

# The Carolina Journal

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## 'Marshmallow heckler' acquitted of disruption charges

By Michael Evans

The Student Superior Court heard the case of Jamie Stemple (plaintiff) vs. Chris Fuller (defendant) on October 12. The seven member court (of which six were in attendance) acquitted Fuller of charges of disruptive conduct stemming from Fuller's throwing marshmallows at Ambassador T. N. Kaul from India.

David Ledbetter, Chief Clerk of the Court, read the nature of the charges against Fuller, stating he was "charged with violating university rules for disruptive conduct as stated in the 1975/76 UNCC Handbook". D. J. Hall and James Woody of the Student Legal Counsel, representing Fuller, pleaded not guilty for their client. Attorney General, Bob Verdinek, said he was authorized by the Chancellor to prosecute for Stemple

against Fuller.

Verdinek, in his opening statement, said he would prove, through witnesses, letters and newspaper articles that the actions of Fuller were detrimental to the university community.

The defense's opening statement centered on proving the act of throwing marshmallows was not disruptive conduct, and that two semesters suspension was unreasonable.

The prosecution attempted to enter one of the protest signs which had been distributed on campus before the ambassador's speech, but Woody objected as it had not been shown that there was any link between Fuller and the signs. Chief Justice Doug Lerner sustained the objection.

Stemple, Student Body President,

was the first witness for the prosecution. In answering questions from both the prosecution and the defense, Stemple said the ambassador's freedom of movement was restrained as he shielded and ducked from the objects. He identified Fuller as having thrown the objects. Stemple added, "The ambassador, in ducking, could have hit his head on the podium or backed up and tripped over a chair."

Stemple also said he knew of no damage to university property as a result of the marshmallow incident, adding that no one approached Fuller after the marshmallows had been thrown, even though Security Officers were present.

David Holloway and Jeff Hall were the two witnesses for the prosecution. The questioning of both was similar to the Stemple questioning. Verdinek entered as evidence, letters from Provost Frank Dickey, Vice Chancellor Douglas Orr and Norman Schul, at this point. Both the prosecution and the defense agreed the reading of the letters could be dispensed with as their nature was mainly correlative and their full presentation would be repetitive.

Alease Long served as the first witness for the defense. She was questioned on the extent of the disruption and said the proceedings of the speech were not disturbed by the throwing of marshmallows.

The defense's second witness was Terry Fulbright. Fulbright was termed an

expert on student affairs as a result of five years of student involvement in the university. Questioning of Fulbright centered around the explanation of particular campus documents rather than the marshmallow incident itself.

The defendant, Chris Fuller, was the final witness for the defense. Fuller said he threw the marshmallows as he "was trying to give insight to the audience as they were applauding a fascist who does not represent our type of government." Fuller said he asked members of the administration if a press conference was going to be held before the speech, but they said they would not know until the ambassador arrived. The marshmallows were chosen since there was a lack of time to prepare a statement for the press conference according to Fuller.

Verdinek, in his summation, said the movements of the ambassador were hampered by the objects which were thrown at him. Verdinek said the ambassador did not know what the objects were, thus they were dangerous to him.

Hall and Woody, giving the defense summation, stated that the rules in the Handbook were broad. Their central theme, however, was that no disruptive conduct had actually occurred.

Fuller was acquitted by the Student Superior Court by a vote of 5-0-1 (one abstention). The Court's opinion has not yet been released but is expected before the end of next week.

## Legislature approves revised

### Black Student Union budget

By Les Bowen

The UNCC Student Legislature met on Tuesday, October 14th in rooms 209-210 of the Cone University Center. The meeting lacked the conflict and controversy evidenced in several legislature meetings recently, but nevertheless, several things were accomplished.

The Legislature approved the revised Black Student Union budget of \$4,070.00. Representative Greg Davis attempted to discuss certain aspects of the way the budget was handled, but was ruled out of order by Vice-President Davis Trotter. Representative Davis was specifically referring to the fact that the Legislature meeting as the Finance Committee 'as a whole' on September 16 had recommended the Black Student Union be allocated "not more than \$4,700.00" for the current school year. Representative Davis contended it was implied at the September 16 meeting that the Black Student Union would actually receive \$4,700.00.

Representative Davis asked at the September 16 meeting if the Finance Committee would follow the recommendations made by Legislature as the 'committee as a whole'. Representative Davis asked specifically if the figure decided on by Legislature would be the figure the Black Student Union would receive. Representative Davis received assurances from several legislators that the Finance Committee would follow the recommendations of the Legislature.

