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PROFESSOR CLEARED OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND SUSPENDED

VOLUME 96, ISSUE ONE

Shawnee



See Story, this page.

"The Students' Favorite Newspaper"

SENTINEL

Published by students of SSU

Wednesday January 10, 1996

Published without taxpayer dollars.

Published by the Authority of the Constitution of the United States of America

PROFESSOR CLEARED THEN SUSPENDED

A Sentinel Staff Report

Psychology Professor Jerry Walke has been suspended without pay.

The professor was informed of his suspension in a letter from Dr. David Todt, interim dean of Arts and Sciences. The letter was delivered to the Walke's home by an unidentified man about 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, 1995

Walke was front page news in our Oct. 9th issue of the *Sentinel* when it was learned from the Dean's Office that a panel was convening to hear a charge of sexual harassment against Walke.

The panel met and found Walke innocent of sexual harassment.

However, there was another meeting ordered by Dean Todt and on Nov. 16, 1995 Jerry Walke met with David Todt and Elinda Boyles, SSU personnel director.

Sentinel reporters attempted to attend this meeting but were denied attendance by Dr. Todt and Elinda Boyles.

The *Sentinel* later learned that the meeting was held to inform Jerry Walke of his punishment after the finding of NOT GUILTY by the committee.

The punishment was to watch a series of videos concerning sexual harassment.

In a letter to Dr. Walke from Dean David Todt, Dec. 5, 1995, Todt wrote, "Since you did not attend yesterday's workshop, I want to remind you to schedule a time with me when we can complete the workshop in the next couple of weeks. It is important that you schedule this session since the workshop is a required part of the improvement plan that I gave you on the 16th of November. Your failure to complete the improvement plan could lead to disciplinary action."

In a letter to Dr. Walke from SSU President Clive Veri, dated Nov. 22, 1995, Veri referred to the proceedings as "pre-termination phase of employment disciplinary actions."

Professor Walke complained in an open letter that there was a review of one of the many books he has written by a unnamed professor from somewhere, and that Dean Todt did not give him the name, saying, according to Walke, "I am sworn to secrecy."

On Friday night, Dec 29, 1995 Dean David Todt, said, "No comment," when asked about the suspension of Dr. Jerry Walke.

MORE ABOUT WALKE ON PAGE 4

VETERANS AT SSU



Wendell Skinner spoke at the opening ceremonies of the 3rd Annual SSU Veterans Week Program on Nov 2. Skinner, who was seriously wounded by enemy fire while serving in Vietnam as an attack copter gunner, spoke of his deep love for America and his appreciation for the freedom and liberty we all enjoy.

He also researched the *Daily Times* files and provided historical headline editions of the big news events of previous wars. These newspapers were skillfully mounted by Randy Warman and were displayed during Veterans Week in the University Center to make a most interesting and educational exhibit. ♦♦

PORTSMOUTH CITY SCHOOL TREASURER REFUSES TO TELL ABOUT THE \$70,000 CHECK

By Sentinel Staff

On Dec. 4, 1995 The *Sentinel* formally requested information on the mysterious expenditure of \$70,000 to the STAN BENDER FUND by the Portsmouth City Schools. Treasurer Bonnie Johnson twice refused tell the *Sentinel* what the check was for, and referred us to their attorney.

In a letter received by the *Sentinel* on Dec. 29, 1995, Attorney Dan Ruggiero advised that this concerned a confidential agreement between the Portsmouth Schools and Michael Osborne and the information could not be unilaterally revealed. A court order to reveal will be requested by the *Sentinel*.



DAN HANEY, Chief of Shawnee Security stands beside a pine tree stump just East of the University Center. Photo and story by Theresa Miller, *Sentinel* Staff Reporter.

It was the Season. In the weekend before Christmas shoppers abounded in the stores and on the highway. Busy hands were crafting holiday gifts and decorations. Presents were being wrapped and secreted away. The Christmas spirit was enveloping all of us - or was it?

