

Faux Tech Tattler

News You Can Use

September 27, 2019

Vol. 1, No. 4

Exclusive Interview: Former President Verdigris

Juan Rodriguez

The Tattler sat down with former Faux Tech President Gerald Verdigris for his first candid interview since his sudden retirement in 2018. Part one of the interview is presented below, and part two will be presented in a later issue.

Tattler: Would you say your tenure as FT President was successful?

Verdigris: Absolutely. We transformed the college from what it was when I started to what it became. This was really, really rewarding and satisfying on a number of levels, personally and professionally. It's important to remember that this area has always been about manufacturing textiles and furniture, and since both of those industries had fallen on hard times, it was important for me to step in and offer people new opportunities. When I started, the college had only two vice presidents, and when I left, we had seven. That's a lot of opportunity right there. We built five new buildings and purchased two others. That kind of growth is really, really satisfying for me.

Tattler: What about educational programs?

Verdigris: We really solved a lot of problems with academic programs at the college. We changed with the times. We eliminated a lot of deadwood in the faculty and were able to

afford several of our new vice presidents simply by getting rid of faculty and eliminating the courses they taught. That was really, really satisfying for me professionally. With the aid of one of the governors, we were able to offer student loans, which really increased our enrollment and really made much of our growth possible while generating profits for lenders.

Tattler: What is your measure of how well a college is performing?

Verdigris: That's a really complicated set of variables, but I would have to say that the best performing colleges are those that have a really clear corporate structure. You can't grow and be successful if you don't have an organizational structure that reflects the values of the college. That's why I fought to grow the administration so doggedly during my tenure. A good administrative structure allows a college to serve its customers efficiently. Another measure is keeping the faculty out of the way. We managed that very well during my tenure. I found that when the faculty was afraid to speak out, it was quite manageable. We were able to haze the faculty senate president to the point that he resigned. That was really, really satisfying for me personally and professionally. The dean who did the work on that got a promotion. It was a team effort.

In part two of the interview, Dr. Verdigris reveals the reason he retired so suddenly and offers advice to his successor, Janet Speigel.

'Zombie Apocalypse' in Biology Lab Feared

Pearlie Sands

Students in Professor Amanda Heatherton's advanced biology were stunned to find fetal pigs trotting around the anatomy lab last week after a dissection lab.

"Students were working on their lab reports before disposing of the cadavers when suddenly several of the fetal pigs leapt off the lab tables and began chasing students around the lab," said Heatherton.

Heatherton called to the scene campus police officers who shot seven pigs with their service weapons, according to the official incident report filed at campus police headquarters. The report does not speculate about how or why the dissected pig fetuses were able to move apparently of their own volition.

"It was some kind of miracle," said Sadie McGuffin, third-year nursing student, who witnessed the event.

"There must be some reasonable scientific explanation," said Marcus Devry, first-year biotechnology major. "Dr. Heatherton hasn't come up with one though."

"It was the freakiest thing I've ever seen that wasn't in a movie," said Daryl Downes, second-year college transfer. "Those pigs acted as if they wanted brains. They kept leaping toward our heads and making a feral squealing sound. I don't mind saying I was frightened," Downes said.

The seven fetuses that were somehow animated and subsequently shot by police have been

shipped to the state crime lab in Raleigh for scientific analysis, according to campus police lieutenant Sheldon Reeves. "We've never seen anything like this in a campus lab," Reeves said.

"We have suspended all dissection labs and quarantined the lab where the incident occurred," said Booreman Jones, Dean of Public Health and Safety. "Until we understand how this happened and how it can be prevented, students will study gross anatomy using virtual laboratory software. The safety of our students is paramount."

Jones said the new virtual laboratory software has been installed at a cost to the college of \$32,000, which will be covered by a temporary, emergency increase in student lab fees.

The FT chapter of SETA (Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) released a statement Wednesday claiming responsibility for the incident. "We will continue to use our dark arts to animate the corpses of all animals used in scientific experiments on campus until that inhumane practice is finally stopped. Our zombies will attack their tormentors at every opportunity," the statement said in part.

Jones said SETA's statement was opportunistic and denied the group's ability to animate dead flesh. Students on campus are not so sure.

"Those people are a bit weird," Branden Nestle, first-year accounting major, said of the SETA members. "I see them holding strange ceremonies in the parking lot at least twice a week. They may know something."

Reeves said, "We arrested three SETA members last semester for assaulting a groundskeeper who was using a tank sprayer to apply herbicide. The SETA members believed he was spraying a pesticide. The group has a history on campus, but we do not believe they had anything to do with the incident in the biology lab."

The national headquarters of PETA, the parent organization of

SETA, released a statement saying it had no knowledge of dark arts that could animate a long-dead fetal pig and disavowed the local chapter's claim of responsibility. "We recommend treating the claim as hyperbole fueled by the students' passion to protect animals," the statement said.

FT Settles Miniskirt Suit

Anderson Paige

Court records indicate Faux Tech has reached a settlement agreement with the transgender student who sued the college for Title IX discrimination related to a miniskirt.

"We've come to realize how important this is to all our transgender students and have decided to amend the dress code," said Faux Tech President Janet Speigel.

The student, whose name has not been released in court documents, was required by college officials to wear skirts long enough to conceal her male genitalia. She sued the college for gender-based discrimination because she was held to a different standard than other students wearing similar clothing.

Court records indicate the student will receive \$1.5 million and the college will no longer require trans-females to wear skirts of a different length than birth-sex females.

"Effective immediately, skirts, dresses, and shorts must come to the knee regardless of the wearer's gender," said Speigel. "The policy applies to students and employees."

SpeigelBash Becomes Annual Event at FT

Marjorie Burquist

Faux Tech's newest president says the celebration associated with her inauguration will become an annual event.

"We had so much fun at SpeigelBash that I just can't imagine not doing it every year," Speigel said.

The event, which was organized as an opportunity for the new president to get acquainted with the college community, was held over several days during the week of her inauguration ceremony at Reynolds Theatre and included carnival rides, novelties, and music.

"I was able to inspire hundreds of students just by chatting with them and showing them that I am just plain folks—just like them—and I think that's a lot more important than business as usual," said Speigel.

Delores Palmer, Faux Tech Vice-President of Human Resources, said the college has never had an event quite like this one for previous presidents but admits the turnout was impressive. "President Speigel is a star. She excites the students," Palmer said.

"The event cost only about \$45,000, which is less than most faculty salaries," said Regina Ginsbury, Faux Tech Comptroller.

"Getting this kind of exposure with the students is worth the price," said Speigel. "We plan to require faculty to cancel classes so all of their students can attend. All our students deserve to meet me and hear my story so they can be inspired to succeed."

Faux Tech Board of Trustees chair Lacretia Bitumen declined to comment for this article.

Do you have news for the *Tattler*?

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