

Conference discusses E306 changes

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A three-day UT conference on cultural studies in Britain and America that featured speakers from as far away as England ended Saturday with a discussion of the postponement of the new theme for English 306.

During the informal closing session — called "Cultural Studies and the Assault from the Right" — of the Conference on Cultural Studies in Britain and America, a group of faculty and students discussed the politics behind the postponement of the freshman writing course's new theme concerning issues of gender and race.

Linda Brodkey, associate professor of English and chairman of the Lower Division English Pol-

icy Committee that approved the changes for E306, recapped the events that preceded the postponement of the new theme, which is titled "Writing About Difference."

"Students are the real losers," she said later about the course's delay. "We'll all have jobs and salaries."

Harry Cleaver, associate professor of economics, drew links from the UT opposition to the course to the National Association of Scholars, and then from the NAS to several right-wing bodies, such as the Heritage Foundation.

Cleaver also said, "Capitalism never wanted to eliminate racism and sexism. They need that to control people." He said capitalists want to embrace multiculturalism only to create managers who can control the labor force as it becomes increasingly made up of people of color.

The three-day conference was divided into five panels of presentations and three additional speakers relating cultural studies to such areas as political science, history, feminism, popular or "ordinary" culture, and pedagogy.

The conference began with a presentation by John Fiske of the University of Wisconsin, titled "Live Hard, Die Hard: Homeless Men, Violent Movies, and Reaganomics," which dealt with the reaction of homeless men to the movie *Die Hard*.

"Fiske showed this movie to about 10 groups of homeless men and found that throughout the movie they cheered for the terrorists each time they attacked the police or killed a corporate businessman," Cleaver said Sunday. "He found that when the terrorists started losing, the men turned off the movie."