

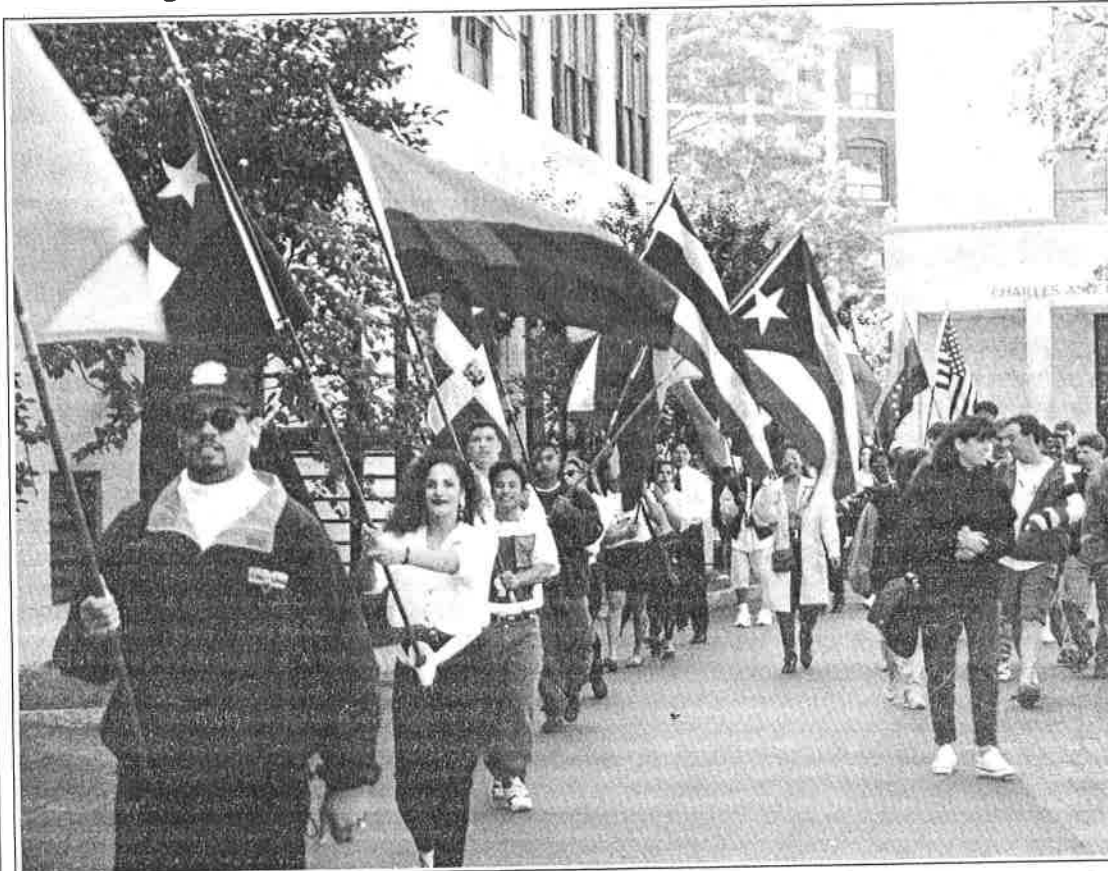
# THE NORTHEASTERN NEWS

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The students' newspaper of Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts

Wednesday, October 14, 1992

## *LASOing Columbus Day...*



Members of Northeastern's Latin American Student Organization (LASO) march in a parade in Cabot Court last week. See page ???  
(Photo courtesy of LASO)

## Smoking, tobacco sales to be banned

### *Faculty move angers smokers*

By Natacha Dorismond  
News Correspondent

Having a smoke in the bathroom before class or running to the bookstore to buy a pack of cigarettes will be a thing of the past soon, after faculty members and President John Curry decided to ban the sale of cigarettes at Northeastern and eliminate designated smoking areas in classroom buildings.

The Faculty Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday to impose the bans, which still need Curry's approval before they are implemented. Curry has said he will support the faculty's recommendation.

"A complete ban is likely to work," said law professor Richard Daynard, who proposed the ban to the Faculty Senate. "Restricted

simply selling (cigarettes) undermines a smoke-free campus."

