

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN
31ST & PEARL, SCARY BAD

At noon today, usmnews.net posted an editorial entitled [31st & Pearl, Scary Bad](#). The final paragraph of the editorial makes this observation: “[p]erhaps what the larger USMNEWS.net audience needs to see now is what the United States District Court judge told Saunders about what he thought about the atmosphere at USM, vis-à-vis its administration, way back in the fall of 2007.”

After hearing extensive testimony relating to the various events described in the usmnews.net series “[Feeling Safe at USM](#)”, the Federal Court Judge said.

The Court: It is obvious that there is some problem in the business school. The court certainly doesn’t have any suggestion as to how to address that. There are a lot of smart people, qualified and experienced people at the University and in the business school; but a school or a department can’t or I don’t see how it can operate with this kind of acrimony among the members of the school and the departments.

Dr. Saunders sat in the Courtroom and listened to the same testimony that the Judge obviously found troubling. Dr. Saunders was and remained blithely untroubled about threatening and violent behavior directed at other faculty and staff by a college dean, an associate dean and a department chairwoman – not even recalling what she characterized as “serious”.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon testifying and Dr. Salter testifying that Dr. Cherylyn Becker and I quote -- went ballistic screaming at a secretary get away from me with that petty shit, yelling and screaming at a secretary?

A. I don’t recall.

Q. But if it was testified to in open court

A. I would have heard it.

Q. And do you consider that serious?

A. Screaming? Yes.

Q. Screaming and swearing at a secretary?

A. Yes.

Q. Loud enough until faculty is coming down the hallway?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any action?

A. No.

Q. Have you conducted any investigation of that?

A. No.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon testifying during a meeting with Dr. Niroomand, Dr. Niroomand had to verbally and physically restrained by Drs. Carter and Doty?

A. No.

Q. Were you present when Dr. Mixon testified at the temporary restraining order hearing?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any action concerning that?

A. No.

Q. Did you consider those allegations serious?

A. Yes.