

Volume 2, No. 1

September 1990



Polemistic

A journal must have polemic, if it is to struggle. —Karl Marx

E306 Attacked:

The New Right Assaults Diversity at UT

(page 4)

E306: Chronicle of a Smear Campaign

How the New Right Attacks Diversity

by Scott Henson
and Tom Philpott

When the University of Texas English department began the process of revising the syllabus for the required freshman writing class English 306—basing the revised class on issues of “difference”—a few members of the faculty reacted with shrill cries of protest. Philosophy professor Dan Bonevac openly rebaited the class’s advocates, declaring the course “Marxism 306” on a local TV show. Government professor Jay Budziszewski called the course “indoctrination in bigotry,” and accused it of “serving the ends of hatred.”

The class had been approved by the Lower Division English Policy Committee as well as by Liberal Arts Dean Standish Meacham, and was scheduled to begin in the fall. But then, under pressure from President Bill Cunningham and Provost Gerhard Fonken, Dean Meacham postponed the new curriculum for a year, leaving the course without a syllabus four weeks before it was to begin.

Heresy in the Classroom

What heresies had the English department concocted to impose upon the youthful minds of incoming freshmen? Under the new syllabus, the course would consist of readings from Federal and Supreme Court decisions concerning various civil rights cases, notably “Sweatt vs. Painter,” which resulted in the admission of UT’s first African American student.

Using majority opinions, dissenting opinions, and arguments from both plaintiffs and defendants, the course would require students to form opinions and support their arguments with evidence, using the legal texts to back up their claims. But English prof Alan Gribben, the course’s loudest critic, calls that “thought control.”

The prevailing myth, popularized by Gribben’s and others’ declarations that the course was rushed through “hastily,” assumes that the course was designed in response to demonstrations last spring led by the Black Student Alliance (BSA) calling for the creation of a more diverse curriculum. Actually, the planning for the revised E 306 began last fall.

In May after the committee had approved the class’s texts, Brodkey created an ad hoc committee composed of four professors and eight graduate students (grad students teach E 306) to write the syllabus. By mid-June, according to Brodkey, it became clear that one of the texts the committee approved, Paula Rothenberg’s *Racism and Sexism*, was unsuitable for the format of the new E 306. Already under pressure from right-

wing attacks in the media, Brodkey and Kruppa dropped the textbook. Dean Meacham provided her and a graduate student funds to expand a supplementary packet in lieu of the book.

On July 9, about three weeks after the book was dropped, the two committee members who didn’t support the change, John Ruskiewicz and James Duban, sent Brodkey a letter saying “all members of the LDEPC should be kept current about materials being considered for this expanded packet.” They concluded by stating, “We hope you’ll keep us informed.” The following day Brodkey responded with a short memo thanking them for their concern and telling them that “I plan to keep the members of the Lower Division English Policy Committee informed.”

Ruskiewicz and Duban claim that their letter was a specific request for information on the expanded packet. Brodkey, who hadn’t yet finished com-

pleting the packet, didn’t take it as a request. She says the information was available if they had bothered to call or come to her office and look at it.



Without contacting Brodkey beforehand or making any further attempts to review the expanded packet, Duban and Ruskiewicz resigned from the committee the next day. Duban charged Brodkey with “secrecy.” Despite the ambiguity of his and Ruskiewicz’s letter, Duban told *The Texan* that “I resigned because after seeking specific information from the chair of that committee about the packet ... I did not receive a satisfactory response.”

The Backlash

This charge of secrecy fueled the already growing right-wing attack on the course, which held that Brodkey’s alleged obfuscations betrayed an overt political agenda. Ruskiewicz himself added to

this hysteria in a July 24 *Texan* guest column in which he declared that “the E 306 curriculum changes were compromised by their ideological freight and by a rush to do what seemed politically correct on this campus at the moment.” Ruskiewicz failed to show how the opinions of Supreme Court judges and lawyers would constitute any “ideological freight” that would conflict with mainstream sensibilities.

