

Speaker Moore Answers Critics

Speaker of Student Congress Tim Moore appears on the outside to be somewhat of a soft-spoken individual. So, why is there controversy surrounding his name? The answer stems from events that took place during the meetings of the summer Student Congress.

Moore was the chief sponsor of a summer resolution to persuade the full Student Congress to defund the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association. Days after the meeting, two members of Congress filed a suit alleging that Moore illegally appointed several members to the summer congress.

Next, Chief Justice Mark Bibbs put a restraining order on the Congress until the case could be heard; the trial was postponed because only two of the three judges needed to hear a case were present. This month, the student Supreme Court ruled for neither party in the suit, instead citing a flaw in the student code.

In the meantime, Moore, a transfer student from Campbell University, was advised to learn how UNC operated in a Daily Tar Heel editorial criticizing the summer resolution. The DTH's top cartoonist, Alex DeGrand, drew cartoons depicting Moore as a short, chubby character "coming out of the closet" against gay rights. Another DeGrand cartoon hinted that Moore and Bibbs were in cahoots in regard to the delayed court hearing.

If Moore has been under the gun, you wouldn't know it; the reserved Student Congress Speaker seems unperturbed by his critics. The Black Ink caught up with him last week to get his side of the story. Ink Associate Editor Corey Brown conducted the interview.

BLACK INK: How did you get started in Student Government? And more specifically, your present position as Speaker?

MOORE: I ran for congress in District 21, which is an off-campus district, then I ran for speaker in April and won. The reason I became interested was last year I was a junior transfer student and I wasn't very involved with a lot of things

that went on within the University itself. I saw this as a chance to do just that.

INK: What are some of your responsibilities as speaker?

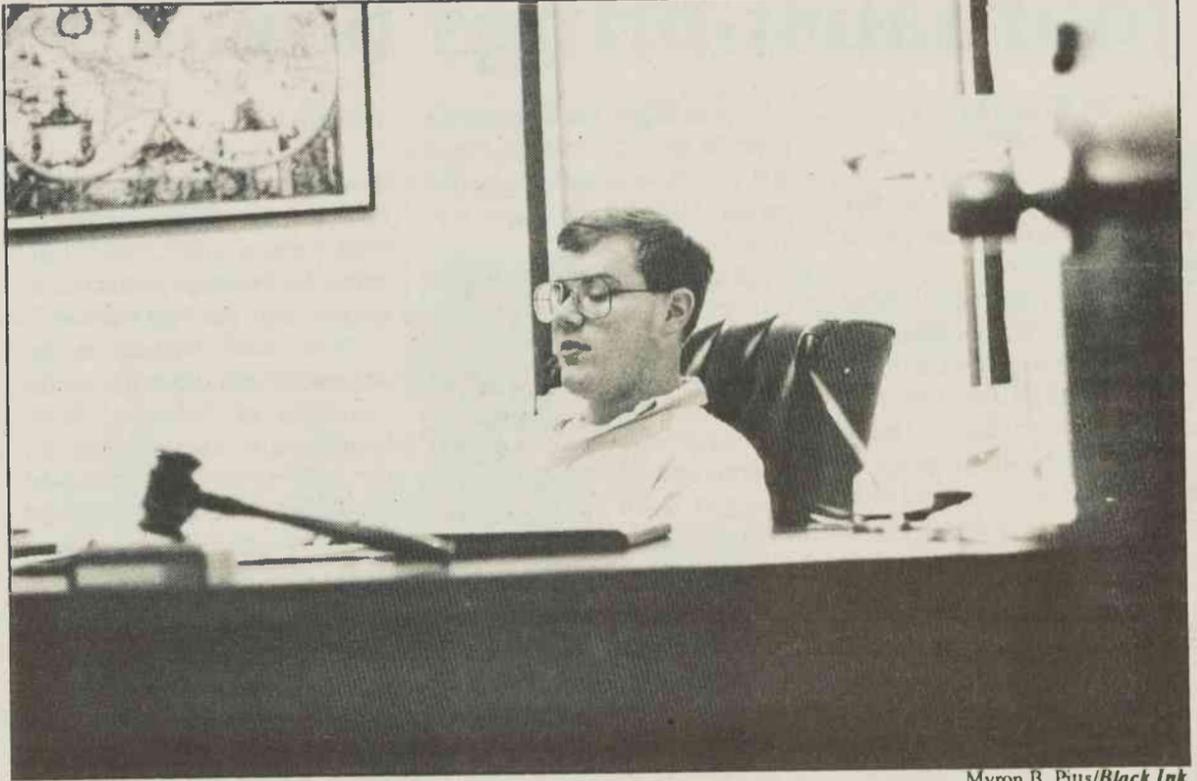
MOORE: Well, I conduct a lot of administrative duties. For instance, I make sure that meetings are scheduled and make sure that we have a place to meet; I determine the agenda and assign numbers to bills. A lot of technical things like that, but I also serve as a legislator and introduce measures to the congress, if I so desire.

