

# Editorial— The Constitution

## Weak Tool But Strong Weapon

Amid charges, counter-charges, hints, press leaks, and plain old malicious gossip, the student senate and SGA president have squared off in a bitter power struggle. Their strongest weapon against each other is, ironically, the student body constitution.

When either party makes a move, the other is able to counter that move by citing some article of the contradictory constitution. No progress is being made and as the warring waltz goes on, the rights and interests of the student body sit like wallflowers.

Right now there are only two things that are absolutely unquestionable. The first is that Mr. Johnson is the SGA president, elected by a majority vote during last spring's election. The second thing is that Mr. Belgrave, as vice president of the SGA, is the president of the senate. Here all certainty ends.

There is nothing certain about the senate at this point. The constitution says senate representatives will be elected from their particular precinct. It states further that the senate shall determine the definition of precinct. This is a Catch-22 situation which could mean that whoever shows up for the first senate meeting could determine that a precinct is a dormitory, campus organization, academic classification or an intramural basketball team to the exclusion or inclusion of any one or more groups. Therefore, there is uncertainty as to whether the senate now sitting is legal.

Mr. Johnson had the right idea about suspending the senate until proper verification was received from organizational presidents. Further, student organizations are largely to blame for the mess the senate is in because they often fail to send anyone to the meetings.

The responsibility is now upon the senate president to have roll call and a roll-call voting procedure. The senate president would also do well to tighten up the parliamentary procedures of the senate. By doing so, he would prevent individuals from seizing valuable floor time to engage in personal ax-grinding at the expense of governmental progress on behalf of the student body.

Then they can fix that constitution.

## Letters To The Editor

### Get Thee Behind Me Satin! But Don't Push!

This semester, I had the pleasure of listening to one of the most moving speeches delivered by Chancellor Charles Lyons. The point he made, which I whole-heartedly agree with, is to solve problems rather than make them, and to find solutions rather than make things more difficult.

At Fayetteville State, I am bombarded with rumors and hints of rumors that each segment, i.e., faculty, administration, staff and students are busy blaming each other for what they feel does not constitute a perfect status quo. Of course, since I am a librarian, I hear the potshots that are taken at the Chesnut Library. However, most of the ammunition is shot from a secondary rather than a primary source. I respect the complainers who have the moral integrity to discuss the problems they have. To my knowledge, this is the only way to gain accurate information and start on the road to recouping a bad situation. It is always easy to blame someone else for our own shortcomings or reiterate them at length than it is to think of viable solutions and discuss them with the guilty parties.

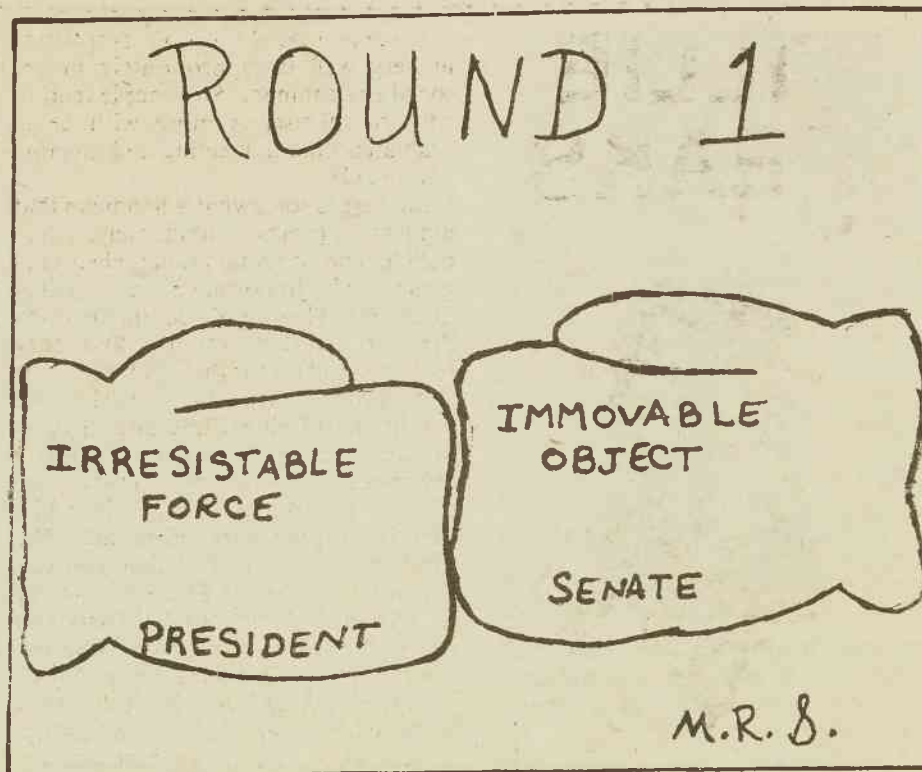
The only way that this institution will continue to be a place to point to

with pride is for each segment of the University to dispose of its unfriendly attitudes toward each other and embrace the old philosophy of cooperation.

