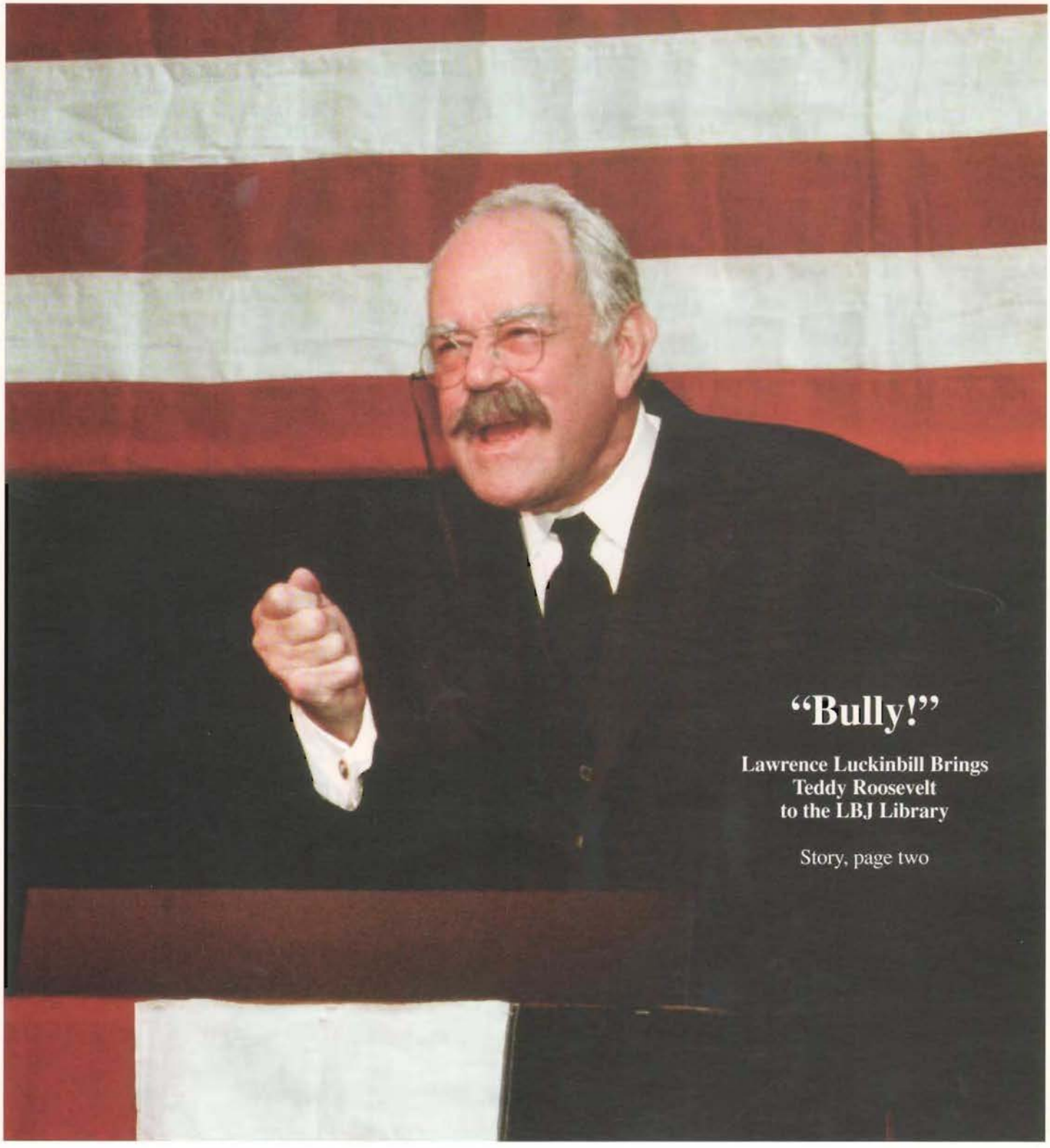
Among FRIENDS *of LBJ*

Issue Number LXV, June, 2001



"Bully!"

Lawrence Luckinbill Brings Teddy Roosevelt to the LBJ Library

Story, page two

"Teddy:" An Evening With Lawrence Luckinbill

His previous one-man shows "Lyndon" and "Clarence Darrow" mesmerized LBJ Library audiences. On March 6, Lawrence Luckinbill did it again, this time recreating the larger-than-life persona of Theodore Roosevelt.

At the core of Luckinbill's performance was a speech that TR made at Saratoga, New York in July, 1918. He had just learned that his youngest son Quentin had been killed in France, but for the occasion Roosevelt mastered his sorrow in order to voice his fury at President Woodrow Wilson, whom he scorned as an unmanly dilettante, a weakling who could have shortened the war—which might have saved Quentin, though TR does not say so. It may not be everybody's portrait of Wilson, but Luckinbill's powerful presentation left no doubt that it was TR's.

What had been Wilson's reaction to the German crimes of 1914-1916? sneered the enraged Roosevelt. Why, letters. "A *letter*, when Germany attacked Belgium. A *letter*, when the *Lusitania* went down, killing twelve hundred souls, asking merely for an apology and a pledge to be good in the future. A *letter*, when Germany told us that we would be allowed to send a single American ship, on a specified track, to Europe each week, provided it carried only what Germany let it, and if it was painted *with red and white stripes*!

