

## Opportunities arise for former UT English lecturers

By KELLY KNOX  
Daily Texan Staff

Although some of the English lecturers who found themselves unemployed at the end of last semester have since found other jobs, many others are still wandering aimlessly around the job market.

Former lecturer Elizabeth Bell expressed her current job situation quite succinctly: "What am I doing now? Well, I'm collecting unemployment to the tune of \$189 a week, and I'm hunting for a job."

But Bell and at least one other former lecturer have responded to a solicitation from Houston law firm Vinson and Elkins, which is offering jobs as legal assistants to people

with master's degrees and doctorates in liberal arts fields.

Judy Bolling, Vinson and Elkins' legal assistant coordinator of recruiting, said she sent a letter to the UT Department of English when she learned English 346K was being dissolved.

The department discontinued the junior-level composition course last semester, and all the lecturers who taught the course were dismissed. Only five "line item" budgeted lecturers will remain on the teaching staff.

"We are not necessarily recruiting for positions that are currently open," Bolling said. "But we are al-

ways willing to talk with people about career paths."

Bolling said she learned about the English lecturers' plight from a former UT English instructor who works as a legal assistant at Vinson and Elkins.

"I knew that would be a good source for applicants for legal assistant positions," Bolling said. "We are constantly looking for good communicators, or what we call good raw material."

"I know from experience that if we don't have something today, we will probably have something tomorrow," she said.

Vinson and Elkins has the largest legal assistants program in the

country, and employs about 130 assistants to perform various research and writing functions, Bolling said.

About 110 of those assistants work in the Houston office, and the others work in the firm's Austin and Washington, D.C., offices.

Other former lecturers have obtained jobs at various junior colleges, and at least one will be working in the College of Engineering as a writing instructor.

The School of Law will continue its program of using lecturers to teach technical writing to law students, but the law school will be responsible for hiring those lecturers. In the past, the lecturers were hired by the Department of English and

"loaned out" to the law school, which was responsible for paying them, said Joseph Kruppa, assistant chairman of the Department of English.

Kruppa said the English department also is helping the lecturers find jobs on an individual basis.

"I know various members of the department have contacted (prospective employers) about the lecturers, and I know several individuals are being placed," Kruppa said.

In the meantime, Kruppa is heading a committee that is studying the future of composition courses in the Department of English.

"We are simply discussing various ways of thinking about the Eng-

lish department," Kruppa said. "We are exploring whether we can keep 346K in the future and what kinds of writing courses we can offer."

Kruppa said some students still are required to take the course to graduate, but that the deans of the various colleges are waiving the requirement or substituting writing courses in other departments.

"There are a variety of options available to the students, depending on the standing of the student, the college in which they are enrolled and so forth. Students who are concerned about this need to talk to their individual deans," Kruppa said.

## Austinite charged in death of student

By KELLYE NORRIS  
Daily Texan Staff

An Austin man whose speeding truck struck another car and killed a University student and a passenger Saturday morning has been charged with two counts of criminally negligent homicide.

Jay Mike Huckabee, 22, was charged Sunday night in connection with the deaths of Christopher Lance Kercho, 20, a radio-television-film junior, and Kercho's passenger, Jeffery Allen Johns, 21.

Associate Municipal Judge Cleve Moten set bond at \$5,000 on each count and issued a warrant for Huckabee's arrest Sunday night. Austin police Lt. Robert Wisian said Huckabee's attorney surrendered his client to law officers Monday morning. An official at the city jail said Huckabee posted bail Monday afternoon and was released.

A police report indicated Huckabee's truck was northbound on Research Boulevard when it collided with a car driven by Kercho, which was traveling east on Anderson Mill Road. Kercho's car was attempting to cross the intersection when it was struck.

Police said Huckabee apparently had been involved in a chase with a motorcycle moments before the collision and was traveling faster than 100 mph when the two vehicles collided. Police found no skid marks at the scene.