If all the elements of the University could-or would-join together in an effort to make the library the "Resource Center" it is intended to be, helping the students (our reason for existence in the first place), not only know what materials to use, but how to use them, there might be less conflict, animosity and misunderstanding between the library, faculty and administration. As it is, there are many grumbles, but few doers.

A community of educators contains many brilliant people—genius and otherwise. A true genius is one who does not broadcast his knowledge, but radiates warmth. He or she stores truth to smooth out life's mighty mountains. Others often forget that the ladder up the path of success is often the same ladder down, and many of the same people are passed as one travels in both directions. It's a small world after all. Let us work together to make it a great world.

Evelyn P. Council  
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## Power Struggle In Student Government

By Gary Snapps

*The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot do so well for themselves in their separate and individual capacities.*

A. Lincoln

There is no great secret that in all governments power struggles exist. In 1967-68, Bobby Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson were engaged in one of the most bitter power struggles in this century. And back in 1828, John Quincy Adams struggled to maintain power over Andrew Jackson. These are struggles that are expected and, generally speaking, such power battles are advantageous - they prove that there is a free exchange of ideas.

Robert Kennedy's power play, for instance, led to our eventual withdrawal from Vietnam. Andrew Jackson's power play led to a democratic government over the more aristocratic government of John Quincy Adams. But exactly what kind of impact will a power struggle between the SGA president and the student senate have? And what are the stakes involved? And who really loses?

The struggle between the senate and the president arises mainly because of an outdated constitution - one which does not clearly separate the powers of the executive and legislative branches. A constitution that allows the president to appoint the entire judicial branch, but does not require a time limit for senate action. One half of the semester has passed by without a judicial branch, which technically means that any student who has been charged by the SGA was denied due process. So essentially the current power struggle has disabled the student government to the point that the students are not benefitting from the government's existence.

At stake is the integrity of the check and balance system and with that all three branches are considerably weakened. The imperial presidency should not have the power to run roughshod over the senate. On the other, the senate must not be allowed to hold up nominations and in effect, close down the judiciary branch and threaten the goal of justice. In all fairness to the senate, it was carrying out its duty by postponing the vote on the appointees since careful deliberation is necessary. The president also acted correctly in his attempt to fill those positions which are in the interest of the student body. But the SGA has taken a serious jolt, and how it survives this latest power struggle will depend largely upon how the new judicial branch operates.

In the future, the senate must realize its duty and try to cooperate with the president. A permanent judiciary committee might be established to keep these squabbles to a minimum. Or as Socrates might suggest, a perfect state will exist "when philosophers are kings and kings are philosophers."

### RJSC Canteen

## Fast Food—When You Can Get It

By Trenetta Tubwell

Have you ever walked into the Canteen, blind with hunger and stood patiently in line, waiting for the sandwich of your dreams? Visions of chili, pickles, barbecue, lettuce, tomatoes, and ketchup dance in your head. The dream quickly turns into a nightmare as the cook says, "Sorry, but we're out of that."

The Canteen is forever out of one or more of the basic sandwich ingredients. There have been times when there were no french fries, chicken or fish fillets, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, or ice cream. And having barbecue is the exception rather than the rule.

It is standard fast-food practice to

charge extra for lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese. But the Canteen goes a step further in charging extra for pickles (when they are available.)

Food is brought to the Canteen by a delivery truck. Since there appears to be no set days for food to be delivered, if the Canteen just happens to run out of something, ice cream for example, there is a wait of two or three days before the next shipment. Sometimes, the wait is not two days but a week.

But according to Mr. William Hall, manager of the H.L. Cook Dining Hall as well as the Canteen, there is never a shortage of the popular foods, such as hotdogs, at the Canteen. "They are always there."