

Bad P.R.

Team doctor who failed to run USC drug program still on staff

Fans who looked on page 79 of the football program guide may have seen something interesting. A picture of the medical support staff — the team doctors.

One of those doctors is Dr. Paul Akers, a general practitioner. He is the team doctor. Another is the team orthopedist, another the team dentist.

It is interesting because former USC Athletic Director Bob Marcum was fired after an internal investigation revealed that USC failed to routinely and randomly test athletes for drug use.

At that time, Akers was in charge of USC's "Lifestyles" program, which was supposed to be a program of drug testing AND drug education for all USC student-athletes.

USC released a statement at that time saying Akers had been relieved of his duties as team physician because of his failure to run the drug testing program.

There were some people out there who believed that Akers had been fired. No such luck. A little while later, the university issued a statement that Akers had been "reassigned" and was working at the Thomson Student Health Center.

Somewhere along the line, he once again became team physician.

It is interesting because during his "first" tenure as team physician, drug testing was primarily his responsibility — before Marcum's, before the coaching staff's, it was Akers' responsibility to run the program.

President Holderman would like us to believe that Marcum was fired for failing to conduct the drug program properly.

And now we have the Marcum trial, where he is contending that he lost his job because Holderman wanted athletic funds and he wouldn't give them. The drug testing was a convenient excuse, a dodge, Marcum contends.

The only logical thing anyone can conclude is that Akers should have run the program and didn't. Whether Marcum should have had more oversight of the program is something else, but it was Akers who wrote the program and it was Akers to whom the responsibility of the program was delegated.

While he is team doctor, he is not responsible for the drug testing program anymore. That has been taken out of the team physician's area of responsibility.

There are some who say people deserve second chances. But in these days at USC when all the news is being made in the courtroom and all the news is bad, that second chance may not be deserved. After all, what has Akers done to deserve this second chance?

As so much else that has happened here, USC's credibility is hurt by having Akers retained as team physician.



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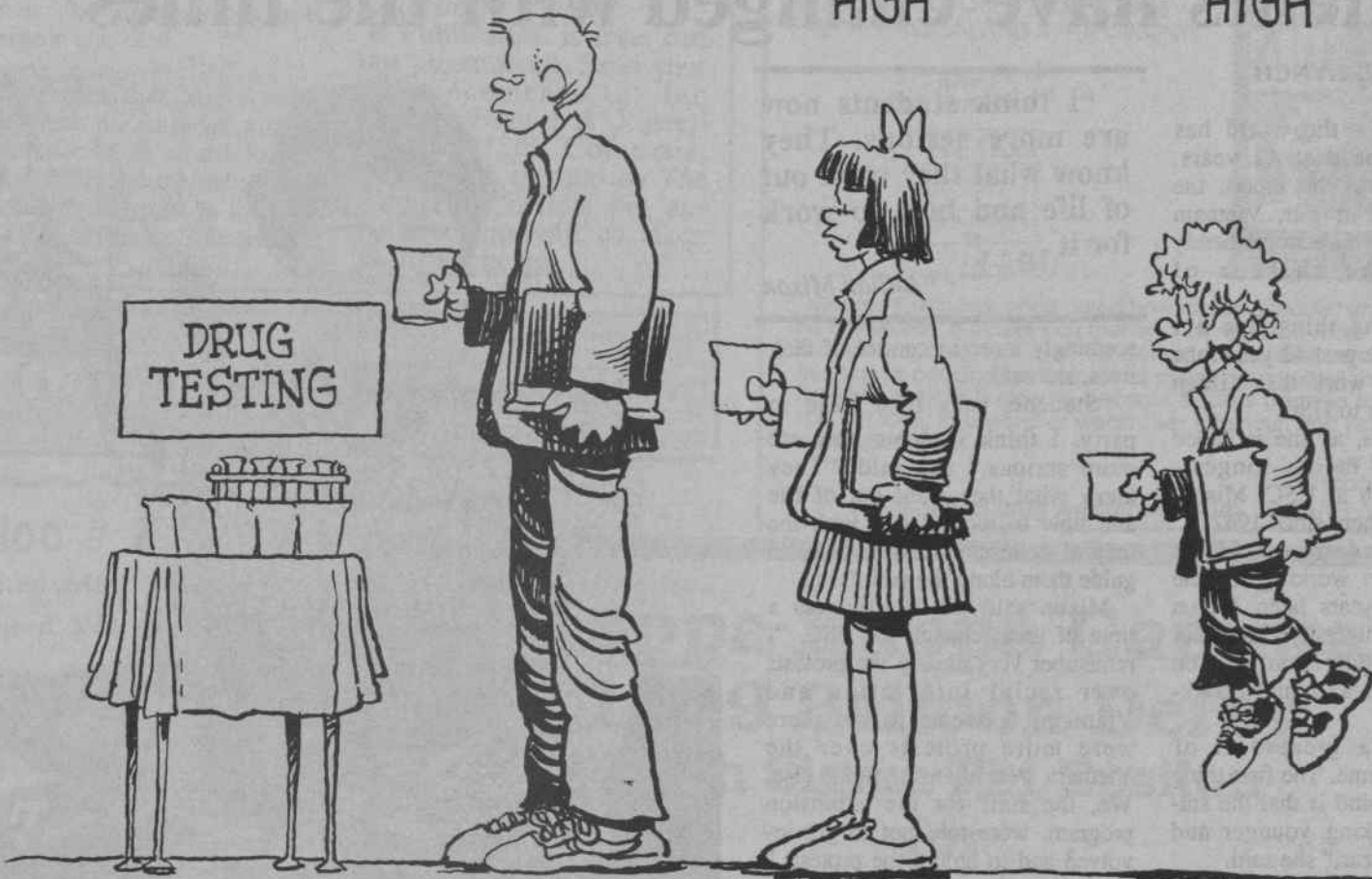
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Letters Policy: The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at a maximum, 250 to 300 words long. The writer should include full name, professional title if an employee with USC or Columbia resident, or year and major if a student. An address and phone number are required with all letters sent. Guest editorials should not exceed 500 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for style or possible libel. The Gamecock will not withhold names under any circumstance.

