

31st & Pearl

Notorious D.H.D.

The storm of allegations of administrative cover-up swirling around the Penn State University campus regarding acts of child molestation perpetrated by former PSU football coach Jerry Sandusky provides an extreme example of just how polluted higher education administration has become in recent years. Former PSU president Graham Spanier and other high-ranking administrators in his administration appear to have covered up, for more than a decade, the dastardly acts of one of their own. Of course, this was all done to protect their reputations and their places at the public trough, key elements in their desire for a cushy lifestyle.



While the PSU story is extreme, American academe seems to be overrun with administrators who use their lofty positions to further their own economic circumstances, and those of their cronies. Many also use these positions as “a club over the head” of the rank-and-file, who are often helpless in their attempts to redress situations wherein they fall prey to malicious administrators. Of course, this helplessness stems from organizational rules that also put these same administrator-predators in adjudicatory positions over episodes in which they are alleged to have committed heinous acts.

Former CoB dean Duane Harold Doty, pictured above, likely comes to the minds of thousands of people in academe given his infamous runs at USM (2003-09) and the University of Texas-Tyler (2009-present), two places where he served as b-school dean. The new USMNEWS.net series on Jeremy and Karen St. John’s victimizations at the hands of Doty and his UT-T cronies is only the latest chapter in the horror story that has been Doty’s academic career. Wherever Doty appears, chaos is sure to follow. For those in academia who are interested in learning more about the valley into which higher education administration is sinking, this new series is certainly one to watch.

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