

NON-CIRCULATING

TEXAS STATE
DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

TRC TODAY

TRC TODAY
a newsletter for
employees of the
Texas Rehabilitation
Commission

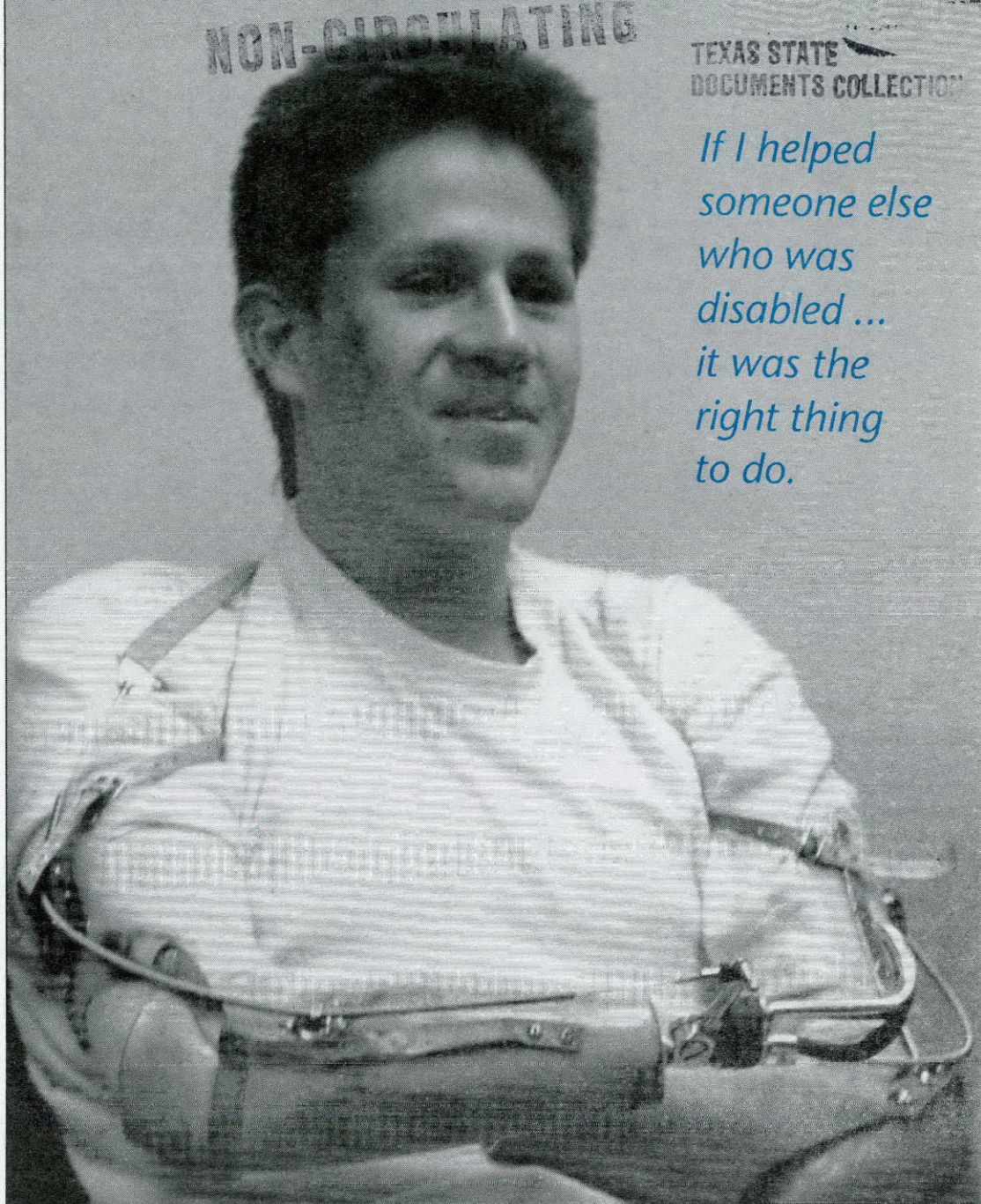
Vol. 13 No. 4
April 1991

INSIDE

DDS
celebrated
African-American
Day 4

OUTSTANDING
Employee Awards
Nominations 4

CRISTINA
FOUNDATION
Announces
winner 6



*If I helped
someone else
who was
disabled ...
it was the
right thing
to do.*

Bob Lujiano is well acquainted with challenges

Robert Lujiano has already had enough "challenges" to last a lifetime. But, he knows there are many more to come and he is ready for them.