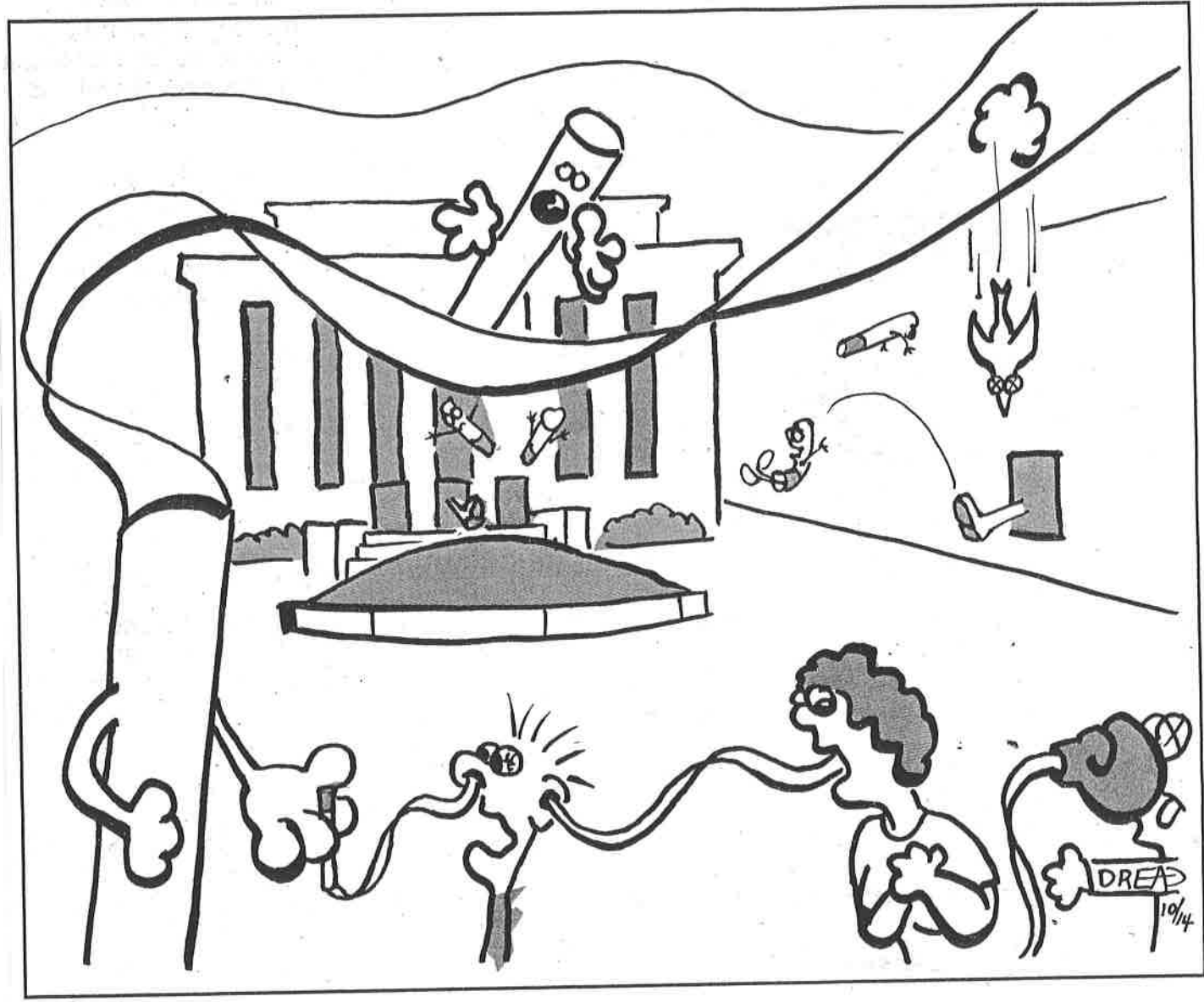
By imposing the restrictions, Northeastern becomes one of a handful of colleges and universities in the nation to ban the sale of tobacco products on campus.

In 1988, Northeastern imposed smoking regulations that created designated smoking areas in most buildings on campus. The restrictions, said supporters of the university-wide ban, are not well-known and are rarely enforced.

"Selling cigarettes on campus is like selling alcohol and saying 'but we don't want you using it,'" said Daynard, who is also the president of the Group Against Smoke Pollution in Massachusetts.

The ban on tobacco sales

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## viewpoint

### Smoking policy infringes on community's rights

University administrators have taken things excessively far with the recent campus-wide ban of tobacco use and sales and have infringed upon the rights of members of its community.

The banning of a legal product is an infringement of personal rights. What gives a university, which is supposed to be the bastion of acceptance and tolerance of all groups rights, the right to make a legal product prohibited?

Clearly the university must take into account the plight of the non-smoker. If it is a potential health hazard, then prohibiting smokers from lighting up in areas where it may affect others is a wise and healthy choice. But, why should the university make the sale of tobacco illegal on campus?

Where is the justification for banning the sale of the product, other than to give the university a pseudo-progressive image? Prohibiting anything that is legal is not progressive.

What's next banning offensive books or caffeine because it too presents a health hazard. How far will the university go to create an image?

If the university really wanted to be progressive then the administration would ban ROTC, which openly discriminates against students, instead of discriminating against members of the university who smoke.

Banning tobacco sales on campus also interferes with the rights of campus vendors because the Northeastern community isn't the only consumer of their products.

The area community as well will be denied the right to take advantage of the easy access to sales offered by campus truck vendors and consequently, vendors will lose sales.

Some proponents of the policy also want to push further by banning smoking in campus dormitories as

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well. Even considering this idea is a clear disregard for student's rights. It is bad enough that faculty are no longer able to smoke in their private offices.

It appears the university is such a proponent of this policy because it's good press. Put simply, Northeastern wants to jump on the bandwagon with the other "moral institutions" in order to improve the university's image, but simultaneously they are infringing on its community's rights.

This leads to the question of whether or not the university prefers to cater to make-believe images or its own lifeblood, the university community.

The rest of the university community should urge the Student Government Association to keep proponents from including within the policy, the banning of tobacco use within student dormitories.

Dorm rooms are private residences for students, just as homes are for faculty. After all, the university doesn't enforce a policy that requires faculty not to smoke in their own residences.

The university must also consider changing the policy to exempt the Ell Center from the ban. Students pay an annual fee to use the building, why not use a portion of those funds to implement a ventilation system in designated smoking areas so as to minimize the amount of smoke that accumulates there?

There are alternative avenues the university can take that are not nearly as drastic that could satisfy almost everyone.

True, banning tobacco use in classroom buildings and even the library is a wise choice because smoking in those buildings is less than appropriate anyway.

However, snuffing out all possibilities of admitting smokers free tobacco usage and purchase on campus is a policy that illustrates the administration's lack of consideration for the university community as a whole.