

Reagan

President has successes, failures during two terms in White House

The administration of Ronald Reagan, which officially ends in nine days, has been marked with remarkable successes and embarrassing failures. His presidency has been a mixture of the good, the bad and the ugly.

When Reagan came to the White House in 1981, he promised to limit spending, fight inflation, balance the budget and "get the government off the backs of the people." He did make progress in some of these areas, but the president met with many difficulties during his eight years.

With David Stockman as the architect of a complicated economic plan, Reagan tackled the budget problem with mixed results. Income taxes were justifiably cut, but some people benefited from those cuts more than others. Some wasteful programs were brought under control, but others that needed to be cut — especially defense and foreign aid programs — were left untouched.

The result was a reduction in inflation and the prime rate, but an increase in the deficit. The nation experienced an extended period of economic growth, but that growth was tainted by the lingering problem of the budget. Ultimately, the greatest failure of Reagan's economic policy was the rapid growth of the federal deficit, which did not disappear as Reagan had hoped.

In foreign policy, Reagan also had successes and failures. In arms control, he negotiated an important treaty with the Soviet Union that eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons. He had a series of meetings with Soviet leadership, including a summit in Moscow. But relations with the Soviets were often icy, especially when the president described the USSR as "the evil empire."

The Middle East presented a complicated set of problems, most of which were never solved. Administration officials seemed unsure of how to handle situations in Lebanon, Iran and other countries. This apparent confusion led to the debacle of the Iran-Contra affair.

Reagan had even more difficulty in Central America, a region he targeted as vital to U.S. interests. He pushed for millions of dollars in economic and military aid to El Salvador's government, a regime of questionable integrity. Reagan also advocated aid for the Nicaraguan Contras, despite the fact that the rebels had little chance of winning, primarily because they could not win the hearts and minds of the people of Nicaragua. The president also had problems dealing with Panama and its corrupt dictator, Manuel Noriega.

On domestic issues, the president was perhaps at his worst, because he tried to expand the role of government in spite of his promises to limit it. He attempted to add amendments to the Constitution to place prayer in school and forbid abortion. Reagan contributed to anti-drug hysteria, promoting random drug tests. He also had Attorney General Ed Meese waste tax dollars on a worthless study of pornography.

The impact of the Reagan era will last even though the man is about to leave office. He brought economic growth, but he advocated a misguided foreign policy. Reagan will be remembered as a president who succeeded, but also failed.

McNEELY Chicago Tribune

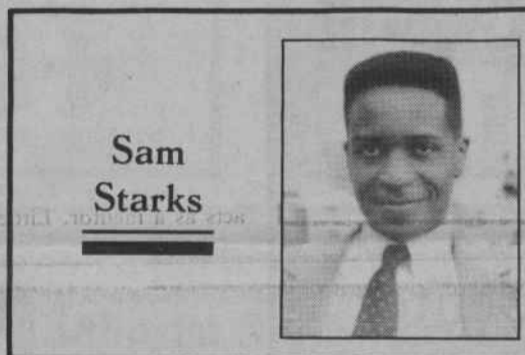


Legalization may be answer to drug war

Although recent surveys reveal that the majority of Americans prefer drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin to remain illegal, there are some intelligent, non-using Americans that advocate drug legalization. They see drug legalization not as an absurd or radical proposal, but as the only feasible means of winning America's "war against drugs." Their arguments are convincing and certainly deserve the consideration of our nation's leaders, lawmakers and the voting public.

Despite the fact that America's "war against drugs" has failed to reduce the supply of drugs, drug dealers and drug users, not to mention the devastating crime and corruption surrounding the drug problem, those such as New York City Mayor Ed Koch refuse to recognize the soundness of the arguments for decriminalizing drug use. They fear that legalizing drugs will only increase the criminal and health problems of drugs in our society and will encourage young people to experiment with drugs. This, they say, will cause problems and damage of greater proportions than now exist.

On the other side of this issue are those like Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who has recently become one of the country's leading and most outspoken advocates of drug legalization. At a recent conference of mayors in Washington, D.C.,



Schmoke condemned Ronald Reagan's efforts to fight the spread of drugs in America and advocated that drug use be decriminalized. He argued that legalizing drugs is the only means of freeing our criminal justice system from its unwinnable "war against drugs." Only when police officers and narcotics agents are out of the drug war can our public health system deal with the effects of drug abuse, Schmoke contends.

More importantly, to some, decriminalizing drug use is believed to be a sure means of decreasing the rate of crimes committed by addicts who are often unable to afford their expensive drug

habits. Legalizing drugs could also prevent the spread of the AIDS virus through needle sharing among addicts. Of course, these results can only occur if the government and private industry assume control and regulation of the drug supply.

Looking beyond the politics and rhetoric surrounding this debate, one might be persuaded by considering our country's experience with attempts to control and regulate alcohol production, consumption and distribution in the 1920s. As everyone knows, Prohibition failed miserably. As a result, U.S. laws banning alcohol consumption were repealed. What we learned, however, was that banning alcohol created an organized criminal network that began to illegally produce and distribute alcohol. So when Prohibition ended, so, too, did the large-scale bootlegging and violence that it created. Many have applied this scenario to the American drug problem.

It is important to understand that those who suggest that drugs be legalized are not condoning or encouraging drug use. It should also be understood that legalizing drugs is not the answer to all of our problems with drugs. But neither is the death penalty for murderous drug dealers or increased involvement of the military in drug interdiction efforts.



Coach Felton now coming into his own

Not many people can really grasp what it's like to be a head basketball coach at a major university.

It is a job that is sometimes given too much credit and many times given too much blame. A head coach must not only be a wizard with offenses and defenses, he must also be a teacher, an administrator and too often an agile media representative.