That weekend the white pine tree that was presented to the SSU campus in 1994 by the Delta Sigma Tau because it was their first year on campus, was hacksawed down and taken away. The tree was located just outside the East entrance to the cafeteria.

Julie Lombardy, a Delta Sigma Tau member, was the first to notice that the tree was missing.

She reported the incident to Officer Dan Haney.

What would behoove someone to cut down a tree on the SSU campus? A prank perhaps? Such a sad, sad world. Or was it someone who could not afford a tree for Christmas?

Given this situation, there are many organizations around here that would fulfill such a need. If one decided on such a deed - why not a deserted woods instead of our lovely campus?

The season of peace should be upon us, yet all around us maliciousness perseveres. Let us hope that next Yule season we will all succumb to the Christmas spirit. ♦♦♦♦

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Ex-Coach John Tipton writes that information in the Oct. 23, 1995 issue of the Sentinel on the number of baseball games scheduled was incorrect.

From John Tipton, former coach of SSU baseball. Tipton is the only coach in the history of SSU to have a winning season in baseball, and is one of the most successful baseball coaches of all time in this area. He resigned soon after the beginning of the fall quarter of 1995, following a meeting with Larry Mangus, vice president of student affairs. Tipton enclosed a copy of the SSU baseball games that he had scheduled. Tipton's letter:

"Here is the official '95 Baseball schedule. As you can see 53 games were on the schedule. This will show you how incorrect Dr. Mangus' and Arnzen's statements are that you printed in your Oct. 23 (1995) issue.

I had a 60 game schedule already set up for this year and was getting 5 more games in Georgia for the first 3 days of spring break for a total of 65 (N.A.I.A. limit).

Arnzen has a copy of this original schedule (60 games).

This is when Dr. Mangus cut from 18-23 games. (They said they are playing 42 this year.)

When asked why the games were cut Dr. Mangus said the players were missing too many classes. But several games cut were Sunday double-headers and 5:00 home double-headers that would not have interfered with classes."

JOHN TIPTON

The Shawnee Sentinel welcomes letters from all; from any of our readers, advertisers, all personnel at SSU, and particularly students.

It is asked that letters be kept to a reasonable length, 600 words or less. We reserve the right to edit or condense longer articles.

Mail letters to P. O. Box 1018, South Shore, Ky, 41175. Please enclose a phone number where you may be reached for verification.

Students: if you have a problem that you feel is not being properly handled by the university write us. We will be glad to assist you in any way within our abilities.

♦ It is the policy of the *Shawnee Sentinel* to print news of interest to all. As students of Journalism at SSU we have learned and are learning the proper manner in which to write news stories that will inform and/or entertain.

The *Sentinel* has achieved a reputation, on campus and off, for high standards in college journalism. We take pride in being the most professional news publication on campus. Great attention is paid to details of proper grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, and correct spelling.

Most of all, the staff stresses accuracy and truthfulness in editing the *Sentinel*. News items are all carefully documented and researched. All possible sources are utilized to obtain the full and true facts of each story.

Most of *Sentinel* news is good news, as we stress the positive, good happenings at SSU, however, we will print the truth, and nothing but the truth, and we are aware, the truth is not always good news to all. The *Sentinel* will bring you the news, good or bad, and will keep you informed....♦

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"So long as you keep a person down, there must be some part of you there to keep him down." -Marian Anderson -

The Shawnee Sentinel was founded in the early days of 1995 by a group of journalism students at Shawnee State University who sought equal opportunity and freedom of speech.

The Sentinel has set new and higher standards of truth and freedom in news reporting on campus and has been the leader in reporting serious investigative, documented articles and has introduced aerial and video photography and recording. The Sentinel has become known as the student's favorite newspaper.

Note: Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily the opinion of the editor or his staff. Please keep letters brief. The editors reserve the right to edit or condense lengthy writings.

