

Supreme Court Says No Homosexual Scout Leaders

The Court ruled that private groups like the Scouts have a right to ban those who do not share their beliefs.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Boy Scouts can bar homosexuals from serving as troop leaders, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday, saying private groups have a right to associate with those who share their beliefs and ban those who don't.

The 5-4 decision said forcing the Scouts to accept gay troop leaders would violate the organization's rights of free

expression and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment.

It wasn't immediately clear from the ruling whether it gave the Scouts permission to bar homosexual boys from membership.

"The Boy Scouts asserts that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values it seeks to instill," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court. Requiring them to accept a gay scoutmaster "would significantly burden the organization's right to oppose or disfavor homosexual conduct."

The ruling reversed a New Jersey Supreme Court holding that the Scouts wrongly ousted assistant scoutmaster James Dale when the organization

learned he is gay. The state court had said the scouts' action violated a New Jersey law banning discrimination in public accommodation.

Dale, who was an Eagle Scout, had sued the Scouts under the New Jersey law. But the Supreme Court said Wednesday that law must yield to the Scout organization's right of "expressive association" under the Constitution's First Amendment.

The American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative advocacy group that filed a brief supporting the Boy Scouts, said the ruling "will have a dramatic impact on all private organizations — including religious groups — to define their own mission and set their own cri-

teria for leadership."

The Human Rights Campaign, a gay-rights organization, called the ruling a "travesty of justice that may allow large, open membership groups to be above the law and evade state and local nondiscrimination laws."

Rehnquist's opinion was joined by Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. Dissenting were Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

Writing for the four, Stevens said the New Jersey law "does not impose any serious burdens" on the Boy Scouts' goals, "nor does it force (the Boy Scouts)

to communicate any message that it does not wish to endorse. New Jersey's law, therefore, abridges no constitutional right of the Boy Scouts."

Dale was 19 and an assistant scoutmaster of a Matawan, N.J., troop when in 1990 he was identified in a newspaper article as co-president of a gay student group at Rutgers University.

The Scouts' Monmouth Council revoked Dale's registration as an adult leader, telling him the organization does not allow openly gay members.

Dale sued the Scouts for violating New Jersey's anti-discrimination law. The N.J. Supreme Court ruled in his favor, saying the expulsion of Dale was based "on little more than prejudice."

Reno Says Gore Probe Not Needed

The Attorney General defended her decision against probing Al Gore's campaign fund-raising.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno on Tuesday defended her decision not to put Vice President Al Gore under investigation by an independent counsel for allegations in connection with campaign fund-raising.

"I have not been shy about appointing independent counsels when the facts and the law required it," Reno told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Reno's testimony came five days after committee Republican Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania disclosed that the head of the Justice Department's campaign finance task force, Robert Conrad, was recommending that a special counsel be appointed to investigate Gore for possible false statements.

Questioned April 18 by Conrad, the vice president said he did not know he was attending a fund-raising event when he went to a Buddhist temple during the 1996 campaign, despite the fact that his aides knew.

"An independent counsel for campaign finance-related matters should have been appointed a long time ago," said committee chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "FBI Director Louis Freeh, Charles LaBella, Robert Litt and now the current head of the campaign task force, Robert Conrad, have all called for an investigation." LaBella previously ran the task force and Litt is a former top adviser to the attorney general.

"The fact that several people have advised me at various times to seek the appointment of an independent counsel ... should come as no surprise to anyone," Reno testified. "In each and every instance ... there were always people of the opposite view."

Reno refused to discuss Conrad's pending recommendation but called him "a fine prosecutor."

"I don't like 'yes' people" for advisers, Reno said at another point.

Reno has twice refused to seek an independent counsel for Gore, first for his fund-raising phone calls from the White House and then for possible false statements relating to the calls.

Specter said Reno may have "discounted everything you could" in examining the evidence against Gore. "No, I looked at everything I could," Reno insisted.

