

## Danger of public promo

Dr. Gribben's letter (*Texan*, Feb. 15) proves that he is, at least, the equal of Mr. Skaggs in garnering "cheap points scored by deriding our faculty and their teaching accomplishments." I fondly hope, after such a display of his rhetorical skills, that he can be coaxed into addressing the issue of 346K program along the lines established by Dr. Kinneavy in his editorial (Feb. 20).

I can sympathize with his reluctance to engage in "public bickering," but I could respect his demure even more if he did not bicker so much himself. Of course, he may truly consider his letter a case of semi-private bickering, inspired by his altruistic devotion to putting the UT department of Anguish Program on somebody's "Top 10."

As for myself, I honor public bickering as an old American tradition, enjoyed by millions inside and outside the precinct of Academe. I will admit that private bickering, surely an undervalued art, boasts a demonstrated efficiency altogether absent from the troublesome practice of public debate or discussion. Only in private can one writing really worthwhile results from innuendo, charges *ad hominem* and *ad populo*, and the other devices the great unwashed are apt to mistake for inept argumentation.

Dr. Gribben and Mr. Skaggs serve

as exempla of the dangers inherent in public self-promotion. It is a difficult stunt to pull off without some degree of embarrassment. How much more effective to handle such things in private, just as minor matters of department and university policy, involving only 48,000 students, are handled — in a suitably appointed star chamber before a "fit audience, chosen, though few."

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## E 346K teaches key skill

I am happy that the E 346K controversy has not ended and hope, in principle, it never does end. After all we are ultimately discussing the communication skills of thousands of people.

I have taken many composition and literature courses at the University and I can honestly say the literature courses were less than exciting. On the other hand, every one of my composition courses stimulated me to better write and communicate my ideas as well as comment on the ideas of others. Isn't that what the English language and its words are all about?

I agree that literature occupies a profound place in education, but it is

through composition and theme that one learns to truly communicate.

University students have the right and privilege to an education that will prepare them for the working world. And if Dr. Sutherland does not think that students compose and communicate an idea on paper then I wonder what he does all day.

Seriously, the University and its students can hardly allow E 346K to disappear from the curriculum with a straight face and clear conscience while allowing courses such as the History of Rock and Roll to define the term academic excellence.

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