

Crime story: A personal interview with The Yellin' Rebel computer thief

by Thomas Moore

This is a story about a crime that left The Yellin' Rebel without computer equipment for a very long time. It goes beyond the loss that the paper felt. It's a story about the extra money lost when tuition goes up. It's a story about the loss families will feel when tax and insurance rates go up. But most importantly, it's the loss of security we all feel when locks, alarms and disillusionment replace open doors, good will and trust.

This story is an interview with J.J. Wylie, the young man who, along with some "friends" of his, broke into and stole the computers at The Yellin' Rebel. There's simply not enough room to hear about how Wylie found out that police knew what was going on. There's not enough space to describe how his roommate felt when the police woke him from a dead sleep and proved that they were indeed serious at the point of a gun. If the space was available, Wylie would tell you in his own words what it was like to spend over four hours being interrogated by the police, naming the names of friends and admitting that he was a thief.

What Wylie did was wrong. But the fact is that at least 40 to 50 people not directly involved knew that university equipment was being stolen. They did absolutely nothing.

In trying to get some kind of sketch of how the theft began, Wylie began:

Wylie: It was 2 or 3 in the morning. There were four people with me. We drove up in two cars. We pulled up in the parking lot

between Beam Hall and Tonopah Hall. Some of the people I was with knew the D.J. up at KUNV who was working that night.

So we waited in the car while they made sure he was going to let us in then building....I don't know what pretext they used. I guess there is a little box ...

Y.R. So they can buzz you in?
Wylie: Uh huh, you can get in that way. They went and made sure that the D.J. was the only one in the building, made sure that no one was working in the Yelling Rebel. Sometimes the editors work late. So once it became apparent that the D.J. was the only one in the building, they came back down and sat in the car and told us that everything was okay They had left the door to the staircase ajar.

Wylie went on to say his heart was pounding and his adrenaline was pumping. He said no liquor was involved as the theft wasn't a joyride. It was, he said, "obviously premeditated."

Y.R. So what happened then?
Wylie: We went upstairs and kind of walked around and made sure that the D.J. wasn't wandering around. The office that sits on the corner on the same side as Yellin Rebel had been left unlocked. I went into that office and lifted the acoustic ceiling tile. I hopped the wall, walked over and opened the door. I let the other individual in and looked around and didn't find the particular piece of equipment that we wanted. We were looking for a laser writer printer.

Y.R. I guess he (the other thief) was just as nervous as you were?
Wylie: Oh yeah. As premedi-

tated as it sounds this isn't something you do all the time. We had never done this before, like.....like this. *The Yellin' Rebel* was the only one that was this planned out. This came about because there were other people involved who wanted what was in there. But the rest of the time, basically, there weren't as many people involved.
Y.R. O.K., so you go in there and grab the Macintoshes....
Wylie: Yeah, it took us several minutes to unhook them, unplug them, wrap up all the cords etc....

Y.R. You wanted the laser writer?
Wylie: Right. Because at this point, I already had a Macintosh that was actually better than anything that was at *The Yellin' Rebel*.

Y.R. Of your own?
Wylie: That was taken from another time. A quick aside, part of the reason I got involved with these people was they found out, they knew that something had happened before. Because all of the sudden we had computers and obviously we didn't have the financial means to purchase the particular computers that we had. Because there were very expensive, very nice computers and they knew that about that.

Wylie said there were no strong arm tactics used. However, he emphasized the confidence in their own ability to take everything and leave in a short span of time.

Y.R. Once you drive away from university, no one is following you and no one really noticed you. You're pulling into your driveway

then; I don't want to create something that is not there, but.....
Wylie: Yeah, we're getting more and more confident the farther we get.

Y.R. Yes, exactly. this was a game. You played it and you got away with it.
Wylie: Yeah. There's kind of a euphoria. It's between 2 and 4 in the morning but you're not going to sleep now. We were both kind of high on adrenaline.

Y. R. O.K., so now you had done this, and because that printer was not there, these other two guys got the Macs and you didn't get anything out of this specific theft. That is kind of interesting. Before you had done it for yourself; this time you didn't get what you wanted but you took it for someone else.

Wylie: Wait. Before we say that didn't get anything out of this, I want to say that I just didn't get what I wanted. None of the computers were as good as the one that I was using but the one I had was broken. I didn't want to take it to a repair shop because it was my understanding that they routinely check serial numbers. I didn't want to set myself up like that. Through various acquaintances I found some gentleman who were willing to fix the computer. I wanted something but I didn't have a lot of money. So there was this extra Mac SE and I took that and used it to trade them for fixing my computer.

Y.R. So at that point they had to know it was stolen because who gives away computers, right?

Wylie: Exactly. They did know. I didn't tell them circum-

stances involved and they didn't really ask. It turns out that if we get into some of the other things along with this, we find out that they are involved in other ways.

Y.R. So we have a lot of people who know what is going on, and a lot of people who are involved, who just don't care that the things they are paying tuition for and their parents are paying taxes for are getting stolen?

Wylie: Right.
Wylie and his friends took two Macintosh Plus computers and a Macintosh SE. Even though many people knew what was happening it took almost a year before the police searched his apartment and he turned himself in.

The police had interrogate the people who took the stolen Macs from Wylie. They had informed them because they were being held for a completely different incident.

As it stands now Wylie has not been convicted of anything, the charges are pending and he is patiently awaiting his trial date. It would seem that the court system need the same time and prodding as do some people's conscience.

