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### December 1997 Shawnee Sentinel

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Shawnee

DECEMBER 1997

# The Sentinel

FOUNDED BY STUDENTS AT SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY IN FEBRUARY 1995

## CALLIHAN: Close The Jail

By Wally Leedom

A supplemental to the John Randy Callihan lawsuit against the Scioto County Jail continues to demand that the jail be closed, although Sheriff Donini has brought the jail population back within legal limits.

In accordance with a federal court order, the Scioto County Jail cannot legally house more than 91 inmates. Overcrowding has been severe throughout the 1997 year, with as many as 110 inmates at times. At the time of this writing there are 84 jail inmates, as described by a county deputy. Sheriff Donini's stated goal of 70 inmates has not yet been achieved.

The 17th Street Armory was used by the Sheriff as a holding facility for a period of one month. That month has since passed and there are no inmates in the Armory at this time, as told by the last prisoners to depart the Armory.

Scioto County inmates have been housed in surrounding counties at a cost of \$60.00 per day per inmate, as widely reported and announced by the sheriff. There are currently two female Scioto County prisoners housed in Ross County, Ohio, as related by a deputy at the Scioto County Jail.

Mr. Callihan's suit, which he is attempting to file in The United States District Court Southern District of Ohio Western Division, defines through the Ohio Revised Code the responsibilities of county officials in respect to the county jail.

Defendant Marty Donini is the duly elected Sheriff of Scioto County and as such has the care and custody of the jail pursuant to chapter 341 of the Ohio Revised Code and O.R.C. Section 2921.44(C).

Section 341.01, O.R.C., grants the defendant Sheriff the duty to provide for the health and safety of inmates and to regulate the jail according to the minimum standards for jails in Ohio promulgated by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. The Sheriff is charged with the responsibility of insuring that the jail does not become foul or unclean so that the health of a prisoner is endangered.

Pursuant to Section 311.20 of the O.R.C., the Sheriff has the duty of preparing and submitting a budget for jail operations to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners of Scioto County are responsible for providing a jail the necessary funds services and supplies to maintain and operate such facility in compliance with Chapter 341 of the O.R.C. and the Minimum Standards for Jails in Ohio.

As the elected officers of the county, the Commissioners have the authority pursuant to O.R.C. Section 305.07(A), to make any necessary order or enter into any necessary contract regarding the building, furnishing and operation of public buildings.

Section 307.01(A) of the O.R.C. specifically vests the responsibility for providing a jail in the Board of County Commissioners. Likewise the power to provide equipment that is reasonably necessary for the proper and convenient conduct of county offices rests in the Board. Sections 305.16 and 305.17 of the O.R.C. authorize the Board to employ such personnel as are necessary to insure the care and custody of the jail and fix the compensation for such personnel.

The Board is given the authority to provide for the training of the Sheriff and his deputies under O.R.C. Sections 307.72 and 307.75.

The Board is required, under O.R.C. Section 341.19, to supply jail inmates, at county expense, a suitable means of heating the jail, clothing, food, and further, to supply such fixtures and such repairs as required by the Court of Common Pleas.

Mr. Callihan's lawsuit further states that the county of Scioto is a local government entity empowered to operate, regulate and maintain the Scioto County Jail, and to levy and collect taxes, maintain a treasury and expend revenue for the operation and maintenance of the Scioto County Jail pursuant to O.R.C. Section 5701.01, *et seq.* Governed by the Scioto County Board of Commissioners, the county of Scioto has adopted policies, practices, customs and usages for the operations and maintenance of the Scioto County Jail under color of state law, which have resulted in or caused plaintiff to be subjected to the deprivation of rights and liberties secured by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Callihan also contends that the jail was built in 1927. Despite its age, it is in poor repair and inadequately maintained. It is not operated in a safe manner. It is unsuited for the housing of inmates.

In regard to the operation of the jail, Mr. Callihan contends that there is no inmate classification according to their status as pre-trial or convicted, non violent or violent, repeat offender or first time offender, young offender or older offender, special needs, etc. A situation made worse by overcrowding.

The non classification and over crowding were evidenced by the housing of inmates, including felons, at the Armory this past month, as discovered in a *Sentinel* investigation.

As part of his Prayer for Relief, Mr. Callihan asks the court to "order defendant Marty Donini, Sheriff of Scioto County, to present a plan to this Court under which the Scioto County Jail will enforce the rules and regulations promulgated by the State of Ohio.

Mr. Callihan also asks that court "order defendants to close the Scioto County Jail until such a time as it can be made safe for its inmates, and, in the meantime, to designate a suitable alternate jail facility in which the conditons complained of do not exist.

Mr. Callihan is acting as his own attorney in this civil court action. ☒☒☒

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1995  
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# Shawnee Sentinel

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 Literary Editor: Terry Lee  
 Special Events: Austin Leedom  
 Investigations: Doug Deepe  
 Staff Reporter: Wally Leedom  
 Staff Reporter: Darvin Kozee  
 Fish Columnist: David Terelli

Shawnee Sentinel, PO Box 222  
 Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

The *Shawnee Sentinel* newspaper is written and published by students, former students, alumni, and others with an interest in the university. The newspaper was founded in February, 1995 by journalism students at SSU.

With much hard work and commitment the members of the *Shawnee Sentinel* began to publish; the first issue appeared in April 1995. There were 23 students on the staff at this time; no one was paid, and no public funds were used.

The *Shawnee Sentinel* quickly became the "students' favorite newspaper" and the residents of the campus community also became readers and fans of the *Shawnee Sentinel*. It is known at SSU as the "only source of real news on campus."

