

# university

# Gribben claims coverage biased

By KEEFE BORDEN

Daily Texan Staff

An English Department representative asked *The Daily Texan* for more balanced and fair coverage of recent department changes during a Texas Student Publications Board of Operating Trustees meeting Thursday night.

Alan Gribben, associate professor of English, said articles concerning the recent proposal from the English 346K committee give the impression English faculty members are unsatisfied with the committee's proposal. He said most faculty members support the proposal.

The proposal abolishes E 306, a freshman rhetoric course, during the long semesters but still requires all students to earn credit for the course. Students can place out of the class or take it at another university, during the summer or through UT extension. The proposal formed three new lower division English courses while abolishing E 306.

"We would ask the *Texan* to begin to pay attention to three courses we have put together with a great deal of care," said Gribben.

Gribben also asked the *Texan* to publish the entire proposal. "The

*Texan* seems to be obsessed with the convenience of the students," he said. "We ask for a more balanced reporting."

"Constant criticism of a single department is not fair when it has 76 very talented professors in it who are doing their best to instruct the kinds of courses that they are calling for."

Gribben said the English faculty has been cooperative with *Texan* reporters who have called with questions.

"The *Texan* simply must come around to recognize its responsibility not only to the students, but to the kinds of concerns we've had about academic excellence," Gribben said.

"No department in the College of Communication would suffer the daily scrutiny and ongoing vituperation that the English faculty and administration have recently endured," Gribben wrote in a letter to the board.

*Texan* news editor Jeff Crosby defended *Texan* coverage of the

events, saying it has been balanced.

"A close examination of stories we have run will show that *The Daily Texan* has devoted more space to the E 346K committee's arguments than to its opposition," Crosby said.

*Texan* editor Russell Scott said he was not against publishing the committee's entire proposal if requested by the English Department.

"I can't recall being asked directly to put the proposal in print," Scott said.

Joe Kruppa, associate chairman of the English department and chairman of the committee that wrote the proposal, said the proposal was offered to the *Texan* when a reporter called for background information. He said he was told the department would have to buy an advertisement if they wanted the entire proposal printed.

In other business, the board approved the recommendation from the Executive Committee to raise the budget for *Utmost* magazine from \$11,330 to \$13,480, a 16 percent raise.