

Anti-smoking bill provokes strong reactions in N.C.

By **KIMBERLEY MAXWELL**
Staff Writer

An anti-smoking bill introduced by U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., last week may have a big impact on the state of North Carolina.

The bill's intent is to decrease the amount of tobacco use in America, Kennedy said in a press release. He said tobacco was the leading preventable cause of death, resulting in 390,000 deaths each year.

The bill has eight main provisions, Kennedy said. They are:

- Establishing a Center for Tobacco Products in the Centers for Disease Control's Public Health Service. The Center for Tobacco Products would

research the patterns of tobacco use, improve federal education efforts on tobacco use and stress prevention for groups with high numbers of smokers.

- Requiring tobacco manufacturers to list all additives in products. The warning on cigarettes would be harsher.

- Establishing grants for 10 to 20 states that strengthen their health departments and emphasize prevention of tobacco use.

- Administering a national program to counteract tobacco advertising. The program would focus on public service announcements and would be funded by grants.

- Establishing grants for "smoke-free" workplaces, with emphasis on

cooperative contracts between unions and employers.

- Providing grants to states that enact and enforce laws that prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors.

- Setting up agreements with the Center for Tobacco Products and 10 states to assist with laws preventing sales of tobacco to minors.

- Creating grants for elementary and secondary schools to become "smoke-free."

The bill's estimated cost is \$185 million for fiscal 1991, Kennedy said.

N.C. legislators fear the bill would hurt the state economically.

"(The bill) would significantly affect the state of North Carolina if they

are going to put that many restrictions on smoking," said Mike Eaton, legislative assistant for Sen. Jesse Helms.

Eaton said the bill would cause tobacco consumption to fall, and in turn would affect the number of jobs in the tobacco industry in the state. He said about 160,000 jobs would be threatened.

Eaton said there were several problems with the bill. First of all, the bill would restrict advertising, but the freedom to advertise is protected by the First Amendment. Second, through numerous grants, the bill addresses tobacco as an illegal substance even though it is legal. Third, there has been no mention of funding the bill.

Eaton said the most likely way the bill would be funded was with the excise tax, which is currently 16 cents per pack of cigarettes.

Gary Miller, assistant to the president of the Tobacco Institute, which represents the interests of cigarette manufacturers, is also opposed to the legislation.

"We would do everything possible to fight it," he said.

Kelley Glover, director of communications for the North Carolina Division of the American Cancer Society, said her organization supported the bill.

"The North Carolina division is pleased about the bill," she said, "and the concept is a good one."

The national American Cancer Society has not formed its national plan to support the bill, Glover said.

Glover said 3,700 North Carolinians will die this year of lung cancer, a disease directly linked to tobacco use. She said one-third of all cancer patients have lung cancer.

She said the bill's enactment "would save quite a few lives in the long run."

Glover said one positive aspect of the bill was that if tobacco use were reduced, the number of cancer patients supported by the federal government would decrease.

But Eaton said, "Whether they choose to smoke or not is their personal right."

Spotlight

Family remains crucial part of students' lives at school

By **HEATHER SMITH**
and **LAURA WILLIAMS**
Staff Writers

When Mike Neice left home to go to college, it was like a scene straight out of "The Waltons."

"It was like I was leaving forever," said Neice, a freshman computer science major from Dallas, N.C. "Everybody in my family came to hug me and tell me goodbye."

For others, parting was not quite so sentimental. "It was like I went away for the weekend," said Wayne Busch, a freshman pre-med major from Hender-

sonville. "There was no going-away speech; they just drove away. No 'I'm going to miss you.'"

But sooner or later, students realize going away to school means more than no curfew and free license to keep a messy room.

Keeping in touch

A near-fatal dose of homesickness or lovesickness can send any college student screaming for Mom or Dad, and the easiest way to make that needed contact is through the phone.

"Sometimes I think I just need my Mom," said Toni Porter, a junior political science major from Zebulon. "And when I feel like that I just give her a call or write her a letter."

