

## Yet more E306 opposition

As graduate students in the Program in Comparative Literature, we are writing to express our distress at the postponement of E306 "Writing about Difference."

Most of us support our graduate studies by teaching undergraduate courses in the English department or in other literature and language departments and are thus quite familiar with the challenges of teaching effective communication through written language. As students of literatures from cultures throughout the world, we are also acutely aware of the importance of writing in the communication of multicultural experience.

In our interactions with UT undergraduates, faculty and staff we have seen the need for more multicultural awareness expressed tragically in publicly exposed racist actions against groups of people and in less publicized incidents of racist, sexist and homophobic harassment that occur against individuals in our classrooms on a

daily basis.

In addition, we have witnessed the necessity for multiculturalism in its eloquent expression in the PRIDE and Todos Unidos proposals and the rallies this spring which have demanded structural change in the University to diversify its curriculum and its constituency.

We feel that there is no discrepancy between teaching how to write effectively, utilizing rhetorical skills and teaching writing as an analytic method to articulate issues of difference. Because E306 implements the symbiotic relationship between effective writing and the reading of a diversity of issues and genres, it would meet the needs of incoming students with limited exposure to cultural contexts other than their own.

We believe that the study of Supreme Court opinions is an excellent resource in writing instruction, since it is an important site of debate for some of the most compelling issues of our time.

We urge those involved to reconsider

their decision to "temporarily terminate" a well-planned and essential curriculum. "Writing about Difference" should be reinstated immediately.

*Rita Cano Alcalá*

*Purnima Bose*

*Valerie Denison*

*Luc Fanou*

*Scot Harrison*

*Gerise Herndon*

*Allison Mosshart*

*Hector Perez*

*Kamala Platt*

*Pedro Talavera*

*Nedj Yaziji*

*John Zuern*

*Graduate students in comparative literature*