At the time the *Sentinel* began there was an alleged 'student newspaper' on campus named, "*University Chronicle*," but student membership on the staff was very restricted then, as it still is. This newspaper was funded by the University and the staff members were paid. The editor received \$1000.00 per quarter and other members were also paid. SSU paid all expenses; and corruption and wrongdoing by administrators was (and still is) ignored by the student newspaper.

However, the *Shawnee Sentinel* was different; the fourth issue carried a report of an alleged fraudulent insurance claim of nearly a half million dollars that was collected by SSU. The story was dynamite. A man had been sent to prison for theft so the insurance money could be collected and the *Shawnee Sentinel* revealed the money was not even missing from SSU. The administrator who was alleged to have perpetrated the fraud quickly quit his job at SSU and went to Alaska in December 1995.

Although the *Shawnee Sentinel* was forced off-campus, it has continued to print the truth; official whiskey parties, rapes, thefts, assaults, drunkenness, corruption in security contracts, and unfair treatment of students and faculty have all been articles of interest.

The *Sentinel* is still publishing and student writers of news, poetry, and features are welcome. If interested, call 259-4586.

Invest \$20.00 in a one year mail subscription  
**SHAWNEE SENTINEL**  
 THE NEWSPAPER WITH  
 THE INSIDE STORIES

## Editorial Page

Written by Austin Leedom, SSU Student

Nero ruled Rome for 14 years, Veri ruled SSU for 7 years. Nero fiddled while the city burned; Veri partied while SSU collapsed into a cesspool of corruption that was created by evils of thefts, sex scandals, cover-up of rapes, sexual harassment of students, rigged contract bidding, assaults on students and violations of the constitutional rights of free speech and liberty of students and employees, and unlawful hiding and destruction of public documents. The change in the Arts Center from its planned purposes into a \$17 million saloon, and party house for the wealthy elite of the area is a major scandal. The dreams, years of work, and the support of Vern Riffe, and other good citizens of the area, have been brazenly trodden into a mire of alcoholic euphoria by Veri's elitist gang. During Clive Veri's reign at SSU his salary increased 56% and nearly every imaginable expense he might incur at work, at home, and at play has been paid by the cowed SSU Board of Trustees in efforts to assuage his never ending avarice. Veri's total income from SSU is nearly \$200,000 a year. Enrollments are down, fees are up, professors and students are deserting, campus morale has been at an all time low, numerous law suits and criminal actions are pending against SSU high officials, plus actions on the \$436,671.31 bonding fraud committed by SSU that intentionally sent an innocent man to prison. Veri should have left sooner; even his full time criminal defense lawyer, Stephen P. Donohue, may not be able to save him. †

# TOP TEN

## Candidates for SSU President

*Although Dr. Veri has been with us quite a while, it appears that he won't be with us long enough to learn the good manners and customs of the common people of Appalachia, some people never learn.*

Qualifications include and are not limited to the following, somebody who:

- A. won't enrage the Governor with their crying and wailing.
- B. won't take total control of hiring and firing. No more Hitlers.
- C. won't railroad an innocent employee, defraud a bonding company, or set up any of the other employees.
- D. doesn't have drunken parties on campus, or put students in harms way.
- E. doesn't write evals encouraging SSU Vice Presidents to attack student newspapers.
- F. will be on campus full time.

*The Candidates are in no particular order:*

- #1. Dr. Bill Dingus of Ohio University Southern Campus, due to super credentials and an outstanding track record.
- #2. SSU Vice President Emeritus, Dr. Paul Crabtree. The spirit, honor and pride of this Marine Corps veteran has helped build SSU. Now is the time for him to step up to Command.
- #3. Dr. Eric Cunningham of O.U. Japan, 100% student oriented.
- #4. Dr. Jerry Walke, experienced in college administration at Urbana, Ohio.
- #5. Dr. Leo Blackburn, tried, tested, true; he has weathered the storms.
- #6. Dr. David Gleason, more than qualified, and he is the man who really built Shawnee State University.
- #7. Dr. Stephen P. Donohue, 2nd in command at U.S.A.F. Academy, fighter pilot Vietnam War, right hand man to Clive Veri. Experienced at SSU.
- #8. Dr. Jerry Holt, also known as "Holt the Jolt," for his fast and fair decisions that offer little second guessing. Dr. Holt is a man of action and integrity who understands the Appalachian people and has worked hard for their future.
- #9. Dr. Steve Midkiff is a Harvard Grad, native to our area, well liked, respected, trustworthy, and capable of taking control of Shawnee State University.
- #10. Dr. Ed Miner would never sell us short and never sell us out. ...

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# Arts Center Woes Blamed On Daehler

By Wally Leedom

An evaluation written by SSU Vice President Roger T. Murphy indicates that the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts lost nearly \$50,000 during Arts Center Director Carl Daehler's first two years.

A mid-year Management Plan Evaluation from VP Murphy to Carl Daehler, dated 1-23-97, states: "Net Production income/loss is negative for all of the events held except for G. Miller. To date this fiscal year which is also, unfortunately, consistent with last fiscal year, the events we are sponsoring are losing money, direct revenue less direct expense. What is most alarming is our pace of loss is getting worse. We have had eleven sponsored events this season through December, 1996. Our net production loss for these events total is (\$26,601). Last year we had a loss of (\$21,557) through the first eleven events. Even factoring in the Foundation's support and other donations, the events to-date lost money in total. Your first order of business on the road to self sufficiency is to insure that we do not lose money on the series of events we sponsor."

