

A study in faith

Views on academic freedom at church-affiliated schools examined

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Faculty at the Mormon church-owned Brigham Young University are more content to have their academic freedom limited than are professors at Baptist-affiliated Baylor University in Waco and Catholic Notre Dame, a study found.

Less than one-third of BYU faculty agree they should have unrestricted freedom to explore or write about academic issues that question or challenge church doctrine, according to a Baylor-BYU study.

In contrast, 70 percent of Baylor faculty and 75 percent of Notre Dame faculty agree they should be free to pursue any idea, even if it questions tenets of faith.

About 15 percent of the BYU faculty support unlimited inquiry into subjects that might weaken The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' support of BYU.

"It probably indicates how much stronger the framework is here for faith-based learning," Keith Wilson, a BYU religious-studies professor who administered the Baylor survey on campus, said. "It appears that Baylor and Notre Dame universities have shifted so that the more dominant sphere is the intellectual sphere.

"This says that when we have an issue that strains at the very roots of these two ways of learning, we will defer to the faith system as a higher

"[The faculty of BYU] will defer to the faith system as a higher priority."

— Keith Wilson
Brigham Young University professor

priority," Wilson said.

A second study on academic freedom at BYU made a similar finding. The survey, published in the current issue of the journal Dialogue found 66 percent of BYU faculty agree they should avoid research that might draw into question Mormon or university procedures. The survey was conducted last year by then-undergraduate psychology student Paul M. Rose.

Both surveys found a high degree of acceptance of university policies regarding academic exploration,

with most faculty reporting they feel unfettered in their ability to discuss controversial or unpopular ideas.

In the Rose study, nearly 92 percent of respondents said there is no "widespread pattern" of infringement on academic freedom at BYU. The Baylor-BYU study found 88 percent of the faculty report experiencing more academic freedom at BYU than at other universities where they have worked.

The Baylor-BYU study is part of Bailer's "Faith and Learning Project," launched in 1995, which looked at how faculty at five church-affiliated universities make sense of their religious orientation. In addition to BYU, Baylor and Notre Dame, the project included Boston College and Christian-based Pepperdine.

The BYU portion of the project will be published in next month's BYU Studies. Baylor professors Michael Beatty and Larry Lyon were co-authors of the survey.

Lyon told *The Salt Lake Tribune* that the varied faculty responses to academic freedom highlight the researchers' argument that religious institutions are as different from each other as they are from secular schools.

14-year-old to face murder charges

HOUSTON (AP) — A 14-year-old boy accused of fatally stabbing a fellow student with a screwdriver soon will face murder charges, authorities said.

The seventh-grade suspect, whose name was withheld, remained in custody yesterday on aggravated assault charges stemming from the Wednesday attack on Samuel Avila, 13.

Police said the older boy admitted stabbing Avila in the head during an 8:30 a.m. fight in the second-floor hallway of Deady Middle School at in southeast Houston.

Avila was pronounced dead eight hours later at a nearby hospital.

Prosecutors have decided to upgrade the suspect's charge to murder but have not decided whether to seek to have him tried as an adult, said Elizabeth Godwin, chief of the Harris County District Attorney's juvenile division.

A detention hearing has been set for this morning, and Godwin said the murder charge would be filed as

soon as paperwork is complete.

Meanwhile, classes at the got under way yesterday with an increased police presence.

"We do have beefed up security there today," Houston Independent School District (HISD) spokesperson Holly Roper said. "We also brought in a counseling team including four psychologists and two extra counselors for any students that need to talk."

Several parents who accompanied students to school worried aloud about safety.

"It kind of shocked me," Lisa Jent said. "Being here at the school where you're children go, it's kind of scary. I wanted to make sure their security was all right and everything."

Investigators now believe the fight grew out of a two-week-old dispute between rival gangs, HISD police Sgt. John Campos said.

"The two boys have not been documented as gang members, but we do believe it [stabbing] was gang-related. ... The screwdriver had gang symbols

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BATS (PG-13) 12:30 2:55 5:05 8:00 10:25 12:40	FIGHT CLUB (R) 12:15 3:15 6:30 9:40 12:45
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Sunday Worship 8:30, 10:45, 6:00 pm
College & Career Class Sun. 9:30
Randy Scott, Pastor
www.startel.net/bethel

Church of Christ

Bryan / College Station Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
College Station Conference Center
409) 731-1230
Email: mark-d@tamu.edu or mwm@tamu.edu

Baptist

First Baptist Church Bryan
200 South Texas Ave • 779-2434
Sundays: 9:30 College Bible Study, 10:50 Worship Service
8:00 pm Chapel Bible Study @ All Faiths on campus
Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. High Pointe College Bible Study
www.fccb.orgcollege@fcb.org

Lutheran

Beautiful Savior Ev. Lutheran Church
1007 Krenek Tap Rd. • College Station
693-4514
Service Time: 10:15 a.m. Sunday School: 9 a.m.
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Non-Denominational

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4010 Harvey Rd., (Hwy. 30)
College Station 777-1269
E-Mail: greencfc@aol.com
www.covenant-family-church.org

United Methodist

First United Methodist Church
28th & Houston St.,
1 block E. of Texas Ave., in Bryan
779-1324
Sunday Worship 8:40 & 10:55 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Harrah Dunnam, Pastor

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Daily Masses
Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m.
Tues., Thurs: 12:05 Noon
All Faith's Chapel on A&M Campus
Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean)

Weekend Masses
Sat. - 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 (Spanish)
Sun. - 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:30, 7:00 p.m.