

Smoking regulations on campus spark mixed emotions

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Severe restrictions have been placed on smoking on campus as a part of the contract that was recently negotiated between the administration and the faculty.

Article 23.6 of the new Agreement between YSU and the YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association reads:

There shall be no smoking in any University building except in designated areas that are separately vented.

In conformity with the collectively bargained agreement, effective immediately there will be no smoking in any YSU building

at any time except in the buildings and areas listed below.

Beeghly Hall: North Lobby, South Lobby, Room 322(Lounge); Bridge over Wick Avenue; Kilcawley Residence Hall: Residence rooms by agreement of occupants of each room; Kilcawley Student Center: West end of Wicker Basket; Meshel Hall: Computer Center lounge on 4th floor; Physical Plant Building: "New Lunch Room"; Fedor Hall: Room 1036; Stambaugh Stadium: Private Boxes on Press Box level; Williamson Hall: 3rd floor student lounge; Parking Decks.

Smokers are requested to observe these restrictions and,

when smoking in designated areas or outside, to please use ash trays or receptacles identified for disposal of cigarettes and cigars.

It is difficult to estimate what the enforcement problem will be concerning this prohibition. It is assumed that since 23.6 was adopted at the request of the YSU-OEA, the union representing all full-time service faculty, that there is a consensus in favor of a substantially smoke free campus. It is noted that the smoking prohibition applies to individual offices and to rest rooms.

Students have expressed mixed emotions about the new

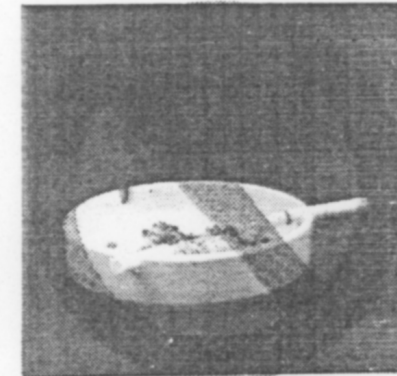
restrictions. One anonymous smoker said, "I pay tuition, shouldn't I have a say?"

According to Jain Savage, Coordinator of Substance Abuse Services, students did have a say. She claims that last year a tobacco abuse committee was formed. Savage states that students were on this committee. Also, the committee circulated a survey to students, faculty and staff.

In addition, the committee spoke to architects and people in facilities to find out about the ventilation systems in campus buildings. The findings of this committee, were submitted to Dr. Neil Humphrey, President of YSU. The faculty wanted this

issue to be part of the negotiations, according to Savage.

Jean Wainio from the Vice President of Personnel Services



office said, "This is not something that developed just
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through negotiations." In 1987 a safety committee was concerned about nuisance alarms going off in buildings because of students smoking in the hallways, said Wainio. She said, "We needed to get the smoke into other areas." Wainio also pointed out the issue of harmful side effects of second-hand smoke.

Most students seem to be aware of these side effects. Tom Kennedy, senior, A&S, said, "I feel that the teacher's association thinks they can stop people from smoking by banning it, they're wrong. There should be smoking and non-smoking sections." Rich Sabatowski, sophomore, CAST, and a non-smoker said, "I'm glad, but it is a bit extreme."

Faculty member David Whitacre, anthropology, said, "Things could be a little more convenient for smokers. Healthwise, it's probably a good thing, but they should make more of an effort to get programs to get people off smoking."

Another anonymous smoker said, "This is discriminating against smokers. We aren't the scum of the earth. We are bonded by a bad habit, but we come from all walks of life."

There are other problems resulting from these new restrictions. The candy counter in Kilcawley Center will no longer sell cigarettes. This will provide a great loss of income, according to Philip Hirsch, director of Students Activities/ Auxiliary Services. He said that the candy counter will lose about \$12,000 by discontinuing the sale of cigarettes.

In addition, there are three other unions on campus who were not consulted about the smoking restrictions being written into the YSU-OEA contract. Julia Lloyd, Student Developmental Services and a member of the YSU-ACE union, said that her union was not contacted about this issue. She said, "We are currently looking into the matter and deciding what action to take."