

The South

AS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM?



THE HOUSTON VANDERBILT CLUB

The Houston Vanderbilt Club
117 Alumni Hall
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37240

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The South

AS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM?

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1993

8:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

THE WESTON OAKS HOTEL

5011 WESTHEIMER ROAD

3RD FLOOR, CONSULATE ROOM

\$30 per person includes lunch

Please reply with reservation form by March 13

Questions? Call Amy Ragan
552-1625 (h), 685-6526 (o)

For your enjoyment and for a contextual basis for the seminar, the professors suggest reading *The Burden of Southern History* by C. Vann Woodward with particular attention to the first chapter. The book is very accessible and is available in paperback.

Schedule

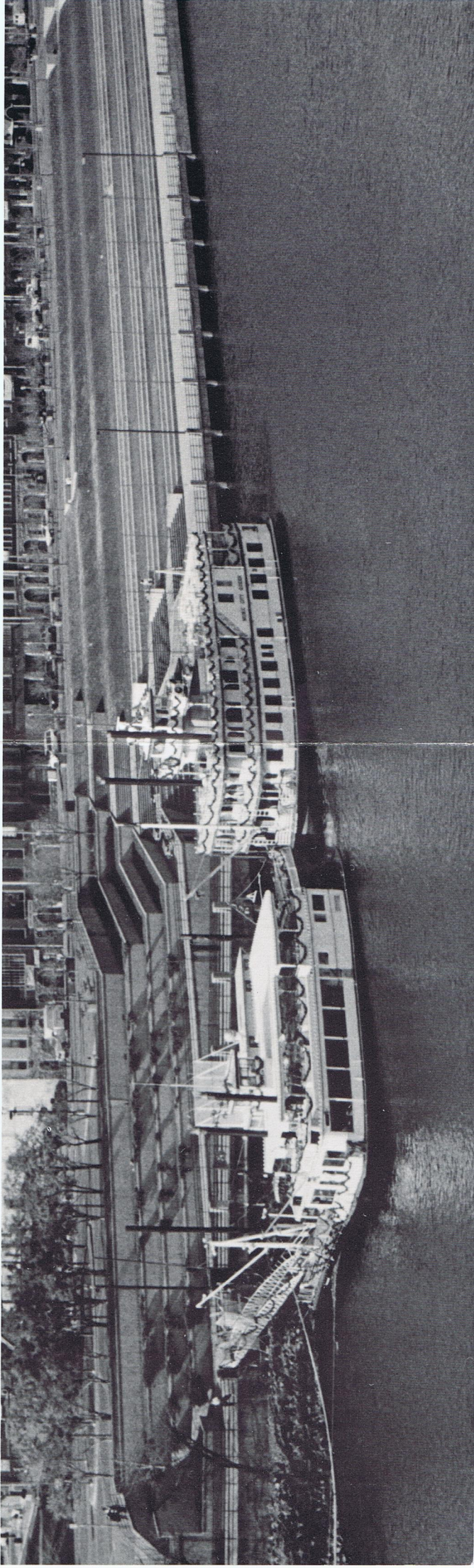
- 8:30** Coffee and Registration
- 9:00** "The South as an Economic Problem: Fact or Fiction?"
Robert A. Margo, Professor of Economics
- "Race in the Formation of Southern Character"
Michael Kreyling, Professor of English
- "Why Was the South a Problem to America?"
Larry Griffin, Professor of Sociology and Political Science
- 10:30** Break
- 10:45** Discussion
Ron Stone, Jr., BA'85, Moderator
- 12:00** Lunch at The Roof, 21st Floor



Saturday Symposium is presented by the Houston Vanderbilt Club, with special thanks to:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Amonett
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More than any other region of the United States, the South historically has been thought to present a special problem to itself and to the nation at large. The "Problem South" has long been understood to pervade virtually every dimension of southern literary expressions, its economic and political institutions, and its migration patterns.

Even as American ideals were impaired by a "Problem South," the remainder of the U.S. benefitted from its characterization of the South as the source of the nation's problems. Were America's ills safely housed in this particular region, thereby marginalizing and redefining them as uniquely southern?

This symposium brings to Houston three faculty members who were born and educated in the Deep South, the Mid-South, and the North.

About the Faculty

Robert Margo, Professor of Economics

Professor Margo teaches American economic history. The author of two books on black education, he is currently working on *The Decline in Black Teenage Labor Force Participation in the South, 1900-1970* and a book dealing with teaching and gender in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Michael Kreyling, Professor of English

Professor Kreyling teaches southern literature on the undergraduate and graduate levels and is the author of two books on Eudora Welty. He has recently published *Figures of the Hero in Southern Narrative* and is currently focusing on southern literary culture after World War II.

Larry Griffin, Professor of Sociology and Political Science

In addition to being co-director of the Robert Penn Warren Fellows Program, Professor Griffin teaches a course on the sociology of the South. He is currently engaged in a historical study of lynching and averted lynching in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

These faculty members are among ten who were selected as 1992-93 Fellows of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Fellows Program. The program enables faculty from different disciplines and schools within the University to come together for study on a given topic each year. The nature of the "Problem South" and its relationship to America is the central focus of this year's program.

Collectively, the Fellows fuse a variety of historical and contemporary concerns, fact and interpretation, and social science and humanistic perspectives in their analyses of the South as an American problem.