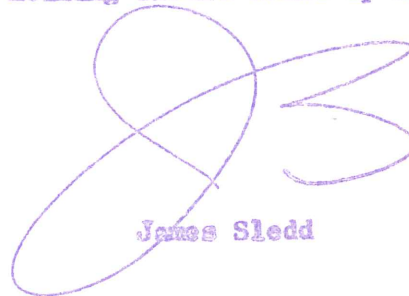


The proposal from the senate's subcommittee on lecturers smells of the general rot. As a piece of prose, it makes a joke of "recruitment through national search."

What a spectacle the University of Texas makes at its centennial! Its bosses brag about the Gus Wortham Centennial Memorial Chair in Risk Management and Insurance, the James L. Rayless / Rauscher Pierce Refenes Inc. Centennial Chair in Business Administration, the David Bruton Jr. Centennial Chair in Business Decision Support Systems, etc., etc. Meanwhile the Dean of Liberal Arts (yes, Liberal Arts) proclaims that it's irresponsible nonsense to suggest that the richest of the state universities should pay for the cultivation of general literacy. Instead we buy a Gutenberg Bible at 2.4 million and send it round the state like Barnum and Bailey's elephants. And the English Department, which has the primary responsibility for cultivating literacy--the English Department doesn't have the courage to resist such small-minded dictatorship. What a spectacle!

The document is suicidal. Young people of spirit and intelligence will not willingly consent to live under such squalid arrangements: Houseboy I, Houseboy II, Adjunct Assistant Ohisha. Yet the work which they are asked to do is the University's most important. It's a blight on society that misfortune may compel the acceptance of perpetual humiliation--may compel even the defense of a humiliating system.

The argument against oppression is that it rots the soul of both parties to it. A teacher of reading and writing does more important work than the Deloitte Haskins & Sells / Curtis H. Cadenhead Centennial Lecturer in Accounting and Management. Anybody to whom the liberal arts still have some meaning should stand up now and say so!



James Sledd

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