

Money

Coaches bring in money, but are they worth the big bucks?

Sports is big business. Everybody knows that. The amount of money that flows into universities from regular season, playoff and tournament games is staggering. Any given football bowl game can score a million for a school. An NCAA basketball tournament game on TV can bring about a quarter of that. Between ticket sales, and TV rights and paraphernalia, a university can make more money on a single sports team than its entire biology department makes in a year.

But to get to these bowl games, and tournament games, the university has to have one thing — a good team. And to be good, the school must have the best players. And to have the best players it must have a good coach. And nowadays, to have a good coach, it must have good credit, because it's going to be shelling out a lot of money.

This week it was revealed how much USC and Clemson head basketball and football coaches make per year. The amounts are dizzying.

USC Basketball coach George Felton makes somewhere between \$188,000 and \$213,000. That includes his \$77,000 salary, \$75,000-\$100,000 in TV and radio shows he gets paid for, the use of two cars at \$30,000 and a bonus he got for taking his team to the NCAA tournament last season of \$6,416.67.

This does not even include speaking engagements or endorsements.

Clemson's coach, Cliff Ellis, not including endorsements or speaking engagements, makes about \$265,000 a year.

This is a lot of money to be paying any faculty or staff member of a university which is exactly what these coaches are.

It wouldn't be exaggerating to say that a 30-year GINT professor with three books under his belt and maybe a Nobel Prize thrown in would hardly make half of a basketball or football coach's salary.

How does that make teachers, professors and department heads feel? Like they're getting shafted, no doubt.

The coaches are not the ones anyone should be shaking a finger at, because, after all, who's going to say to a university president or athletic director, "no, I don't think I want two free cars and 100 grand for coaching 12 games a year. That's just too much. I'm not worth it."

No one would turn the money down, and probably shouldn't. But, universities are going to have to start drawing a line somewhere. Money is the driving force behind all sports, "amateur" or not. One of the big problems with collegiate sports is the money is so enticing that universities will do anything to get good teams, to win more games, to go to more bowls.

The buck has to stop somewhere. University presidents and athletic directors should place an emphasis on school, not money. These coaches are here to teach. They are supposed to be educators. They are supposed to be support groups for these athletes trying to get through school.

If they're more worried about their big payoff and how many games they have to win to pick up their bonuses, the motive behind excelling is obscured.

Keep the salaries down. A coach should never make more than a university president or a department head of any of the colleges at a university.

When money becomes the most important aspect of amateur sports, the whole point of competition is lost.

McNEIL Chicago Tribune



Students, America should praise changes

Every day, it seems, another startling development is revealed through the miracle of satellite television. First, Hungary's government resigns. Then East Germany opens the wall. And now, millions hold victory signs up in Czechoslovakia — arms extended, calling for liberty.

The world is changing, and we as Americans have become content to sit passively and watch. America has grown fat and lethargic — feeding on its success and relative stability. Now, when the time has come for the world to be dynamic and hunger for change, American seems unconcerned and removed.

For example, who are the people influencing the changes in Eastern Europe? Who are the majority of the ones who were gunned down or squashed by tanks in Tiananmen Square this summer? Who are the ones that are causing East to meet West?

Students. That's who. Students — just like us. Students, and the young, are the ones leading

the movements in the streets of Prague and over the Berlin Wall. Students and the young — most in their early 20s — are the ones altering the world's destiny.

These people are the same age as most of the students at USC. These people want the same things we American students want. They want peace and freedom.

We have it. They're going to get it, it seems. But they have to fight for it. They have to unite and move together, and they need our help and support.

It's a pity that George Bush is the president in office at this amazing time in history, because he's just likely enough to squander this. He has given his obligatory consent for what has gone on, but he should be doing more.

As should all of us. If Bush really wanted to show the world he is behind what is going on, he would go to Prague, or East Berlin or somewhere where people need support and walk with the students. He should be in the midst of the millions marching in the cold, holding a "V" sign in the air — arm extended. Or at the very least, if that is too much, he could send a delegation of his choice to march in his place.

Imagine how satisfying and moving it would be for the people in Prague or China to see the American President or an American delegation walking in the streets among the chanting crowds.

Americans, from the president to congress to each governor, right down to us, the American counterparts of those hungering for change, need to raise a victory sign in support for what is going on. Students here at USC and at every university, high school and elementary school in the country should hold celebrations in support of the people of the world who want what we have. If those students see others, with young faces like theirs, saying "way to go," that would mean so much more to them than our President merely nodding approval at his weekly press conference.

We as students should take a moment, an hour, a day to march in our cities or on our campuses to say to our fellow students whose efforts will make a difference in our lives, that we are behind them 100 percent.

We're over here in America, where everything is running pretty smoothly, and we are losing sight of the rest of the world. The students in America had their day to make a difference, and they did. Now, others are making their mark, and we should not allow ourselves to become fat and self-centered. That business degree and BMW is not as important right now as letting the students of the world who are risking their lives know that what they are doing is a wonderful thing.



