

## *Editorial*

### **Administrators First (Continued)**

A couple of days ago we reported on an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. In [“Better Ways to Battle the Silent Epidemic,”](#) Simon Williams, argues:

that introducing universal mental-health checks for schoolchildren could reap significant social, health, and economic benefits. The same argument applies to the college population. The earlier we identify burgeoning problems, the more likely we are to prevent them from developing into clinically diagnosable problems, the costs of which are far greater.

The comments to the article continued after usmnews.net’s editorial. Here are a couple of them:

**Marc DePree** • 3 days ago

A place to start mental-health screening is with school administrators. They can lead by example.

Chauncey M. DePree, Jr., DBA, Professor (retired after 30+ years in higher ed),  
University of Southern Mississippi

**rrbelloff** • 2 days ago Thumbs up. Hilarious.

**Marc DePree** • a day ago Humor often draws on reality. Here’s a little reality: We have deposed many administrators, that is, extensively questioned them under oath. See details at usmnews.net.

Gwen Pate comes to mind in this context. She's currently an associate dean at the College of Business, University of Southern Mississippi. Given the concern about campus violence, and that Gwen Pate is an administrator and may have to take action to protect students and faculty, the following dialogue is a pitiful reminder that administrators need mental health screening.

- Q. Did you ever contact campus security regarding Dr. Depree [in Pate’s opinion, “a Virginia Tech danger who could snap”]?
- A. No.
- Q. Did anybody ever tell you that you should call campus security if you had an issue regarding your personal safety?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever request assistance of campus security?

A. No.

Q. Has Dr. Depree ever threatened you?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever seen him threaten anybody else?

A. Not threaten anybody else.

Q. Has he ever sworn at you?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever seen him swear at anybody?

A. No.

Not only does Gwen Pate hinder efforts to find ways to identify violent people, she makes it more difficult by making false accusations to fulfill a personal vendetta. If mental health screening is needed, her own sworn testimony is exhibit A for starting with administrators.

Of the deposed administrators, she's far from the only one.