

# Student Court Still Exists

## A Guest Editorial

### By Feature Editor Rodney Smith

How many students on this campus are informed as to just what the powers of the Student Court are? How many, in fact, even know that such an agency is in existence on this campus? Very few, I dare say.

There is a perfectly reasonable explanation for this truly sad state of affairs, i.e., the UNC-Charlotte Student Court has not tried a single case this entire academic year. There must be a cause for this, and I doubt that the explanation lies in the infallibility of UNC-C students.

The explanation does, in fact, seem to lie in the most troublesome problem presently plaguing our campus—lack of communication. There are scores of faculty members and administrators who are willing to delegate authority to a competent student agency and share the responsibility of disciplinary action. There are, however, still many others who continue to see students as incapable of dealing with these problems.

A study is presently being conducted by the Student Court and the student faculty committee for academic disciplinary action. We can all hope that this study will result in the alteration of the present system to such an extent that each student will be able to realize his right to "trial by his peers".

#### TRAFFIC COURT ALWAYS BUSY

Concerning the question of "what can the Student Court do to you", there lies another less obvious question: "What can the Student Court do for you?". One must be extremely unaware of campus life in order to plead ignorance concerning the myriads of parking tickets that have been awarded this semester to students who have their own original ideas about how and where an automobile should be parked on campus. To tell the truth, those who have escaped these "citations of merit" are the exception rather than the rule. Only the Student Court has the authority to uphold an appeal. The traffic committee has been one of the most overworked agencies since the new parking "tax" was levied and Mr. Young was given "the power of the pencil". Perry Moser, traffic committee chairman, can often be seen in the back of the Union with a distraught look on his face and a thick folder filled with pink slips on the table before him.

Many tickets are awarded to undeserving ladies and gentlemen, some are passed out for non-existent violations, still others are switched from one car to another by amiable gremlins, and others, the majority of the tickets written, are presented to drivers who value their own ideas over the existing rules.

#### Court Has Many Verdicts To Choose From

If one were to be tried by the court for a violation of the Honor Code or the Constitution of the Student Government of the Uni-

versity of North Carolina at Charlotte, just what are the possible verdicts that are renderable by the Student Court?

First of all, the verdict might be "Not Guilty". If this be the case, then all records of the case, save one, would be destroyed. The defendant's name would be stricken from the text of the one remaining copy, which would be placed in court files for use by the court as a precedent.

The other alternative is, of course, "Guilty". There are five types of guilty verdicts. They are as follows:

1. Suspended Sentence. This sentence carries no restrictions and is not entered on the student's record.

2. Official Reprimand. This sentence would be entered on the back of the student's permanent record for a period of three months and then erased. Any transcript of the student's record sent out during this time period will include this reprimand.

3. Practical Penalty. This sentence carries with it the performance of some task commensurate with the offense, and/or monetary fine between \$5 and \$20 or the cost of any university-owned property damaged or destroyed.

4. Definite Disciplinary Probation. This penalty can extend for as many as three semesters and remains on the back of the permanent record and any transcript for the duration of the sentence. This is accompanied by forfeiture of all extra-curricular privileges and right to represent the University.

5. Definite and Indefinite Suspension. The Chancellor may inflict these penalties for one or two semesters on recommendation of the Student Court. In the case of indefinite suspension, the convicted student can formally petition the court for reinstatement after a period of not less than one year after confirmation. Any sentence concerning suspension will remain on the permanent record of the offender.

The accused always has the right of appeal to the Chancellor upon conviction. He also has the right to appeal to the appropriate State Court in cases of extreme deprivation of character or cases where due process of law is lacking.

In the light of these facts, it would seem that every student on this campus would have at least a passing interest in the Student Court and its activities. In the coming election, five students, one sophomore, three juniors, and one senior; will be elected by the entire student body. The other two positions on the court will be filled by seniors appointed by the Student Body President.

As you can easily see, these positions are in no way subordinate to the executive offices. We, therefore urge all students to take an active interest in next week's election. Perhaps those of you with some legal knowledge will even consider running against incumbent for one of these offices. It could happen!

# Hawkins Represents Black People, Poor Whites, And Liberals in N.C.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

of aristocracy, which is a continuation of the feudal system. We are still living under this same type of feudal system. I am a thorn in the side of the power structure because I am trying to stimulate and activate not only adults who have responsibility but also students such as you to your responsibility in the political process.

