

Mock Interview with Farhang Niroomand, Part 3

by Hal Greene

HG: Let's talk about your United States District Court case . . . in which you are a defendant in an employment lawsuit. In September of 2006 you left a Temporary Restraining Order hearing just as it was getting started. Why?

FN: I told you, my health is very bad. I had [a] doctor appointment that morning.

HG: Are you aware that there was testimony that, in a meeting with a CoB assistant professor, you said that you wanted to kick that individual's ass?

FN: I don't remember that meeting, or that assistant professor. There are disgruntled faculty but we got rid of them. I don't know who you are talking about! Who told you that?!

HG: Another professor testified that you had to be physically restrained from getting to him by other CoB administrators after a small group meeting. What do you have say about that?

FN: Where did you hear that?! Who told you that?! All I wanted to do was have [a] discussion, colleague to colleague. That is all. Do you want to hear that is why I was fired?

HG: Other testimony explained how one of your department chairs, Cheri Becker of tourism management, verbally assaulted the department secretary in front of a number of individuals. After that, the CoB's central administration was more concerned about Becker than the secretary. What's up with that?

FN: Nothing. Professor Becker had [a] rough time back then. We were worried about her.

HG: Did you ever consider her a liability?

FN: I told you, my health is not good. Back then I was having [a] difficult time counseling Harold [Doty]. That is when I began writing resignation letters to [USM provost] Jay Grimes. I never wanted [the] administration job.

HG: Did you want to get back to your teaching?

FN: I did.

HG: Well, let's talk about your teaching. Reports are that you employ a highly controversial, combative teaching style that aims to embarrass students in front of their peers. Does that work for you?

FN: Who told you that?! Did Stephen Bushardt tell you that?!

HG: Professor Niroomand, do you have a hot temper?

FN: What do you want to hear? . . . That I was fired?!

HG: Let's lighten-up this interview once again. Do you think Angelina Jolie is attractive?

FN: Yes. (laughing)

HG: Halle Berry?

FN: Yes. (laughing)

HG: Scarlett Johansson?

FN: Yes. (laughing)

HG: [name deleted]

FN: (not laughing)

Part 4 Coming Soon . . .