

Jeff Campbell

Criminal justice abused

I imagine that anyone who comes in contact with our criminal justice system and loses will experience a certain amount of bitterness. I was arrested on drug charges in 1972 and received a 7 to 10 year sentence. I was guilty of using drugs and should pay the consequences but somehow I expected the administration of justice to follow certain rules. If my experience was not an exception then the system is sorely in need of reform.

My arrest came on a hot and humid summer night in July of 1972. I was attending a party at a lake in rural Scotland County when suddenly the sheriff's department descended upon the gathering. They had no search warrant and were on private property. That did not stop them from searching individuals and automobiles and arresting five people on various drug charges. The drugs that I was charged with were found in my car. Ordinarily you would expect the police to need a search warrant or permission to search a car that is parked on private property. The police had neither but told the judge and the jury the drugs were in plain view. In fact, the marijuana was in a box under the seat of the car and could not be seen from outside or even inside the car.

I decided to plead not guilty since I was not intending to sell drugs and the warrant stated differently. I also pled not guilty on advice of my attorney who did not feel that the lack of a search warrant would hold up in court. But believe me, if the police want to make a charge stick, they can make their stories fall within the limits of the law. Try and have most juries believe you or anyone else if it is your word against that of a deputy sheriff.

The jury selection is something else. Supposedly, you are judged by a jury of your peers. But that is not true. The prosecuting attorney methodically proceeded to assure that no one under



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the age of thirty or anyone with a college education sat on the jury. The average age was 50 years or more and the average education was around ninth grade. Try to argue a technical legal case to that group.

The old adage of being assumed innocent until proven guilty does not hold water. One lady, while being cross-examined for jury duty in my case, made the following statement when asked if she could give me a fair trial: "If the police arrested him, then he must be guilty." Needless to say, she was not seated, but her opinion was probably shared by others.

Another surprising incident arose after the jury returned the guilty verdict. Two deputies took the witness stand on the basis of hearsay evidence gathered from an unknown, confidential informer, testified that I was "a big pusher and sold drugs to students." None of this was true but the judge listened intently. With no way for me to contradict faceless and nameless accusers, it was very damaging

information.

I appealed my case to the N.C. Supreme Court which refused to even hear it. Appeals are not argued on versions of who told the truth; they are based on proving the judge made a reversible error. Evidently, he did not. Consequently based on the police version of the arrest, there was no way the judge or jury could have acted differently. On the basis of the "facts" it is something of a minor miracle I did not receive an even longer sentence. A guilty plea would have probably been the safest alternative for me. It is most obvious to me that those of us who plead not guilty and lose receive much harsher sentences than those who plea-bargain or plead guilty from the start. That may save the state money but it does not say much for equal treatment under the law.

Even though I was in fact guilty of using drugs it was nothing like the court records would show. I would pity an individual who is, in fact, innocent trying to prove his innocence in a trial such as mine. If the system has the right to punish individuals for violating its laws, then it is especially important for that system to obey the laws that are set up to govern itself. How else does a legal system have a right to call itself legitimate?

I still continue to believe that our system of criminal is a fair one, but when it is abused by those delegated to carry out the implementation of that system's laws, it can become a powerful force to suppress an individual. My experience with our criminal justice system has left me feeling very helpless, bitter and beaten. The prison system has continued to reinforce that feeling. I will share my experiences at Central Prison next time.

Jeff Campbell is a 1968 UNC graduate now imprisoned at Camp Green in Charlotte.

Barbara Holtzman and Alan Bisbort

Elections: unnatural acts

There is an old (and wise) Congolese saying that goes, "Wood may remain 10 years in the water, but it will never become a crocodile." There is also a line from a David Bowie song which goes, "Someone to fool us/Someone like you/We want you Big Brother." And finally, there are some campus political slogans which go, "We want our office to be open to all students," or "Experience is the key" or "I have no affiliation with any group which has played on American Bandstand."

Pick any three of the above and multiply them by three and that ought to approximate just what student elections are. They simply cannot be defined in any way without resorting to cheap cynicism, which is exactly what we are going to do.

Will student elections remain the wood which remains in the water of democracy, without becoming the crocodile of change?

Voter Jean Greens, a student from Provo, Utah, had this to say on the delicate questions of student elections: "I want to vote because I like cheese. And if we did not exercise our rights to vote, then the electoral process would end, at least as we know it here on this campus. Which would also mean that the access to Parmesan cheese in the cafeterias would be usurped by an unnamed monster, we'll call it Apathy."

