

Professor lambastes 'Texan'

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Former UT Professor Alan Gribben, who recently resigned from his tenured position with the UT English Department, charged *The Daily Texan* with being "Marxist" and said *The Texan* hastened his resignation from the University.

Gribben was a panelist in the Second National Freedom of Information Assembly's discussion of "Freedom of Speech on the Campus" at the Radisson Hotel Friday.

Gribben left the University last spring to head the English Department at Auburn University in Alabama.

While at the University, Gribben was the focus of considerable controversy that began when he criticized proposed changes to the curriculum of the English department in 1987.

To an audience of professional journalists, Gribben recounted a story of ostracism and witch hunts in which he was the hunted, a victim of what he termed the "new McCarthyism."

Gribben, a self-proclaimed political moderate, said his troubles began after he voted against an Eng-

lish Department proposal to implement a master's degree program in ethnic and Third World literature.

"I voted against something I believed was not pedagogically sound," Gribben said. Gribben stated that he was concerned about the "politicization of the classroom," and felt that, especially in the English Department, professors had become advocates of political points of view "over and above most everything else."

Gribben told the audience he was motivated to become a "whistle blower" by a perceived "lack of grammar or stylistic instruction in English 306, a required course for 60 percent of all UT freshmen, and take the issue to the press."

Gribben said as a result, he was labeled a racist, shunned by his colleagues and ostracized by the general UT community. He added that he became the target of hate mail, character assassinations and isolation.

"When I received my [doctorate] at Berkeley, my mentor cautioned me about working at UT, because he thought it to be too conservative," Gribben said. "It is ironic that I left UT for the opposite reason."

Gribben blasted *The Daily Texan* twice Friday as being Marxist in its orientation and mentioned that the

newspaper had been a catalyst in the acceleration of his plight.

Gribben's comment of *The Daily Texan* sparked a reaction among both panelists and members of the audience.

Panelist Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, assistant professor of journalism at the University, asked for a clarification of what Gribben meant, but her inquiries were interrupted by discussion moderator Mark Yudof, because of time constraints.

Later in the day, Gribben brought his grievances to the attention of Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, who had delivered a speech during the keynote luncheon of the conference.

Gribben described to Morales how he felt politically persecuted because his phone number and other records were accessible to the same people who he felt had ostracized him.

"They subpoenaed my letter of resignation and obtained my phone number from the utilities," Gribben said. "I did not know how to find out who they were."

Morales responded saying "We pay a big price for open government. I don't know that I would support additional restrictions on the [Open Records] Act."