Students sue USC for free speech rights

Brittany Franceschina | March 4, 2016

Ross Abbott, a fourth-year business economics student, along with the campus chapters of Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) and College Libertarians and assisted by the Student Foundation of Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), filed a First Amendment lawsuit against USC Tuesday.

“Our University of South Carolina is so intolerant of free speech that students can’t even talk about free speech,” Catherine Sevcenko, FIRE’s associate director of litigation, said.

Students filed formal complaints last semester along with the student groups when an outdoor event featuring posters with examples of censorship throughout the nation. This lead to the launch of an investigation and the university serving Abbott a Notice of Charge letter, demanding he respond to the complaints by meeting with the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and threatening to expel him, according to FIRE. Abbott had the posters approved by the campus director of student life before the event.

“I held an educational event for students to learn about their free speech rights. Apparently it was my school’s administrators that needed the lesson,” Abbott said. “Now, with FIRE’s help, we’re going to give it to them.”

The Nov. 21 event conveyed 11 instances of campus censorship nationwide, including a student being prevented from handing out copies of the U.S. Constitution, a faculty blog being censored and the suspension of a Jewish student for displaying a Korean Hindu swastika obtained on a trip to India on a residence hall bulletin board. These USC students that filed complaints found the event “offensive” and “triggering.”

Carl Wells, assistant director of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and a defendant in the lawsuit, required Abbott at a Dec. 8 meeting to explain each situation depicted by the posters and what message they were supposed to be sending, according to FIRE. Abbott, in turn, gave Wells a letter asking that his disciplinary record be expunged. Abbott was notified through email that the matter was being dropped; however, Abbott and the student groups chose to go through with the lawsuit in order to ensure that in the future students will not be punished for protected speech.

Sanders, Clinton fight for SC support at CNN town hall

T. Michael Beddar and Sarah Drizin

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton discussed political issues with voters at the Democratic Town Hall at the USC Law School on Tuesday evening.

CNN correspondent Chris Cuomo hosted the event, asking the candidates questions from audience members. Cuomo began with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The issues that Sanders tackled extended from the American criminal justice system to wealthy powers controlling both politics and the economy. Sanders said, “I think people are saying, ‘Enough with establishment politics and establishment economics.’ Our government belongs to all of us.”

V. David Furch, a student at Benedict College, asked Sanders, “Where does historically black colleges, private historically black colleges fall under this plan?”

Sanders assured her that historically black colleges, many of which are private, would also be included. “What I believe is that in the year 2016, when we talk about public education, we should make sure that public colleges and universities are tuition free, that everybody in this country who has the ability and the desire can get a college education,” Sanders said. “You have my word that we will not only sustain, we will substantially increase funding for the historically black colleges and universities.”

Sanders also gave a thirty-second closing pitch. “I would very much appreciate the support — a political revolution when millions of people come together and basically say that our government belongs to all of us and is going to represent all of us, not just the few on top,” Sanders said. “So with that, I would very much appreciate the support of the people of South Carolina next Saturday.”

After Sanders finished, Hillary Clinton joined Cuomo and the voters to discuss their concerns. Like Sanders, Clinton believes in Barack Obama’s plan to close Guantanamo Bay.

“I believe the president is right to try to close it. I think it is a continuing recruitment advertisement for terrorists,” Clinton said.

Jennifer Wisley, a USC student, asked Clinton, “If Assad was to be deposed, how will you direct the state department and international partners to install within that country a government capable of containing and mitigating the sectarian and insurgency violence?”

The Breaking Down Barriers Forum featured five African American and police brutality activists discussing why they support Hillary Clinton.

Mary Ramsey | February 20, 2016

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton spoke about criminal justice reform and gun control issues alongside the Mothers of the Movement organization and former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords at the Breaking Down Barriers Forum. The event took place at Central Baptist Church of Columbia on Tuesday evening.