While Ruskiewicz and Duban did raise some pedagogical concerns, their allies in the battle focused solely on politics. Ruskiewicz acknowledges that the “core” of the opposition to the course came from the Texas Association of Scholars, a local chapter funded by a national right-wing faculty group, the National Association of Scholars (see sidebar). The NAS receives much of its funding from the right-wing John M. Olin and Sarah Scaife foundations, which subsidize New Right groups including

the Heritage Foundation, Freedom House, the Committee on the Present Danger and Accuracy in Media.

The Nation and *The New York Times* reported that at its first national conference in 1988, an NAS crowd of 300 cheered when Alan Kors, a professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, advised his colleagues to “use ridicule” to combat African-American, gay and feminist activists. When a UT faculty member contacted the NAS for information, a representative bragged to him that recently “our Texas chapter helped to defeat, er, postpone an English course” at UT.

The TAS collected 56 faculty signatures—only 7 from the English department—on a “Statement of Academic Concern” attacking the revised course. The statement continued the ongoing smear campaign against E 306. It falsely declared that the title of the course would

change from “Rhetoric and Composition” to “Difference—Racism and Sexism.” It went on to perpetuate the misrepresentations of the class as indoctrination, claiming the course would only teach a “single hegemonic view.”

The statement was published as an advertisement in *The Daily Texan*. TAS collected funds for the ad and cut the check, yet its name appeared nowhere on the ad.

When contacted later, the majority of the faculty we talked to who signed the ad weren’t associated with TAS, and non-members weren’t told that TAS had coordinated the effort. Clarke Burnham of the Psychology department, for example, is not a TAS member, was not aware of TAS’s involvement and had never even heard of the national organization. Karl Galinsky, former chair of the Classics department, is actually a member of the National Association of Scholars—but wasn’t aware even of the existence of TAS, much less that it had sponsored the ad.

A Man With a Plan

In an article in the fall 1989 edition of the NAS journal *Academic Questions* called “English Departments: Salvaging What Remains,” Alan Gribben lays out a 10-point strategy for “salvaging the remnants of the discipline of English.”

He sets up a specious dichotomy in English departments between “pluralists” (in whose number he counts himself) and “neo-Marxists.” Of the struggle between the two, he declares that the “prizes for the victors will be nothing less than the minds and emotions of an entire generation of undergraduate students.” He laments that the struggle “has already cost us most of the current generation of graduate students,” and vows to fight the trend. (This proprietary attitude toward the “mind and emotions” of students comes from a man who called the revised E306 the “most massive attempt at thought control ever attempted on campus.”)

Gribben writes that “the American public is overwhelmingly on our side in this struggle.” And since “neo-Marxists” control the university, it’s necessary for “pluralist” academics like himself to take the “struggle” outside the academy to the public. When that happens, he writes, “we can expect a gasp of indignation.” He declares that professors “who would oppose the takeover of our discipline” must “Organize or Retire.”

It was in this spirit that Gribben took the battle for E306 to the state media and directly to UT alumni. He published diatribes against the class in the statewide press. Anne Blakeney, a member of the Liberal Arts Foundation Council—

The postponement of E306 wasn't the first victory this summer for the organized right on campus. Responding in late June to the complaints of "Students Advocating a Valid Education" (SAVE)—a right-wing student group under the tutelage of TAS president Joe Horn—the College of Communications tightly restricted the distribution of *Tejas*, a magazine funded by the Mexican-American Studies Center and published through a class in the journalism department.

Tejas, which began in the spring of 1989, covers the campus and writes about culture from a Mexican-American perspective. Its major subjects have included the UT administration's attempts to sugar-coat its ineffective, underfunded minority-recruitment and retention programs, the dearth of minority faculty, and *The Daily Texan's* failure to seriously cover UT's minority community.

By mid-spring of 1990, such stances had already captured the attention of campus conservatives. SAVE was formed, according to *The Daily Texan*, by members of the Young Conservatives of Texas and the College Republicans. It was launched in the spring explicitly to oppose the student demands for curriculum reform, including the Black Student Alliance's PRIDE proposal and the Mexican-American group Todos Unidos' "Manifiesto" proposal.

