

31st & Pearl

By George

The autumn of EFIB chair George Carter's career is probably not going the way he thought it would several years ago. Sure, he's back "in the administration game," but things are so different now from the way things were in the '70s and '80s that being back in the game is likely little consolation for Carter. Now, Carter is working under a new dean in Lance Nail, an individual who sources tell USMNEWS.net is a straight-shooter, and someone who genuinely wants to make the CoB a more respected place nationwide. Carter, on the other hand, seems content in maintaining the status quo. Of course, that means bad trades (e.g., Melody Lo and Sunny Wong for Sami Dakhliya and Akbar Marvasti) and secret deals with marginal faculty (e.g., informing IB's John Lambert that he would be moved off of a visiting track after publishing something, which Lambert did, and was).

Just imagine administrative team meetings – Nail, associate dean Joseph Peyrefitte, Carter, and interim MGT & MKT chair David Duhon. With SAIS director Steven Jackson sitting down at the coast (wearing Hawaiian prints), that's about all who rightly qualify as the "administrative team" these days. As such, that puts Carter right in the face of Duhon, the man Carter said should never have been promoted to full professor (Carter actually said Duhon belongs in a junior college, but that's another story for another day). It also has Carter sitting in front of Nail, the man who dares to change the CoB, and for the better. Things are probably even worse than this. With such a small administrative team these days, Nail probably invites as many individuals as he can to team meetings, even if only to populate the dean's conference table. That would mean new interim Director of Grad Services, Donna Davis, and possibly Gwen Pate, the Director of Undergraduate Services. Listening to Davis is enough to spread cream cheese icing over anyone's eyes, even Carter's. Seeing Pate only reminds Carter of all of the "inefficiency in staff" Carter so despises, even publicly.

No, these aren't Carter's glory days. They are mainly about money now, particularly the PERS account. There is also only one more fork in the road left. This one leads to somewhat of a graceful exit into retirement, or as much as possible for one given all that has occurred, or an on-the-way-out crescendo of coalition-building and obstruction that could leave the CoB in tatters and Carter's reputation further in the red. Right now all anyone can do is hope for the former, while expecting the latter.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.