The police report indicated Kercho and Johns were thrown from their car after the impact. Both were pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy ordered Sunday by Justice of the Peace Judy Hobbs of Taylor showed Kercho died of a fractured skull, crushed chest and abdomen and a broken back, and Johns died of a crushed head, chest and abdomen and a broken back.

Huckabee and his passenger, James Joseph Rupkey, 25, of Manor, were treated for minor injuries at Brackenridge Hospital and discharged.

The police report said Huckabee smelled strongly of alcohol. But no one at the Austin Police Department was able to confirm that Huckabee was given a breathalyzer test either at the scene of the accident or later at Brackenridge Hospital.

Criminally negligent homicide is a Class A misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$2,000 fine.

Hobbs said her request for an autopsy was not unusual.

"It is routine for most judges to make a request in cases like this (traffic fatalities)," she said.



Graduate student Debra Streeter plays with her 'hearing ear' dog Butter, who is trained to recognize specific sounds for her master.

Kathy Gilbert Daily Texan Staff

## Graduate student depends on 'hearing ear' dog

By JANE THOMPSON  
Daily Texan Staff

A sign posted on most University building doors reads "No dogs allowed in buildings, except seeing-eye dogs," but Debra Streeter thinks the sign should be changed to allow hearing dogs.

Streeter, a Southwest Texas State University student who attends a graduate class in education at the University, often has trouble bringing her hearing dog inside buildings because few people have heard about hearing dogs.

"On my first day of school (at the University), I walked into one of the buildings and someone yelled for me to get the dog out of the building," Streeter said. "He said if she is not a seeing-eye dog then I had to take her out of the building."

This kind of response is not uncommon, said Emyllyn Wood, vice president of International Hearing

'Hearing ear' dogs are trained to hear door bells, phone rings, smoke alarm buzzers, alarm clock buzzers and even baby cries.

Dogs. "It is going to take many, many years to get public awareness," Wood said.

"The ID card is usually good enough to get them in," Wood said. Streeter carries a hearing dog ID card that allows her to take the dog into buildings.

Some of the sounds the dogs are trained to hear include door bells, phone rings, smoke alarm buzzers, baby cries and alarm clock buzzers, Wood said. The recipient can train the dog to react to particular sounds. Streeter, for instance, trained her hearing dog, Butter, to listen for the microwave buzzer in addition to the other sounds.

International Hearing Dogs began in 1979 and has 250 dogs placed across the nation. The dogs

come from pounds and shelters and range in size from about 10 to 60 pounds, Wood said.

There is no charge for training or for the hearing dog, Wood said. The only fee is the \$1 certification fee, she said.

Streeter learned about the program from her mother who read an article about it in the *Houston Chronicle*. Streeter was a senior at SWTSU at the time.

"I had already decided to go to graduate school and didn't want to live in the dorm," Streeter said. She said she applied because she thought having a hearing dog would allow her to be more independent and more mobile.

Streeter has had a hearing impairment since birth. She has 20

percent hearing in her left ear and 35 percent in her right ear.

Applicants must meet special requirements before they can receive a dog, Wood said. They must have a certain degree of hearing loss, usually about 65 percent or more; they must live alone or with another hearing impaired person and they must be physically able to continue to train and care for the dog, she said.

After an applicant has been approved, it takes six to nine months before the dog arrives, Wood said.

The dogs are trained for three months and then delivered to the recipient by a trainer, who stays with the recipient for five days to show them how to use the dog and how to train it for his or her own needs.

Wood said the dog is certified if the person has kept the dog working. If the dog is used only as a pet then it is taken away, she said. The dogs also are trained to sit,

lie, come and heel on command, Streeter said. When Butter, a 60-pound mixed breed, hears one of the sounds she goes to Streeter and makes contact with her and takes her to the sound.

When Streeter is walking on campus or around town, Butter listens for traffic sounds and stops when she thinks it is dangerous for Streeter to continue.

Butter also serves as a protector for Streeter.

"She is very protective of me," Streeter said. "Once I was walking to my apartment at night and a guy was following me. Butter kept stopping and turning her head. When he got too close she stopped and started growling."

Streeter said Butter once attacked a burglar that tried to come through her bedroom window.

