

ROBERT RIVARD

Robert Rivard, 57, is the editor and executive vice president for news at the San Antonio Express-News, a Hearst newspaper. San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the United States, located three hours north of the Mexican border, and is home to one of the largest Latino populations in the country.

Bob has worked for five different Texas newspapers over his 33-year career. He also served for 10 years as a foreign correspondent in Latin America and as a senior editor at Newsweek magazine in New York. In April 2000, he was chosen by Editor & Publisher magazine in New York as its first annual newspaper "Editor of the Year."

Two years later Rivard received journalism's oldest award, the prestigious Maria Moor Cabot Award from Columbia University, for his years of work as a reporter and editor in Latin America and along the U.S.-Mexico border.

<http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/cabot/search.asp?award=cabot&search=true&eventID=90&name=&organization=&location=&other=&x=56&y=17>

"Trail of Feathers: Searching for Philip True," Rivard's first book, chronicles the disappearance and murder of Philip True, the Express-News Mexico City bureau chief. It was published by Public Affairs in New York in 2005. The paperback edition was published in 2006.

<http://www.publicaffairsbooks.com/publicaffairsbooks-cgi-bin/display?book=9781586482220>
www.robertrivard.com

Rivard went to Mexico to lead the search for True. After persuading officials in the administration of President Zedillo to launch an all-out military search and rescue mission in the remote Sierra Madre of western Mexico, Rivard joined the lead search party and was part of a small group that located True's hidden grave in the Chapalagana Canyon in Huichol Indian territory. The book was widely reviewed, briefly excerpted in Esquire magazine, and selected by People magazine as one of five recommended nonfiction works in 2005. The New York Times's William Grimes described Rivard's search for True and his six-year pursuit of True's killers through Mexico's justice system as "quietly heroic."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/28/books/28book.html>

Rivard began his career in journalism in 1977 as a sports reporter for the Brownsville Herald. He moved to the Corpus Christi Caller in 1978 and one year later joined the Dallas Times Herald. He moved to Central America in 1981 to open a news bureau to cover the region's civil wars. From his base in San Jose, Costa Rica, he covered conflicts in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala and the Reagan administration's efforts to back the region's military regimes against guerrilla insurgencies. He also covered the Falkland Islands war between Argentina and Great Britain in 1982.

Later that same year, he was awarded one of journalism's top awards, the Society of Professional Journalists' Distinguished Service Award for Foreign Correspondents. Judges singled out his writings on military-backed death squads operating in El Salvador.

In 1983, he was hired by Newsweek to open its news bureau in El Salvador and to serve as the magazine's Central American bureau chief. After two more years of covering civil wars and the death of his working partner and Newsweek photographer, John Hoagland, who was killed in a crossfire between soldiers and guerillas, Rivard and his wife, Monika Maeckle, and their newborn son, Nicolas, returned to the United States. He was promoted to a senior editor position in New York, and until his return to Texas in 1990; he served as Newsweek's chief of correspondents, overseeing the magazine's corps of reporters in 30 national and foreign bureaus. The work gave Rivard the opportunity to travel the world during his five-year assignment, to meet many world leaders and to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.

Rivard joined the San Antonio Light and worked as its deputy managing editor until it closed in 1993. He then joined the Express-News, where he was named managing editor in 1994, and editor in 1997. He marked his 11th anniversary in that position in August.

Rivard is a 1996 political science graduate from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a 1996 graduate of Northwestern University's Executive Management Program at its Media Management Center. He was selected by his alma mater, UTSA, as "Alumnus of the Year" in September of 2000. He has been married for 28 years to Monika Maeckle, who serves as the Southwest U.S. vice president for Business Wire, a Berkshire Hathaway company. They have two sons, Nick, 25, an architect in Austin, and Alex, 22, a junior at Texas State University in San Marcos and a member of the Austin band Focus Group.