

Marilyn [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Wimberley, Texas 78676

April 10, 2007

R. Gerald Turner,
President, Southern Methodist University
Perkins Administration Building
6425 Boaz Lane
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Sir:

It is with sadness to the point of grief that I herewith return to you the diploma awarded to me by Southern Methodist University on June 3, 1957. For almost 50 years, I had been reasonably proud to say I was a graduate of SMU. I had believed and still believe that the values learned during my years at the university equipped me to give thoughtful consideration to events and to arrive at dispassionate opinions about the world, my country, and my personal life. I am no longer able to believe that this will continue to be the case for future graduates.

Among those opinions has been the firm belief that no institution of higher learning should blindly follow either a course dictated by an ultra-liberal agenda or a course dictated by an ultra-conservative agenda. The university's becoming the site for the presidential library of George W. Bush and home to a "conservative think tank" that will engage in "polishing the image of George W. Bush" has shattered this long cherished belief.

There is no amount of money, there is neither physical plant, nor hoped for *prestige* that can erase the stain left by the ill-considered alignment of the university with this admittedly partisan institution. In so doing, the good name of Southern Methodist University has been permanently harmed and devalued.

It was my hope and the hope of many another SMU graduate that someday the university would become the institution that was envisioned by its founders. It was our hope that the university's motto, *Veritas Liberabit Vos*, would always be taken seriously. This hope is now gone and the motto's brave words ring hollow as preparations are underway to play host to the legacy of the man who has headed the most divisive, destructive, and disreputable administration this country has yet known.

Sincerely,

Marilyn [REDACTED]