

# A most memorable decision

## Judicial Council creates its own policy

by Bonar Tucker

After heated debates and controversial decisions, The Judicial Council (JC) at UNLV may be introducing a much-needed policy—their own.

Although this "Supreme Court" of UNLV has struggled with endless cases this semester, members of the council are realizing their struggles could be lessened not so much in making wise decisions of cases but instead with a few guidelines of their own to follow.

You see, the Judicial Council currently has no operating policy. None. Zero. In other words, those who judge on the rules for others

have no rules to follow for themselves.

This becomes significant when 18 students filed a complaint with the JC back in February asking that the student body president and his directors all have their eligibility checked to ensure they are holding their positions legally. The JC has yet to even hear the case on the directors.

I called Chief Justice Mike Barclay to discuss this situation. I said something to the effect of the operating policy in my senate handbook said a case must be heard within 21 days from the preliminary hearing.

He said that operating policy no longer exists for the JC. It had

been found to be unconstitutional.

To this, I responded, "Then when will you be hearing the case?"

And Barclay replied, "That's a good question."

With perception largely the reality in politics, it looks a little strange that Barclay dismissed the case with the directors when it would have been his steady dating partner of four years who would have been held responsible for the directors' ineligibility. Former Senate President Gina Polovina took an oath before taking office to uphold the constitution. According to that constitution, she was responsible for checking the qualifications of the directors.

Without any policy, Barclay

was perfectly legal in stalling the hearing. However, he also took an oath to uphold the constitution which was not done in this case.

To make things even stickier, Mike Kennedy, who sits on the council and is himself a director (until his recent swearing-in as senate president), has said he would refuse to hear the case concerning the directors' eligibility. Actually, I find Kennedy's actions to be admirable. In all fairness, he should not be hearing such a case since he would be, as a director himself, a defendant.

However, isn't Kennedy the same person who recently heard a

case which involved a similar conflict of interest for him?

Chief Justice Mike Barclay, himself a candidate for student body president, heard and voted on the case that would ultimately disqualify fellow presidential candidate Chris Robertson.

Justice Kevin Briggs, trying for the position of Student Government vice president, heard and voted on the case which ended in the final disqualification of Christian Hardigree as a vice presidential candidate.

And Justice Mike Kennedy remained as the only candidate for senate president after he heard and voted on the case that would

determine if Leo Poggione could run as his opponent.

This cries for change. Whether the circumstances in any of these hearings were arranged for a personal benefit is open to speculation. But the image of the Judicial Council has been tarnished as a result.

Being caught as they have in such an untidy predicament, I commend them for attempting to

prevent actions similar in the future. Without constitutional backing and with virtually no backup from the administration, this group of students on the JC has done a remarkable job.

Any organization would be hard-pressed to surpass the dedication they've shown this semester.

But their most impressive move has been, without a doubt, the recent plan to implement some form of rules and regulations for themselves.

I admire their actions to improve by being big enough to say "A mistake has been recognized—how can we fix it? Let's do something constructive with it and learn from our errors."

With moves taken toward rectifying the errors, faith will be renewed in the judicial system and ultimately in Student Government.

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## American dream out of reach

by Craig Bender

The ability to start with rags and finish with riches has always been the "American dream." For most minorities, this dream is about as possible as trying to convince an astronomer that the sun is really Apollo riding his fiery chariot across the sky. Still, we preach that anything can be accomplished if one is willing to work hard enough for it.

There are those who constantly point out minority success stories like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Bill Cosby as examples of where hard work will get you. Why is it that we don't tell poor white kids that they can be as wealthy as Malcolm Forbes, or high school dropouts that they can win the Nobel Prize for physics if they just work hard enough?

We WASPs (white Anglo-Saxon protestants) create the "Air" Jordans and the "Iron" Mike Tysons to rationalize our wrongdoing on both legal and moral levels.

In America, even today, mi-

**We "WASPs" create the "Air" Jordans and the "Iron" Mike Tysons to rationalize our wrongdoing on both legal and moral levels.**

norities are rated as second-class citizens who face constant discrimination in everything from education to employment.

There are those who point out how far we've come in the last

thirty years. Now there is a logical statement. We all deserve a big pat on the back for treating people as human beings. I wish some of those who believe this is the Cosby generation would go to an inner-city housing project and ask the people who live there where the "progress" of the last 30 years has gotten them. This is the status inconsistency I see in America today.

We tell certain segments of our society they can build all of their dreams, but neglect to give them the tools they need for the job.

Status consistency and equality will not come about through legislation and exposure on television, but with education and interaction.

Bender is a hotel major

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## LAST WORDS

"Yes, I'm a sexist, I admit it."

Senator Mike Quick, after telling Vice President Kevin Briggs "Toobad" his new baby is a girl, while the senate joined in with laughter.

"Call me ignorant..."

Senator Wendy Finmark, at the March 21 senate meeting.

"They don't know the power of the press... and you haven't learned it yet either."

Dr. Barbara Cloud, when talking with the editors concerning Student Government before the "Joe Must Go" issue ran.

"I guess that was a faux pas in itself."

Dr. Francis Beckwith, when a Yellin' Rebel editor explained to him his Letter to the Editor didn't run because of numerous spelling mistakes, "fau pax" being one of them.

"It was never my intention to send a student photographer (to the Final Four). I didn't want to send a student."

Sports Information Director Joe Hawk, justifying why a student photographer was not sent to the Final Four.

"Now that you have your independence, are we going to have a real newspaper, not like the National Enquirer? No offense to you."

Former Publications Board Director John Ynigues, speaking to Lifestyles Editor Tina Crinite after The Yellin' Rebel obtained independence.

"Now that we have a real Publications Board Director...no offense to you."

Lifestyles Editor Tina Crinite responding to Ynigues' query.

"It's too bad Student Government was such a disappointment this year. As far as I know, you're the only organization that has their grades checked. I think you guys are held to a higher standard and you meet it." - Dr. Robert Ackerman, vice president of Student Services.