

Ball's Law

A Guest Editorial by C. Anna Hall

"No one likes to feel as if he or she is a second class citizen and/or that favorites are being played – particularly when the money is being paid, at least in part, with everyone's tuition dollars."

Anonymous Reader, 25-August-2011

In a recent interview, USM student [Garrett Ball expressed](#) to *The Student Printz* how many people, including the anonymous reader who provided the above quote, feel about the Samsung Galaxy Tab™ 10.1 Tablet pilot program – one that will cost Mississippi taxpayers more than \$500,000 this year. As he explained to *TSP*, he feels like the USM administration has simply "given up" on all but a relatively small portion of its students, having chosen to award SGA officials, Southern Style members, various USM-Gulf Coast students, and others with very nice pieces of new technology. Garrett even astutely likened the Martha Saunders administration's action vis-à-vis these computer tablets to a thought from Mark Twain. That is, as Garrett pointed out, "everything has its limit – iron ore cannot be educated into gold."

Ball's observation hits the sober reality of the mess that Saunders is making of the institution, in this case pitting privileged student government and Southern Style students against most of the remaining student body, save a few honors students, McNair scholars, and other lucky souls in Long Beach. In selecting these relatively few winners, Saunders violated "Ball's Law" – don't favor some students over others, or better yet, don't pit some students against others – and turned the vast majority of USM's students into second class citizens. Of course, that point is already made – again, by the anonymous reader quoted above.

Once more we have a story that harkens back to the Aug-2010 USMNEWS.net [editorial entitled](#) "Grin and Bear Her." There, an anonymous writer instructed us all about how Saunders, as president of USM, is attempting to relive her college days (also at USM), only this time how she wishes those prior days had occurred. In doing so, she's now cozying up to the privileged SGA students and other popular segments of the overall student body – segments she wishes she had been more a part of during her decades on campus 40 years ago. What better way than to cozy up than with millions of taxpayers' dollars going to provide Samsung tablets to members of the "in" crowd?