Phone calls may be the most convenient way to reach out, but they're not the cheapest. Scott Peeler, a freshman political science major from Toledo, Ohio, has a system worked out with his parents that reduces his bill. "I just call them when I need to talk, and they call me right back," he said.

Most students talk to their parents at least once a week, with topics of conversation ranging from money to how the family is doing.

But sometimes the long-distance connection only emphasizes the separation. "I don't feel like I'm as much a part of the family. We're further apart because I'm not there," Busch said.

"It's more of an obligation to call, and the conversation is like 'How are you? Fine. How's school? Fine.'"

The isolation can be even worse when students return home for the holidays and then have to leave again. "The time I really remember (feeling isolated) is Thanksgiving. I got to see the whole family, so when it was time to go back (to school), I didn't want to leave them. I sat in the car and cried for hours," Porter said.

Kevin Corcoran, a freshman political science major from Greensboro, said he also felt twinges of homesickness at times. "I miss my little sisters, having my own room, having a car... definitely a car. The car's a big one," he said. "I also miss the constant nagging."

I'm an adult now

When students first come to college, the freedom of being away from home can be exhilarating, but it also can be scary.

"It was hard at first to comprehend the responsibilities you have in college," said Gretchen Diffendal, a junior political science/speech communications major from Charlotte. "Everything I did rested on me. I had to learn to live my life apart from my family's. My identity wasn't so tied up with the family's anymore; I'd become my own person."

This independence can have a positive effect on parent-child relationships. "Mom treats me like an adult, because she knows that I'm responsible for myself, as well as things like the phone bill," Porter said.

For Katrena Allison, a freshman nursing major from Cleveland, N.C., this means a more equal relationship with her parents. "We're more like friends now," she said.

After being away, time at home is more special. "We do more things together now when I'm at home. We sit in front of the fireplace and never run out of things to talk about," Allison said.

According to Peeler, "I think relationships are always growing. We notice them more when we go home, because we've been away, and the few days that we are home are intense."

But this intensity can also lead to conflict. "My freshman year, I thought I could do whatever I wanted, because I was in college. When I'd go home and

go out, my mom would ask me when I was going to be in, and I'd think 'Why is she asking me this?'" Porter said. "I respect my mom in her house now, and I respect her rights when I'm there."

Loosening the purse strings

It is especially difficult to balance newfound independence and ties to home if a student is financially supported by parents, Diffendal said. "It's kind of like, 'Well, Mom, I want money, but I don't want to be accountable to you.'"

Although Busch's parents serve as a financial crutch, he still resents the fact that he has been responsible for all of his expenses, he said. "I went from being a high school student to an adult in one day. I'm an adult financially, but emotionally I'm still a child to them."

"I hate it that I have to expend all of my money, and I can't even buy what I want with my own money," Busch said. "I guess this is part of the learning process."

Other students have worked out a deal with their parents about school financing. "I have an agreement with

CAA

with Mr. DeVitto (interim director of public safety) to have a policeman there just as a sign of force."

Instead of the line of students moving forward to get tickets, CAA members will walk down the line of campers distributing numbers, Frye said.

"We're going to walk down the line and hand out numbers. People can stay where they are. This will make it more difficult for bad things to happen. We're also going to meet with Mr. DeVitto next week to discuss where students should line up. The Smith Center's official policy is no one can line up before 6 a.m. If they decide to start enforcing this, we may have to try to line up students in the parking lot."

Wilkinson said they stopped distributing numbers when the crowd pinned the CAA members against the wall. One of the members called the police, who arrived within 10 minutes to try to control the crowd.

The CAA planned to hand out numbers early only for the Duke and N.C. State games because of the number of students they knew would be camping out for tickets, he said.

my parents that they will pay for school if I put academics first. That has really influenced me to work hard," Allison said.

Communication and reasonable expectations are the key to getting along when the student returns home, said Glen Martin, assistant director of the University Counseling Center.

"Parents and students should expect changes to occur. Many times parents expect the same kid to come home who left, but the kid has seen new responsibilities and has changed. The college kid often expects his parents and home life to be the same when he returns, and this is not always the case," Martin said.