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Shawnee Sentinel

Wednesday January 10, 1996

Page Three

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PORTSMOUTH CITY SCHOOL BOARD

WILL MEET 6:00 p.m. THURSDAY
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Three newly elected members of the Portsmouth City School Board will participate in the first meeting of the year at East High School on the 11th of January.

Jackie L. Enz, Robert Russell Miller and John Adams were elected in the November election and will take the oath of office Thursday night. ♦

Articles on medical malpractice & double billing, chemical, industrial & atomic health hazards, mis-spending of public funds to be featured in 1996 by the Sentinel in a series beginning next issue. ♦

As a result of information the Sentinel will be researching featuring the human interest businesses or groups. Anyone is asked to write the Sentinel at and complaints received by the the above topics and will be aspect of the damages done to with any complaint or Box 1018, South Shore Ky, 41175 or editor and staff members writing documented articles the people of this area by information on any of the above ph on e 353-3719 or 259-4586. ♦

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Dr. Walke Denounces Investigation



Page Four

Wednesday January 10, 1996

Shawnee Sentinel

By Wally Leedom

SSU Psychology Professor Dr. Jerry Walke has recently undergone an in depth sexual harassment investigation conducted by Associate Professor Christopher O'Connor, according to a document generated by Dean David Todt.

In September, 1995 Dr. O'Connor mailed letters to Dr. Walke's 1995 spring quarter PSYC 310 students, asking that the students come to the university and answer questions regarding what they observed in the class, according to a letter signed by Dr. O'Connor. Dr. O'Connor also urged the more than 50 recipients of the letter to "treat this matter with sensitivity and confidentiality in order to protect the privacy of the parties involved."

Labor Relations Consultant Jane A. Curry of the Ohio Education Association demanded on behalf of Dr. Jerry Walke "that the University and the Committee Investigating sexual harassment cease and desist from calling in and interviewing students from Dr. Walke's Psychology 310 class."

Curry also wrote "I believe this so called 'investigation' is fast becoming a witch hunt." In a letter to the university dated September 22nd, 1995.

The university responded to Curry on the same date and part of the response reads: "This University would be derelict in its obligation to conduct a full and fair investigation if it did not question potential witnesses whom we know were present in the class when the alleged harassment took place." The response further reads: "Due process requires the University to interview students who can confirm or deny Dr. Walke's conduct and statements in his Psychology 310 class."

A questionnaire was prepared on September 26th 1995 for the PSYC 310 students who chose to co-operate with the investigation.

Question number 3 asks: "During a lecture conducted on May 1, 1995, did you hear the professor make the following or a similarly worded statement to a female student? NO__YES__ 'I am going to turn you over my knee and spank you.'"

Question number 7 asks: "Immediately following a lecture in which 'intimate forms of touching' were discussed (April 17), did you observe the professor touching any female student in a manner that a reasonable person would consider offensive? NO__YES__"

There were a total of ten questions on the questionnaire.

An addendum consisting of five questions was attached to the questionnaire.

The first of the five questions names an SSU student and asks "Do you personally know" this student. The four remaining questions are directed toward observations of this student's behavior.

The student in question is the same student that filed sexual harassment complaints against Dr. Walke, according to a comparison of documents by SSU President Veri and the Sexual Harassment Committee.

Among the four remaining questions it is asked, "Have you ever observed" the student do the following: "Argue with other students during class time?" or "Make sarcastic remarks about Dr. Walke's maleness and sexualness?"

A formal complaint against this same student had been filed by Dr. Walke four days prior to the preparation of the questionnaire.

Dr. Walke's charges against this student include the disruption of class through snide remarks about his teaching ability, sexual harassment through sarcastic remarks regarding his maleness and sexualness—commonly called male bashing, flat out lying and deceit, character assassination, slander and libel of his "mostly unblemished reputation" and creating a hostile environment in class.

