

The Dallas Morning News

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Group Criticizes Article by Banks

A number of members of the College House of the Christian Faith-and-Life Community in Austin have written The News, taking issue with an article in the series which Jimmy Banks has written concerning the University of Texas YMCA-YWCA.

Their letter follows:

"We, as members of the College House of the Christian Faith-and-Life Community are compelled to comment on the article in Tuesday's News concerning Miss Vivien Franklin, a resident of the College House.

"Along with Harrison Brown and James Real, Miss Franklin believes that defense production is such an integral part of the nation's economy that the feasibility of significant disarmament is questionable; with Reinhold Niebuhr and Henry Steele Commager, she favors the abolition of HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee), and with J. Frank Dobie and, of course, Pres. Kennedy, she feels that the ultra rightists represent a serious threat to American civil liberties. Miss Franklin advocated in the article nothing which has not been advocated many times before by well-known, thoughtful Americans.

"We also regret the manner in

which Mr. Banks mentioned the Christian Faith-and-Life Community. The Community, he writes is "controversial"; perhaps so, but we wish that he had been more explicit. In what way is it "controversial," and to whom is it "controversial?" Mr. Banks seems to infer that controversy, per se, is bad, evil, pernicious, and should be suppressed or exposed for all Texas to see.

"Mr. Banks shows unusual interest in a portrait of Christ which once hung in the living room of the women's branch. He should have inquired why the portrait was covered and later removed. He would have discovered that two girls had objected to it because they felt it was too effeminate, too sentimental a portrayal of Christ. The picture was removed, not, as some readers might suspect, because the Community is "anti-religious," but simply because the portrait was an abominable work of art.

"Doubtless, many readers are not familiar with the work of the Christian Faith-and-Life Community. The Community, we feel, is a complex institution, and the episode of the covered portrait of Christ is hardly representative of its activities. Each week groups ranging from college students to laymen and ministers meet under Community guidance to study the Christian faith and its relevance to today's problems. The teaching staff at the Community travels throughout the nation addressing various college groups, churches, and conferences.

The letter was signed by Earl Black, John Holcombe, Don V. Caplinger, Matie Belle Medlin, Alex Rush, Sara Jo Thompson, Leon Joseph Folsie Jr., Dick Anderson, Harry Edwards, Val Lynch, Benny Frank McAdams, John E. Laakso, Carol A. Crawford, Robert D. Barnett, Mike Sullivan, Ruth Petitfils, Terry Weldon, David Gilmartin, Dick Simpson, Susan Wilson, Larry Manire, Keith Stanford, Robert Ingram, Jim Runnels, Bobby Jack James, Harvey Wilson, Don M. Barnett, Mildred Bunch, Marcelyn Green, Charles L. Ward, Wayne Slaughter, Carol Darrell, Mellanses Slaughter, Mike Symons, Mario Arguedas, Mieke Van't Spijker, John D. Glynn Jr., Annemarie Salzmann, Coit Lawrence, Frank L. Spring, Freeman Waynewood and Danilo Kuljis.