We also contacted a medical expert. The report is in. Student elections are hazardous to one's health. Dr. Doktor Decker, an ear specialist, is concerned with what he feels is the permanent damage to the ear done by campaign promises. He said, "Candidates march their words into the public arena with no regard for the pain it does to the listener's inner ear. This damage is more insidious than the damage done if they were to force some chopsticks in them. It is a hidden damage. It is a quiet damage, an unnoticed creeping in of deafness. The listener unconsciously phases the words out until he becomes deaf to other things. The sound waves enter the ear canal, vibrate the inner earbones but stop there. They do not

make it to the brain. And that is unnatural. Therefore, I think that student candidates are forcing the listener into the performance of unnatural acts. Call out the vice squad!"

The usual argument about these elections is that they, like baseball's opening day game, come once a year and never seem to change. The same words are mumbled, the campus is surfeited with posters of business administration majors who delineate what they will do with our student fees (\$5 goes to class trip to Thailand, \$6 goes to service plants, \$7 goes to movies, \$8 goes to land-lady, \$9 goes to maids-a-milking, \$10 Golden Rings...), few students go to the polls, editorials on student apathy proliferate to an even greater extent than the poster boards, and, curses of curses, a runoff election results, usually with the "joke" candidate losing out because, at the last moment, students have a change of heart and decide that things have gone a bit too far and that it's time to get serious.

But that's the usual argument. Who needs cheap cynicism when you can have expensive scientific research?

Our argument, after years of research, is that student elections are immoral and are only another example of the creeping decadence and irreligiosity of Western civilization. Candidates learn how to dig up bad things about their opponents (in one election, years ago, a candidate found out that the other had cheated in biology class and "had not dissected his frog, as he had said he did."). The English language (God's language) is abused by campaign literature, the air is permeated with the evil smell of immoral doubletalk, and students are forced to choose between people who are no different which is also an unnatural act. God will deal with this accordingly.

What happens to those elected? Why do they continue the status quo? Why are they continually the victims of the same accusations?

Our evidence is not conclusive, but thanks to a grant from Student Government, we will be able to continue

our research in this area. It is not that they cannot see the forest for the trees, but rather they cannot see the trees for the Bell Tower.

Barbara Holtzman is a senior journalism major from Charlotte. Alan Bisbort is a senior English major from Atlanta.

Baer, Sugar are ablest 'DTH' editor candidates

Don Baer and Harriet Sugar are the strongest candidates in tomorrow's election for the editorship of the *Daily Tar Heel*. Their individual qualifications and their decision to run as co-editors make "Sugar-Baer" clearly superior. No other single candidate can match their experience, their ability, or the time at their disposal to improve the *DTH*.

Sugar-Baer's advantage is clear when you look at the records of their opponents. The two weakest are Tom Wright and Bernie Day. Wright is an angry young man whose idea of *DTH* reform is to write editorials only when he can't find someone else to do them for him. We, however, feel strongly that a good editor should take a firm stand on important issues. Day's talents are best summed up by one of his own columns which he turned into us last semester, a column which frankly was not fit to be printed. Day is from in-state but he somehow managed to misspell "North Carolinians" throughout his copy.

Elliott Warnock is a more serious candidate with lengthy *DTH* sports staff experience. We are confident of his technical ability to run the *DTH* especially since he served as *DTH* summer editor this past year. It is unfortunate, however, that many of Warnock's actions last summer conflict with his recent platform pledges, including his demand for less wire news on the front page. Editorially, Warnock admitted after only two and a half weeks in office last summer that he had already run out of editorial topics, even though he only had to think up two a week. Finally, Warnock has taken all the credit for whatever improvement there was in the summer *DTH*, which doesn't bode well for his future staff relations.

Warnock has lived with sports, newspapers, and Chapel Hill all his life and consequently he has a parochial outlook on many matters. Athletics would receive priority in next year's paper as shown by his desire to devote the back page, what has traditionally been the editorial page, to sports. We feel strongly that social issues and student opinion should continue to be emphasized in the *DTH*. It is doubtful that Warnock, with his folksy but volatile temperament, can be an effective opinion leader on serious issues.

No one will dispute Cole Campbell's personal abilities if only because he is, after all, a sharp-tongued debater. As his main opponents last year, no one is more respectful than we are. Campbell is still as good a writer as ever, but he still has not remedied many of his

weaknesses since the last campaign. It is his own fault that he continues to lack any daily newspaper experience since virtually any position on this year's *DTH* was his for the asking. We personally offered him the associate editorship so that he could supervise the editorial page, but he refused. Campbell could produce well-researched editorials but Warnock, for example, would be a better editor since he has had enough experience to manage the entire paper. Not only is Campbell ignorant of many of the working details of the *DTH*, his knowledge of other campus organizations is also doubtful since, by his own admission, he has only had time to debate.

