

“Virginia Tech Danger!”

Part 2

We continue 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.

“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 [DePree]. (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.

In my case, the mobbers fashioned rationales over the years to coax various USM presidents to fire me, and finally hit on a winner. A false accusation sure to win the day for them. Accuse DePree of being a “Virginia Tech Danger”: a perfect accusation in the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre; a perfect accusation of intolerant colleagues to persuade weak-minded administrators to stifle diversity of thought. No proof is necessary to take immediate action. No evidence is needed, none at all.

In time, we proved the danger accusation was false, as you'll read in the mobbers' depositions below. But I was lucky, and luckier than most who are mobbed by supremacist colleagues. I had, what is quaintly referred to in legal circles, “clean hands,” and I could afford to set the record straight against miscreant administrators and faculty who had, for all practical purposes, the unlimited resources of the state at their disposal.

Intentional False Positives

Ignorant mobbers like Patty Munn, Charles Jordan, Rod Posey, Steve Jackson, Gwen Pate, Alvin Williams, and Martha Saunders could care less about the consequences intentional false positives have on efforts to predict and prevent horrible crimes like those that occurred at Newtown and Virginia Tech. The mobbers don't care that children and young adults are

massacred as long as they can shout the equivalent of “fire” in a crowded theater: “He’s a Virginia Tech danger! Fire him!” and accomplish their goal of silencing a colleague.

In this booklet, mobbers reveal their behavior in detail in their own words. And we should listen to them. Get to know this type of corruption. Learn to recognize them. A few questions, like the ones my attorney asked them, and are reported below, will reveal their true intentions.

As you will witness from their sworn testimony, Munn, Jordan, Posey, Jackson, Pate, Williams, and Saunders earn their moment in the spotlight. After all, why should innocent people who are mobbed get all the attention and the horrendous publicity that inevitably accompanies accusations of “dangerous behaviors”? Those who mob deserve to be pulled from the darkness where they lurk and be seen in the bright light of sunshine for what they are. And I am uniquely positioned to do just that because my attorneys deposed the miscreants under oath and now I can quote them in their own words. I can, when most who are mobbed can’t, because I refused to agree to confidentiality. Depositions of the mobbers are not sealed; the miscreants can’t hide. I can report their sworn testimony. That’s exactly what follows in this booklet.

A Nightmare Begins

The nightmare of being mobbed begins in earnest when administrators, like then-President Martha Saunders [now provost at University of West Florida], overreact, scurry to a hiding place, and stick their heads in the sand. Everyone understands that just the accusation of being “dangerous” can destroy an accused colleague's career and potentially his/her life. And, because of the nature of the accusation, there is no pretense of due process...

(To be continued tomorrow.)