Murphy also wrote, "Our gate is disappointing. ...The fundamental concern is apparently we are not offering events the public wants to see. ...The financial picture of the Fine Arts facility is not what we hoped for in it's first season."

Murphy addressed behavior: "I have had concern expressed to me over the brusque behavior of the Technical Director in his dealings with events sponsors/performers. ...my expectation is that all staff will treat our customers, including events sponsor and performers, with utmost courtesy & helpfulness."

Murphy wrote of the Mary Widow event in which the three front rows were sold, when this space was needed for the orchestra.

Murphy wrote, "Much of the above is directly related to your lack of planning skills."

Murphy also wrote, "Without any prior notice to or approval by me, you decided to leave campus, indeed the state, and conduct arguably, non related business. ...My prior approval is necessary. My evaluation of the "job relatedness" of the request will be the criteria whether the absence is allowed as "business" travel." ☒☒☒



## FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**EMPLOYEES: KEEP THIS ARTICLE.** You may need it.

Is your boss or someone else in your work place giving you a hard time because of your sex? It's a federal crime.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment can occur in a variety of circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- \* The victim as well as the harasser may be a woman or a man. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.
- \* The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, an agent of the employer, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or a non-employee.

\* The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.

\* Unlawful sexual harassment may occur without economic injury to or discharge of the victim.

\* The harasser's conduct must be unwelcome.

Charges of sexual harassment may be filed at any field office of the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. (EEOC)

If you believe that you or others have been sexually harassed, or discriminated against because of your sex you may call Mary Jo Reding, Investigator, at 1-800-669-4000. Do not be afraid to call, the personnel at EEOC are friendly. You may prefer to write; the address is 525 Vine Street, Suite 810, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-3122.

A complaint to the EEOC will not bar you from any other action you may take, and federal law prohibits any retaliation against you. ♦♦♦

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**ROBERT WALTON - continued from page four**

Mr. Walton is a former President of the Shawnee State University Board of Trustees and is Director of Community Action Organization (CAO). Below is a copy of the statement written for the Sheriff's Office by Mr. Walton concerning the incident. Shawnee Sentinel reporters called in person at Mr. Walton's office at CAO twice the week following the incident, but were unable to communicate with him there. The reporters were told he was not in both times they were at his office.

**SCIOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Portsmouth, Ohio

STATEMENT OF: *Robert Walton* Date: 10-26-97 Case # 973128  
Page # 1 of 1

ON the evening of 10-26-97 at approximately 10 PM I walked out my back door and went to the back of my yard that drops down to the New River.

I slipped on the edge of the bank and lost my balance. I fell over the bank and hit my head on a rock. I remember by lost consciousness when I recovered I climbed up the bank and tried to get to a neighbor for help. I mistakenly crossed the street instead of proceeding down the street to my neighbors (Jim Ragley). I then fell into a neighbors window - breaking the window and cutting myself.

I do not remember if I cut my head when I fell down the bank.

*Robert Walton*

Witness / Deputy

Date

Person Giving Statement

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## Several Recent Job Searches at Shawnee State

by Professor Robert Forrey

*What follows is a chronology of several overlapping and interrelated recent job searches at Shawnee State University in 1996-1997. The information is drawn from conversations with those involved in the searches, including search committee members as well as with the candidates themselves, and with electronically generated sources and from a memo from the President to me. The implication of the chronology, in my opinion, is disturbing for anyone who assumes the goal of any job search, particularly at a publicly funded institution, is to find the best available candidate through an honest competitive search.*

### Search for Academic Vice President/Provost

- 1995 Academic Vice President and Provost, A. L. Addington, resigns to return to teaching.
- 1996 Search Committee for new Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost is formed. A short list of four candidates is drawn up.
- Feb 21 President Veri announces that candidate Dr. William Nevios would be on campus Sunday through Tuesday, March 17-19. President says the interview schedule for Nevios would be "a bit different from 'normal.'"
- Feb. 22 Nevios's resume is circulated by email by Regina Webb.
- March 17-19 Candidate Nevios is on campus for interviews. A number of people who interview him, including the search team, are made aware that he has a wife with a Ph.D. in journalism who is hoping for employment at S.S.U. or in the Portsmouth area. Nevios impresses most with his energy and upbeat attitude and particularly with his repeated promise to be a strong faculty advocate who would be willing to stand up to anybody, including the president and the board of trustees, on behalf of the faculty. However, some concern is expressed among those who meet him about his tendency to talk too much about himself and in particular about his having been an orphan. Questions are raised about whether Nevios has the right educational background or emotional makeup to be the chief academic officer at a liberal arts university, especially one undergoing a difficult transition, such as is the case with S.S.U. His Ph.D. is in Speech, his M.A. is in Education and his B.A. is in Film and Photography, all at Southern Illinois State University. Questions are also raised about whether he has sufficient experience as an administrator, since he has been Academic Vice President at Mount St. Mary, which has only a thousand students, for less than three years.
- March 27 Veri says he has spoken more than once to Nevios on the phone that day and Nevios is eager for S.S.U. "to make a 'yes' decision." In his phone conversations with the president this day, Nevios explains that he will have a contract from his current employer, Mount Mary College, on his desk by Friday. So he will have to make a decision soon. Veri says he hopes he will be able to extend an offer to Nevios early the following week.
- Spring 1996 Nevios is offered the position and he accepts at a salary of \$86,000. He is scheduled to begin his duties in the summer.
- Fall 1996 Kristen Nevios teaches a journalism course as adjunct faculty and serves as advisor to the student newspaper, *The Chronicle*. The newspaper improves in terms of layout but remains devoid of investigative reporting.