"He kept us out of war to keep an office," Roosevelt seethed, "when we should have been in it! And it's our fault, for putting a cynical, lying schoolmaster with an unlimited belief in the power of bits of paper . . . in charge of our country, with our country and our children faced with a desperate battle for civilization itself. And now, because of Wilson's . . . unpreparedness, our children are playing catchup in a very dangerous game. We should have put a couple of million men in the field a year ago; if we had, Russia would not have broken, and the war would have been over by now. Nine-tenths of wisdom is being wise in time!"

Periodically Luckinbill's TR interrupted his tirade against Wilson

to step aside from the podium, and evoke scenes from his lifetime—now nearly over, for he would be dead in six months. This Roosevelt was by turns gleeful, grief-stricken, furious, and triumphant, and none of them by halves. He boasted how he had conquered his weak, short-sighted and asthmatic body to become a famous advocate of the vigorous life. He reflected on the loss of his beloved father, dead at 46, "the only man I was ever afraid of, because I wanted his good opinion so much." Later his mother succumbed to typhoid—she too was only 46—on the same day that his wife died of complications of her first childbirth.

Luckinbill/TR recalled starting in politics in the New York Assembly when he was fresh from Harvard. As a solid Republican he despised the Democrats, but his reformist urges made him a maverick in his own party. From the floor of the Assembly he denounced railroad magnate Jay Gould as a member "of the most dangerous of all dangerous classes: the wealthy criminal class." When TR finished that speech, a group of Gould's allies physically menaced him. Wielding a chair leg as a bludgeon, Roosevelt dared them to come on.

After trying his hand as the owner/operator of a western ranch—he failed as a rancher but became an accomplished cowhand—Roosevelt was, in succession, head of the federal civil service, police commissioner of New York City, and assistant secretary of the navy (on weekends when the Secretary took off, Luckinbill/TR ran the navy: "What fun!" he chortled).

When war with Spain broke out, Roosevelt led the nation's most famous unit in the war's most celebrated battle. "San Juan Hill," intoned Luckinbill/TR, "made the Rough Riders, and me, known across the nation." Six months later Roosevelt was the reform governor of New York, "cordially hated by conservatives of many stripes." His New York enemies got rid of him by making him McKinley's vice president. Six months later McKinley was dead, and the 42-year-old ex-cowboy went to the White House.

As president, TR oversaw the construction of the Panama Canal, that stupendous feat of engineering. (It was a daring and perhaps unscrupulous exploit in international politics as well.) To dramatize America's coming of age in the family of nations, TR sent America's Great White Fleet of battleships around the world. But Congress would only appropriate half of the money necessary. Quite all right, sniffed Roosevelt, I'll only send them halfway; Congress can get them back.

Luckinbill/TR's summation: "I don't think any president ever enjoyed himself in office as much as I did. Godfrey! We had fun."

Patient Mary Williams and Family Remember LBJ

By Terri Dusek of Hospice Austin, courtesy of Darlene Pérez

Like most people who remember the day President John F. Kennedy was shot, Hospice Austin patient Mary Davis Williams recalls precisely what she was doing when she heard the news.

"I was taking three pies out of the oven when I heard. I just couldn't believe it," she said.

What's important about those pies is that they were actually for the President. Williams at that time cooked for Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and his family at their Stonewall, Texas ranch. The Vice President, Lady Bird, the President and First Lady were scheduled to arrive at the ranch later that day. Williams and the ranch staff were preparing for their arrival until the fateful event in Dallas changed everything.

Williams and her daughter La Faye York have many memories of those years when their entire family lived on the ranch. Williams tells of the time when LBJ was in an Austin hospital and wanted nothing to eat except Williams' chicken soup. A helicopter was sent to the ranch to pick up a batch.

As the oldest of five children growing up in Lee County, Williams learned to cook from her mother. She was the pastry cook at Harris Elementary in Austin when she took the position at the ranch where her husband worked.

"Moving out to the ranch was just like moving in with your own family. They were such down-to-earth people," Williams said.

She says LBJ and his family enjoyed "just good country food."

York remembers that LBJ favorites were fried catfish, black-eyed peas, sliced tomatoes, coleslaw and homemade peach ice cream. Williams said her kitchen was a favorite hang-out for the Secret Service agents who would get samples of her creations.

Williams and York said their family was treated as part of the Johnson family. The family was included in holiday celebrations, surprised with gifts—even swimming lessons for La Faye. During this time, the Civil Rights movement was at its height and the Williams family worked and grew up around the man who championed the cause during his presidency, promoting African-Americans to key government positions and ordering his administration to stay away from segregated meetings.

"He was very generous and he was always doing something special. When the Kennedy half dollars first came out, he came out to the ranch one day with Governor Connally. He gave my brothers and me some of the very first Kennedy half dollars," La Faye said.

York worked at the White House the summer after her high school graduation and the LBJ family covered her college costs.

"We didn't want for anything," Williams said.

Williams misses the President dearly and still becomes emotional when she talks about what he means to her.

Looking over her vast collection of memorabilia, letters and photos from that time, she holds a small bust of LBJ. Gazing at it she said, "When he died, it was like my dad had passed on. He's my heart."

