

The Administrative Roll in Mobbing

Usmnews.net continues to publish excerpts from an excellent article published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. *Mob Rule: In departmental disputes, professors can act just like animals*, John Gravois, <http://chronicle.com>, Section: The Faculty, Volume 52, Issue 32, Page A10. It is based, in significant part, on the work of [Kenneth Westhues](#) who has made an extensive study of academic mobbing. The article comments on the administrative roll in mobbing.

"Professors seeking to eliminate one of their colleagues cannot get very far without the backing of the administration, he said. And in cases where many professors are pitted against one, administrators' first instinct will often be to side with the majority.

But because mobbers tend to be so impassioned and sloppy in their reasoning, Mr. Westhues argued, administrators who side with them may suffer for it later. Mr. Westhues's research provides numerous examples of mobbing victims who have walked away with fat court settlements, and of administrators who have walked away without their jobs.

Administrators need to know that it's in their interests to prevent this,' Mr. Westhues said. 'They take a big risk when they encourage the mobbing of a professor.'" *Mob Rule: In departmental disputes, professors can act just like animals*, John Gravois, <http://chronicle.com>, Section: The Faculty, Volume 52, Issue 32, Page A10.