In addition to these failings, we question the amount of time he will have to spend on the *DTH* since he is married, has a daughter to take care of, and will be a graduate student as well. Besides, undergraduates are the main audience of the *DTH*, the editor should also be one. Campbell's campaign is thankfully more subdued this year than last, but he still has many flaws.

Don Baer and Harriet Sugar, on the other hand, have the benefit of both long staff experience and an outside perspective, since Baer has only been a reporter for a few months. The main doubt concerning their candidacy seems to be their co-editorship, but they have known each other and have worked together practically all their lives. What greater indication of compatibility and teamwork effectiveness can the voters want?

Baer's intimate knowledge of other campus organizations and important administrators is an effective complement to Sugar's proven writing ability and staff experience. Editorially they will be able to take definitive stances and then follow up their ideas by pushing their reforms with local leaders, most of whom they already know. Together they combine Campbell's talent and Warnock's experience. Sugar-Baer is the only balanced candidacy in the race.

Most important of all, however, they will have literally twice as much time to spend running the paper next year as any of their opponents. The editorship is one of the most demanding jobs on this campus with its long and irregular hours. The *DTH* needs to be improved but it will take a flexible, dedicated, and experienced team to be able to do the job. Sugar-Baer have a very solid platform, the right set of priorities, and proven ability and interest both in the *DTH* and campus affairs. They are definitely the best candidates for the office.

Letters to the editors

Readers dispute endorsement

To the editors:

In your editorial of Feb. 24, you outline Jamie Ellis' qualifications for SB President. You then add: "Her attractive appearance can often be deceiving. Ellis thinks well on her feet and she has an excellent set of priorities..."

Thank you for opening my eyes. I was certain an attractive woman could think well only on her back. I am surprised, however, that you do not emphasize more strongly the importance of "an excellent set" to the president of a Student Body.

In short, I find your comments offensive and sexist.

Chuck Babington
205 Manly

Editor's note: Perhaps our snideness was too obscure. The sentence "Her attractive appearance can often be deceiving" was specifically directed toward the more chauvinistic elements on campus, not a supposed revelation of our own inner surmise.

Ellis 'perfect'?

To the editors:

A few short weeks ago I remember an article in the *DTH* calling for student leaders, but it seems that now the same people are calling the candidates clowns, jokes, encores, or all of the above. The editorial appearing in Monday's *DTH* points up the shortcomings of every candidate for Student Body president, except Ms. Perfect, Jamie Ellis. Strange as it may seem, Ms. Ellis is somehow above fault and failure and carries with her a plan completely within reason, well thought out and very achievable. She is both attractive and intelligent. I believe this obviously biased and ridiculous editorial is, at the most, worthless to the concerned student.

Carolina has in its midst a wealth of attractive and intelligent women capable of assuming the office of Student Body president, unfortunately none of them chose to run. Since the editors of our student newspaper chose to point out the flaws in every other candidate's campaign, why did not they point out hers? Of course, it might weaken the effect of their endorsement. I know of not one major accomplishment AWS has made under Ms. Ellis' direction; correct me if I am wrong. As far as the realism of her platform, some of her ideas

are legitimate, but a lot of them were scavenged from campaigns of the past and are highly unlikely to occur. Sure this is idealism, but how realistic are most of her ideas? And if she handles the Administration as well as she thinks on her feet, students will be lucky to have one day of drop-add.

There is another thing about this particular endorsement that bothers me and that is the idea that Marcus Williams' year has had failures. I think that Williams has accomplished a great deal this year, despite what the editors of this paper think. The main problem has been too much criticism from this paper and not enough cooperation.

The editors are quick to point up the failures and completely unconcerned with the successes. In my opinion, this year has been a failure for the *DTH* as far as the editorial part is concerned! Until Student Government begins to get more cooperation from this paper, both the Student Body and Student Government will continue to suffer.

I feel that Tim Dugan is the ablest candidate for the office of Student Body president, though he may not be quite as

attractive to the editors. And I believe that most of the candidates for editor can do a better job than is currently being done, but of these I feel that Elliot Warnock has the necessary skills and experience to make this paper a better student newspaper. I strongly urge all students to vote in the upcoming elections and, if you feel as I do, to give these candidates your support.

