

## **“Virginia Tech Danger!”**

This week we begin a series taken from “Virginia Tech Danger!” Echoes of Mississippi Supremacists at the University of Southern Mississippi by Chauncey M. DePree, Jr., DBA, a longtime professor at USM.

# **“VIRGINIA TECH DANGER!”**

## **Echoes of Mississippi Supremacists**

**at**

## **University of Southern Mississippi**

by

Chauncey M. DePree, Jr., DBA  
Professor  
School of Accountancy  
College of Business  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Hattiesburg, MS  
[marcdepree@gmail.com](mailto:marcdepree@gmail.com)

### **Introduction**

A recent breaking news report at USMNews.net, “[Another \(Dangerous?\) USM Professor Steps Forward](#),” reminds me of the apparent ease with which University of Southern Mississippi (USM) faculty are accused of being dangerous. All too often forgotten are the mobbers, the “colleagues” who lurk behind the scenes to destroy the lives and careers of colleagues with whom they disagree.

Let me emphasize, mobbers don't just disagree with co-workers, they are so intolerant they conspire with like-minded, closed-minded colleagues to silence and destroy them. “Virginia Tech Danger” exemplifies mobbing with USM administrators, like Martha Saunders, Steve Jackson, and Alvin Williams, who not only supported mobbers but participated in the mobbing, and faculty, like Patty Munn, Charles Jordan, Rod Posey, and Gwen Pate, who finally hit upon the perfect accusation to accomplish their personal vendettas. The mobbers joined together, their activities being coordinated by USM’s attorneys, to silence and punish faculty. Adding insult to injury, they used state money, taxpayer and student resources—well over two and a half million dollars—in a failed effort to rid themselves of a colleague. In our state, their behavior harks back to Mississippi supremacists. To the mobber supremacists, diversity of thought is anathema to their “view of the world”—a belief explicitly stated by a mobber in her deposition.

### **Loyalty First, Foremost, and Forever**

To preserve their “view of the world,” they bear false witness in a most vile form. Their means is reminiscent of what USM administrators and Mississippi officials did to Clyde Kennard. Rest assured, echoes of Civil War Reconstruction are still alive and well in Mississippi.

A brief history of mobbing in Mississippi is instructive because we are still living in an environment of supremacist mobbing today. Some of the past mobbers are still with us today in key administrative roles.

USM Interim President Aubrey Lucas knew Clyde Kennard. Not too long ago, USM administrators and Mississippi officials insisted on purity of race at USM. Aubrey Lucas was director of admissions at USM (then-Mississippi Southern) when Mr. Kennard applied for admission. Mississippi officials and USM administrators were not satisfied with rejecting Mr. Kennard’s application to USM, they banished and punishment him. That’s their modus operandi: false witness—for Kennard, stealing \$25 of chicken feed; banishment—rejection of Kennard’s USM application; and punishment—jail to make sure he never returned to apply for admission again.

Mobbers, both faculty and administrators, apply a modern version of false witness, banishment, and punishment to accomplish their supremacist goal: purity of loyalty and thought. Their false witness is “He’s a Virginia Tech Danger! Fire him.” Current supremacists are surfers deliberately riding waves of hysteria born of mass murders, like occurred at Virginia Tech and

Newtown, to accomplish their personal vendettas. Their accusations have nothing to do with reliably identifying a dangerous person or sympathizing with murdered innocent victims or protecting future innocent victims.

How does this happen? At a university of all places? What are the particulars? Who are these depraved mobbers? How would you recognize them in your environment? Those are some of the questions addressed in this booklet.

### Secrecy

In the case discussed in this booklet, the mobber-lurkers hiding in the shadows had secretly petitioned various USM presidents at least four times to fire me. (Keep in mind, all the while I successfully passed through early tenure and promotion to be a full professor because of my teaching, research, and service performance.) The early instances, I learned years afterwards through freedom of information requests. Their activities hark back to a type of secret society born in Post-Civil War Reconstruction, Mississippi...

(To be continued.)