

City Council: Lee's alleged behavior called 'unethical'

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"He read it and seemed agitated," Johnston said. "And I just kind of put my head down, and I saw him take a couple of them out of boxes, which is, you know, clearly not only unethical, but it's most probably illegal."

Lee, however, said he only took fliers out of the recycling bin underneath the mailboxes and never touched the boxes themselves.

"I figure [the recycling bin] is trash," Lee said. "I needed some copies for myself. I needed to defend myself."

Lee said it was most likely Williamson who pulled the fliers out of the boxes earlier in the day.

"It was my understanding that [it was] Jen [Williamson], because it didn't go through her; she pulled them out around lunchtime," he said.

Lee said Williamson, who was unavailable for comment, tries to keep some track of what goes through the mailboxes.

"I think she tries to monitor it. She happened to see these ones," he said.

Johnston and Masat said Lee, who served as ASUO president from 1992-93, should be faced with discipline for the actions they said they witnessed.

"The fact that he's running for public office and thinks he can censor things that point out negative aspects of his character and his candidacy is highly, highly unethical," Johnston said.

The flier in question, modified after Lee's own literature, tells voters to "beware" of the candidate and tries to refute many of Lee's previous claims, including that he has a master's degree.

Lee said he projects to receive a degree in 1996 from the University but admits some of his fliers could be misleading.

"I was projecting that I'll be graduating soon," he said. "I certainly didn't mean it to imply that I already had [the degree]."

He said the fliers' claims are false and are a product of three people with a personal vendetta against him, including a 42-year-old man who has stalked him for eight months.

Mohammad Fooladi, Lee said, has followed him to class and sat outside his apartment off and on for almost a year. Lee said an acquaintance of his saw Fooladi photocopying the fliers in question at a local store.

"He has a personal vendetta against me," Lee said. "Sometimes, I feel very vulnerable."

It still remains to be seen whether the fliers, which have been seen at other locations on campus, will have an effect on the upcoming election. Lee, however, said the results aren't the most important thing to him.

"I'd rather lose this election telling the public the true Bobby Lee instead of lies and deceit," Lee said.

Johnston and Masat, who stand by their story, said such actions by candidates are becoming more prevalent.

"We don't need that on the City Council," Masat said. "We have enough problems in this city without electing another."

"Do [these candidates] think that they are above other people, that they can use their positions to manipulate what people are getting access to?"

Lee, however, said he has sourced on campaigning as well, albeit from a different perspective.

"I always believed in providing public service," he said. "But when I have to face these types of things that are based on intimidation and lies, I can see why people don't run for public office. But I'm willing to give it a shot."

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