Jeff Shrewsbury

THE WALL AT HOME



Letters to the editor

U. S. should help the bear

To the editor:
I close my eyes for a moment and when I awake all I see before me are mutilated bears. There is blood everywhere, but this is not the sad part — a mother's cub is left behind to fight the wilderness alone. I can't believe what I see, but then I realize it is just a dream. But in real life, it is no dream.

Every day hundreds of bears are viciously murdered and their vital organs are taken from them. Hunters shoot the bears, chop them up and leave them for dead.

You may be asking the same questions I did — why are they doing this?

They want the bear parts to sell them to the highest bidder, so they become rich.

There are supposed to be laws protecting this kind of thing, that's why we have the Wildlife Commission. But still, this goes on anyway, and to think that there are actually seasons when such acts are allowed and encouraged. If the government says it's OK to kill bears, then people are going to be more willing to do so. We need laws that will enable the bear to roam this earth without fear. The punishment for this crime is so lenient that it's worth the risk of being caught. Most people convicted of this crime spend only 2 to 4 years in prison, which is mostly suspended time.

Please, I am asking for your help in protecting our wildlife. As James Oliver Curwood said, "The greatest thrill of the hunt is not in killing, but in letting live."

Julia Nettles
Fashion merchandising senior

Stop all these stupid letters

To the editor:
This letter is in response to Julie Keith Salisbury's Nov. 20 letter responding to Laura Lindsay's Nov. 3 letter concerning Samuel Dunham's letter of Oct. 25 and the carload of other redundant letters that have filled this space in the past month:

Why don't you people get a hobby?

Monica Collins
Journalism senior

Nicaragua not what it seems

To the editor:
Many of the political cartoons in *The Gamecock* are witty and trenchant. The one published Nov. 10, however, perpetuates dangerous misconceptions about the Nicaraguan government. Nicaragua has suffered eight years of war and terror at the hands of CIA and U.S.-funded "contras."

The cartoon shows Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega seated next to Fidel Castro and the president of Romania under the banner

"Hardcore Communist's League." Neither Ortega nor his party are communist in any manner. They have consistently advocated and upheld a mixed economy on the model of France, Sweden and other Western nations. The Nicaraguan government is a parliamentary in which the majority party is Ortega's or "Sandinista's." Opposition parties vote in parliament. Freedom of speech and press is guaranteed by the Nicaraguan constitution.

The occasion of the cartoon is Ortega's recent decision to end the cease-fire. The cease-fire had been Ortega's unilateral promise; the contras never agreed to it. After numerous violations, the government had to resume action when 18 soldiers were killed by contras in the countryside.

In 1978, after the overthrow of the atrocious tyrant, Somoza, the vast majority under international supervision elected Ortega to office.

A former contra officer who left in disgust, Edgar Chamorro, says the contras are composed of young men kidnapped by the CIA and forced into service at gunpoint. He also says the contras have no coherent political program and all their statements are pre-written by the CIA. It would be a good idea to have someone like Chamorro at USC to speak to dispel some misconceptions about what is going on in Nicaragua.

Amitai Avi-ram
Assistant English professor

Choice is not clear subject

To the editor:
In response to S. Noelle Van Doren's Nov. 15 letter, I would like to comment on choice.

People are not unclear on choice. Making choices is important for our growth and well-being as well as that of society, but choice is not the same as unbridled self-interest.

Am I free to lie, cheat, steal, drive while I'm drunk or strangle you till you die? Would you like for me to intentionally pull the plug on your respirator because it is an inconvenience for me to pay for or give you care until you are well? Innocent people like you need protection from those who would exert their will at your peril. This is one of the purposes of law.

An innocent human child, conceived through no fault of his or her own, certainly deserves legal safeguards from the choice that kills.

But protecting the child is not enough. Pro-life agencies and support groups reach out today to the woman who chooses life — even when not convenient. Pro-life people extend a loving hand to the women who suffer as a result of unplanned pregnancies as well as abortions. This is their choice, and mine.

Julie Dever
Psychology sophomore

The Gamecock

Editor in Chief
WAYNE WASHINGTON
Managing Editor
HAL MILLARD
Copy Desk Chief
KATHY BLACKWELL
Assistant Copy Desk Chief
ROBYN THOMPSON
News Editor
KELLY C. THOMAS
Assistant News Editors
JEFF WILSON
Carolina Life Editor
ROBERT THOMAS
Assistant Carolina Life Editor
LYNN GIBSON
Sports Editor
CHIRIS SILVESTRI
Assistant Sports Editor
BRANT LONG
Photography Editor
TEDDY LEPP

Assistant Photography Editor
JULIE BOUCHILLON
Viewpoint Editor
JEFF SHREWSBURY
Datebook Editor
JAN PHILLIPS
Comics/Graphics Editor
ROBB LANE
Graduate Assistant
KRISTIN FRANCIS
Gamecock Adviser
ERIK COLLINS
Director of Student Media
ED BONZA
Production Manager
LAURA S. DAY
Assistant Production Manager
RAY BURGOS
Advertising Manager
Assistant Advertising Manager
JEFFREY B. THOMPSON

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.