

Dixon

USC hires cheerleader to lead troubled athletic department

Albert King Dixon was hired as USC's new athletic director, but that's no surprise. Ever since he was appointed interim A.D., university officials have said King was the leading contender, *The State* newspaper liked him and it seemed almost everyone thought a home-grown A.D. would be the best thing to put the department back in line.

We're not sure. Dixon is first and foremost one of USC's biggest cheerleaders, especially considering his background as a former football player and student.

We don't need a cheerleader right now. We need leadership. It is time for hard choices to be made.

Dixon said in an interview in *The State* earlier this week that he is "sick and tired" of the constant stream of allegations that come out of USC, especially the athletic department.

He's not the only one.

He said he thinks there is a lack of proper discipline at the department.

He's right.

Yes, it is indeed a time for tough choices, and having the heart of a cheerleader will be too detrimental to the decisions that have to be made.

If there is a lack of discipline, it is time for discipline to be enforced, especially around coaches who have had as much say in the run of the department as the previous athletic directors. The coaches need to be put in their places — if the department won't tolerate a lack of discipline, the coaches need to start enforcing the proper discipline or get out and let someone else come in who will.

The steroid issue is a perfect example of what needs to be done. Assistant coach Jim Washburn said he did not know the signs of steroid abuse, so he couldn't do anything to stop it or even notice it. USC President James Holderman said it wasn't the coaches' job to look for steroid abuse.

That's a cop-out and a dodge.

If it is team policy that steroids not be used, it is the job of the coaches to learn all the signs and look for them, and also to teach about the dangers of the banned substance. To say it is the team doctor's primary responsibility is acceptable, but to say the coaches have no part in watching for substance abuse is to deny the doctor a reasonable backup. It's like a surgeon with nothing to do, when asked to take care of another patient saying, "That's not my table."

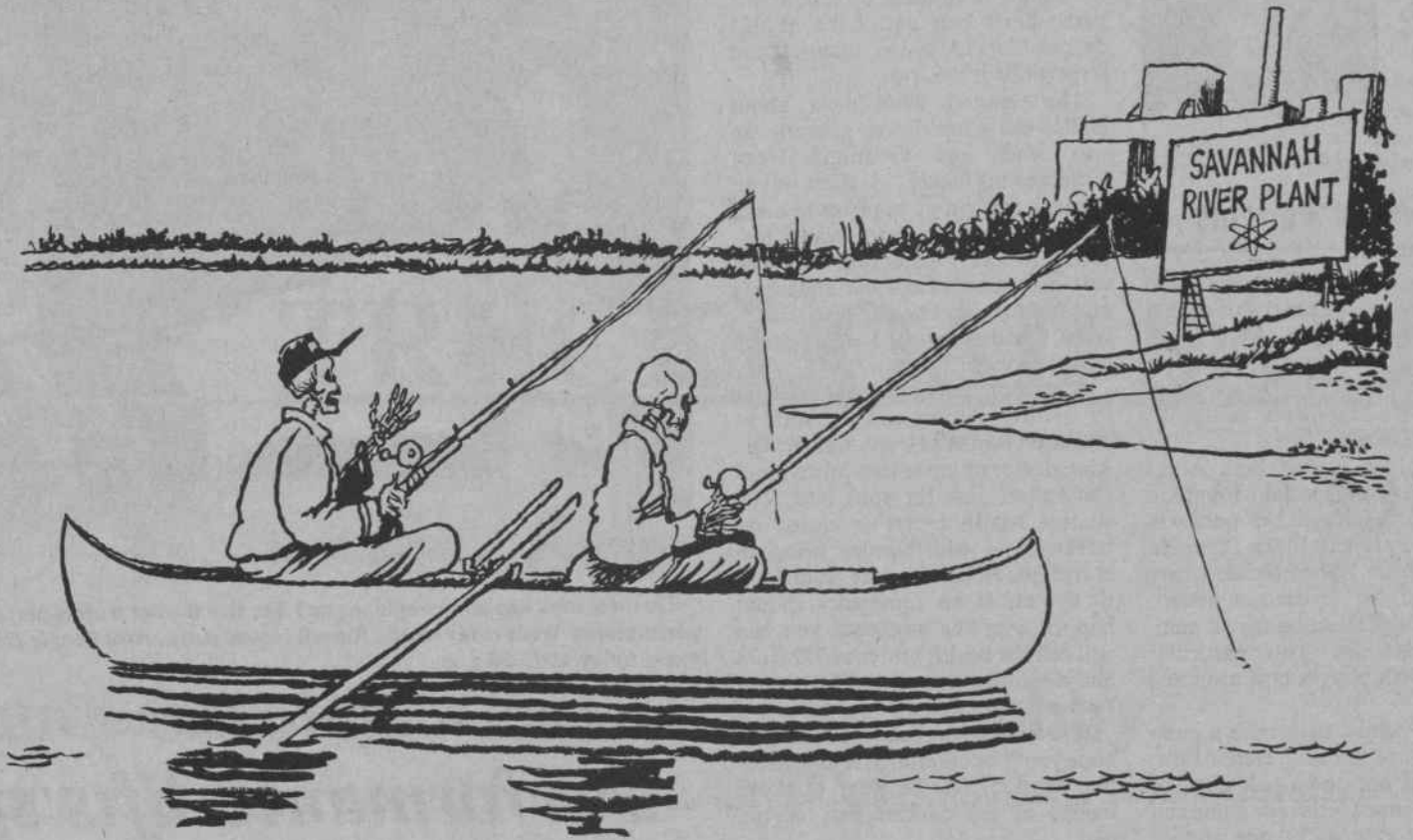
That's bull. The coaches were and are in a position to see and almost rule every single aspect of the player's lives. They can't just say "it's not my job, not my responsibility." They are their players' keepers.