### First Search for Arts and Humanities Chair

- Fall 1996 A Search Team is formed by the Arts and Humanities division to find a permanent chair to replace Shannon Kiser, who has been serving as acting chair the past year.
- Feb 1997 After months of screening, the committee comes up with four candidates: John Thomson; Vernon Miles; Ray Wallace; and M. Sandra R. Patterson-Randle.
- Mar 10 VP Nevios authorizes search committee to begin interviewing four candidates, Candidates are to be interviewed by Arts and Humanities faculty, the Dean, VP Nevios and President Veri.
- March 31 Ray Wallace on campus for interviews. Wallace points out to Dean Holt that he has a wife with a degree in developmental education who would be looking for a job in the area, possibly at S.S.U. and possibly as adjunct faculty, depending on how much that paid. Wallace's wife finds promising job prospects in the community in the private sector.
- April 3 Patterson-Randle withdraws before a scheduled phone interview.
- April 7 John Thomson is on campus. He is discouraged after interview with VP Nevios, saying he appeared more interested in talking about himself and his childhood than about Thomson's candidacy, which the Vice President did not appear to take seriously.
- April 17 Arts and Humanities faculty meet to make a decision on candidates Thomson, Miles, and Wallace, and vote to offer the position to Wallace, whom faculty member Joe Ng recommends highly, knowing him both professionally and personally. The recommendation of the Arts and Humanities faculty to hire

- April 18 An offer is mailed to Wallace.
- April 22 Wallace, who has still not received an offer from S.S.U. emails the search committee, asking if anybody knows approximately when he might know if he is in the running for the job.
- April 24 Wallace finally receives his job offer letter from S.S.U., more than three weeks after his interview. Since the letter apparently contained no deadline, Wallace asks how long he has to consider the offer. Dean Holt tells him he must respond by Friday, May 2, one week later. Dean Holt later tells the Search Committee he feels Wallace is just stalling, hoping to get a job offer for his wife from S.S.U. "BUT!! (and I KNEW this was going to happen)," Holt says, "he says that two of the other institutions have also made offers to his wife, who has credentials -- pretty good ones -- in developmental English. God! Am I sick of these sweetheart deals."
- April 24 Two hours after Dean Holt speaks to Wallace, President Veri sends out an email, which he says can be shown to everyone concerned, including Wallace. In the email the President says that, "As an institution committed to AA/EEO, we do not hire anyone who has not been part of a search process" (meaning Wallace's wife) and "that we do not create a position as a perq for attracting a candidate . . ." The president concludes by saying, "Any institution that does hire Mrs. Wallace, absent an AA/EEO search, is an institution whose ethics are highly suspect."
- April 24 Later in the afternoon, VP Nevios says he is in complete agreement with President Veri in his position that "Any institution that does hire Mrs. Wallace, absent an AA/EEO search, is an institution whose ethics are highly suspect." Nevios adds, "We will not compromise our position on this issue."
- April 25 Although Wallace had been sent a job-offer letter, Dean Holt, at VP Nevios's order, makes calls to people, seeking, according to them, unflattering comments about Wallace. On the basis of these calls, Dean Holt later circulates two memos highly critical of Wallace.
- May 2 Wallace does not meet the deadline Dean Holt had given him over the phone the week earlier.
- May 6 Dean Holt tells members of the Arts and Humanities Search Committee that he doesn't like Wallace taking more than a week to make up his mind, forgetting that it took the administration over three weeks to get Wallace the offer. The Dean says, "we should have had a much quicker turnaround." Twenty minutes later, VP Nevios comments: "A correct and interesting observation by Jerry -- I hope this is not a sign of things to come."
- May 7 A member of the Arts and Humanities Search Committee, Joe Ng, in response to Dean Holt's wanting a quicker turnaround, inquires of the Dean and VP Nevios if the job offer letter to Wallace had given him any date by which to respond. Nevios responds to Ng that he doesn't know if there was a written deadline given, but that Holt should be able to answer that question, prompting Ng to point out that "If there wasn't one [deadline] clearly set, we can't blame the candidate . . . Competitive people always maximize their options; as long as it is legal. I think that is how things should be, unless we intentionally look for mediocrities." Holt does not answer Ng's question about whether a deadline had been given in the job-offer letter, saying instead, "I think you are missing the point a bit: Ray accepted the job over the phone. His option days are over, unless he has lied to us. The contract really should be back by now." Ng wrote to another faculty member about the Dean's response, "Frankly, I have never witnessed any search situations in which the hiring party is so paranoid, and under-prepared, about everything." (Ng, who was in his first year at S.S.U., as the Writing Coordinator, would later resign his position and take a job in Denver.)
- May 8 Wallace sends faxed copy of his acceptance to Dean Holt from San Antonio. He also later sends a hard copy of the fax and an email. Wallace apologizes for the delay, saying his father-in-law had passed away two days earlier. Nevios reportedly tells Holt, who passes it on to the Search Committee, that he thinks Wallace is a liar.
- May 10 Wallace learns that, even after he had been officially offered the job as chair of the Arts and Humanities Division, and even after he faxed his acceptance, Dean Holt had been calling people Wallace knew, looking for dirt about Wallace. Feeling his veracity and character were being called into question by Dean Holt, Wallace decides he does not want to work in such an atmosphere. He retracts his acceptance, citing a change in his family circumstances.
- May 15 Vernon Miles withdraws as a candidate after he accepts position as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Union College. The Search Committee has run out of candidates and options.

May 19 The Search Committee decides to reopen search and reconstitutes itself.

