



Letters Analysis **Editorial Page** Opinion Columns

**Nothing lost in loyalty oath**

The Texas loyalty oath received all but its death blow this week when the Supreme Court threw out a similar oath from Maryland, the fourth oath it has overturned in the past three years.

The decision dealt only with the working of the oath and not with loyalty oaths in general, as have past loyalty oath decisions. The 6-3 decision therefore does not set a precedent for the invalidation of all loyalty oaths.

The decision said the wording of the Maryland oath was "too broad...precision and clarity are not present. We find an overbreadth that makes possible oppressive or capricious application as regimes change."

This would seem to mean that the Court believes loyalty oaths such as Maryland's can be worded so as to include persons who unwittingly become members of a "subversive" organization.

Another factor in the decision was the Court's feeling that the Maryland loyalty oath placed undue restrictions on university faculty members.

"The continuing surveillance which this type of law places on professors is hostile to academic freedom," Justice William O. Douglas wrote in the majority opinion.

The first part of the Maryland oath reads in part, "I do hereby state that I am not engaged in one way or another in an attempt to overthrow the Government of the United States or the State of Maryland or any subdivision thereof either by force or violence."

Similarly, the Texas oath forbids membership in any organizations which "seeks to overthrow the Government of the United States or of any state by force, violence or any other unlawful means."

While the Court's decision does not set any precedent concerning loyalty oaths as a whole, the two oaths are so similar that it is doubtful the Court will even hear an appeal in the Texas case which is now at the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals level. If the present decision stands, it will probably review the lower trial and hold that the case is closed.

The case already is closed in Texas unless the decision is overturned. At present the loyalty oath cannot lawfully be used in the state for government employes, including faculty members. Nothing has been lost.

the malcontent/katie o'neill **Midsemester check**



Campus classrooms have again become noisy with the sound of thinking as teachers administer their mid-semester tests. Teachers and students alike are probably wondering at this point, as they do every semester, the purpose of the grades that take so much time and trouble every semester.

Last year the faculty considered doing away with the grades and all the bother that goes with them, and several teachers of the malcontent have expressed surprise that the grades were still required.

When a University Daily reporter tried to track down action taken last year on the elimination of the grades, however, no one seemed ever to have heard of any such action.

FINALLY IT TURNED out that the Faculty Advisory Committee two years ago had appointed a committee to look into the abolition of the grades. No written report was turned in or at least one that is still extant, but the committee decided that "the grades were necessary," in the words of a former head of the FAC.

The Student Senate last year passed a resolution recommending the grades be abolished, but it went the way of all Student Senate resolutions, except that a few people vaguely remembered some kind of action on mid-semester grades last year by somebody.

Some departments require that teachers have their grades in to the department early.

To avoid the trouble some teachers give blanket C's to their classes, an action which destroys what purpose exists for the grades. If they are intended to let the student and his parents know how he is doing in a course at the midpoint, a blanket anything keeps this information in the dark.

The principal argument against the grades, however, is that any student who halfway keeps up with the work he is doing or not doing in a course is going to know what his status is whether he is passing or not.

NO ONE WOULD BE SORRY to see the grades go. The teachers would be free to schedule tests at times which suited them, and students would not have to worry about parents misunderstanding the significance of the grades and lowering allowances or similar drastic measures.

A student's grade can raise two to four letters in six to nine weeks, the remaining time in the semester. Teachers know that and students know that, but sometimes a parent doesn't.

The whole matter boils down to the fact that everybody would be better off without the darned things, but nobody seems disgusted enough to do anything about it. Perhaps if enough teachers wonder aloud to enough classes someone will overhear the murmurs and get going.

**THE UNIVERSITY DAILY**

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Questions judges, criteria**

On Saturday, Nov. 4, I was one of the 30-odd people who waited patiently for the results from the judges of the Homecoming Parade. (Pardon me if I use the term "judges" rather loosely.) I was also among the 30-odd persons who were slightly jolted by the results. I was also among the several people who were surprised that absolutely no information could be gained about the criteria used in judging the floats or the people who acted as judges.

This seemed very strange to me. I have been at Tech for five years, and each year, the judges were announced before the parade. It appears that this year there is some reason why the judges are not to be known.

THE "JUDGES" owe the entries in the parade some statement as to the criteria used in the judging. It is painfully obvious that the best floats did not win. Prizes seem to have been awarded for some other reason. After checking the winners and losers of the "competition" for the last several years, it appears that the winners were picked not because they were the best, but because they have been losing for so

many years. Entries which had not won in a very long time were awarded prizes—regardless of appearance. This is incredible to me—especially in a university, supposedly where excellence is rewarded. If this was not the basis of the judging, please let our courageous judges step forward and justify their decision.

THE JUDGES and the Ex-Students Association have done Tech a great disservice. Who do you suppose will enter the parade next year, knowing that it just may not be their turn to win? Why have a contest at all? Just let the Ex-Students Association tell the organization whose turn it is to win—then there will be no disappointments.

By the way, if any other people who built good floats would like to find out why you were clipped, go by the Ex-Students Association Office and inquire. It's funny.

John Steven Crane  
 406 Ave. X, Apt 217

**Dislikes parking**

Having faced the situation outlined by a student in the Nov. 2 issue of The University Daily concerning Tech's "off campus" parking situation, I can certainly find fault in the parking situation. I transferred to Tech last fall from a school where such situations did not exist. This situation was prevented by a competent administration which practiced planning and action rather than expediency or procrastination.

When I arrived at Tech, the off-campus parking was bad, but I could always find a parking slot in the lot behind Clement Hall. If I was lucky, I could even park in the lot near Stangel. Presently, the only available afternoon parking spaces are located beside Jones Stadium or in acreage behind Chitwood Hall.

The current problem is, in my opinion, typically a result of Tech's attempts to solve present and future problems with solutions and ideas of a past era. Tech needs a modern, expandible parking system rather than a few remote parking areas plagued by "growing pains" and "For Staff and Visitors Only" signs.

Ron Alexander  
 1717 Norfolk, Apt. 1239

It will happen at  
**Cactus Gardens**  
 December 2 & 3  
 2610 Salem SWS-0936

**Wants kids out**

As a Tech student I feel it's my responsibility to speak on the behavior of public school children at Tech football games.

The Tech-Rice game was the straw that broke the camel's back. As everyone knows, the Homecoming queen and her court were to be presented at half-time. There was only one problem—these girls could not be properly presented because they were dodging trash thrown from the north end zone by these public school children. Several of the girls were actually hit in the face.

This is disgraceful. I don't know what can be done, but something must be done. It's quite evident that our "noble protectors of the peace," the Lubbock Police Department, aren't going to do anything; they stood by Saturday doing nothing. If they couldn't control the problem they could have at least tried to subdue it. And where were the Security Police?

Perhaps these children should be sent home; after all, they don't come to see the game but to run around and throw trash. Maybe the children should not be admitted unless accompanied by parents.

I hope that some solution will arise. If those in authority won't do something, perhaps Tech students will.

Mrs. Gary Dennis  
 3002 4th St., Apt 42

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