Because of a rare blood disease that caused him to have all four of his limbs amputated near the knee and elbow at age 9, Bob is well acquainted with adversity and the need to respond to challenges.

One of the first things you notice about Bob, other than the fact that he walks very well on prosthetic devices, is his quick smile and optimism.

How so? He is thankful for the hundreds of people, from his grandmother to the hospital staff at Scottish Rite who

Continued on page 7

DEPOSITED
MAY 04 1991

Legislative Update

Federal

The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and some 42 other organizations concerned with disability issues and rehabilitation have co-signed letters to congressional committee chairs urging them to immediately consider reauthorizing the Rehabilitation Act. This reauthorization

will be necessary before appropriations can be approved for funding programs under the Act for Fiscal Year 1992. Advocates are concerned that delaying the reauthorization process will create a lag in the appropriations process and effect services to vocational rehabilitation clients. The CSAVR and the "disability coalition" is pushing for a one year reauthorization of the act with increased levels for potential funding.

President Bush sent his budget for fiscal year 1992 to Congress with a recommendation for a 5.8 percent increase over the 1991 budget for all rehabilitation programs. The budget also contains "suggestions" to allow states more flexibility in administering block grant programs - but rehabilitation programs were not included in these suggestions.

Hearings begin on ADA accessibility guidelines

The Federal Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board took another step toward finalizing accessibility guidelines for complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act in a recent public hearing in Dallas.

In the first of several public hearings to be held around the country, the ATBCB heard comments from over 30 participants on proposed regulations published in late January.

Testimony was generally favorable to ADA and the regulations in question, but two strong messages surfaced: consumers want to keep the guidelines strong and businessmen want to make them detailed for specific help with compliance.

Small businesses want the regulations to be flexible, offering alternatives for compliance. They wanted also to ensure that applications of the guidelines be made on a case-by-case basis.

By far the biggest concern was how the architectural standards will be enforced. The Board said that many complaints filed with the Department of Justice will probably end up in the courts. Litigation appears to be the only enforcement remedy for this aspect of the ADA. It could take years of court decisions to create a framework for enforcement.

For technical assistance with specific architectural accessibility problems, contact the ATBCB at 1-800-USA-ABLE.

State

The state appropriations process continues with hearings in both houses. Commissioner Arrell has completed testimony before both the House and the Senate committees. Meanwhile, as authorized by SB 111, operational audits of state agencies continue, with a report to the Legislature expected in July. Observers do not expect an appropriations act to pass both houses until the results of that audit are received. Consumers and advocates are encouraged to send their recommendations to improve the delivery of services, streamlining state agency functions or otherwise make health and human services operate more efficiently to: John Sharp, State Comptroller, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78774.



Region I

Mary Valentini, regional director, announced that Keith Fulp was selected as the administrative director for Region I. He had been the area manager in the El Paso Central Field Office and has over 14 years with the commission.

Region IV

Alan M. Craig, counselor in the Pasadena Field Office, reviewed "Program Issues in Developmental Disabilities: A Guide to Effective Habilitation and Active Treatment", 2nd Edition. This review was published in the Oct/Nov/Dec 1990 issue of *The Journal of Rehabilitation*.

Ralph G. Hasten, counselor in the Houston West Field Office, retired March 31 after 21 years of service with the commission.

Region VI

Area Manager Rudy Martinez announced that Rhonda DeTienne assumed the counselor duties at the Dallas Rehabilitation Institute Field Office and that Tereza Hall assumed the caseload duties for the Dallas epilepsy/general program.

