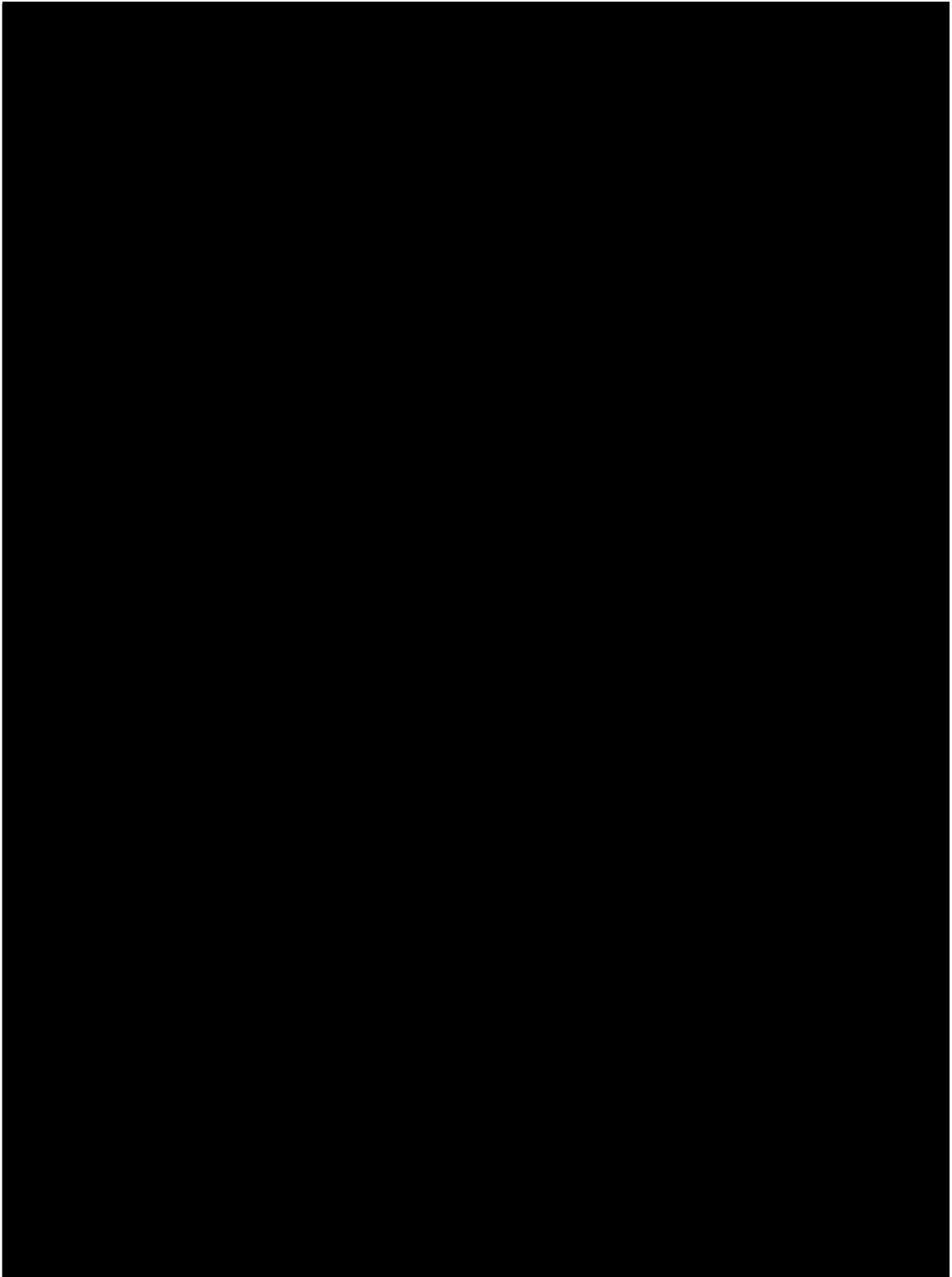


Sept. 18, 1992

Speaking for myself as one of the few people willing to go on record in the department in support of the division, and one who intends to be a part of it. However. . .





That said, why do I want a division as autonomous as the one presented to us by President Cunningham?

- My facetious answer: "So we don't have to have any more meetings like this."
- My serious answer: "So we don't have to have any more meetings like this."

--A cite for struggle, a field colonized by literary struggles.

--An expense of spirit in a waste of shame, with undergraduate students the victims.

--Why does the department--which has needed a new major for fifteen years, which needs to give more attention to its E 316 classes, which has the talent and the people to become one of the top ten departments in the country, why does it expend its energy in political battles over courses which most of those who will speak here today never will teach?

• But that is a negative reason. More compelling are the positive reasons for giving rhetoric and composition a room of its own.

--The first and most compelling is to guarantee over time that undergraduate students at the University of Texas get the best education in writing possible and that we measure that success not by how many big names we have on the faculty, but by the quality of writing students produce.



