Prof: Government by consent will equalize conditions for all

By Ronnie Calhoun
Reporter

Government by consent will discourage great concentration of wealth and power and ensure an open and competitive economy, a visiting professor from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill told A&M students Thursday at a conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and Humanities.

Another benefit of government by consent, he said, is that it allows citizens to enjoy equality of opportunity.

Bernard Boxill said the consent theory is thought of as a theory of political obligation because the people have consented to the government.

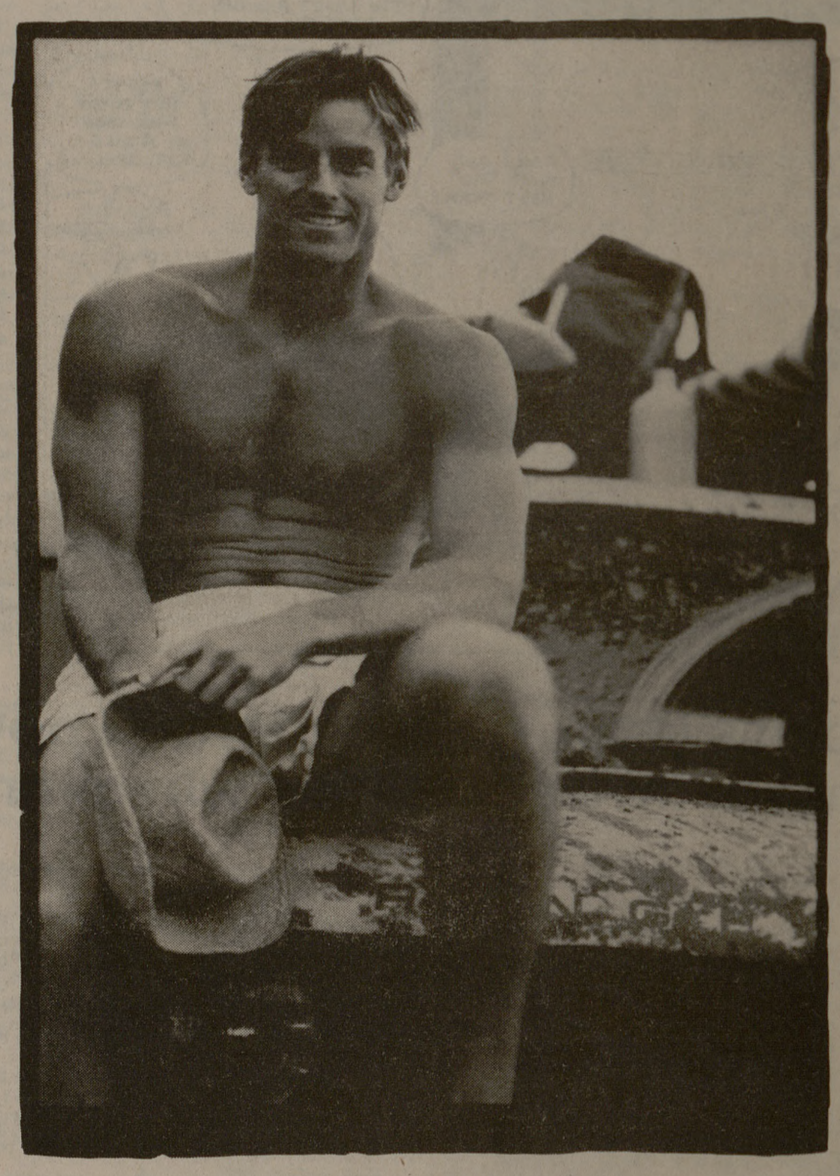
The problem with consent is that few people actually have consented, he said. Consent can take a variety of forms, he said, including words, silence and hand signals.

"What makes them consent is that they all mean 'I consent,' " Boxill said. "One can approve of something but not consent or be in a position to consent and others may easily misjudge what others are ready to do."

Boxill told the small audience that several conditions are necessary for a person to make a sign of consent:

- The context must make it clear to the person who is consenting that he *is* consenting. A full account of the proposal must be available and he must be capable of understanding the proposal and have ample time and opportunity to understand. This condition emphasizes that consent only can be given knowingly, he said.
- A person shouldn't be coerced into making a sign of consent. Boxill said coercion involves threatening a person with harm if he fails to agree.
- A person must not be compelled to make a sign of consent. Compulsion does not involve threats. Boxill said a person may be compelled when he is unable to make a sign of consent. There are two kinds of compulsion, he said, which occur when someone compels a person to consent either intentionally or inadvertently and when no one causes the compulsion.
- A person must not be driven misfortune to make a sign of cons to proposals that take unfair adv tage of his misfortune. Boxill p vided an example using a res boat and a swimmer. Someone the boat could ask the swimmer turn over his life savings if wanted to be rescued. Because th are no other rescue boats in the a the swimmer is at a situational di vantage.

"Several conditions have to be before consent is valid," he s "Basic liberties and conditions w secured for all. If conditions are fied, then government must seek widest possible consent to its poli Then government by consent w be a case of perfect procedure of j tice."



Biff Jennings spent last summer surfing double overhead Puerto Escondido, catching two hundred and fifty pound Marlin off Cabo, diving for lobsters as big as German Shepherds at Manzanillo, and raging in cantinas until dawn.

He's back home in Texas now, and he continues to drink the beer that captures the spirit of everything that last summer was. Superior.

Superior.

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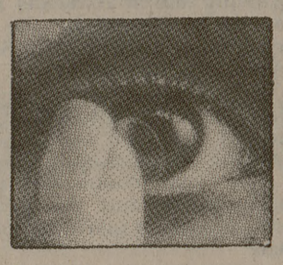

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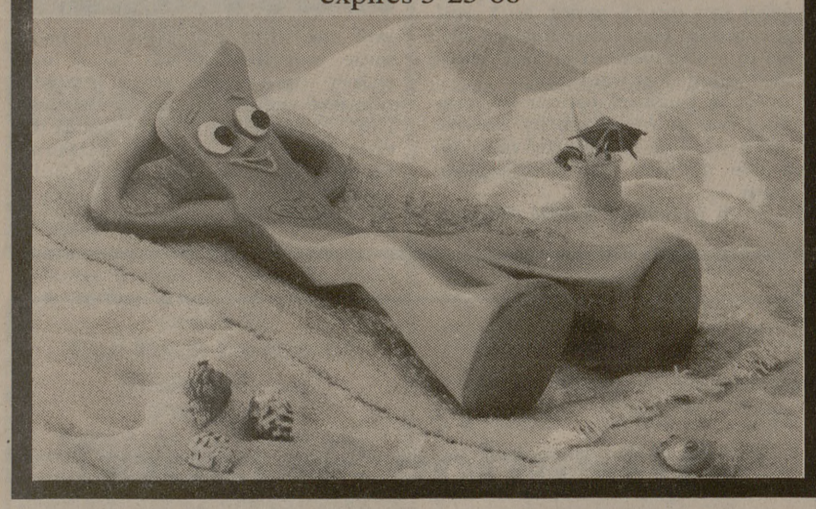

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