



Willie knows Joe

by Joe Wheeler

I didn't know where else to turn, and I've heard that he accepted bets on anything. Anything except sports, that is.

Gabriel, a fellow writer with The Yellin' Rebel, was the first to discover Willie the Worm and his bizarre way of making a living. The old man, who turned out to be every bit as decayed as Gabe said he was, seemed to have the odds on every event that was likely to occur.

When I found him, he was finishing up with a guy wearing a "Gorbachev or Bust" T-shirt who still couldn't believe that Lithuania had been crushed like a can of Coors.

"I can't believe you saw that coming, Willie," the man said.

"Pay up," was all Willie had to say. "I tried to tell you Gorbachev would turn into Stalin once the pressure was on. Now beat it."

The man hurried away, and I thought about joining him. But I had to know what I'd come to find out.

Willie chuckled when I asked him to accept a bet.

"How much you got?" he wanted to know.

I told him, and he didn't seem surprised.

"You must be a friend of Gabe," he said.

I wondered how he knew.

"He didn't have any real money, either. What's on your mind?" Willie sat in an ancient Lazyboy rocker/recliner that no longer rocked, and no longer reclined. "Spit it out. What do you want to bet on?"

What I was wondering about were the odds on the Student Government president actually being found ineligible to serve. I explained to Willie how a complaint had been filed that claimed that President Joe Bunin had not completed a lousy six credits with a "C" or better last semester.

Willie seemed to know all about it. "I'll take that bet," he said. "You bet that he'll get axed—I'll bet he stays, and stays, and stays..."

I couldn't believe it. How? There was little chance. The evidence—!

Willie chuckled through rotten teeth. "Evidence? Let's bet that the only evidence will be thrown out by the Judicial Council because of some stupid technical-

ity. I'll take that bet."

That's crazy, I thought. But was it? I asked Willie to explain.

He leaned back in the moldy chair, reached for a cigar and lit up as he talked.

"It's simple. President Bunin is gonna claim that the evidence in the case was picked up illegally. On that basis, the Judicial Council will throw out the whole thing."

But there isn't any evidence! It's just a bunch of rumors, speculations, and allegations. The only evidence in the case should be Joe Bunin's report card! What about—?

Willie held up a hand and stopped me in mid-sentence.

"Grades don't matter in this case. The Council won't even look at them."

Absurd!

"Think again," Willie said. "Bunin will claim his 'privacy' has been violated. He'll claim that the only reason anyone suspects him is because an unauthorized person accessed his grades. The Council will dismiss the charge against him, and that will be that."

But these are two separate issues, I thought. Even if his grades were somehow accessed, that doesn't dismiss the charge that he may be ineligible.

"Don't count on it. Bunin has a lawyer, doesn't he?"

I nodded. Joe had gotten a lawyer, rather than produce evidence that he was, indeed, eligible.

"Case dismissed," the old man said. "The Council will fold like yesterday's garbage in a compactor. I'll gladly bet you that Bunin stays, but I think you're wasting your money."

I offered to take him up on it. It sounded so unfair, so utterly ridiculous; I had to stick up for the idea that what's right will win out in the end.

"Save your money, pal. Bet on something that will really happen. Forget about dumpin' Joe Bunin. He's as much a part of UNLV as soggy lawns."

I left Willie then, the odor of his cigar lingering on my clothes. I knew the smell would stick with me long after I had forgotten the entire affair, even after my education was complete.

Some things stink long and hard.

Wheeler is opinion page editor of the Yellin' Rebel.

'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down'

by Bonar Tucker

It's kind of strange how each small part is so important in the structure of any development.

I think the Student Senators must not have realized the vast importance of Bylaw 25 last week before they voted to waive it.

This bylaw to the constitution was a necessary part of the foundation of the student newspaper.

The bylaw required certain people to sit on the board which oversees The Yellin' Rebel. By having the required people on the board, the problems the newspaper is now experiencing would have never escalated to the proportions they have. We needed that member from the professional media to be on the board. We could have certainly benefitted from the communication faculty member's advice on daily decisions made. And the called-for University News and Publications person would have definitely been an asset.

Instead the entire board is now run by students.

Censorship is peeking its ugly head into the void left by removing the bylaw.

For instance:

- The Yellin' Rebel has been forced to close its doors to new students who are interested in gaining the experience of working on a newspaper because the government has not approved them.

- People working daily on the newspaper have not been paid for their work, some having gone without it since last November, again due to the government's actions (or lack of action.)

- We have been told by the government that The Yellin' Rebel staffer who has been delivering the paper is no longer allowed to use the cart to do so. We are not able to get our own cart because that would first need to be approved by the government. Nor can we have the new person deliver because, after waiting three weeks, he has yet to be approved.

