

Satirical Slants on Serious Situations

A Guest Column

Things [at](#) USM [are indeed](#) “scary bad.” Fortunately for those who wish to keep up with what is going on, there is USMNEWS.net, usmlite.com, *The Hattiesburg American*, and *The Student Printz*, though to a lesser extent than the others. The hard-hitting reports and editorials in these and other places tell the story that the Martha Saunders administration and her public relations minions would not have us discover. Much of the news and opinion comes to us all via satire and editorial cartoons, presenting some of what many think is nearly unbearable – the downward spiral of USM – in a way that is lighter and more palatable when tough times stick around.



Some of the subject matter, though serious, does not deal with dire situations like \$10 million budget cuts and faculty flight. Still, [bad lease deals](#) like the new parking garage are difficult to swallow in these harsh economic times. The satirical snapshot above, from usmlite.com, was a humorous sight for sore eyes, and welcomed by many who follow USM on a regular basis.

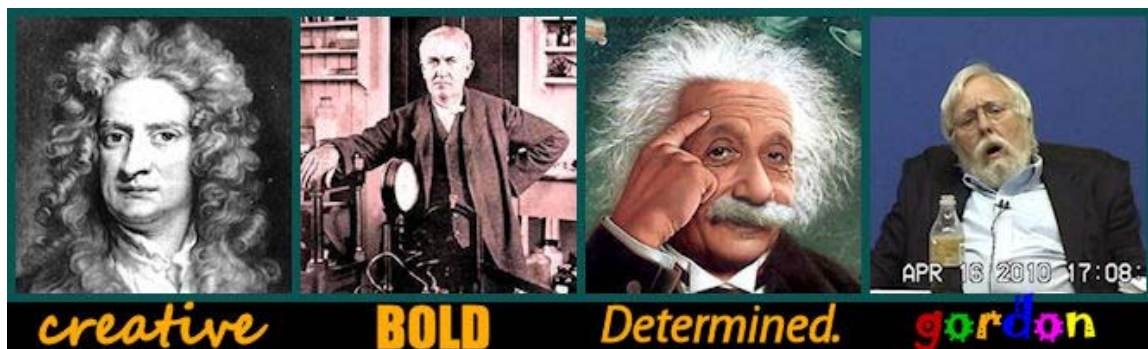


It really goes without saying that USMNEWS.net's *The Toadies* has been a welcomed addition to the reading menus of many people. The particular strip above addresses the [latest USM tragedy](#) – the targeting by USM administrators of various faculty who

are now, via downward mobbing, having their lives and careers destroyed. For those who are wondering about the one thing that could drop USM from the ranks of mainstream institutions for good, this new program of identifying “dangerous” faculty could easily be it.

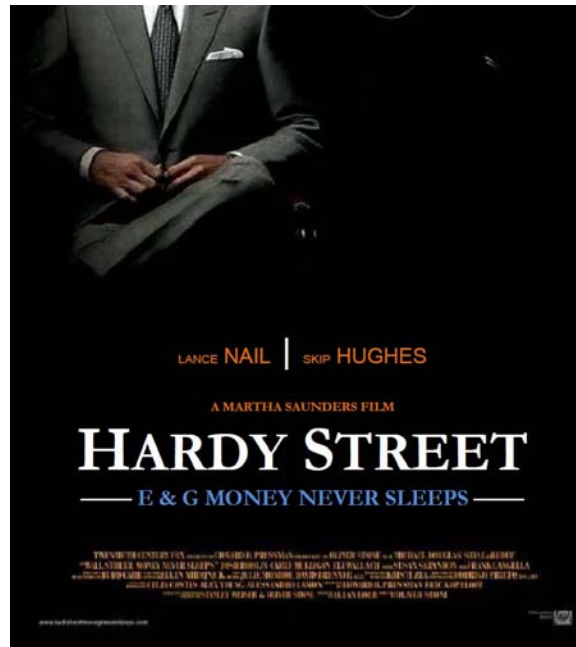


With USM facing a \$10 million budget cut for 2010-11, and another \$7 million or so in cuts for 2011-12, editorial cartoons like that above from *The Student Printz* quickly became fan favorites. These budget cuts were met by the Saunders administration with plans [to eliminate economics](#), Greek, Latin, philosophy, information systems, and other programs in education and elsewhere. Some of these cuts were recently reversed via [appeals](#). Still, other cuts held, so that now USM no longer has an economics faculty on staff, and other programs are currently being ushered out.

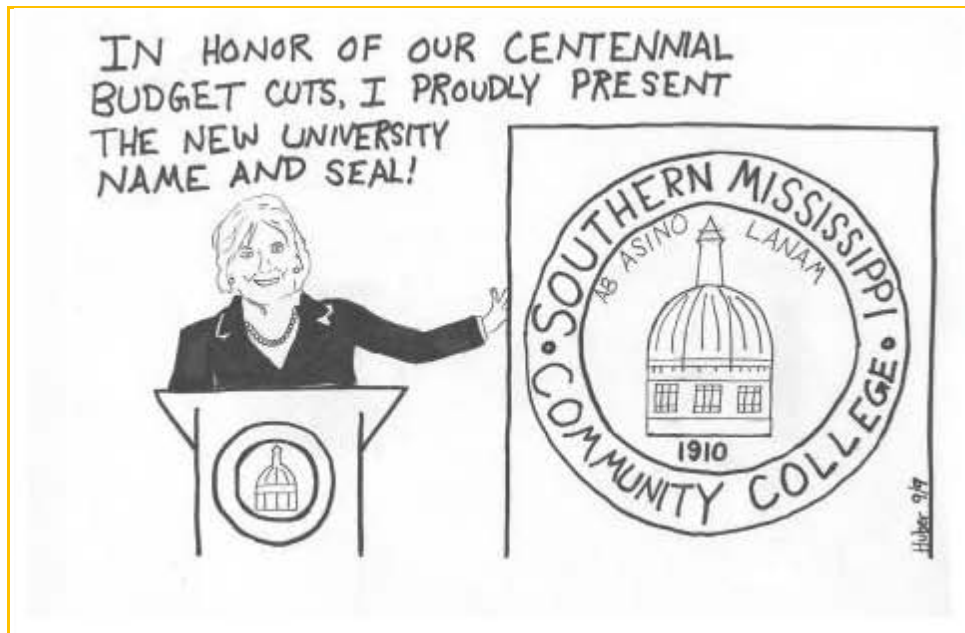


With the satire above, usmlite.com made a statement about Saunders’ recent decision to elevate Gordon Cannon to vice president of research at USM. Professor Cannon served the administration as ombudsman during the first known mobbing case, which involved the USMNEWS.net editor. Many see this new appointment for Cannon [as payment](#) for that infamous service.

The insert below, from USMNEWS.net, [strikes at](#) the USM administration’s [penchant](#) for spending, even during tight budget times. It, like others, is a crowd favorite.



The final insert below takes us back to *The Student Printz*. With all the damage that Saunders has done to USM since her arrival in the spring of 2007, it pretty much sums up everything in a single political cartoon.



It really is terrible that these things are happening to USM. While we need to know what is going, getting the news via a humor is necessary from time to time.