

# The Carolina Journal

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## Student Atty. General Forrest Bowen Resigns

By Brad Rich

Student Body Attorney General Forrest Bowen officially resigned Tuesday, October 4, at a meeting of the UNCC Student Legislature amidst week long rumors he would leave the post.

Bowen, who took over the position when Chase Idol assumed the presidency, said rumors of his resignation had started earlier in the week when someone read a note on Idol's door in which he stated his plans. "I put the note under Chase's door," Bowen said, "and apparently somebody thought it had fallen off and pinned off and pinned it up on the outside of the door. After that, the news spread pretty fast."

Bowen cited three main reasons for his resignation. First and foremost was that the demands of the job on his time and energy were causing his academics to suffer "more than I'm used to." He said to do the job well, he had to invest a lot of time, and the schedule was cutting into his studying time.

Another factor was the salary cuts made by Legislature. Bowen said when he took the job he was expecting to make enough money that he wouldn't have to take another job. When Legislature made the cut, he found this impossible. "I had hoped to make enough to just barely get by," he said, "and I found I couldn't even do that."

Thirdly, Bowen said, "I don't feel like I fit in up there (in Student Government). I am disappointed in the level of commitment shown by many of the people. There's a lot of political

backstabbing going on, and there's too much politics in the way things are being run."

Bowen declined to name any individuals responsible for the backstabbing and bickering but did say, "There are several individuals that facilitate the political arm. It is passed down from generation to generation...There are a lot of people in Legislature who know the mechanism of government but are just going through the motions."

He said the Legislature is a self-perpetuating body and often does not affect the student body as a whole. "You ask the average student what the Legislature does for him, and in most cases he can't say. I don't feel that it is wrong for the body to be self-perpetuating, but that shouldn't be their only purpose. Many of the things that are decided in that body never go out of that caucus room."

Bowen also criticized the way the Legislature makes many of its decisions. "Most of the motions are passed in the last five minutes of the meetings," he said, "when they are in a hurry to go home or to class. No one is prepared to make good sound decisions on many matters."

"I just wanted to do a good job and avoid all the political mess," Bowen said. "Legislature does do some good things,

and there are a lot of smart people, but my perspective is different. I think they could be a lot more efficient and active."

Bowen said a big plus for the job was

the opportunity to work with the administration. "I hear a lot of criticism about the administration, but very few people go to them and talk frankly. I have, and have gotten unbelievable support from them."

their proposed salaries cut by over 50 percent. "In total, the Legislature members are paid about \$5,600.00. That's a lot of money, and yet they complain about there not being enough to go around," he said.

"...There are a lot of people in Legislature who know the mechanisms of government but are just going through the motions."--Ex-Student Body Attorney General Forrest Bowen.

He said there is some anti-administration feeling in the Student Government, but not as much as in the past. "I think this is an ongoing complaint. It's sort of like dorm students cutting down the food service. PFM does a helluva job, but students still complain. It's tradition, sort of a cliché...and sometimes it's a personal against a particular administrator. It's been stated by the Chairman of the Legislature that we're moving from an era of distrust between students and the administration to an era of distrust between the students themselves. I disagree wholeheartedly. If some people (on the Legislature would just let their pride suffer a little and admit their lack of expertise on some matters, then go out and do research and come out with the optimal answers, things would be better. That's what I meant by being disappointed in the level of commitment."

On the matter of salaries, Bowen said he sees "gross inequities." He feels it is ridiculous for all members of the Legislature to get paid for merely attending the meetings, while the President and the Attorney General got

Bowen said he feels that if the University is going to pay students for jobs of this type (including media and program board positions) then each position should have a set salary, and increases or decreases should be made "across the board."

Bowen does feel he accomplished some good things while in office, especially the creation of a new judicial act. "A lot of people worked very hard for a long time on that act," he said, "and many schools will be wanting to come look at it. Very few schools in this area have judicial systems that work. They look good on paper, but not in practice, and many will be interested in ours."

In conclusion, Bowen said he harbors no ill feelings toward anyone, but wishes the government could be more effective. "I'm not the type to hold things against anyone. I just don't feel like I fit in," he said.

Student Legislature Chairperson Jack Summerlin said of Bowen, "Overall, Forrest had done an outstanding job of

(Continued on Page 7)

### -Teaching Excellence Awards-

#### Davis:

## Teaching's A Process

(Articles Continued On Page 7)

By Les Bowen

Interviewing Dr. Boyd Davis, UNCC English professor and one of two 10th annual NCNB Teaching Award Excellence Awards winners, is like trying to catch rainwater in a sieve.

The words come down bright and shiny and clear, and you try to write them down, but more words are coming before you get those written down right and the words just keep coming faster and faster and finally she finishes



Dr. Boyd Davis

(photo by Dean Dugger)

answering the question and sits back and gives you a gum stretching Jimmy Carter smile while your pen is scribbling furiously, trying to remember exactly how... "Let's see, that comes after this and before that, but, no..."

To slow her down would somehow take something away from the statement; the sentences would lose some of their brilliance if they weren't tumbling over each other and weren't laced with parenthetical comments and funny, self-deprecatory asides.

Take, for example, the story of how Boyd Davis happened to come to UNCC from a teaching position at Queens College. She went to lunch with a faculty representative who talked about the objectives of the English department:

"We went to the Amber House and ate vegetable soup and he talked to me about what the English department here was trying to do and I thought, 'boy, that sounds like fun.' It was very good vegetable soup, too. I generally walk into things backwards, anyway; I did not intend to get into teaching, I did not intend to get a PhD, I did not intend to get married and I did not intend to have kids, and I ended up doing all those things. I'm not unstable, just flexible."

Davis' flexibility extends to her approach to teaching; she feels that there are few guidelines as to what constitutes "good" teaching.

#### Fishman:

## Spontaneity's Important

By Les Bowen

The way NCNB Teaching Excellence Award winner Dr. Stephen M. Fishman found his way to the UNCC Philosophy department from his native Bronx, New York was, as he described it "fortuitous."

"That is, the immediate cause was fortuitous," Fishman said last week. "One Saturday morning I was going to the bookstore and I ran into another graduate student. He had interviewed for this job but because of his wife's interests he was taking a job in St. Louis. He told me about the job down here, which I hadn't heard of, and I applied and got it. Like I said, that was the immediate cause, but I think in the back of my mind there was a desire to leave New York, having lived there all my life."

Once Fishman and his wife Beryl relocated in Charlotte they found life here quite different from that which they had left...but the differences were not the ones most people who move from the City to a medium sized southern town mention.

"When I grew up in New York I grew up in a neighborhood. Where I live now there is a suggestion of a neighborhood, but where I grew up everything was right there -- the theater, the school, shopping. You didn't have to have a car. You knew everybody fairly well; the doctor's kid went to school with you, the haberdasher's kid went to school with you...Here, you have to drive everywhere.

(photo courtesy of Information Office)



Dr. Stephen M. Fishman

There isn't much walking in the street, and you aren't meeting people...Really, I find my wife's time taken up with driving the kids from place to place...You would think that the city would be more impersonal, but it wasn't that way for me. Most of New York probably isn't like that anymore, though."

Fishman said he had two major goals as a teacher. "First, in most of the philosophy classes I teach I'm concerned with students getting a sense of the