

Air it Jordan

A Guest Editorial by **Victoria Tyler**

In his 20-Sept-2011 [letter to the editor](#) of *The Student Printz* entitled “Student Eagle Club seating,” USM student Jordan Moore goes all out in explaining how the USM administration’s handling of game day seating for the new Student Eagle Club has been divisive and demoralizing. Moore opens his letter with: “The Student Eagle Club is a good idea. The way they’re attracting members isn’t.” To boost membership, the new Student Eagle Club (SEC) secured the assistance of the USM administration in altering seating in the student section at M.M. Roberts Stadium (i.e., “the Rock”) in order to provide SEC members priority seating. As Moore sums it up,

“Think back to April last year when registration started for Student Eagle Club and ‘priority’ seating for students. Sure, one line in the April 12th edition of the student newspaper might suffice for publicity, but it obviously wasn’t enough because the club took promotional visits to various sororities and fraternities during the spring to help them sign up. Not to mention offering to allow all the Student Eagle Club Greeks to sit together in the lower section. Then, at the beginning of the semester, advocates of the club proceeded to promote it to freshmen at GEWW. Finally, a few signs were placed around campus and it was mentioned in emails so the general student population could learn about it. Congratulations on creating unity.”

It seems that after a one-sentence mention in *The Student Printz* back in April-2011, the SEC took to fraternity row to extol the benefits – block seating for fraternities and sororities – of SEC membership. The result was predictable – Greek system-dominated premium seating in the student section at the Rock. As Moore concludes, and clearly sarcastically, “[c]ongratulations on creating [student body] unity.” Clearly, this jab was pointed at USM associate athletics director Jeff Hammond, SEC advocate Chad Foote, and, ultimately, USM president Martha Saunders, who has bragged about the plan in public settings.

Moore’s letter is eye-opening on several counts. For long-time readers of USMNEWS.net, it seems a lot like *déjà vu* all over again. Time and again USMNEWS.net [reports](#), editorials and [letters](#) have made clear that Saunders is [mostly about](#) creating [the USM](#) she wishes [she could have](#) experienced back in the late 1960s. A new seating policy that favors the Greek system? Imagine that. Saunders wasn’t exactly one of the cool kids back at USM, but things are different now that she’s the university’s chief executive, and, thus, is clearly part of the *in* crowd. Whether it’s “demographics-based” [on-campus housing](#) plans, [handing out](#) “free” Samsung Galaxy Tabs [to the popular](#) guys and gals of the USM Student Government Association, or providing premium football game day enjoyment to the university’s Greeks, Saunders is up to the task. Perhaps one day, after [Saunders](#) has molded USM into the college of her dreams, she’ll take to the sky in her \$2 million Beechcraft airplane and marvel at the wonder of it all.