



**Mike
Kelley**

Confusion of 1st class

Dear Oracle Kelley:

I am a high school senior and am more than somewhat confused. I am planning to attend the University of Texas at Inter-regional next year and have been following the big flap out there about what English courses I'll have to take. As I understand it, the committee appointed to sort all this out has recommended that one of the courses required of me is E 306, a freshman rhetoric and composition class. As proposed, I could get the credit hours for this class by taking an exam, transferring the credits from another school, taking a summer course at UT, or through the university's extension program. But, Oracle, I can't take it as a regular course because UT wouldn't offer it as a regular course. Oracle, how is it that they can require a course but not teach it? (Signed) Skeptical Scholar

Dear Skeptical:

You do not understand the pressures that bear on a university of the first class. There is research to be done, government grants to be won, endowment money to be raised, chairs to be filled, and just oodles of other stuff. Students get in the way of this and clutter up the scene. The solution arrived at in the case you mention may signal a trend. If all course requirements could be satisfied without actually having to put a bunch of noisy, loutish young people in a classroom and teach them, the university could get on with its real business. If this disturbs you, Oracle would urge you to set down your thoughts in writing and send them to the new UT president. You can learn how to set down your thoughts in writing by passing an exam, transferring credits from another school, etc.