

# Opinion

## Why the smoking areas came to be

*The philosophy behind making you freeze to death in isolation to take a puff*

by **John Climer**  
Staff Writer

We've all seen them. Huddled together, white clouds drifting away from them in the wind; the way the collective breaths of a cattle-herd linger in the air on a cold day. I'm not referring to livestock though; I'm referring to smokers.

What's the philosophy of these so-called smoking areas? Do they serve as some

type of passive-aggressive attempt by the college to publicly scorn these people for their nicotine use?

Should smokers feel ostracized by being regulated to these areas? Some students would probably say yes, while others might say no. I leave it to the reader to decide.

The creation of the smoking

areas does, however, serve an actual purpose. Considering that it takes an average

cigarette-butt several decades to decompose, it makes sense that the college would require the use of smoking areas, since these areas are furnished with appropriate cigarette-butt disposal receptacles.

Also, considering that second-hand smoke causes an estimated 3400 lung-cancer

deaths annually (according to the American Lung Association), the creation of smoking areas could be an attempt by the college to isolate the leftover smoke to these specific areas in order to minimize the danger to other students.

Regardless of personal opinions, there is a well-intended philosophy behind the smoking areas and adhering to the college's tobacco-related precedents will save smokers a big headache in the long-run.



## An open letter to BC students, faculty, and the community from our sports editor...

by **Johnny 'Stats' Lange**  
Sports Editor

Hey y'all,

I have returned from the depression of my Big Red losing the Super Bowl to write once again. This week however, I have an important request to make to all of you.

First of all, I have to say that I am very impressed by all of your support that is shown for the men's basketball team. Having been to a few away games in the conference, it's quite obvious that you have transformed Boshamer Gymnasium into a place that our foes do not want to visit.

The noise that is made at each game can rattle even the best of players that the South Atlantic Conference has to offer. It has already led to a couple of "upsets" and I'm sure that there will be a couple of more to follow in the remaining four matchups of the regular season.

However as I write this letter to you (on Wednesday afternoon) I am well aware that in three hours I will walk into a mostly empty gym. Tragically, for a majority of the double headers our teams play, there is no "home-court advantage" for our women's team.

Let me state that I'm not trying to condemn those who have classes to attend or a job. However, I also know there are many people who can make both games and simply choose not to.

This is a trend that has not just started this year. Even last year, when the women's team had more wins than the men, the attendance was extremely low for the first game. So the argument regarding the record of the women's team just doesn't fly here.

I understand many of the arguments against women's ball; that it's a slower game, there are no dunks, and so on. However, our women's team trains and plays just as hard as

the men do, and they deserve more support than what they are getting.

This is a situation very similar to what our football team went through this fall. Both teams are very young, and with a young team comes a lot of losses. However, over the last couple of games, the young ladies are getting closer and closer to pulling a win out against a SAC. foe.

Surely the vanquished rivals of the men's team weren't expecting a loss, and there is little

doubt in this writer's mind that the crowd played a large factor in the momentum of the game. It would be nice for the women to get to experience the same thrill to play in front of a large and loud crowd.

So when this issue comes to print, we will have three double-headers remaining in the basketball season. I sincerely hope that on the 11th, 18th and 21st of this month the house will be packed for both the men's and the women's game.

### Comic by Karam Boeshaar