According to the list of registered student organizations in the Campus Activities office, Geoff Henley serves as president of SAVE and YCT chairman Scott Gaille is listed as Vice President in charge of "Issues." Henley had already made headlines the previous fall by counterdemonstrating at a Gay/Lesbian Rights rally, where he was photographed by *The Texan* holding up a sign advocating "Gays are criminals, put them in jail." Another counterdemonstrator on the same day held up a sign declaring "Hooray for the Earthquake," days after the deadly '89 San Francisco earthquake, presumably be-

cause of the strong gay community in San Francisco.

According to the Aug. 1 *Chronicle of Higher Education*, several SAVE members attempted to infiltrate *Tejas* by signing up for the class during spring pre-registration. The ploy failed when the resulting overload of students caused registration for the course to be delayed.

Then associate liberal arts dean Joe Horn addressed SAVE's first meeting in April and declared, "I'm opposed to indoctrinating white students with affirmative action and preferential treatment of minorities." He called the Black Student Alliance's proposals for curriculum reform "exclusionary" and called on students to "work through sympa-

'Tejas': The Attack on Diverse Press

thetic faculty to prevent such [multicultural] classes from happening again."

But soon after, *Tejas* really succeeded in drawing SAVE's ire—in its May issue, it published a sharp critique of Dean Horn. The article presented a detailed account of Horn's talk to SAVE, and lambasted his scholarship, in which he attributes racial disparities in standardized test scores not to cultural bias but to racial differences in intelligence. An editorial related to the article concluded that while Horn had a right to his opinions, they are in direct contradiction to stated Liberal Arts College policy and that he should therefore resign as dean.

Horn has been a prominent figure in right-wing campus politics at both the student and faculty levels, especially in the last year. He served as faculty advisor for the Campus Coalition for Free Speech, formed in Fall '89 to combat the implementation of a campus racial harassment policy. Horn acts as president of the Texas Association of Scholars, which

became prominent in the E 306 controversy this summer (see accompanying article). Currently Horn serves as faculty advisor for the *University Review*, a right-wing UT newspaper funded by the Institute for Educational Affairs (see chastisement page).

SAVE responded to the Horn articles with an attack on *Tejas's* funding source. The June 4 *Daily Texan* reported that Geoff Henley wrote a letter to the office of the vice provost charging that *Tejas's* support from the Mexican-American Studies Center violates state law. Henley argued in his letter that Texas appropriations code prohibits state agencies from using state funds to publicize or direct attention to public officials or

employees of state agencies.

The letter set *Tejas* on a collision course with Provost Gerhard Fonken's office and the College of Communications. Patricia Ohlendorf, associate vice president in the office of the provost, handled the case for the administration. She works under Fonken, who has played a regressive role in racial issues in the past: He helped shut down the revised E306 (see accompanying article), and hindered the English department's attempts to hire African-American faculty last year (see "Racism or Incompetence?" November 1989 *Polemicist*).

Curiously, even though Ohlendorf disagreed with SAVE that *Tejas* published in violation of state law, she still acted in service of their agenda. She found a UT rule banning publications the University funds, but doesn't control, and claimed *Tejas* violated it. On July 6, Ohlendorf, along with Communications College Dean Robert Jeffrey, announced

that *Tejas* would be cut from access to Mexican-American Studies Center funding. Jeffrey defended the decision in the July 7 *Texan*, saying that "Without this policy, any professor on campus with a political interest could gather students, offer them an independent-study course, and produce a newspaper expressing his political views."

But then, after a barrage of publicity—including an article in *The New York Times* and a Texas Senate resolution calling on the UT System Board of Regents to "amend all rules necessary" to allow publication of the paper—Ohlendorf and Jeffrey backtracked a bit. Instead of banning *Tejas* outright, Jeffrey announced in the July 25 *Texan*, he would limit its distribution to members of the class and to members of the journalism department faculty. Funds for any broader circulation would have to be generated privately. Working with Ohlendorf, Jeffrey had ruled that the "educational" purpose of *Tejas* lay only in the actual production of it, and not in its dissemination. In other words, Ohlendorf and Jeffrey were saying that *Tejas* offers no educational value to its readers.

