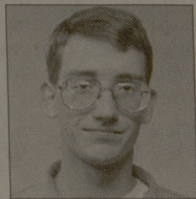


# Purveyor, Law slain in vain

## University making poor use of newly freed space

Columnist



David Johnston  
 Junior Math major

Students have noticed the vast empty space where Purveyor and Law Halls used to stand. Now the property is kind of serene, kind of muddy and kind of useless.

Students may recall, a strange building-rubble hybrid filled the lot for several months last semester. The pile did little to improve the campus skyline, but it allowed us to slowly come to terms with the fact Purveyor and Law would no longer be with us.

With removal of the halls finally complete, University officials have recently discussed replacing the buildings. The current plans, however, do not make much sense.

Although there is a high demand for parking space, classrooms and housing on the main campus, University officials plan to create a "green area" where the popular residence halls once stood. This sounds nice, but Northside already has several park-like "green areas." This site is just a brick's throw from Keathley Beach (the open space between FHK-Complex and Wellborn Road) and lies adjacent to the O.R. Simpson Drill Field.

Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, supports the "green area" plan. He said he likes the idea of "opening up campus," and adds he enjoys looking out his window to plenty of green space.

While the University President improves the view from his office, West Campus continues to expand and students face longer

and longer commutes between classes.

Students feel concern for the safety of those they care about as they trek to and from Fish Lot late at night.

On more than one occasion, I have been unable to find red-tag parking anywhere. Maybe there is a hidden lot I do not know about, but until I find it, I am forced to either circle parking lots like a vulture or find some way to entertain myself off-campus.

President Bowen offers little hope to those who would like to see something useful constructed on the site. The location, however, is one of several being considered for a new hall within the next 10 years.

In the meantime, the Residence Hall Association is gathering student support to build a memorial to Purveyor and Law Halls in the green area. The memorial, which could be built as early as this June, will include two stone arches and a \$52,000 price tag.

In addition to the expensive memorial, RHA is also considering adding barbecue pits or volleyball courts to encourage students to

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use the park.

Most students agree our oldest residence halls deserve some sort of visible memory, but \$52,000 is a lot of money to pull from any University source. This sort of project should be a class gift, not University funded. It seems university planners have a propensity for throwing money around on small projects while complaining they cannot free up funds.

The Purveyor site is valuable land. As main campus becomes more crowded, West Campus continues to grow. Besides the inconvenience of commuting long distances between classes, we have already seen tragic accidents involving students crossing Wellborn Road. As the University's westward expansion continues, officials propose expensive pedestrian walks or tunnels to prevent further injuries. This effort seems mis-spent when officials are landscaping "green areas" on the main campus.

Space is already at a high premium on campus. Many on-campus students walk over 20 minutes from their hall to their car. Most off-campus students brave fierce crowds at bus stops, or drive to campus hours before their classes begin in hopes of finding an open parking space. With the increasing demand for space and escalating safety concerns, we can't afford to sacrifice prime property on the main campus for another "green area."

# Media judgements taint reputations

Columnist



Kate Shropshire  
 Freshman Meteorology major

Warning: The concept of "innocent until proven guilty" is quickly becoming vague because of an over scrutinizing American population.

Anyone who has been previously held in high regard can now be degraded within an inch of their life until the glory of their bygone days becomes a mockery to be utilized by all.

For instance, Dallas Cowboy's wide receiver Michael Irvin was recently charged with felony possession when he was discovered at a hotel party with topless dancers and cocaine.

At a subsequent trial, Irvin pleaded no contest and received a suspended sentence for five games by the NFL commissioner. After this well-publicized event, Irvin remained under a high-powered microscope maneuvered by the media, law officials and preying public. They were ready to hop on the bandwagon of Irvin's tainted image.

With this bad press, the fire of accusations burned brighter when Nina Shahravan, a former topless dancer, filed a police report Dec. 30 accusing Irvin of holding her at gunpoint while Erik Williams and a third man raped her.

In a similar case, Vickie Running, executive secretary for the Texas A&M Board of Regents, was charged with tampering with government documents. Like Irvin, eager to move on with life, Running also pleaded no contest to her records tampering charge.

The question of her guilt and tainted image soon became the interest of Ross Margraves' attorney when he called her as a court witness.

Bill Turner, the District Attorney handling the case said, "One of the defendant's theories was that because Vickie Running prepared the paperwork for the trip that she, rather than Margraves, was responsible for the misapplications."

A distinct likeness is present in the comparison of these two

stories: The second accusation, of which neither party was guilty, was based on the contaminated opinion of the public and media.

The public and media had forsaken an open mind and sound judgment and started to idolize the concept of the "once-a-bad-seed-always-a-bad-seed" syndrome.

Guilt was never proven. It was the basis of a hostile, incriminating society looking for a story to sink their arraigning teeth into. Privacy has been sacrificed for something obviously more important — the public's interest.