Mary Davis Williams shows President Lyndon Johnson a Christmas turkey as Lady Bird and other relatives look on. Williams and her family lived at the LBJ Ranch in Stonewall, Texas, in the 1960s during the time Williams cooked at the ranch.

The Human Genome: Promise and Peril

In early March of this year, scientists published the entire map of the human genetic code, or genome. A few weeks later, three internationally-recognized authorities came to the LBJ Library to discuss the potential value and possible risks involved in genetic engineering. The experts were:

Dr. Norman Fost, Professor of Medical Ethics and Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Pushpa Nand Schwartz of the World Bank, food and agricultural specialist; and Dr. Paul Sondel, Professor of Pediatric Oncology at the University of Wisconsin.

A genome, Dr. Sondel explained, is the total genetic information of an organism. It determines the inheritable properties of each living thing. In the case of humans, it decides what our physical characteristics are, and what diseases we may be prone to. It has a primary bearing on life expectancy.

Research on cancer treatments has close ties to genetic research. Dr. Sondel cited the dramatic example of children diagnosed with leukemia in 1968: nearly all of them died, most of them quickly. Today they have an 80 per cent chance of living into adulthood and having families of their own. This is due largely because of research that led to gene therapies, or immunotherapy. Diseases such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia may well find similar cures.

One new immunotherapy procedure uses a substance called IL2 to prompt the body's immune system to destroy cancer cells. But the difficulties associated with such innovations are many. Because of their experimental nature, at first they are only used on patients who show no response to other treatment. A nationwide experiment is now in progress to determine how effective the latest version of IL2 treatment is, and how safe. So far, said Sondel, it looks quite promising.

Dr. Fost commented upon one of the more sensational aspects of genetic engineering: turning out "designer children." The idea is not new; artificial insemination and selective abortion have been around for awhile, in humans and in animals. Human cloning will probably happen. Treatment with human growth hormones, for example, is now common, in cases where a child may otherwise be abnormally short. Few question such "engineering."

There are real ethical concerns involved, believes Fost. First, there is safety: "do no harm." Second, do not play God (But just where does that begin and end? At what point should we just let nature take its course?) And what about human clones?

There is a major, rather inchoate fear that we should not meddle with our children's genetic makeup, Fost observed. Yet we meddle with their makeup *after* birth in all sorts of ways, and even consider it obligatory to do so. So is the concern about the means, rather than the ends?

Dr. Fost invited the audience to consider the case of abnormally short stature. To be tall is desirable for many reasons. Should young Greg be treated because he has growth hormone deficiency and is doomed to be very short? Yes, he has a disease that is treatable and should be treated.

A certain syndrome causes some girls to be quite short. Tina has it. Should she be treated? Yes.

Norm on the other hand has normal short stature, because his parents are short. Until recently almost no doctor would treat Norm, because it would not be treating a disease. But Norm's problem is the same as the previous two, though the cause is different, and without treatment he will suffer a handicap.

Dr. Steven E. Kornguth, Assistant Director of the UT Institute for Advanced Technology, who organized the symposium; Dr. Norman Fost; Dr. Pushpa Nand Schwartz; Dr. Paul Sondel.

One step further: The parents of these children could someday use selective abortion. Or in future perhaps a cell implant could enable Greg to produce his own growth hormone. Or, in vitro, a gene for more growth could be inserted into the fertilized egg.

All these are forms of genetic engineering. The last would be the cheapest and easiest, and also the most controversial. "The slippery slope here," said Dr. Fost, "is that if we give in to parents' concerns to make their children taller, or smarter, or any other quality that they ask for... this encourages parents to have inflexible expectations of how their children will be, and might lead to less acceptance of the child if he or she doesn't turn out to be as expected."

Some parents "engineer" their children very strongly and narrowly to be a certain kind of adult: Todd Marinovich to be an NFL quarterback; Jennifer Capriati to play professional tennis, for example. Both had severe drug problems early on, possibly related to the pressures they faced while growing up. Yet, said Fost, "Shaping children is a legitimate end of normal parenting. If the end is appropriate, whether the means are acceptable depends on safety and efficacy and the alternatives. But there's nothing wrong with creating children for a purpose if the child is treated also as an end in herself, and is treated by the parents in the way we would want parents to treat any child."

A boy aged eight, having chronic renal failure and needing dialysis, would ultimately need a kidney transplant. His mother asked right away if the boy's 14-year-old sister could be a donor. Possibly, if she were a good match, replied Dr. Fost. The nephrologist on the case disagreed, saying it would be immoral and illegal. The transplant was not done.

In the succeeding years, the boy, slowly failing all the while, rejected two donor kidneys. Fourteen years later a second sister was offered as a donor. Times had changed. The same nephrologist offered no objection, if the hospital ethics committee okayed it. The boy lived and graduated from college.

Dr. Pushpa Nand Schwartz spoke of the enormous implications of genetic engineering for the world's food supply. In the 1950s, when the world population was only 2.5 billion, there were widespread warnings that the planet's ability to produce food was about to be stretched to its limit. Those predictions have not come to pass—yet. The Green Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s has staved off disaster. New high-yielding hybrid crops became available, and food production grew. But the potential for that growth may have reached its limits, and food production is not now keeping pace with population growth.

Today the world population is six billion, and is projected to grow to eight billion by the year 2030. Almost all the growth will take place in the developing countries.

