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Both sides of Wilmington 10 presented

By Cathy Ray

There was a moderate turnout for the Monday night program, "The Wilmington 10 Case: Weaknesses and Strengths of the Criminal Justice System and Processes it Reveals." The program, which was slated to begin at 7:30 p.m., was delayed temporarily until James Ferguson could arrive. Ferguson explained to the audience his tardiness was directly caused by a current problem Rev. Ben Chavis is having with the court system.

(Chavis has allegedly violated parole because of his recent statements to the press.)

The toss of the coin, which determined the order of the speakers, was won by Ferguson. He spoke about the case for 15 minutes.

Ferguson began his talk by giving general information on the case. The Wilmington 10 case was one of the longest trials ever held in North Carolina. It also holds the distinction of being one of the longest litigated post-conviction cases in the state.

The central issue in the case, according



Ben Chavis is the only member of the Wilmington 10 still in prison.

to Ferguson, was whether young black activists of the 1960s could be treated fairly in the court system in the 1970s. Ferguson further said the 10 were not dealt with fairly, that the manner in which evidence against the defendants was gathered, and the manner in which the trial itself was held was unfair.

After Ferguson's address, Jay Stroud was allowed a 20-minute talk on the case. Stroud's reply was the

Wilmington 10 were dealt with fairly and routine procedures were used in gathering evidence against the defendants.

When questioned by political science professor Dennis Dorin as to whether he felt politics and racism played any part in the outcome of the trial, Ferguson responded these factors played substantial roles in the outcome of the case. Dr. Ray Michalowski questioned Stroud about the fact that in a number of North Carolina trials regarding blacks, as in the Wilmington 10 trial, the state's witnesses have been other blacks under threat of prison sentences.

One of the panel asked to know how Ferguson and Stroud felt about the

effects of jury composition (10 whites, two blacks) on the trial. Ferguson felt it "had significant impact" in that the two blacks on the jury were domestics who he believed would have been subjected to pressure had they not agreed with the white majority.

Stroud, on the other hand, felt the two blacks were "independent and could form their own opinions about the case.

Another panel question to Stroud was why he requested the jury pool come from somewhere other than Pender County, where Burgaw is located. Stroud's answer was people in Pender County were intimidated by some intimidation campaign started by Chavis.

Rubella striking campus

By Luann Whitley

Presently, 12 cases of rubella, german measles, have been reported on campus. Dr. Kevin J. Soden, director of health services, said, "It is not an epidemic. Students should not blow this all out of proportion."

The incubation period for rubella is two weeks. From the cases reported to the health center, it is almost impossible for students to know whether or not they have been in contact with the disease.

"If a student thinks he/she has rubella, they should report to the

health center so it can be confirmed," Soden said.

Rubella usually begins with a rash which starts on the chest and spreads out to the arms. It is important for pregnant women to be aware of the disease and take caution, since rubella does harm the unborn fetus.

The health center urges the students with rubella to go home if it is possible. Dorm students contracting the disease who cannot go home should stay away from other students.

Injunction filed on elections confuses all parties involved

By Rick Monroe

An injunction filed in Student Superior Court has stopped the inauguration of all government persons elected in the recent student body elections. The injunction, requested by senior class president-elect Alex Pearce, was the topic of a special session of the Student Legislature held today at 12:30 p.m. Joel Gilland, chairperson of the legislature, has requested the justices attend the session, as well as representatives from the student media and the University Program Board (UPB).

A copy of the injunction was not available at press time, however, a memorandum from Chief Justice Reginald Irby to Gilland said the reason for the injunction was "the many discrepancies and alleged violations by the Elections and Publicity Staff in the recent elections." Attorney General Billie Stickell, who has been investigating alleged improprieties in the election of class presidents, said she had not seen a copy of the injunction and could not comment on the specifics of Pearce's complaints. She also said the violations uncovered in her investigation warranted a blanket injunction against all elections. Irby, however, could not be reached for comment.

According to the memorandum to Gilland (Irby and a copy of the actual

injunction still had not been located) the injunction was "to temporarily halt all government installations..."

Tom Chumley, former Elections and Publicity chairperson, said, "Almost everything controversial that has happened with elections has been because of one of the worst documents written in the school's history—the Elections and Publicity Act.

"I was put in a position, as elections chair, where I had to interpret an act that makes no sense anyway. No act at all would be better. For example," Chumley said, "if the act is interpreted literally, as was the case with the publicity on glass, all 52 candidates would be in violation of the act simply by voting. For it states in the act that no candidate can be within 25 feet of the polls."

Gilland felt the situation was "blown out of proportion.

"I don't think anybody fully understands everything that's going on and that's what (the special meeting of the legislature) is all about," Gilland said.

"Nobody is at fault because everybody is doing what they think is right," he continued. "My goal for today's meeting is for everybody to walk out understanding everybody's position."



Loco-Motion coming for Jam-Up

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