Those who try to move on after their reputations have been assailed find it difficult in this jump-the-gun kind of justice which has been established as part of America's heritage.

Although most Americans have conveniently forgotten such a concept exists, "innocent until proven guilty" is still the best way to judge a person's character.

Everyone deserves the benefit of the doubt.

We have been raised in a society constantly pointing fingers, looking for someone to blame. Until we take responsibility for our own actions, the concept of equal justice can never fully be realized.

With everyone expressing recognition for their own mishaps, we won't be so eager to jump to conclusions about others' short comings. Those whose mistakes are made public yearn for peace of mind as earnestly as anyone, so let's give it to them. Overall, this makes a more fair, just society.

Condemnation is too emotionally, mentally and physically scarring to be used so carelessly. It is sad this practice has become so commonplace and popular.

Barbara Jewell, the mother of Richard Jewell who was at the mercy of intense federal investigation for the '96 Summer Olympic bombing, said, "The media has descended on us like vultures on prey. They have taken all privacy from us. They have taken all peace."

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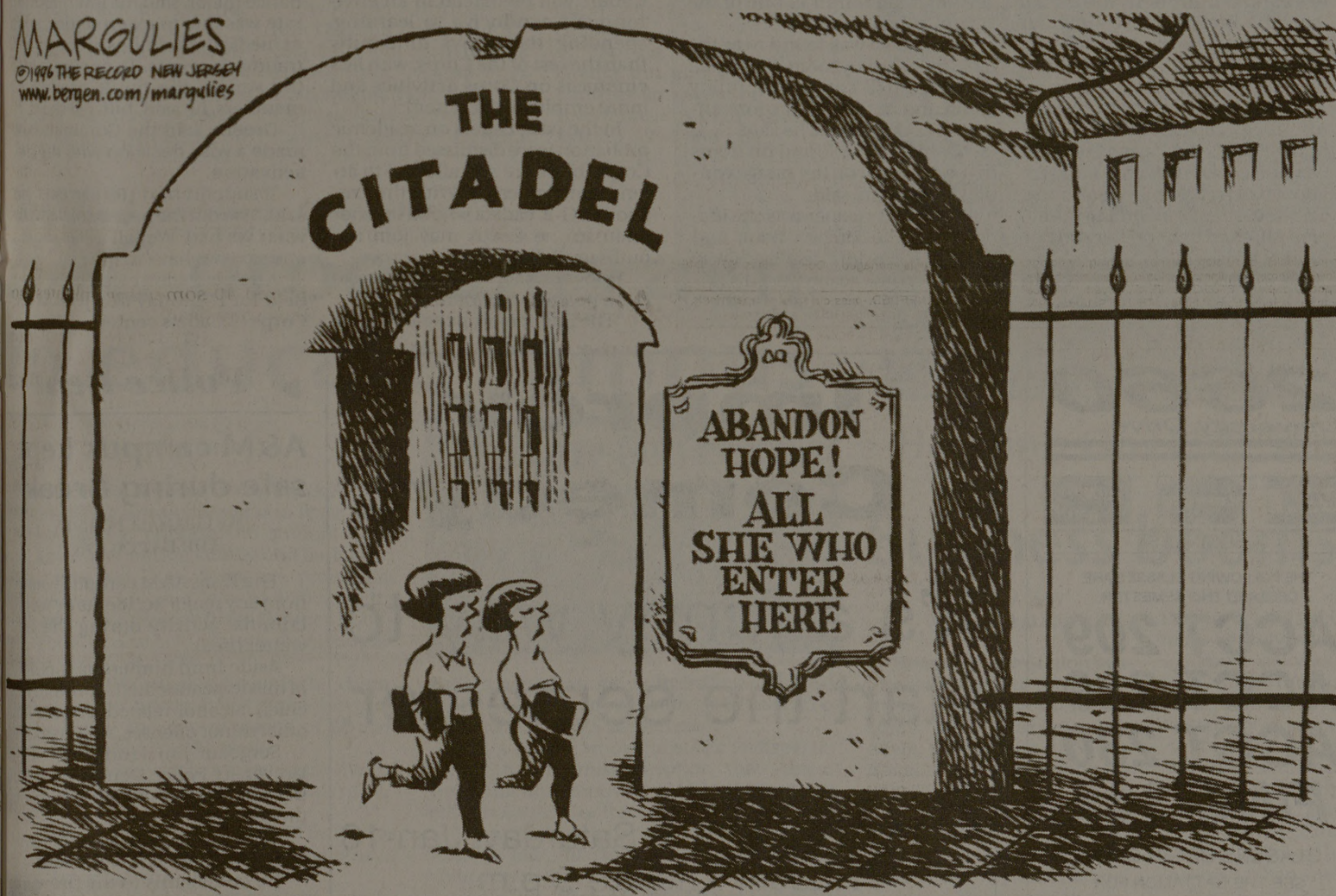
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Calvin Davis

AGUE



# Right to die can be a dangerous tool

Columnist



John Lemons  
 Engineering Graduate student

Four percent had been asked to euthanize a patient.