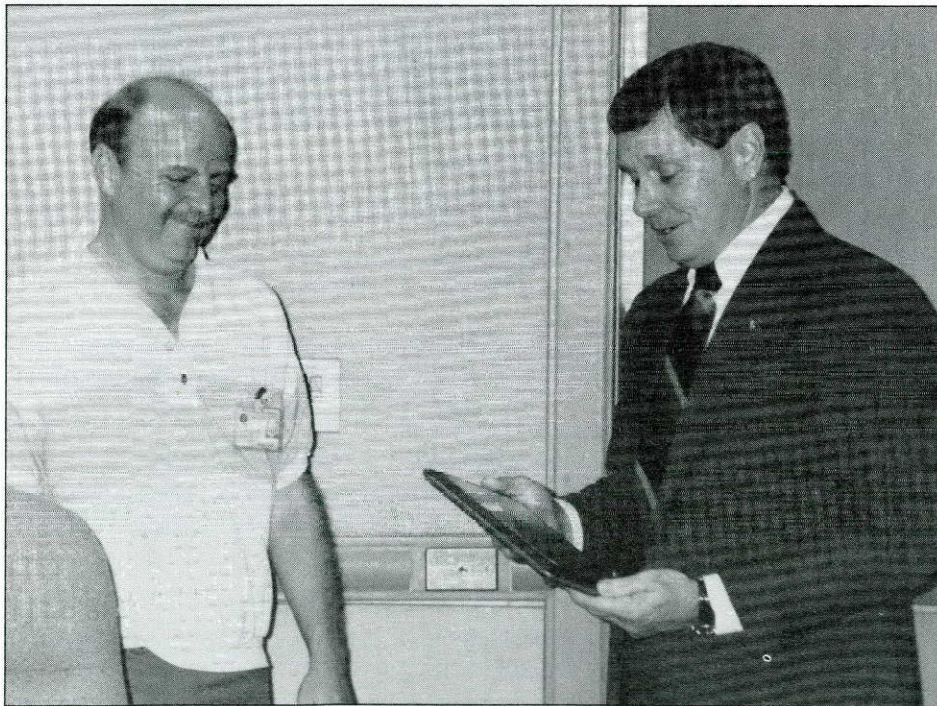
Central Office

Vicki Taylor was selected as the computer information center support specialist for the Software Development Center.

Celia Gutierrez, former DDS secretary, was selected for the CIC support technician position.

Editor's Note: If you have items of interest in the various TRC regions (including DDS and Central Office), such as local awards, press coverage, conferences, meetings or other TRC-related activities which could appear in Regional Notes, please submit them for consideration to "TRC Today" c/o the Public Information Office.

Another unsung hero



Bill Branch, a disability examiner in DDS Unit 16, receives a special citation award from the executive planning board at TRC. James L. Jackson, executive deputy commissioner, lauds the volunteer efforts of Branch. Branch, a musician with his own band, "The Highrollers," has donated his music for three of the past four years at the TRC Holiday party in Austin. His soon to be released album "On a Roll" aptly describes the new wave of appreciation for his service.

Please
contact your
coordinator
with any
questions.

The program's
success depends
upon your
participation.

Nominations are open to employees

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1991 TRC Employee of the Year Program.

Employees are encouraged to nominate other TRC employees for their contributions to the agency, fellow co-workers, clients and the community.

Nominations for Outstanding Employee of the Year can be made for Category I (Salary Groups 2-11) and Category II (Salary Groups 12-20).

Outstanding employees will be chosen in both categories from each of the six regions, the Central Office and Disability Determination Services.