Despite their partial victory, SAVE members expressed disappointment that *Tejas's* funding source wasn't eliminated outright. "I was hoping they weren't going to receive any kind of state legitimacy," Henley told *The Texan*. "If they were really sincere about being a [journalism class] newspaper, they would not try to distribute [outside of the college of Communications]."

Still, Henley and his SAVE cohorts had succeeded in punishing a publication that had attacked their mentor, Horn, and in preserving white male hegemony in the academy. That same agenda would be served later in the summer by the Texas Association of Scholars—again with a little help from Fonken's office.

—by Scott Henson
and Tom Philpott

an alumni group, most of whom donate at least \$1000 per year to the Liberal Arts college—read a Gribben polemic in the *Dallas Morning News* and wrote him requesting more information. His response, obtained from Dean Meacham's office through the Texas Open Records Act, reveals an agenda that the TAS forgot to mention in its "Statement of Academic Concern."

Gribben writes gravely in his July 9 letter of an English department under "domination by a highly politicized faction of radical literary theorists." He issues the following prescriptions: 1) the "the English department should be placed in receivership indefinitely ... and then be governed by a new English Chairman appointed directly by Gerhard Fonken, Executive Vice President and Provost;" 2) "During this period of receivership the department's faculty should be di-

vided into a Department of Critical Theory and Cultural Studies and a Department of English Literature and Language;" and 3) "barring the accomplishment of these steps, the two university-wide required English courses (E. 306 and E. 316K) should be abolished, thus ending the necessity of hiring additional English professors at the rate they have been recruited for the past decade from the most radicalized (but prestigious) graduate programs across the nations [sic]."

Gribben then hints that even these rather drastic measures won't remedy the situation unless Dean Meacham, a supporter of cultural inclusiveness in the classroom, is removed. "Most vital of all," he declares, "will be a comprehending College of Liberal Arts Dean with nerve and a determination to oversee the recruiting policies and decisions of the

English department, which has lost all sense of tradition, direction, civility, and academic freedom in the classroom." Gribben's letter also alludes to Blakeney's "offer of assistance in my effort to halt the new E. 306 course, reform my out-of-control department, and rescue my academic career at U.T." And Gribben makes a muted plea for help from other members of the Council. He writes: "only members of the Liberal Arts Foundation Council actually understand how the University operates and what it will take to effect any significant improvement in the English department situation."

Blakeney responded to the plea by writing a letter to the president of the Liberal Arts Advisory Council, Drew Cauthorn, urging him to take seriously Gribben's wild-eyed complaints. The undated letter, obtained from Meacham's

files under the Open Records Act, argues that "the state of the English department and the subject of multiculturalism ... must be discussed further and in some way resolved" by the Advisory Foundation at a meeting scheduled for this fall. She goes on to write that "since Standish Meacham is the point man for multiculturalism in the college, we need to be informed of views balancing his in order to see the whole picture." The man to provide that balancing view, she continues, is none other than Alan Gribben—who by that time still hadn't so much as asked to see the readings, much less the syllabus, for the E306 course.

To his credit, Cauthorn replied in a letter to Blakeney, dated July 31, that the Foundation had no business intervening in departmental affairs. He asked her to

see E306, page 7...

The recent assaults on English 306 and on *Tejas* represent merely local manifestations of a right wing assault on universities around the country. The backlash against the course has a carefully crafted political agenda, one that needs to be clearly understood. Partly it can be deduced from reading one Texas Association of Scholars newsletter, and statements by its members. But far richer is the array of materials, statements and actions generated by its parent organization—the National Association of Scholars.

Origins of the NAS

Apparently in 1985 the right-wing Committee for the Free World, directed by Midge Decter (wife of neo-conservative Norman Podhoretz), member of the board at the Institute for Educational Affairs [see *chastisements*] and Heritage Foundation boardmember, helped found a group called the Campus Coalition for Democracy (CCD), using money obtained from the equally right-wing Smith-Richardson Foundation. The CCD's chairman of the board was Herbert I. London, a dean at New York University, and its president was Stephen Balch, a professor of government at the City University of New York.

