


King Air & Queen Martha

An Essay by **Victoria Tyler**

Shortly after the beginning of what has become known as The Great Recession, USM Queen (president) Martha Saunders signed a \$2 million lease for a Beechcraft King Air airplane. Since then, USM's budget has been cut \$10 million, and now the institution is looking at another cut, which could total \$15 million. In dealing with these cuts, Saunders has delivered almost 50 terminal contracts to various tenured/tenure-track faculty. As part of this saga, the entire economics program at USM was eliminated, resulting in the forced retirements of five senior economics faculty, and the departures of four other, more junior, economists. More recently, programs and faculty in philosophy, religion, languages, and information sciences have been hit.

Meanwhile, Saunders continues to live the life of a Queen, even at a cost of almost \$20,000 per month in lease payments for her King (Air). This essay examines the life of the King (Air), as told through various official documents that USMNEWS.net recently obtained from the Mississippi IHL. To begin with, we take a look at the castle (airplane hangar) that Saunders maintains (through Southeast Aviation Services, Inc.) for the King over the course of each year, as shown in the document below.



Purchase Order

USM Purchasing
2609 WEST 4TH STREET
HATTIESBURG MS 39401
United States

Vendor:0000038337
SOUTHEAST AVIATION SERVICES INC
29 ACADEMY DRIVE
HATTIESBURG MS 39401-7959

Dispatch via Print


Purchase Order	Date	Revision	Page
1067507	07/13/2010		1
Payment Terms	Freight Terms	Ship Via	
Net 30	FOB:Destin, frt prepd/chrq back	BESTWAY	
Buyer	Requisition #	Requestor	
Holder, Becky	000048566	Holder, Becky	
Ship To:	2609 WEST 4TH STREET HATTIESBURG MS 39401 United States		

Bill To: 118 COLLEGE DRIVE #S104
HATTIESBURG MS 39406-0001
United States

Line	Quantity	UOM	Item/Description	Unit Price	Extended Amt
1	12.00	EA	HANGAR RENTAL FROM JULY 200910 THROUGH JUNE 2011	300.00	3,600.00

PLEASE SEND CHECK WITH ORDER.

As the screen above indicates, the Saunders administration pays \$300 per month, or **\$3,600** per year, leasing the castle (hangar) for the King (Air). Next, the King's taste in wine (fuel) is expensive, as the document inserted below suggests.


Shell Aviatia

Closing Date 07/13/2010

Invoice Detail

Customer Number: [REDACTED] Unit of Strm MS
LISTING BY CARD NUMBER P.O. Box 5104
Hattiesburg, MS 39406


CARD NUMBER: *****3066

INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE DATE	MERCHANT NAME	LOCATION	DATA	PHONE NUMBER
106005	06/15/2010	Southeast Aviation	Hattiesburg, MS	H8G	(601) 544-8661
Tax	777AD	QUANTITY UNIT OF MEASURE DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT	TOTAL
		60.000 AG Jet A Fuel with Additive		3,940,000	197.00
Invoice Total					197.00
106006	06/21/2010	Southeast Aviation	Hattiesburg, MS	H8G	(601) 544-8661
Tax	777AD	QUANTITY UNIT OF MEASURE DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT	TOTAL
		218.000 AG Jet A Fuel with Additive		3,940,000	856.92
Invoice Total					856.92
106003	06/17/2010	Southeast Aviation	Hattiesburg, MS	H8G	(601) 544-8661
Tax	777AD	QUANTITY UNIT OF MEASURE DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT	TOTAL
		160.000 AG Jet A Fuel with Additive		3,940,000	630.40
Invoice Total					630.40
Total for Card *****3066					1,684.32

The screen above indicates that the King (Air) piled up a wine (fuel) bill of about **\$1,686** over just three charges in mid June-2010. Finally, the King (Air) requires a large staff of servants (mechanics), who keep him up and running each day. Of course, a staff like the King's doesn't come cheaply, as the documents below indicate.

Siltman Aircraft Company, LLC dba Jacobs Aircraft Company PO Box 10207 Jackson, MS 39289-0207		Invoice		
Bill To University of Southern Mississippi 118 College Dr # 4043 Hattiesburg MS 39406-0001		Date 11/17/2010	Invoice # 9357	
		Aircraft N777AQ		
		Payments/Credits \$0.00		
		Balance Due \$1,174.98		
	Tach Time	Terms	Due Date	
		Due on receipt	11/17/2010	
Service	Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
		Replace 2nd LT Main Tires, LT Main Tires Removed & Replaced, Wheel Haves Torqued, Wheel Assy's Reinstalled and Saffed		
	2	Shop Labor	75.00	150.00
	2	185F03-5 18X5.5 5-10 Tires	457.84	916.68
		Shipping Charges UPS Fed	109.30	109.30

The insert above shows that the King (Air) purchased new shoes (tires), perhaps from Italy (?), on 17-Nov-2010. These cost about \$916, and the cobblers (mechanics) charged the King (Air) another \$250 to fit them, raising the total bill to about **\$1,175**. The screen below shows that the King's servants (mechanics) provided special care on 1-Dec-2010, just in time for the Queen's (Saunders') trip to Louisville for a SACS meeting. This special day (1-Dec-2010) cost the kingdom (Mississippi) a total of about **\$4,522**.

 USM Purchasing 2609 WEST 4TH STREET HATTIESBURG MS 39401 United States	Purchase Order		Dispatch via Print		
	Vendor: 0000041277 DEAN AIRCRAFT SERVICE 2909 HIGHWAY 11 SOUTH MERIDIAN MS 39307	Buyer: Wyles, Cynthia Ship To: 2609 WEST 4TH STREET & HATTIESBURG MS 39401 United States	Purchase Order 1069082	Date 11/01/2010	Revision 1
		Payment Terms Net 30	Ship Via BESTWAY		
		Dept: Airplane Operations	Dept Id: 100011	Proj/Gmt:	
Tax Exempt? Y	Tax Exempt ID: 64-740188K	Dept: Airplane Operations	Dept Id: 100011	Proj/Gmt:	
Line	Quantity	UOM	Rem/Description	Unit Price	Extended Amt
1	35.75	HRS	Labor for repairs to airplane	75.00	2,681.25
2	1.00	EA	Miscellaneous parts for repairs to airplane	1,840.41	1,840.41
PER ESTIMATE #2 DATED 10/20/10					

The information provided in this essay shows how high above their subjects that the King (Air) and Queen (Saunders) reside. The real question now is: Why are their subjects so loyal?

