U. of Miss. still working to drop Confederate flag

OXFORD, Miss.—The University of Mississippi came one step closer this month to eliminating the Confederate flag as a symbol of the institution.

Mississippi's Faculty Senate unanimously voted to endorse a resolution by the institution's alumni association asking fans to refrain from waving the flag at football games and other events.

The university has been trying in recent years to rid the campus of the flag, which many say inflames racial tensions. In 1983 college officials disavowed the institution's association with the flag, and asked students to refrain from waving it at public events. The request came in response to student protests in support of a black cheerleader's refusal to carry the flag at football games.

The university, whose athletic teams are nicknamed "Ole Miss" and the "Rebels," has endorsed the use of a new flag with a symbol on it called the "Battle M." To further discourage the use of the Confederate flag, the university plans to distribute pom-poms free at football games, a university official said.

"The Confederate flag is used by organizations like the Ku Klux Klan and the Hell's Angels that do not represent the goals or interests of the university," said Leslie J. Wyatt, vice-chancellor for executive affairs, who noted that the use of the flag as an informal symbol of the university persisted.

"The flag represents a history of racial conflict and tension not befitting the university." •

Professor is accused of stealing artifacts

SCRANTON, PA. — A professor of American history at the University of Scranton has agreed to plead guilty to charges of interstate transportation of stolen property. He has acknowledged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation says he stole from at least eight museums.

The professor, John Q. Feller (right), has also been charged with stealing items from the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Del. He was on sabbatical from Scranton when he was arrested in April by the Delaware State Police and charged with stealing two $11,000 plates from the museum.

The police say Mr. Feller, who was doing research at Winterthur as a visiting scholar, was also preparing to steal another, more valuable plate from a collection that belonged to George Washington. Those charges are pending.

After his arrest, the FBI searched his Scranton home and found 50 to 75 items and the bureau said Mr. Feller had stolen over the course of 20 years, while conducting research at at least eight museums, including the Peabody Museum in Salem, Mass., and the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England. Mr. Feller had lent some of the items to other institutions for display. He faces up to 20 years in prison and fines totaling $500,000 on the federal charges.

The professor, who has studied and written about trade in China in the 19th century, is a collector of Chinese porcelain.

Correction

An article about the United Negro College Fund's choice of Congressmen William H. Gray, Ill, as its next president (The Chronicle, June 26) incorrectly stated that Mr. Gray is a former minister of one of Philadelphia's largest black churches. Mr. Gray continues as a minister at Bright Hope Baptist Church, where he has preached since 1972.

'A NETWORK OF SURVIVAL'

Magazine Offers a Radical Perspective on Teaching

By SCOTT HELLER

Rising politics and education is nothing new to the editors of the magazine Radical Teacher, which for 18 years has unswervingly offered a left-wing perspective on school and college teaching.

Well before "multiculturalism" became a buzz word and "politically correct" a fashionable epithet, the magazine's editorial group, most of them college professors, were writing and publishing articles on how the classroom could be a place for change.

A pencil drawing of President Bush alongside a group of school children appears on the cover of the latest issue. "Be All That You Can Be" is written in chalk on the blackboard behind him. But in the drawing, Mr. Bush erases words like "minority scholarships" and "child care."

Inside are articles about literature and nuclear war, Caribbean studies in a Brooklyn high school, and feminist theory. Most pieces are "news you can use," determined to help teachers with problems in the classroom.

A Voice Against Apathy

With a circulation of 2,000, Radical Teacher remains low-profile, though its influence may be growing, especially as the politics of humanities education is hotly debated nationally. "In my optimistic times I think we've had quite an influence on the academy," says its editor, Susan Gushée O'Malley, an English professor at Kean College through Community College of the City University of New York.

Mr. O'Malley serves on the board of the Modern Language Association's radical caucus who founded the magazine in 1971. English professors, most of them from the East Coast, make up a big part of the 32-member volunteer editorial group, which meets every six weeks at Wesleyan to divide responsibilities and plan future issues.

"We deal with layout and the other details that get the magazine out—sometimes close to schedule—three times a year," Mr. O'Malley says.

Radical Teacher is unique, its editors say, because it offers practical advice to teachers at all levels. It does not report on research. Says Mr. O'Malley: "We get a fair number of letters from people who say, 'Your magazine has saved my life. I'm in rural Alabama and no one else does what I want to do.'"

"Not for us a center of controversy. We're activists. That's an important part of all of us. People who aren't activists aren't on the board."

James, like Mr. O'Malley, have become key figures in current national debates about the humanities. Paul Lauter, another founder, teaches English at Trinity College in Connecticut and is general editor of the new and controversial Heath Anthology of American Literature (The Chronicle, January 16).

A lot of the mainstream is asking the questions that only we used to be asking," says Louis Kampf, professor of English at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. "It's a kind of renaissance that even if the movement wanes and wanes, there's still a core we can rely on."

Adds Ms. O'Malley: "We're reactivists. That's an important part of all of us. People who aren't activists aren't on the board."

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Susan Gushée O'Malley, the magazine's editor: "In my optimistic times I think we've had quite an influence on the academy."

The overarching question, Mr. Kampf says, remains this: "Is education really about enlightening people and helping the democratic process? What aspects do that and what aspects don't?"

For a time, involvement on the magazine was something that contributed to their résumés. Now, many say they no longer need to play down the work. "I don't hide it," says Mr. Davis. "I think it's a benign publication. It doesn't advocate a kind of violent political solution. It's basically a socialist publication."

No longer is it such a shoe-string operation, either. For the first time, Radical Teacher has an office—actually, a desk and a filing cabinet—in the basement of an anti-nuclear organization in Boston.

That's likely to be its only concession to a higher profile, says Mr. O'Mahnn, who notes that slowly increasing subscriptions and modest aspirations have kept the magazine solvent when others with similar political views have disappeared. Radical Teacher is supported solely by subscriptions and newstand sales. "We're probably the only left magazine that doesn't have financial problems," he says.

For subscription information, write to Radical Teacher, Box 102, Kendall Square Post Office, Cambridge, Mass. 02142.
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