The old questions are again being raised. Almost all the arable land available is under cultivation. Fertilizers and insecticides are poisoning water supplies and degrading the quality of the soil, while resistant forms of insects and plant disease are on the rise. There is less and less water available for agriculture, even as the demands of urban areas grow.

The demand for food will grow, Schwartz predicted, especially in the poorest areas. They cannot pay to import food, and will have to rely on domestic production. Many governmental policies can help: fair trade legislation; flexible and responsive fiscal institutions, investments in health and education, and access to roads, markets and agricultural extensions. But international agricultural research centers must play a crucial role, in developing new strains of cereals and vegetables—biotechnology, in other words.

We commonly improve plant strains by genetic engineering, observed Schwartz, but it is also possible to create new *species*, which is worrisome. "Transgenic" plants are controversial, and their use is growing rapidly. About 100 million acres worldwide are now devoted to their cultivation. "Golden rice," which is now being tested in the Philippines, shows great promise in combating vitamin A deficiency, and genes have been added to this variety which increase its iron content by threefold. Eleven countries are growing a new maize variety which has twice the usable protein and 10 per cent larger yield than traditional corn.

Some genetically engineered plant may also have undesirable qualities, however: causing allergies among humans, for example; or the danger of genes escaping into wild relatives of treated plants, which could result in the loss of biodiversity, or even the creation of super-weeds.

Not all the answers are in on this high-tech biology, but like the computer, it seems, genetic engineering is not going away.

Museum Store Gets Facelift

The Museum Store has had a complete makeover. Fresh lines of memorabilia fill the new shelves, including the "Untamed Beauty" mug, especially designed for the LBJ Library, featuring Texas wild flowers, a quote from Mrs. Johnson's *Wildflowers Across America*, and a facsimile of her signature. An extensive collection of porcelain is available. There is the White House China collection, a new series of dessert plates called "Favorite Flowers of the First Ladies," and a set featuring the Great Seal of the United States.

The political collector can still find original campaign memorabilia, a favorite with museum visitors of all ages.

In line with the current exhibit, "Treasures of the Harry Ransom Center," the store offers the exhibit catalog, *From Gutenberg to Gone with the Wind*, as well as "Gone with the Wind" postcards and paper dolls picturing Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, and a reproduction of the popular WWI Uncle Sam "I Want You!" recruiting poster.

And there is music: "Songs that Got Us Through WWII," the Beatles' greatest hits; "Elvis Gold;" music that defined the Woodstock generation, folksingers of the 1960s, and Sousa's most famous marches.

Store manager Carol Johnson noted that one man, a Library regular, told her "It looks so open and inviting that you want to stay a while to browse and shop." Which he then did.

The display on the left features The White House Collection of dessert plates, the Favorite Flowers of the First Ladies series, and two presidential decanters. On the right, at the top, are White House Christmas ornaments. The lowest two shelves hold a set of Great Seal porcelain and a copy of a John Quincy Adams White House dinner plate.

The old brass mailbox (still in service) in the foreground marks the entrance to the New Museum Store.

A Researcher Milestone

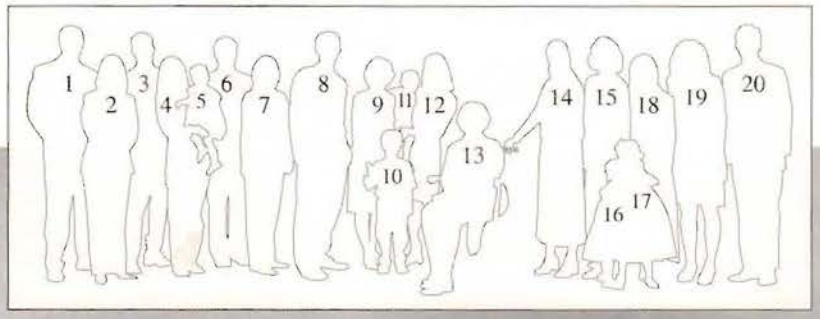
Patrick Burke, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, recently became the 9,000th researcher to enter the Library's doors. Burke is working on his master's thesis, a study of the relationship between LBJ and Franklin Roosevelt. He has worked at all the presidential libraries, and says, "I'm not a famous author like Robert Caro or Robert Dallek, but the LBJ staff treats me as if I were. It is a pleasure to come here."

All Together, Now. . . .

This portrait of the Johnson extended family was recently added to the Museum's exhibits.

Actually it is a montage of three photographs, created via the magic of digital technology. And it is missing the newest addition to the family: great-grandchild number six, Tucker William Thomas McIntosh, b. May 20, 2001 to Jeremy and Rebekah McIntosh (the daughter of Luci Baines Johnson).

1. Ian Turpin
2. Claudia Nugent
3. Jeremy McIntosh
4. Rebekah Nugent McIntosh
5. Eloise McIntosh
6. Brent Covert
7. Nicole Nugent
8. Lyndon Nugent
9. Luci Baines Johnson
10. Johnson Covert
11. Claudia Covert
12. Nicole Nugent Covert
13. Lady Bird Johnson
14. Jennifer Robb
15. Lynda Johnson Robb
16. Taylor Nugent
17. Tatum Nugent
18. Lucinda Robb
19. Catherine Robb
20. Charles Robb



"Rogues and Vagabonds;" An Evening With Michael York

"How remarkable, how odd—a little makeup, and you're God." With that rhyme, famed Shakespearean Michael York returned to the LBJ Library on February 27 for the second time, and began an evening of commentary on the history of actors and acting

York noted that not everyone has subscribed to a favorable view of thespians. A 1572 English statute declared "all players and minstrels not belonging to any baron or any other honorable person of greater degree, who shall wander abroad and have not license of two justices of the peace at the least, to be rogues and vagabonds, and sturdy beggars; on first conviction to be grievously whipped, and burnt through the gristle of the right ear with an hot iron of the compass of an inch about."