This right defies everything we've believed about good medical practice. The Hippocratic Oath includes a provision against mercy killing stating, "I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel." Are doctors prepared to become both healer and executioner, and are Americans willing to accept them as both? Probably not.

Jennifer Carr, a junior psychology major and EMT, said, "With all of the responsibilities we are putting on physicians, and all the lawsuits we're giving them, it is unfair to force them into a situation where they have to make that choice."

How will we prevent doctors from rampantly prescribing physician-assisted suicide if it becomes legal? The courts and medical establishments have found themselves incapable of preventing Jack Kervorkian from assisting 44 suicides since 1990. Modern medicine already faces a tremendous problem with doctors pushing unnecessary procedures. The legalization of physician-assisted suicide creates the potential for doctors and insur-

ance companies to pressure terminally ill patients into committing suicide rather than undergoing expensive long-term medical care. The only feasible way to prevent this abuse is for the government to strictly regulate it. This means creating another large government bureaucracy, something nobody wants.

A compelling argument for the right to die is it validates a person's life by preventing him or her from deteriorating into something helpless and pitiful. On the contrary, physician-assisted suicide devalues life. It sends a message that life becomes worthless when stricken with disease. In a world which worships youth, strength and beauty, this is a dangerous message.

In Wednesday's hearing, Washington state Attorney General Christine Gregoire said, "The history and tradition of our country is a total ban on taking the life of another."

We defy our history and endanger our weak by granting the right to die.

What do we teach our children when we tell them some people are better off dead? In a culture

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where much of our entertainment revolves around watching television shows and movies featuring violent killing, we teach our children life is cheap. When life becomes cheap, we start to lose rights instead of gaining them.

We live in a time where we get what we want, when we want it. Our pizzas come in thirty minutes, and our mail arrives overnight. Unfortunately, death is not often so expedient. Still, suicide is not the solution to terminal illness.

Part of the solution lies in a comment made by Sheryl Allen, RN, BSN, weekend supervisor at Sherwood nursing home in Bryan. She said, "Most of the people here (at Sherwood) have family come and visit them at least once a week." These families who are committed to spending time with their dying loved ones can provide the love and emotional support necessary to make a terminal illness more endurable. The rest of the solution lies with doctors who are knowledgeable in the latest developments for pain mitigation. With these tools, perhaps we can comfort the dying without giving them a right they do not need.

## Editorial Roundup

The following Editorials are from earlier this week dealing with the start of a new congressional term.

*The Washington Post, on the Clinton administration's plans for the District of Columbia*

The Clinton administration has made a substantial and welcome proposal to change the long-term fiscal outlook for (Washington). The decision to include the proposal in next month's budget hardly guarantees approval. Congress would have to concur, and some of the early reaction there yesterday was negative. But the issue of restructuring has now been raised, and joined, in a way it earlier had not. What used to be mainly a topic of conversation is on its way to becoming a legislative proposal. You should count that as enormous progress — we do — no matter what you think of the details.

*The Wall Street Journal, on the Democrats' tactics in Congress*

The thing to keep in mind about the news that a Democrat leaked the transcript of an illegally taped telephone conversation involving Newt Gingrich is that this isn't all surprising. Such behavior is the logical consequence of Boniorism.

Boniorism describes those Democrats, led by whip David Bonior of Michigan, who have never come to terms with the reality of losing the House. They view the Republican victory of 1994 as morally illegitimate, a product of Mr. Gingrich's schemes, despite its ratification in 1996. So anything goes in their attempt to destroy him as Speaker and ultimately to take back Congress.

*The New York Times, on the ethics charges against the Speaker*

The House Republicans have stumbled upon a diversionary tactic that may play well inside Congress but will not fool a public grown weary of politicians who will do whatever they can to avoid full disclosure. Having destroyed any semblance of order in the ethics committee investigation into the conduct of Speaker Newt Gingrich, the Republican leadership now attempts to cloud the issue further by attacking those who have come forward with an audio tape in which Mr. Gingrich and his colleagues discussed ways to limit the political damage.

The taped conversation is merely one piece of evidence against the Speaker. It... does not deal with the main charge against him... Nevertheless, the tape should be weighed by the committee and by House members as they consider the gravity of Mr. Gingrich's transgressions and his punishment.

*The (Toledo) Blade, on re-election of House Speaker Newt Gingrich*

Those who live by the sword, it is said, often die by the sword. That might be the political epitaph for the author of the sweeping Republican congressional victory of 1994. In winning the House speakership by just three votes over an uninspiring Democrat, Newt Gingrich did not die, politically speaking, but he is nursing a pretty deep wound.

Republicans, from force of habit, refuse to abandon their leaders, even if prudence dictates it.

It was clear in the 1996 campaign that the Republicans lacked a good recounterpuncher. In light of Mr. Gingrich's close call, it is ev-