May 21 VP Nevios recommends that the language in the ad for the reopened search be changed to allow those with degrees in a discipline other than English to apply. Nevios says this would be a concession to the those on Arts side of the Arts and Humanities Division. Holt suggests the language read: "particularly applicable credentials from a closely related area may be considered, depending upon program needs." The requirement that appears in the revised ad reads "A Ph.D. in one of the Humanities."

June 29 Among those whose application arrives in Dean's Holt's office on this date for the redefined chair position is the Vice President's wife, Kristen Nevios, who holds degrees in fields other than English. She holds a Ph. D. (1992) and a M.S. (1983) in Journalism from Southern Illinois University. She lists an undergraduate double major in Journalism and Home Economics. Many assume VP Nevios will recuse himself from the search process since his wife is now a candidate, but he does not. As the following record suggests, he becomes more active than ever.

Aug 20 The Search Committee selects three candidates for a short list; Kristen Nevios, whom the committee considers unqualified for the position, is not among them. VP Nevios is reported to be unimpressed with the short list. He asks the search committee to look again at the other candidates. The search committee declines and invites its first choice, Micheal Pelt, for a campus visit.

Aug 25 Micheal Pelt arrives on campus. At 2:15, he is interviewed by VP Nevios, who reportedly greets him in unfriendly manner. After the interview, Pelt is obviously upset. When the co-chairs of the Search Committee ask him why, he says VP Nevios was unfriendly in the interview and did not appear to take his candidacy seriously. The Search Committee informs Dean Holt that they are impressed by Pelt and plan to ask the Arts and Humanities faculty to vote on him.

Aug 26 The Search Committee schedules a meeting of the Arts and Humanities faculty at 11 o'clock on Aug 27 in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room to vote on Pelt.

Aug 27 Dean Holt and VP Nevios show up unexpectedly before the scheduled divisional meeting and ask to meet in private with the Search Committee. The regular meeting is delayed for over an hour while Nevios, making various arguments to the Search Committee, tries to persuade them Pelt should not be offered the position. Among the reasons he gives for opposing Pelt is that the latter allegedly said he could not teach composition. The Search Committee pointed out they were not looking for a composition teacher but a division chair.

Aug 27 When the delayed meeting takes place, the Arts and Humanities faculty, after a discussion, vote 12 to 0 to hire Pelt.

Aug 27 After the meeting Nevios meets with the co-chairs and tells them Pelt is unacceptable as a candidate because Pelt had discussed his interview of the 25<sup>th</sup> with the co-chairs. The co-chairs explain that they had asked Pelt about the interview because Nevios had appeared angry and upset before the interview, and they suspected it was because his wife had not made the short list. When the co-chairs insist that Pelt is their choice, Nevios insists they make more calls about Pelt.

Aug 28 More calls are made and the co-chairs hear more good things about Pelt. The co-chairs of the Search Committee submit "Request to Hire Form" to Acting Division Chair and to Dean Holt, both of whom sign it. Nevios refuses to sign it. He tells members of the Search Committee he will not accept the division's unanimous recommendation. This is a deep disappointment to those who remembered how frequently Nevios had vowed during his own job interviews that he would be a strong faculty advocate.

Aug 29 Dean Holt tells VP Nevios: "I have signed off on Dr. Pelt, and did so with a clear conscience at the time. However, the past two days have brought some reversals of thought about this situation. I never was comfortable with the man — there is something about the man that seems barely repressed and almost dangerous. The hall talk and even some of the revelations of our meeting with the faculty have exacerbated this feeling in me. I will support the faculty, but I have to admit I have severe reservations. I am reluctant to pursue them, because it's nothing I can put my finger on. Call it a feeling."

Sept 2 In a communication to the Search Committee, VP Nevios says, "Unfortunately, I share Jerry's concerns and am convinced that Dr. Pelt is not the right match for SSU. . . . I am prepared to stand by my decision and take the next step in recruiting a quality TEAM-person to chair the department and address the challenges and opportunities that are on the table."

Sept 27 A new search committee is constituted. All those who served on the previous search committee decline to serve on the new one. Several senior Arts and Humanities faculty members vow never to serve on another search committee as long as Nevios is Vice President of SSU.

#### Search for Executive Director for University Advancement

1997 Winter A committee is formed to search for an Executive Director for University

Development "to provide overall direction and management of University-wide marketing strategies and advancement activities." The Committee is designated a "screening," rather than a search, committee. The salary range is \$36,713 to \$58,517. President Veri is de facto chair of the committee. The eight person committee includes two faculty members and VP Nevios, ex officio.

Jan 24 First meeting of Screening Committee.

Feb 11 Phone interviews of candidates.

May 5 The first search does not result in a hire and the Screening Committee readvertises the redefined position in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The ad says a review of applications will begin on May 19.

1997 Summer The second search does not result in a hire. The search for an Executive Director is, at least temporarily, abandoned.

#### Creation of Director of Marketing position

Sept 11 A new position is created, Director of Marketing, and a new office, the Office of University Advancement. The office, according to one former administrator, was VP Nevios's idea. Without a search and without formal approval of any search committee, Veri appoints the Vice President's wife, Kristen Nevios, as "consulting Marketing Director." Her salary is \$35,500 for what is described as a part-time, temporary position. "Temporary" is not defined, but part-time is specified as twenty-five hours a week, but she can be flexible about her schedule. A two-thirds time secretary is assigned to her.

