

working to improve composition instruction in this country.

The fate of E 346K and the lecturers appears to already have been settled by administrative fiat similar to Nixon's "Saturday Night Massacre" of the first Special Prosecutor in the Watergate case. If these issues are indeed now moot, then civility and professional decorum are all that remain to be argued. I thus contend that the destructive acrimony of the current debate would be lessened if Gribben would heed his own good advice and refrain from "deriding our faculty and their teaching accomplishments."

David Hadley

English graduate student

Writing for all students

Regardless of the merits of continuing or discontinuing English 346K, it is clear that insistence on writing is a University-wide obligation rather than the responsibility of the Department of English only. Modest proposals for improvement include increasing the number of required courses with an SWC (a.k.a. Substantive Writing Component — "substantive" here is a rather relative term) and the abolition of multiple-choice exams, for a start, just in the College of Liberal Arts. Writing — whether in the form of essay exams, papers, or reports — should be a normal semesterly occurrence for all students rather than being reserved for special occasions or segregated courses.

The notion simply needs to be laid to rest that writing somehow is an extraordinary activity, whether during the students' University years or in their subsequent careers. Otherwise, similar essentials such as thinking will be next on the list of "special" activities and we will need to designate courses for their Substantive Thinking Component.

Karl Galinsky

Chairman, Classics

Gribben's attack unfair

Associate Professor Alan Gribben's recent attack (*Texan*, Feb. 22) by innuendo on the motives of everyone involved in the E 346K controversy who doesn't share his idiosyncratic view of reality must not go unchallenged. Gribben's attack begins by maligning the lecturers; they care only about saving their jobs. He then attacks the motives of the rhetoric and composition faculty members. Their interests are merely financial, colored, no doubt, by concern for "their potentially lucrative textbooks."

Gribben, on the other hand, works hard and wants only to see the beleaguered Department of English "regain its momentum toward overtaking the 10 top-ranked English departments in the nation." What he fails to mention, and presumably to understand, is that any momentum that the UT Department of English ever had toward becoming a Top 10 department was provided by the innovative programs and the national reputations of the rhetoric and composition faculty whose programs and motives he has impugned.

The current power play in the Department of English is ugly and self-destructive. The rhetoric program is being destroyed. Let's not allow the destruction to extend to the reputations of professors like James Kinneavy, who has spent his life

Correction — In a Firing Line letter printed Thursday, James Skaggs, lecturer in English, was referred to as Mr. Skaggs. The fact that Skaggs holds a Ph.D. never was mentioned. Although the reference to Skaggs was printed verbatim from the letter, the *Texan* regrets any misunderstanding the reference may have caused.