Mothers of the Movement is made up of mothers who have lost children to gun violence, especially African Americans killed by police or individuals claiming self-defense. Giffords famously survived an assassination attempt in 2011 when she was congresswoman and met and greet in her congressional district. Congressmen Jim Clyburn was also on hand at the event. Clinton gave a brief introduction and spoke again at the end of the event, but the majority of the event involved the other speakers discussing their stories. 
North Carolina man found with meth in rectum

Monday night, a sheriff in Salisbury, North Carolina, responded to several calls from citizens saying Arnie Preston Rabon, 27, was selling drugs. The sheriff pulled over Rabon at a traffic stop on Monday night and found a handgun and more than $500 cash in his truck. Later, Rabon was searched at the jail and deputies found 14 grams of methamphetamine in two plastic bags located in his rectum. He was charged with driving with a revoked license, drug possession, maintaining a vehicle for the drug trade, possession of drug paraphernalia and possessing drugs on the property of the jail.
—Compiled by Brittany Francischina, Senior News Writer

Rock Hill teens charged with animal cruelty

Two teens in Rock Hill shot a puppy with a BB gun 18 times and threw a knife at it over the weekend, according to police. The six-week-old Lab mix, named Brody, was brought to a local animal hospital, and staff said that the X-rays show the BB pellets are still inside the dog but he is on pain medication and expected to recover fully. Many people have offered to adopt the dog and donate money towards his vet bill, according to a veterinarian at the hospital. De’Monte Ty’Juan Douglas, 17, is charged with felony first-degree cruelty to animals and a 14-year-old was petitioned to family court and released to his parents pending a court appearance. They could be given between 180 days and five years behind bars and a $5,000 fine if convicted.
—Compiled by Brittany Francischina, Senior News Writer

Eleventh Circuit Solicitor arrested for DUI

Highway Patrol responding to a car wreck on Monday at 8 p.m. in Lexington found the vehicle of Eleventh Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers. He had run off the road after attempting to make a left turn and struck a utility pole. Troopers arrested Myers for driving under the influence, and he was brought to a detention center where his blood alcohol was .09. This incident follows Myers pleading guilty to charges of driving while impaired in 2005 and being cited for possession of an open container in 2014. Myers said in a statement: “I’m not pleased with anything I did. I made a mistake, the wrong choice, and I absolutely blame myself.”
—Compiled by Brittany Francischina, Senior News Writer
she walked in as a political figure, and Zimmerman was found not killed while walking to his Florida on a personal level. Martin was appreciated that Clinton took the time to speak with families like of Trayvon Martin, noted her personal loss and reiterated her appreciation that Clinton took the time to speak with families like .

Geneva Reed-Veal, the mother of Sandra Bland, explained that she was introduced at a meeting of the Congressional Black Caucus Bland died while in police custody following a controversial arrest. While the death was ruled a suicide, this cause of death has been disputed and the arresting officer has been charged with perjury. “Make no mistake I’m angry!” Reed-Veal said, “but I’m not angry enough to rest — I’m angry enough to vote for this lady.”

Hillary is tough, she is courageous, she will fight to make gun safety measures to deal with the gun culture and the epidemic of violence, to keep guns out of the hands of those who need it, and how they came to endorse her. “She walked in as the secretary of State, she walked out as a compassionate candidate,” Fulton said, “but she walked in as a presidential candidate.”

Kelly both argued that Clinton is the best candidate to take on the gun lobby in order to achieve meaningful reforms, an issue that Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly both argued that Clinton is the best candidate to take on gun lobby in order to achieve meaningful reforms, an issue that Clinton intends to help “Madame President.”

In her closing remarks, Clinton praised her and the other speakers for their activism in the wake of personal loss and reiterated her commitment to the issues discussed. “The courage, the commitment, turning sorrow into strategy, turning movement into a movement, is just such a great message for everybody,” Clinton said. “Something that I hope you will take with you when you leave here tonight, something that is, you, important for each of us, and should be important for all of us, and every one of us, and I am absolutely determined that together we will get justice. We will reform the criminal justice system. We will provide accountability for those in positions of power and responsibility. We will make progress towards common sense gun safety measures to deal with the gun culture and the epidemic of violence, to keep guns out of the hands of those who shouldn’t have them in the first place.”

Clinton currently holds a 241 point lead over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the South Carolina Democratic primary polls. She walked in as a political figure, and Zimmerman was found not killed while walking to his Florida home by George Zimmerman, and Zimmerman was found not guilty under the state’s Stand Your Ground self-defense laws. “She walked in as the secretary of State, she walked out as a compassionate candidate,” Fulton said, “but she walked in as a presidential candidate.”