Also, a motion was passed at the September 16 meeting specifying that the Black Student Union budget would be decided on the basis of a lump-sum allocation—not by line item consideration. The Finance Committee, in its reduction of the Black Student Union budget from \$4,700.00 to \$4,070.00 apparently based its reduction on specifications of the budget. Representative Davis was prevented from pursuing this possible incongruity at the October 14 meeting.

Sam Wilson spoke in favor of the revised Black Student Union budget. He called the Black Student Union the "best organized, and when it wants to be, the most effective organization on this campus." Wilson moved that \$500.00 be added to the revised Black Student Union budget for steel drums, and this motion was tabled.

In other action, the Legislature ratified the Succession Act, accepted budgets from Circle K, the Fees

Commission and the Children of the Sun; granted charters to the Bahai Club and to Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; appointed Representative David Holloway to chair the Ways and Means Committee and tabled a motion to allocate funds for the Student Media Board Darkroom.

## Improvement of UNCC athletic facilities now a reality

By Brad Rich

The long awaited improvement of UNCC's athletic facilities has now become a reality, according to UNCC Vice Chancellor Douglas Orr and Barry Lesley.

The projected facilities, approved and budgeted for by last year's state Legislature, includes 16 new tennis courts, 12 to be located in the valley near the present courts, and four in front of the campus in the dorm area; four combination football and softball fields and one combination football/soccer/softball field, all located in the valley. Also featured is a six-lane track with an all weather surface and bleachers terraced into the hillside. Combined with the already existing facilities and the soccer field now being seeded, this will give UNCC what Orr, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, calls, "One of the finest athletic complexes in the Southeast."

The 16 new tennis courts will triple the number UNCC presently has. In the valley, one block of eight courts will probably be termed the "variety courts" and long range goals include the construction of a tennis house and bleachers. These eight courts, like the smaller block of four in the valley and the four in the dorm area will be lighted if possible, and will probably use the same surface and colour scheme as the present courts," says Lesley, acting Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs.

The basic plan for the complex was drawn up by David Wagoner, a UNCC Architecture student. Though a few changes were made in his plan, Lesley feels that, "Wagoner deserves a lot of credit". O'Dell and Associates, a local firm, is now in charge of the project, and is conducting studies in the valley to make the best use of the land, some of which is a flood-plain area.

The entire project is hoped to be

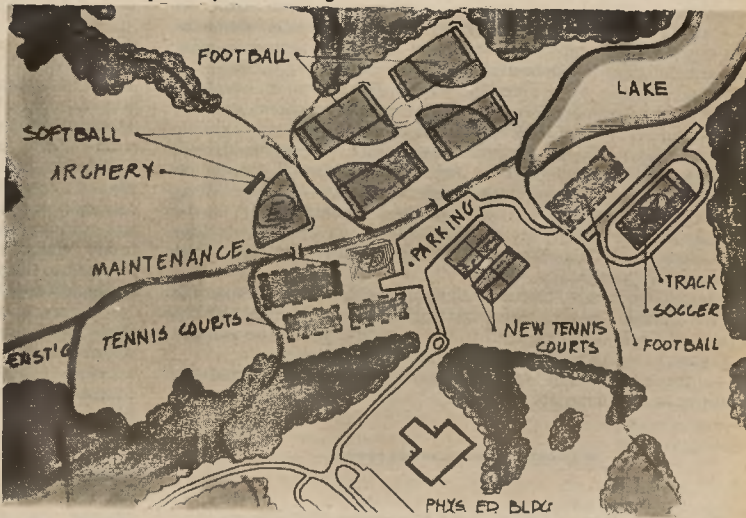
completed by next summer, though the playing fields may take longer due to seeding, and is budgeted at \$750,000.00. According to Lesley, any extra money will be used for lights and a parking area for the facilities in the valley.

Stressed by Orr were the improvements the new complex will make in the intramural program. "This year," he said, "Intramurals have had to be continued right up until darkness, with many scheduling difficulties." Next year the program should run much more

surrounding streets hampers many tennis courts. The courts at UNCC, however, will provide an excellent atmosphere for both intercollegiate and recreational activity. The natural surroundings also should encourage picnics and outings for students, and hopefully their families.

The soccer field, near the dorms, is now being seeded and prepared for use. The Board of Trustees recently approved soccer as UNCC's next intercollegiate sport, so the facility is vital. If the need arises, bleachers may be put in.

Carolina Journal photo by Russell Long



Artist's sketch of proposed athletic facilities.

smoothly and efficiently.

Orr also put emphasis on the natural surroundings in the valley. Tennis especially is a game requiring quiet and concentration and noise from

Overall, UNCC stands to gain a great deal from the complex. Intramurals could possibly be expanded to include more students and the Physical Education Department will benefit.