

## Respect

### Sparky Woods has Gamecocks heading in the right direction

USC crept into the Associated Press College Football Top 25 on little Cocks' feet Monday morning landing a spot at No. 24. It is a fitting testimony to the diligent work of the 70 or so members of the football team. Head coach Sparky Woods, in his first season, had to learn names, understand personalities and clean up after a scandal-plagued program he inherited. He pledged to dedicate his season to getting the image of South Carolina athletics back up to national respectability.

He's done that — in the polls and in the public's eye. Woods has USC doing all the right things both on and off the field. That is something that no poll can measure, but every parent of any football player in the country will notice. Before Woods came to USC, some parents may have worried that sending their children to USC was a bad idea because the people there had no control and ran a "loose" ship. But Woods has set out and succeeded so far in spinning that image back to the positive.

He checks up on his players, chats with them, knows their families and makes it his business to know how well the players are doing in school. If the players mess up, he punishes them — discreetly and fairly, but he punishes them nonetheless. If they falter, he gives them a chance to right their wrong. Some mistakes even he won't forgive, but he gives every player a fair chance.

This is what a college head coach should be doing. A college head coach is an educator. He must prepare these boys for not just a career in football, but for life. He must convey to them that dedication to excellence requires hard work and good judgment on the field and off.

He has them practicing hard and studying hard. And his system seems to be working. Any change, however, takes a while to become evident. He and the team worked through the transition time and got used to each other. He didn't rant and rave when they played badly. He coached. He listened to what they were saying.

He is a players' coach. He cares. And those admirable qualities in a coach have rubbed off on the players off the field and in the classroom. These boys understand now that school is not a way to play football; football is a way to get through school.

Woods has had successes off the field and on the field and has a Top-25 bid and a possible big bowl game bid in the future. But more importantly, he is taking USC into the Top 10 in respectability.



Battle of Little Bullhorn.

## Press only as good as readers it serves

National Newspaper Week started Sunday.

You don't need to send us a card or anything. It's going to be a quiet little week as far as this columnist is concerned.

The S.C. Press Association has kits available for newspapers who want to discuss the vital role the press plays in society.

We're the protectors of freedom, according to the advertisement for the \$6.50 kit. We provide services to readers and advertisers. It's a pretty grandiose role that the press claims for itself. Some of it, a lot of it in fact, is ego.

Half the people in newspapers now are people just using the press to try and make a name for themselves by covering some branch of government — state, local or national — before they enter it themselves, as two reporters from *The State* have done in the past year.

The press has had its glory days — none more glorious than when Bob Woodward and

Carl Bernstein took a simple burglary and uncovered a criminal administration that threatened people, broke into people's offices to steal records, lied about other candidates, cheated to win an election they could have won by a landslide without even a miniscule of honest effort and illegally wiretapped people who opposed their policies and beliefs.

But the press has stopped acting like the Fourth Estate, like a part of government.

We, who claim to be the protectors of freedom, the watchdog of democracy, missed the HUD scandal and Iran-contra.

We are sitting silent while a sitting president and most of the Congress are talking about limiting the freedom of expression with a constitutional amendment.

What rights are we protecting when we don't say that, while flag burning is not nice, it is still a form of expression? What rights are we protecting when we don't say anything about protecting the right of the Supreme Court to make that unpopular decision? What rights are we protecting when we don't oppose the intolerant president and the politically gun-shy congressmen who are trying to subvert that Supreme Court decision?

What rights are we protecting when we tele-

vised so called presidential debates during the most vital of times, a national election, yet don't ask one challenging question, one question that requires a candidate to think instead of delivering a pat reply written by whatever comedians on the party's payroll?

What rights are we protecting when we let local government claim that ignorance of the Freedom of Information Act is an excuse for holding illegal executive sessions and for withholding information from the public on a regular basis?

I am proud of the field that I have chosen to be a part of, but neither do I delude myself and make it a perfect thing.

I want to be a journalist — for the rest of my life, I want to be a journalist. I want to write about sports and about government. I want to sit in the slot on the night desk and pound away at the wire copy coming in for tomorrow's bulldog edition.

But I don't want to delude myself. In the moments when all is right with our profession, we are the protectors of freedom.

But only because we can get you, the public, the readers involved in the protection of those freedoms.

The role assigned to the press is not to make policy but to report on what the policy is and its real effects.



Stephen Guilfoyle

## Letters to the editor

### Hugo not only thing going on

To the editor:

As Hugo spun across the Atlantic, he was the only topic on our curious minds. Would he escalate to 105 mph? 115? 135? The more the merrier. Would Hugo ravage Charleston or would he disappoint us by buzzing off in some less interesting direction? What a disaster Hugo turned out to be, too! A hurricane is an opportunity of opportunities — you should have seen what I saw! This is like the fish story of a lifetime.

