

English teacher, which he said "is not an occupation today for intelligent people" and is "part of a thoroughly corrupt system" (*Texan*, Feb. 27). Most of the permanent faculty — who regularly and committedly teach writing courses, in spite of Sledd's insinuations — are weary of his self-righteous carping about our efforts. We would advise the UT community to interpret his diatribes the same way that we in the English department have sadly learned to do: by realizing that absolutely nothing that is feasible will ever remotely satisfy Sledd where writing courses are concerned.

Alan Gribben
Associate professor, English

Sledd never satisfied

As usual, Professor James Sledd's letter (*Firing Line*, Sept. 25) seeks to exploit a morale problem in the English department in order to condemn his perennial targets, "the administration and the bureaucracy of the English department" and his notion of the University as a "great corporation."

Maliciously referring to our English lecturers as "peon" people, he hopes to exacerbate the tensions within our department and widen the conflict by denouncing our dean. This is the same faculty member who scoffed at our new plan for requiring three English courses (which necessitated the employment of temporary lecturers) and who has refused to work constructively with the departmental committees dedicated to our mission of providing instruction in composition for every UT student.

He is also the man who termed himself a "fool" for becoming an

Aid with composition

What is UT doing about the complaint from employers that graduates can't write?

In addition to English composition classes, UT offers a wide variety of learning resources ranging from workshops and labs to courses on business communication and technical writing. Unfortunately, the situation can too easily be reduced to the old proverb: "You can lead a horse to water but you can not make it drink." The motivating force must come from within the individual. UT can provide assistance and opportunities to students, but this aid will not remedy the problem unless the students take responsibility for their semi-educated performance.

This semester a substantial writing requirement has been introduced into many upper division courses. Will students avail themselves of this opportunity, or will they give minimal attention to their compositions?

Keep in mind that, when you are at the office and you can't write the report properly, the boss is going to pass the buck to someone who can.

Kathryn C. Kelly
Business