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Emily Mann's play "Still Life," put on by the USC Theatre and Dance Department, is shown through the perspectives of Mark, a Marine; Cheryl, his wife; and Nadine, the woman Mark is having an affair with.

"Still Life," presented in a documentary style with various interwoven monologues, allows the viewer to witness the complications that follow the play's plot, which will run at The Lab Theatre from Feb. 25-26, makes a point to showcase that Mark's PTSD is not only an issue for him, but also for each character.

Director Laura Kelly's own service as a Marine was an inspiration and an important factor for his take on telling the story. Kelly, a fourth-year theatre student, said he enjoys everything about the parallels between the post-war effects on Vietnam veterans and the current post-war era following the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. "I feel like it's a timely piece," he said.

The play creates diverse backgrounds for each character with perspectives completely contrary, yet complementary, to one another. The organic movement between speakers adds to the documentary style of this play.

"To get into these roles, it's really hard because these people in this play have experienced very traumatic events," Kelly said. "For these actors, it was a very hard role for them to personalize and internalize, and they're doing it beautifully," he said.

The characters portrayed in "Still Life" have gone through many difficult experiences, and bringing each role to life took work from each cast member. Beth Patson, fourth-year hospitality management student, who plays Nadine, a character who is "completely different" from her. "She's an alcoholic, so it's definitely been an adventure diving into something like that," she said.

Sixth-year theatre student Colleen Cooper, who plays Mark, and that the audience is really going to have to pay attention to the dialogue. "But the way we give it to the audience, it'll be easier to follow. It definitely breaks that fourth wall. It's crazy," he said.

Located south of campus on Pickens Street, DiPrato's is a student go-to for brunch and sandwiches.

College is the time to try new things. With many students who hail from out of the state, living in Columbia offers some of the best food the South can offer. While it's easy to grab dinner at an average chain, here are five local restaurants to try before graduation.

1. DiPrato's
If you haven't been to DiPrato's, you are definitely missing out. The New York-style deli shines on the weekends with their brunch menu, but it sells delicious sandwiches for the lunch hours as well.

2. Grill Marks
Grill Marks to the classic burger spot that can't be missed. It has fresh, sliced and a vast selection of burgers to suit all tastes. Located at 1912 Main St. in the Vista, it's a great place to stop in a quick bite, but impressive enough to bring your parents when they visit.

3. Village Idiot
Every college town has a place with pizza, beer and sports all day long and into the night. Village Idiot keeps it simple with their menu, service and pub-style decor. With a great location in Five Points, Village Idiot is perfect for trivia night with friends or watching the Gamecocks win an away game.

4. Palmetto Pig
From the outside, Palmetto Pig can look a little run-down, but a delicious exterior is often the sign of an excellent barbecue place, and this rings true for the Palmetto Pig. The restaurant features all-you-can-eat classic South Carolina-style barbecue food with the following specials: "hush puppies and baked beans, for example—for less than $15."

5. Kaminsky's Dessert Cafe
Finally, Kaminsky's is the go-to dessert cafe for Columbia residents. When you walk by the window, it's impossible not to be tantalized by the assortment of cakes in the display case. Inside, you can treat yourself to coffee, tea or, if you're feeling overly ambitious, an entire meal. Kaminsky's is a great spot for birthdays, dates or when you finish a killer run and need a sugar fix.

The best way to discover a new city is to get lost and enjoy it. Off campus, this may be the first time you've ever needed to fend for yourself in the kitchen. It can be a real pain without the proper tools. The following suggestions may keep you from throwing your pans into the nearest wall.

A high-quality chef’s knife
You're going to need a chef's knife in having to saw into your food when you're trying to prepare it, which probably makes a good knife the most important thing you can have in your kitchen. There are two main types of kitchen knives — German and Japanese. German knives are thicker, softer and require more hand holding, while Japanese knives are thinner, more brittle and require less hand holding. One other thing to request sharpening. Both styles of knives can be great, but it can pick the moderately priced Wusthof (German-style) or Tojiro Damascus and it's on Amazon,without breaking the bank — probably some of the best knives you can get for their price points. Just pick up a honing steel and keep them and keep your knives clean and dry in a magnetized knife block to keep them in a dishwasher or let them soak.

