

The Battalion calls it "a cloud of petty complaints." Major papers call it **FREEDOM OF SPEECH.**

The College Republicans at Texas A&M University are in trouble. The A&M administration is investigating the group to decide if its political speech violated school policy.

The College Republicans had written a fund-raising letter attacking the A&M multiculturalism proposal. The administration then declared that the letter contained "misinformation: and scheduled an investigative hearing.

As William Kibler, A&M's assistant vice president for student affairs, told The Associated Press, "Student groups have every right to express opinions, but that is different than printing falsehoods. The question is whether they knowingly printed false information or were just careless."

No, that is not the question at all. State officials do not have the constitutional authority to punish citizens for engaging in pure political speech, even if the speech is inaccurate or misleading...

The Aggie administrators criticized in the College Republicans' letter can influence or even control the disciplinary hearing. That is a blatant conflict of interest and raises serious 14th Amendment questions about the due process of the A&M disciplinary system.

But a more fundamental constitutional problem exists. What the A&M administrator blithely assert is that government officials criticized by citizens can determine the "falsity" of the citizens' speech and then punish them.

That is precisely what the First Amendment was designed to prevent. Aggie administrators are violating the free speech rights of the A&M College Republicans. If they continue to do so, the College Republicans should file suit.

The First Amendment still applies—even in College Station.

— *The Daily Texan, Editorial*
September 22, 1995

The A&M College Republicans, an official student organization of Texas A&M University, recently mailed letters soliciting donations and making questionable statements about the university's policies on multiculturalism. Not content with publicly correcting the inaccuracies, A&M administrators have brought official - and inappropriate - charges against the group.

The College Republicans have been charged with failing to inform the Department of Student Affairs before mailing their letter. The A&M administration may well be curious about the messages sent by student organizations, but the power of the state to compel prior review of expression is strictly denied by the First Amendment.

A&M Assistant Vice President William Kibler says student organizations must submit to the rule or be denied official status. However, a state university stands on weak ground when it requires associations of students to trade their constitutional rights for campus recognition.

Kibler also says the rule is not meant to discourage or prevent any student expression. So why have it?

The College Republicans are also charged with knowingly misrepresenting the university's intentions regarding classes in multiculturalism, but even false speech enjoys the protection of the Constitution. Kibler says any politician or citizen or individual student can stand up on the A&M campus and lie his head off with impunity, but associations of students do not enjoy the same right.

Oh? The university cannot rightly force students who exercise their constitutional right to free association to fork over the equally important right to free expression.

Kibler insists he and other A&M officials are well aware of the existence of the First Amendment, but they do not seem to grasp its breadth and scope. If A&M officials are uncertain of the spirit and letter of the U.S. Constitution, the freedoms it guarantees to all persons and the limits it places on official power, the many respected historians and political scientists in residence on the A&M campus surely could set them straight.

— *Houston Chronicle, Editorial*
September 24, 1995

The current Battalion calls it "being prepared for the 21st century." Major papers call it **POLITICAL CORRECTNESS.**

Some on the Texas A&M faculty seem hellbent on forcing politically correct multiculturalism on the Aggies. So far they are getting away with it.

Fashionable academic faddism is alive and well on the campuses of the state.

While university administrators may be struggling to contain the outbreak, it is a fair question to ask: Where are the regents? Why aren't those charged with setting university policies on behalf of the taxpayers letting it be known, in whatever manner, that their campuses are not going to be plagued by this nonsense?

It will be far less painful and embarrassing to nip in the bud this rush to political correctness than to let it build to a huge public uproar later.

The University of Texas at Austin managed to beat off political correctness. A&M has not yet been so lucky. First it was the liberal arts students who were forced into that mold earlier in the year. Now the Aggie faculty senate has voted to extend the same to all A&M students. The administration is considering that.

What makes all this nonsense and faddism is that it has nothing to do with multiculturalism and everything to do with political correctness. Multiculturalism is already there; every university has more such courses than a student can take. Everyone -- including this newspaper -- encourages students to take one or two. Many students do. The only dispute is the frantic insistence of the guilt-stricken politically correct that students must be *made* to take the courses. Which, obviously, is indoctrination rather than education. And which, also obviously, is the motivating force behind the whole fad, no matter how much it is denied.

These are public universities. The people are not furnishing hundreds of millions of dollars annually in tax money so that their children can be indoctrinated at the mandate of the politically correct among the faculties. If the university administrations cannot or will not take the matter in hand, the regents should. If the regents do not, the legislature surely will.

— *Houston Chronicle, Editorial*
November 14, 1993

To put it bluntly, such a policy (six hours of cultural diversity) is simply another attempt at the politicization of education and has no place at Texas A&M.

— *The Battalion, Editorial*
June 14, 1993

While cultural diversity is an admirable goal, forcing it down the throats of students may lead to resentment. In addition, this proposal also increases the student course load and forces the University to hire more professors.

Many students see the requirement as "mandatory political correctness indoctrination." If the current curriculum does not adequately reflect the contributions of minorities or other cultures, then the current classes should be redesigned to include these contributions.

To ensure that students receive the cultural diversity, A&M doesn't need to force students to take more classes. Instead, the required classes just need to be revamped. And if minority and ethnic studies must remain specialized departments, then enrollment in these classes must remain a matter of choice.

— *The Battalion, Editorial*
May 5, 1993

Boss: So, you want to work here at Houston Expensive Medicine, Inc.?

Potential Employee: Yes. I'm told the pay and benefits are great.

Boss: They are. Where did you go to college?

PE: Texas A&M, Sir.

Boss: Excellent. And your major?

PE: Liberal arts.

Boss: What did you take?

PE: Let's see. American Ethnic Literature, Foundations of Education in Multicultural Society, and, of course, Sociology of Gender.

Boss: Did you study medical economics, or maybe salesmanship?

PE: They weren't on the list.

Boss: I see. Next.

PE: But I have a broad knowledge of multiculturalism and politically correct awareness. It's required by the College of Liberal Arts, and might be made a university-wide requirement.

Boss: Next. Hello, personnel? Don't send me anymore liberal arts Aggies. I've got a business to run.

What is going on at Texas A&M? One of the world's finest centers of learning, maintained at enormous expense by the people of Texas, is going to change, and not for the better.

The dean and supporters argue that it is not a "politically correct" agenda. Beans. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck...

These courses are not in-addition-to but instead-of. So what courses are the Aggies *not* taking? What are they *not* learning? At a time when college graduates are finding it extremely difficult to get a job, when competition is tough, Texas A&M is not doing its students any favors.

— *The Houston Post, Editorial*
June 13, 1993

RESOLVED, That the Republican Party of Texas petition the Board of Regents of Texas A&M University to immediately suspend action against the College republicans with appropriate apologies and to initiate an investigation to determine why such a basic effort to abridge the rights to free speech and assembly has been initiated and supported by the Administration of Texas A&M.

— Republican Party of Texas

This is another case of the imposition of liberal political correctness on college campuses. All views that do not fit into left-wing ideology are suppressed.

— Tom Pauken, Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

RESOLVED, That the right of free speech and assembly of the College Republicans and all student organizations at Texas A&M be recognized and reaffirmed.

— Republican National Hispanic Assembly of Texas

This College Republicans chapter truly represents the Aggie Spirit. Their dedication and commitment is a tribute to all Aggies.

— Congressman Jack Fields

Paid For By College Republicans