 will mark the first season that Michael has enjoyed a full squad.

He breaks the numbers down even further in explaining how a program is forced to grow gradually. It is the "Sevens Theory" which is the key to understanding Michael's plan. "If you're lucky, about seven out of every year's 30 will turn out to be the kind of superior player who can help you in a winning situation. With the practice of red-shirting [whereby players sit out a year of competition and extend their college stay to the maximum five years

while playing only four], that gives you 35 first-line players. Add to those the eight or nine boys who develop gradually or unexpectedly over the four years and finally you've got a two-deep traveling squad who can go out there and compete for you week-to-week."

Thus it is a complex numbers game which dictates football success on the college level. But for many boosters it is a far simpler numbers game, one measured by the scoreboard and ultimately in the won and lost column. Athletic Director Bowden admits that despite the progress he and other observers have witnessed in the strength of the program, there will be a great hue and cry from the community unless that progress manifests itself in several wins in 1980. "It's a fact of life in college football," he says.

He and many others close to UT El Paso athletics are crossing their fingers against the various jinxes which could derail the arrival of competitiveness in 1980. Most observers feel that the defensive squad was the equal of most teams played in 1979. The days of the 66-0 and 82-0 routs are long gone, they say, pointing to the likes of last year's contests with BYU, a 31-7 loss but a winnable 10-7 at halftime, and the 14-13 loss to New Mexico State. With an experienced quarterback and offensive line, narrow losses can turn into victories, they hope. Bowden makes no bones about his own feelings: "As an athletic director, you want coaches who are honest men, who work well with others, who maintain discipline and encourage athletes to apply themselves to their studies as much as to their games. That's what we have in Bill Michael."

Michael seems unconcerned about the pressure that will accompany the unveiling of his 1980 team. "If you install your program and keep your faith in it, the wins will come." And if they don't? He shrugs. "You accept the instability that comes with the profession. The most pressure in this job comes from the pressure I place on myself."

Part of his security derives from the period of time he spent out of football between his stint at Oklahoma and his arrival at UTEP. In three years, he moved from the position of trainee with Steak & Ale restaurants to a post as District Manager supervising the operation of seven outlets in three states with a yearly budget of \$7.5 million. "You

"I got back into coaching because I love the association with young people," he explains. "The real joy of this business is watching kids mature over

LES STANDIFORD, who heads the University's Creative Writing Program, is a published poet and short story writer whose last NOVA piece, "The Great Existential Basketball Tilt," appeared in March 1976.





four or five years into people with valuable goals and a sense of direction in their lives. It's just amazing how one spring a kid has cars and running around on his mind exclusively, and the next fall he's talking about a career in teaching." He points to the NCAA postgraduate scholarship earned this year by defensive back Eddie Forkerway as an example of All-WAC achievement, athletically and scholastically. He is also quick to admit that it is equally sad to see student-athletes make irrevocable decisions that may end their academic career. "I try to keep football from contributing to the problem," he says, admitting that recruitment is a guessing game at times, so far as personal stability is concerned.

"That's one reason why I want to move away from junior college recruitment altogether. We only go that way to fill a particular need, and then we only work with a select number of coaches whom I can trust to have instilled discipline and a sense of values in the players. Even so, you've only got two years to work with the junior college boy, and you've given up four years worth of a scholarship according to NCAA rules. His spot is lost for two years even though there's nobody there anymore. To top it all off, it's hard enough to get a kid to transfer his loyalty from mom, dad, the high school girl, and home in general, even after four years. With the JC boy, you've only got two. That makes it very hard to develop the kind of deep-down pride and loyalty that makes winners."

Loyalty and pride are clearly important concepts for Michael. When he's not coaching, recruiting, or playing what he calls "miserable" golf, he likes to fish. He spent many weekends trying to lure the bass at Elephant Butte along with another familiar figure in UT El Paso sports, Ross Moore, coach and trainer at the school for 38 years before his death in 1977. "But I haven't been back up there since Ross . . . well, you know how it is. Maybe I'll get back there one day." It is almost as if a return to that place would betray the friendship. He pauses for a minute to relight his cigar and the sense of loss is almost palpable in the quiet room.