Nomination forms should be forwarded to the appropriate coordinator in each region, the Central Office and Disability Determination Services. They are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Region I</i> | David Bosh
Lubbock Regional Office
806-762-0375 |
| <i>Region II</i> | Louise Wagner
Fort Worth Regional Office
817-731-7343 |
| <i>Region III</i> | Nelda Smith
Austin Regional Office
512-447-0616 |
| <i>Region IV</i> | Frankie Watson
Houston Regional Office
713-977-2613 |
| <i>Region V</i> | Terry Smith
San Antonio Regional Office
512-680-2091 |
| <i>Region VI</i> | Deloris Packer
Dallas Regional Office
214-343-0991 |
| <i>DDS</i> | Sue Arledge
DDS/RMS
512-445-8509 |
| <i>Central Office</i> | Deeanne Barnett
Human Resource Management
512-483-4322 |

Awards

TRC Service

MARCH 1991

Region I

10 years

Joyce Parkey
Shirley Austin

Region III

10 years

Carol Womack

20 years

George Loker III

25 years

Larry Gladden

Region IV

10 years

Lorraine Gomez

Region V

20 years

Fidencio Ruiz

DDS

10 years

Belinda Randolph
Carol Sander
Rebecca Kelley
William Branch
Richard C. Smith
Dorothy Sue Garcia
Walter Miller

15 years

Martha Pogue

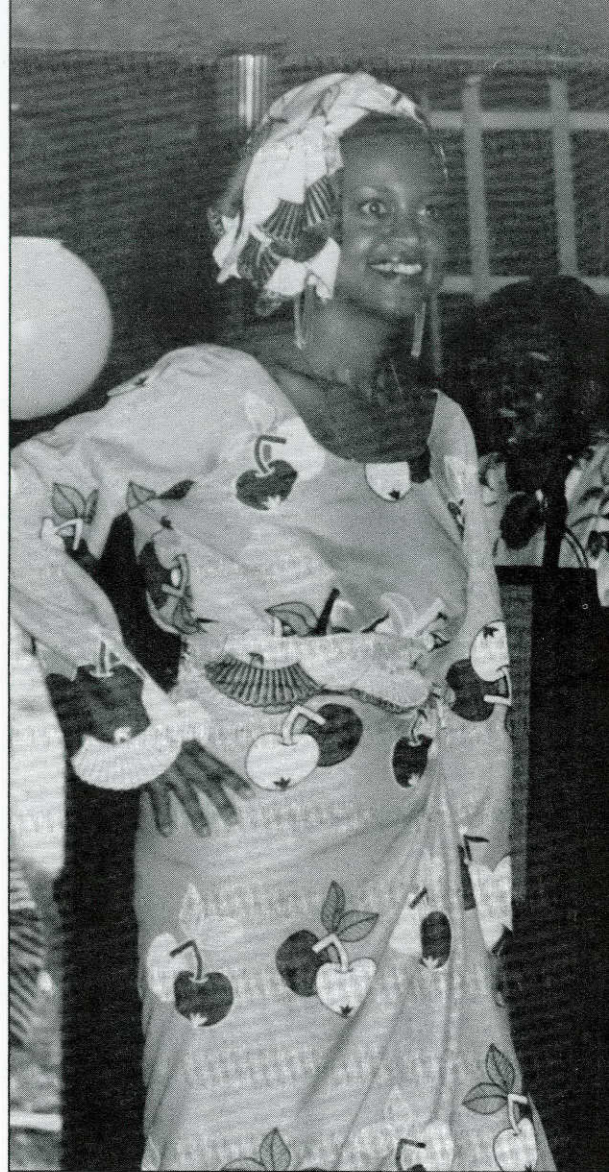
20 years

Patricia Gibbs

Central Office

25 years

Lupe Ojeda



African-American History Month Celebrated

The month of February was National African-American History Month, well documented by DDS employees in a one-day celebration of the fine contributions made by African-Americans to our country.

In addition to an elaborate graphic arts display, the occasion was punctuated with a luncheon consisting of collard greens, ham 'hocked' cabbage, cornbread and pinto beans, a menu that can draw a crowd. And it did.

More than 75 employees, family and guests hosted the luncheon at Coaxum, of the TRC Executive Information Services, a black colleges and education in Texas.

The luncheon program concluded with a black and white style show that met with a thundering round of applause.



Viola Brown, disability examiner in DDS unit 04, emcees fashion show for National African-American Month celebration. Deborah Agueze, disability examiner in DDS Unit 10, models a popular, cultural dress for the occasion.

