**THE GAMECOCK**

The University of South Carolina

Monday, February 6, 2006

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**Pittsburgh tops Seattle 21-10 in Super Bowl XL**

Cawher, Bettis finally win championship; Steelers win first Super Bowl since 1980

**Columbia resident one sandwich at a time.**

has made himself into a local celebrity to USC students

Law dean candidate visits campus, meets with faculty

David Shipley, former USC professor, aims to raise credentials, scholarship rates

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**RHA plays host to SCORE conference**

Seventy students from six S.C. universities confer on campus, address college networking

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**‘Beezer’s Guy’: deliverer, movie buff, local legend**

Always on the run, James Carter keeps Columbia well fed

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**Classifieds**

Comics & Crossword.............. 8
Classifieds........................... 11
Horoscope......................... 8
Opinion................................ 5
Police Report....................... 2

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**VIEWPOINTS**

Lindsey Dmenierlein has some issues with "inside lane bugs"; Valerie Sims suggest we garnish the beauty of chance air and a healthier environment.

**The Mix**

It's up to you

Vidme.com is a host Web site for Internet users who create pages of funny images and animations.

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**Sports**

Conference trouble

USC men's basketball team lost to Arkansas 73-59 on Saturday.

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CRIME REPORT

THURSDAY, FEB. 2
Information,
Injured student, 12:12 p.m.
Intersection of Bronson and
Bakersville roads.
Reporting officer R. Ratliff responded with
CDP to assist with a
traffic accident involving a pedestrian, who was
a USC student. First
Responder was dispatched
to the scene and assisted
EMS in assisting the
victim. The victim was
taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment.

Surprise activity, 7:30 p.m.,
Kappa Delta, 550 S. Rutledge Ave.
The complainant said one of
the residents opened the door for
an unknown male, and he entered
the living room and started playing
the piano. The complainant said
she escorted him out but was unsure
of where the male was going.
Reporting Officer: Sh. Hijabele.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3
Leaving the scene of an accident, Reckless
driving, No proof of insurance, 2:30 a.m.
FULL STREET INCIDENT
Reporting officer C. Keene stopped a vehicle
after observing it travel westbound on Gervais Street with excessive body
damage. Upon interview, the
driver was found to have
struck a vehicle on Greene Street. Further investigation explained he had
no proof of insurance. The
driver of the church
and-run was notified and
responded to the accident scene.

Assistance Rendered,
7:34 a.m., 1400 College Road, 447 Greene St.
The victim, 16, said his foot was
bruised. EMS was notified and
transported him to Lexington Medical.
Reporting Officer: PTL. M. Davo.

Protestors in Beirut
demand Danishyah in reaction to
Islamic editorial cartoons

BEIRUT, Lebanon —
Muslims' over caricatures of
the prophet Muhammad grow日益 violent
attacks by tear gas and
water cannons — torched
Danes' diplomatic missions
in reaction to the first day of
tenacious attacks.

Muslim cleric condemned the attacks, saying
backing was "an act of violence on its
own right.

USCSS Cole

The USS Cole bombing of
23 'dangerous individuals.'
It called the escapees
"dangerous individuals.

The international police
agency issued an
"global security alert" for
those who escaped Friday
from the scene via a tunnel.
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Attention Students

Please review the following Student Government Constitution Amendment and Student Activity Fee Referendum. You will be voting on these changes during Student Body Elections on February 13th and 14th. If you have any questions regarding the amendment or referendum please contact the Office of Student Government and Student Organizations at 777.2654.

Amendment Note: Underlined words are additions to the Constitution. Words that are crossed out are being removed from the Constitution.

AMENDING THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR CREATION OF AN INTERNAL JUDICIAL BRANCH.

