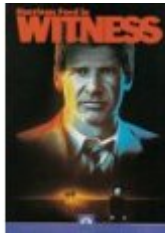


CoB Life Imitates Art

by Duane Cobb

The “Doty incident.” That’s what they’re calling the altercation involving former CoB Dean Harold Doty, a co-defendant in a federal court case, and another CoB faculty member, who sources say testified in a proceeding comprising a portion of that case. And, with that, you have life in USM’s College of Business imitating art.

Think of the 1985 Peter Weir film classic, *Witness*. The film begins with a young Amish boy witnessing a crime that occurs in a public restroom in Philadelphia. The young boy fingers a narcotics agent in the precinct, and becomes the target of that agent and the Police Chief, a co-conspirator in the crime.



The boy and his mother come under the protection of Detective John Book, played by Harrison Ford. Book and the Amish family head to Lancaster County, where they hide out in hopes of avoiding conflict with the conspirators. Ultimately, the conspirators locate Book and the boy in Amish country, where a major confrontation occurs, from which Book is victorious.

At its heart, *Witness* is the story of an extreme case of witness tampering. The young Amish boy, Samuel, stumbles upon something he could never have imagined, and becomes the central figure, as the only witness to key events, in a web of corruption. Move over to the CoB, to

events of 28 September 2007. Weir couldn’t have orchestrated an episode any better than Doty did on that day. Just the day before Doty and more than 10 other co-defendants sat in federal court listening to the testimony of a young Amish boy of sorts – the “other CoB faculty member,” that is. According to sources, that testimony, along with testimony from others, was compelling. It spoke to bullying and retribution meted out by CoB administrators, past and present.



Then, as sources indicate, Doty stood face-to-face with the young Amish boy (i.e., the “other CoB faculty member”) in the hallway of USM’s b-school the very next day. Doty couldn’t help himself. His temper flared. He lashed out and threatened the lad. The altercation is reported to authorities. Two parallel investigations are launched. The boy (i.e., the “other CoB faculty member”) goes into hiding, in fear for his safety.

Meanwhile, one of the investigations is being carried out by Doty’s co-defendant, as ordered by their superior, another co-defendant. Sources say that, as a result of the altercation – the “Doty incident” – witness tampering has occurred (which, in federal cases, is defined by statute at 18 U.S.C. § 1512). And the drama plays on.

Want to see what happens next? Don’t touch that URL.