But this applied only to wandering players, and only those who hadn't bothered to get a license, York cautioned. He recalled that Queen Elizabeth loved the stage, and under her patronage the London theater flourished. She formed her own company of players, the most famous being Richard Burbage, who may have created more great roles than any actor before or since. York recalled a story, possibly apocryphal, told by a Burbage contemporary: "Upon a time when Burbage played Richard III, there was a citizen grew so far in liking with him that before she went from the play, she appointed him to come that night unto her, by the name of Richard III. Shakespeare, overhearing their conclusion, went before, was entertained, and at his game ere Burbage came. Then message being brought that Richard III was at the door, Shakespeare caused return to be made that William the Conquerer was before Richard III."

York is convinced that the Elizabethan actor was a special sort. He—all the parts were played by men in those days—dealt with audiences of up to three thousand people, who were often eating, or otherwise distracted, and in broad daylight tried to persuade them that they were seeing things that were happening at night, doing it all without modern sound systems or special effects. Yet they had the dynamism to pin their customers to their seats.

"There were of course bad actors too," said York. "We know in Shakespeare's time there were . . . because you hear him say so, in that famous scene where young Hamlet . . . tells his actors how they should be doing their jobs. 'Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you: trippingly on the tongue. But if you mouth it as many of our players do, I had as lief the town crier spoke my lines. Nor do not soar the air too much with your hands, thus. Be not too tame, neither, but let your own discretion be your tutor. Suit the action to the word, the word to the action, with this special observance, that you o'erstep not the modesty of nature.'"

"That of course is one of the best acting lessons available, as pertinent today as it was four hundred years ago."

Shakespeare's plays were enormously successful, but the Puritans had their way, York recalled. In 1642 the theaters were closed. The Globe Playhouse became a cowshed. And a further ordinance declared that all players, not just strolling ones, "be rogues and vagabonds." The ban was not officially lifted until King Charles II's restoration in 1660.

In that year professional actresses appeared for the first time. They have made a difference, said York, in more ways than one. John Barrymore, when earnestly asked as to whether he thought Romeo and Juliet, as teenagers, had enjoyed a full physical relationship, "he famously replied, 'Well, they certainly did, in the Chicago company.'"

About ladies on the stage, York cited Ethel Barrymore, who declared that for an actress to succeed, she must have the face of Venus, the brains of Minerva, the grace of Terpsichore, the memory of Macauley, the figure of Juno, and the hide of a rhinoceros—the last as a defense against critics.

Critics, York wryly reported, have been a constant companion—if that is the right word—of actors. "An actor exists to be criticized," observed Berthold Brecht, and York gave some pungent examples of the truth of that aphorism. The *Denver Post* reviewed one unfortunate King Lear thus: "Mr. Clarke played the king all evening under constant fear that someone else was about to play the ace." In 1896, George Bernard Shaw panned Herbert Beerbohm

From the Mailbag

Tree's Falstaff: "Mr. Tree wants one thing to make him an excellent Falstaff, and that is to get born over again as unlike himself as possible. He might as well try to play Juliet."

Of Talullah Bankhead's Cleopatra, one critic wrote, "Talullah Bankhead barged down the Nile last night. And sank."

But actor York carefully saved the last word for playwright Brendan Behan: "Critics are like eunuchs in the harem. They're there every night. They see it done every night. They see how it should be done every night. But they can't do it themselves."

February 9, 2001

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

My name is Nicholas Fette. I am eleven years old, in the 5th grade, and attend Bowen Elementary in Bryan, Texas. Recently the George Bush Library, located here in Bryan-College Station, sponsored an essay contest titled, "My Favorite President." Out of all the schools in the Bryan-College Station area my essay won first place for the 5th grade. I think it was easy for me to win because of the President I chose to write about. I wrote my essay about your late husband, Lyndon Johnson. I have a lot of respect for President Johnson. It was easy to say great things about him.

On February 19, 2001, I will be presented my award, along with other winners, at the George Bush Library. Even though it is a Republican library and I consider myself a "bleeding heart liberal" I will still be very proud to receive my award in memory of the late L.B.J.

I have enclosed a copy of my essay for you to read. I hope you enjoy reading it. They would only let us write about a page. I had many pages of notes about President Johnson and even have a book of some of his White House tapes. I could have written a book myself about President Johnson.

One day I hope to be the Senate Majority Leader in the United States Senate. I am inspired to go into politics because of great Democrats like Bill Clinton and Lyndon Johnson.

Sincerely yours,

Nicholas Fette

[Ed. note: Quoted by permission. Mr. Fette's essay is titled "Lyndon Baines Johnson: A President that Got The Job Done."]