On the day that the questionnaire became available, September 26, 1995, Dr. Walke filed a formal complaint and grievance against the Sexual Harassment Committee and the parent University, SSU. Charged are the violation of civil and constitutional rights of Dr. Walke and the "blatant violation" of "academic freedom."

Dr. Walke referred to the investigation as a "male witch hunt."

Due to a subsequent development Dr. Walke made a formal complaint to Dean Todt against Adjunct Faculty member Neva Rakovan, on October 2, 1995.

Rakovan has been charged by Walke with: "Serious breach of ethical and professional conduct by severely criticizing me BY NAME in front of one of her classes." Also "blatant slander and libel" and "sexism" by sexist quotes made about me to students."

Approximately two weeks later Dr. Walke made known to SSU President Clive Veri, by way of memorandum dated October 10, 1995, that SSU Vice-President Mangus had "leaked information to the student newspaper when he should have been saying 'no comment' as I did."

Dr. Walke further admonished Dr. Veri in writing "You folks just never quit 'botching,' do you?"

Walke contends to Veri that because university employees

couldn't keep their "mouth shut to the press" Walke's "rights to privacy and confidentiality have officially been stomped upon."

Walke also requested to know who appointed, and how the Sexual Harassment Committee was selected?

In a memo dated one week later, October 17, 1995, Walke advises Veri that: "The judges and lawyers of this country sell themselves like the whores in the street." (Mario Puzo quote)

Walke then wrote; "I want a cash settlement from the university due to their extreme violation of my civil and constitutional rights—as well as academic freedom."

He further wrote, "I love this university and it's students and want desperately for it to develop in a positive manner." And, "I no longer demand an apology from my accuser."

In return, Dr. Walke offered to: "Write a book to all professors and students in America about what I've undergone. Said book should bring us national coverage and increase both our enrollment and fund-raising."

Dr. Veri was advised that his "image as the developer of Shawnee State University will be enhanced."

Walke's memo also stated his willingness to "travel nationally to promote SSU" and to "become a consultant to further sexual harassment committees."

(continued on page 7)

SSU TRUSTEES MEETING

◆ By Sentinel Staff

The final meeting of 1995 of the Shawnee State University Board of Trustees was held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, 1995 in the Selby Board Room at the SSU Library.

The meeting was video recorded by A. Craig Bennett, editor of the *Shawnee Sentinel*.

The trustees voted to name the university's Center for the Arts in honor of former speaker of the Ohio State House of Representatives Vern Riffe who has been responsible for obtaining 77.9% of the nearly

\$56 million invested in the university by the state of Ohio since 1986.

A new athletic program was voted in over the objections of Trustees William Shkurti, and Thomas Winters. Scholarships for athletes have been discontinued and football will begin next century at SSU.

The board approved a full service temporary contract to Dr. James Bruning who will serve as interim Provost and to Michael Penn, CADD instructor.

Also approved were an addition in salary to Butch

Kotcamp, SSU maintenance supervisor, and the establishment of two new positions, Box Office Manager and Marketing Director in the Center for the Arts.

In the Teacher Education department of Arts and Sciences Dr. Marti Sherman will serve as chair, Paul Madden will serve as director of Clinical and Field Experience, and Candace McHenry will become Senior Instructor.

A new degree program in International Relations was established. ◆ ◆ ◆

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A Sentinel Staff Report

SSU SETTLES CRIMINAL FEES SUIT BY EX-PRESIDENT



\$9,750

Taxpayer dollars were used in November 1994 by SSU administrators to pay criminal attorney fees for a former employee, according to documents received by the *Sentinel* from the SSU finance office Nov. 16, 1995 and from the Ohio State Attorney General's Office on Dec. 11, 1995.

Records indicate that former university employee Frank Taylor filed suit against Shawnee State University on May 13, 1994 in the Ohio Court of Claims in Columbus for \$15,995.79 in legal expenses and \$1,600.42 in audit expenses, for a total of \$17,596.21.

Frank Taylor was president of Shawnee State Community College and the first president of Shawnee State University.

