

## *31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl*

### **What is it with the CoB's Economists and Prepared Statements?**

The 2006-07 academic year went out like the lion it rode in on. What began with an ill-advised, unannounced prepared statement read by EFIB Chairman George Carter ended with an ill-advised, unannounced prepared statement read by assistant professor of economics Sami Dakhli. Of course, Carter's statement back in September of 2006 overturned a legitimate faculty governance choice in the EFIB, and became a major contributor in what has to be the lowest point in the history of the CoB. Dakhli's so-called resolution of May 2007 proved that it's always possible for things to sink even further in the CoB.

Where do we go from here? Normally one would think that the summer would bring a calmness to things, but not likely so this time. USM's College of Business is in the midst of its most serious "termination" run in history. No fewer than three, and as many as five or more, CoB faculty have been handed terminal letters over the past 12 months. That's Harold Doty's baby, but its new guardian is Interim Dean Alvin Williams. It will be interesting to see what William's does with this particular situation that he has adopted.

Right now the most contentious and problematic member of the CoB is none other than Carter, whose malevolent reign precedes Williams, dating back to the middle of the Doty era. Carter seems to be at the center of every scandal that hits the CoB now, and the problems that surround him seem to be escalating. Not only has Williams not done anything about Carter, the first prepared statement writer/reader, Carter seems to be spawning new recruits like a bad horror flick, as evidenced by Dakhli's first mission for the CoB's notorious political machine. If the CoB's downfall ever does make it to Hollywood, it'll take James Cameron's direction, Céline Dion's musical talents, and a cast including Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet to get it right.

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*31st & Pearl is a series housed at [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.*