

# Student Council Chairman Attacks Open Courts Bill; Sums Up Decisions

Larry Botto, chairman of the Student Council or "chief justice" of the University student courts, yesterday expressed his opposition to the open courts bill which may be submitted to a vote of the student body after Christmas holidays.

"I think the open court system, as proposed, would serve to destroy the council system as we have it now," he stated.

By throwing open the courts "we are throwing out the window the educational value of the Honor System," Botto said. The public opinion, publicity and trial attached to open courts, he commented, would prohibit the educational and corrective value of the system.

When a student violates the Honor or Campus Code, the present court system impresses him with what he has done and usually the individual redeems himself, Botto claims.

Introduction of the open courts bill to the Legislature arose from discontentment with the secrecy of the judicial system here and the manner in which several of their cases have been conducted, campus observers believe.

The bill points out that "secrecy is fundamentally opposed to the principles of democratic thought and the notion of public participation in government."

The present "closed court" system was held responsible for "widespread distrust and disrespect" of students for the courts. The bill also asserted that potential offenders would respect the law more and increase in their awareness of the courts if proceedings were open to the public.

The bill has been tabled indefinitely by the Legislature by the request of Sheldon Plager who introduced it originally. Plager stated that it was a matter for the student body itself to decide upon and not the Legislature, and indicated that he was planning to submit it to the students in a referendum next year.

Looking back over the council's fall quarter activity, Botto noted that the council has received surprisingly few appeals but has met more times in a two month period than probably any other council in history.

The council had to act illegally in absence of legislation on elec-

tions dates. After reprimanding the legislature, the UP, and the elections board, the court was forced to set an unconstitutional date. Last November the council had to do the same thing because legislature be given the power "to of the mixup on dates.

In a Daily Tar Heel editorial last year it was suggested that the set the date of fall elections" without any qualifying clauses. In effect, the council has had to assume legislative authority twice in a row for the same offense.

"Elections are one of the biggest activities of student government, and as usual, areas that needed clarification came up", Botto pointed out. Unless something is done about it, confusing dates will continue to plague the fall elections, he said.

Also making up part of the council's fall work were two requests by students concerning the Publications board. The council was asked to clarify the board's and The Daily Tar Heel editor's authorities concerning which were both financial and administrative. It ruled the board has supreme powers in this case.

## Library Hours

The Library will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. during exam week and will close at 5 p.m. on the last day of exams. During the holidays, the Library will remain open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., but will be closed on Sundays.

# Council Predicts Millionth Traffic Victim On Holidays

RALEIGH—The Department of Motor Vehicles appealed to every North Carolinian today to keep the Nation's millionth traffic fatality from occurring in this state.

At the present rate of traffic deaths, the National Safety Council estimates, the millionth victim of the automobile is expected to die in the third week of December—almost at the height of the Christmas season.

Commissioner of Motor Vehicles L. C. Rosser, in speaking of the approaching tragedy, said, "It is bitterly ironic that the Nation's millionth traffic death will coincide with the festivities and gaiety

of the Christmas season. I want to appeal to every citizen of this State — motorist and citizen alike—to walk and drive with extreme caution in the few remaining weeks before the tragic date."

In North Carolina, the Commissioner pointed out, traffic deaths are nearing 1,000. The millionth death could occur here, he said, and while auto accidents have become ironically commonplace everywhere the millionth traffic fatality would, "give the state a significance we don't want."

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