

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

**Dear Ernie,**

Judging from your e-mail response to my summer 2006 assignments, you're going to have to develop a thicker skin to get along around here. I did give two people, Ed and Charles, course releases for the summer. Ed gets one because he's my research buddy. He and I pump out a lot of stuff together, and we brag about it to others when we go to conventions. Charles is helping me write Larry's terminal letter, as well assisting me with other administrative duties for the EFIB. You're neither of these scholars. In fact, quite the opposite – you're too much like Tom.

You're going to need to get a callus over this one quick. I'm about to send out raise figures from the spring 2006 administrative team meeting. I have a feeling you're not going to like yours so much. Publications are the coin of the realm around here. Get those, and things like reduced teaching loads and nice raises will come your way. Oh, and don't bring up Frank's name when building your arguments. He's not that good. Just ask Charles, he can explain why better than I can. Before I forget, we need to sit down and talk about your spring 2007 teaching schedule. I'm going to need you five days a week.

In case you didn't know this, Farhang doesn't like you too much. And, since he and I work real well together from an administrative standpoint, the summer schedule didn't come out in your favor. It may not be right, and it might be unacceptable, and there may be a certain injustice to it, but that's the way it is, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm either on the team, or I'm not on the team. I hope you understand where I'm coming from, and can appreciate it. Give your wife and kids my regards.

Best,

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