Finally, he shakes off the mood and looks up to the large picture of the Sun Bowl that decorates one wall. "One thing I really appreciated was that an average of 26,200 people came out to our home games last year." He says it proudly. And though he is outwardly a calm man (at last year's Homecoming

game loss to Hawaii, he seldom did more than fold his arms and pace to register agitation) his voice strains a little with eagerness as he discusses the 1980 season-opener with Texas Tech. "It's hard to know how much importance to place on an opening game," he says, "but just to be going up there and playing a Southwest Conference team, a *strong* one, mind you, well . . . I can't tell you how we're going to do, but I will say that I'm excited."

It seems obvious that Michael would like nothing more than to give Miner football fans the competitive, winning football teams that they've been missing since the oft-referred-to "Bobby Dobbs Era." "I remember those crowds quite well," he says referring to his days as an assistant to UT El Paso's last winning


coach.

And the wistfulness in his voice is as close as he is going to come to a prediction for the coming year. The desire is there; and so are the numbers—numbers on the field for the first time, and most likely numbers in the stands for a second year running.

Finally, I finish up my note-taking and rise to leave, wishing him luck. "To you too," he answers. And as I pass out the door it occurs to me that his answer is just possibly the most telling quote I could pass on. I expect that's just the kind of small thoughtfulness that makes Randy and Moe Hughes, Jim Bowden, and a host of others wish Bill Michael success with the most demanding numbers of all—those final ones on the 1980-81 season scoreboards. □







# “Do you Speak another Language?”

by Nancy Hamilton

*There exists “a serious deterioration in this country’s language and research capacity, at a time when an increasingly hazardous international, military, political, and economic environment is making unprecedented demands on America’s resources, intellectual capacity, and public sensitivity.”*

—from the report of the President’s Commission on Foreign Languages and International Studies

**F**or years, various horror stories have been told about American diplomats who made colossal misjudgments because they didn’t understand the languages or the cultures they were dealing with.

In 1978 President Carter appointed a commission of 25 to look into the educational implications of such problems. Last November this Presidential Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies gave its report, confirming suspicions that Americans were, indeed, short on expertise in languages and international understanding.

The commission recommended, naturally, that more money be spent in those areas—but how the money would be spent is of special interest to a number of UT El Paso faculty members.

Several areas of concentration were designated:

Incentive grants: \$20 per student to elementary schools, \$30 per high school student in third- or fourth-year language courses, and \$40 per college student in third- or fourth-year language courses, total \$51 million.

International studies centers: 200 undergraduate programs costing \$8 million, 65 to 85 national centers of advanced training and research costing \$18.75 million, and 60 to 70 regional centers of international studies costing \$9.75 million.

Research: \$20 million to operate a National Committee on International Research to finance programs.

Exchanges: \$60 million for the International Communication Agency’s scholarly and other exchanges.

The total bill on these and other recommendations is \$178 million. The President and several congressmen have expressed interest in seeing part, if not all of the recommendations funded.

Of special appeal to UT El Paso is the possibility of serving as an international studies center.



"We have the resources and the expertise to develop the kind of center they have in mind, with a focus on Latin-American studies," affirms Willard Gingerich, director of the Center for Inter-American Studies. "The report said 'Nothing less is at issue than the nation's security.' We are well qualified to serve the national interest by building on our existing programs."

Under the UT El Paso Latin American Studies program, students may earn degrees with options in Business-Economics, Behavioral Science, Humanities, or Spanish-Linguistics. For those most interested in the immediate U.S.-Mexico area, a border studies concentration also is available.

Foreign languages offer another area of strength in consideration of the University as a study center.

"Our enrollment is up 10% over last spring," says Joan Bornscheuer, chairman of the Modern Languages Department, happily. An intensive recruitment program among students already on campus and those entering the University has been paying off.

Nationwide, however, the picture has been getting bleaker for modern language studies. In the late 1960s, says Dr. Bornscheuer, the foreign language requirements in degree plans were dropped by 168 universities in one year. Although the National Defense Education Act in the early 1960s gave a boost to language study, interest dropped off a few years later.

"Some of this may have been a reaction to the Vietnam war," she explains. "People who disliked that war turned off to interest in foreign matters, including languages, and there was a trend toward insularity. Then there is another disadvantage for language study, in that in other parts of the world, people want to speak English. When you travel, you can invariably find someone who speaks English."

A native of England, Dr. Bornscheuer grew up in an atmosphere of multi-lingual expectations. "There is no way to be insular in Europe," she observes, "because you can cross borders so quickly. But in this country you can go a long way before crossing a border."