In spring of 1986, *Society* magazine published a series of articles, introduced by Balch, attacking "the politicization of scholarship" by the Left. In October 1986, the conservative journal *Commentary* published a similar but much longer article on "The Tenured Left" by Balch and London. In those articles they construct two arguments: First, that "the Left" was well on its way to taking over the academy and Second, that previous efforts to check this Leftist takeover—specifically cited was Reed Irvine's notorious Accuracy in Academia—had failed. They called for a new, more effective campaign to kick the Marxists out of academe.

In 1987, the same year Alan Bloom published his book-length attack on radicalism in the University, *The Closing of the American Mind*, Herbert London intensified his own offensive against the Left. In the January issue of *The World and I*, he warned of "Marxism Thriving on American Campuses." In the May-June issue of the *Futurist*, he prophesied the "Death of the University." London's article in *The World and I* merits interest more because of its place than its content. *The World and I* is published by the political network built by Rev. Sun Myung Moon, a religio-political fanatic with close ties to fascists and other ultrarightists all over the world. London, as it turns out, also writes regularly for another Moonie publication *The New York Tribune*, and sits on its editorial board of advisors.

By late 1987 and early 1988 the

National Association of Scholars formed, with Herbert London as Chairman of the Board and Stephen Balch, President. A new journal, *Academic Questions*, was published to provide a vehicle for publicizing their views. London, who edits the journal, laid out the battle ground in that first issue: The enemies were the "radicals" and the "liberal majority" that surrendered the initiative to them.

The prime targets of that first issue were feminist scholarship, literary theory and student evaluation of teachers. Since then, various issues have carried articles attacking affirmative action, peace studies, evolution, and "Left" influence in African, Latin American and Asian studies. In the journal—as well as the NAS newsletter—there have also been reports from the front lines of the crusade: sometimes lamenting defeats, as at Stanford where the Western Civilization course was broadened, and sometimes celebrating victories, as at Michigan where an anti-harassment code was successfully challenged.

Foundation since 1977, Edwin Feulner, sits on the board of trustees at the Scaife Foundation. (Heritage Foundation owns Heritage Features, which distributes Dallas-columnist William Murchison's articles. Murchison wrote a total of four diatribes against the UT English department—including two attacking E 306 itself, and one decrying "the persecution of Alan Gribben." These articles were repeatedly cited by angry alumni in various letters to administrators.) Feulner also sits on the board at the Institute for Educational Affairs.

Scaife owns several media outlets, including newspapers in the northeast, and during the late '60s and '70s operated Forum World Features, a London-based news agency. The *Review* article says "Scaife shut down Forum in 1975 shortly before *Time Out*, a British weekly, published a purported 1968 CIA memorandum, addressed to then-director Richard Helms, which described Forum as a CIA-sponsored operation providing 'a significant means to counter Communist propaganda.' The Forum-CIA tie, which

reau on American Education ... staffed by NAS members who have earned national reputations as writers and speakers on a wide range of educational issues." Among the topics listed in this "wide range" are: "Academic Freedom," "Academic Feminism," "Affirmative Action and the University," "Education and Indoctrination," "Ethnic Studies," "The Nature of the Core Curriculum," "The Place of the Great Books in the Curriculum," "The Politicization of Education," "The Decline of Intellectual Standards," and "Western Civilization and its Critics."

Speakers in the Bureau include both Balch and London, representatives of the Institute for Educational Affairs, and Alan Kors, a history professor from U. Penn known for his polemical and inflammatory statements.

The NAS's latest project attempts, like the anti-E 306 campaign, to change universities by lobbying groups outside the university. Specifically, according to a letter received by an NAS member, "the NAS is now collaborating with two other organizations, the Madison Center and the Institute for Educational Affairs to produce what we think will be a rather innovative guide to American undergraduate education: one that seriously examines issues relating to curricular structure, intellectual standards, the politicization of campus life, safety on campus, etc. The objective will be to create a ready reference tool for students and parents."

The Madison Center was founded in 1988 by Alan Bloom and former right-wing Education Secretary turned drug czar William Bennett, who worked for the Heritage Foundation before joining the Reagan administration.