He and 13 other sitting or former presidents of colleges were charged in Franklin County Common Pleas Court in 1992 with giving money to legislators and to themselves, indirectly.

The money was funneled through an association called the Ohio Technical and Community College Association.

The OTCCA used the funds for entertainment for the presidents and for payments to legislators for political influence, according to an article in the *Portsmouth Daily Times*, May 18, 1991.

Much of the money went to Vernal Riffe, speaker of the House of Representatives and to Stanley Aranoff, speaker of the Ohio Senate. When the thefts were exposed, Riffe returned \$17,000 and Aranoff returned \$800, as reported in the *Daily Times* on Feb. 18, 1992.

Clive Veri was quoted by the *Times* on Apr. 16, 1991. "I became president here in July, 1989, three years after Shawnee State left OTCCA, when it became a university."

The *Times* article continued, "While Veri said he doesn't believe he will face charges, 'I don't know if the same is true of the previous presidents. Dr. (Robert) Eweigleben and Mr. (Frank) Taylor.'"

As was reported by the *Times* on Dec. 20, 1992, charges in these cases included theft in office, engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, illegal political contributions and tampering with records, with possible penalties ranging from 5-30 years in prison and fines from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

There were a total of 36 college presidents eventually charged.

Taylor and others avoided these penalties by participating in an arrangement made available especially for these college presidents.

On July 11, 1992, Taylor entered a *diversion program*, avoiding trials on the various charges.

Taylor was ordered by the court to do 40 hours of community service, make restitution of the stolen money, and pay re-imbursement for his share of the state audit.

His share of the audit was adjudged to be \$1,600.42. The *Sentinel* examined the personnel records of Frank Taylor at Shawnee State University on the 12th of December, 1995.

A long and diligent search of his files found no record of restitution, being made.

No record of any agreements by SSU to pay the legal expenses of Frank Taylor were found.

Nevertheless, an agreement to pay \$9,750 to Frank Taylor to settle his suit for criminal legal fees was signed by President Clive Veri and Thomas Winters, Chairman of the SSU Board of Trustees.

Documents in possession of the *Sentinel* indicate Winters not only signed the agreement to pay as a representative of the defendant SSU board, but also helped expedite the agreement for the plaintiff, Frank Taylor, through Winters' law offices in Columbus. Final approval of the agreement to pay was given on the 17th day of November and a check was issued the same date to Frank Taylor.

Documents show that the check for Frank Taylor in the amount of \$9,750 was requested by Kim Mitchell, executive secretary of SSU business affairs and was approved by David Creamer, SSU vice president of business affairs.

Creamer was not available for comment. He allegedly went north Dec. 1, 1995 for a position with the University of Alaska.

Kim Mitchell told the *Sentinel* she had requested the check be issued.

In an attempt to learn if the payment had been approved by the full board of trustees the *Sentinel* contacted the SSU President's Office and requested the minutes of the board meetings for the last months of 1994.

Patricia J. Moore, executive assistant to the president, advised the *Sentinel* the minutes were available at the University Library.

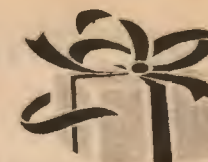
The search for the minutes at the library was fruitless, even with the assistance of librarians.

No record of any news release of this payment was found and it is believed that this is the first time the public has been informed of this pay-off.

NOTE: Frank Taylor was also paid \$50,960 by SSU as a consultant in 1986-87, after leaving the presidency of SSU, according to an article appearing in the *The Columbus Dispatch* on July 2, 1995.

The information was uncovered in a recent Ohio State legislative committee investigation into questionable spending by state university administrators.

The legislative investigation committee was headed by State Representative Michael Wise. ☸☸☸



CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY IN BIG MONEY TROUBLE

Condensed from an article by Alan D. Miller
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

Central State University was unable to issue paychecks last week to its employees until they got an emergency bail-out release of nearly \$1.2 million in state money they were not scheduled to receive for six months, according to a front page article in the *Columbus Dispatch*, Dec. 27, 1995.

