

Impact of the ruling

The decision expected from the Student Supreme Court today is highly important for the entire campus, not just for Mike O'Neal and Bill Bates, the plaintiff and the defendant respectively.

First, the decision should put an end to much of the in-house fighting that has virtually paralyzed Student Government for weeks.

Second, the decision, which should entail a lengthy opinion from the court, will go a long way towards patching up the obvious flaws and ambiguities in the Student Government Constitution that have allowed the situation in Suite C to reach the absurd point of the lock-out of a dismissed official.

Much of the argument at the trial has revolved around whether or not the Student Government treasurer is a part of the executive branch of Student Government.

The decision on this question will make a great impact on the function of the treasurer. If the treasurer is considered a part of the executive branch in the strictest terms, the president will be ultimately responsible for all actions of the treasurer, and the treasurer equally responsible to the president.

On the other hand, the court could interpret the intent of the law

to be that the treasurer is a semi-autonomous official, responsible only to CGC.

Third, and most likely, the court could find a middle ground between these two extremes.

Whatever the decision of the court, it is imperative that all students and organizations involved move with utmost speed to follow that ruling and stabilize student government.

Any disagreement with the court ruling must be pushed to the background of the day-to-day operation of Student Government, whose main function is to serve the students, not hold political maneuvers for semesters at a time.

When the court interprets the Constitution, that interpretation becomes the official reading of the Constitution which can only be modified by a Constitutional amendment.

So for the moment, Student Government leaders must concentrate on the implementation of the ruling and the efficient function of Student Government as a service-oriented institution.

Constitutional amendment can be a resort only when the Constitution as presently interpreted is proven to be ineffective in serving the students.

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Todd Stebbins
Representatives must inform

Lisa Bradley seems to be stepping into the dark with her opinions concerning Dan Besse's recall election. Yes, misrepresentation is the issue, so let's stick to that issue. Ms. Bradley said in her column on Oct. 8 that "the determination of a majority opinion among students on any given issue facing CGC remains an unrealistically attainable goal."

Further, Ms. Bradley asked if it is "possible for one person ever to represent Morehead Confederation?" Yes, Ms. Bradley, at least I hope so. Representation is the whole basis for our government; moreover, representation of District VIII would be more easily attainable if the said representative did not have the present conflict of attitudes and interests between representation of the Morehead Confederation and his job as Speaker of the CGC.

Mr. Besse has expressed that his main responsibility is as Speaker of the CGC. I feel that as the Morehead Confederation's representative to the CGC, Mr. Besse's main interests should be as the Confederation's Representative rather than as Speaker of the CGC. When his interests as Speaker outweigh his interests as the Morehead

Confederation's Representative, then those who elected him in good faith, hoping to be represented, are cheated (as was the case in the CGA funding issue).

Second, and getting back to the last quote cited, I believe (in my misinformed and an apathetic way) that the representative's whole purpose is to do what Ms. Bradley said he could not possibly be expected to do, i.e., execute his duties and gauge the majority opinion. It is my opinion that Dan Besse's purpose as Morehead Confederation Representative is to inform and then represent, all in one.

Ideally, voters should familiarize themselves with political responsibility and not be apathetic, etc., as pointed out by Ms. Bradley. Historically, however (and we should learn by our mistakes), it has been proven that voters will be apathetic at

Carolina; therefore, I believe that if a representative is to act in good conscience, he should get out and meet the people, talk to them and get them involved.

In conclusion, Ms. Bradley has plunged into a dark abyss, or black hole if you prefer, with her closing argument that Dan Besse should not be recalled because of his "entire voting record." Is the saying that Mr. Besse is guilty of misrepresentation on some specific issues, but his entire voting record shows that he should be above reproach? It seems so. I can't help feeling, though, that Richard Nixon's "entire voting record" was considered by very few of us after Watergate (remember the trip to Red China, landing men on the moon, getting us out of Viet Nam).

But, no sweat, Ms. Bradley and Mr. Besse, I'm one of the worthless majority who go through Carolina misinformed and unenlightened. I probably won't vote on October 15 anyway. Who cares?

Todd Stebbins is a senior English major from Gastonia, N.C.

Heavy-handed Holtz

Maryland beat N.C. State this weekend 37-22.

Unfortunately, that is not the fact that most people will remember about the State-Maryland clash.

Last week, Dr. Robert T. Ramsay was jogging on the State track around the field where the Wolfpack was practicing for its encounter with conference champion Maryland.

Ramsay claimed he had the right to jog because the football team was not using the track. Holtz obviously disagreed.

Ramsay was later officially pardoned by acting NCSU chancellor Jackson Rigney.

As to the effect of the whole affair, we can agree only with Dr. Samuel Tove, chairman of the NCSU

faculty senate.

"I am opposed to closing off any major area on campus," Tove said. "If Holtz wants to hold a secret practice, he can do it in Carter Stadium."

Athletic departments of major universities have often been criticized for their insensitivity to the other segments of the university community. This affair has rekindled such criticism and has further tainted the name of college football.

Let us hope that this dead joke of a news story will remind university administrators everywhere that the major college football machine can be all too heavy-handed in its attempts to win the big ones.

