



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



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RAPPIN'
Thomas Wyatt

CHAOS

First, let me apologize for last week's cancellation of our Block Party. I didn't get word until well after the paper went to press. Needless to say, I was very P-Od. And I specifically said the event would be over before the rain started. Yet, they canceled the event because of rain. Let me ask you brothers and sisters something. When do we ever have an event and it doesn't rain? Texas Relays, anyone? How about MLK marches? Juneteenth parades? State Fairs, concerts, festivals?

And even if it was going to rain, that doesn't mean you can't shut down the event early. People aren't stupid. They know when the party's over.

Anyway, I just want to say I'm sorry for what you missed out on. They said they are scheduling a make-up event next month. I'll keep you posted, but don't expect me to splash it across the front page anymore.

On to the fiasco at the University of Texas. That was an embarrassment for our city and our state. There was absolutely no reason, whatsoever, for the police to be called on that campus, with all their stormtrooper gear on. I mean, seriously, get the hell out of here with that.

Those young folk weren't doing anything criminal. They were protesting what I've been protesting for the past six months.

Every official, from the president down, bear responsibility. You all owe your students an apology. What happened to, "What starts here changes the world?" You sure as hell had an opportunity to put that slogan to the test; but you failed; Miserably! UT could have set an example of how it's done in America. Instead, UT did worse than Columbia University in New York and the University of Southern California.

Speaking of USC, Reggie Bush was rewarded his Heisman trophy back. And it's way past due. There's a brilliant article on it inside. That story pretty much covers it all, but I'd like to know why Bush was the scapegoat of an unjust practice for so long without any retribution from the media toward USC. Because the last time I saw anything like this, SMU got the death penalty.

Martial Law at UT



Protesters face a police line Wednesday during a student demonstration in support of Palestine at the University of Texas at Austin campus. Credit: Julius Shieh for The Texas Tribune



Joint Statement from
Gary L. Bledsoe, President - Texas State Conference of NAACP Units and
Dr. Brian Evans, President Elect - Texas Conference of the AAUP

(AUSTIN, TX) - The Texas Conference of AAUP and the Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches would like to express alarm at what we have witnessed today at the University of Texas. After a day where students, faculty and staff were denied the right to engage in their desired protests of teach-ins, study sessions and pizza but still engaged in what were apparently peaceful protests from many eye witness accounts, the University has incredibly declared Martial Law. Though we fully respect the need for the campus to maintain security and keep individuals on the campus safe, what we saw today was far beyond that and caused fear and intimidation to many people on the University campus—most of whom were not protestors. Many students were denied the right to walk across the campus by patrols of State police with automatic weapons and many on horseback, while faculty and staff were forced to remain in buildings that were surrounded by State police and other forces. The State Police troops were so intimidating in their appearance and

demeanor that many persons were simply afraid to approach them or the lines they formed. At one point they formed circles around liberal arts buildings on the campus. Instead of trying to assist individuals who were afraid, the guard members said they could not talk while they were on duty or declined to talk altogether. There was no University official available to inform people on the campus what they should or should not do, so this created a chaotic situation. The environment on the campus already feels hostile to many faculty, staff and students and this contributed to that feeling. Students, as long as they do so within proper constraints, have a Constitutional right to demonstrate. The protestors today were mainly students and faculty. It seems as though a message was sent today with the intent of silencing any kind of protest in the future, letting future organizers know what is in store for you even if it is a peaceful protest that you are undertaking.



State troopers try to break up a pro-Palestinian protest at the University of Texas Wednesday April 24, 2024, in Austin, Texas. Student protests over the Israel/Hamas war have popped up on an increasing number of college campuses following last week's arrest of more than 100 demonstrators at Columbia University. Jay Janner - member, AP

INSIDE



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