Elaine H. Hairston, chancellor of Ohio Board of Regents, authorized the release in response to "another desperate plea for a state bailout."

Because of problems with federal financial aid, the Education Department has delayed financial aid reimbursement,

Central State is owed between \$900,000 and \$1.5 million.

The state gave Central

State bailout loans and grants totaling \$4 million in fiscal year 1995, in addition to the \$5.9 million it received in normal state subsidies. Central State also receives supplemental state funds of about \$7 million.

The college has received supplements for more than a decade because it serves a disproportionate number of students from low-income families, Hairston said. ☸

SECURITY IS TOPS AT SSU

By Sentinel Staff

Shawnee State is a safe and secure campus. The *Sentinel* kept close watch on the crime at SSU during 1995 and found no serious incidents of any kind during the year. There were a few minor thefts; most of the incidents were solved and the thieves discouraged. There were no crimes of violence, and most incidents of theft were committed by non-students. The university has a known reputation for being "tough on crime."

Dan Young, SSU director of security and his entire security force deserve high praise for an important and difficult job that was well done in 1995. They are consistently competent. In 1994 there was only one serious crime and it was successfully prosecuted by SSU authorities with the able assistance of Portsmouth Police and Scioto County Prosecutor Lynn Grimshaw.

The Shawnee Security forces have a good attitude, good appearance and are well trained.

TRI-STATE UNIFORMS

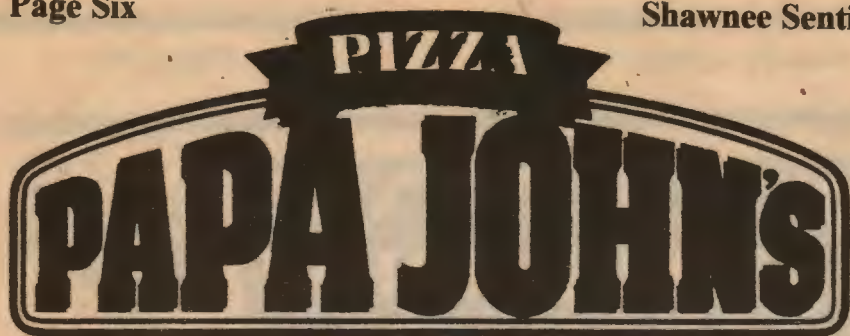
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PROFESSOR WALKER IN INTENSIVE CARE AT RIVER CITY HOSPITAL

◆ Sentinel Staff Report ◆

The *Sentinel* received information Wednesday that SSU psychology Professor Jerry Walke was admitted to River City Hospital Wednesday morning, Jan 3, 1996. Cardiac arrest was suspected.

His admittance to the Ironton hospital was confirmed by a telephone call to the hospital at 2:00 p.m. The *Sentinel* was told by a hospital employee that Dr. Walke was in the intensive care unit and was in stable condition. ◆ ◆ ◆

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Shawnee Sentinel

Wednesday January 10, 1996

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Psychology professor hospitalized.
 Dr. Jerry Walke in intensive care.
 See article bottom of page six.

**WATCH THE NEXT
 SENTINEL ISSUE:
 FOR THE MILLION
 DOLLAR STORY**

Dr. Veri Responds

(continued from page 4)

The university released the information requested by Walke concerning the selection of Sexual Harassment Committee members on the 19th of October.

Walke released a memo to seven university employees, including Dr. Veri, on October 28, 1995. This memo is entitled "A great joke for all of you." Walke says that Dean Todt had said to him, "We have bent over backward to protect your right to privacy and confidentiality."

Walke's contention is that in view of the facts that Vice President Mangus and the secretary to Dean Todt, Linda Plummer, "spilled the beans" to the press and the more than 50 letters sent to students helped publicize this investigation, his privacy and confidentiality have not been protected.

