

► Court restricts student funding

Jason Zemanovic pays about \$40 a year to help fund student groups on his U. of California, Los Angeles, campus. Those groups often support ideas he doesn't. Like all U. of California students, though, Zemanovic, a junior, hasn't had a choice about the kinds of groups he helps to fund. "Given the opportunity, I wouldn't donate," he says.

That opportunity may have come.

The California Supreme Court has ruled that students like UCLA's Zemanovic cannot be forced to pay for student political or lobby groups with money collected from student fees and primarily distributed by their student governments.

Margaret Fortune, president of the Associated Students at the U. of California, Berkeley, says the court essentially stripped her student government of the power to distribute funds. "The court's ruling undermines the ability of students to organize around relevant issues, and for that reason it is a tragedy."



Margaret Fortune feels stripped of powers.

For state and national student lobbying groups, student governments and campus groups funded by student fees, the court decision signals a death blow. "It would be disastrous for political discourse and debate," says Stacey Leyton, president of

the United States Student Association, which is funded, in part, by fees collected from 350 member schools.

The U. of Wisconsin system avoids the funding problems UC system schools now face by not giving money to political or religious organizations. "You can look at [student fees] as a tax on all students," says Wisconsin senior Jamie Wall. "Students who disagree with a certain group's political activities shouldn't be forced to pay for them."

But again, the court decision raises an interesting question. All student groups existing for the purpose of promoting a set of interests. So at what point does a student group become "political" enough to no longer qualify for funding?

Mark Himmelstein, attorney for the Berkeley student association, says that's a question the U.S. Supreme Court will have to answer. "I don't believe it's economically feasible to carry out the decision of the [California] Supreme Court as it stands." ■
Josh Romonek, Daily Bruin, U. of California, Los Angeles

► Frat antics depicting minorities no longer tolerated

Fraternity theme parties have become infamous since *Animal House* glamorized donning sheets and swilling beer after beer. But dressing like a true Athenian while imbibing alcoholic beverages is a very different thing from sponsoring a "Party in the Projects."

Greek organizations around the country — including schools in New Jersey, Texas and Indiana — have been accused of racism for sponsoring theme events involving racial and ethnic stereotypes. And their universities are becoming less tolerant.

At Rider College in New Jersey, when the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity recently sponsored a "Dress Like a Nigger Party" and had pledges clean the fraternity house, the pledges wore Malcolm X caps and other stereotypically black clothing. The fraternity was charged with indecent conduct and hazing under the college's social code. The national Phi Kappa Psi fraternity pulled the charter at Rider indefinitely.

Texas A&M U.'s Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was charged in October with racism because of conduct that occurred at a "Jungle Party" in which participants wore black makeup. The fraternity was fined \$1,000 to be used for multicultural seminars and is on disciplinary probation until the end of the 1994 spring semester.

And at Texas Tech U., the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and Fashion Board organization were found guilty of harassment and received sanctions by the university's Discipline Committee for a "Party in the Projects" mixer last October. Some members of the organizations were photographed in blackface dressed as stereotypical black and Hispanic gang members with pillows in their pants for the appearance of having large buttocks.

"Pike and Fashion board members refused to comment. 'You're not going to get anybody to comment,' Pike member Chris Offield says. 'We don't feel we need to.'"

Both organizations appealed the imposed sanctions to the university appeals committee on the basis of freedom of speech. University attorneys contacted the Texas Attorney General's Office which said the mixer was protected by the First Amendment.

Minority organizations at Tech protested the decision not to sanction the organizations and have asked the Tech and Lubbock communities to boycott all events by the organizations.

"We're not satisfied with what has taken place," says Cleo Marshall, a member of the historically black fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi at Texas Tech. "We can never be satisfied and we will never be satisfied until the system... begins to work for all." ■
Kristie Davis, The University Daily, Texas Tech U.

► Makin' copies... lawsuit-o-rama

The owner of an Ann Arbor copy shop is taking up the fight that Kinko's lost two years ago and risking his livelihood in the fight for cheaper course materials.

Jim Smith, owner of Michigan Document Services, has been sued by several publishing houses for selling coursepacks without obtaining copyright permission for the articles. So he's taking on the big guys for a place in the market, where students and faculty spend millions of dollars on reproduction for university coursework.

Smith contends he is acting in accordance with the fair use statute of copyright law that excludes "multiple copies for classroom purposes."

But the Association of American Publishers alleges fair use law does not apply to copy shops because they are making a profit.

Kinko's Graphics Corp. lost a similar court battle against the AAP in March 1991. Smith believes the judge's decision was based on "flawed logic."

"Coursepacks are very important educational tools for students and professors," he says. "I am well aware that if I lose this case, I will lose this business and everything I have worked for during the past 20 years."

Kathlene Karg, assistant director of copyright for the AAP, says the lawsuit against Michigan Document Services transcends the issue of money owed in unpaid royalties. "The fundamental position comes down to asking for permission to reproduce."

Still, U. of Michigan senior Jennifer Emmett says students are affected in the end by tougher enforcement of copyright law. "Coursepacks have been more expensive the past couple of years, and they haven't been used as steadily in classes," she says. ■
Gwen Shaffer, Michigan Daily, U. of Michigan



Jim Smith looks out for students' purses.

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