Be it enacted by the Student Senate of the University of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article II, Section 7(A) of the Student Government Constitution is amended to read as follows:

A. The Attorney General shall:
1. Be appointed by the President of Student Government and assume duties upon concurrence of a majority of the Senate.
2. When solicited, provide opinions on questions of constitutionality.
3. Appoint the members of the impeachment proceedings and bring against the student
   Judicial, Chief Justice, as serve a member of the Court of Impeachment.
4. Certify the Student Government Elections pursuant to the Constitutional Election Codes.

SECTION 2. Article III, Section 4 (A) (16) of the Student Government Constitution is amended to read as follows:

18. Have the sole power of impeachment of elected or appointed officials of the Student Government of the University of South Carolina. Impeachment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate. The Clerk of the Senate shall notify the Student Senate Chief Justice to begin impeachment proceedings upon written charges signed by the individual or officer initiating the charges with the document having been witnessed and notarized. The following shall occur:
   a. Impeachment shall be defined in the Constitutional Codes. Impeachment charges may only occur for reasons stated in the Codes.
   b. Notice of receipt of impeachment charges of any officer except for the Student Senate Chief Justice shall be served by the Clerk of the Senate to the Student Senate Judicial Council.
   c. The Student Senate Chief Justice shall then call a session of the Senate Judicial Committee within ten (10) working days of such notice to consider impeachment charges and or try the impeachment. During these proceedings, the committee shall be known as the Court of Impeachment. The Student Government Advisor shall attend all impeachment proceedings as a non-voting member.
   d. The Senate Judicial Committee shall be comprised of at least five Senators in order to sit as a Court of Impeachment. If at the time of consideration of impeachment charges the Committee is not comprised of at least five Senators, the Vice President shall appoint to the Committee the number of Senators necessary to fulfill this requirement. If impeachment charges are brought against the President, the Vice President shall perform the acts that are to be performed by the President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate.
   e. After charges are brought against the student Judicial, Chief Justice, the Clerk of the Senate shall notify the Chairperson of the Senate Judicial Committee. The Chairperson shall then serve as Chairperson of the Court of Impeachment and call the committee into session. The Attorney General shall serve as a member of the Court in such cases. The Attorney General may be charged by the Student Senate Judicial Committee to also serve on the Court of Impeachment. The Vice President must, if necessary, appoint a replacement according to Article III, Section 4, Subsection A, Subpart D.
   f. A recommendation for conviction or acquittal to the full Senate shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Court. Failure of the Court of Impeachment to make a recommendation to the Senate within thirty days of receipt of charges shall constitute acquittal.
   g. Conviction or acquittal shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the recommendation of the Court of Impeachment by the Student Senate. A conviction must lead to removal of office.

Judge in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from any office held in Student Government. However, the party impeached, whether convicted or acquitted, shall be liable to prosecution according to State and Federal Law. No officer shall exercise any official duties or receive a stipend after being impeached.

SECTION 3. Article IV of the Student Government Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. JUDICIAL AUTHORITY AND DISCIPLINE SYSTEM.

The student discipline system is administered by the Division of Student Affairs. Student Government, as an elected and representative voice of the Student Body, has the right to comment on any proposed change in policy pertaining to the discipline of students. The discipline system is not a part of Student Government and intersects with Student Government only to the extent authorized by the Board of Trustees and as stated in this Constitution.

Section 2. CAROLINA STUDENT JUDICIAL COUNCIL.

A. Carolina Student Judicial Council operates under the Office of Judicial Programs and does not interact with Student Government in matters of student discipline.

B. The authority to review and rule on Student Government constitutional challenges shall be vested in the Carolina Student Judicial Council. Decisions of the Carolina Student Judicial Council may be appealed in writing to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

Section 3. JUDICIAL AUTHORITY.

The judicial authority of Student Government shall be vested in a Constitutional Council. The authority to review and rule on Student Government constitutional challenges shall be vested in the Constitutional Council.