- The threat of the government passing a ludicrous policy allowing access to the newspaper's computers is still alive and waiting.

- We have not been allowed to hire new advertising people who would be paid on commissions only from the ads they would sell (which would greatly increase revenue) because the government has "forgotten" to hold a meeting for approval.

- A transfer student, new to UNLV this semester, who wanted to work for the paper was told "We hate you, you're from the newspaper" when she went to the government's office to sign paperwork.

- The government has declined to terminate a former Yellin' Rebel employee even though he hasn't worked here since December. A check was still cut for him in January.

- When former Publications

Board Director John Ynigues was asked why The Yellin' Rebel was having so many problems with the board, he said, "It's because of the articles."

Student Body President Joe Bunin, along with the executive board, presented the senate with the prospect of removing the bylaw which would have protected the newspaper in many ways, had it actually been followed. He didn't demand that the Publications Board follow the rules of the bylaw. He opted instead to just remove the bylaw.

Even when I told him I was horrified they would consider such a thing, Bunin assured me it would only be a part of the law that would be changed. President pro tempore Bud Benneman said the bylaw would only be waived for one meeting.

And now it's gone. Its removal was Bunin's way of making the Publications Board legal.

In other words, if the government's actions are illegal, just get rid of the law that says they are.

A vital piece of the foundation has been removed.

It's a little scary. If Bunin is going to mess with the constitution and the senate approves the waiving of bylaws with no one checking, what kind of effect it will have, just what will be next? If Bunin is allowed to huff and puff much longer, the entire house may come tumbling down.

Where lies the burden of proof?

by Gary Puckett

I'm a little confused. It's difficult to get this straight.

Last Thursday, Feb. 21, the Judicial Council met to hear complaints filed alleging that the Publications Board was illegal and that Student Body President Joe Bunin might be ineligible to serve his post, due to a lack of the minimum amount of credits (6) to serve.

While waiting for this council to convene, a friend and I happened to walk past Bunin and another student talking on the second floor of the Moyer Student Union. Perhaps it's just my imagination, but it seemed that Bunin deliberately raised his voice as we walked past. At any rate, he loudly proclaimed (if not openly boasted) that he was going to win this fight just like he had won all of the others.

This came as no great surprise to me. I was present at the Student Senate meeting on Feb. 14 when Bunin started the proceedings by making the same boast in front of the senate, the gallery and the entire world. A casual observer might be misled into believing in his honesty since he never denied his lack of eligibility.

The complaint against the Publications Board was dismissed because the senate has (since the complaint was filed) waived senate bylaw 25. However, the proceedings with regard to the complaint against Bunin are a little confusing.

Bunin submitted a paper from his lawyer (Student Services pro-bono lawyer Adrienne Cobb) that requested a 21-working-day extension on the proceedings in order for them to look into whether the information obtained by The Yellin' Rebel was obtained legally.

This is confusing. In the article dated Jan. 31, and titled "Who's in charge of those in charge?" the possibility is brought to light that the credit requirements of the Student Government Executive Board are not being examined at all. Nowhere is it stated that Bunin does not meet the requirements; it is only pointed out that nobody is checking the Student Government Executive Board.

In the article dated Feb. 14, and titled "Bunin's eligibility questioned in complaint," the reader is only informed about the complaints filed with the Judicial Council; about the question of whether anyone is checking the grades of the Executive Board; about Bunin boasting to Christian Hardigree that he had too many contacts for her to "take him on"; and that Vice President of Student Services Dr. Robert Ackerman had confirmed in January that one member of the executive board did have an incomplete from last semester. At no point in either article is the reader given any information regarding Joe Bunin's grades.

Now the entire emphasis has shifted. A delay has been granted in order to ascertain whether information (which has not been stated) was obtained legally. A complaint made to the Judicial Council which explicitly requests that they check the grade qualifications of the Student Government Executive Board is now delayed 21 working days (which means more than five weeks when Spring Break is figured in) in order to determine the legality of the information. The original purpose of the complaint is ignored.

The request for a delay is not unusual and the Judicial Council

should not be faulted for granting it. However, the onus is now placed on The Yellin' Rebel in general, and Bonar Tucker in particular, to prove innocence regarding the manner of obtaining information that has never even been stated.

In the meantime, the original intent of the complaint—to have someone check the eligibility of the Executive Board—is completely ignored.

While this is confusing, one question arises which is even more confusing. Why doesn't Bunin just show his grades and end the controversy?

Puckett is a copy-editor and staff writer for The Yellin' Rebel



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