

31st & Pearl

'All About Aubrey'

If you've been following [reports and editorials](#) here at USMNEWS.net about the problems b-school faculty at the University of Houston –Victoria are having with their dean, [Farhang Niroomand](#), it must be a little like déjà vu all over again. Niroomand was the proverbial bull in a china shop while he served as associate dean of the CoB at USM from 1998 to 2007. Some say that it would take a team of experts to calculate the total damage to lives and liberty caused by Niroomand, his superior Harold Doty, and all of the minions who served the two of them during their 2003-07 reign.

Whether or not [Renu Khator](#), the chancellor and president of the UH System, will ever make a phone call or two to Hattiesburg to learn more about Niroomand remains to be seen. Of course, that should have happened in 2009, when Niroomand was hired, but back then UH-V was under the control of Tim Hudson, Niroomand's old friend and former USM provost under [Shelby Thames](#). Still, calls could be made now, even if only to build a case for ousting Niroomand. Current USM president [Martha Saunders](#) would be an easy call. Doty and Niroomand "resigned" about the same time in 2007 that Saunders was announced as the new USM president. Surely Saunders has some details. Thames and his former provost, [Jay Grimes](#), are also still around USM. With what they know about Niroomand's activities during their reign (2002-07), they could probably co-write a multi-volume series.

Yet, perhaps the best person for Khator to contact is former USM president, and current USM *president emeritus*, [Aubrey Lucas](#). Niroomand was rank-and-file for much of the time that Lucas was president. Still, Lucas had occasion, at least according to many of the oral histories regarding that time, to hear stories about Niroomand's antics in the old College of Business Administration. Perhaps he could recount all, or parts, of the so-called "Bobbing for Bs" story. Hearing how Niroomand behaved as rank-and-file could inform Khator's assessment of how Niroomand has practiced his position as UH-V business school dean.

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.