

Imagine the Plotlines Manly Could Construct

by Duane Cobb

Do you ever imagine what *Quest for the Mace* author Theron Manly might write if he set out to produce a novel based around events in the CoB, 2003-present? Think about it – a whole book could be built around a number of recent events in “Gulf State University’s” College of Business. Take for example the “29-March-2007” resignations of former CoB Dean “Harlan Doughtry” and former Associate Dean “Firnaz Nasir.” Who resigns at (approximately) mid-semester? No one does, especially not for some tired excuse like “I wanted to get back to my teaching and research.” That stuff will be waiting at the end of the term. No need for a resignation midstream.



Imagine the intrigue that these surprise resignations could be based upon. A “USACSB” scandal of some sort? If so, one that threatens to bring down both the “USACSB” and the CoB if the CoB’s new Interim Dean “Alton Welford” can’t control it?

Don’t like that angle, what about one based on “Nasir’s” numerous “academic visits” to “Charlotte?” That angle could integrate “Nasir’s” visits each summer to his homeland in the Middle East, weaving in geopolitical drama on a grand scale. Or, if readers want local drama, a story could be woven about the “Mitchell” stronghold over the CoB’s School of Accounting. That

one would reach across campus to current CFO “Jon Mitchell,” and back to Grunge Hall to assistant professor of accounting “Monica Mitchell Atwood.” This story might incorporate documents and mysteries involving the GSU Foundation, a public organization that is currently claiming to be a private one.



What about a story about “Doughtry’s” 1990-1995 stint at “Walton University” that involves the former Dean’s relationship with associate professor of management “Kevin Zylstra,” who was also at Walton U, and “Zylstra’s” “4th Year Review” at GSU? Little is known about “Doughtry’s” departure from Walton U, and sources tell “GSUNews.net reporters” that no one on the “WU campus” wants to talk openly about it.

Or, what about one build around the story of why “Doughtry” chose to retain “Nasir” as Associate Dean, and why “Nasir” urged “Doughtry” to hire “Matthew Klondike” as chair of the “Department Economics Education, Financial Management, and International Commerce?” This story could center around the GSU CoB’s attempt to block the formation of a rival department in another GSU college.

Of course, who are we to tell Manly how to do it? Judging by his first effort, he seems to be quite capable on his own.