She was delighted that one of the Presidential Commission recommendations was for study abroad programs.

"Our department already has such a program, a very successful one under which students of Spanish may spend part of the summer living in Mexico in private homes where they gain valuable

experience in speaking the language," she says.

UT El Paso also is addressing another concern of the report, that of updating teacher training in foreign languages. "This summer we are offering a new program for upgrading language teachers' skills," says Dr. Bornscheuer. "The teachers requested this and we are offering the course to meet the needs they have specified."

The Modern Languages Department offers degree programs in French, German or Spanish, with or without teacher certification, and has a Master's degree program in Spanish. Russian, Portuguese, Latin and Italian are also offered.

Less commonly requested languages are found in the Department of Linguistics. Among them are Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Swahili, which are offered when there is enough demand to justify setting up a class. Department Chairman Ray Past expects that the opening of trade with mainland China may arouse new interest among students in studying the language.

"We started teaching these languages," he explains, "because it is quite useful for a linguist to know a language from a different family than that of English, which is related to the Indo-European languages. We feel that a linguistics student should be exposed to some of these languages, because you can learn more about your own language by observing things other languages do."

The most unusual language touched on in the Linguistics Department is that of the Tarahumara Indians of northern Mexico, with whom UT El Paso graduate Don Burgess worked for several years [NOVA, June, 1977.] He periodically teaches courses in anthropology and linguistics dealing with that tribe. In linguistics he explains how to learn and record a language as an anthropologist working in the field.

Requests for a course in Hebrew may lead to offering a class in the fall, says Dr. Past.

In years past, both high school and college graduation plans required the study of foreign language. This is no longer true—a contributing factor in the Presidential Commission's findings.

"About 17% of the students in Texas high schools take foreign languages, but the figure is only 10% nationally," says Constance Hulbert, member of the Ysleta Independent School District Board of Trustees. Holder of two

degrees from UT El Paso, she directed the Ysleta modern languages program before her retirement from the schools a few years ago. El Paso, because of its location, she says, has always enjoyed interest in the Spanish language and the Ysleta schools offer classes in it from kindergarten through 12th grade. They also have high school courses in Latin, German, French and Italian and may add Portuguese. In the El Paso school district, Spanish is also offered in elementary grades, becoming an elective at seventh grade. High school courses are available in Spanish, French, German, Latin, Portuguese and Italian. Some 13.3% of El Paso district high school students were enrolled in foreign languages last fall.

The strengths of the public school interest in Spanish carry over into higher education, and UT El Paso has a widely varied program available at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Foreign language, points out Dr. Bornscheuer, is no longer something people study in order to read literature.

"It is a very important asset for a student trained in, say, engineering or economics to be able to speak another language. Here in El Paso," she notes, "where most people already know Spanish as well as English, it is helpful to study a third language." She cites as an example one of her students who majored in engineering. "When she was interviewed for a job, she said the first question she was asked was, 'Do you speak another language?' When she said she knew Russian and Spanish both, the interviewer was very much interested in hiring her."

The President's Commission report has received criticism in some quarters, mainly that the recommendations are not given priorities and that there is too much imbalance between spending suggested for undergraduate education (\$8 million) and that for graduate education (\$28.5 million). In general, however, it has won high praise from organizations that are interested in its goals. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities called the report "a landmark in the development and support of international studies and global awareness, in the U.S."

Now faculty members in many UT El Paso departments that are interested in languages and international relations, are hoping that action may be taken on the report that will enable the University to become a landmark among study centers. □



# Alumnotes

by Sue Wimberly

## 1920-1959

**Julia Weissman** (B.A. '38) is the East Coast editor of *InterLoop*, the *Knitter's and Crocheter's Art*, a magazine which explores the contemporary innovative uses and interpretations of knitting and crocheting.

**Salvador Del Valle**, LTC/USA, ret., (B.S. '40; M.Ed. '68), who retired in January as El Paso's area Equal Employment Opportunity director, was featured in an article recently in the *El Paso Times*, citing his varied career in government service. Commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and assigned to Army Intelligence, he served in the Far East, North Africa, Europe, South and Central America, where he was an observer at the 1956 meeting in Panama between President Eisenhower and Latin American presidents. He retired from the Army in 1964. For his work in equal opportunities, he received a certificate of merit from the late Vice President Hubert Humphrey and a meritorious civilian service award from the Defense Atomic Support Agency. With his retirement this year he says his goal now is "to become involved as a volunteer in a community organization."