Sept 19 The Screening Committee for the Executive Director for University Advancement meets and is told by Veri of the appointment of Kristen Nevios as "consulting Marketing Director." One of the faculty members asks if the president is expecting the Screening Committee's approval of this appointment, because if he is the candidate should be interviewed by the committee. Veri explains that this is a temporary part-time position and as such it does not require an AA/EEO search, an interview, or the approval of any committee. As chief executive, he says, he has the authority to make such an appointment. The president does not tell the Screening Committee that the salary for this part-time temporary position will be \$35,500.

Oct. 15 S.S.U. releases a statement on the World Wide Web: "Two national searches in nine months for an Executive Director have failed to yield a satisfactory match between a candidate's qualifications and SSU's needs. As the search is reorganized, and to avoid any further delay in developing a comprehensive marketing plan and to ensure that the institution thrives into the next millennium, Kristen D. Nevios, Ph.D., has been hired as a consulting Marketing Director" (<http://www.shawnee.edu/ssunews/ssunb1.htm>).

Oct 27 Though the S.S.U. press release of Oct. 15 said the search for Executive Director for University Advancement was being "reorganized," the Personnel Office says there is no search underway for that position. For now, at least, that search appears dead and "consulting Marketing Director" Nevios's temporary status could presumably continue indefinitely.

Nov 1 Forrey sends an email to Veri, reminding the President of the strong position the President had taken, on April 24, during the Arts and Humanities chair search, against nepotism and against what Dean Holt, on that same date, had characterized as "sweetheart deals." Among the points the President insisted on in that email were:

"As an institution committed to AA/EEO, we do not hire anyone who has not been part of a search process."

"We don't create a position as a perq for attracting a candidate here regardless of how badly we want a candidate . . ."

"Any institution that does hire Mrs. Wallace [wife of candidate for Arts and Humanities chair], absent an AA/EEO search, is an institution whose ethics are highly suspect. If they pull 'this,' what about 'that' in the future?"

Forrey asks Veri, "If nepotism was not a factor in the hiring of Kristen Nevios, was there not at least the strong appearance of it; and if there is no smoking gun, are there not at least a lot of spent cartridges?"

*The letter printed on this page and the preceding page was written by Robert J. Forrey, Ph.D. Dr. Forrey is a graduate of Yale University; he has been at Shawnee State University (SSU) for the past nine years. He is a highly respected Professor of English.*

*Dr. Forrey is not a member, nor an advisor, of the Shawnee Sentinel staff and did not ask that this letter be printed. However, two copies of the letter were received by mail by the Sentinel and it was decided that it should be shared with the students and with the other citizens of the area who have an interest in the future well-being of SSU.*

# "The Professor Speaks"

## Truth Talk by Jerry L. Walke, Ph.D

Dr. Walke, a former Dean at Urbana College for 10 years before joining SSU in 1976, is one of the best known professors of psychology in Ohio. He was recently inducted into the Football Hall of Fame at Capital University where he earned a B.S. degree; he received his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. Dr. Walke is a native of Jackson County, Ohio

The *Sentinel* has invited me to write a regular column. After almost four years of silence (and four years of hell on earth) I have agreed to do so. Why?

(1) My entire career I have been a "truth-seeker," which means that to the best of my ability, I have sought truth in every situation—realizing that often the truth is that there is no truth. This includes the truth about myself.

History has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that people in power—plus "grass roots" persons like yourself—do not like truthseekers. We have burned them at the stake; ran them out of town on a rail; committed them to mental institutions; poisoned them, and, yes, even hung them on crosses. Also, we make them political captives in our prisons.

But none of the above bothers me in the least anymore!

(2) Literally thousands of my former students have informed me in person, by phone, and by mail that they want to hear "my story."

I have a distinguished 37 year career as a teacher, coach, college administrator, writer and scholar. "They" (and I'll soon define "they") have all but destroyed that which "they" promised to do.

Now it is the Walke-man's turn. Every dog has his day.

(3) I will carefully delineate my OPINIONS, (which will still be based upon logic and inductive thinking) and TRUTH. Anything I state as truth, I'll be willing to take a polygraph test on, and challenge any adversary to do the same. By the way, isn't it interesting that polygraphs are not admissible in court, yet breathalyzer tests are—and polygraphs are proven to be FAR more accurate. I'll tell you why in later columns.

(4) There will be no "sacred cows" in my column! Not politics, religion, gender, race, age, etc., NOTHING! We're going to lay the facts on the table and let the chips fall where they may.

(5) The first few columns will mainly be about "my story" because you have requested it. I will reveal plainly the following things:

(A) Shawnee State University is "ONE SICK PUPPY." I devoted 20 years of my blood, sweat, and tears to SSU and I love this school. However, the present president, CLIVE VERI, hasn't a clue as to how a dynamic, academic freedom university is administered and is simply "an old elephant looking for a place to die" with a "golden parachute" contract issued by a "suck-up" board of trustees. He has surrounded himself with such people as Dr. Mangus and Lawyer Donohue who are big-time "DUD'S."

(B) The SEA (union), long run by Dr. Ed Miner has been highly destructive to SSU's development. Even Vern Riffe knew this, but due to the huge backing of labor unions state-wide, his hands were tightly tied. But you must understand that that's another major problem. Ed Miner came here (even though we tried to hire an Afro-American female sociologist who simply got far too many better offers) with a completely labor union background and mentality.

Fine, but there is a complete difference between labor union techniques and university faculty procedures. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) recognized this long ago. SSU should have AAUP in the beginning but Miner and a majority of community-college faculty completely unqualified to be four year faculty strongly opposed it, and literally "held SSU hostage."

In case I sound anti-union, just the opposite is true. I believe relentlessly in the benefits that unions have given the grass roots American and even unionized my own grandfather's grocery when I was 19. He went to his grave never forgiving me and I loved him dearly—But I still did what I had to do. He was wrong.

