

UNIVERSITY YM(?)A-4

The 'C' Causes Disagreement

(Fourth of a series.)

By JIMMY BANKS
Austin Bureau of The News

JUSTIN, Texas—Much of the recent controversy surrounding University of Texas YMCA-CA centers around the "C" in name.

Even some of its most active members complain that the Young Men's Christian Association is inclined to emphasize "community" more than "Christianity" principles these days.

Two members from Dallas, Charles Dennis Laughlin Jr. and Arthur Briggs Jr., offer a striking example of the disagreement connected with that pivotal C.

They are roommates. Tacked to the front door of their ramshackle apartment, just off the campus, is a typewritten card proclaiming as the headquarters for the

"University Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment."

THE ONLY THING wrong with the YMCA," says Briggs,

"is that the 'C' is left out—there is no emphasis on religion. Some of the strongest support for the Y comes from the Arab students. Two of the discussion group leaders are Arabs. If this was a Christian organization, they wouldn't be caught dead there."

Laughlin disagreed. "Hindus, Moslems, anybody can come there and even worship there if they want to," he declared. "Everybody is welcome."

The two agree, however, that capital punishment should be abolished, that the House Committee on Un-American Activities deserves a similar fate, that nuclear disarmament is a "must" and that complete integration is highly desirable.

They also believe the Y is a great organization.

"To those of us who are in it," said Laughlin, "there is no other organization like it. It has something for everybody."

BOTH BRIGGS and Laughlin are members of the Student Peace Union, a national organization they are trying to activate on the

campus. University of Texas demonstrators here demanding (1) disarmament and (2) clemency for convicted killer Howard Stickney.

Laughlin says he is motivated primarily by his strong belief that "there is no justification for taking human life."

"No ideology on earth is worth an all-out nuclear war," he declared, "because an all-out nuclear war would destroy all ideologies."

Laughlin said he was not "sure about Stickney's innocence but I

\$96,265 Low Bid On Puget Project

Uvalde Construction Co.'s bid of \$95,265 was lowest of five before the City Council to improve Puget from Singleton Boulevard to Bickers. The estimate was \$123,000.

Of six bidders vying to lay cast iron water mains in Ledbetter Drive from Paloduro Lane to Denley Drive, Cole Williams, Inc., apparently bid low at \$62,609.

The council also advertised for water main work in Ledbetter from Denley Drive to Bonnie View. The City Hall estimate here is \$127,000.

feel he hasn't been proven guilty."

"I don't feel taking a human life is justified, even in war," he said. "It is left over from earlier, more primitive, barbaric days."

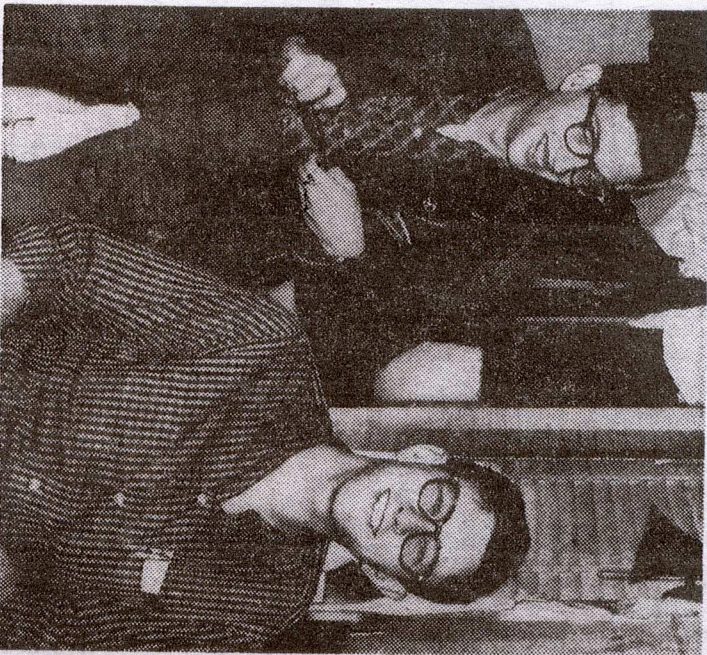
BRIGGS SAID his feelings on disarmament are based primarily on concern for people, and particularly children, in other parts of the world.

"The children in India and Japan, for instance, have no say-so over their future," he said. "It has been taken out of their hands and put in the hands of Russia and the United States. This is a terrible obligation we have—and we can't play around with it. I have real concern for everybody in the world. It's idealistic."

(Last week Briggs, who was in his junior year, quit the university to join the Folk Singers for Peace, a trio whose original members were all from California.

While appearing in Mexico recently, the original three were arrested and deported, and one of the singers then left the group to return to San Francisco. The remaining pair, who had come to Austin, contacted Briggs and he agreed to join them.)

Briggs and Laughlin are both active members of Austin for Peaceful Alternatives, which was organized originally a few months ago by Frank L. Wright, executive secretary of the University Y. It was known at first as Austin Against Annihilation.



Chester Arthur Briggs Jr. (left) and Charles Laughlin Jr. . . . Criticism doesn't bother them.

—Dallas News Staff Photo.

The name was changed, they said, because the members felt it would be better to advertise a positive, rather than a negative, approach.

"Are you two ever bothered," they were asked, "by criticism that some of these organizations to which you belong are left-wing?"

As they both shook their heads, Briggs produced the answer.

"I belong to 10 or 12 organizations," he said, "but I am active only in the Student Peace Union, the Young Democrats, Austin for Peaceful Alternatives, Students for Direct Action and the Society to Abolish Capital Punishment.

"The only criticism that bothers me," he said, "is when people claim I am joining just for the sake of joining."

THURSDAY: The need for changes in government policy