

Editorials

Vet School Moves Nearer A&T

Officials of A&T State University in Greensboro won their first fight over the siting of the Veterinary School Friday, Nov. 15. UNC Board of Governors voted to postpone approval of locating the school in white North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The Board of Governors of UNC will not decide where the school will be located until the completion of a racial impact study. Official of U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare said the federal agency would object to the choice of the location without the completion of a racial impact study.

A&T officials said that locating the new school in Greensboro will have the effect of increasing the number of whites on that mainly black University campus.

In the hope of reaching a racial balance in the member institutions of the Consolidated Universities, desegregation plan requires that new programs be studied to determine their racial impact on the student enrollment.

Chancellor Dowdy of A&T State University said that A&T is very qualified to house the Vet. School. Academic strengths do not come over night but are built stage by stage. To use academic strength as a measure of where a new program would be located will ultimately mean that all new programs must be located in white colleges and Universities since white institutions are nearly always stronger academically than their black counter-part.

Programs are needed on black campuses that will attract and keep white students.

The location of the Vet. School is looked upon by many as a test as to how integration is working in North Carolina Higher Education System.

Justice Isn't Blind

The judicial system in this country can be a strange animal at times. There are instances when justice seems to be the only salvation we have. But, there are times when it seems like a farce.

Prosecution of officials for political crimes indicate that we are protected from such corruption in government. The watgate affair give some indication that our judicial system is working.

What is discouraging, however, is the punishment meted out to elected political figures who have betrayed the public's trust. When we elect a politician to office the only thing we can do is hope that he will take our best interest in hand. We can not go with him to capitol hill or Raleigh and make sure that he does what we have commissioned him to do.

On the face of it, betrayal of the public's trust has to be a deliberate and calculated act. It is cold-blooded and the consequences should be the same. Too many convicted politicians are let off the hook with light sentences and some with no sentence at all.

There are many inmates in N.C. prisons that are victims of that strange animal called justice. Not every inmate is a victim, but if there is only one then the system is failing.

Consider the fact that one of the convicted watgate personalities served his light sentence and was out of prison before the prosecution could sum its case up. That's an exaggeration of course but not far from what happened. There have been instances where influential men have been paroled before their cases even got to court.

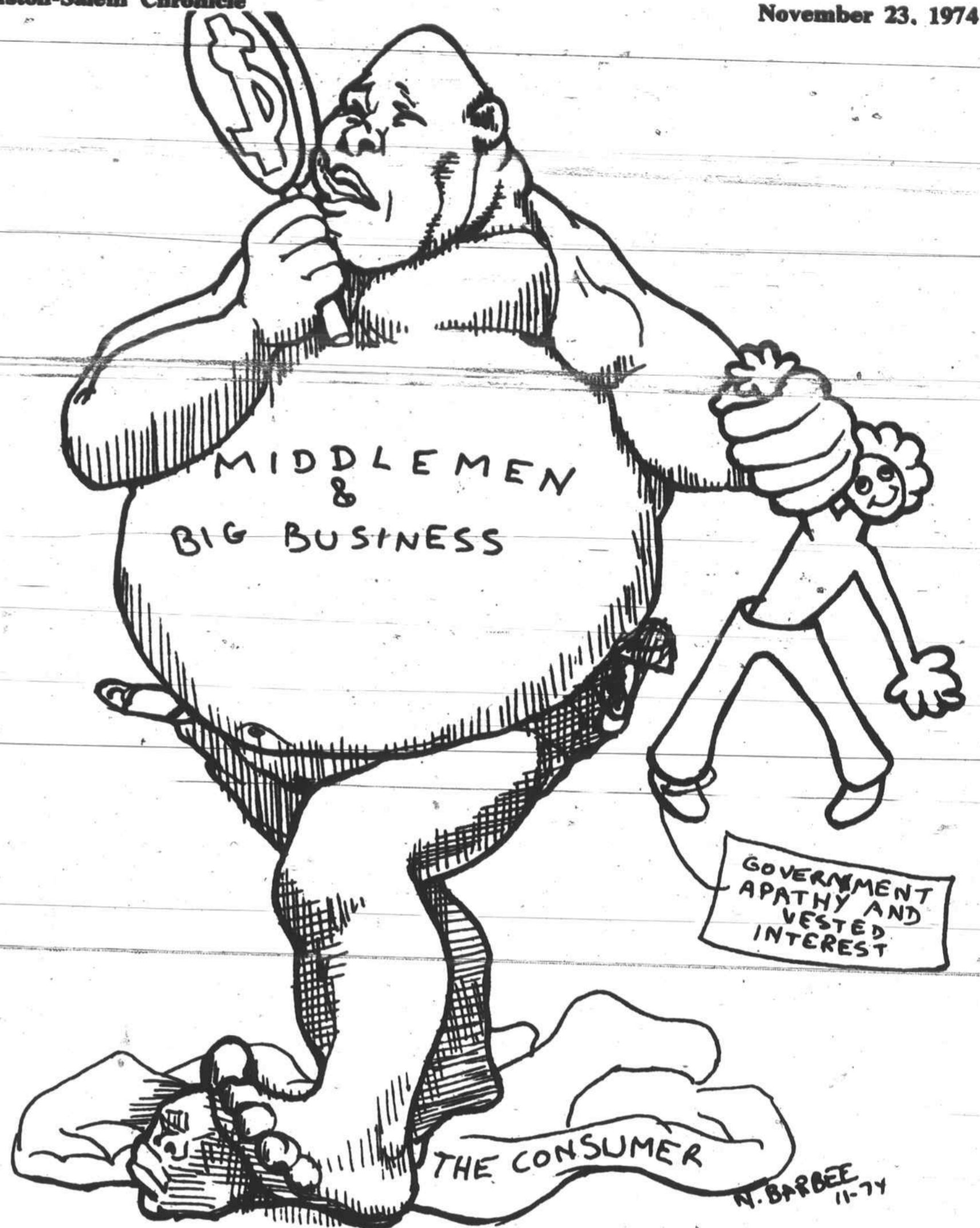
Justice is supposed to be served on everyone equally. The fact is, however, that it isn't.