SENIOR HIGH

JUNIOR HIGH

ELEMENTARY HIGH



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THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Fair brings touch of magic to Columbia

"Robby and Linda, go to the rocket. Robby and Linda, go to the rocket. George Williams, meet your party at the front gate . . ."

The loud, crackling voice filled in the gaps between the excited voices of the crowds and the hard-sell voices of the modern day carnies. The air reeked of Italian sausage dogs, elephant ears and vinegar fries. Children smacked their lips clean of candy and caramel-coated apples.

That nauseated-from-excitement feeling abbed my stomach and I knew that I was at



Amy Loomis

the State Fair. People brushed past me in their hurry to ride the biggest rides, bright lights blurred my vision, my ears couldn't untangle the different noises of shrill screams coming from the roller coasters or the voices yelling for people to try to sink a ball and win a furry stuffed animal. But it all seemed to happen in slow motion.

Like ants scurrying around a picnic with scraps of food, we made our way toward the exhibits. The stench of livestock and urine filled our nostrils as we made our way to the buildings with arts and crafts. Figures, shapes and colors protruded from the canvases and glass frames. And the three dimensional works breathed with the life of their creators, or so I thought. Inebriated by the art that surrounded us

— suffocating us — we walked again past the smell of urine and welcomed the smell of elephant ears slapping us in the face.

Breathing in the night's aromas like desp-

erately needed oxygen, we succumbed to our stomachs' pleas and satisfied our human hunger. Content and nourished, we ventured on.

Up, up, up we soared touching the evening clouds, catching our breaths while riding the biggest circle. Columbia looked like one big Christmas tree, decorated with little white lights. The sky line was dark and majestic, unlike the metal monsters of the daylight. The moon was full and beautiful, not hiding behind the clouds.

On our feet again, some of the magic evaporated leaving a chill and a tiredness we had not noticed before. The nausea in my stomach had relaxed a little. No one seemed to notice. The voices shrieked as before and fresh elephant ears were still being served. Our insignificance was obvious.

We trekked to the vehicle that would remove us from the night's mystic circle and looked upon it in awe.

Letters to the editor

SCC shouldn't lower standards

To the editor:

I feel compelled to comment on the Oct. 11 article regarding black enrollment in South Carolina College. First, I want to express how disgusted I am that Reenea Harrison chose to use such an offensive phrase as "lily-white" in her description of SCC. Ms. Harrison, if you are white there is no reason to use a degrading black phrase in order to show allegiance to the black community. If you are black, shame on you. How would you like a white person to describe a black-dominated group as charcoal black? But then we have different standards for blacks and whites, which brings me to my next comment.

