

# SMU director scorns Dallasites For neglecting social distress

In a strongly-worded speech to the Dallas Rotary Club, Dr. Irving Baker, Assistant to the President and Director of Afro-American Studies declared that Dallas educational inequalities, discrimination, and ghettoization . . . "strongly suggests apartheid."

The real environmental problem in Dallas is "the dread pollutant discrimination," he said, "And until this particulate is destroyed, the cultural environment will not really be fit to live in." He charged the business community to "begin to measure its social performance as carefully as it measures its economic performance."

The occasion was a luncheon speech on 'Environmental and Cultural Problems of the Seventies'. The physical environment, he said, requires solutions and "perhaps our failure thus far is the fact that we have sought them only thru technology. Perhaps environmental quality must be achieved through a new social perception—one that subordinates the overemphasis on economic development."

Continuing, he said, "To be sure we have not yet reached a state of ultimate decay through this process of technological assault, I think we can agree, however,

that there exists today a pervasive moral bankruptcy which has left no institution of American life unaffected. A case in point—clearly illustrative—was the impact of the 1964 Supreme Court Decision in the Brown Case . . ."

"Family, church, school faculties and administration, business, government and the legal system—each and all sought to deprecate the dignity and worth of black families and their children by various stratagems—all of them obscene and most of them illegal."

"Today—seventeen long years later—the afflictive conflict continues. Afflictive because the separatism it seeks will cause to atrophy all children's ability to learn to live according to the demands of the latest developmental stages of the culture—a culture of diversity—requiring a high degree of socialization . . ."

"I do not suggest that Dallas abounds with benighted individuals neither do I affirm that the City overflows with persons who are benevolent. I do assert that there exists and is perpetuated in practice a social code basic to the problems here which inhibits

the achievement of a charitable community.

"The press and the media of this City, while revealing some of its pathologies, have sought to rationalize them and to misassign responsibility. Or, they have treated social distress in Dallas as a phenomenon which defies rational explanation. At no time have they dealt with the root cause—discrimination . . ."

"The 1960's emphasized an ineradicable determination on the part of blacks that no longer will they permit white Americans to cause them to despise themselves. I believe that history will mark that decade as the time when black Americans ceased to permit themselves to be defined by white Americans. James Baldwin puts this identity fact in crisp focus when he says: ". . . that particular aspect our journey now begins to be behind us. The secret, is out: we are men!" . . ."

"Three hundred years is a long time within which to rid American society and Dallas of the dread pollutant discrimination. But until this particulate is destroyed, the cultural environment will not really be fit to live in."

## Record Review

### Joni's 'Blue' and Rundgren's 'Ballad'

—by Glenn Mitchell

Woe be the talented musician who is stuck with a top forty teeny bopper image. Heavys ignore him because of weak singles, and 12-year-olds won't buy his albums which are usually pretty good. Such is the case with Todd Rundgren. It wasn't always like that of course. When he formed Nazz at 18 it was for basic rock and roll, but on his first LP and single the image seemed to have changed. The single was pure schlock, and not enough listeners payed attention to his first solo album because of it. Hopefully, this will not be the case with "The Ballad of Todd Rundgren", because "Ballad" is a gas. As usual, Todd handles most of the instruments and vocals himself—all

well—and manages to provide a sound that will cover a gamut of tastes from the quiet "Be Nice To Me", to a hard rocker called "Parole", which is pure Nazz. Get this one.

A brief critique of Joni Mitchell's "Blue" is all that is necessary, simply because superlatives get tiring, and most are completely inadequate. Suffice to say that this is probably one of the best albums you will hear this year. The lyrics alone are overpowering, though some people may be put off at first by the down nature of some of the cuts, a tendency not prevalent to any extent on her previous three LP's. Just listen a couple of times, and become a believer.

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## Terry named English head

Marshall Terry, creative writing instructor, has become the new head of the English department in the place of Dr. James Early who has been appointed as associate dean of the H & S faculties.

The chairmanship is on a rotating basis with four years intervals. The decision for chairmanship is a 'matter of consensus' in the department and administration alike, Terry said.

Terry, an acclaimed and outstanding professor, will carry the same nine hour teaching load that he did last year.

He foresaw no change in the English curriculum although the department will emphasize undergraduate teaching.

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### Cheerful Lot

They're here and more are coming; 1400 Pep Squad and Drill Team aspirants have arrived on campus this week for summer training. 1400 more girls will arrive next week to relieve the battle lines of the original group. The following three weeks will proffer a total of 3620 cheerleaders, coming in weekly shifts.





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