

# Ousted Stanford prof sparks Rutgers controversy

H. Bruce Franklin, no stranger to controversy when he was fired from Stanford University in 1972, has become a center of controversy in New Jersey, where he has been hired by Rutgers University.

Franklin, an avowed Maoist, was fired by Stanford after a faculty advisory board decided he had incited violence on campus during anti-war demonstrations in 1971.

He has just been hired by Rutgers University on a three-year contract to teach at the school's Newark campus.

However his appointment has been criticized by legislators who contend that Rutgers, the state university in

New Jersey, should not hire a man "who is an avowed Maoist and communist."

Franklin says that legislators who oppose his appointment because they dislike his political views are treading on hazardous philosophical ground.

"I thought the state legislators ought to have some allegiance to the state constitution," Franklin told the Times today. "I think that people expected there'd be some words from this kind of politician."

Franklin said that his new job is not in jeopardy because of the controversy, and he doubted that the legislators opposing him would be able to pass a bill forbidding his teaching at Rutgers.

Franklin's only concern was about the reputation for controversy that precedes him. "I don't know if I'll be able to live up to the advance billing," he joked.

Franklin currently lives in Middletown, Conn. while teaching classes at Yale University and Wesleyan University.

Franklin's is not the first case that has caused controversy among New Jersey state legislators.

Ten years ago this month a political storm erupted over a speech by a Rutgers University professor who said

he did "not fear or regret the impending Viet Cong victory in Vietnam. I welcome it."

The professor, Eugene Genovese, spoke to an anti-war campus teach-in, and his speech became the major issue in New Jersey's 1965 gubernatorial campaign.

The Republican gubernatorial candidate, Wayne Dumont Jr., accused Democratic incumbent Richard Hughes of being "soft on communism" for refusing to demand that Rutgers fire Genovese.

Hughes said that while he did not personally agree with Genovese's views, he would not impinge on academic freedom and the right of free speech. Hughes was re-elected by a landslide.

Franklin said he has met Genovese once. "While I disagree with some of his views, he is a very distinguished historian," Franklin said.

Rutgers University has issued a statement in response to the criticism from legislators.

"No university worthy of the name can set tests of political orthodoxy as a requisite for faculty appointment," the statement began. It concluded, "The lecture halls of any great university must remain open to all points of view."

## 16-month-old child drowns in swim pool

A 16-month-old infant drowned in a front house swimming pool in Palo Alto Sunday shortly after the child was hospitalized for an abdominal wound, according to police.

The child, Stevens, was pronounced dead at Stanford University Medical Center at 4:50 p.m. His mother was informed of the death at the hospital.

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