(6) I will further reveal how the judicial and lawyer/legal system of this county is even more gutter/sewer than most of the rest of the nation. I have experienced it first-hand. Mario Puzo, author of the *Godfather*, quoted that, "the judges of this country sell themselves like the whores in the streets." He was right—and so do 95% of the lawyers. I'll show you the many ways it's done.

(7) Whether you know it or not, you are living in almost a complete POLICE STATE. Law enforcement officers are the major fraternity in this country and extremely loyal to one another. I'll show you both how, and why.

(8) I'll reveal the tremendous myth about "alcoholism" and how it is used for giant profits in the USA. Of course we have alcoholics but wait until you hear the "rest of the story."

(9) Almost every constitutional right I have has been flagrantly violated these past four years, but SSU and law-enforcement have used their tremendous powers to "shut me up" in both local courts and federal district court in Cincinnati. I'll "prove" it to you.

(10) The IRS has long been our version of the Gestapo, but at least we are closing in on them. STAY TUNED! What I'll write here might even get a "hit" put out on me; but I don't mind, a quick death would put me out of my misery.

In the meantime, "GET YOUR CHILDREN OFF THE STREETS!"

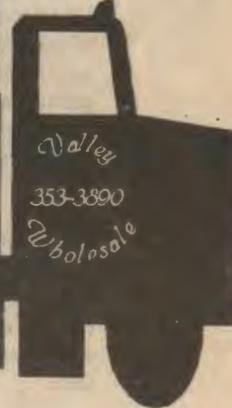
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# Shooting Craps and Drinking Coffee

By Ben Jonson

"Hey Jonson, whaddya doin?, Ya still going to Floodwall Tech?," asked my old friend Tiny Turgleson, as I walked into the Floodwall Cafe for a cup of coffee between classes last Thursday afternoon. Tiny (so named because he is 6' 4" and is 389 pounds of muscle) was tending bar, and as usual, was ready to give forth generously from his great reservoir of wisdom. Nothing selfish about Tiny, he will always give you something.

"Tiny, you know Clive changed the name to Shawnee State University long ago when he took over and decreed that Tech is a dirty four letter word," I said. "Culture is the word now," I added, "We've even got Pambookian."

"Yeah, I went there too, you know. Back when it was a community college...got a degree in business management. It was a decent place for a kid to go then. No big whiskey parties then, no off campus drunks spinning around in the parking lots, or trying to hit on the young lady students... and if President Taylor did drink, and I don't know that he ever did....., he was smart enough not to do it in front of the students and tantalize them with all that high priced liquor."

"Tiny," I asked, "what do you have against Clive drinking whiskey on campus besides tantalizing the students with select liquors and possibly getting them killed by drunken drivers?"

Tiny said, "I was to one of those wing-dings over at the Art Center not long and I was disgusted. Clive had a nice bar going; while I was trying to get a reload on my Pepsi a foul-mouthed lady who already had had too much cursed me and elbowed me out of the way in her hurry to get another double-double of Jack Daniels Green Label. I don't need to tell you her name, but she is a local political figure and an elite, you can figure it out yourself. Also, the head man, or director was making googly eyes at one of the serving ladies, she was trying to ignore him. The whole bunch is nauseating; that's why my kids are going to Ohio U. Also when they get a degree from OU, people won't be asking them, where is Ohio University?"

"Also," continued Tiny, "I'm sick and tired of that gang of scoundels over on campus competing with me in the entertainment and beverage business. I have to pay big taxes, buy licenses, furnish all my own equipment and help while they take the tax money I pay and use it to help put me out of business."



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"Why, just last week one my regular top-shelf customers was in and told me about how he was high up in society now. Seems like he was invited to an elegant birthday party on a Saturday night in the art center lobby; there were 180 people served at the fanciest tables, and they were served with the finest of everything. Said he was in the elite crowd, all the top people in town were invited, names like Max Warnock, BJ. Riley and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mangus were on the list. I believe he told me the party was on November 1st. And hear this, the party was held for George Clayton, member of the university board of trustees. Jeez, how they waste our money, and they always got their hands out, begging more. It makes me puke, just thinking about them," said Tiny.

Tiny had had enough of talking about parties, and he was beginning to look ill when he asked me, "What courses you taking next quarter?"

I told him I will be taking a course in Civil War history; I explained it was one of those courses that didn't count toward any degree, and probably wouldn't even qualify as an elective; it had apparently been designed only to give extra money to Larry Mangus, the instructor, who also happens to be the vice-president of student affairs, and is already taking \$88,482 out of the taxpayer's pockets this year.

Tiny exploded, "What in the hell would Larry Mangus know about teaching a course about a war! From what I know, when the men went to VietNam, Larry stayed in college until the fighting was all over."

I said, "Well, Tiny, Larry can't do any worse as an instructor than what he has done as an administrator; also, he probably needs the extra \$1,200. You know how hard it is get along on only \$88,482 a year." ●●●

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**Editors note: Ed Ciraso is now the best dressed letter writer in town, he has three new suits.**

**TO THE CITIZENS OF SCIOTO COUNTY**

I'm sure by now you have read about my being sued by Mr. Leadingham, Chief Stone, and his son-in-law Mark Darby.

The heart of these suits is that I have defamed their character. I find this extremely entertaining. In my opinion, how can you defame the character of Mr. Leadingham? He is in prison, serving time for sex crimes against minors. Then we have Chief Stone and Mark Darby. How can you defame the character of these two when they had none to begin with?