A. Members.
   1. The members of the Constitutional Council shall be five members.
   2. Selection:
      a. The members of the Constitutional Council shall be selected in the following manner:
         i. The first student body president to hold office following the ratification of this amendment shall serve in this position of appointment. All five members of the Constitutional Council shall be selected in the following manner:
   2. Following nomination from the president, the nominations shall meet first with the Powers and Responsibilities Committee, which shall issue a report on each candidate.
   3. Following a report of the Powers and Responsibilities Committee, the nominations shall meet with the Student Government Judicial Council, which shall review the report of the Powers and Responsibilities Committee. The Judicial Council shall then issue its own report, which it shall submit to the full Senate.
   4. All appointees to the Constitutional Council shall be confirmed with a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate membership present when the vote is taken.

C. Tenure:
   1. If a vacancy occurs on the Constitutional Council, the Student Senate President of the time of the vacancy shall appoint a replacement. The replacement shall be appointed through the procedure detailed in Section 3 (D) of Article V of the Constitution.

D. Tenure:
   1. After being appointed to the Constitutional Council, a member shall serve a period of no less than four years.

E. The Chief Justice.
   1. The first student body president to hold office following the ratification of this clause shall serve the term of the Chief Justice.
   2. The student body president to hold office following the ratification of this clause shall determine which of his or her nominees shall serve as the nominee for Chief Justice. If the first Chief Justice is confirmed, his or her successor shall become the Chief Justice. If a replacement is not available for this position at the time of the election, the President shall serve as the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall have the following responsibilities:
      a. The Chief Justice shall have the authority of the office of the President of Student Government.
      b. Serve as Chairperson of the Court of Impeachment.
      c. Be in good standing with the or her respective college from the time of his or her appointment until the appointment of his or her successor.

Section 3. THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Council shall elect a number of Associate Chief Justice and will be elected for a one-year term. The Chief Justice shall have the responsibility to:

A. Administer the oath of office to all elected Student Government officials.

B. Serve as Chairperson of the Court of Impeachment.

C. Serve in good standing with his or her respective college from the time of his or her election until the election of his or her successor.

SECTION 4. Article V, Section 1 (F), (O), (H) of the Student Government Constitution is amended to read as follows:

F. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council.

G. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council. No member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Judicial Council.

H. No member of the Judicial Council may simultaneously serve in the Legislative or Executive Branch of Student Government.

SECTION 5. The text of the amendment that shall be put to the student body for ratification shall be as follows:

Should the Student Government Constitution be amended so that judicial authority for Student Government is vested internally in the Constitutional Council and not in the disciplinary board known as the Carolina Student Judicial Council.

This amendment shall be enacted upon passage by a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate, the signatures of the Student Body President and University President, and ratification by the majority of the Student Body.

CALLING FOR THE STUDENT BODY TO MAKE A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE SHOULD BE RAISED TO PAY FOR THE CAMPUS-WIDE READERSHIP PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Student Senate of the University of South Carolina:

Section 1. The text of the referendum that shall be put to the student body shall be as follows:

Should Student Government propose to the Board of Trustees a two-dollar ($2.00) percent increase in the student activity fee for the purpose of making permanent the "USA Today Readership Program," which currently includes the newspapers The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The State, and USA Today?

Section 2. If the majority of the Student Body signifies "yes" as the answer to the question put in Section 1 of this referendum, the Student Government President shall inform the Board of Trustees of the referendums result.

Section 3. This referendum shall be placed on the ballot of the 2006 election upon the signature of the Student Body President and University President.
Betty Friedan, the author of The Feminine Mystique, dies of heart failure at age 85

Friedan died at her Washington, D.C., home of congestive heart failure, according to a cousin, Emily Bazelon. Few books have so profoundly influenced so many lives as did Friedan’s 1963 bestseller. A reader who found herself suffering from “the problem that has no name,” as she described it, could go on to understand who she was and what she wanted. Friedan died of heart failure at age 85.