So into USC's troubled athletics comes a new King. It is time for him to take charge and forget being a cheerleader until he can straighten things out. Then, with the department and the coaches under his leadership, he can hoot and holler for the Gamecocks all he wants.

But if he doesn't make strict policy, make enforcement equally strict, all the yelling about how wonderful his selection is will be useless. If he doesn't get his staff and his coaches in line, his selection will be useless. It'll take a world of luck to pull it off.

Good luck.

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THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



"IT'S SUPPOSED TO PROTECT US FROM THE RUSSIANS!"

A word to the boys on the bus to Raleigh

At 12:15 today, the USC football team will be leaving to go to Raleigh to play N.C. State Saturday night.

The only word to define this particular game for the Gamecocks is *pressure*. The Gamecocks have a whole bunch of pressure to overcome.

First and foremost, the allegations made by former player Tommy Chaikin that he and a number of other players used steroids during the '87 season will be on their minds.

As much as the coaches and high-profile players can say, this will have an effect on the team — a nagging doubt at the back of some of their minds in the very least.

Also, before the story on steroids came out, there was the problem of USC's loss to Georgia Tech. It was a totally incomprehensible loss. Georgia Tech hadn't beaten a Division I-A team in a year, and the team went on to lose to North Carolina, a team that was winless all season, and who were manhandled by the Gamecocks at the beginning of the season.

They've got a lot to make up for. But they are also facing a team that USC drubbed soundly last year at Williams-Brice 48-0. The Wolfpack had only 36 yards of offense in last year's game, and I don't recall if they got a first down or not.

And State is coming off a big win over USC's perennial nemesis, Clemson. We're coming off a big loss.

They almost broke into the Top 20 this week.



Stephen Guilfoyle

They were short by about 20 votes.

N.C. State is gunning for us, for revenge, for esteem, for ranking. They've got nothing to lose; we've got everything to lose.

And on top of all this pressure is the sudden announcement that this game will be ESPN's evening game, so they'll be sitting around all day thinking about the pressure.

I went to the Georgia Tech game. It was a tough game to watch, but I was encouraged by one thing. Tech only scored a field goal in the second half. The defense got into the game, and they didn't move the ball all that well.

The defense has to be there from the first snap to the last. State's defense is tough, and our offense might want to be wary of their middle linebacker.

His name is Ray Frost and he's only a sophomore, but he had 12 tackles last year against our offense. And I talked to him after last year's game, which he played with a stomach virus. He's tough, and he was pretty depressed and mad after that game.

Like the rest of State's defense, I'm sure. They pushed Clemson around last week probably better than anyone else, including Florida State.

But I also talked to some of USC's defensive players after last year's game. I asked one of them — I think it was senior linebacker Matt McKernan, but I can't remember for sure — if beating N.C. State 48-0 and limiting them to 36 yards and no touchdowns meant USC had paid State back for its victory two years ago in Raleigh. State won the game on a bad call by the referees, I'd say.

And the player said, "It doesn't make up for nothing. We have to pay them back on their home turf."

So the only "advice" this armchair coach, fledgling sportswriter, but definite Gamecock fan, can offer the boys on the bus as they ride to the game, if they get to pick up *The Gamecock* before they go, is to remember that no matter what you do, the real fans are behind you 100 percent, even if we're not there. And we think you can beat State the same way you beat them last year.

They're a team in need of a serious case of "Black Death," don't you think?

Letters to the editor

Football loss not surprising

To the editor:

So is anyone really surprised by the outcome of the ballgame with Georgia Tech? I certainly was not. Maybe that's because the last time I ventured to Atlanta to see a Carolina team was in 1978, when another favored Gamecock squad was shot down 6-3.

Forget the psychology that when you are a nationally ranked team, the opposition comes "gunning" for you. Let's face it, South Carolina is not a great team, but rather one which relies heavily on emotion just as they have done repeatedly in the past. Great teams do not need that intangible to succeed, but do so with sheer talent and power — two ingredients the Gamecocks have always had limited supplies of.

