

Palms praises faculty for tenure vote

ERIN GALLOWAY News Editor

USC President John Palms praised faculty Friday for this past week's vote to include service in tenure decisions, saying the change will improve the university.

"The faculty were civil and well-prepared," he said.

Palms stressed that job security is an issue throughout businesses, not just at an academic level. However, he said

tenure gives professors academic freedom similar to judges' lifelong positions.

"The outside world doesn't understand tenure," Palms said.

Palms said if the state House bill to cancel tenure is passed, South Carolina would be the only state in the country to do away with tenure at universities and colleges.

Palms said he sees a lot of support for higher education in the State House. He has met with the chairman of the

House Finance Committee and believes the Legislature will work to restore cuts to higher education.

As for Gov. David Beasley's support for higher education, Palms said, "I think he's going to help us out."

Palms said he was surprised by the recent announcement that Provost James Moeser is interviewing for president of West Virginia University.

"I hope he has a nice visit, and that's it," Palms said.

Judge rules to release Smith's records

COLUMBIA (AP)—A judge ruled Monday that police records detailing molestation allegations from Susan V. Smith, the Union mother charged with drowning her two sons, against her stepfather can be released to the public.

Circuit Court Judge William Howard said in his ruling that Smith's defense would not be hurt by the release of the incident reports detailing her accusations against Beverly Russell.

"This court concludes that the defendant has failed to establish a sub-

stantial probability that the defendant's right to a fair trial will be prejudiced by the release of the incident reports," Howard said.

Union County Sheriff Howard Wells had refused to release the reports, saying disclosure of the incident reports would violate a gag order by Howard.

Both The State and The Charlotte Observer disagreed and sued for access.

Wells was out of town Monday night and not available for comment on when

the records would be available.

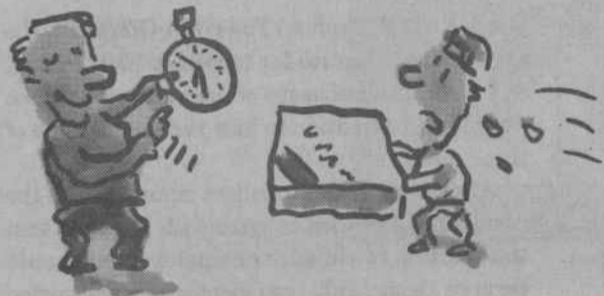
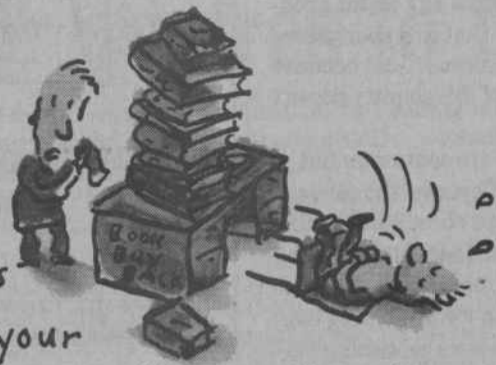
Smith faces a possible death sentence at her July 10 trial.

"I think it's the correct decision under the earlier order," Columbia attorney Jay Bender said.

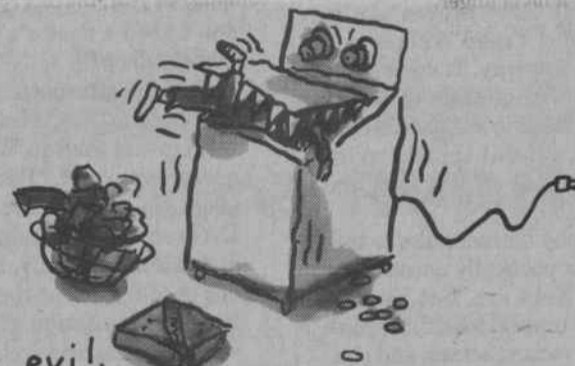
A Family Court judge ordered court documents detailing allegations of Smith's molestation released in January. Russell admitted in 1988 he had molested Smith, now 23, when she was a teenager.

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