I have heard that Chief Stone has a letter from a certain young lady saying that he didn't do all those things that she took the polygraph on and passed. Chief Stone will need a lot more than that letter, believe me! I spoke with this young woman back in the spring. She certainly didn't tell me he didn't do those things to her. Mr. Stone will have a lot of questions to answer in the cross petitions that will be filed, as well as Mark Darby.

Concerning Mr. Darby's suit, it states that, "he has always maintained a reputation in Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio, and the surrounding community and among his peers for honesty, integrity and good character." Let's see now, I wonder which of these qualities made him out of control at the county court house and scream all those defaming words at me. And which of those fine qualities sent him to the county jail, late at night and with Attorney Mike Mearan to try to get the release of the wife of one of his probationers. When he couldn't get her out he lost control of himself and threatened physical harm to Sgt. Crabtree and had to be forced onto the elevator by Mike Mearan. Think of this for a moment. Here is a man, about 5'10", 155lbs. threatening to whip another man, about 6'6" and 420 lbs. Now if that doesn't show your mind is messed up, I would like to know what does. Then there is the incident at Portsmouth Raceway Park. We'll get to that some other time, like in the cross petitions.

Citizens of Scioto County, it is now time for you to come forward and be heard. We now have these people where we want them—in court trying to defend their "Good Character." Sounds crazy doesn't it? Let me explain. There are many of you who have either been a victim or you know someone who has been their victim. You have seen the criminal justice system do nothing. You were afraid to come forward because of their power. You no longer need to fear their power. Their power has been "Watered Down" by the exposure they have received with my hand. There will never be a better time than now to rid Scioto County of these "abusers of authority."

Any trials will not be heard by judges of this county. There will not be a prosecutor to help them manipulate the trial as there was in Municipal Court.

I was notified by a friend in Columbus that we are making the TV news. There has been an investigative reporter here from the Columbus Dispatch. We are being watched by news organizations outside our county. This is what we need. The *Daily Times* even decided to jump in, on the wrong side, but they will have to stay with the developments or be left out.

I hope this shows you that you can help make these people accountable for what they have done. This will also send a clear message to any other officials that we will not tolerate these acts any longer.

You can reach me at 858-2605. If I am not home, leave a message. Your call will be returned.

Ed Ciraso

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This includes Shawnee State University but no administrator here would ever tell you.

Any student who believes that anyone at Shawnee State University has discriminated against them, or someone they know, may file a complaint by writing to the U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, 111 NORTH CANAL STREET, ROOM 1053, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7204 or FAX # (312) 353-4888.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will promptly respond by mailing to you the proper forms, guidelines and explanations of what to do. It is all easy to read and easy to do. If you would rather call than write the phone number for OCR in Chicago is (312) 886-8434. It's okay to call, they're friendly.

It is not necessary to complain to any other person or agency before filing with the OCR, and filing with OCR does not hinder you from filing suit for damages in court actions.

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## Family Abduction

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Shawn Mills



Peggy Mills



Birth: 10/12/86 Race: White  
 Missing: 4/15/97 Ht: 4'05" Wt: 86lbs  
 Eyes: Brown Hair: Blonde Sex: Female  
 Missing From: Portsmouth, OH  
 Age Now: 10 Yrs United States

Birth: 12/2/87 Race: White  
 Missing: 4/15/97 Ht: 4'04" Wt: 52lbs  
 Eyes: Brown Hair: Blonde Sex: Male  
 Missing From: Portsmouth, OH  
 Age Now: 9 Yrs United States

**Abductor**  
 Birth 11/27/60 Race: White  
 Ht: 5'04" Wt: 106lbs Sex: Female  
 Eyes: Blue Hair: Blonde

Shawn and Samantha Mills were abducted by their non-custodial mother, Peggy Sue Mills. A felony warrant for Interference with Custody was issued on 4/28/97. Abductor may be driving a black 1983 4-door, Ford LTD with OH plates.



### ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678

OR

Scioto County Sheriff's Office (Ohio) -- Missing Persons Unit

1-614-354-7566

### FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR LEAVES TOWN



Audrey Clay

By Austin Leedom, *Shawnee Sentinel* Reporter

Audrey Clay, SSU Financial Aid Director, left the campus on Nov. 12, 1997. She had a contract for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998 that would have paid her \$68,158.

Mrs. Clay oversaw the recent catastrophe in student finances during fall registration with hundreds of students standing in long lines day after day. Students accounts were so fouled-up that some students got into classes late, or not at all; many had no funds for books or housing; many students became so disgusted they simply left without entering classes; and many who did finally get their funds have decided that this will be their final quarter at SSU. Mrs. Clay was recruited by Larry Mangus, VP of student affairs, who had worked with her at Bluefield W V. Her major studies were in biology, business and guidance counseling. Last month she was awarded a \$947 bonus for exceptional performance. No reason was given for her departure. ☺☺

### PROFESSOR CHARGES PERJURY

By Austin Leedom, *Shawnee Sentinel* Reporter



Elinda Boyles

Sports Education Professor Tom Bowman has charged Elinda Boyles, SSU director of personnel with perjury, and has asked Scioto County Prosecuting Attorney Lynn Grimshaw to pursue criminal action against Mrs. Boyles, according to the professor who told reporters that she gave false testimony in federal hearings and in interrogatories that she submitted to the court.

A series of federal hearings has been held in connection with civil actions filed by the professor who claims he was sexually harassed, and demoted by Dean of Education Jessica Jahnke. His demotion in Jan. 1995 came soon after he received awards from the SSU President for outstanding performance in education programs development. Mrs. Boyles is to be deposed this month in Columbus.

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