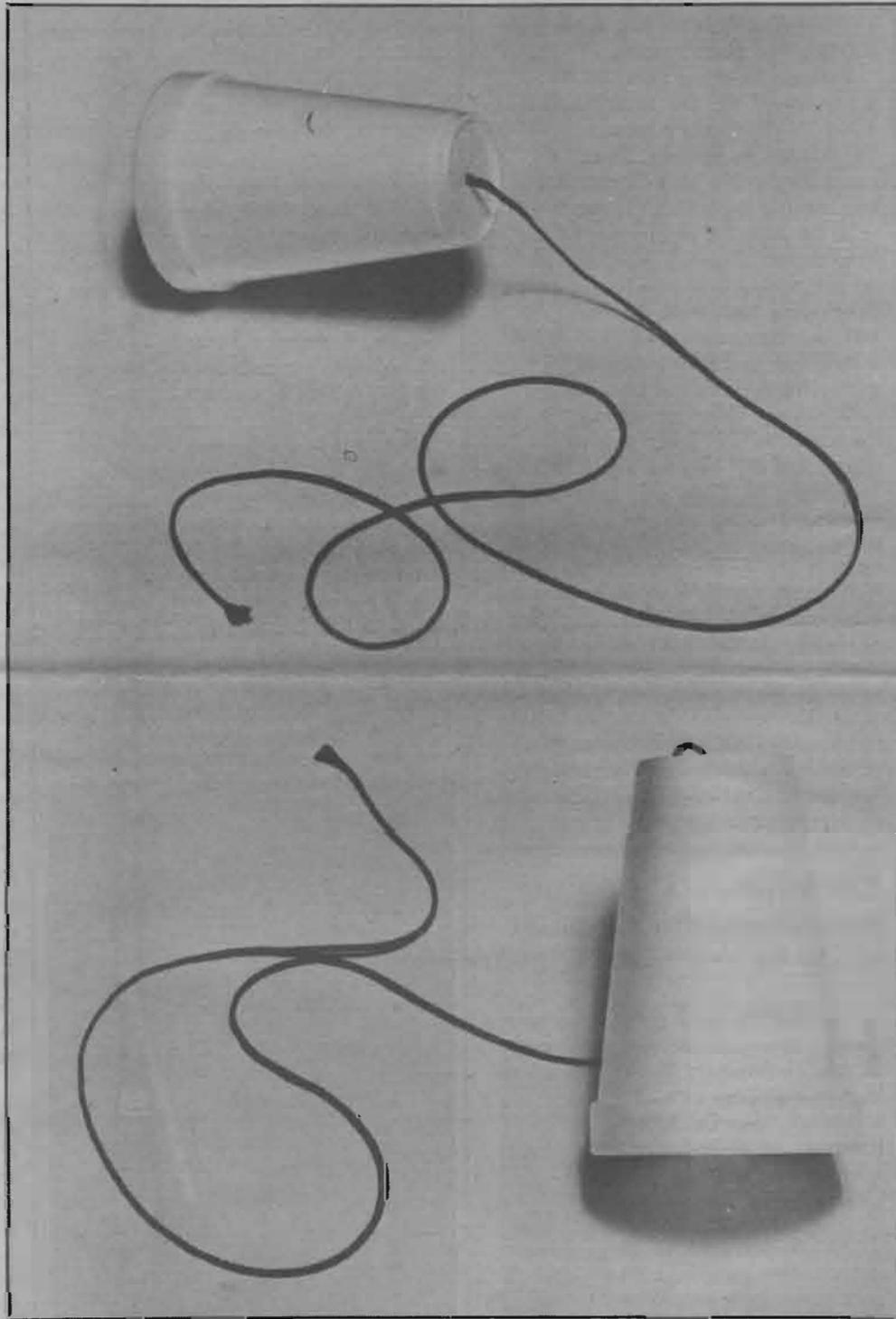


SUMMER 1985

UTD
ADVANCE
NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



A P H A S I A
When communication
is cut off---

Page 4



Dr. C.L. Lundell and his wife, Amelia, with one of the many valuable botanical volumes housed in the Lundell Library at UT-Austin. The library contains 400,000 plant specimens and books donated by the couple.