**Oscar T. Ward** (B.S. '49), a metallurgist with Weapons Quality Engineering Center, U.S. Naval Station, Concord, California, has retired and lives in Longmont, Colorado.

**Philip T. Cole** (B.A. '51) has been appointed part-time U.S. magistrate for the Western District of Texas.

**Melvin Al Lyons** (B.B.A. '57), former administrator of Hillcrest General Hospital in Silver City, has accepted a position as administrator of the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center. He received his M.S. in hospital administration from Northwestern University.

**Hector Holguin** (B.S. '58), president of Holguin & Associates, Inc., was honored in February as Engineer of the Year by the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. (He was selected Young Engineer of the Year in 1968.) His company, which produces, markets and packages computer programs for engineers and land surveyors, has offices in 10 major cities in the United States and Canada as well as representatives in Japan and Europe. He and his wife Rosario are parents of four daughters.

## 1960-1969

**Lyle Alan Coggan** (B.S. '61) has been elected president of Institutional Equity, a Dallas-based stock brokerage firm. He has served as vice president of the firm since 1975.

**I.D. Jones** (B.S. '62) is serving as head of the National Reconditioning Center of the National Weather Service in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

**Abelardo B. Delgado** (B.S. '62) has been elected to membership in the Rocky Mountain Poetry Society. His poem, "Time is a Place" will be published in the spring 1980 issue of the *Rocky Mountain Poetry Quarterly*.

**George Rodriguez Jr.** (B.S. '62), El Paso County attorney, has been appointed to the board of directors of Radford School in El Paso.

**Frank H. Besnette**, Ph.D. (B.B.A. '62), dean

of the College of Business and professor of marketing and management at Northern Arizona University, has been honored and recognized by the Flagstaff Daily Sun Citizen of the Year Committee for his "outstanding accomplishments in improving life in the community and northern Arizona."

**W. Cole Holderman** (B.B.A. '63), a life underwriter with Prudential Life Insurance Company of America, was honored by the El Paso Association of Life Underwriters as Man of the Year.

**Rosalie Bindel**, Ph.D. (B.S. '63) has been appointed to the position of education specialist in research, planning and evaluation at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. She completed her Master's degree at St. John's College, Santa Fe, and her Ph.D. at UC-Santa Barbara. She, her husband and three children reside in Santa Fe.

**Celia Munoz** (B.A. '64), El Paso artist and a candidate for a Master's in Fine Arts at North Texas State University, had an exhibit of monoprints, photo-etchings and drawings in January in the University Union Gallery.

**John Trollinger** (B.A. '67) is deputy press officer for the Social Security Administration in Washington. His work involves setting up all media meetings with the Social Security Administrator and other top agency officials. He and his wife Dixie and two children reside in Westminster, Maryland.

**June Henry Amundson** (B.A. '69), who received her M.A. at UT-San Antonio in 1976, is administrator of the Webster College Master of Arts Program at Fort Bliss.

## 1970-1975

**Kerry W. Hipps**, Ph.D. (B.S. '70), assistant professor of chemistry and chemical physics at Washington State University, has received a two-year fellowship for basic research from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. He completed his Ph.D. at WSU in 1976 and then received a National Science Foundation post-doctorate position for two years at the University of Michigan. He joined the WSU faculty in 1978.

**Ricardo Rios** (B.B.A. '70) has been elected vice president of Eppler Guerin & Turner, investment counselors, and serves as branch manager of the El Paso office. His wife is the former **Renee Quiroz** (B.A. '66).

**Juawanna Newman** (B.S. '70) teaches English and creative writing at Ysleta High School.

**Manuel Aguirre** (B.S. '70) has been named supervisor of the Texas Air Control Board, El Paso Regional Office.

**Manny Najera** (B.B.A. '70) was recently appointed district director of U.S. Customs in El Paso.

**C. Camila Estrada**, LTC/USN, (B.S. '71) was recently awarded the Navy Achievement Medal from the Secretary of the Navy at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Bremerton, Washington. The medal was presented for "exceptional ability, ingenuity, and untiring dedication in the performance of her demanding duties as the Public Affairs Officer...from October 1976-December 1979."

