

# *Letters to the Editor*

Dear USMNEWS:

As usual Dr. Jackson has missed the point of the exercise. In your piece "O.B. SAIS Director Steven Jackson Responds to Jim Henderson's Absence," Jackson's email misses the point of Henderson's "sin"; it is not just using the department's administrative assistant in that manner, Henderson and all others should not use graduate assistants (GAs) in that way either. There is nothing wrong with using GAs to help proctor tests when the professor is present. There is risk exposure for the staff person or GA if a problem develops during a test and the professor is not there. This risk exposure can be eliminated by the professor, or another professor, being present for the test administration. Since the natural assumption is Henderson is playing golf - he certainly is not at an academic meeting - there is no reason for this. If Henderson cannot find a colleague to administer the test for him, that speaks to all of the accountants' professionalism and collegiality. It also yet again shows why a chair on the Coast does not work for Hattiesburg: Jackson is not here as a backstop to administer a test or see it is administered.

A related issue is why not address Henderson directly? Why an email? Why such a wimpy email? One explanation is Jackson is not tenured so he fears never being tenured if he upsets the old departmental dogs. That is a valid concern, especially in Accounting; therefore, that is one more reason why Jackson should never have been placed in the job.

Thank you for the consistently good reporting. Keep up the good work.

<name withheld by request>

**Note:** For background on the issue to which the reader refers, see [Fore Fouls](#) and [O.B.](#)