To gather information for the guide, the Madison Center sent a 38 page questionnaire to all NAS members. The document asks members such questions as "Are there any groups on campus critical of the core [curriculum]? If so, which groups and why?" Or, "Do homosexuals comprise a vocal, active interest group on campus? ... What are their objectives?" Madison also wants to know "Are there minority and/or women's study centers on campus? If so, what is their role?" Another question asks "Are many courses used for indoctrination?"

Clearly from the questions asked and the people chosen to answer them, the Madison Center doesn't intend to create an apolitical handbook to choosing universities. Instead, the academic right will use this "guide" as a club to scare universities into caving into its agenda for fear of a parental backlash.

The Local Boys

The local affiliate of the NAS, the Texas Association of Scholars, made its public debut last spring with the publication of a newsletter in March. Psychology professor and former as-

NAS: The New Right & UT

Following the Money

A look at the funding sources of the NAS confirms its right wing bias. It's two main funding sources are the right-wing John M. Olin and Sarah Scaife Foundations. The Olin Foundation, which boasts as its president William Simon, noted New Right author and activist and Treasury Secretary under Richard Nixon, donated \$85 thousand to the NAS in 1988 according to its 990-F tax return.

In his bestselling 1979 book *A Time for Truth*, Simon lays out his Ayn Randian philosophy concerning philanthropy: "Business must cease the mindless subsidizing of colleges and universities whose departments of economics, government, politics and history are hostile to capitalism." Simon fears that "capitalism is no longer the dominant orthodoxy" in universities today, and believes that sound, pro-capitalist philanthropy can save the universities. "Business money must flow generously to those colleges and universities which do offer their students an opportunity to become well educated not only in collectivist theory but in conservative and Libertarian principles as well."

The Sarah Scaife Foundation lists as its president Richard Mellon Scaife, heir to the Mellon fortune and important funder of the New Right. According to a landmark July/August 1981 *Columbia Journalism Review* article, Scaife teamed up with Joseph Coors to provide seed money for the Heritage Foundation in 1974. The president of the Heritage

lasted into the seventies, has been confirmed by various British and American publications." Scaife's foundation funds right-wing organizations from Accuracy in Media to Freedom House to the Committee on the Present Danger.

Apparently the Scaife Foundation feels its getting its money's worth from the National Association of Scholars—in 1988 Scaife gave NAS \$50,000 according to its tax return; in 1989 according to the Scaife annual report, the NAS received \$300,000.

Dues paid by NAS members go to the national organization, presumably to pay for subscriptions to *Academic Questions*. According to two TAS members, the funds for TAS functions like its spring conference and its newsletter come from the national organization.

That a national conservative crusade on college campuses should be funded by right-wing sources is not surprising; it merely confirms the particular political character of the enterprise.

Personalities and Activities

The NAS lists as its supporters an impressive array of rightist scholars. Its board of advisors names: Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and noted war criminal; Irving Kristol, New Rightist and editor of *The Public Interest*; and John Silber, fired UT Arts and Sciences dean and current archconservative candidate for governor in Massachusetts.

The NAS sponsors a "Speakers Bu-

E306 assault

...continued from page 5

pursue her agenda in an "individual capacity and not as a member of the Foundation," thus squashing Blakeney's and Gribben's hope that this particular group of large donors could as an institution dictate English department policy.

The politics of Jim Duban

Incredibly, even after details of Gribben's letter and tactics had been revealed, James Duban still insisted that the opposition to the course had been pedagogical, not political. And when asked in an interview whether he thought Bonevac ("Marxism 306") or Budziszewski ("serving the ends of hatred") had misrepresented the course's content, he declined to distance himself from either statement.

He presented himself in public as an intellectual above the fray, concerned only with the students who would be victimized by discussing issues of difference instead of only writing mechanics in a composition course. He complained bitterly in a *Texan* column that

the revised course would have forsaken the goal of teaching students to write, despite the fact that every graded assignment in the class would still be a writing assignment. He called for the use of a 56-point check list of what makes good writing, ignoring that in any class students would still have to write about something. But his actions before and after the postponement reveal a man as versed in the methods of hard-ball politics as writing pedagogy.