**Edmund A. "Brook" Davis** (B.A. '71), a civil service employee with the U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, was recently recognized by the Society of Logistics Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Huntsville Society of Technical Associations, as the distinguished logistician of 1980.

**Charlie Wedge** (B.B.A. '71) has been promoted to assistant controller and assistant secretary treasurer of Trans Texas Bancorporation Inc.

**Margaret R. Knesek** (B.S. '72) is a high school math teacher in Aldine, Texas and lives in Houston.

**Mary Elizabeth Madrid King** (B.A. '73) has been awarded an M.A. degree in the Ball State/Air Force-sponsored graduate program at Ramstein, Germany.

**John Patton**, Maj./USA, (B.B.A. '73) will be assigned to command the Armed Forces Entrance and Examining Station in Honolulu upon graduation from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth this month.

**Robert J. Young**, LT/USN, (B.S. '74) is working toward his Master's in computer systems management at the Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He is married to the former **Joanne McGinty** (B.A. '75). They are parents of a son, Ryan.

## New Address?

New Address

Old Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number & Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated, attended \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Development Office, UT El Paso, El Paso, Texas 79968



**Michael Gonzales** (B.S. '74) is the owner of a sales consulting firm in Albuquerque.

**Irene O'Neill Bales** (B.S. '75; M.A. '77) and her husband **Kent Bales** (1956 etc.) live in El Paso. He is the owner of Bales Transmission.

## 1976-1979

**Jeanne Osgood Reynolds** (B.A. '76), who received her Master's degree in library science at UT Austin, has been appointed head of the genealogy and documents department of the El Paso Public Library.

**Gene Walker**, IC2/USN, (B.S. '76) is serving aboard the USS Jouett in the Persian Gulf.

**Edward Carranza Jr.** (B.S. '76) is a nuclear power plant design engineer with Stone-Webster Corporation in Winnemucca, Nevada.

**Barry Gates** (B.B.A. '77) is an accounting officer with State National Bank in El Paso.

**Barbara W. Davenport** (B.S. '77) and her husband **Robert Davenport**, LTC/USA, live at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. She is a first grade teacher at the Antilles Elementary School.

**Thomas B. Cashion** (B.A. '78) is employed by the El Paso Natural Gas Company in El Paso.

**Nancy J. Adam** (B.A. '79) has been named community relations coordinator for El Paso Job Corps Center.

**Rosa J. DeLaCruz**, Ens./USN, (B.S. '79) has completed the Officer Indoctrination School at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island.

**John T. Goddard** (B.S. '79) has completed his recruit training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego.

**Emma Okafor** (B.S. '79) is chairman and managing director of Emma Okafor & Co. in

Aba, Nigeria.

**Guillermo H. Davila** (B.S. '79) is a student at the UT Medical School, Houston.

**Harold E. Johnson** (B.S. '79) is employed in nuclear medicine at the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston.

**Rebecca T. Armendariz** (B.M. '79) is an orchestra teacher with the El Paso public schools. She is also a cellist with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and Pro Musica.

**Mark S. Dwyer** (B.S. '79) has entered Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Scott Carr** (B.B.A. '79) is an assistant cashier with the Coronado State Bank in El Paso.

We invite all NOVA readers to send news of alumni friends and relatives to us for publication. Give us as much detail as you can and we'll do the rest!

## Deaths

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of publication: NOVA  
A. Publication no.: 398820
2. Date of filing: September 14, 1979
3. Frequency of issue: quarterly
4. Location of publication: UT El Paso,  
El Paso TX 79968
5. Location of headquarters of publisher:  
News Service, UT El Paso, El Paso TX 79968
6. Publisher: The University of Texas at  
El Paso, El Paso TX 79968  
Editor: Dale L. Walker  
Managing Editor: Dale L. Walker,  
above address
7. Owner: UT El Paso, El Paso TX 79968
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and  
other security holders owning or  
holding one per cent or more of total  
amount of bonds, mortgages and/or  
other securities: none
9. For completion by nonprofit organizations  
authorized to mail at special rates. The  
purpose, function, and nonprofit status  
of this organization and the exempt  
status for Federal income tax purposes:  
have not changed during preceding 12  
months.
10. AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE  
DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS:  
A. Total no. copies printed: 22,893  
B. Paid circulation
1. Sales through dealers and car-  
riers, street vendors and counter  
sales: none
2. Mail subscriptions: none
- C. Total paid circulation: none
- D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or  
other means samples, complimen-  
tary, and other free copies: 22,834
- E. Total distribution: 22,834
- F. Office use, leftover, unaccounted,  
spoiled after printing: 59
- Returns from news agents: none
- G. Total: 22,893

#### SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED

#### NEAREST TO FILING DATE:

- A. Total No. copies printed: 23,320
- B. Paid Circulation
1. Sales through dealers and carriers,  
street vendors and counter sales:  
none
- C. Total paid circulation: none
- D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or  
other means samples, complimentary,  
and other free copies: 23,266
- E. Total distribution: 23,266
- F. Office use, leftover, unaccounted,  
spoiled after printing: 54
- Returns from news agents: none
- G. Total: 23,320

11. I certify that the statements made above  
are correct and complete.

Dale L. Walker  
Editor

### Eugene M. Thomas

(B.S. 1926, M.S. 1940),  
Dean of Engineering for  
22 years at Mines-TWC,  
and interim president of  
the institution in 1948,  
in Pueblo, Colorado,  
April 2 at age 75. A  
Floridian by birth, Dean  
Thomas entered the Col-  
lege of Mines in 1922 and except for periods when  
he worked for the Chisos Mining Company in Ter-  
lingua and the El Paso Engineering Department,  
and when studying for his first master's degree at  
M.I.T., he was associated with the El Paso Univer-  
sity all his professional life. He served as Dean of  
Student Life in 1934 and became Dean of Engi-  
neering in 1941, stepping down in 1963 to teach  
three years before retirement. He was co-  
chairman of the board which established the John  
W. Kidd Memorial Seismic Observatory on cam-  
pus, named in memory of the man whom he suc-  
ceeded as engineering dean. He was named  
Outstanding Ex-Student of the University in 1964,  
and had been an active member of the Alumni  
Association since its formation. A Eugene M.  
Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund has been  
established by the Development Office and gifts to  
the fund may be sent directly to that office,  
designated for the Thomas Scholarship.



**Maud Isaacks** (1925 etc.), January 23, in El  
Paso. A fifth generation Texan, she was the  
daughter of Judge and Mrs. S.J. Isaacks and  
taught for more than 40 years in the El Paso  
Public School System. In 1954 she was elected to  
the Texas Legislature where she served five con-  
secutive terms. Survivors include her two brothers,  
two nephews and a niece.

**Justin W. Foster** (B.S. 1924), in Sun City,  
Arizona, January 27. He was a purchasing agent  
for 40 years with Ingersoll-Rand Company in  
Phillipsburg, New Jersey. He is survived by his  
wife Stanley, a son and three daughters.

**William F. Dunlap** (B.B.A. 1952), January 28.  
He was a resident of Wintersville, Ohio and is sur-  
vived by his wife.

**Amos T. Emert** (1922 etc.), in El Paso, January  
30. Retired from the U.S. Post Office, he is sur-  
vived by three sons and two daughters.

**Daniel F. Lighton Jr.**, LTC/USN, ret., (B.S.  
1951), in El Paso, February 26. He was retired  
after 23 years in the service. Survivors are his two  
sons and two daughters and his mother, all of El  
Paso.

**A.B. Templeton** — (from page 2)

consulting work too. I don't know if  
anybody can stand my way of consulting  
but they can find out pretty easy what I  
think of their operation...

**Q: Are you sorry to be leaving?**

A: Yes, I am. I've grown to love this  
place. I hope I have done some good  
things here that will be remembered. I  
think I have. I've heard from second-  
hand sources that a lot of people here  
will be relieved not to have an autocrat  
in this office. That may be true, but I  
think its been more of a *democratic*  
autocracy.

**Q: Isn't that a contradiction?**

A: It's a combination: In an  
autocracy, decisions are made before  
the facts are known. In a democracy,  
you appoint committees and study the  
situation until the money runs out. A  
merger of the two results in solvency on  
a semi-educated basis.

**Q: Why are you leaving?**

A: It's time to leave. I want to leave  
this University in good stead and in  
good hands. I wish Haskell Monroe  
every success here. He will learn to love  
this place as I do. I leave here with no  
regrets but with a deep sense of loyalty  
to UT El Paso and pride in being  
associated with it. □





# NOVA

The University of Texas at El Paso  
News Service  
El Paso, Texas 79968

Second Class  
Postage  
PAID  
at  
El Paso, Texas

June, 1980