The book opened women’s eyes to a situation that she found shockingly newsworthy: “Women are not as happy, not as fulfilled, as they might be” because they were “trapped” by their roles, a phenomenon that she coined “the problem that has no name.” In 1972, she founded the National Organization for Women (NOW), which Friedan co-founded in 1966, and worked for over five decades as a leader of the U.S. women’s movement. Friedan was a trailblazer both as a writer and as a leader of the women’s movement, and she was a driving force behind the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972.

The book was a massive success, selling over 10 million copies in 14 languages and inspiring women across the globe to fight for their rights. Friedan’s legacy continues to this day, with NOW leading the fight for gender equality and women’s rights around the world. Friedan’s passing is a significant loss for the women’s movement, but her legacy will live on through the work of those who continue to fight for equal rights and opportunities for all women.
Cartoons must be uncivil, not needlessly offensive

Woe to editorial cartoonists who can’t find the fine line between smart satire and incendiary farce. When a Danish newspaper in September printed editorial cartoons featuring, among other things, the Prophet Muhammad wearing a turban shaped like a bomb, multiple newspapers around the world reprinted the cartoons. While many middle-east Muslims didn’t turn to violence, the newspaper’s editors and those who reprinted the cartoons have been condemned and used the cartoon before it ever saw the light of day.

Arrest warrants were issued by the editors-in-chief of the Jordanian newspapers that reprinted the cartoons, according to Jordan’s Petra News Agency; the cartoonists themselves are in hiding for their safety. Some Muslims on Sunday burned down the Danish mission in Lebanon, according to The Associated Press. At least one person has died in riots in a Christian neighborhood.

Editorial cartoonists are the court jesters of newspapers. It’s their job to keep the editor or fellow with a healthy dose of clever insight. The cartoonists were within their rights, but were nowhere near civil.

Newspapers have the right to print what they want, but responsibility should come first.

Stories like these are what the subject matter stretches into unwarranted page news story. Let artists be artists, but draw the line but moral relativity hasn’t caught on in many Eastern countries.

There was a bearded Muslim who would have been far less offensive than the bearded Muslim who ran the cartoon. Muslims are in the same boat, so we can’t hold them to a standard they wouldn’t hold us to.

It’s their job to take shots at front-page fodder with a healthy dose of clever insight. The cartoonists were within their rights, but were nowhere near civil.

Most American Christians, if they saw a cartoon portraying Muslims as terrorists, or any holyNeeded in this country, the prostitution was far worse than anything other religions have done in the past.

Newspaper editors must remember that editorial cartoons should be scrutinized just as much as a front-page story. The editors must make sure they draw the line when the subject matter stretches into unwarranted blasphemy.

Like Hokey Pokey, walkers should make room for fast runners

Stop. Put down your paper, but make sure you can still read it — this is the best walking trick of your hands for this. Now fold out your hands and gather down. Point your index fingers out in front of you, and stick out your thumbs. Good. Now we’ve got that going. You’ve got your left hand from your right hand. You need that knowledge for the next part.

I need to jog in a well-known dance. I’m sure you did it as a child. I’m talking about a little dance, radiated in unison only by Ashlee Simpson’s lip-sync on “That’s My Day.”

I called the Hokey Pokey.

Take a few moments and review the meanings of “inside” and “outside” in a new way. On your right hand, your right hand is inside and outside — right hand (now that we know it left from right), left foot, whole self, bulkhead (this won’t sound, not mine). You can even shake it all about if you feel the need. Left, right, inside, outside.

I’m not making up this shit. In fact, I believe that everyone knows about this but never thinkemselves in between inside and outside so they would’ve had no clue.

An excuse for this.

I’ll go out on a limb and say that if the excuse is the real reason why cigarette smoking has never been banned.

If parents want to use a stick to offer a better pleasure, then they are in the right. However, if they are smoking, try to keep the room for fast runners.

We should admit the obvious. It is time we protect our language and infrastructure.

Fossil fuel protection parameters for war, American addition

BEGALIEVE, Fla. — In Tuesday's State of the Union address, President Bush spoke about a number of standard issues. In addition to mentioning the usual hot-button political topics, the president stated a problem that has rarely been put in terms of energy.