Todd Ellis is a good (but not great) quarterback who had the misfortune of landing a grant-in-aid to a school which would place its entire program on his shoulders, even to the point of changing offensive schemes not once, but twice in his three year career in order to bring out his talent. He has not had (no matter what the passing yardage numbers) much success here, even to the point of obtaining the label of a "big game" choke, and his mobility has been compared to that of Joe Namath.

But Mr. Ellis should not take all the credit for the recent loss to the Yellow Jackets, as Carolina football should not live or die with the forward pass. If Ellis played for a UCLA, a Miami or even a Clemson, he might truly have a shot at the Heisman. But in Columbia where rushing yards come as frequently as winter snows, he hasn't got a chance. Saturday reminded me of last year in Jacksonville when LSU used up to eight defenders against the pass. Without a ground attack to keep the defense honest, there is just no place to throw, and as we are beginning to see, the odds for interceptions in-

crease greatly.

Couple the above facts with the observation that the entire team has played with no emotion and little intensity for weeks, and the result of the Georgia Tech game should come as no surprise. Gamecock football was an accident looking for an away game to happen.

Tim Bradshaw
chemistry grad

Dukakis more substantive

To the editor:

I would like to address some of the weaknesses of the letter by republicans D. Troy Mullinax and Rhonda Arant which appeared in *The Gamecock* Oct. 21. They claim Dukakis lacks the necessary experience because he has never held a Washington position. Neither did Reagan before becoming president. (If Dukakis is so lacking in experience, why did the governors of the 50 states elect Dukakis as the most effective among them?) It is a joke that this letter also tried to compare Quayle's qualifications with those of Dukakis. Quayle may have eight years senatorial experience, but eight years totally lacking in substance. He spent eight years proving himself to be anti-education and anti-environment. He is an embarrassment to his party.

The Oct. 21 letter describes all the "experience" of Bush. Even Bob Dole has stated that in eight years as V.P., Bush has never done anything. It seems the only thing of significance Bush has done is to select Quayle as his running mate.

There are many reasons why a good number of Americans support Dukakis. Dukakis has made major accomplishments in Massachusetts in such areas as education, the homeless, health care availability for all citizens and getting people off welfare and into jobs. Dukakis wants to halt the widening gulf between rich and poor which has occurred over the

past eight years. He has worked in Latin America and understands that region better than does Bush. He opposes the failed and immoral Reagan/Bush policy of war against the people of Nicaragua. Considering the large deficit and large proportion of the budget which defense constitutes (some 35 percent), Dukakis is more realistic than Bush, who supports the unreliable, expensive SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative), yet claims he'll never raise taxes. George, read my lips — you can't do both.

Dukakis' one great weakness is that he has not been effective at responding to the shallow, fact-twisting, negative campaigning game which the Republicans are so good at. If Americans would stop emphasizing "personality" and "stage presence" and start looking at the issues, many more would see that Dukakis is the more substantive and honest candidate.

Michael Yoder
geography graduate student

'Facts' show abortion kills

To the editor:

Might we move beyond smoke screens and emotionalism on abortion and touch on some hard facts and realities?

Issue 1: Conceptions due to rape, incest or where the life of the mother is immediately threatened account for less than one percent of all U.S. abortions. Ninety-nine percent are done for social, economic or reasons of convenience.

Issue 2: "Doesn't a woman have a right over her own body?" is a popular comment. Reality reveals, however, that not one but two bodies are involved. There are two blood types, two heart beats and half the time the sex of the baby is different.

Hasn't AIDS powerfully reminded us that responsible sexual behavior begins before the sex act, not after unwanted problems occur?

Issue 3: Some 30 percent of all conceptions now end in baby murder. Thus, 30 percent of the time, pro-choice means "pro-death." Hurting women factually testify that it is much easier to scrape the baby from the mother's womb than to scrape the scars from the mind.

Issue 4: Question: Have you heard any pro-choice advocates say they wish their own mother had aborted them?

Issue 5: Deeper than the question of when life begins is the reality that destroying the unborn says: "I know God is wanting to create something here but I will not let Him do it."

Thank you for your courteous consideration.

Fred Kerr
international student worker

USC dorm like roach motel

To the editor:

This letter relates to the emanating problem of roaches in our dormitory rooms (primarily on the 2nd floor of Douglas). Due to this ongoing situation, our progress as students has been greatly impeded — impeded to the extent that we are uncomfortable residing here.

Last year, we were given the common courtesy of having an exterminator. This year is an entirely different situation, as we have been forced to live in conditions unsuitable to the standards set forth by both our families and ourselves.

We would be greatly appreciative of an infrequent but consistent extermination. We pay a substantial amount of money each year to attend this institution and in return expect a sufficient amount of upkeep within the dormitories so that we all may further our educations without unnecessary distractions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Monty Seth Warner
journalism sophomore



The Gamecock

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