World-renowned botanists receive Medal of Honor

Dr. C.L. Lundell, professor emeritus and director of the Plant Sciences Laboratory at the University of Texas at Dallas, and his wife, Amelia, were recently awarded the Garden Club of America's highest award, the Medal of Honor.

The award was presented to the couple for their outstanding achievements in the field of botany at the club's annual meeting May 15 in San Francisco.



Vol. 21, No. 3

DIRECTOR, NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES—
BUDDY ADAMS

EDITOR—KIM ERNST

READER SERVICE—
ELAINE LESLIE

TYPESETTING—
JOHNNYE HEATON

UTD ADVANCE (USPS 051570) is published five times annually in the months of February/March, April/May, June/July/August, September/October, and November/December by the Office of News and Information Services at The University of Texas at Dallas, 2201 N. Waterview, Richardson, Texas 75080-0688, for distribution to alumni, students, faculty and other friends of the University. Second-class postage paid at Richardson, Texas.

It is the policy of the University of Texas at Dallas not to discriminate on basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin or handicap in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment policies. Postmaster: Please send requests for change of address if possible by old address label, to UTD ADVANCE, Office of News and Information Services, P.O. Box 830688, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688.

Both world-renowned botanists who have been described as "an inspiration to the botanical world," the Lundells have played a leading role in plant research throughout Texas, the Southwest and Latin America during the past half-century.

Together they have explored the plants of tropical Central America and adjoining regions, contributing to the understanding of some of the world's most intricate and complex plant families.

A leading authority on Guatemalan plant life, Lundell is credited for discovering almost 500 species there. He is also recognized for discovering and botanically recording more than 2,000 other plant species.

Perhaps his most notable achievement was the establishment, in 1944, of the Texas Research Foundation in Renner, Texas, a privately-funded agricultural and engineering experiment station.

In his capacity as director of the Foundation, Lundell urged research on improving field and forage crops, developing high-yield hybrids, introducing chemical and industrial interaction and new methods for increasing agricultural production.

When the Foundation was liquidated in 1972 as a private institution and became a part of the University of Texas and Texas A&M systems, Lundell was responsible for the donation of 250 acres of land to UTD.

Throughout his long and successful botanical career spanning more than 50 years, Lundell has published more than 150 scientific papers and books, most notably his three-volume *Flora of Texas*.

Mrs. Lundell, a well-known plant scientist and botanical illustrator, is a former staff member at the University of Michigan herbarium.

Environmental scientist wins award for research study in risk management

Hardly a week goes by without a news story reported about some community disaster traced to human exposure to a hazardous substance, says Dr. Martin T. Katzman, professor of environmental sciences and economics at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"When you look at the potential risk of chemicals, which includes pesticides, toxic wastes and drugs, you start getting into a technical, political and socioeconomic battle," Katzman said. "It's a very complex issue."

Complex or not, Katzman has explored the issue over the past several years, and was honored recently for his research efforts by the Risk and Insurance Management Society. He was named the 1985 recipient of the RIMS Research Award on the basis of a paper he wrote entitled, "Toxic Tragedies: Liabilities, Insurance and the Behavior of Risk Managers."

The award carries a \$1,000 honorarium that Katzman plans to use to establish a UTD endowment for library materials in the area of risk management.

"The library has a need for publications in the area of risk management," Katzman said, "so I thought (the money) would have the greatest impact at UTD."

In the paper he submitted to RIMS, Katzman explored the nature of chemical risks, how risk managers (people who decide issues of safety within their respective corporations) go about analyzing risks and the mechanisms society can use to regulate chemical risks in a reasonable way.

One such mechanism that he believes would prove effective in regulating the chemical industry and making it more responsible would be to have chemical manufacturers and handlers insure themselves against potential risks.

Casualty insurance, he maintains, is an innovative way of protecting the environment and compensating victims of chemical hazards. It also circumvents government red tape and regulation that often hamstring private enterprise.

The cost of a company's insurance premium would be proportional to the type of risk involved, he explained. "If a company had to pay a very high premium for dealing with a potentially hazardous chemical, it would probably deter them from doing so," Katzman said. "It's a superb mechanism for getting more companies to access the potential health consequences of all these chemicals."



UTD biographer disputes rags-to-riches myth of 19th-century author

When Dr. Gary Scharnhorst, associate professor of American Literature at the University of Texas at Dallas, first decided to write a biography on the life of the legendary rags-to-riches

myth-maker, Horatio Alger, Jr., he knew it wouldn't be easy.