In his address, the president presented a problem that has rarely been put in terms of energy.

It is oil that runs through this country’s veins, allowing it to function. So, then is the importance of oil forgotten when discussing the behavior of the United States, both domestically and abroad?

During his speech, the president pointed out that a significant proportion of our nation’s energy comes from unstable regions of the world.

The American’s international involvements as they were isolated from that fact. The Iraq current state of affairs is a direct result of the president’s presence to prevent the region from collapsing into anarchy.

But, it is obvious to many politicians, the most dire consequence of this anarchy would not be an increase in terrorism, but the loss of oil resources.

It is far too callous to admit something so obvious. The national leaders hide behind rationalizations. These are the same leaders who fight against terror and injustice with the same tools they caused it.

On Tuesday night, the president acknowledged this as a good first step, but there are many tasks that must be completed. First, we must search for a new, clean power source for both transportation and infrastructure. The second step is less obvious. It is time we protect our language and infrastructure.

As the war in Iraq drags on, American becomes less obvious. It is time we protect our language and infrastructure.

What’s my point? Stop smoking; it smels bad. It has no message other than the long run because not only will you die an early death, but some people will want to know why you smoked with your mouth open like an ashtray.

So, my point is that stop smoking, it’s not as important as the long run because not only will you die an early death, but some people will want to know why you smoked with your mouth open like an ashtray.

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W hat is perhaps one of the most spoken lines in the history of cinema helped spawn one of the Internet's most funny Web sites.

YTMND.com, an acronym for “You’re the man, now, dog!” Goldberg took this phrase, along with a photo of a dog, to create the site in 2001 by Max Goldberg. He was inspired to create the site after viewing a commercial for “Police Safe For Work.”

In 2004, the list became so long that Goldberg could not keep up. YTMND allowed anyone to sign up, upload their own sound bites and images, and create their own YTMND. Once the site had a central location, its popularity began to soar.

Early posts — called YTMNs — were filled with unmoderated, and most were highly offensive. Goldberg soon shut down the site, but it was resurrected in March of 2005 with new features, including such as the “Top Rated” or “Top Viewed.” The “Up and Coming” YTMNDs are ones that have been rated highly upon upload for the last few hours.

The “Hall of Fame” lists popular YTMNDs that have remained on the “Top 15” list for several weeks. These are often the most highly rated, as well.

The forums — where many of the site’s fans have started — have become an important part of the Web site. The site goes through quite a lot of fads, and many of them begin as a funny thought that later becomes a YTMND. Many make imitations or spin-offs out of popular YTMNDs.

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Researchers study effects of stress on live-birth sex ratios

Professor, assistant examine belief that more male fetuses are miscarried in times of trouble.

In 2005, he made a similar observation when he looked at data collected in California after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The birth cohort, born four to five months after the attacks, had fewer males than expected.

Researchers have long known that males tend to have lower life expectancies than females as fetuses, embryos, children, and adults. This observation, he said, corresponds with what biologists know about stress, pregnancy, and sex ratios. Researchers have long known that males tend to have lower life expectancies than females as fetuses, embryos, children and adults. Indeed, it’s not until people reach their 90s that the sex ratio becomes particularly apparent after six weeks of gestation, but the biological mechanisms behind it are not known.

Some speculate that males are extremely sensitive to stress in the mother’s body. According to the theory, if a woman is producing and circulating high concentrations of stress hormones, called glucocorticoids, the male fetus might react badly, and possibly be miscarried.

If that theory is true, then the observation that the male sex ratio was lower in the birth cohort four to five months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks would match the timing.

But why a woman’s body might spontaneously reject, or have a male fetus or embryo born, is not known. And although two reigning hypotheses find the fight, until now no one had put them to the test using human population data, Catalano said.