INK: With these duties in mind, congress members Andrew Cohen (Dist. 6) and Michael Kolb (Dist. 1) questioned the legality of the 11 summer appointments and filed a lawsuit. Will you elaborate on this?

MOORE: The question of appointing the summer members results in an ambiguity in the code. There's a clause in the Student Government Code that is essentially our by-laws, which states that summer congress shall consist of all regularly-elected and appointed members. The former speaker appointed a summer congress and I simply followed that precedent. However, questions arose as to whether that was appropriate. People asked exactly what 'appointed' in the context of the code meant. As a result a court case came out of that. The ruling turned out that the code was very ambiguous and that no one was at fault; it was totally an error in the coding. Right now congress is amending that section so that it will clearly spell out what the appointment procedure is. If the bill passes the speaker will be able to appoint members with the approval and consent of congress.

INK: In reference to the court case, do you see that as a personal attack from the gentlemen that filed the suit?

MOORE: Like anything else that goes on in Congress or any governing body you have to keep it separate from personal matters. I disagreed obviously with Mr. Cohen and Mr. Kolb but by no means do I consider it a personal attack, nor do I have any personal negative feelings towards them. They chose a



Myron B. Pitts/Black Ink

Speaker of Student Congress, Tim Moore, responded to questions last week

constructive way to address a concern they had and I admire them for that. I think in the long run the court case has been beneficial in ways because it caused Congress to go through and amend the holes that we have in this code.

INK: Your personal relationship with Chief Justice Mark Bibbs has also been brought out as having an influence over the delay in ruling on these appointments. Will you explain your viewpoint of this situation?

MOORE: The delay was not really a problem of Chief Justice Bibbs. The delay was simply that for the court to hear a case there has to be at least three justices on the court. This summer, one justice was out of the country and the Student body president had not yet appointed judges to the supreme court to be pulled so they had to wait for the other judge to get back.

INK: The main driving force behind the controversy surrounding events during summer congress was the proposal to defund the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association for '92. Can you explain why this particular group was targeted?

MOORE: The reason the CGLA has been cited for defunding is there appears to be a question of legality in the Student Government Code. There's a clause which spells out that the Student Congress will not fund programs that are inconsistent with rules and regulations of the University and or the laws from the

state of North Carolina. Under that clause within the laws we operate under, a lot of students have questions as to what exactly the purpose of the CGLA was and did their purpose violate this. That's where the question came up and was the driving force behind the CGLA defunding.

INK: Have you had any contact with members of the CGLA? Have they confronted you on your resolution?

MOORE: No, I haven't had any members come up to me, but I've had folks from both sides say different things to me. It's just a matter of opinion on how student fees should be spent. I'm willing to talk about it to anyone. I think it's good for constructive dialogue.

INK: Is it possible that this mode of thinking will spread and lead to the defunding of other minority groups?

MOORE: No, I don't believe it will. A lot of folks don't see the CGLA as a minority group, they see it as a group based on a chosen lifestyle. And aside from the question of legality it's just improper to fund a group based on sexual lifestyle. So no I don't expect it will spread to other minority groups. There's no question of legality there.

INK: Speaking of allocating funds, how have budget cuts affected Student Congress?

MOORE: The student congress itself is not directly affected by the budget cuts. Revenue for the Student Congress comes solely from

the student activity fees that are charged in addition to tuition. Presently the fee is \$45 and will not change because of a fee moratorium imposed by President C.D. Spangler. Now a lot of folks would like to see fees cut some because students have to pay a tuition increase and so there's been talk to lower fees to ease the financial burden as much as possible.

INK: On a lighter note, Alex DeGrand- cartoonist for *The Daily Tar Heel*- has poked fun at you and some of your views on issues. What do you think of that?

MOORE: Mr. DeGrand's a cartoonist; I'm not and I'm certainly not going to tell another individual how to do their line of work. Mr. DeGrand is certainly entitled to his opinion and I'm glad that he is expressing that. I've got no problems with that.

INK: In closing, is there anything else you would like to add?

MOORE: I just want to encourage you students, if you have a problem, to speak with your elected representative of congress because we're here to service you. I just encourage students to take advantage of the resources here. There are 32 members of Congress, although presently it's 25, and they're all willing to work with their constituents, and I know they look forward to hearing from people in need.