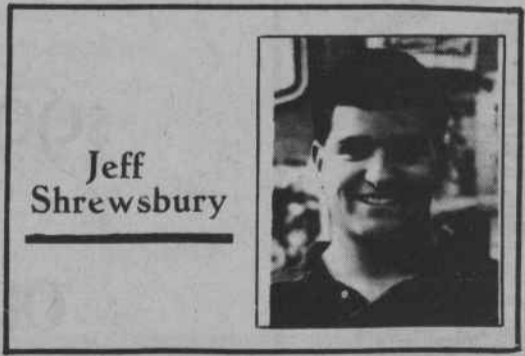
A head coach is bombarded with press calls all day long. He's hounded with the same questions for hours sometimes, and if one day he is curt, maybe from fatigue or just a bad day, he can be pounded for being "anti-press." Sometimes it's a no-win situation, because most coaches, like most people, don't like to speak to lots of people or into the bright lights of a TV camera.

But coaches have to. It's expected of them as part of the job. They're expected to deal with it.

With that in mind, USC's George Felton must be getting used to being a head coach.

He's becoming more aware of his image, and he is becoming more of a personality than he was three years ago when he arrived. He has learned to balance all the aspects of head coaching and because of that has begun to endear himself to the many fans of USC.

When Felton came to USC in 1986 (after being an assistant at Georgia Tech, East Carolina and North Carolina A&T) he was somewhat subdued by all the media hype that was dropped in his lap. He was so excited — like a kid with a new toy — he almost giggled for the first couple months when reporters asked him questions.



After the initial excitement wore off he started to understand what it was like for a head coach. He started to feel the drain.

When he speaks, he speaks softly, almost whispering. He is not overt when it comes to interviews — especially broadcast interviews. But then who could feel comfortable with a microphone thrust in his face and a 400-watt bulb glaring at him from three feet away?

An assistant coach is not subjected to the off-court trials and tribulations like that of a head coach. He is not expected to have a media personality every minute of every day.

It can be a hard adjustment to make. But Felton, like his program, is coming into his own and making that adjustment.

The team is Top 20 material, and Felton is now being seen around the country as one of the up-and-coming young coaches.

But one of the biggest pieces of evidence that Felton is becoming comfortable with his position came in a subtle way.

On his television show this past week, Felton, dressed in a snappy sweater and casual slacks, seemed unusually relaxed and open. He spoke with determination and poise and, in what can only be seen as an unprecedented event in the history of Gamecock coaches' shows, Felton began a new segment of detailing some of his coaching philosophies and techniques. He used a chalkboard to diagram some plays and gave the viewers insight into what they are seeing of their team every week.

It seems like a small detail, but it is the best thing Felton could have done. Not only did it give viewers tremendous help in understanding a little bit more about the team, but it gave them insight into what Felton is like as a person. It gave him a chance to talk about what he knows best, the way he knows how to talk about it.

Whether it was the brainstorm of the Felton show staff or Felton's idea, it was a good one. Coaches shows are all too often full of boring rhetoric ("uh-huhs" and "yes, sirs") that gives no help for the fans. This change gives Felton a chance to talk like he's used to — not forced to.

It's these little things that signal the arrival of a head coach. He's won over his fans by the play of his team, and now he's winning over his fans with his personality.

People are not only talking about Gamecock basketball again. They're talking about head coach George Felton.

The Gamecock

Best Non-daily Collegiate Newspaper, Southeastern Region
Society of Professional Journalists, 1987-88

Editor in Chief
ANDY BECHTEL
Managing Editor
JEFF SHREWSBURY
Copy Desk Chief
KATHY BLACKWELL
Assistant Copy Desk Chief
CARYN CRABB
News Editor
MARY PEARSON
Assistant News Editors
KELLY C. THOMAS
SUSAN NESBITT
Features Editor
TODD HINES
Assistant Features Editor
TOM JOYNER
Sports Editor
KEVIN ADAMS
Assistant Sports Editor
CHRIS SILVESTRI
Photography Editor
TEDDY LEPP

Datebook Editor
JAN PHILLIPS
Graphics Editor
MICHAEL SHARP
Comics Editor
TRACY MIXSON
Graduate Assistant
ROBERT STEVENSON
Adviser
PAT MCNEELY
Director of Student Media
ED BONZA
Advertising Manager
MARGARET MICHELS
Production Manager
LAURA DAY
Assistant Production Manager
RAY BURGOS
Assistant Advertising Manager
BARBARA BROWN

Letters to the editor

Robbery fault of university

I am a senior living in Rutledge on The Horseshoe. During the Christmas holidays, my apartment and other apartments around it were broken into. My tape player and some textbooks were stolen, and my roommates lost radios, cameras and a television set.

When I returned to the campus after the break, I talked to several

people about the incident, and all of us are wondering whether the university is making an effort to locate our stolen property or reimburse us for the losses. The recurring phrases I keep hearing is that the university is "not responsible" for items left in the rooms.

My question is does this freedom from responsibility allow the university police to neglect security of the dormitories during a period when students are absolutely forbidden to live in their rooms? I pay more than \$1,000 each semester to live in

Rutledge, but I am required to leave whenever classes are not being held (Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring break, etc.).

Because this robbery occurred during a period in which dorms are always deserted, the university police should have kept a very tight watch on the premises over the holidays. They reprimand me whenever I climb a tree or walk my bike through a campus building, but they failed to notice that the doors of Rutledge had been chiseled through until students returned from their breaks and reported it.

This time, the university is responsible. It is impossible for every student to remove all of his or her property over every holiday vacation since some students fly home and have limited carrying space. University authorities should take the time to remember why the police force exists in the first place, and if it is incapable of doing its job, students should be allowed to remain in their dorms to protect their belongings.

John K. Nations
Interdisciplinary senior