The first hypothesis, called the “viral cohort,” argues that women’s bodies will miscarry weak male fetuses and embryos during stressful times because weak sons will produce fewer offspring than weak daughters. Therefore, miscarrying a weak male would allow the mother to delay the pregnancy with the possibility of having a daughter or a more robust son.

The hypothesis assumes that men born in stressful periods would survive longer, on average, than those born in other cohorts.

In an analysis of data collected on Swedish men from 1771 to 1912, researchers to look at the demographic data. Do these deaths have a selective value, or are they just the result of women’s biology gone wrong?

The hypothesis suggests that when women are faced with periods of economic attacks, had fewer males. Therefore, miscarrying a weak male would allow the mother to delay the pregnancy with the possibility of having a daughter or a more robust son.

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One would also expect that males born in cohorts with relatively low sex ratios would survive longer, on average, than those born in other cohorts. But why a woman’s body might spontaneously reject, or have a male fetus or embryo born, is not known. And although two reigning hypotheses find the fight, until now no one had put them to the test using human population data, Catalano said.

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The first hypothesis, called the “viral cohort,” argues that women’s bodies will miscarrry weak male fetuses and embryos during stressful times because weak sons will produce fewer offspring than weak daughters. Therefore, miscarrying a weak male would allow the mother to delay the pregnancy with the possibility of having a daughter or a more robust son.

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Today

USER FRIENDLY, AUBERGINE:
8 p.m. New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St. $5 over 21, $7 under.

“HOW TO CONQUER AMERICA IN ONE NIGHT”:
7, 9 p.m. Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St. $5.50 with student ID.

“SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE”:
8 p.m. Russell House Theater

How to accessorize your gym routine

Nancy Cole
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Our bodies can get bored with routine workouts. We don’t need a break from having our bellies in the gym. We just need to bust our bodies out of boredom. Maybe it’s time to re-evaluate and alter your workout.

One way to do so is accessorize.

In the same way accessories can change the look of your outfit, they can work wonders for your workout. Inexpensive equipment pieces such as stability balls, medicine balls, dyna discs, balance bars and bands are available in your gym or sporting goods store. You just have to know how to use them effectively.

When choosing equipment that challenges your balance, such as the dyna disc, you will have to lighten the load if you use them with weights. Your major muscle groups will not get worked as intensely; however, your core and stabilizers will kick in. And since you’ll have to concentrate on keeping your balance, it won’t be boring.

To perform the stationary lunge on a disc, get into the lunge position with your front working leg on the dyna disc and your rear leg behind you. Descend until your front thigh is parallel to the floor and perpendicular to your lower leg. You rear knee will closely approach the floor. Push up on your front heel to raise your hips back to the starting position. To progress you can add weights.
In a stunning dramatic win with thousands of Pittsburgh fans watching, the Steelers finally captured their fifth title as "One for the Thumb" that the Steel City has been waiting for since 1980.

Title No. 5 for Pittsburgh

With Steelers' Motown win, we don't have huge games on schedule

Time between Super Bowl, Garnet and Black Spring Game much too long to wait

Now that the Super Bowl is over, it is time for the most devastating sentence in my life since "Yes, Mr. Brosnahan, you have to take two more Spanish classes to graduate." Until the Garnet and Black Spring Game, there is nothing to look forward to. Of course football isn't totally over — there is always the Pro Bowl. And for those two don't really count. The Pro Bowl is to football what Master P is to "Dancing with the Stars" — there is nothing to watch. The Pro Bowl is always the same old practices — but those two don't really count.

With Steelers' Motown win, we don't have huge games on schedule

Super Bowl about more than football

Gamecocks lose second-straight since defeating Florida Gators

Carolina falls to Arkansas after falling to Tennessee last week

Super Bowl on schedule

Super Bowl on schedule

Super Bowl about more than football

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Super Bowl on schedule

Super Bowl about more than football

Gamecocks lose second-straight since defeating Florida Gators

Born in High Point in 1946, Dwayne Wayde White, an experienced running back, kept the Razorbacks on track. His 14 points led the Gamecocks, who shot 38 percent from the field to 41 percent from the field. Arkansas' RonFord Johnson accounted for 10 points and 65-1/2, with 26 minutes, scoring only two points of the Razorbacks' margin to 10 points.