All previous biographies on Alger were "fabricated accounts," including the very first Alger biography written by former *Good Housekeeping* editor Herbert R. Mayes, who later admitted that the book has been "an incredible hoax." Compounding the problem was the fact that Alger, a homosexual, had all of his important papers and personal letters destroyed at his death.

Finding factual information on Alger, Scharnhorst admitted, was about as difficult as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack.

But Scharnhorst persevered—unearthing some letters, poems, stories and essays written by Alger in the process—and has written the first authoritative Alger biography based on "factual evidence." The book, *The Lost Life of Horatio Alger, Jr.*, was published in May by the Indiana University Press.

Scharnhorst, who wrote the book with the help of Jack Bales, a librarian at Mary Washington College in Virginia, believes the book provides the first true modern review and evaluation of Alger.

The biography, he says, exposes the distortions and misconceptions perpetrated by previous Alger biographers, "setting the record straight, once and for all."

Alger, a 19th-century writer of boys' stories who is most often associated with the rags-to-riches mythology popularized in the early 20th century, is viewed today through "ideological blinders," the UTD professor maintains.

"Alger became known as the rags-to-riches myth-maker without regard to his books or his reputation," he says. "At best, he was a minor person in history—not the legend his biographers made him out to be. In fact, most of what we've heard or read about him is legend, not fact."

Although Alger's name became the countersign of the American success story during the Depression, Scharnhorst points out that the author's life was no more a rags-to-riches romance than were his books.

"In reality, the typical 'Horatio Alger hero' ends up with a good job, a few dollars in his pocket and the promise of a promotion," he says. "It was only in a few of his later stories, when he felt constrained to compete with the more fantastic dime novels of his day, that one or two of his heroes ends up with a quarter of a million dollars at the end of the story."

As for Alger's own life, Scharnhorst says it "reads like a case study in frustration."

"Even though Alger graduated from Harvard, he had a very hard time making a decent living as a writer, making only \$1 or \$2 for each story he sold," he explains. "In fact, the main reason he started writing stories for juveniles was because it paid \$1 a page—more than he could make writing elsewhere."

Continued on page 6

A tale of two students . . .

One travels 600 miles to get to class

When doctoral student Letitia Lane laughingly says she'll go the "extra mile" to get her degree, the 59-year-old grandmother isn't kidding.

Once a week, the humanities major boards a plane in Denver and flies 600 miles to attend a Wednesday morning literature class at the University of Texas at Dallas.

After her class, she wanders to the library, where she absorbs herself in class readings on "Literature and the Anti-Hero" until it's time for her evening meeting of the Student Senate.

Early the next day, she drives her rent car back to D-FW Airport and heads back to the Colorado Rockies, leaving the flatlands of Texas behind until the following Wednesday, when she's back in class at UTD.

Sound a little out of the ordinary? Not really, says Ms. Lane with an amused gleam in her eyes. "I'm just a commuter student who's trying to get my degree before I'm too old to do anything with it. The only difference in me and anybody else is that I have a little farther commute to make than most people."

Indeed. Since January, her "commute" has averaged out to be a weekly round-trip of 1,200 miles, or a grand total of 18,000 miles.

"One good thing about (the trips) is all the studying I get done in the airport and on the plane," she says with a good-natured laugh. "I used to have lots of interesting conversations with people on the plane. Now I just stick my nose in my book, and consider that time a two-hour study period."

Ms. Lane, a long-time Richardson resident—"I still own a house here"—moved to Denver last year to help care for her two teen-age granddaughters while her daughter works as a flight attendant for a major airline.

"My daughter must be gone a lot, so I decided I would move to Denver and help out," she explained. "But I also wanted to finish up on my degree. It was then that I decided to make the weekly trips to UTD."

A two-time UTD graduate, Ms. Lane has been studying at the University for the last 10 years. During that time, she has managed to get two degrees—a B.A. and M.A.—not to mention a head start on a third, a Ph.D. in the humanities.

She has even found a few spare hours for extracurricular activities, like student government.

"This is my second time around to serve in the Student Senate," she says mainly because "somebody has to get involved and represent the students' point of view."