The Yellin' Rebel Staff

Bonar Tucker

Our loving, divine, over worked, everly patient, dedicated, artistically inclined, sometimes out of it, always understanding, Editor in Chief

Eileen Brady Campus Events	Trisha Ciaravino John Glynn Richard Munson Assistant Editors
Tina Crinite Lifestyles Editor	Steve Clulla Advertising Manager
Debbie Tubbesing Entertainment Editor	Stephanie Lindelow David J. Syzdek Mike Carrigan Jason Bermingham Lonely layout people looking for dates
Joe Wheeler Editorial page Editor	
Ched Whitney Sports Editor	

Gary Puckett Eileen Brady	Copy Editor Copy Editor
Tricia Goldberg Will Holt	Proofreader Proofreader/Classifieds/ Distribution
Connie Laudeman Dawn Melby	Office Office
Barbara Cloud	Faculty Advisor

Staff Writers

William Holt, Adejoke Adenle, Jennifer Elledge, Roy Theiss, Thomas Moore, Jack Poleski, Tricia Ciaravino, Lisa Sutherland, John Glynn, Kimberly Richardson, Shawn Black, Chris Donovan, Karen Splawn, Susan Caruso, Gena Atkinson, Chris Kindred, Kim Anderson, James DeRusso, Richard Munson, Brian Hurlburt, Bret Skiba, Tom Lacy, Eileen Brady, Gary Puckett, Joe Wheeler, Paul Stuhff, Tina Crinite, Kim McGee, Deborah Soper, Debbie Tubbesing, Angela Ramsey,

Photographers

Jennifer Elledge, Maureen Miller, Lisa Sutherland, Marc Baruch, Dustin "The Lazy Bum" Bermingham, Rich Mealy

Cartoonists

Joe Wheeler, Ivan Brunnetti, Robert Sundin III, Stephen Hirjak, Michael Vannozi, Erik Anderson

THE YELLIN' REBEL - *The Yellin' Rebel* is a publication of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The opinions reflected in *The Yellin' Rebel* are those of the authors stated, and do not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, its students, administration, faculty or staff.

The Yellin' Rebel is printed by the Robert John Industries on a twice weekly basis. Not published holidays, weekends or when UNLV is not in session. *The Yellin' Rebel* is a member of the Intercollegiate Press Association, the California Intercollegiate Press Association, and the Rocky Mountain Press Association.

Telephone Numbers: Editor's Desk - 739-3878; Display Advertising - 739-3889; Classified Advertising - 739-3479; General Information - 739-3478.

All inquiries should be sent to *The Yellin' Rebel*, MSU 302, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89154.

©1991 Yellin' Rebel Newspaper

UNLV professor at Aston Academy

Dr. Maurice Finocchiaro, professor of philosophy at UNLV, will join other top scholars from some of the nation's most prestigious universities as one of the resident faculty at the Tenth Aston Magna Academy on the campus of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick, this summer.

Finocchiaro, a specialist in the history of philosophy and science who has been a member of the UNLV faculty since 1970, will be in residence at the well-known

June 16-July 6 seminar for a week. As a member of the humanities faculty, Finocchiaro will speak on the history of science. His topic will be "Copernicus's Challenge to Traditional Ideas." In a public lecture during the seminar he will speak on "The Galileo Affair."

This year's academy will focus on the Foundations of the Italian Baroque: Florence and Rome. The academy is sponsored by the Aston Magna Foundation for Music and the Humanities, Inc.

Thursday Night Jive

by Karen Splawn

The director of Nevada Student Affairs March 14 questioned an administrative decision allowing non-Student Government members to speak at a Nevada Legislature hearing.

Mike Kennedy, speaking during the senate meeting, said three students were introduced by university President Robert C. Maxson to testify at the Assembly Ways and Means Higher Education Sub-Committee held on campus March 13.

The students, Maxson said in a later interview, were student ambassadors who were testifying on the need for more scholarship funding.

"The pitch was to keep the best and brightest high school graduates in state," he said.

Kennedy said he didn't think the student ambassadors should have been there, because Student Government members represent the student body.

"I'm not knocking the student ambassador program, but the (administration) had every opportunity to ask (Student Government) members to testify," he added. "I don't understand why."

Kennedy said he has been working with state legislators on funding issues for two years.

"I think this is somewhat a slap in the face of Student Government," he added.

There may have been a "communication breakdown" between Student Government and the administration on this issue, Kennedy said.

The Senate voted 19-0 to allow \$8,600 to spend on the upcoming Springfest.

Entertainment and Programming Director Liza Gripenrog said activities will include a carnival, concerts featuring local entertainers Tommy Rocker and reggae artist Stan Rankin T., an unknown comedian and a lip synch contest.

In other business, the Senate:

—Approved 19-0 \$5,000 for KUNV's staff to sponsor a lecture featuring famed anti-nuclear activist Helen Caldicott.

—Approved 15-4 \$1,073 for Yellin' Rebel sports staff to attend the NCAA playoffs held in Seattle and Tucson.

—Allowed by a vote of 19-0 for \$600 to be spent on KUNV sports reporter Jay Sapovits to attend the NCAA playoffs held in Tucson and Seattle.

Are you depressed that the Runnin' Rebels are headed for the NCAA Final Four, and you'll be stuck watching them play on T.V. ??

WELL, WORRY NO LONGER!!!

Due to the fact that many UNLV students entered the lottery, but are unable to attend the NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis, we want to offer those students who didn't enter the lottery the chance to claim these tickets !!!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, GO TO THE THOMAS & MACK CENTER TICKET OFFICE on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th BETWEEN 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

You'll need a validated UNLV student I.D. card as well as \$60.00 to purchase your voucher, which will be redeemed for your NCAA Final Four tickets in Indianapolis. The Thomas & Mack Center Ticket Office will accept payment by VISA or MASTERCARD as well as a local check with a check guarantee card, or cash!

**SEE YOU INDY!!!
GO REBELS!!!**