

31st & Pearl

The Life of Game

CoB Dean Harold Doty, and his Associate Dean sidekick Farhang Niroomand, are paid about \$300,000 (not including benefits), collectively, by the taxpayers of Mississippi. Yet, they never arrive to *work* at Greene Hall on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. Instead, they arrive at Greene Hall in the morning to *play*. The games of intrigue, suspense, and thrills start bright and early every day. Nothing gets in the way, except maybe lunch. You see, neither of them does any teaching. They're not really doing any research. They spend all day fabricating, triangulating, scheming, orchestrating, and all sorts of other "-ing" words, within their little fantasy world.

It might all be comical, if it weren't so sad. Mississippians deserve better out of their higher education administrators. USM alumni deserve better. CoB alumni and current students deserve so much more. They, the CoB alumni and students, won't likely get anything better out of the current bunch that "runs" the CoB. Right now AACSB Reaffirmation is in serious doubt, shared governance lies in the trash bin, and any vestiges of academic rigor have long since been run through Doty's \$500 shredder.

Nowadays, with all of the looming problems, the push from Doty is for online this and that, mid-level administrators are contriving quirky teaching "overloads" to help supporting faculty who are in their "PERS window," while Niroomand makes another expensive "academic visit" to Atlanta, where he stays with family and friends and puts a few hundred miles on his car's odometer. The CoB's administrators are locked into the life of game, and the collateral damage is escalating.

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