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Michael Powell
@powellnyt



1. A Federal Court ruling has brought renewed attention to an explosive battle over race and free speech in Texas, one that has nearly consumed the career of a music theory professor Tim Jackson. The federal judge, while not the end of the story, strongly suggested [#thread](#)

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2. that the University of North Texas had chilled Professor Jackson's speech when it removed him as editor of a tiny journal he had founded. It is devoted to Heinrich Schenker, who was Jewish and a highly regarded





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3. and long-dead music theorist. The controversy began in 2019 when Hunter College Professor Phil Ewell, who is Black and a music theorist, delivered a prominent speech to an academic convention, describing the field as dominated by white males and tossed by racism. He described



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4. Schenker, who died in 1935, as a “virulent racist” and accused prominent white professors of constituting a “witness protection system” and denying this racism. Professor Jackson, who is Jewish, responded with his own charged essay, arguing Ewell had scapegoated Schenker



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5. within “the much larger context of Black-on-Jew attacks in the United States” Graduate students & professors denounced Prof Jackson as a racist and some called for his removal. “The Twitter mob is like a quasi-fascist police state,” Professor Jackson told me a yr ago



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6. [My Story on fracas] [nytimes.com/2021/02/14/art...](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/14/art...)





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7. The Battle raised Free Speech concerns, and drew attention from civil liberties groups. Academic duels are metaphorically bloody affairs. Tenure traditionally shields sharp-tongued academics from censure. The Federal Judge in this case was an Obama appointee and he wrote



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8. bluntly in rejecting the University's request that he dismiss the case. "This case stems from the suppression of academic scholarship at the University of North Texas ... as the Plaintiff in this matter is now aware, pressures from offended constituents can overshadow



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9 .promises of academic freedom" The University & Texas have rejected offers to mediate or settle for no money. Their position, argued Jackson's attorney Michael Thad Allen, evinced: "UNT's utter determination to enshrine its contempt for academic freedom in the university's



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10, highest office."





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11. New Link for my story on this:



[nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

Obscure Musicology Journal Sparks Battles Over Race and Free Speech

A scholar's address about racism and music theory was met with a vituperative, personal response by a small journal. It faced calls to ...



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Wow I live in the same town as UNT and have never heard about this.