A second young correspondent wrote:

To: Lady Bird Johnson

I know your busy and you probably can't sign autographs for your age but it's worth a try. Your husband was a great president and a great man and you were a great first lady! I am very intrested in presidents and first ladys.

Please send me an autograph because I'm your biggest fan and you're my hero!

Sincerely,

[Name withheld]

A third youthful correspondent had this to say, after touring the Library:

Dear Library:

I think this library is the best library I have ever been to. This is my first time. It is fantastic and splendid. The pictures are beautiful and I'll come back when I go to UT. Right now I'm in 5th Grade.

Love, Katy

And finally, a recent Library visitor left this note:

"We misplaced my wife & the security was very helpful in finding her."

Treasures of the Harry Ransom Center

***Biblia Latina* (Latin Bible). Mainz, Germany, 1454-55.**
The Gutenberg Bible is the first book ever printed with moveable, metal type. The Ransom Center's copy is complete in two volumes and is one of only five complete copies in the United States and forty-eight in the world. Perhaps 180 copies were produced in total.

The following is excerpted from one of the Library's web sites, http://treasures.utexas.edu.

Welcome to this year-long, blockbuster exhibition "From Gutenberg to 'Gone With The Wind:' Treasures from the Ransom Center." The exhibition displays nearly two hundred objects from one of the world's finest cultural archives, The University of Texas' Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. The exhibition is sponsored in part by two long-time Texas institutions—Guaranty Financial Services and Southwest Airlines.

The objects selected for the exhibition cover the sweep of time from the Middle Ages to the present day and represent all genres housed at the Center—manuscripts, photographs, art, film, and ephemera. The exhibition gives a broad view of the depth of the Ransom Center's collection:

Icons such as the Gutenberg Bible; the world's first photograph; the first book printed in English; a copy of Shakespeare's first folio. There are paintings by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Frida Kahlo; manuscripts of William Blake, Geoffrey Chaucer, James Joyce, Charlotte Brontë, Walt Whitman, and Arthur Miller; Hollywood screenplays, set designs, screen tests and costumes from "Gone With The Wind," "North by Northwest," and "Sunset Boulevard."

The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Library Director Harry Middleton writes: "This year I end my thirty years as director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum. I am pleased the Library is hosting this important exhibition in the same year. . . . [D]eveloping and maintaining a close relationship between the Library [and] The University of Texas . . . is what President and Mrs. Johnson intended with the establishment of the Library."

This vellum document, signed in 1812 by Napoléon I, with the Imperial Seal attached, confers the dignity of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor on Camille Frédéric Gaulieu.

This is a replica of the dress Scarlett O'Hara and Mammy made from the curtains or "portieres" in *Gone With The Wind*. It was made by the Sisters of Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas. They used sixteen yards of Italian cotton velveteen. The silk tassels and cording were reproduced by Scalamandre of New York. The dress took over 200 hours to complete, from 22 April to 8 July 1986. The original, too fragile to be displayed, is stored at the Ransom Center.

Replication Project Director: Sister Mary Elizabeth Joyce

Designers: Carrie Harrell and Jan Hevenor

The Gates of the Alamo; An Evening With Steve Harrigan

Author Steve Harrigan recalled that he first visited to the Library as a student at The University of Texas. He came to its opening in 1971, not to celebrate, but to protest the Vietnam War. In those days, he said, it was easy to see the world in terms of right and wrong and heroes and villains. That view was at the heart of his theme on this night of April 5, 2001, as he addressed a crowd in the LBJ Auditorium.

Harrigan's generation is suspicious of patriotism, he admitted, and "feels faintly absurd about putting our hands over our hearts during the playing of the national anthem." They had not been surprised to "discover" that the Founding Fathers were in actuality "crooks, slave-runners, child molesters, and genocidal imperialists." Notwithstanding this cynicism, Harrigan noted wryly, it was a case of childhood hero worship which first "burst open the gates of my own imagination and ultimately led me to write *The Gates of the Alamo*."

The object of Harrigan's boyish admiration was David Crockett—not the historical Crockett, but the Disney television version of him, played by UT alumnus Fess Parker, who in 1958 thundered onto the American cultural scene like an avalanche.

The TV image of Crockett's last stand, swinging his empty rifle like a club at the oncoming Mexican soldiers, was branded into Harrigan's mind. Perhaps, he mused, it symbolized ". . .the last stand we all must make, one in which we have limited choices, and one in which we must reflect on what we all stand for.

"People have been reflecting on what the Alamo stands for, of course, ever since the mission fell to the Mexican army 165 years ago. It has always been a wellspring of propaganda, a symbol of resistance against totalitarianism, isolationism, communism, and conformism."

