

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

## **The Carter Doctrine**

It's been about 10 years since EFIB chair George Carter's first stint as a department chair ended – and badly. CoB lore has it that Carter was the only USM “official” seated at the surrender table as Trellis Green brought an end to the assault on his own prospects for promotion to associate professor. As the story goes, Carter was pushed to the fore by other administrators when the pursuit of Green had reached its lowest point, and USM conceded defeat.

It seems almost self-defeating that current CoB Dean Harold Doty would recall Carter back into service, but he has. What the CoB discovered on 19 September 2006, if it hadn't known this already (and it should have), is that George Carter is truly the “Smiling Assassin,” and he will do whatever he has to in order to maintain the secrecy of malfeasance in the CoB. The administrative skullduggery that Carter orchestrated that day, facing a capacity crowd of EFIBists, along with Management Professor David Duhon, who listened in from the hallway outside of the JGH meeting room, will likely go down as a defining moment in the waning chapters of the story of the CoB's more “productive days.” Now that things in the CoB are so bizarre, the fact that Carter graduated (twice) from USM neither adds to nor subtracts from the episode.

What's left of the situation in the EFIB will now be mopped up by Carter and Niroomand, and passed out, first to Nissan, and then to the rest of the supporting cast. Who knows, maybe even Duhon will get a crumb or two for providing “in spirit” support from the Greene hallway. Here's one thing to factor in: Carter marshaled more than enough support to steal the original election --- so much, in fact, that at least one of the supporters will not be seated at the dinner table when that day gets here. Who won't be left out? That's the easier question to answer. Who will be? That's where it gets good. We think we know. The unseated few will have to consider this a lesson learned. Of course, that's only if they're lucky. Carter and Niroomand may have a worse fate in mind for some of them.