In the words of Dr. Walke, "Oh, yes folks, you really bent over backwards all right. Not to protect me but to 'stick it in my ear'—or some other body orifice."

The following day Dean Todt advised Dr. Walke that the Sexual Harassment Committee's findings were in and he would like to meet with Dr. Walke to discuss these with him.

During the meeting Todt advised Walke that although the committee had not found Walke in violation of SSU policy, Todt had determined that Walke would watch videos and review printed material concerning sexual harassment in order to better comprehend all the facets of sexual harassment.

Dr. Walke assured Dean Todt of an immediate appeal, and insisted that he, Walke, would not be punished for something that he had not done.

Dean Todt put Dr. Walke on notice that by failing to comply with this directive, Dr. Walke could be heading down the path of termination for insubordination.

On November 16, 1995, Dr. Walke released over 1000 copies of **AN OPEN LETTER TO MIAMI UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**, (Miami, Ohio) in which he questioned the leadership of SSU.

SSU President Veri responded to Dr. Walke's open letter on November 27, 1995.

In opening his letter to Walke, Veri specifically addressed the allegations Walke has made concerning a student complaint, and Veri names the student that made the complaint.

Veri wrote, "You have complained bitterly about the process of the investigation. Legal counsel advises me that the Ohio and U.S. Supreme courts have held that due process in employment actions does not require a right of confrontation, cross examination in the pre-termination phase of employment disciplinary actions."

Veri also wrote, "the committee concluded that, although some of your statements in that class were offensive to a reasonable woman, they were not severe or pervasive enough to constitute a hostile environment."

"I have witnessed your rantings and ravings about the style and effectiveness of the leadership of this university over the last several weeks and have withheld comment. However, your publicized statements about the university's leadership are disrupting the academic work place and could lead to additional disciplinary actions for insubordination," Veri wrote.

In closing, Veri urged Walke to work through the SEA Agreement "instead of disrupting the academic work place with your public invectives about the Dean, your Department Chair, the student, or me."

During a strike six years ago at SSU, Dr. Jerry Walke quit the union and crossed the picket line.

Walke has since rejoined the union and feels that he is deserving of greater union support in this matter.

Walke contends that Union President Ed Miner is vindictive towards him to this day for crossing the picket line six years ago, and therefore against him in the investigation.

In a memo to Dr. Ed Miner, Walke wrote; "Ed, (as SEA President) If you had undergone the lack of due process, violation of civil and constitutional rights, and destruction of academic freedom that I've undergone the past three weeks, the SEA would already be on strike and 'walking the bricks.' Where are you when I need you? Jerry L. Walke."

◆ SSU FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR GENE WILSON RECOVERING ◆ WATERCRAFT INVESTIGATION SHOWS FUEL PUMP LEAK

By Austin Leedom, Sentinel Reporter

Gene Wilson, SSU director of financial aid, told the *Sentinel* in a telephone interview that he is recovering from his injuries and hopes to return to work at Shawnee State.

On the morning of the accident he was boating slowly upstream near the Ohio shore enroute to remove the boat from the water when the "sniffer" alerted him to fumes in the engine room.

Upon investigation gasoline was found spraying from the port fuel pump diaphragm. He started to the control room to shut off the engine and has no memory of what happened from that time until he was dragged away from the shore near the burning boat and moved to the roadway above the river bank, Wilson said.

His clothing was scorched, but he suffered no serious burns.



The charred remains of the "Scholar Ship" as seen below Grant Bridge on Sunday Oct. 22, 1995, following a series of gasoline explosions. The boat is owned by Gene Wilson, SSU director of financial aid. Wilson was seriously injured in the mishap. The burned items in the foreground, from the boat, were 90 feet upstream from the craft, apparently blown there by the force of the explosions.

Photo by Shawnee Sentinel Reporter

By Sentinel Staff

◆ Officer Brenda Sams of the Ohio State Division of Watercraft has advised the Shawnee Sentinel that their investigation of the Gene Wilson boat mishap has been completed.