An instant-read thermometer
You need an instant-read thermometer, especially if you're a new chef. You're not just throwing a steak on heat and guessing when it's done if it's your first time. You're never going to undercook it, which isn't safe to eat, and it's the type of set that'll probably last you a lifetime and make your cooking just a little more enjoyable.

A food scale
A food scale is in the material the pans are made from. Stainless steel, aluminum, copper and iron are frequently used to construct pots and pans. Stainless steel is non-reactive (won't react with your food, creating a metallic taste), virtually non-stick when oiled properly and extremely durable, but stainless steel doesn't transfer or distribute heat evenly. Likewise, aluminum, copper and iron all transfer heat well, but stainless steel's high conductivity makes it heavier and more expensive than silver yet cheaper than copper.

A food thermometer.
Internal temperature are both paramount which temperature you need your food to reach and having a thermometer to check internal temperatures are both paramount to a healthy culinary experience. Buy a food thermometer.

A set of prep tools
"Prep tools." A French term meaning "to put in place," is one of the most important steps in any culinary venture. Most of the time, you don't want to jump into the cooking portion of the meal. You want to measure out and cut your ingredients beforehand. That's why a set of prep tools is needed. A set of prep tools includes all the tools you need to keep your cutting surfaces separated from one another, which can make it a lot easier to keep your kitchen disorganized and get your prep work done. A set of prep tools will allow you to keep your cutting surfaces separated from each other, which makes it a lot easier to keep your kitchen organized and get your prep work done. A set of prep tools includes all the tools you need to keep your cutting surfaces separated from each other, which can make it a lot easier to keep your kitchen disorganized and get your prep work done.
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Unless something cataclysmic happens, Donald Trump will win the Republican nomination for president. But you may not notice until you turn on the television after any Super Tuesday is over, or the next day, or the day after that. This country is not in need of a far-left justice, a race where issues and policies are discussed at length and with great intelligence, a race that our nation so desperately needs in this time and this redoubtable era. Instead, we will be treated to an election devoid of all these wonderful things, those things that make a democracy work. Instead, we will find ourselves surrounded by two campaigns that derive into dogmas and ten word answers, the sort of things that can fit on a hat, and no longer. It, or I suppose I should say when, this happens, the Democratic Party may win, and we may win big, but the nation will be left for the worse after losing sight of the one thing that makes a democracy thrive, the one thing that can only improve and not detract: Debate.

C.R. Jones
Fourth-year history and political science student

Superme Court must be nonpartisan

Graham Glusman
First-year International Studies and Spanish student

The death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has seen a firestorm of comment, as an appointment of a liberal justice, as an appointment of a liberal justice Antarin Scalia has seen a nation divided, a nation divided, a nation divided, a nation divided, a nation divided... yet that is not the case. Those in the party of Reagan continue to be convinced that any one of Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, or, to a lesser extent, John Kasich will pick up his mantle. It can't be Trump, they say, it can't be, yet Unfrankly, they are fooling themselves. It will be.

In just under one week from today, Super Tuesday will take place. For the politically uninitiated or uninformed, all you need to know about Super Tuesday is that it is everything. It's the entire race in a single day. On March 1, the primary and general election in different states will hold their primaries, a ballot that represents nearly a fourth of all remaining delegates. Here's how it works: Donald Trump holds a lead in nearly every single one of them, even in Ohio, where Kasich, the popular governor of Ohio, appears on the same ballot. Does what he is expected to do and wins a majority of these states, that's game over.