When faculty supporters of the course drafted a letter to *The Texan* to "deplore the unprofessional manner in which opponents of the new syllabus for E306 misrepresented the substance and aims of the course," Duban threatened at least one member of the English faculty—lecturer Sue Heinzelman—with a libel suit if she signed it. He added that he would sue anyone else who signed the petition as well.

Susan Heinzelman says Duban's actions constitute "sexual harassment." "When a full professor calls up an untenured lecturer who's a woman at 11 o'clock on a Friday night and threatens her with a libel suit, that's sexual harassment," she explained.

Duban's attempt at intimidation failed—Heinzelman, along with 42 others, eventually signed the letter. It appeared in the August 10 *Daily Texan*, although with the word "unprofessional" omitted. Duban has yet to make good on

his threats—when he consulted an attorney about suing, he was rightfully told that he had no grounds for a legal action. Interestingly, Duban admitted to *Polemicist* that he had threatened Heinzelman, but when a *Texan* reporter questioned him on the subject, Duban, the champion of academic integrity, denied it.

Also in conflict with his disinterested, apolitical public pose, Duban apparently offered to travel around the state to present "informed views" on multiculturalism in the English department in general and the revised E306 in particular. Anne Blakeney, in her letter to Cauthorn, names Duban as one of the professors who, along with Gribben, offered to "travel to different cities to address members of the Council" on the evils of the proposed E 306 reforms. Clearly, his offer to join Alan Gribben on a state-wide series of meetings with major alumni donors—to enlist their support in thwarting cultural inclusiveness in the English department—more than qualifies as a political act.

Cunningham enters the fray early

UT faculty speculate that alumni pressure inspired by such outbursts caused President Cunningham and Provost Fonken to undermine the course. Just before presstime, *Polemicist* discovered

evidence that places Cunningham's decision to cancel the class sometime between July 9 and July 11—more than a week before either Brodkey or English department chair Kruppa had heard of the postponement of the course. In a handwritten letter to Cunningham received in his office on July 9 and acquired by *Polemicist* under the Open Records Act, a Dallas woman named Banett Valenta pleaded with Cunningham to stop the implementation of E306. At the bottom of the letter, presumably in Cunningham's handwriting, the following was scrawled: "Send her a thank you note. Tell her that the English Department has decided [illegible] rethink their decision and that the course will not be modified this fall." A brief letter to Valenta dated July 11, signed by Cunningham, states: "After careful consideration, the Department has decided that the course will not be modified this fall." Kruppa, in a Sept. 1 phone interview, expressed surprise that the department he runs had cancelled the course modifications by July 11. He had left for vacation on July 10. In fact, the department itself didn't make the decision to postpone the class—Kruppa was informed of the decision on July 20, at a meeting with Provost Gerhard Fonken and Meacham. Dean Meacham, who officially made the decision to postpone the

see E306, page 18...

sociate liberal arts dean Joe Horn serves as president of the TAS, and serves along with Psychology Professor Del Thiessen as editor of the newsletter. An anonymous TAS "Policy Statement" on the first page of the newsletter mimics NAS redbaiting rhetoric, saying the TAS is "concerned that extremist ideological currents are influencing academia in ways that are antithetical to constructive scholarly exchange." It also called for the creation of an "information base that can be used by administrators, legislators and others for evaluating academic policy."

In that same issue, an example of Horn's scholarship appeared on page one, where he announced that "Many people believe that inadequate funding is responsible for the poor academic performance of children ... A better explanation is found in the fact that we do not require our children to do better!"

TAS then sponsored a March 30 conference entitled "Ideologically-Based Suppression of Research in Social Science"—countering the Herman Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights. The primary field of "research" whose suppression worried speakers was sociobiology—examples chosen included work on aggression (psychology professor Del Thiessen) and group differences in intelligence (Joe Horn) and performance (psychology professor Robert Young). There was also a

complaint about political bias in examples used in philosophy texts (philosophy professor Daniel Bonevac).