The buzz word for the '80s has been "increased minority enrollment." Hey, what's wrong with that? Everyone deserves a fair share of the pie, right? Right. The bad part of this increased minority movement comes to light when we examine Harrison's final comments: "Black students don't perform as well on SAT and ACT tests as white students . . . black applicants will be judged more on . . . (other factors). What Harrison is really saying is that it is career and politically astute to have more warm black bodies in SCC, so we will lower standards for blacks in order to achieve this goal.

Whenever policies such as this are enacted, blacks will fail to get the most important part of the pie. RESPECT. I don't care if the setting is academic, government or business, whenever a black is promoted or placed in a lucrative position, the perception will be that skin color got him there, not merit. This really hurts the blacks who are accepted into SCC (or whatever) because they exceeded

the requirements for admission.

I believe the SAT is an overused tool of measurement. However, if we use it to measure one group it should be used to measure all. Why is it that blacks are the only racial and/or ethnic group that is screaming for special consideration? When was the last time we heard the Jewish, Greek, Lebanese or Asian communities asking for special treatment because they enjoy a different culture? I would wager that the aforementioned groups perform just fine on the SAT. Their cultural differences sure have not hampered them economically.

If I were black, I would not let whites treat me as if I were not capable of meeting standards that are set for everyone else.

In closing, I would like to say that I am well aware of how risky this letter is. A person cannot clear their throat today without being called a racist. However, if it is racist to believe that everyone should have to live by the same standards, then, yes, I am a racist.

C. Henderson III
Graduate student

Honors college must advertise

To the editor:

With regard to Ms. Reenea Harrison's summary of the South Carolina College as portraying a "lily-white image" (*The Gamecock*, Oct. 11), we feel compelled to say that this is a big statement for someone who has been involved with this organization for less than a semester. We have never perceived the honors college to be composed of bigots, but even if this were blatantly true, the SCC is not well known enough among college students and applicants even to have an image! If we did not have this image of lily-whiteness before that article, Ms. Harrison has insured

that we have it now!

Does Ms. Harrison know the composite breakdown of foreign students in the SCC with relation to the whole of USC? If 30 percent of USC's students are Northerners, would we make sure that 30 percent of the honors college is Northern? No! The answer to our diversity problem is not to lower our standards or show prejudice toward some people. What the SCC needs to do is ADVERTISE. All USC enrollees should be recruited. Outstanding high school juniors and seniors should be sent information not only about USC, but also about the SCC. Let everyone hear about the SCC.

SAT scores alone are not enough to indicate a student's ability. That is why the SCC has set minimum SAT requirements and includes an interview session in the admission procedure. These minimum standards must be maintained, and all applicants must be judged equally. The SCC should discriminate only on the basis of the admission requirements, not on the basis of skin color. Vigorous recruiting, not discrimination is the key to a diverse student body.

Joanne Veatch
English junior
Honors college

Shannon Douglas
Media arts junior
Honors college

Jensen lacks compassion

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the letter by Dan Jensen in the Oct. 11 issue of *The Gamecock*. It is amazing to me that you would want to publicly display your lack of compassion for the hundreds of thousands of victims who were devastated by Hurricane Hugo.

Reluctantly you admit, "For some, Hugo was a tragedy." Congratulations on your astute observation! This terrifying ordeal was not merely "the fish story of a lifetime." It is a disaster that has left our state in chaos. When we all will be paying for this occurrence for years to come, how can you imply that we are "making Hugo out to be more than he was?"

It is going to take South Carolina decades to recover from the hurricane. And three weeks later, you are bored with all of the publicity Hugo is still receiving.

How inconvenient that you must see hurricane updates on the news, hurricane headlines in the paper and hurricane pictures in magazines. Forget about the inconveniences that the people of Charleston felt when they had to stand in lines to receive food and clean water. Or the inconveniences experienced by the Sumter area when they were without telephones and electricity. How tiresome it must be for you to read about the people of Myrtle Beach who could not even shower or flush toilets. Let me apologize on behalf of the grief stricken people of our state for inconveniencing you, Dan Jensen.

I agree with you that there are a lot of other things going on in the world today. But how close to home do these other events really hit? President Bush's drug program is not going to rebuild government housing for the poor. Noriega in Panama is not going to restore wildlife and our coastline, only time can do that. Even the World Series cannot repair the destruction around our state.

I am pleased to discover, however, that I have seen hundreds of generous people, unlike Jensen. It is wonderful to see the people of South Carolina working together to replenish our land after this dreadful event.

Elizabeth A. Barrett
English junior