

Editorial

The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of this publication, or of the Student Union.

Academic regulation 37 states, "all public areas in the university are to be smoke-free at all times."

The regulation goes on to give some examples of areas that are to be considered public and therefore should be smoke-free. These include: classrooms, labs, reading rooms, stairwells, hail, washrooms, areas around photocopiers, and LOUNGES.

This regulation should be easy to understand and should pose no debate as to its meaning. Then why is it, in many of the lounges on the campus, there is an ever present cloud of smoke? The university seems to be taking a blind eye to this problem.

It has been long that the non-smoking majority on this campus must either sit and bear the stench of the smokers cigarettes or try to find an area that is truly smoke-free. I am tired of having to sit and inhale others smoke. The lounges on this campus are for the students to enjoy, not to be used as smoking rooms.

This is not only the fault of the smokers but also there seems to be an underlying support from the university. In many of the lounges there has even been ashtray set up for the smokers. In the business lounge, for example, there is about eight ashtrays provided.

With the full understanding of the regulation prohibiting smoking, it is difficult to think of many areas where smoking should be allowed. Is the pit not a public area? Are the doorways not public areas? In fact, is the campus in general not a public area in terms of the student body?

I feel that the university must start to enforce its own regulations and make the campus a smoke-free zone, at least in all the buildings. A tough no smoking policy must be started in order to stop the dangerous effects of second hand smoke on the non-smoking population.

We have already seen one complaint from a student about the smoking in the business lounge. I am sure there are more out there. Now is the time for a

change. Non-smokers must stand up for their rights and reclaim this campus and its lounges. We pay for these rights in our tuition and they must not be stolen away from us any longer. We need to speak up and let our discontent be known. We do not want new regulations drawn up but rather we want to see existing ones be enforced.

Breathing freely,

Cory Large

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