Views on academic freedom at church-affiliated schools examined

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Faculty at church-owned gham Young University are more itent to have their academic freeom limited than are professors at Baptist-affiliated Baylor University in Waco and Catholic Notre Dame, a study found

Less than one-third of BYU faculagree they should have unretricted freedom to explore or write bout academic issues that question or challenge church doctrine, acording to a Baylor-BYU study.

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

About 15 percent of the BYU facalty support unlimited inquiry into ubjects that might weaken The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day ints' support of BYU.

"It probably indicates how much onger the framework is here for th-based learning," Keith Wilson, BYU religious-studies professor who administered the Baylor survey on campus, said. "It appears that Baylor and Notre Dame universities ave 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

Both surveys found a high degree of acceptance of university policies regarding academic exploration, they are from secular schools.

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 experienc ing 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 churchaffiliated 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 Beaty 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

14-year-old to face murder charges

HOUSTON (AP) — A 14-year-old boy accused of itally stabbing a fellow student with a screwdriver

oon 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 allway of Deady Middle School at in southeast Hous-

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

Prosecutors have decided to upgrade the suspect's parge 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

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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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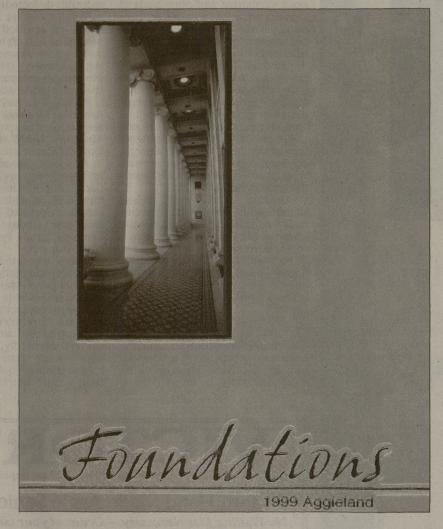
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