Many people feel that if you don't have a lot of money or know someone who knows someone, your chance of a fair shake in court is bad. It may not be true, but too many cases appear that make it seem so.

If a politician commits a crime he should be dealt with like everyone else. What happens more often than not is that lawyers for these people can find a loophole or a quirk in the law or argue a minute point that changes the interpretation of the law.

There is a case that is scheduled to come before the North Carolina courts sometime this month involving a high political figure. Although there is no question of guilt, the accused still must ponder how to plead. No doubt his lawyers are studying the law to find a loophole or an argument that will change the color of the law.

There may be nothing wrong with this, but how many of you would have that to your advantage should you be arrested tonight? And don't say your being arrested is ridiculous...you're only half out of jail in the first place.



To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Everyone, including Republicans, expected a Democratic sweep in the recent elections, and while there were a few major surprises, there were plenty of important conclusions to be drawn from the balloting.

The first of these is that the Democratic Party, once it emerges from the euphoria of winning so heavily, must realize that it is on the spot. It can no longer point to the Administration as the prime bearer of responsibility in the country.

A second conclusion is that the Republican Party may actually have been strengthened in the long run by what seems at first to have been a massive defeat.

The liberal wing of the Party was returned to Congress almost without any casualties; the conservative wing was ripped apart. There is a lesson here for both the President and the Republican Party: the way to win future elections is to turn away from the rightward tilt of recent years and more in tune with the needs of our times.

A third election lesson is that black citizens continue to make progress in winning a fairer share of the political power in this nation.

The incumbent black Congressmen were all re-elected and the stunning victory of Harold Ford in winning a

conservative-held seat from Memphis, adds another black to the House of Representatives.

A related lesson is that more and more voters are prepared to vote for competence rather than race. Blacks won the lieutenant governorships in Colorado and California, neither having a large state-wide black population. Andrew Young, of Atlanta, won 72 percent of the vote to continue representing a district that is 60 percent white.

A final lesson from the elections is that alienation and distrust are still the dominant features of American political life. A mere 38 percent of citizens eligible to register and vote did so. That is less than half the figure for England in its election earlier this year.

There are two main reasons for this shockingly low turnout. The first is that many people, especially after Watergate, are losing faith in a democratic process that they feel has brought them

scandals, inflation and recession, and are expressing their cynicism by not voting.

The other is that state and local election laws throw up

roadblocks to those who want to register and vote. A tangle of unnecessary and complicated

procedures face citizens trying to exercise their democratic rights, and the

pattern of centralized registrars with limited hours of registration appears to be an

intentional attempt to keep people from voting.

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