When the semester concludes, Ms. Lane will only have to write a



UTD "commuter" Letitia Lane

dissertation before receiving her Ph.D.—something she's hoping to accomplish within the next year.

Eager to get school behind her, Ms. Lane is looking forward to the day she's living and teaching in Lebanon—a place that has weighed heavily on her mind since she first visited the country in the early 1970s as a freelance journalist working on a series of articles on the Middle East.

Through the experience, Ms. Lane says she got a realistic view of life in the Palestinian refugee camps.

"I was shocked by the conditions the people must endure," she says. "These are people who have lost their country, people who have no home, no civil rights, nothing."

Long after her writing assignment ended, Ms. Lane's memories of the refugee camps lingered. She traveled back to Lebanon as a Red Cross volunteer, working first as a nurse, then as an administrator of a hospital.

She stayed four years. "I was the only American volunteer there at the time," she said. "As one person, you just try to do all that you can do."

She is still haunted by the words of one refugee who told her, "God has forgotten about us. The whole world has forgotten about us. No one cares."

But Ms. Lane cares—enough to devote the rest of her life helping Palestinian refugees learn English so they can attend British and American medical schools.

"There's a great need for doctors in Lebanon, and I want to do what I can to help," she said. "That's one of the reasons I really want to get my Ph.D.—so I can teach."

Meanwhile, she's content to spend her time flying back and forth from Denver to UTD, spending all her spare moments working diligently on her degree.

"When you know what you're doing has a purpose, it's not nearly as hard," she says. "It makes everything worth it."

Another finds school one big circus

Langston James Goree VI may clown around a lot, but he wasn't looking for laughs when he participated in UTD's graduation ceremonies May 18.

Goree, alias "Kimo the Clown," left his alter ego at home when he stepped onto the stage to receive a Bachelor of General Studies degree with honors during UTD's annual commencement—an educational reward he's been working toward for 12 long years.

Goree's Kimo, well known in the Dallas-Fort Worth area since beginning the act in 1974, offers entertainment for both children and adults (mainly at parties). Noting that he enjoys performing for children most, Goree said, "For me, it's a vocation, an avocation and a vacation, a nice way to spread around some positive energy while making a living."

Probably not many among Kimo's audiences are aware of his other interesting side as Goree: proud sixth-generation descendant of a Texas pioneer settler family which has figured prominently in the state's history; street, stage and screen actor; veteran traveler who has spent so much time in Latin America that he knows the area about as well as most natives; and aspiring college professor.

His original namesake, Goree pointed out, was a companion and compatriot of Sam Houston who bought Houston's "Raven Hill" estate near Huntsville after the Texas leader died. Thomas Jewett Goree, great-great-great-great uncle of the modern Langston James, headed the Texas prison system during the late 1800s; the system's Goree unit at Huntsville is named for him.

With a long background in entertainment beginning as a California street comedian in 1972, this Goree has also had screen roles in

the Ron Howard movie "Cotton Candy" (produced in Dallas in 1977) and opposite LeVar Burton in the movie "Acorn People" with Cloris Leachman.

He's also spent about half of each year since 1976 in various Latin American countries, learning the area so well that he was able to teach himself Portuguese and feels comfortable traveling in almost any nation south of the border. "In fact, I recommend Latin America for anyone who wants to travel," he says. "Unfortunately, most of the press the area gets seems to be about its revolutions and violence, with little about its positive aspects such as its great beauty, its people and its heritage."

Goree offers that recommendation despite having tasted a bit of the negative side. While in Nicaragua shortly after the country's Sandinista revolution, he was arrested on suspicion of being a CIA spy. Kimo got him off. "When they went through my belongings, all they could find besides the usual stuff you'd expect were things like balloons, magic tricks and costumes," he recalls. "They finally decided those probably weren't the sort of equipment a CIA spy would be carrying around."

Heading toward age 32 (in June), Goree has been a student whenever he wasn't traveling or working in entertainment. And the degree he recently received was just the first of three he wants. Already enrolled in UTD's master's degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies this summer, he hopes to eventually earn a doctorate. "I'd love to teach at a university, and I think my entertainment skills would help me be a good teacher," he explains. "I think some professors are just great teachers, and if I could get people in the classroom excited about some of the things I've learned, I'd love to do that."



New graduate Langston Goree



Kimo the Clown