

Judge screws N.J. screwers

NEWARK, N.J. (UPI) — A county judge yesterday upheld a 1796 law that makes it illegal for single persons to have sexual relations in New Jersey.

Judge Stanley G. Bedford of Essex County said in a 12-page opinion that it is up to the legislature, not the courts, to decide whether the state should keep the law.

Bedford's decision arose from a challenge to the law brought by Newark laborer Charles Saunders, 20, convicted last February of committing fornication. He was fined a maximum \$50.

Saunders and a co-defendant argued that the statute was unconstitutional because it was seldom enforced, violated their right of privacy and was established in the

"prevailing notions of religious morality" of the latter 18th century.

But Bedford rejected the arguments, saying that the state has "compelling secular reasons" to enforce the law in order to prevent birth of illegitimate children and the spread of venereal disease.

Bedford conceded that enforcement in the state has been "limited and difficult." But in upholding the law's constitutionality and rejecting Saunders' bid for a judgment of acquittal, Bedford wrote:

"The existence of those religious motivations do not, per se, make the statute a violation of the Constitution. Prohibition of fornication by the state neither advances nor inhibits religion."

It is, he continued, up to the

legislature to determine whether the law should be altered.

Defense attorney Robert A. Baime said Bedford's decision would be appealed to the Appellate Division of state Superior Court.

Saunders and another man were indicted on charges of rape and armed robbery stemming from a July, 1973 incident in which they allegedly picked up two females, drove them to a Newark parking lot and "engaged in sexual activities."

During their six-day trial before Bedford, Saunders admitted committing fornication, prompting the judge to charge him with the misdemeanor.

The jury acquitted the men of rape and armed robbery, but found them guilty of a fornication count.

Retirement change tabled

By VAUGHN GILBERT
Collegian Staff Writer

The University Faculty Senate yesterday sent back to committee a motion aimed at revising the State Employee's Retirement System (SERS).

The unanimous decision to return the motion came after Fringe Benefits Subcommittee Chairman John J. Cahir told the Senate his committee did not feel the motion was ready for Senate approval.

Cahir said the motion, which called for annual retirement age of 55 for state employees, was vague and misleading.

Cahir said the motion, which called for annual adjustments in pension benefits and an optional early retirement age of 55 for state employees, was vague and misleading.

He said the motion did not specify if the proposed revisions would pertain to all

state employees or just faculty members.

He also said the motion did not effectively separate the proposals. "It is possible that some may think the proposals are linked to each other," he said.

The Senate directed the Fringe Benefits Subcommittee to investigate the possibility of changing SERS to include the original motion's proposals.

The Senate also approved the Summer Term 1975 calendar.

Students will be able to choose between a six-week or a ten-week term next summer under the new calendar. Asa Berlin, chairman of the Calendar Commission, said the plan was designed to tailor courses to the students who come to University Park during the summer.

These students would include school teachers and students from other colleges who come to the University to take extra courses. These people often have a limited amount of time to spend in the summer and a shorter term would benefit them, Berlin said.

University President John W. Oswald said he would work to immediately implement the plan.

China celebrates anniversary

HONG KONG (UPI) — The People's Republic of China celebrated its 25th anniversary yesterday with a call for unity.

Premier Chou En-lai left his hospital bed Monday night to host a massive reception on the eve of the 25th National Day.

Chou, who has been hospitalized since June and recently underwent an operation for an apparent heart ailment, delivered a toast on behalf of Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who has not appeared at a National Day function since 1970.

He pledged that China would continue to "adhere to the principle of independence and

self-reliance" while seeking to preserve national unity.

The New China News Agency said in a report on the observations of the anniversary of the takeover of power by the Communists in 1949 that "unity for struggle was a keynote of the festivities" in the capital.

The struggle referred to was a mass political campaign launched early this year by Mao. The campaign, which bears some resemblance to the Cultural Revolution, centers around criticism of two dead men — the ancient sage Confucius and Lin Biao, an ex-defense minister who died in a 1971 plot against Mao.

Ford non-committal

Mayors seek transit aid

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Twenty-two big-city mayors yesterday joined business and labor leaders in appealing personally for President Ford's support of \$600 million in emergency federal aid to mass transit systems.

Mayors Abraham Beame of New York, Richard J. Daley of Chicago, Joseph L. Alioto of San Francisco and Ford Motor Company chairman Henry Ford II were among those meeting with Ford at the White House.

The White House said Beame requested the meeting. Alioto told reporters after the session that it was "inconclusive" because the President did not want to make any definite commitment one way or the other pending the outcome of mass transit legislation under consideration by Congress.

Alioto, Daley and Beame said another meeting would be held next week with congressional leaders present to assess

the prospects for passage of a long-range measure the President favors.

House-Senate conferees are considering emergency legislation to pump \$600 million over the next two fiscal years into mass transit operating subsidies and capital improvements.

The administration has opposed the measure, contending that operating subsidies should only be part of a comprehensive long-term mass transit assistance package.

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