History

American Month. It was a celebration of the many facets of African American life and culture. Held in the 118 Building, the event featured a serving of BBQ brisket, collard greens, and a peach cobbler. That is a... heard keynote speaker Rick... address the crisis in... music entertainment and a... applause.

Here is a portion of a letter that a client wrote to Rueben Franco, counselor in the Alpine Field Office:

"I want to take this time to thank you and your staff. I appreciated what you have done for me.

"I haven't felt my lower back pain since the operation.... I am getting better as days go by.

"I wanted to thank you for everything you did for me. I will never forget it."



Ann Green, area manager in the Plano Field Office, received a letter from the Titus County Special Education Cooperative. Here is a portion of that letter:

"I have been meaning to apprise you of the progress of the Vocational Opportunities Center of Northeast Texas. I am as proud of this as any accomplishment that I have had a part. It was a dream of mine upon arriving in Mt. Pleasant and seeing the great need for such a facility here. It could not have become a reality without the direct assistance and encouragement that you, Frank Perdue and Carol Barnes, gave and have continued to give us.

"Again, I thank you for you have really made a difference in the lives of our handicapped students and adults in our community by giving us something truly worthy of civic pride."



Charles Wasson, counselor in the Greenville Field Office, received the following letter from a client:

"My family and I sincerely thank you. I know without your consent and the TRC, my surgery would not have happened. I am no longer in pain. My family and I are very grateful. Thanks so much."

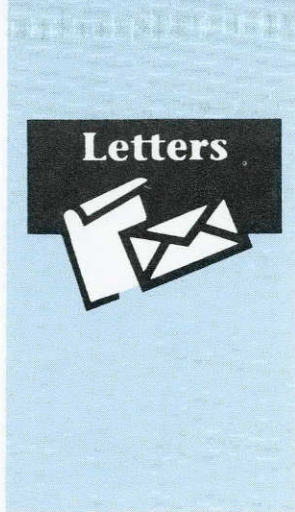


Counselor Joe Rodriguez, Eagle Pass Field Office, received the following letter:

"Here is the copy of Dale's first pay check after being released from the doctor. I will have the next ones in the mail as soon as we get them. He is doing very well and getting along great. You can hardly tell he had the operation. Thank you very much for your services and help in getting his operation done."



Continued on page 7



||
This input from those we serve and from other professionals in the field of rehab is invaluable.
||

TRC listens at public forums

"Schools should involve students, families and the community in the process of preparing for transition to working adulthood."

"The amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1986 regarding the provision of post-employment services and supported employment and the use of technology should be aggressively implemented and expanded."

"I am concerned about the quality of service, the amount of time it takes to see a counselor and to initiate services. I would like more time spent with each client in IWRP development."

"We need a statewide assessment of the rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities in Texas."

"We need to expand services to people with severe handicaps. There is a need for greater accessibility to employment opportunities through job accommodation ... and encouraging employers to hire persons with disabilities."

These comments and many others were provided by the hundreds of participants in the TRC sponsored public meetings held across Texas to encourage input for the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Texas.

This plan, when approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, will provide the structure and guidance for VR services in Texas for the next three years.

The six meetings, held in Edinburg, Brownfield, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and Crockett, drew people with disabilities, their parents, advocates and consumers, clients and allied professionals.

The comments covered the gamut from eligibility criteria and assessment of disability to the funding and special needs of persons with severe disabilities.

Many comments centered around the growing concern for meeting the needs of special education students now trying to enter the community work place and whether VR services will be able to serve them.

"This input from those we serve and from other professionals in the field of rehabilitation is invaluable," says Commissioner Arrell. "I am never confident that we have heard from enough people to feel that we are adequately meeting the needs of our clients with the resources we have."

Positive phrase wins contest

The National Cristina Foundation announced the winner for their \$50,000 prize for a word or phrase which focuses on the abilities of people with disabilities.

The winner, B Freer Freeman, is a public school media specialist from Arlington, Virginia. His winning phrase is, "People with differing abilities."