I am not afraid of going to jail, I'm not afraid of dying fighting for America. I fought in World War II, I fought in the Korean War. If I have to die I'm gonna die right here in North Carolina fighting for the rights of people who have full citizenship and to participate in the political process and economic process of this state. This is a pretty dangerous thing because in North Carolina they have used the courts for years to lynch black people and poor white people. If you go down to Raleigh and you look into the prison roles you won't find any rich people in jail. Only poor whites and black people and a few red people that they can catch.

So we're really fighting the establishment--the same thing and the same problem that you got out at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte--which is the draft. I fought the draft. I think that the draft is full of iniquities. I am speaking on this March 27 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I am giving my higher education speech there. This state is bad. It has misplaced priorities. It cares nothing about the youth, the black, and the low income people.

I'm running to try to save the state. It might try to put me in jail but there are courts a little higher than this court and the double standard of justice that exists in this state will be exposed. This is what I'm doing. I do speak out, try to speak the truth. People know that these are dangerous things to do. The same thing they did to Jesus Christ. The decision to nail Jesus to the cross was a political decision, not a religious one. So I'm treading on dangerous grounds, and I feel I can win and I think we are getting through to the people about this.

Journal: That brings up another question I had. You say you feel that you can win. There

is a great deal of speculation that you are running to gain a bargaining position such as has been related to L Beverly Lake. Is this a valid analogy or are you definitely planning to win?

Hawkins: The press has tried everything in the world to keep me out of this race. As I just mentioned, I am an anathema to the establishment. The Democratic Party is built on the backs of black people and the poor white people in this state who haven't got anything from the political process. They want to still talk in terms of bargaining.

I want it known from now on in I'm not interested in sitting at the bargaining table. Too long have our people sat at the bargaining table only to get the crumbs after the dinner is over. I am in this campaign to win and I think I can win. And if I don't win, the decision as to what happens will come from the people in the state of North Carolina.

Anybody who knows me from the civil rights program knows that I don't go into anything to play around. I go to win, and to win big. From indications at Chapel Hill and other areas where they run polls on my candidacy I'm getting through strong and I'm winning.

Journal: You have stated or have been quoted as stating that you believe that if elected governor, you can deter race riots in North Carolina. How would you propose to do this?

Hawkins: The first thing that I am interested in is getting at the causes of riots and racial disturbances. These disturbances grow out of a sense of human frustration and desperation. I am associated with people who are in that state--I myself am oppressed because of my color. I have a keen empathy with the people who would riot and who would do any type of disturbance because of these human frustrations and desperation.

I am running as a candidate of hope and progress. I am interested in rehabilitating our correctional systems.

I am interested in doing away with the double standard of justice that exists in our state. I am interested in upgrading our police departments -- more money and better personnel who know how to deal with minority and poor people in the state of North Carolina. This is the thing that will prevent the race riot.

Not only because of my interest in the cause, but because I'm black. There, too, is a sense of identification for people who have lost hope.

Journal: Do you feel that the Negroes in North Carolina will vote for you in a bloc?

Hawkins: No, but I think the Negro people will vote for me because of the fact that I am interested in the welfare of all people in the state of North Carolina and particularly in their interests, the lower income people in this state, and the young people in this state. I hope that all of these groups will vote for me in a bloc because this is the winning combination.

Journal: I gather from your conversation that you do not feel that you are representing a special interest group at all.

Hawkins: No sir. The only special interest that I represent is the fact that I am a Negro. This comes out of God-given rights. Negroes are going to vote for me because they know my history, they know that I have a keen awareness of what their problems are. The same thing is true of the low income white man that I am trying to get through to. He has not had a Reg Hawkins-Martin Luther King to represent his cause. He has been more exploited than the black man in this state, in a way. There are more poor white people in this state than you have poor black people. We're interested in their cause.

I'm interested in the cause of the liberal people in this state. I'm definitely interested in the cause of the youth.

These are the interests that I'm certainly representing. I'm not representing the interests of the conservatives in this state. I'm not representing the interests of the Klu Klux Klan. Those are the votes that I don't think I'll get, but I certainly think I'll get the votes from the other groups.

If you call those special interests, then I'm certainly representing that interest. But I think these are the majority of the people of the state of North Carolina.

Journal: Would you relate to us some of your particular standing on black militancy? (Ed. Note: The second portion of Mr. Smith's interview with Dr. Hawkins will appear in April 3 issue of the Journal. Dr. Hawkins talks about black militancy, the draft, and Elliot Schwartz.)

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