At issue were Gore's statements to investigators that he didn't recall a fund-raising discussion at a White House meeting two years before.

Asking for extensive recollection from a meeting from long ago "I don't think is realistic," said Reno. "He didn't have the intent to mislead" Justice Department investigators.

"Your recitation of the facts is erroneous," Specter said, asserting that the evidence against Gore should have been turned over to an independent counsel.

Freeh and LaBella have urged an independent counsel inquiry focusing on top aides in the Clinton administration, including the president and vice president.

Reno said the legal theory that a "loose enterprise" may have been at work was an "inappropriate" basis to appoint an independent counsel.

"There is a grave danger in not adhering to the law's requirement for facts as opposed to rumor, innuendo and speculation," Reno said in her prepared testimony.

Gore campaign spokesman Chris Lehane accused Specter of "McCarthyite tactics" and said he and other Republicans opposed to Gore "have turned the Congress into a scandal industrial complex designed to manufacture and create partisan scandals and inflict political damage on the vice president a mere four months before voters go to the polls."

HOUSING

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items on his agenda, Bresciani said. The new housing director will have to deal with residence hall renovations, existing plans for new on-campus housing and the enhancement of residential education programs.

Still, Bresciani said Payne will not be

making a list of priorities or planning changes in residence halls or the housing department right away following his arrival.

"(Payne's) focus will probably be on learning what (the housing department) is doing in terms of specifics," Bresciani said.

Payne had the chance to get a feel for what his new role will entail when he visited the University in early June.

During the visit, Payne said he looked at several residence halls in each area on campus and listened to comments from students and housing staff.

Payne said it was too early to develop any major plans for his new role, but listening to those around him would be key.

"I have plenty of ideas," he said. "I'm not sure which ones are appropriate for Carolina at this point. I want to involve

the staff in what their ideas and comments are. I want to listen a bit more to what they have to say before jumping right in."

One thing Payne said he would bring to the University is a desire to forge stronger ties between learning in the classroom and life in the residence halls by enhancing educational programs in on-campus facilities.

"That's what we are really all about,"

he said.

The University currently offers an Academic Enhancement program located in Teague Residence Hall, as well as several other themed programs based on gender and race equality, academic success and foreign languages in several residence halls.

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RICHARDSON

From Page 1

The Teacher. When asked what aspect of his career has meant the most to him, Richardson immediately responds with, "Without any question my teaching and association with undergraduates." His love for teaching has manifested itself into numerous awards and recognition. Richardson holds the Burton Craige chair in the Department of Political Science at UNC-CH and served as chairman from 1975 to 1980 and again from 1985 to 1990.

Often considered one of the University's premiere teachers, he has won prestigious awards like the Tanner Award, the Johnston Award and the University Award for "Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Full Professor."

"For years I have said the best job at this University is a full professor," says Richardson. "My position as provost wasn't a step up but more of a step over."

The Provost. The decision to accept the position of the provost was a tough one for Richardson because it meant sacrificing valued time with the students he cherished so much.

In order to understand Richardson's value as a provost, one must understand just what exactly a provost does. The provost is the chief academic officer of the University, responsible to the chancellor for the conduct, coordination and quality of the University's academic and research programs. The provost's most important duties are to ensure the academic standards of the University through leadership and to support and make quality faculty appointments and promotions. Each of the University's deans report to the provost, as well as additional offices such as the vice-provost and associate and academic provosts.

Under former Chancellor Michael Hooker, the provost position had been expanded to include both academic and health affairs. Richardson feels some of the toughest problems he faced as provost were "addressing salary compression in 1995, chairing a controversial committee on enrollment management and significantly expanding Chapel Hill, chairing the committee that had the difficult task of deciding to recommend a tuition increase

this year and finally securing funding for the BCC." Richardson says he "is enormously grateful to have the chance to work as [provost]," and wants to be remembered as "a person who loved what he was doing and helped students and colleagues get the most out of their education at Carolina."

