

UNIVERSITY YM(?)A--2

Short Film On Pacifism Causes Row

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This is the second of a series of stories on the controversial University of Texas YMCA, in Austin. The author is one of The Dallas News' prize-winning reporters, a longtime observer of activities in the state capital.

By **JIMMY BANKS**
Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, TEXAS.—A few days after the start of the current semester, the "University of Texas YMCA and YWCA" staged a well-publicized open house designed to recruit new members.

One of the main attractions was a short movie, "The Language of Faces." It was produced by the American Friends Service Committee in an effort to promote nuclear disarmament and pacifism.

The movie was shown three times during the afternoon, to audiences of only about a dozen people, and each showing was followed by a discussion of it.

The day's most heated discussion quickly boiled down to a debate which pitted two of the Y's most active members, Vivien Leigh Franklin of Wimberley and Charles Dennis Laughlin Jr. of Dallas, against two conservative students, Richard Tausch of San Antonio and Gordon Oakley of Dallas.

"**I WILL ADMIT,**" Laughlin declared at one point, "that Russia is imperialistic—but no more so than the United States."

When Tausch and Oakley jumped on that statement, he said it was based on the United States' "domination" of Latin-American countries.

Laughlin also contended that "China is better off behind the Iron Curtain than it was under Chiang Kai-shek."

His viewpoints were reinforced by three late arrivals: his roommate, Chester Arthur Briggs Jr., also from Dallas; B. T. Bonner, a 34-year-old Negro government student from Wallis, and Peter K. Leppmann, a Dallas representative of the World University Service organization, which works closely with the American Friends.

Laughlin and Brooks both wore lapel buttons which they said later signified membership in the Student Peace Union, of which Miss Franklin also is a member. It is one of the organizations which participated in recent demonstrations at Washington and in New York's Times Square.

THE MOVIE and the subsequent discussion demonstrated one of the chief complaints of the Y's critics—that it presents only one side of the major issues in which it is interested, such as disarmament.

In an apparent effort to counter such criticism, the Y presented a speech that night by Charles A. Wright, a University law professor and active Republican who discussed the need for 2-party government in Texas.

Only about 15 people, mostly Y leaders and members, showed up for his talk.

Frank L. Wright, executive secretary of the Y, later admitted he was quite disappointed by the small number of visitors attracted to the day's activities. While no accurate count was made, it was obvious that total attendance was far less than 1 per cent of the approximately 19,000 students attending the University.

Asked why he picked that particular film to show during a recruiting effort, Wright replied: "It was readily available—all we had to do was make a phone call—and we had been looking for a suitable place to use it. And we wanted one with content that would start discussions."

LAUGHLIN and Miss Franklin made it clear they had not desired a discussion with Tausch and Oakley, who are active in a conservative campus organization known as Young Americans For Freedom. They labeled the two as "hecklers."

But Tausch and Oakley contended their reception was typical of that accorded Y visitors who hold a conservative viewpoint. In some discussions, said Tausch, known conservatives are ignored when questions are called for and, at times, parliamentary rules have even been changed during meetings to silence conservatives.

"Almost everyday," he added, "the Y people find another issue and build it up to keep the students in a political turmoil."

Oakley agreed.

"They are always agitating so much for every little piddling issue I don't see how they can make any of them sensational enough to attract an audience," he said. "They claim to be open-minded but they are open-minded to the point of absurdity, to the point that their minds are actually closed. They are social disgruntles looking for any excuse to agitate for political motives."

(Tuesday: The controversial Miss Franklin).

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