

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 29, 2007
To: Harry L. Mills
From: Duane Cobb
Re: "Resignation" of USM Head Football Coach Jeff Bower

Mr. Mills, it's difficult to read your 29 November 2007 letter to the editor of USM's *The Student Printz*, inserted just below, and **not** agree with the general spirit of it. For instance, I agree that Jeff Bower's departure was not really a

Letter to the Editor: Damage will be felt for years

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Bower resigning based on "mutual consent" with a third rate Athletic Director who has contributed nothing of significance to USM is a low point in the history of a University with which I have been affiliated since it changed from MSC to USM. Bower was fired. Lets not let them spin it. We had one of the winningest coaches in America who also brought class and integrity to USM. This represents the stupidest thing I have seen recently and the damage to USM will be felt for years to come as we return to a series of coaches who use USM as merely a stepping stone then abruptly leave for schools with decent budgets. If this new President has any guts she will fire the Athletic Director immediately and ask Bower to reconsider before he gets the kinds of salary offers he has always deserved.

Harry L. Mills

"resignation." It seems clear that Bower was forced out. And, we're in the company of famed Mississippi sports writer, Rick Cleveland, on that one. As far as AD Richard Giannini is concerned, he's been as much an anchor around USM's neck as he has been a positive influence on USM's athletics situation over the past decade.

Your letter misses the mark in one instance, however. That is, ADs don't fire coaches without the consent of University presidents. This means that presidents fire coaches, not ADs (i.e., tails don't wag dogs, it's the other way around). And,

if you had read President Martha Saunders' e-mail to the USM faculty, staff and students, you would recognize her as one of the chief spinners in this episode. That being said, your opinion of USM's "new" President is an inflated one, given that you don't believe she had anything to do with Bower's departure and that your idea is she should ask him to "reconsider."

There's hope yet, since you have placed a "gut check" decision before Saunders, which, if I am correct in my assessment of her involvement, she will not live up to (for obvious reasons). Thus, having failed your "gut check" test, you will have to consider lowering your opinion of her, and perhaps think about joining the local "Aunt Martha" chorus.