For some, Hugo was a tragedy. For others — an adventure, or perhaps a welcome change of pace. He certainly made big news. But for now, let's not debase ourselves by making Hugo out to be more than he was. I know we're expected to react to such events so as to avoid appearing insensitive, but there's a lot going on in the world that we're forgetting, and I'm not talking international politics. Not every broken heart is a child of loss property.

Dan Jensen  
Physics senior

### Hoffa helps USC win one

To the editor:

The other day I was in a little drinking establishment that I patronize occasionally. The bouncer there, Chester "The Chew," came over to enjoy a cold Pabst with me. After a few belts Old Chester began to spill his guts on the crime of the century. There in the comfort of the saloon, I got the whole story on what actually happened to Jimmy Hoffa. Chester comes by the privileged information by way of his cousin, Elmore, who lives up north somewhere around Da-

longa, Ga. Elmore works for a pizza place just outside of town and thus has an inside track on the mob. That should satisfy any concerns over the reliability of my sources. Anyhow, Chester said Hoffa was not killed in the way or even the place most people believe. It seems that Jimmy was taken down south to a little town near Athens, Ga. It was here that these merciless creatures tortured Mr. Hoffa to death by forcing him to listen to "Hunker Down Hairy Dogs" 24 times. Chester relates that Hoffa lost consciousness during the 20th playing. Then as if that was not enough, knowing that Jimmy was a diehard Gamecocks fan, these monsters added insult to injury by burying him at the 50-yard line of Sanford Stadium.

There are reports of people seeing a man that looked much like Hoffa walking up and down the USC sidelines during the Georgia game. One can only speculate as to the accuracy of such reports. However, it seems a bit coincidental that the score was 24-20. Exactly the number of times that Jimmy was subjected to that torturous song. Chester of course believes the ghost of Jimmy Hoffa helped the Gamecocks on this one. But why should that surprise anyone? I mean, Chester would believe anything.

Allen Amason  
Management graduate student

### Fair not doing good for USC

To the editor:

Being the optimist that I am, I decided there must be more to Rep. Mike Fair's involvement on this campus than changing the visitation policy and restricting rock groups from playing at Williams-Brice Stadium.

So, at the Society of Professional Journalists meeting on Oct. 4, I asked Rep. Fair exactly what

he was doing as a legislator and trustee member to encourage the state to appropriate more funds to USC to help counteract rising costs of tuition.

His response: "Nothing." Nothing at all? So much for my optimism.

At the beginning of this semester, more than 20 classes were cancelled because the university could not afford to pay the professors to teach them. As an out-of-state student, my tuition went up nearly \$500 over this summer (nearly \$150 for in-state). A tuition increase is expected again next year and student aid will likely remain the same.

I realize that government aid is not the sole solution to replenish lacking funds, but as a legislator and trustee member, Mike Fair has the potential to help the situation. His influential voice at both the state and federal level could work wonders if channeled correctly. Unfortunately he chooses to be silent. I hope the rest of the trustees will take more initiative in this matter.

So, what's my point? Oh, nothing.

Carol Degnan  
AD/PR sophomore

### Fairs's ideas un-American

To the editor:

The other day, at the home of an acquaintance, I happened to see a letter they had recently received. It seems they had written to Rep. Mike Fair in order to protest his hard-line, anti-abortion platform. His response implied that "pro-choice" people are no better than Nazi genocidal maniacs.

You know, America is a great place. It was (and is) populated by people who had enough guts and conviction to maintain their beliefs in the face of political oppression. They were forced to give up their

homes, in some cases homes that had been in their families for generations, some even gave up their families, friends, in fact, all they knew, just to be able to live the way they thought was RIGHT. Think of graduating from high school and then having to go directly to work somewhere in Outer Mongolia. One gets a sense of how they may have felt. The point is, they wanted to be in a place where they could live their lives as they saw fit without FEAR OF PERSECUTION. This is some of what being an American is all about; therefore, any group of people that allows themselves to be herded in one direction while their convictions lie in another have at that moment, given up about 9/10ths of their American heritage.

Now, I personally do not believe in abortion. I do believe in having the freedom to choose. Mike Fair's letter states that the German government instituted the policy of "Lebenswert" which allowed them to choose who deserved death and who didn't, and so implies that anyone choosing to have an abortion has exactly the same mentality.

Well, I see it differently. In my mind, the German government instituted a policy that the civilian population had to live with WHETHER THEY WANTED TO OR NOT. They had to watch "enemies of the state" wither away in concentration camps, whether they wanted to or not; hear people screaming in ovens and gas chambers, whether they wanted to or not; and participate in a thousand-and-one other wartime atrocities, whether they wanted to or not; and here Mike Fair wants to decide that people should live their sexual and reproductive lives his way, whether they want to or not. This seems downright un-American to me. Is this "Onward Christian Nazi's" or what?

Daniel A. Kline  
English junior



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