Meeting parental expectations

Family pressure can be debilitating for students. Parents may expect perfection, or students may feel the need to excel so that their parents might believe the cost of their education is justified.

"My dad expects perfection. It was a 'bring one home for the Gipper' kind of thing," Busch said.

The Counseling Center often sees students who are feeling guilty about

the financial burden they are putting on their parents, Martin said. "Students feel guilty because they are depriving their parents of resources that they would otherwise have."

Students may feel pressure to finish up in four years or pressure to be perfect while in school so that the money is well spent. Martin said that students needed to talk about these concerns to their parents and not keep these anxieties inside.

"Even though my parents demand a lot from me, I still know they just want the best for me," Busch said.

Most students find a family away from home once they become settled in their dorm. "My friends are family. The girl (who lives) below me acts like my mother; she makes sure I do my homework and eat balanced meals. If I need to talk to someone about anything, they're there," Corcoran said.

But family remains one of the most appreciated aspects of students' lives. "I value family life," Corcoran said. "It's given me a lot of character and has helped me with my moral judgments and my values. Family is everything."

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"It (early distribution) was merely for the convenience of the students so they could go home," Wilkinson said. "I went down Saturday morning before the football game. There were about 10 people already down there. They asked when the earliest distribution would be. I said 12:01 is Sunday morning."

Wilkinson said he thought that this remark might have started the rumor of numbers being distributed at midnight, but that CAA members had already decided earlier in the week to begin distribution about midnight.

CAA members never expected the chaos of Sunday morning, Wilkinson said.

"The thing that surprised us is that we've never had a problem like this," he said. "This is what the numbers were supposed to prevent."

Sunday night, CAA members walked along the line of students waiting to pick up their tickets to get suggestions from students for improving the number distribution system.

"A lot of the things we'll do are suggestions from students," Wilkinson said. "We haven't gotten that many negative comments. One girl said

someone really could have gotten hurt. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Someone else suggested we make the numbers for the Duke game null and void."

But he said the CAA had decided to let all numbers remain valid because it would be unfair to the first 100 or 200 people who really had stood in line for tickets, and because redistributing numbers would cause more problems.

Wilkinson said Sunday night's ticket distribution went smoothly.

"It was real organized last night," he said. "I talked Sunday with Mr. Elliott, who's in charge of the Smith Center, and he said that's such a thing you can run into (the rush of students). To them, we're in charge of distribution."

Frye said many students' opinions Sunday night seemed to have changed from the time of the incident.

"There are certainly people who didn't get the tickets they deserve," she said. "I don't think people are angry because they think we tried to do something unfair. Mostly I've received constructive criticism."

Frye said she hoped anyone who was upset would call her. "We're going to do everything to make sure it doesn't happen again."

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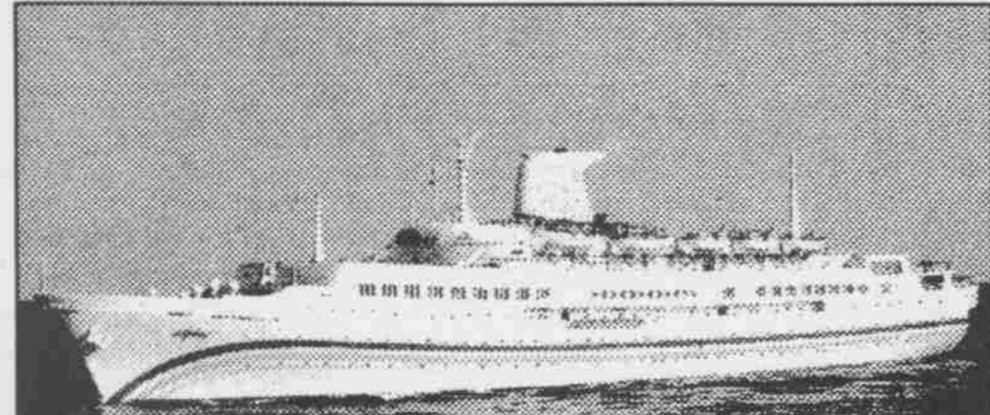


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