Carl R. Fox
Chairman, CGC Finance Committee

Dugan preferred

To the editors:

Present and future Carrboro residents should concern themselves with the Student Body presidential election on Wednesday. Representing some 40 per cent of the eligible voting population of Carrboro, students have often been ignored, despised and denied in Carrboro town decision-making. It is inconceivable that most candidates would fail to address this issue that effects over 3,500 students directly. This is the case,

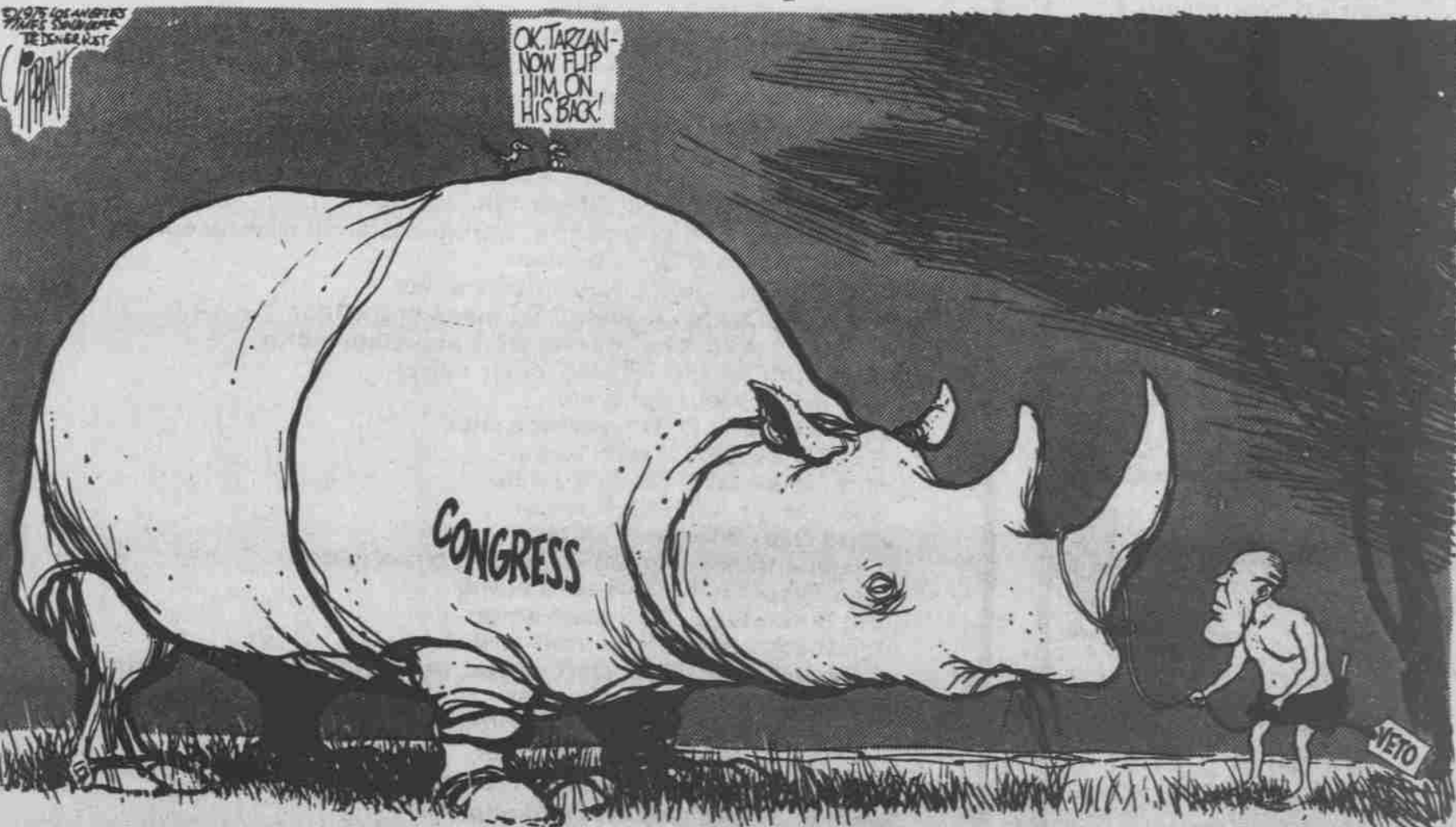
though, as only one candidate, Tim Dugan, has committed himself publicly in working for the Carrboro Students to improve conditions.

That Carrboro will have a bus system will not become a reality until the referendum is finally held with students participating.

The specifics the other candidates to date have promised to work for are trite in comparison to a tangible bus system for Carrboro. There is a lack of concern for both Chapel Hill and Carrboro as indicated by platforms totally composed of campus oriented programs. Can we continue to live in our dream world that the University is separated from both towns? Tangible results both on and off campus are possible with able leadership that works with the towns.

This lack of concern must be aired. Only Tim Dugan has proved to me a concern and ability to work for students in Carrboro and Chapel Hill.

Lew Warren
Presidential Assistant on Carrboro Affairs and Transportation



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