The Storyteller. Richardson has surely enhanced the lives he's touched here at UNC, whether through administration, teaching or simply sharing his inviting personality. McCoy says Richardson "had a story to prove any point for any occasion."

Ned Brooks, associate provost for health affairs, says, "He is famous for his stories that he uses to make his points and that are invariably funny."

William Smith, longtime friend and associate provost for academic affairs, says, "Dick is a lot more of a great man than just simply a storyteller."

Richardson says he probably got his knack for storytelling from his parents. "Coming from a large, extended farm family from Missouri," Richardson admits, "stories were an important part of life. They entertained us and kept the social fabric of our family knitted tightly together. They made peoples'

"He is without a doubt one of the most intelligent and wisest people I've ever known, and he's also one of the nicest."

NED BROOKS

Associate Provost for Health Affairs

lives easier and happier."

It seems as though Richardson incorporated this attitude into his Carolina family, making points and lightening moods with ease, grace and humor. When asked if one particular story stood out in his mind as a favorite, Richardson leaned back in his chair, smiled, and says, "They're all just a great, wonderful mesh."

The Man. "I can't tell you what a wonderful privilege and pleasure it's been working with [Richardson]," says Brooks. "He is without a doubt one of the most intelligent and wisest people I've ever known, and he's also one of the nicest, most self-effacing and most caring."

Richardson's tendency to go above and beyond the call of duty and his meaningful impact on those he meets is obvious. These attitudes and reactions of gratitude can be found in all aspects of his life.

Richardson received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 1999 for his long-term commitment to the National Boy Scouts of America. He also won the UNC-CH Thomas Jefferson Award and the General

Alumni Association Faculty Service Award. In a speech given for The Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, Professor Chuck Stone called him "one of the finest, most respected

and beloved scholars in this University's history."

Regardless of his accolades, accomplishments and the compliments he receives, a conversation with Richardson reveals his true humble identity. He hopes his work as provost will, "help this University become a national leader, so the first state university of the 18th century will become the best of the 21st."

After his official retirement and a several month vacation with his wife, Richardson will return to Chapel Hill and again be "deeply engaged in serving citizens of the state." Richardson has certainly shown his desire to help others. "Working with the Interfaith Council for Social Services, being President of United Way and working with Boy Scouts and practically every PTA Board in Chapel Hill," says Richardson, "has been very gratifying."

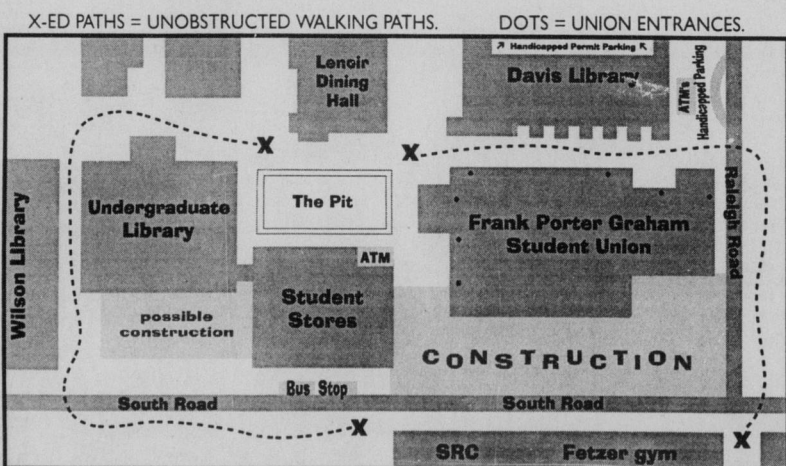
Though no one is looking forward to Richardson's retirement, he certainly deserves it. He chose to leave at the end of the summer without causing much commotion, typical of his style.

Metaphorically, Carolina can be seen as a canvas on which many artists have added their personal touch, each enhancing the final product. When Dick Richardson retires, he will gracefully remove himself from a masterpiece he has helped create.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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