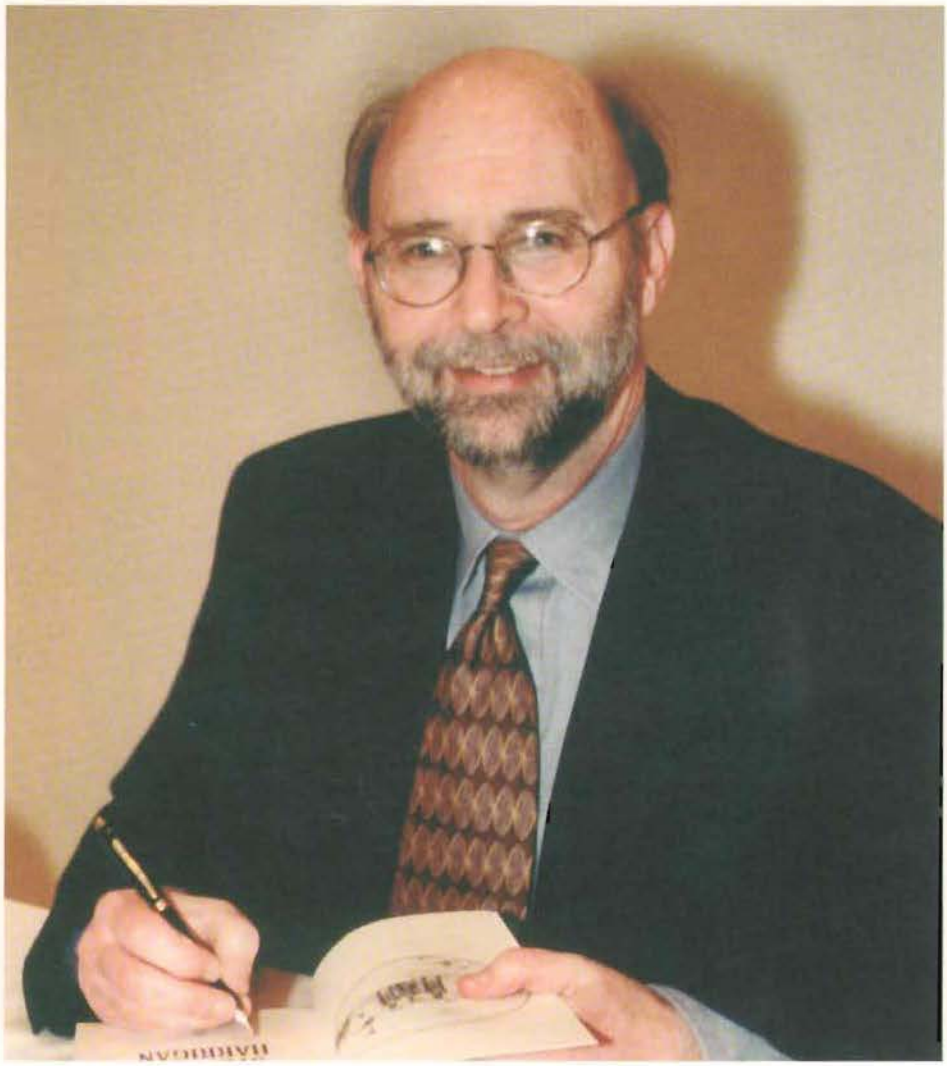
But for his generation, Harrigan observed, the Alamo just had to be a lie. Those who died there "couldn't have been fighting for something as simple as freedom. Surely their real motives were to expand slavery, to make themselves rich on real estate speculation, to steal territory from a sovereign nation, to spread American greed and violence and racism to every corner of the continent."

But that view did not work, artistically. When he came to write *The Gates of the Alamo*, Harrigan found that he could not create believable characters which rang true, about whom readers could care, from such a one-dimensional premise. And so the Davy Crockett who Harrigan conjured up in the book was neither an unambiguous childhood hero nor a frontier bully, "but a middle-aged pilgrim, a failed husband and fading celebrity, who has come to Texas to try to revive his political career."

Similarly, Jim Bowie "is not just a cavalier knife fighter, but a breathtakingly audacious thief." Santa Ana is no unambiguous villain, nor a "Che Guevara-like freedom fighter. He is a cynical opportunist, inspiring one moment, lethal the next, leading a simultaneous crusade of oppression and liberation."

What drove Harrigan to write his bestseller? "I thought it was time to rescue the Alamo from mythology, to render these legendary events on a recognizably human scale. I had read every book about the Alamo; I had watched every horrible movie, but I never really understood the reality of what happened there, or the motives of the people involved."

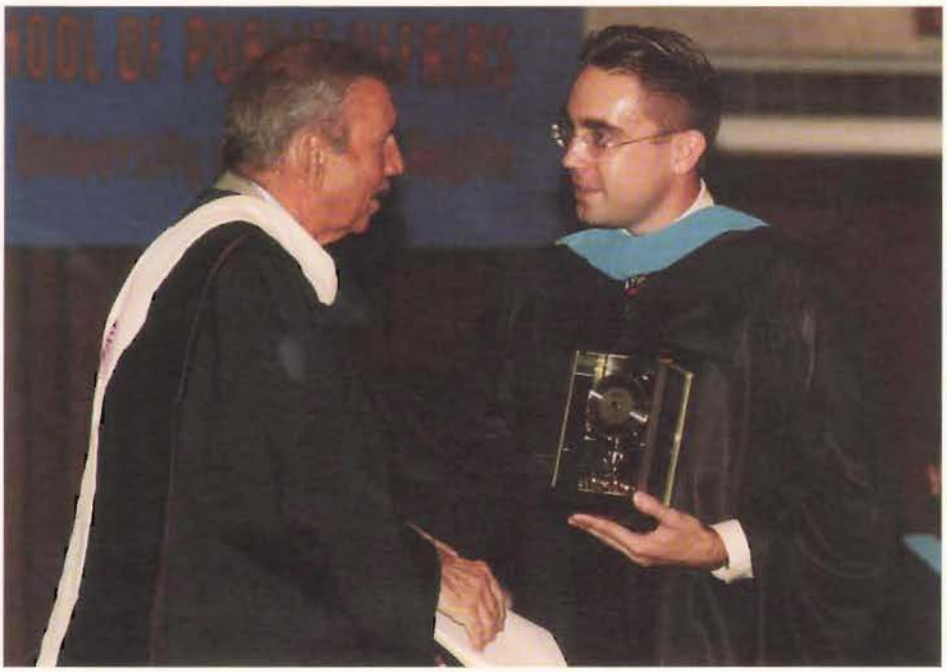
His hardest task was to stay true to the actual history of the battle, he said—insofar as that history is actually known. A mountain of legend and folklore has grown up about the Alamo, and like thin veins of ore, the truth is deposited thinly and unevenly throughout the mountain's mass.