He was cutting and moving, and he had his 16 points when the game was over.

Moadd finished with a career-high 16 points, and USC won its record-setting 10th game over the year, with a record of 2-6 in the SEC.

"Moadd's shooting got us out of it, USC," USC guard Terrence Kinsey told The Associated Press. "He really got the fans into the game, and he was on fire and we couldn't put it out." USC forward Renaldo Parker, whose chance of playing was questionable before the game due to a sprained knee, entered for a few minutes in the first half. USC forward Ron Ford Johnson, whose chance of playing was questionable before the game due to a sprained knee, entered for a few minutes in the first half.

"We're not going to go away easily, this proud city and it puts our city up to 30,000 job cuts. "I love this city and it got its due."

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Women’s basketball team
defeats Mississippi State

Gamecocks have won
5 of last 4 conference
road matchups.

From AP and staff reports

Melanie Johnson had 18 points to lead USC to a 51-44 victory over Mississippi State on Sunday. Elisa Burgrova added 11 points for the Gamecocks (12-8, 3-5 SEC).

Robin Porter had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Lady Bulldogs (6-16, 1-8). Mimeke McKinney added 11 points. Carolina, shooting at 19.5 percent, limited Mississippi State to 23.9 percent shooting from the field and blocked 10 shots. Mississippi State out-bounced USC 45-40.

The Gamecocks have now won three of their last four SEC games, including their last two conference road games. USC has improved to 12-8 overall and 1-8 in the league. USC’s lead to five points, went 2-for-2 to extend USC’s lead to five points, and — with 11 seconds left — put the game out of reach for MSU. The Gamecocks have compiled a 14-3 record during Johnson’s career when she has scored in double figures.

So what am I supposed to do until there is football to be watched?

With the absence of football, usually I just channel my energy into cheering for any team wearing garnet and black with South Carolina written on their jerseys. But this year it is driving me insane.

Normally I can count on USC to at least put out a entertaining basketball team that plays tough defense, and, even in defeat, gives me hope for the next game. But then I watched them play Arkansas on Saturday.

I love basketball, but watching this team play is way too frustrating for me. Take this weekend’s game for example. Even though Carolina held Ronnie Brewer, one of the best players in the SEC to only 10 points, Jonathon Modica had 37. The guy was 6-of-9 from 3-point range. Personally I think I'd start guarding him after the first, oh, I don’t know, 6-of-9. Normally I can count on USC to at least put out a entertaining basketball team that plays tough defense, and, even in defeat, gives me hope for the next game. But then I watched them play Arkansas on Saturday.

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College players usually aren’t consistent enough offensively to warrant a team changing their entire defense to stop them, but after Modica scored 23 points in the first half alone, I think maybe a change should have been made. Just floating that out there.

It seems like every time I watch a USC basketball game somebody on the other team has the night of his life. There was Marquette’s Ryan Amoroso coming up with 30 points and 12 rebounds against the Gamecocks. There was James Myers scoring a career-high 19 points as Carolina beat by 19 to Clemson. (Clemson! In basketball! By 19!) There was Sam Young, a true freshman who didn’t even start, coming off the bench and scoring a quick career-high 16 points to bury the Gamecocks against Pittsburgh. It seems to happen on a weekly basis, and I can’t take it any more.

So, for the sake of my sanity, I am doing being any more than a casual fan of Carolina basketball for the rest of this year. I am tired of getting my hopes up and then watching us lose to teams like Temple and Ole Miss.

From now on, I am just going to stop back, collect my senses and pretend that it is September again.

So if you see a guy sitting alone in the student section of Williams-Brice Stadium on some random late February afternoon, just avoid eye contact and keep looking away.

I’ll be all right, I promise.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu.

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