

Calhoun 213
May 20, 1973

James C. Raymond, Recorder
Department of English
The University of Texas

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Malcolm Genet has quite rightly objected to the term "vogue" that I am quoted as applying to Black literature courses on page 2 of the minutes of the Department meeting on May 10. I believe that I am correct in saying that I did not in fact use that term. The intent of my remarks was to question whether the need for and the value of a program of courses devoted exclusively to Black literature did not now belong to the past -- that battle being won -- and whether the time may not now have come to insist upon the serious and thoughtful integration of Black literature into the larger category of American literature, to which it also most generally belongs.

I therefore request that the minutes be amended to read: "Mr. Bowden suggested that a regular offering of courses exclusively in Black literature may belong to the past, and that it might now be better to include Black literature seriously and routinely in general American survey courses."

There is also a small technical correction to the last sentence of #1 on page 1. It should read: "Mr. Bowden also proposed two sections of a new course, a variant of E. 333, American Realists: Major Writers, to be taught in the spring by Mr. Westbrook and Mr. Bowden."

Please feel assured that I am not criticizing the keeping of the minutes. It is, as I know from my own experience as a secretary, almost impossible to reduce a discussion on the floor, often rambling and sometimes heated, to a brief summary that is at the same time comprehensive and minutely accurate.

Yours sincerely,

Edwin T. Bowden
Edwin T. Bowden

cc: Mr. Keast
Mr. Genet