Charles Poole
Smoking ban is rational move

The debate over smoking, which began on this campus last year in the School of Public Health and which has taken on University-wide dimensions with the proposal in this Wednesday's General Elections of a classroom ban, has centered upon the rights of nonsmokers in closed spaces. A small but unavoidable number of people experience allergic reactions to tobacco smoke. For many others, comfort and convenience are impaired, especially in areas where concentration and attention are required — such as the classroom.

We should begin, then, by recognizing that indisputable evidence of major health damage to the nonsmoker has not yet been documented. Such evidence as we have available is strongly suggestive, however, and the scientific literature continues to expand rapidly in this context. Especially lacking are data concerning the cumulative effects of "passive smoking" overtone and in combination with the other airborne toxins to which we are all subjected daily.

The question of "necessary versus sufficient" knowledge for preventive action is a hotly contested one, even within the medical and public health communities. On one hand are those who insist the evidence must be "carved in stone" and on the other are the "alarmists." The former demand unquestionable clinical evidence, while the latter point to the great historical advances in preventive medicine (such as the sanitary movement in this country) that have been made upon much less information than has so far been amassed for this problem.

The evidence of damage is, unfortunately, much clearer in the case of the smoker himself. Smoking is the primary cause of lung cancer, bronchitis and emphysema; it is a major cause of cancer of the larynx and peptic ulcer. These diseases, in 1973 alone, killed over 115,000 Americans, or about twice as many as died in all of the Vietnam War.

While the decision to take up or to continue the practice of smoking may be ultimately an individual one, it does not take place in a neutral social environment. The structure of American society fosters and promotes the smoking of cigarettes. Cigarette advertising, even after the television ban (which saw a concurrent abandonment of anti-smoking ads), is pervasive and effective; the tobacco industry's advertising budget is still around \$300 million. The bent cigarette, the Marlboro-man centerfolds and the perennial back cover of TV Guide (Carlton, right?) typify our daily involuntary exposure to cigarette consciousness.

What, then, can a classroom smoking ban be, if not merely a defense of

nonsmokers' rights? I submit that it can legitimately be viewed as a formal and consensual statement restricting, in a quite limited way, the times and places wherein smoking is to be considered acceptable public behavior. Considered in this manner the issue becomes depolarized, for private rights and public responsibilities are two very different considerations. The question is no longer one of the rights of one group over another; rather, it is both groups recognizing the ubiquity of a hazardous substance in their environment and attempting to control human exposure to that agent.

It must be remembered that the operative words here are control, in the hope of minimizing preventable death and disability. They should not be confused with prohibition, which seeks to eliminate the problem. That distinction was the real lesson of the 18th Amendment, not that nothing at all can be done.

But is the classroom ban not just another instance of "creeping" infringement on personal freedom? He answer to this question is fundamental and complex, but it must begin with the realization that public behavior is already well-regulated, both by law and by social custom. Many of these rules, such as the public prohibition of nudity or mutilation of small animals, are imposed on purely moral grounds. From the vantage of rationality, what could be more morally objectionable than to observe, in a public place, people incrementally coating their lungs with a substance known to cause massive death and disability? Let us choose our restrictions on public behavior carefully and from rational grounds; an ideal place to start is with the most devastating single cause of death in American society — the smoking of cigarettes.

Charles Poole, chairperson of the Student Council of the Department of Health Administration, is from Oaklyn, N.J.

letters
From the alley to the street

To the editor, Seeing that there has been little response to your "Who's in the alley, who's on the street?" editorial (DTH, Oct. 2, which by the way does not belong on the feature page), I feel someone must speak up on the point being made.

I am surprised that here in the so-called "liberal mecca of the South" you Chapel Hillians have allowed such an event as pushing the flower ladies out of the lively, sunny streets and into the damp, dark alleyways.

Mass industrialism was not at the forefront of business at that time. Paul Revere, for instance, produced quality, handmade copper and silverware.

Hand presses were used to provide stimulating propoganda (i.e. "Common Sense" by Paine).

Women like Betsy Ross were producing flags which represented our struggle. They were not using Singer sewing machines in sweatshops run by large companies out to make a buck.

America, aside from nurturing a spice, tea, and sweet habit, did not depend solely on outside sources for the hand-produced good market.

Today in order to go into business (legally) one usually must have an established credit source and a good deal of capital and, last but not least, the right business for certification.

Where do the common and unemployed people get this capital? Especially when inflation is high and wages are low.

So let us have articles on the businessman's clout with the law enforcement agencies and Board of Aldermen (persons) in reference to the flower ladies (flower arrangers) and street artists.

Let us press for established nonconflictive street artist areas with selling permits and taxation to help alleviate the dirty street situation.

Let us be fair to everyone and allow a balanced free enterprise system to pervade in our good town, Chapel Hill.

Treebeard Bruce Paine
Required Reading

Ben Cornelius' recent column ("The land of cotton - forgotten") should be required reading for every Southerner, but especially for all those Northerners who would try to impose Northern standards of "progress" on the South.

Having been born in the deep South, but having lived most of my life in the North, it is with some degree of objectivity that I can express my opinions; and I am certain that anyone who has lived in both areas for any length of time will verify them.

There is something unique and wonderful about the South, something that goes beyond the South's warmth in contrast to the literal and emotional coldness of the North. There is a sense of closeness, of fraternity, of belonging in a way that is incomprehensible to pseudo-superior Yankees. Sure, the South has some problems which the North does not; but if you look at the whole picture, I think you will see that the South is a damn sight better off than the North.

John S. Harrison
207 Grimes

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