Director Middleton Honored by LBJ School

Participating in the LBJ School's commencement ceremonies to present the LBJ Foundation's Award for Academic Excellence, Library Director Harry Middleton was himself surprised with an award. He was given a commemorative clock "on behalf of all the graduates of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, from the first class to the Class of 2001" by Steven Schauer, graduating President of the School's Graduate Public Affairs Council, who observed: "Over the past thirty years the LBJ School has had six full-time deans, in addition to a number of acting deans. The LBJ Library has had only one director."

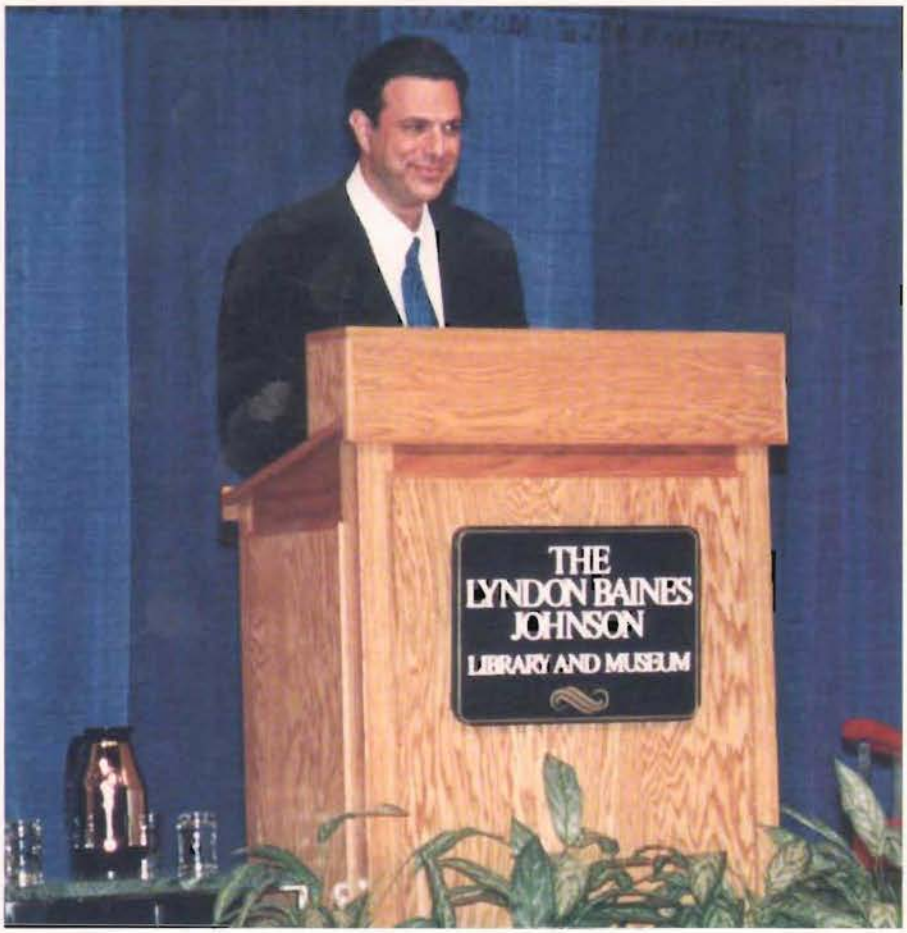
An inscription on the clock reads: "In recognition of thirty years of commitment to the students of the LBJ Community."



Steven Schauer congratulates Director Middleton.

From the Photo Archives

At the Democratic National Convention, Atlantic City, August 23-28, 1964.



A gathering of distinguished visitors will hear historian Michael Beschloss give the keynote address at a two-day symposium titled "The Future of Presidential Libraries," beginning Wednesday, September 19, 9:00 a.m. CNN executive and LBJ Foundation Chairman Tom Johnson will welcome the audience. For additional information, contact Ted Gittinger 512-916-5137 ext. 265; ted.gittinger@nara.gov.

Beschloss to speak at Library symposium in September.

Coming Events:

June 21	An Evening With Historian David McCullough.
August 27	LBJ's birthday. Refreshments will be served in the Great Hall of the Library.
September 19-20	"The Future of Presidential Libraries," a symposium at the Johnson Library.
September 20	Bill Moyers gives the annual Harry Middleton Lecture; his topic is "Faith."
October	Library Director Harry Middleton retires.

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The LBJ Library is one of ten presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration