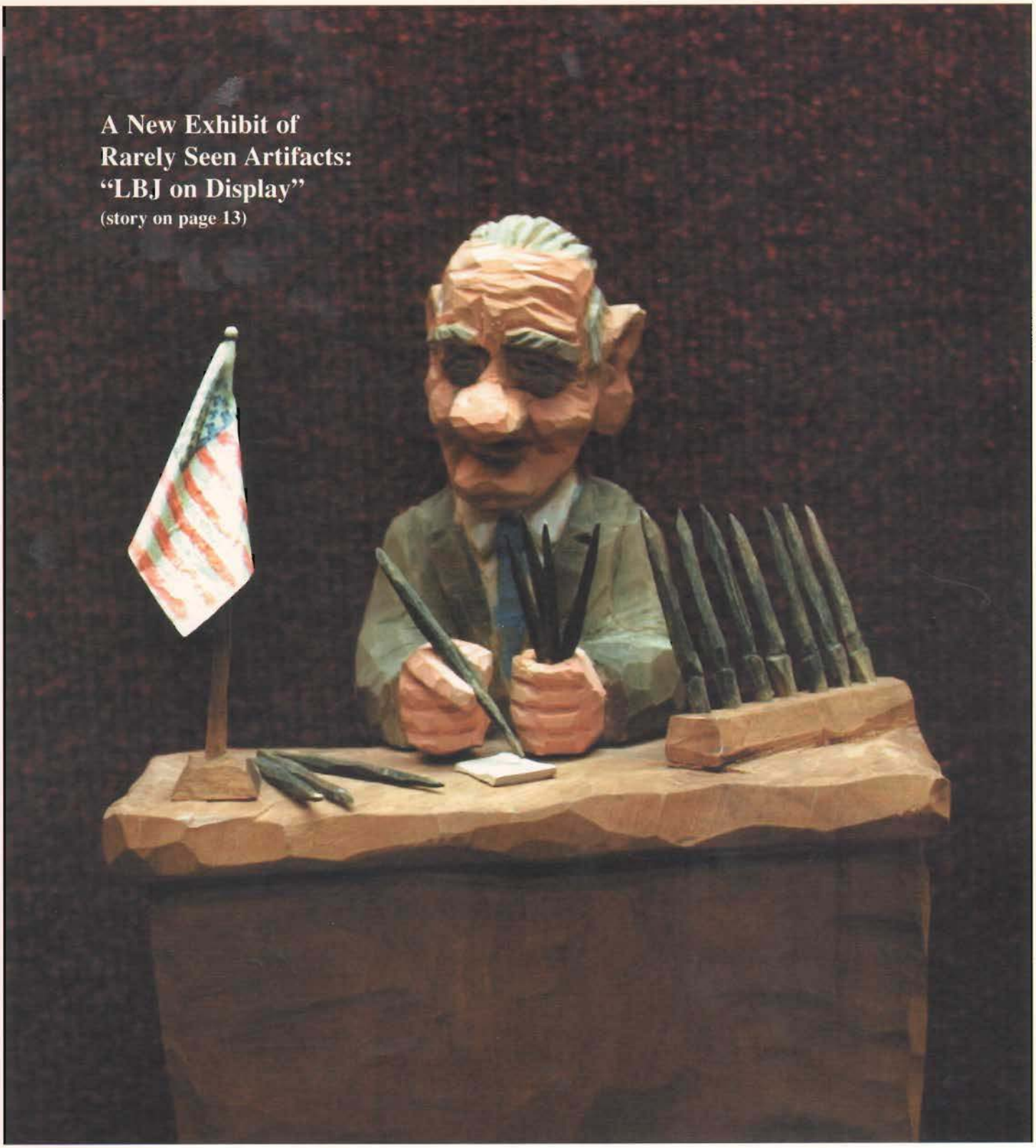
Among FRIENDS *of LBJ*

Issue Number LXVIII, July 2002



A New Exhibit of Rarely Seen Artifacts: "LBJ on Display"
(story on page 13)

What If: No Socrates? No William the Conquerer? No FDR?

Victor Hanson: For want of a Socrates, a Plato was lost...

On May 1, for the second time in the LBJ Library's Evening With series, a panel of distinguished speakers came to the LBJ Auditorium to examine some pivotal events in history, and to comment upon how differently things might have turned out.

Victor Hanson posed the question, what if Socrates had died early? Cecilia Holland pondered what path the history of Europe would have taken if an anonymous archer in 1066 had not gotten incredibly lucky. Finally, Geoffrey Ward considered how things might have gone had not Franklin Roosevelt defied the odds and been elected president.

Everyone has heard of Socrates the philosopher, began Hanson. Not as many know that he served, even in his middle age, as a heavily armed Athenian infantryman, or hoplite. He fought in the first Pelopponesian War, and in 424 BC took part in the battle of Delium. The Athenians lost that fight, and their commander was killed. Socrates barely escaped alive. But, Hanson asked, what if he had not escaped?

For one thing, Hanson pointed out, there would have been no famous trial of Socrates 25 years later, "on a trumped-up charge of introducing new gods and corrupting the youth of Athens. He didn't do either . . . but he did bring on the wrath of powerful people in Athens, because he questioned them; he made them look silly, he humiliated them. . . . And then in that great speech, which survives in Plato, Socrates dared his accusers to find him guilty. And he created the precedent that the man of philosophy is unworldly. The man of philosophy is principled, the man of philosophy is willing to be martyred. . . . . [H]e is forced to drink the hemlock. He dies not at 45, but at 70, and sets the precedent that philosophy is not distant or separated from civic life, but the philosopher is an exemplar of the ethics that he promotes."

But that is not all, Hanson believes. Until he met Socrates, the young Plato was inclined to study politics, or poetry. No Socrates; no Plato the philosopher. Some crucial ingredients in the recipe for western civilization would have been lost.

"We are all lucky . . . that in 424 BC, that fat bald man didn't get killed. He needed to live 15 more years to meet Plato, and he needed to die in a particular way to change the West. And that has made all the difference . . . ."

Next, Cecilia Holland observed that once upon a time, schoolchildren knew all about 1066, and how at the Battle of Hastings the Saxon King Harold was killed by an arrow in the eye. What if the anonymous Norman archer who loosed that shaft had not been so fortunate? What if Harold and his formidable army of Saxons had prevailed against the invading William of Normandy? There would have been no William the Conquerer, for one thing, and Holland thinks that the subsequent history of England, and indeed of Europe, would have taken another path.

It nearly happened. In William's first headlong charge at the shield wall of Harold's army, he was unhorsed and the rumor quickly spread that he was dead. His troops wavered, and began to inch backward.

But William remounted his steed and showed himself to the army, which gathered itself and renewed the assault. Holland summarized the result: "[The Normans] rally; they turn, they charge again. . . . Finally, at the end of the day . . . Harold himself dies. His army melts away. . . . William marches up the road to London, and on Christmas day of 1066 he is crowned king of England."

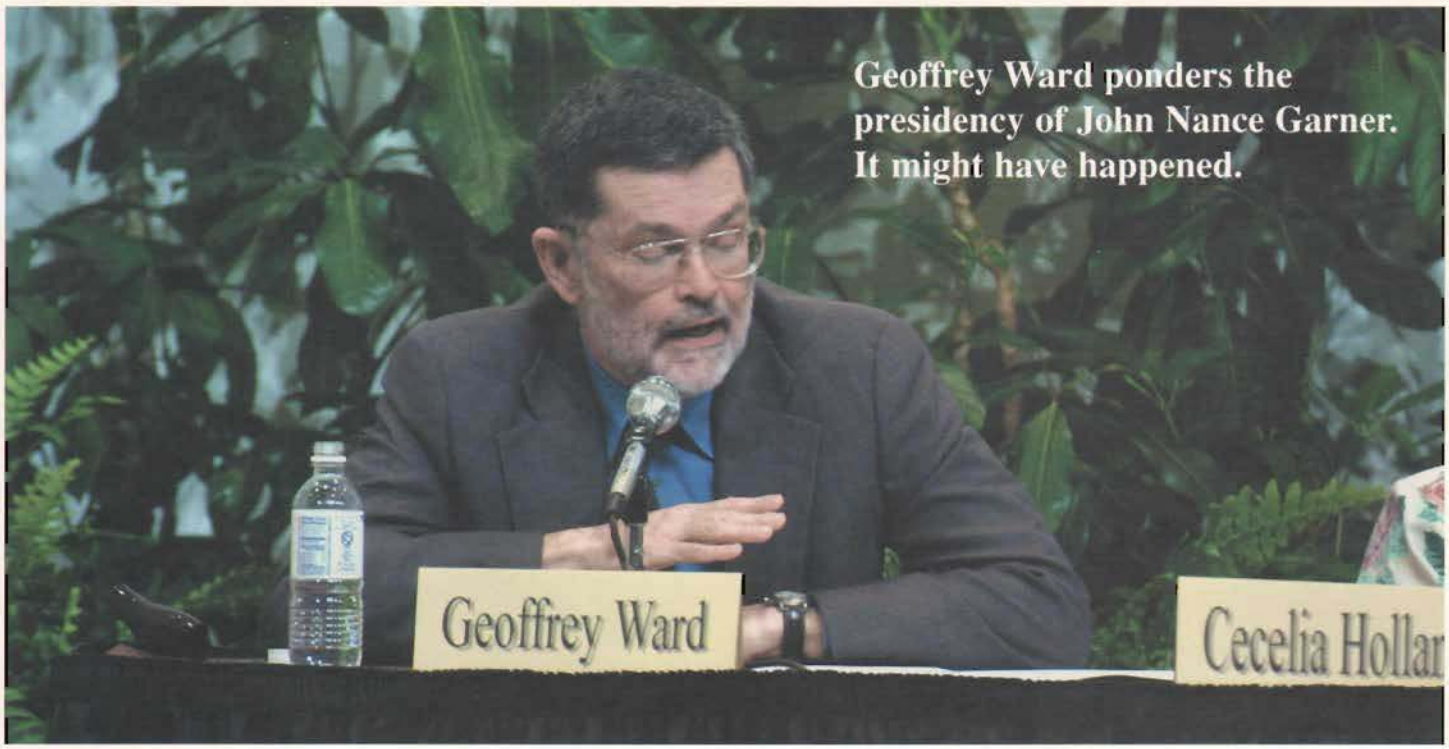
The impact was enormous. Before Hastings, England was largely oriented toward the vibrant trading/raiding empire of the Vikings. King Harold was set on a course to solidify and deepen that tendency. He was also well on the way to unifying all of England, which would have made his realm the strongest in the great northern community. With that status, plus England's economic advantages and warm-water ports, she might well have dominated the history of Europe for the next several hundred years. "Everything would have been different," said Holland. "Instead of looking to Latin Christendom, [England] would have looked to the North."

But "William's ties are not to the North. They are to France; to Rome. He reorients England. . . . . Now it faces across the Channel. Now it is knitted into the fabric of Latin Christendom. . . . The northern empire begins to fade, and the culture we call the Middle Ages begins to thrive. And all that progressed after that comes from this one moment, this one October morning in 1066, when everything hung in the balance on the ambition of a single man."

Geoffrey Ward capped the evening with his reflections on how things might have gone for the United States without Franklin Roosevelt's election in 1932. "In looking back over FDR's life before the presidency," Ward said, "it's hard not to be impressed by the number of moments when fortune seemed to smile upon him with unusual brightness. . . . Things might just as easily gone the other way, and left him more or less what his father had been: an amiable country gentleman, little-known beyond the borders of New York's Duchess County."

First, FDR was lucky in his name, Ward asserted; there is little doubt that he was put on the 1920 Democratic ticket in the forlorn hope of attracting "liberal Republicans and Bull Moosers still mourning [Teddy Roosevelt], who had died the year before." It didn't work. Harding and Coolidge crushed Cox and Roosevelt, but the defeat gave FDR national name recognition in his own right.

Next, Ward pointed out that Roosevelt was lucky not to have dealt with today's intrusive and sensational press, which would have made hay out of his relationships with Lucy Mercer and Missy LeHand. But by the lights of



Geoffrey Ward ponders the presidency of John Nance Garner. It might have happened.

the press of those days, such things were nobody's business. "Not a hint of any of it ever appeared in print during [his] lifetime."

Reporters thought FDR's physical handicap was nobody's business either, Ward continued. "Not a single photograph of Roosevelt in his wheelchair was published during his lifetime. I'm sure that were another candidate, similarly handicapped, try to win the presidency today, TV cameras would eagerly bore in . . . to capture every moment of physical helplessness, and in the process ruin his . . . chances."

Ironically, FDR's disability may have had had a silver lining. Franklin Roosevelt, Jr. once told Ward, "Polio's onslaught . . . saved [my father] from making a fool of himself by running for president during the hopelessly Republican twenties, when he wasn't ready for the job and the country wasn't ready for him."

Only seventeen days from his inauguration, in 1933, FDR would be favored by fortune again, this time decisively. Ward recounted the story: "At seven o'clock in the evening on February 15, Victor Astor's yacht . . . docked at Miami, Florida. Among the passengers on deck was the President-elect, tanned and rested after a Caribbean fishing trip." A welcome home rally had been organized, and a throng had gathered to greet him. Among them, only thirty feet from where Roosevelt's car was to stop, a crazed, would-be assassin was waiting with a .32 revolver in his pocket. When FDR's car stopped, the man opened fire. He managed to get off five shots, hitting five people, including Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, who later died of his wound. FDR was untouched. If the shooter had been a bit luckier, the presidency would have passed to John Nance Garner of Texas. "Cactus Jack" would have led the country during the Great Depression and the prelude to World War II, "the gravest crisis since the Civil War."

And, said Ward, there was precious little to suggest that Garner was up to that challenge, or interested in entertaining "the kind of fresh ideas needed for what FDR called 'unprecedented and unusual times.'" "The Texas Coolidge," the press called Garner, and he rather liked the appellation.

Cactus Jack was adamantly opposed to deficit spending. Ward quoted him: "Mrs. Garner has never had a charge account," and he saw no need for the country to have one either. He was anti-labor, refused to pay his employees union wages, and gave his pecan pickers a penny a pound. "What the country needed was fewer laws and less John L. Lewis," Ward recalled Garner telling the cabinet. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, returned the compliment. The Vice President, he reportedly said, was an evil, whiskey-drinking old man.

No one can say how Garner would have reacted to the rise of European fascism and Japanese militarism, but his record is not promising. He gave little attention to foreign policy. When FDR asked him how the nation should react should an American be killed in Cuba, Garner advised that first we should determine which American it was.

Ward concluded, " [I]t seems clear that the thirties would have been a far grimmer time for this country, and the world a far more frightening place, had [FDR's] extraordinary run of luck ended on the warm winter evening in Miami."

An Evening With Abraham Lincoln

His name is Lewis Dubé (DOO-bee). He trained as an engineer at the University of New Haven. But, as Fran Dorn explained in her introduction, one summer he attended the Yale University drama program, fell in love with acting, and never fell out. A few years ago Dubé researched and wrote "Portrait of Lincoln," a one-man show that focuses on the turbulent years of the Lincoln presidency. What follows is a paraphrase of his own description of the performance.

"President Lincoln" introduces himself with examples of the homespun humor for which he is so well known. Angry that he was so famously ugly, in a fit of pique he vows to kill any man he meets who is uglier. One day he spies such a man, and draws his pistol. The soon-to-be victim implores, what has he done to offend? "You are uglier than I!" replies Lincoln. "I am?" moans the wretch. "Then shoot me quickly, and put me out of my misery."

Lincoln's major focus is the turbulence that in 1861 ripped the nation asunder. "Even if we have to drench the Union in blood and cover it with mangled bodies, the South will never submit to such humiliation and degradation as the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln," said the editorial in one southern newspaper.

But Lincoln is elected, and true to their threat the South secedes from the Union, to form "the so-called Confederate States of America." In his inaugural address the new President pleads, "We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies." To no avail; Fort Sumter is attacked, and the slaughter begins.

The war goes badly for the Union. Lincoln cannot find the aggressive general that he needs, one who will "go now, and bring us victories." The most popular field commander is McClellan, who spends much time preparing, but not much in actual fighting. Lincoln writes to him, "If you have no plans for the Army of the Potomac, I would like to borrow it for a while." (At one point McClellan protested that he was waiting for the horses of his cavalry units to recover from exhaustion. In response, Lincoln asked to know what the horses had been doing lately that would exhaust anything?)

But out in the West, one general at least is fighting and winning battles. His name is U.S. Grant. Someone complains to Lincoln that Grant drinks. "Find out what is his favorite brand of whiskey," retorts the President, "and send a barrel of it to each of the other generals."

Lee is turned back at Gettysburg. It is the high-water mark of the Confederacy, but that was not apparent at the time. The President accepts an invitation to follow famed orator Edward Everett in dedicating a cemetery at the battlefield. He begins his remarks, "Four score and seven years ago. . . ." "Contrary to popular belief," Dubé explains, "this was not a speech quietly spoken but delivered with passion in a powerful voice reaching to the outermost perimeter of the huge crowd in attendance."

Anti-draft riots erupt in several northern cities. In New York City, mobs take to the streets, invade neighborhoods where black citizens live, and lynch many of them. The Governor of New York State demands that Lincoln end conscription: "If the President does not suspend the draft, the city is headed for more outbursts of violence." The President counters, "[N]ot when the enemy is forcing all available men into his ranks, very much as a butcher drives bullocks into a slaughter pen, in hopes of destroying all the Union has gained. . . ."

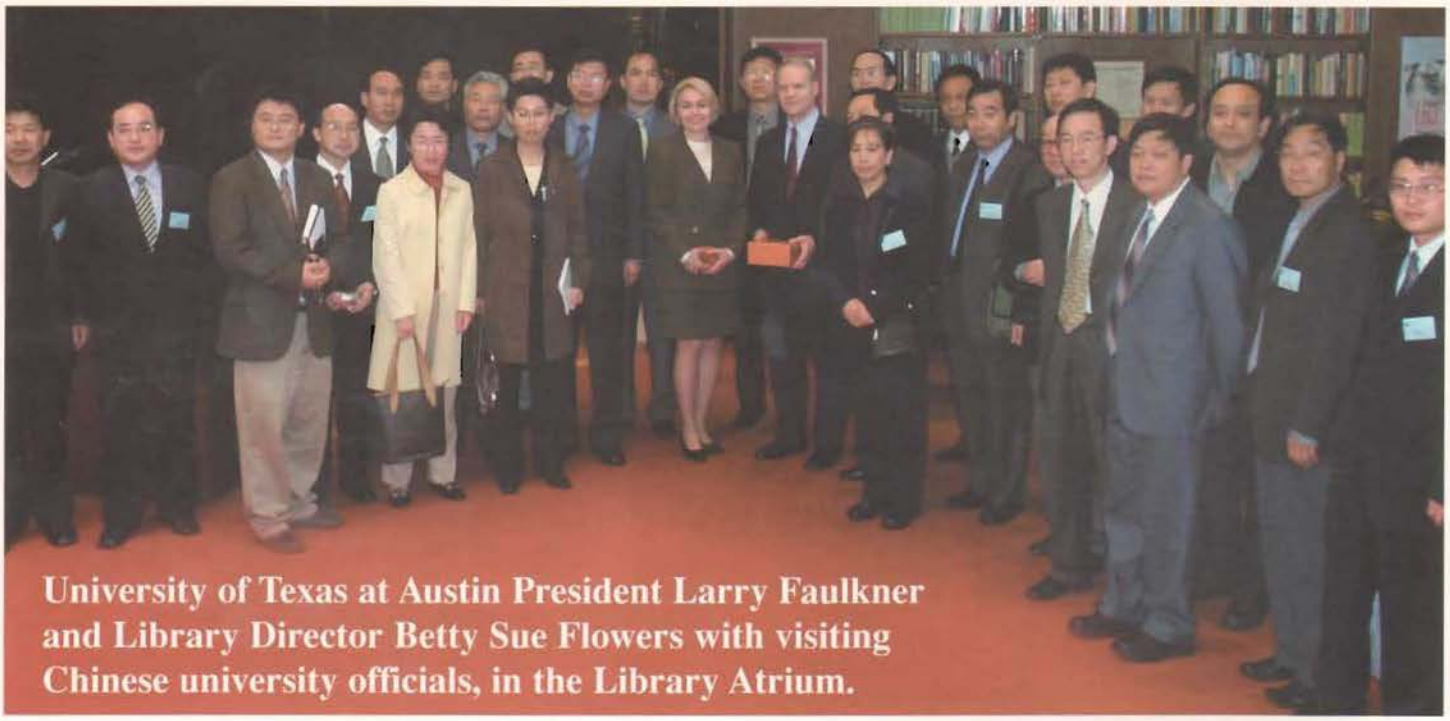
Lincoln appoints Grant to be General in Chief of all Union armies, but still the war seems locked in bloody stalemate. The North wearies of the struggle, and 1864 is an election year. In September Lincoln writes, "This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this administration will not be reelected." But then, like "a gift from God," Sherman takes Atlanta. Lincoln's reelection is assured, and in gratitude he proclaims a national day of Thanksgiving. In his second inaugural, Lincoln promises "malice toward none, and charity for all." But he will not see his pledge become fact.

Lincoln has a troubling dream that he cannot put out of his mind. He sees a guard of soldiers attending a casket in the president's mansion. "Who is dead in the White House?" he asks. "The President," comes the answer, "he has been killed by an assassin."

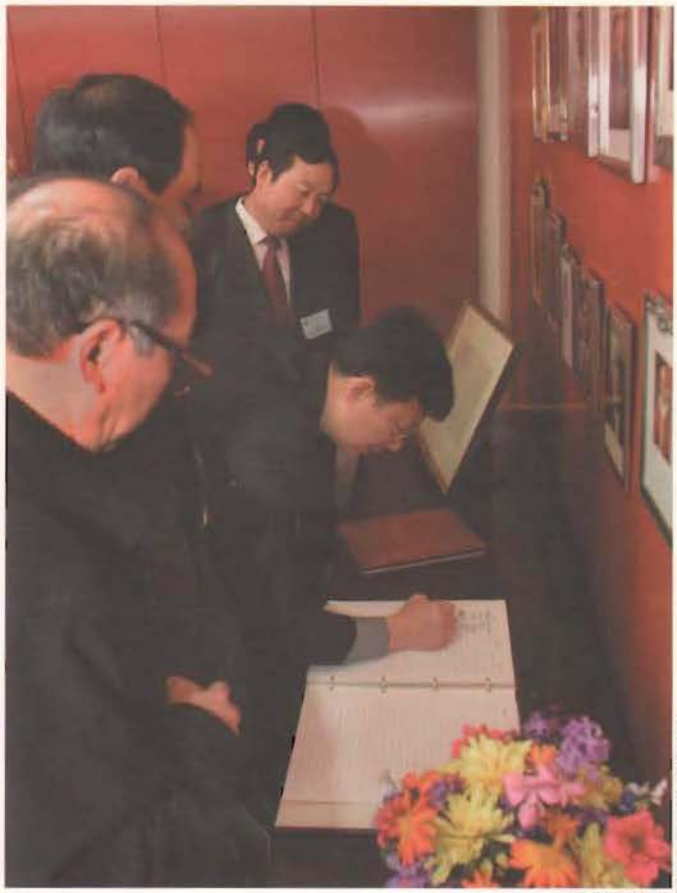
Good Friday, April 14 is the happiest day in Lincoln's life: "The slaves are free and the Union is saved." With friends, he and wife Mary attend the theater. A farce entitled "Our American Cousin" is playing. "The audience laughed at the antics on stage," Lincoln recalls. "Mary laughed. And I laughed too.

"And then the lights appeared to dim, and there was a pandemonium, and through the pandemonium I could hear Mary calling me: 'Dear?'"

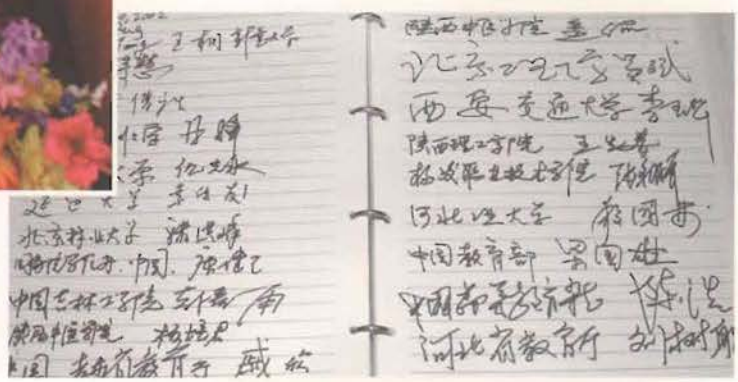
Visitors from China



University of Texas at Austin President Larry Faulkner and Library Director Betty Sue Flowers with visiting Chinese university officials, in the Library Atrium.



The visitors signed the guest register in the Presidential Suite.



"They were a joy to tour," is the way volunteers Carol Kadison and Novella Wiley put it. A delegation of university presidents and officials from China recently visited a number of American universities, examining how they operate. They expressly asked to make a stop at the LBJ Library. Library Director Flowers and University President Faulkner greeted the group, and Ms. Kadison and Ms. Wiley were tasked with showing them around. "Very attentive, very respectful; they asked very good questions," the tour guides recalled. The visitors were particularly interested in learning about Lyndon Johnson the man, his character and personality.

Each of the twenty-six person group made a point of thanking the docents and on giving an individual parting handshake.

Letters To and From the Front: An Evening with Andrew Carroll

Anthologist Carroll signs copies of *War Letters*, as Carole Malone of the Museum Store lends a hand.

Andrew Carroll's recent anthology, *War Letters*, is a collection of previously unpublished personal correspondence, dating from the Civil War to the Balkans. In addition to the regular edition, it was also published in an Armed Services Edition, a format not seen since 1947. In World War II and the following two years, 1300 titles and over 100 million copies were brought out in abbreviated versions in a size to fit a soldier's cargo pocket. On May 15 Carroll came to the LBJ Auditorium to talk about this unusual book.

Carroll had just founded the Legacy Project to encourage Americans to save their war letters, when, on a whim, he wrote to Dear Abby: "Could you do a little column on this project?" She did. The response was overwhelming, over fifty thousand letters. The book contains two hundred of them. They are unedited; no corrections, no "expletives deleted."

A Union soldier wrote from a Civil War encampment: "Dear Wife: I this day received an issue of the Star and Times, containing the following paragraphs, which no doubt overwhelmed me as much as it certainly must have done you. 'To be shot: Francis Christiance deserter from the ranks of Captain Truax'es Company, one which we have known for a long time was sentenced to be shot and perhaps met his faith at noon to-day.'

"I simply deny in to each and every specification in the above.

"1st. I am not shot.

"2nd. I am not sentenced to be shot.

"3rd. There has not been here the slightest supposition among the men or myself that I was to be shot.

"4th. I never deserted from Capt. Truax'es Company. . . .

"This afternoon Col. Jackson has received a letter requesting the transmission of my dead body to my wife, my feeling may better be imagined than described. . . ."

"Truly your loving and yet living husband, Francis Christiance"

Most of the letters are not so lighthearted, noted Carroll, and some of them give unequalled insights into what war is. There are letters from the home front as well, occasionally one from a public figure. Theodore Roosevelt lost his youngest son, Quentin, in World War I, and he responded in typical TR fashion to a letter of condolence, in part: "Quentin was [his mother's] baby, the last child left in the home nest. On the night before he sailed, a year ago, she did as she always had done, and went upstairs to tuck him into bed, the huge, laughing, gentle-hearted boy. . . . A week ago, a letter from him, written just two days before he was killed, came to a devoted member of our family. It is hard; it is hard to open the letters coming from those you love who have been killed in war. But Quentin's last letter, written during his three weeks at the front, when on an average a man in his squadron was killed every week, are written with real joy in the great adventure. . . .

"He had his crowded hour. He died at the crest of life in the glory of the dawn."

In 1944, a young naval aviator wrote, "Oh, Mom. I hope John and Buck and my own children never have to fight a war. Friends disappearing, lives being extinguished; it's just not right." The author was George Herbert Walker Bush.

The book includes chatty letters, love letters, Dear John letters, letters of reassurance. And there is a shocking letter addressed to the parent of a student killed in the Kent State tragedy. The writer berates the bereaved mother, telling her that since she obviously did not teach her daughter proper behavior, she is to blame for her death. Carroll explained that he included that letter because it was one of the most terrifying he has read, showing the unhinging effect war can have on presumably decent, ordinary people.

"This book, and these letters, are meant as a tribute to those who have served, for those who are serving, and to show the rest of us, in their own words, what they experience, what they endure for all of us."

Memories of a Royal Visit

By Harry Middleton,
LBJ Library and Museum Director, Emeritus

Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee called to mind her trip to Austin in May, 1991.

Governor Ann Richards was hostess to the royal visit. She selected the LBJ Library as the place for the state dinner. And because the governor was single and there was no official host, I was given that enviable function.

I went with Governor Richards and Mrs. Johnson to meet the royal visitors—Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburg, was accompanying his wife—as they left their limousine. I have these distinct impressions from our walk across the plaza and through the library lobby on our way to the Presidential Suite on the 8th floor.

1) The Queen – hatless, her blue-gray hair softly coifed—was surprisingly pretty.

2) The Duke, wearing a plain white shirt with his Tuxedo and walking with his arms clasped behind him in a Groucho Marx-like lope, could best be described as "grizzled."

3) I very much wanted a drink.

The royal couple was ready for one, too. In the suite, the Queen had a martini, neat. I frankly don't remember what the Duke drank—I was too absorbed in observing that the Queen's cocktail was made by a member of her own entourage from a bottle of Beefeater gin he had personally carried in.

The twenty-minute cocktail conversation was pleasant if not particularly memorable. Elizabeth II had not visited the White House during the Johnson years, but her sister—Princess Margaret—had, and she had given the Queen a delighted account of the experience, which Her Majesty took obvious pleasure in repeating.

She presented autographed photographs of herself and Philip to Mrs. Johnson, Governor Richards and me. Then Frank Wolfe, the Library photographer, came in to record the visit. Frank, who as White House cameraman had photographed at least three American presidents and a number of other heads of state, went swiftly to the business he was so experienced in. But, as he knelt and focused, he dropped his camera. "Well," said the Queen of England, "that won't do much good, will it?"

Dinner for some 200 guests was served in the Atrium on the library's 8th floor. Knowing that I was to be seated on the Queen's right, I was concerned—well, frantic—about how to start a conversation and keep it going, and had braced myself with one martini in the suite and another, swiftly downed, in the kitchen.

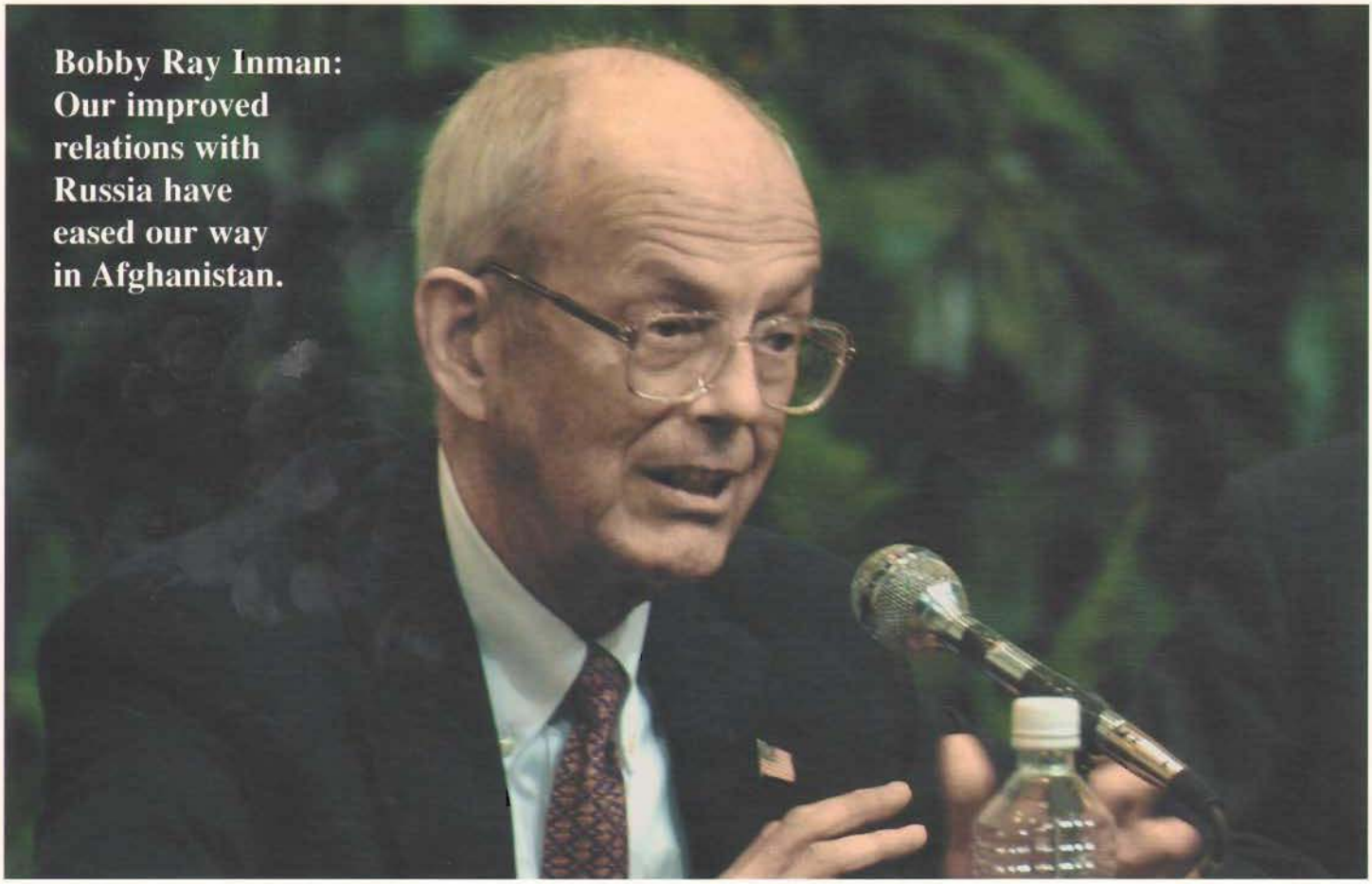
I needn't have worried. The Queen turned to me after the introductions at the table had been made and asked me to describe the archival functions of the library. I gave an overall view, but she wanted details. Then she said something that—if I heard her correctly—was so curious and startling that I wrote it down as soon as I could later that evening. The words I recorded were: "My family has not kept adequate archives and we must do a better job." The fact that the royal family had been much in the news that year, usually not for the better, gave those words a special piquancy.

I was eager to pursue the subject and be sure I had not misunderstood her. But immediately after making that tantalizing declaration to me, she turned to Bill Hobby on her left. I heard her, the world's most famed equestrienne, ask him about his well-known fondness for horses. I sensed rather than heard—for Bill's speaking voice is low—his animated reply.

Thus, despite several short-lived efforts on my part, ended my conversation with the Queen of the British Empire. And I am still wondering if there has been any improvement in recording and preserving the activities of her royal, always fascinating and sometimes unruly family.

Prince Philip; Queen Elizabeth; Governor Ann Richards, Mrs. Johnson; Harry Middleton

September 11—Six Months Later



Bobby Ray Inman: Our improved relations with Russia have eased our way in Afghanistan.

It has become both a cliché and a truism that the events of September 11, 2001 changed everything. On March 19, before an audience in the LBJ Auditorium, a panel of distinguished professors met to discuss the changes from four perspectives: government; counter-terrorism; foreign relations; and American culture. The panelists were: Professor Elspeth Rostow, (former Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs); Professor Philip Bobbitt (former Senior Director for Critical Infrastructure Protection, National Security Council); Professor Bobby Inman (former Deputy Director of Central Intelligence); and Professor Rod Hart (Director, Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation).

We often hear that 9/11 was the first real attack on the American homeland, Professor Rostow noted. But, she recalled, in 1814 an invading British army occupied and trashed the nation's capital, and burned the President's House—as it was then called. It was a defining moment in our history.

There have been other such moments, Rostow reminded the audience—the Civil War and the two World Wars, for example. "I like to think of American democracy as a series of human experiments," she said, "as though history were seeing how a democracy will survive the various tests that are thrown in its way. 9/11 was such a test." Rostow observed that our nation passed those previous tests, and she sees no indication that we will not pass this one. But there will be change. For example, she said, at least in the short run the popularity of the President has risen abruptly. How will President Bush use it? Will the balance between him and the Congress be seriously affected? How long will the increased popularity of the President last, and the outpouring of patriotic sentiment in the country generally?

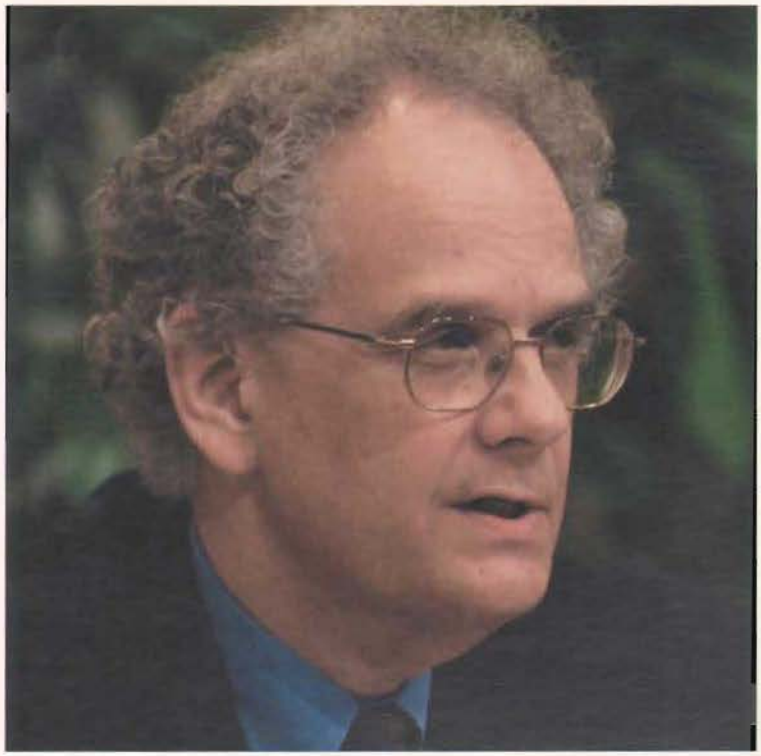
Phillip Bobbit declared that 9/11 was an enormous intelligence failure, and listed some others from our past. But he pointed out that each of those breakdowns seems to have served as a wakeup call that resulted in a later intelligence triumph. "The destruction of the Japanese fleet at Midway was made possible by breaking the same codes that we had ignored at Pearl Harbor. The detection of Soviet missiles in Cuba occurred because the U-2 was developed to prevent our being surprised by Soviet nuclear developments, as we had been by their first atomic bomb test." He drew other examples from Vietnam, Berlin, and the Middle East. "Success can derive from failure," Bobbit mused. "It's called learning."

But he warned that success can lead to failure, as well. Too often we rely on strategies that worked in the past to succeed for us in the future. In each of the intelligence failures he mentioned, explained Bobbit, we had the crucial information in hand but we fitted it into the wrong frame of reference. To avoid surprises like 9/11 in the future, we must anticipate; we must change our frame of reference; we must be ready to "think outside the box," as the current jargon has it.

Admiral Inman began by wryly observing that French criticism of our anti-terror policy means that we aren't doing badly. Our first effort, which was to topple the Taliban and go after Osama

bin Laden and his organization, went swiftly and surprisingly well. The key to much of that was our improved relationship with Russia, which made possible our use of facilities in Central Asian countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

The intelligence we gained from operations in Afghanistan has forced us to make major recalculations of the numbers and competence of al Qaeda. The results were not reassuring, warned Inman, who explained that none of them was more disturbing than our discovery that al Qaeda was trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Here, he said, was a major break with the past. Previously it had been a given that while the traditional nuclear powers might make mistakes, they would in general behave rationally. That is not the way of today's terrorists, who will try to wreak havoc using anything they can acquire. Hence the great worry concerning states like Iraq: will they develop weapons of mass destruction, and will they share them with the terrorists?



Rod Hart: His students were deeply shocked, but far from unanimous about what the lasting impact will be.

Professor Rod Hart suggested that it is still too early to tell what lasting changes in American culture may result from the events of 9/11. But he had earlier tasked his university students to write an essay on the topic, and he framed his presentation around their responses.

Nearly all of the students reported being deeply shocked by the attacks, and many wondered if vast transformations are looming in their country's future. Said one, "I believe that I can accurately say that September 11 is a day that will remain in the memories of my generation for the rest of our lives. For the first time we witnessed first-hand the destruction possible as a result of the evil in the world. . . . I realized that America is not invincible. . . . On September 11 I experienced . . .fear, sadness, confusion . . . . How could something so horrible . . .occur on American soil?"

"Adam" however struck a skeptical note. "Am I supposed to believe that a bunch of superstitious illiterates are going to be remembered longer than the Russians? I give Afghanistan two years, tops. By then no one in America will be able to even find them on a map."

Of that view Hart observed dryly, "Testosterone is a great thing, isn't it?"

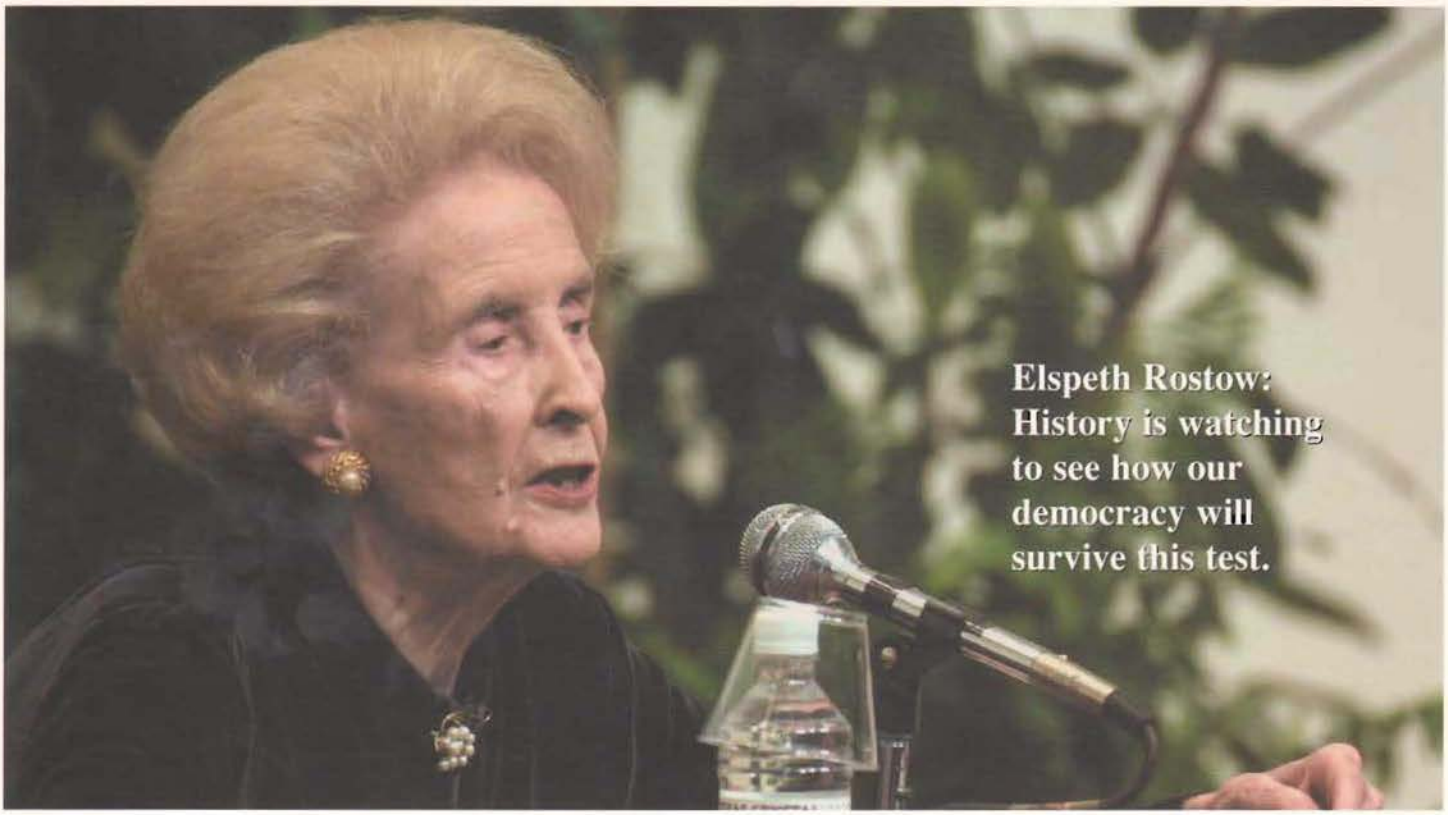
Many of the replies were heartening. One said, "Growing up, I was never able to understand why soldiers in movies, or stories, would ever feel inclined to want to go to war, or to fight for a cause that was so intangible. I never understood the statements of pride about fighting for one's country. It seemed so destructive to go off to battle, leaving a family behind, to fight for a cause that did not even affect the soldier personally. . . . My feelings on that subject are now completely and totally different. I now understand what it is like to feel enough pride in your country and in a cause such as our own, that your own life feels insignificant, and that fighting to the death is in itself is an honor."

"Kelley" was repelled by the way some have commercialized the catastrophe. "I personally find it appalling to see these acts of terror used to sell merchandise under the guise of patriotism."

Other students cited feelings of confusion. "Jocelyn" said that 9/11 "cast a doubt on everything. It doesn't just call into question our security as a nation, but our national intentions and our personal agendas. We asked ourselves where we were going and what we were becoming, and where we wanted to be. . . . We wonder what exactly we are living for, and what kind of world we are living in. Call it selfishness; call it cynicism; we are just wondering, 'What is real? What is lasting?' Young Americans were struck with every emotion available, and each response was a personal journey toward understanding that still continues. . . . And that is how 9/11 has impacted us, because we will never understand it—and yet other generations will say that it defines us."

Most of the responses do not fit the stereotypical view of today's youth, reflected Hart, who suggested that today's young men and women may be more compassionate and altruistic than is widely believed. One student explained, "Many have called our generation the "Me" generation, a generation of Americans that only cared about ourselves. September 11 has rapidly begun to change that. It has turned the focus from 'me' to 'us.' The attacks that have put a dent in Americas' conceit and our idea of indestructibility, have also [revealed in us] a kindness and love that many have forgotten existed. . . . It has been a humbling experience for all of America, but for the 'Me' generation it has also been a warning. . . . In a world growing globally in technology, we are falling behind in global humanity."

"But," Hart said, "there is also Darcy," who is more cynical: "As a



Elspeth Rostow: History is watching to see how our democracy will survive this test.

generation largely raised by the booming new technologies, we have been socialized into a state of detachment. Rather than social environments and group activities, as was characteristic of historical childhood, many of us have replaced social attachment and relationship with the company of television, video games, and computers. . . . We are the contemporaries of momentary attention and fleeting concentration. Just as our play-station resets the video game, many have left September 11 back in . . . history, and moved on."

Hart concluded with an excerpt from the essay that he found "the most vexing and complex [of all], and maybe that's as good a summary of the state of our culture as one can provide. This is from 'Robert.'"

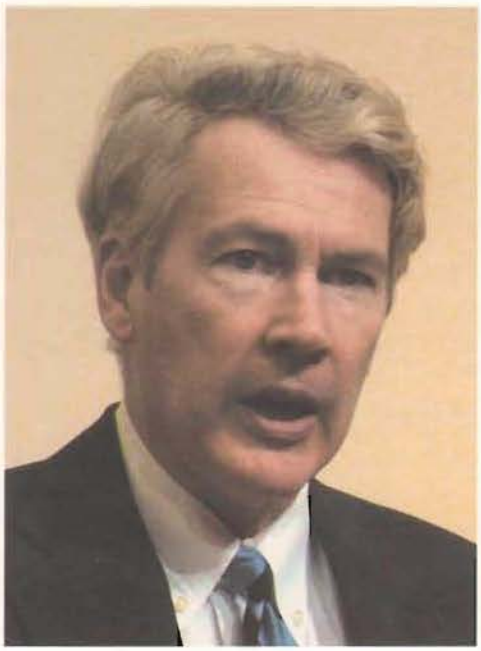
"I doubt that very many of us will be seriously disturbed or scarred by the acts of terrorism. We are currently too hardened and desensitized. My generation is individualistic to a fault. We simply don't care enough about other people. We barely care about our own futures, and we care about the futures of other people [only] sometimes, when they overlap with our own. I believe we are too drunk to be profoundly affected from without; drunk on alcohol, vanity, ambition, television, pride. We are all drunk. . . .

"I don't want to predict how people will act. . . . We are still able to exercise free will, and I won't stamp on that by pretending to be a prophet. . . . If terrorism can . . . trigger any reaction, I hope it will trigger love. . . . [By love] I mean that we desire the true welfare of our neighbors, and . . . that we choose to be willing to do what is [necessary] in bringing about that welfare. . . .

"I think most people realize that the terrorist crimes against the U.S. were not wholly unprovoked. Of course it was evil to murder those civilians, but it is also evil to ignore the suffering of those people who are not economically valuable to us.

"I hope that my generation does not react to this conflict with fear and anger, but with a genuine regard for the value of human life. I hope that we feel pain and loss for those killed, and that we deeply desire to protect, preserve and nourish the good people we still have at home, and abroad."

"I'm sorry that I have no answers for you, " Hart told the audience, "but I hope the students have asked some good questions."



Phillip Bobbitt: Failures in the field of intelligence often lead to later successes, but the reverse is also true. Success can lead to complacency.

LBJ's Telephone Tapes to Be Transcribed

The Miller Center at the University of Virginia has undertaken to transcribe the entire collection of approximately five thousand Dictabelt recordings of LBJ's telephone conversations. Rather than rely on the standard cassette tapes which are available through the Museum Store, the Center decided to make their own high-quality DAT (digital audio tape) copies from those in the Library's Reading Room.

Here Kent Germany of the Miller Center operates a copying machine in the Library's Reading Room.

A Milestone

Judy Davidson-Englert joined the corps of volunteers at the Johnson Library in 1982. Six years later she became assistant to Kiran Dix, the Volunteer Coordinator. When Kiran left, Judy stepped into her place. Recently the Library and Museum recognized her twenty years of service in a crucial part of its operation.

The volunteers and docents give tours and greet visitors when they enter the building. They assist in tending to the document and film archives, help with the museum collections, and in general provide much of the lubrication that keeps the machinery of the library and museum running smoothly. There are just over a hundred of them, and the services they render are indispensable.

Latest Exhibit Features Seldom Seen Artifacts

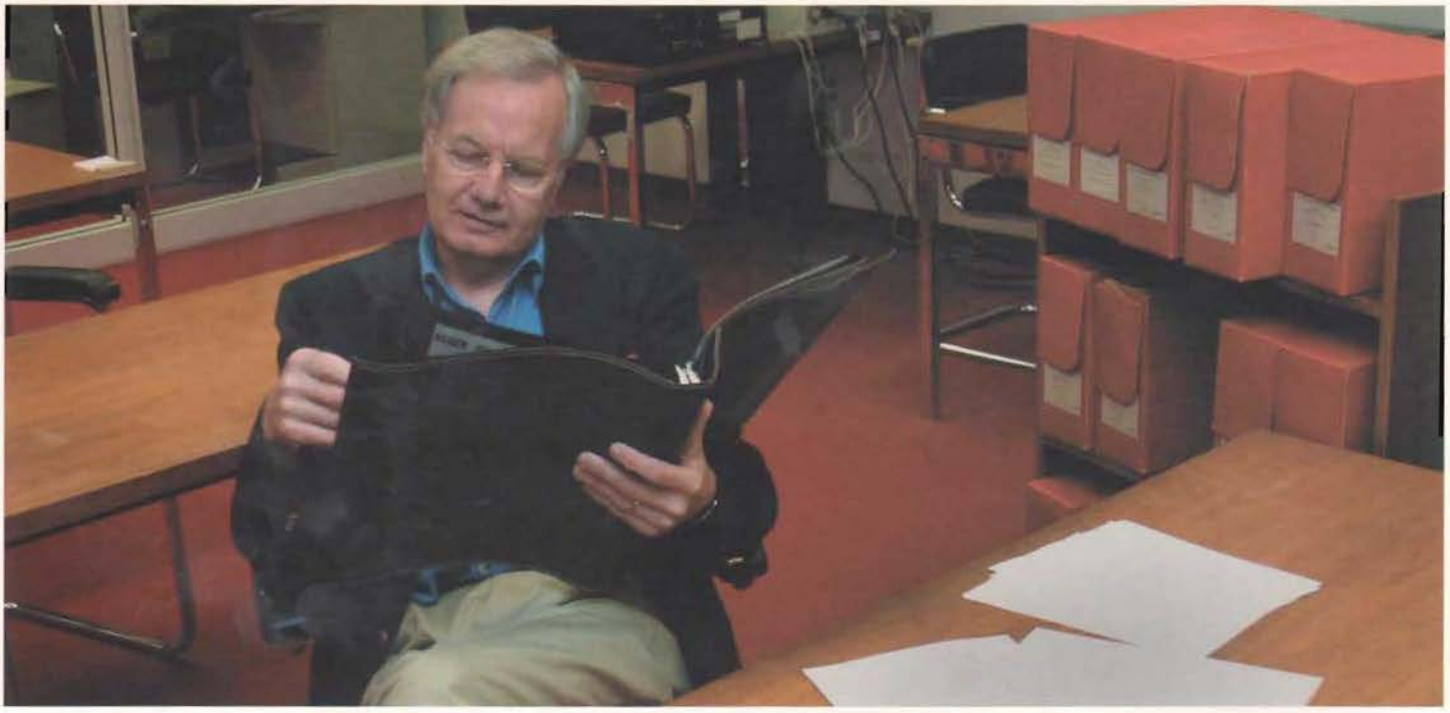
A new exhibit, "LBJ on Display: Highlights from the Museum's Collections," runs from June 29 to Sept. 29, 2002. The exhibit features items that have never been publicly displayed together at the LBJ Library and Museum, including caricatures of LBJ and Lady Bird Johnson, campaign memorabilia, items relating to Air Force One, and some of Lady Bird Johnson's dresses worn while she was First Lady. A somewhat offbeat and highly entertaining addition to this exhibit is the original copy art from Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*, which Seuss described as his best work. It is a poignant comment on saving our environment. Seuss, who did his own illustrations, donated the original work to President Johnson, and it has been in Museum storage ever since. Another treasure displayed is a wooden music stand, intended for a quartet, designed by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It was a gift to the Museum from his widow.

The exhibit opened to the public at 1 p.m. on June 29, 2002 and included a reading from *The Lorax* by Austin Mayor Gus Garcia; a visit by the Cat in The Hat; children's songs by Austin musician Joe McDermott; a caricaturist to draw for visitors, and a gallery tour of the Seuss artwork. The opening also featured a talk by LBJ's Air Force One pilot, retired Brig. Gen. James Cross, and a presentation on Wright's architecture by Professor Anthony Alofsin, from The University of Texas School of Architecture.

"At the far end of town
where the Grickle-grass grows
and the wind smells slow-and-sour when it blows
and no birds ever sing excepting old crows. . .
. . .is the Street of the Lifted Lorax."

Museum specialists Gary Phelps and Dan Morrison arranging a display of caricatures.

Former Press Secretary Retraces Some Steps



Bill Moyers paid a research visit to the Johnson Library archives recently. Here he examines files from his days in the White House.

Let's Be Friends . . .

Members of the Friends of the LBJ Library are eligible to attend the many events made possible by the Friends organization: Preview receptions for major exhibitions; symposia and conferences; and the highly successful "Evening With" lecture series, which in the past has featured such noted authors, politicians, columnists, statesmen and historians as William Bundy, Horace Busby, Joseph Califano, Ramsey Clark, David and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, John Kenneth Galbraith, Barry Goldwater, Ann Landers, David McCullough, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Charles Robb, Dean Rusk, Liz Smith, William Westmoreland, and Brian Williams.

You will have free admission to all the other presidential libraries (the LBJ Library is the only one that doesn't charge), and a 15% discount on purchases made in the Museum store.

To join, fill out the form below, cut along the dotted line and send, with a check, to:

Larry Reed
LBJ Foundation
2313 Red River
Austin, TX 78705-5702

I Want To Become a Member of the Friends of the LBJ Library

- ❑ **General Membership** — $65 per person annually ($130 per couple)
- ❑ **Senior Citizen Membership** — $50 per person annually ($100 per couple)
- ❑ **Sustaining Membership** — $200 annually (Accumulative toward Lifetime Membership)
- ❑ **Lifetime Membership** — $2,000
- ❑ **Corporate Membership** — $5,000 annually (Please call 478-7829 for Corporate Membership information)
- ❑ **Enclosed is my check.**

Name _____ (please print)

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to The Friends of LBJ Library

December 21, 1964. LBJ relaxes for a moment with Him the beagle, during budget discussions at the Ranch.

January 29, 1969. Inauguration Day.

Mrs. Johnson Improving

A family spokesman reports that Lady Bird Johnson continues to progress in her recovery from a May 2 stroke. She is eating more solid food and regaining her ability to speak. Several outings have provided a change of pace—one to the Wildflower Center, two trips to the Ranch and even one to the grocery store and dinner out with her family.

"Mrs. Johnson has smiled her appreciation for the many caring and concerned messages she has received from friends and strangers from all over the country. They have been a source of comfort and encouragement, giving her a lift of heart and spirit. All in all, we are happily anticipating celebrating her ninetieth birthday in December."

In Memoriam

Lew Wasserman, 1913-2002

Mr. Wasserman was one of the founding fathers of the LBJ Foundation. In October 1968 he and his wife Edie, who survives him, enjoyed a moment with President Johnson at the White House.

Coming Events:

August 27: Birthday memorial observation at President Johnson's grave, in the live oak grove at the LBJ Ranch. Ian Turpin, Luci Johnson's husband, will lay the wreath and give the address. The public is invited. The first Ranch tour bus of that day will stop at the grove for the ceremony.

Among Friends of LBJ is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library
Editor: Ted Gittinger
Research Assistance: Shirley James; Sandor Cohen; Char Diercks; Linda Seelke; Margaret Harman, Robert Hicks
Columnist: Harry Middleton
Technical Assistance: Fletcher Burton
Photography: Charles Bogel

www.lbjlib.utexas.edu

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