

# THE DAILY TEXAN

Vol. 92, No. 3

2 Sections

The student newspaper of The University of Texas at Austin

Thursday, September 3, 1992

25¢

sudden, I was swimming inside my own home and all my furniture was floating

Please see Tidal Wave, page 2

Associated Press

A Nicaraguan family searched through the remains of their home Wednesday after a massive earthquake set off Pacific tidal waves.

## Professors claim new department is authority breach

**Thea Woodruff**  
Daily Texan Staff

A new division separate from the Department of English designed to teach students writing skills represents a severe breach of authority, English professors charged Wednesday.

"I'm sorry there was no attempt ... to consult with those of us who have shown a lifetime commitment to teaching writing," said William Sutherland, a professor of English and former chairman of the department.

Former UT President William Cunningham established the Division of Rhetoric and Composition before taking over as UT System chancellor Tuesday. The move comes on the recommendation of the Presidential Committee of Undergraduate Experience, which said a division might improve the University's writing program.

Starting June 1, 1993, students will regis-

ter for writing courses under the division in the College of Liberal Arts, instead of the English Department.

Creation of the new division caught many English professors by surprise Tuesday, and Sutherland said faculty should have had some place in the decision-making.

No mention of such a decision was made to any member of the English faculty, except Larry Carver, associate professor of English, who sat on the committee. Carver could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Sutherland said details of a seven-page plan for the program by Robert King, interim liberal arts dean, reveal another attempt to take control from the faculty.

The proposal was delivered Tuesday to Joseph Kruppa, chairman of the English Department, and copies of the document were given to the English Department faculty the same day. A cover letter written by Kruppa to faculty stated that King "indicated [to him] that this proposal will take effect

**"I'm sorry there was no attempt ... to consult with those of us who have shown a lifetime commitment to teaching writing."**

— William Sutherland,  
English professor

on June 1, 1993."

Neither King nor Kruppa could be reached for comment Wednesday.

Professors who read the proposal questioned some of the stated procedures concerning faculty and the relationship between the new division and the English Department.

Although the creators of the program are hoping to straighten out the administrative structure and coordinate writing courses, the proposal is confusing and vague in deal-

ing with the hiring, firing and tenure of faculty, said James Kinneavy, the English Department's lower-division director.

"The division appears to be an autonomy" in which the director of the new division will have total control of the faculty and curriculum, said Kinneavy.

According to the proposal, "faculty appointments in the division will be made by the director, subject to approval of the dean. In cases of tenure and tenure-track appointments the director shall consult with the chair of the faculty member's department and the dean prior to making an appointment."

Sutherland said the plan opened up a lot of questions.

"This [decision] raises an issue for the University," he said. "Can a president acting on the recommendation from a presidential committee unilaterally set up a budgetary unit in which a dean and his appointee, without faculty action, hire, pro-

mote, give tenure to and terminate faculty?"

The proposal also states that because writing courses have been run mainly by literature or critical theory faculty since the mid-1980s, there has been a "substantial decline" of the reputations of the writing program and graduate program in rhetoric.

Alan Friedman, a professor of English, said he did not believe the proposal was clear enough or had enough information to guess its impact or comment on it.

The new division will work closely with the English Department for reasons listed in the document:

■ The writing courses will still be identified as English courses to "maintain a traditional relationship in American universities between literature and writing courses and lessen logistic problems such as credit transfers."

■ The division will benefit from depart-

Please see Rhetoric, page 2

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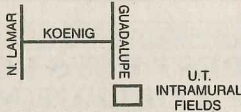
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## Toads

Continued from page 1

doing what she does all the time: deal with lost lizards.

Wednesday Donaldson recounted a story about one of the latest critters she is trying to accommodate.

It started with a phone call, one of countless dozens of anonymous phone calls from people who have abducted horny toads and wish to have them returned safely to their natural homes.

"This can get to be a convoluted story," Donaldson began. "The person who took the lizard from its point of origin brought it to a [local] pet store. He was fearing prosecution since the animals are on the threatened-species list, so the store owners did not take down his name. They only got the exact location where the lizard came from.

"Then the store owners called [Texas] Parks and Wildlife, who referred them to the president of the Society, Lee Stone."

Donaldson got the call because she is one of the few people around who has the aquariums, heating lights and licenses necessary to take care of the horned lizards.

**"This is the best time to step in and do something."**

— Wendy Donaldson,  
 Horned Lizard  
 Conservation Society

Armed with the crucial information — exactly where the lizard came from — Donaldson will soon head to an area just south of the Caverns of Sonora.

Horned lizards have been on the state's threatened species list since 1977, said Stone. It is illegal to capture or transport any animal classified as a threatened species without a permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which has collaborated with the society in relocating displaced horned toads.

"Because the lizards are still on the threatened list and not the endangered list, this is the best time to step in and do something," Stone said. "Not when they've got one foot in the grave."

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## Rhetoric

Continued from page 1

ment research.

■ Faculty will want to teach both literature and rhetoric classes.

■ Most assistant instructors for the division will come from the department and will need rhetoric teaching experience.

Kinneavy questioned the need for

a separate division when so many of the duties will be shared with the English Department.

A separation will cause unnecessary confusion over who has final authority of faculty in both the division and the department, Kinneavy said.

## Tidal Wave

Continued from page 1

aged.

Chamorro reiterated her plea for help issued several times Wednesday as she toured ravaged shoreline communities. Nicaragua was already suffering severe economic problems and a political crisis dividing the government after a devastating civil war.

"We need international aid," Chamorro said.

The United States froze \$104 million in aid to Nicaragua in the spring over charges Chamorro has failed to curtail the power of security officials from the leftist Sandinista movement, which Chamorro defeated in 1990 elections.

Officials said France, Norway and the United States had sent money for relief as of Wednesday night.

Mexico, Spain and the United States sent airplanes with relief supplies, the government said. The U.S. shipment included gasoline and heavy-duty plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, officials said.

The U.S. Embassy in Managua

southwest of Managua, according to the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo.

Aftershocks followed, and the center said they likely would continue for days.

Nonetheless, authorities evacuated thousands of people from coastal areas and wailing ambulances sped through towns picking up the injured and dying.

The earthquake was among the most damaging to hit Nicaragua since a 1972 quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale devastated the capital, killing 5,000 people.

The tidal wave smashed into dozens of communities from Corinto, 50 miles northwest of Managua, to San Juan del Sur on the Costa Rican border.

Danilo Brenes, a resident of Masachapa, said he was walking along the beach when he saw the wall of water coming. "I yelled to my wife and we took off running. We jumped over a seabreak wall and barely made it," he said.

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