Yet I am not a Democrat first. I am an American first. I am an American with a wide array of foreign friends on every single continent who is uniquely aware of how the world moves, how wonderfully strange nation, as an American, the thought of Trump as the Republican nominee makes me unbelievably sad. If he wins the nomination, as he is now almost guaranteed to do, he will be the representative voice for nearly half of our nation. He will speak for the Republican Party as its standard-bearer. If this happens, our nation will be deprived of a presidential race of actual substance, a race where issues and policies are discussed at length and with great intelligence, a race that our nation so desperately needs in this time and this redoubtable era. Instead, we will be treated to an election devoid of all these wonderful things, those things that make a democracy work. Instead, we will find ourselves surrounded by two campaigns as a compliment to the legislative branch, and to see it become another law-making body compromises its objectivity. Laws, regardless of which party they stem from, are either constitutional or not, and the political preferences of justices should play no role in this determination. This country is not in need of a far-left justice, because by its very nature the Supreme Court is designed as a conservative body. The Constitution is not a suggestion but an absolute, and when it comes to a green law's adherence to this text, conservation is essential. Obama or his successor should focus not on selecting a left-leaning justice, but on finding one that sees beyond party divisions altogether.

Many Americans are dissatisfied with the political and social state of this country, and a liberal Supreme Court appointment presents itself as a quid pro quo. A country with a Democratic judicial and executive branch has an obvious appeal — primarily, the expansion of the liberal agenda. As attractive as this may seem, this is how democracy works. Change will have a changing worth fighting for, and the difficulty with which this is won and many other democracies once change embodies this mortality. While a nation run by people that always agree is tempting, it is inherently undemocratic. A conservative Supreme Court maintains much-needed balance in the American political system and enables change — at an infinitely slower pace — while concurrently upholding the values we often take for granted in the Constitution. Letters to the Editor must not exceed 200 words. Students must include their full name, year and Faculty and staff must include their full name, position and applicable job title. Verifiable statements of fact must include at least one source. If we cannot verify a statement of fact, your letter will not be published until the writer implements necessary changes or provides reputable sources for any facts in question. Letters are edited for clarity, style and grammar.

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Aries
A partner’s opinion is important. Work together today and tomorrow. Get ready to make your choices. Bond over shared food and drink. Take a walk and talk about what could be possible.

Taurus
Begin a busy phase for the next two days. Focus on work and get things done. You can’t do everything at once. Follow the rules.

Gemini
Play with family and friends over the next two days. Practice your talents and arts. Opposites attract. Kindle romance by sparks up a fun invitation. You’re surrounded by love. Soak it up.

Cancer
You’re in for a busy few days at home. Authorize improvements and repairs. Decisions made now last, so consider carefully. Play with long-range plans. Focus on home and complete a major task.

Leo
Dig deep into a favorite subject today and tomorrow. Sit through facts and data. The one with the composition for precision has the advantage. There’s more than enough material. Do the reading. Write down your discoveries.

Virgo
Big games offer big prizes. Watch for a new source of income and accept a generous offer. Abundance is available over the next few days. Begin your new plan. Profitable opportunities arise. Peaceful introspection follows.

Libra
You’re especially hot today and tomorrow. Go for what you want. Make it happen. Conversations are shifting in your favor. Inspire rather than criticize anyone. Smile, and say “You knock me. Thank you.”

Scorpio
Relax and let your thoughts ramble. Your imagination is fertile breeding ground over the next few days. Get inspired and make plans toward a new possibility. Discover new opportunities. Peaceful introspection follows.

Sagittarius
Team projects go well over the next two days. Socialize, meetings, and coordinate plans. Keep networks updated. You have more friends than you realized. Pass along what you’re learning. Get new inventory goods.

Capricorn
Career opportunities arise and improvements Dress will be respectful. Far horizons beckon. Friends are there for you. Investigate options. Consider a challenge. Win or lose, you end up with more than when you started.

Aquarius
Begin a two-day period of study and research. Your wanderlust is growing worse. Things fall into place. Change occurs whether you like it or not. Plan for the road ahead. Gather resources. Decisions rely on a capable partner. Handle financial matters and negotiations today and tomorrow. Wheeling and dealing may be required, and the stakes could be high. Advance your agenda together. Changes necessary be budget revisions. You're learning.
Freshman pitcher leads Gamecocks to win

Bobby Babani

South Carolina secured their fourth win in as many games, earning a 5-0 victory over Appalachian State behind the electrifying debut performance of freshman Adam Hill. Hill made a pretty good first impression with Gamecock fans. The 6-foot-5 right-hander put up quite the line in his first start — fanning 11 batters without yielding any walks in six shutout innings.

