

CoB News, 16 October 2008

New Jack CoB?

The now one-year old **CoB News, 9 October 2007** story entitled [New Jack CoB](#) described just how dicey things in the CoB got during the Harold Doty and Alvin Williams administrations of USM's College of Business. Now, it appears as though the bad things have gotten worse *and* have spread out across USM's campus in general. That indication comes from the 14-Oct-08 bulletin from USM public safety officials (shown below) alerting the USM family to an armed robbery that occurred at Seymour's in the R.C. Cook Union Building.

University of Southern Mississippi Police report that at approximately 9:45 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008, a store manager at Seymour's in R.C. Cook Union was robbed at gunpoint. The suspect is a black male, approximately 5'9", 150 lbs. and was last seen wearing gray dress slacks and a blue button down shirt. The suspect took an undetermined amount of money and fled on foot. Any persons with information should contact the University Police at 601-266-4986.

Members of the USM family are now getting what seems to be a clear indication that the Martha Saunders administration is *confused*, at best, when it comes to [providing](#) a safe and productive [campus environment](#) within which to learn and work. Past reports of [alcohol-related hazing](#), which left a USM co-ed in intensive care for an extended period, and the dramatic rise in booze-related [traffic citations](#) likely leave USM students, parents and alumni wondering about the future of the institution.

“Nail’s Days” – An Editorial by Duane Cobb

Like many of you, I want to be hopeful about the new Lance Nail administration of the CoB. But, also like many of you, I was hopeful about the administration of former interim dean Alvin Williams. Look where that got us. Let's be clear – I don't think we will ever put Nail anywhere near the category we might put Williams. But, with every day that Nail has department chairs like George Carter (EFIB), David Duhon (MGT & MKT) and Steven Jackson (ACC), another day is lost to reform and progress. Pretty soon we'll be months into this administration, and with the same good ol' boy network standing in the way. There is so much good work to be done isn't it time that work begins?

Like the Dickens?

Even if USM constituents did not need another reason to be concerned with the Martha Saunders administration's ability to lead the institution into the future (see story above) they got one via John Dickens' 15-Oct-08 letter to *The Hattiesburg American* about Saunders' decision to fire former USM head football coach Jeff Bower. Dickens points out that Saunders should have perhaps fired USM Athletics Director Richard Giannini instead of Bower, given that Bower's hand-picked replacement, Larry Fedora, currently has the Golden Eagles at 2-4 on the season, which Dickens

notes is the worst 6-game record in the past 15 seasons. Dickens also reminds USM fans that the loss to Boise State last Saturday marked the third consecutive home loss for USM, a mark that has not been seen in Hattiesburg since 1977.

Dickens' letter to *THA* is inserted below:

Maybe USM fired the wrong person

October 15, 2008

It seems that the wrong person was fired from the Southern Miss athletics department in 2007. The man in charge of hiring a head football coach, Richard Giannini, should have been, and should still be, fired instead of Coach Bower. Coach Bower had 14 consecutive winning seasons at USM. His team played in 10 bowl games, had a 92 percent graduation rate, four Conference USA championships. He was selected as Conference USA Coach of the Decade. What does a coach have to do to satisfy an athletic director? This just might be the grossest act of injustice a man will ever have to face! And I think Coach Bower handled this injustice like a professional. Mr. Giannini's reason for firing Coach Bower was that he wanted to move the football program forward. The Golden Eagles are 2-4 for the first time in 14 years. The Eagles haven't lost three consecutive home games since 1977. It looks as if the program is moving backwards! Does anyone see this as progress? I don't think so!

John Dickens

Wiggins