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PANTZER'S STATEMENT ON "PAPER" ENDORSED BY UM FACULTY SENATE

MISSOULA--

A statement by University of Montana President Robert T. Pantzer regarding academic freedom and the role of a university in our society has received unanimous approval from 40 members of the UM Faculty Senate.

Pantzer's statement is in answer to criticism regarding use of an essay entitled "The Student As Nigger" in a UM English class this summer. The president read his statement to members of the Board of Regents in Helena on Sept. 10.

The Faculty Senate, the governing body representing the UM faculty in faculty-related business, recently approved a motion by the seven-member Faculty Senate Budget and Policy Committee endorsing Pantzer's statement.

Dr. Gordon Browder, a UM sociology professor who is chairman of both the Faculty Senate and the Budget and Policy Committee, said, "We feel that the statement to the Board of Regents by President Pantzer is particularly important because it emphasizes the responsibilities of a university and the place of a university in our society."

Dr. Browder said the committee was particularly impressed by one of the president's remarks appearing on page four of the 7 1/2-page statement. In that part Pantzer refers to a university as "the place in the formal education process where the student must be free to learn, a freedom in its broadest sense, and likewise the teacher having like freedom to teach."

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"It (a university) is the place," Pantzer continues, "where the student has the opportunity never before existent in his life, and never thereafter because of the responsibilities fraught upon the adult in our way of life, to search for the truth, every truth--even that which is stark, shocking and repugnant to his moral value. It is the place where the student must learn of reality, to argue with ideas, to consider the strange and bizarre ways and mores of mankind. The instructor of that student at the college level must help to open up the doors of truth--not just sweetness and light--but all that exists for mankind to know."

Five of the 45 Faculty Senate members were not at the recent meeting at which Pantzer's statement was endorsed.

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