"I'm very lucky to have Butter. She's a lot more dependable and easier to get along with than a roommate," she said.

## ACC seeks land for new branch UT continues construction plans

By BRIAN EDWARDS  
Daily Texan Staff

Austin Community College is hunting for property in the North Austin area to create another branch campus, the school's president said Monday.

But ACC President Dan Angel said the only definitely established guideline for the purchase is that the property be "north of the river."

"But I hope it will be considerably further north than that," Angel said.

Currently, there are no specific sites under consideration, Angel said. "What we're looking for is something in Travis County, reasonably far north," he said.

Suz Beth Miller, the ACC public information officer, said the unanimous decision of trustees of the college to expand was made because "one campus in the south just cannot adequately serve all our students."

Angel said that 97 percent of all ACC's educational activities cur-

rently take place in rented facilities.

"Really the only thing we own is one building of about 20,000 square feet where we have seven of our health science programs," Angel said.

Partial funding for the acquisition is coming from ACC students. Students pay a \$5 building-use fee, and the generated capital, which is invested in bonds, is used for expansion and improvements, Angel said.

"We have about \$8 million left in bonds," Angel said. The school spent \$5 million to buy the Riverside property in Southeast Austin.

The new property probably will not be close to downtown Austin because the cost would be prohibitive, Angel said. "If we had that kind of money we would have built the campus by now," he said.

Ideally, the school will buy at least 40 acres, but school officials will "have to be flexible," Angel said. "We may have to build two-story or three-story buildings in-

stead of one story" if a large enough parcel is not available, he said.

Angel cited factors such as zoning and access which, aside from price, will limit the school's options.

Angel said school officials want help in locating and acquiring suitable property. "We have sent out a notice to firms or individuals who might want to help us," he said. The letters only recently were sent and there has been no response so far, he said.

"We will officially begin the search after the firm or individual is hired," Angel said. The school will choose a representative for their negotiations at a board meeting scheduled for July 3, he said.

Miller said options for acquiring property include trading an unused portion of the school's Riverside campus location. "But it (the Riverside campus) will be a permanent facility," she said. "It's part of ACC."

By DAVID SCHWARTZ  
Daily Texan Staff

Students weary of eating construction site dust and maneuvering around chain-link fences will have to put up with the inconveniences for a little while longer.

Construction at six major UT building projects — projects whose costs exceed \$300,000 — will continue through the summer, said Larry Bernhardt, resident construction manager with the UT System Office of Facility Planning Construction.

The six projects are the Business Administration-Economics Building; the new Chemical/Petroleum Engineering Building and the chilling station at 26th Street and Speedway; T.U. Taylor Hall and the power plant on East 24th Street; the football training facility at the south end of Memorial Stadium; the multilevel parking facility south of Simkins Hall; and the tennis center at 18th and Trinity streets.

The Chemical/Petroleum Engineering Building, the Taylor Hall

'Two-way traffic has resumed at 26th and Speedway and on East 24th Street. But later this summer, we will have to block part of San Jacinto Boulevard north of East 24th Street to continue work on the parking facility.'

— Larry Bernhardt, construction manager

and power plant complex and the tennis center should be completed by late fall, Bernhardt said. The football training facility has an early spring 1986 completion date and the BEB and the parking facility have summer 1986 target dates, he said.

"Two-way traffic has resumed at 26th and Speedway and on East

24th Street," Bernhardt said. "But later this summer, we will have to block part of San Jacinto Boulevard north of East 24th Street to continue work on the parking facility."

The 2600 block of Speedway had been blocked off since fall 1983 to permit the construction of a utility tunnel system for the chilling station, Bernhardt said.

The Jester Food Center, a major project being completed indoors, needs to be finished by Aug. 22, in time for the fall semester, said H.C. Lott Jr., assistant to the vice president for business affairs. The Jester facility will have its kitchen and dishwashing areas moved upstairs from the basement, Lott said.

A proposal for the construction or renovation of an academic building begins with an ad hoc committee composed of faculty members who assess their academic program and its building needs, Lott said.