Hill sat comfortably in the 88-91 m.p.h. range on the stadium gun. His long levers hide the ball well and due to its late life and movement, it's been really fun to watch him like that almost each and every time. It's also really hard to argue with Martin a just plain bad Missouri team, it's Kentucky team and an ugly loss to getting blown out by a coachless team would have probably collapsed the team would have probably collapsed the future of the program, sit and drill an even bigger big shot.

Offensively South Carolina didn't have to push the ball particularly well after the chilly, damp evening, but did just enough with runners in scoring position to get the job done. The top of the order really struggled, with the top four hitters going hitless in 14 at-bats.

Coach Chad Holbrook was not surprised by Hill's spectacular performance. He pounded the count. "My changeup was working really well," Hill said. "Every time I came back from the holiday break, he's been like that almost every single time. It's been really fun to watch him grow and develop. We thought when we signed Adam we were getting a kid that had that bright future here, and I think now you can see why we thought that," he said. "I was able to work my fastball in and out. I was able to put my slider however I wanted — whether for a strike, or for a swing-and-miss," Hill said. "My changeup was working well."

Offensively South Carolina didn't have to push the ball particularly well after the chilly, damp evening, but did just enough with runners in scoring position to get the job done. The top of the order really struggled, with the top four hitters going hitless in 14 at-bats. Senior shortstop Marcus Mooney put South Carolina up 2-0 in the second when he clobbered a ball to the warning track. The play was scored a sacrifice fly with an error on Stroup, so Mooney earned credit for just one RBI on the play. On a warmer day, the ball would likely have left the field for a grand slam. Mooney drove in a second run with an RBI single in the sixth inning.

Junior Gene Cone also had a good day at the plate, picking up three hits and scoring two runs.

South Carolina will host Winthrop at 4 p.m. Wednesday, weather permitting.

Frank Martin is done messin' around. As March comes and the SEC race begins its sprint to the finish line, Martin seems to have decided that the formula to winning this year is by playing those who have won in past years and sitting those who have not.

On Saturday against Florida, you could tell from the announcement of starting lineups that this game was straying from the norm. After getting blown out by a coachless Kentucky team and an ugly loss to a just plain bad Missouri team, it's really hard to argue with Martin for trying something new. It's also hard to argue against the changes he made. Martin chose to start junior guard Duane Notice over the normal starter freshman PJ Dozier, a move that made complete sense after Dozier's lackluster 5-14 shooting, two-assistant performance against Missouri, and Notice's 21-point, six-rebound breakout performance against Florida. But the changes didn't stop there.

Combined, the three freshmen who had been getting quality time as of late (Dozier, Chris Silva and Jamal Gregory) were on the court for just nine minutes of play against Florida, which, to put in perspective, is less than what both Dozier and Silva average individually per game on the season.

With these changes in place, the Gamecocks were able to pull out a win against Florida that was anything but easy. And while at times they did seem to be missing the playmaking of Dozier, the shot blocking of Silva and the spark usually provided by Gregory, in the end, there was no mistake that they missed. A youthful team would have struggled to remain poised coming out of halftime after allowing for an 18-0 run to end the first half. But the Gamecocks seemed poised as ever. An inexperienced team would have gotten frustrated upon hitting an extended drought early in the second half. But the Gamecocks just locked down on defense harder to make up for it. And a freshmen-led team would have probably collapsed as Florida seemed to match every shot the Gamecocks made late in the game, but led by Michael Carrera, Notice and Sindarius Thornwell, each shot that Florida matched just seemed like motivation for the Gamecocks to come back down again and drill an even bigger big shot.

If this is Martin's plan going forward, one has to wonder if this team will be able to stay fresh with its extremely shortened bench and greatly increased minutes on starters. On Saturday, you could already see those added minutes taking their toll. As senior forward Laimonas Chatkevicius (who normally splits minutes with Silva) checked himself out of the game many times, and Carrera began crouching at half-court late in the game, trying to get any kind of rest, only to have Coach Martin get on him for doing so.

Now the future of this team rests in the hands of those Frank Martin trusts most, while the freshmen, the future of the program, sit and watch from the bench. It's a tactical gamble by Martin that so far looks like a good one. Let's just hope its goodness lasts.

Column

Josh Turpin / THE DAILY GAMECOCK