Nearly 70,000 people entered the NCF "Create a New Word Contest" which sought to call attention to some of the barriers people with disabilities face, especially when seeking employment.

"We found it very easy to agree on the choice since 'people with differing abilities,' keeps people up front and emphasizes a spectrum of abilities," stated contest-judge Harold Russell, winner of two Oscars and former chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities.

"When I heard about the contest," says Mr. Freeman, "I began to think about a word or phrase that was concise, accurate but not patronizing. I hope it helps us look at what we all have in common with each other."



Letters *continued from page 5*

Here is a portion of a letter Counselor Art Asebedo, South Austin Field Office, received from a client:

"Thanks for all your support and help throughout the years with school.

"I will, one day, when I've graduated and have built a life for myself, return such help to someone else."



Lujiano *continued from page 1*

taught him to walk, who have allowed him to be a college student and actively planning for his future.

"Much of his attitude has to do with his personal faith", says his TRC counselor Valerie Schwille. "He feels obligated to help other people because he has benefited so much from the help he has received."

In 1988, Bob was featured on the Regis Filbin and Kathy Lee TV show because of his remarkable adjustment to such a severe disability.

He hardly seems swayed by the notoriety of his television appearance and a companion human interest article in the *National Inquirer*.

Did he feel used or exploited by the appearances? "No, if I helped someone else who was disabled and in need of hope or confidence, it was the right thing to do."

Bob is thinking about a career in political science. To encourage that aspiration, he was chosen by the Texas Rehabilitation Association to be a student-sponsored delegate to the Governmental Affairs Seminar in Washington, D.C. where he could advocate for rehabilitation programs with his congressman.

"The energy of the TRA members and their activities touched my heart," he says. "Not only for me, but for all people with disabilities. It showed me another pathway."

The following is a portion of a letter received by Polly Walton, counselor in the Beaumont Field Office:

"You came into my life many years ago when I was in a time of deep despair. I had developed a severe sudden hearing loss with all that implied. Believing that life had ended you helped me see that I had only just begun. You were my counselor during those critical first days when I came to TRC and you taught me how to see what was possible rather than dwell on things lost.

"It has been 15 years. I now seek to enlist your help for another hearing impaired person.

"Can you work with her? She is my sister and I care greatly for her."



Cindy Carter sent the following to Counselor Greg Jamison, Liberty Field Office:

"I met a man today
He seemed to really care
I heard it in his words
The fact, he was sincere.

"He filled me with confidence
The kind I rarely see
He let me know, I can be
Just what I want to be!

He's helping with my problems
That I have had for years
To make me more acceptable
To my family and my peers.

"But most of all, he told me
That I really can succeed
And that I'd never have to follow
Should I decide to lead.

"I know it is his job
To do these thing for me
But, I could tell by his words
He cares, it's plain to see!"

Cindy Carter

Lucy Walker wins speech trophy

**From
terror to
elation
in 94
days**



Admittedly terrified, Lucy Walker, (left) information specialist for the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, gave her first talk at TRC Talkers Toastmasters Club in the Central Office on December 11, 1990. Just 94 days later, a more confident, self-assured Lucy bested three other more experienced speakers to take second place in the Toastmasters Area 42 Speech contest. Her reaction: "I received a lot of help from the other TRC Talkers members." Some of those members (L-R), Watt Pye, Linda Hall, Dawn Bosley, and Juliet Swieczkowski agreed as they brandished her trophy.



"TRC TODAY" is published by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for distribution to its employees and retirees throughout the state. We welcome submissions for publication, but reserve the right to edit or screen materials according to newsletter policy. Address submissions or inquiries to Randy Jennings, Public Information Office, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751-2316; or telephone (512) 483-4421.

Randy Jennings Editor
Susan Antoniewicz Illustrator
Jon Janas.....Photographer
Printing Services Printing
Kaye Beneke.....Assistant Deputy
Commissioner

**TEXAS REHABILITATION COMMISSION
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751-2316**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1605

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS 63
DOCUMENTS DEPARTMENT
NTSU LIBRARY
BOX 5188 N T STATION
DENTON TX 76203