The boat was removed from the water by the investigating officers soon after the accident.

Their examination confirmed that a leaking fuel pump diaphragm was the cause of the fire and explosions that destroyed the boat, Sams said. (The "Scholar Ship" exploded and burned on the Ohio River Sunday morning, Oct. 22, 1995, near Grant Bridge.) ◆

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THE WAY IT WAS IN 1995 AT SSU

By Sentinel Staff

A. Craig Bennett, journalism student and others who were fired from the University Chronicle, began their own newspaper, the Shawnee Sentinel. (the Sentinel is not published with public funds).

Bennett established several firsts at SSU in 1995. He became the first black editor at SSU, was the first to use aerial photography, and the first to video record a SSU trustees meeting.

Top stories told of :

corruption at the University Chronicle,

the civil rights investigation,

\$3.6 million suit against SSU, Clive Veri, and David Creamer by the former bursar John Welton who had been imprisoned on complaints by Creamer, the chief financial officer,

the exposure of the official Ohio State Auditor's report that their audit showed a variance of \$848.38 for the period of Jan. 1, 1990 thru Aug. 31, 1993,

the payment of \$433,000 to Shawnee State University by The Continental Guaranty and Credit Corporation to settle a claim filed by David Creamer for money allegedly taken by Welton over the period 1990 to 1993,

first 5K race ran by over 300 area men, women and children,

girls softball team in National Tournament,

girls basketball team runner-up in National Tournament finals,

champion baseball coach, John Tipton quit, saying SSU standards were lowered and schedule shortened,

public funds given by SSU to select private business interests,

accusation by John Welton that fraud was directed by David Creamer so SSU could steal subsidies from the government by falsifying enrollment,

three vice presidents quit,

New student orientation best ever,

engineering professor reprimanded,

new planetarium proposed by Clive Veri and Jeff Bauer,

David Creamer went to Alaska,

Bubba's redneck page a big hit, Portsmouth City School Board's secret \$70,000 payment,

two campus rapists sentenced for 1994 attack at dormitory,

Veterans week observance at SSU with Vietnam wall display. U. S. Army paratroopers dropped in on campus again, welcomed by Brian Saul, student senate president and combat veteran of the Panama War and of the Desert Storm War,

boat explosion nearly fatal to SSU director of financial aid,

Jerry Walke accused, found not guilty of sexual harassment,

football program pushed through by Clive Veri,

new building named VERN RIFFE CENTER for the ARTS.

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TOP TEN 1995

TOP TEN EVENTS AND PERSONS

BEST TOP TEN OF 1995

◆ Special Sentinel Poll

10. Sheriff Jim Sutterfield for open public records policy.

9. Carolyn Gross, BASICS, for helping others.

8. Dr. David Gleason, for productivity and hospitality.

7. Suzanne F. Shelpman and staff for enrolling and retaining students.

6. Dr. Joseph Dilliard & Maggie McClintock for the courage to be advisors to the Sentinel.

5. SSU custodial crew for a great job and a clean campus.

4. The great girls softball and basketball teams.

3. Brian Saul for student leadership.

2. Portsmouth Police Officer Sherri Tyree for bravery.

1. A. Craig Bennett, founder of SSU's best newspaper and fighter for constitutional rights and freedom of the press.

TOP TEN LOSSES 1995

◆ Special Sentinel Poll

Paul Crabtree, vice president of student affairs retired. The open door policy and the genuine concern for students went with him.

A. L. Addington, the ambassador of friendliness and goodwill left his post as Provost.

Shawnee Sentinel was run off campus, forced to go underground.

Dr. Larry Mangus joined SSU.

All the students who were fired from the University Chronicle and never went back.

John Tipton, champion baseball coach.

Fred Chrisman did not leave soon enough... our loss.

Athletic program changed.

Dave Creamer, a big loss to Alaska, a gain for SSU.

All the students who left because of problems with SSU.