According to observers, the conference as a whole was only concerned with restrictions on right-wing research and completely ignored institutional bias in the social sciences against the left. Indeed, as the attack on E306 made clear, the TAS systematically and dramatically overstates the influence of the "Left" in the academy in order to attack it.

At least three UT professors have written for *Academic Questions*: Alan Gribben, Joe Horn and Marvin Olasky. Gribben's article is discussed at length in

the main text. In the winter '89-'90 issue, we find Horn's article entitled "Truth, Gender, and the SAT." In it, he purports to show that the disparity between men's and women's scores on the SAT reflects not a "gender gap" but indeed a "truth gap"—in other words, men get higher SAT scores because they're smarter.

The four-page article, which contains all of five footnotes, teems with assertions undistracted by argument or documentation. For example, he alludes to "evidence that grades vary widely according to subject matter and that course-taking differs by gender." He never cites a source for this. Another

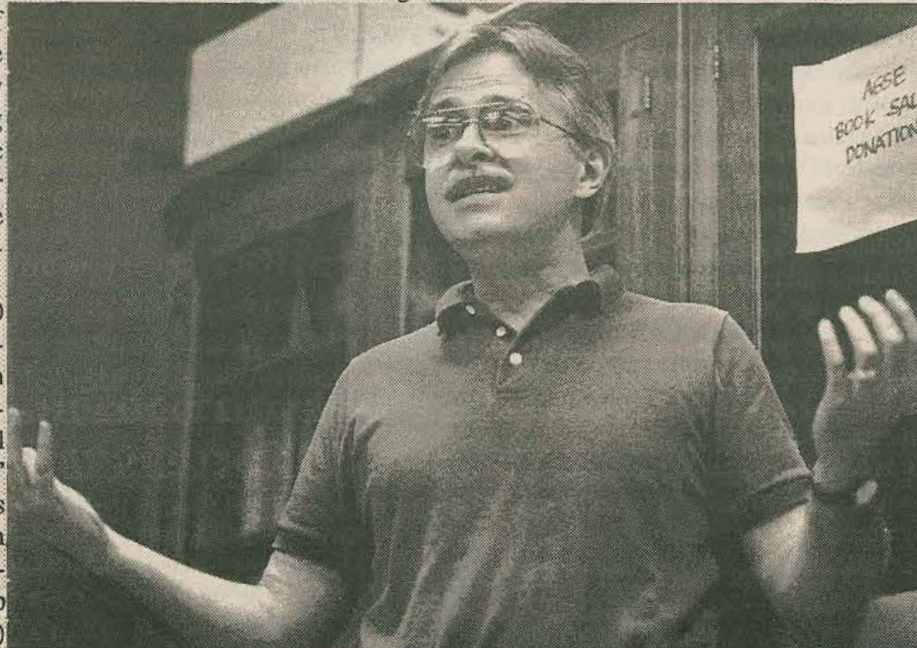
example: "in high school and college," he declares, "women generally take easier courses than men and their grade point averages are slightly higher as a result." Again, no source. Is he making this up?

Marvin Olasky, a journalism professor, distinguishes himself from his two TAS colleagues by actually having written a scholarly article for *Academic Questions*. Olasky attacked "Marxist" journalism history textbooks, lambasting them for not including information on the historical role of Christianity in journalism. The article, published in the same issue as Horn's, contains some 34 footnotes from primary sources, dwarfing the combined number of footnotes in Horn's and Gribben's articles.

What is to be done?

Running through the literature of NAS and TAS scholars is the theme of Marxist academics "politicizing the academy" by opening the curriculum to diverse cultures. But with their radical tactics and constant redbaiting, as well as their right-wing politics and funding sources, these professors reveal a clear political agenda aligned firmly in the rightist camp. Their scholarship may sometimes seem silly or beneath contempt, but their ability to manipulate campus politics is established. Progressives, at UT as well as other schools, can't afford to ignore them.

—by Scott Henson & Tom Philpott



At a meeting with graduate students last summer, English professor Alan Gribben explained, "as for the NAS, well, it's, it's just, it's just there. You can look at it." photo by Kirk J. Crippens, *Daily Texan* Staff