Below and beyond
Exploring Columbia’s underground scene
Briefing

“I’m being totally honest with you, the honesty comes from my heart. I have watched the video. And I was sickened by what I saw. And I have not watched it since.”

— North Charleston Police Chief Eddie Driggers on the video of police officer Michael Slager shooting Walter Scott

“As part of our dedication to protecting America’s youth, this Administration supports efforts to ban the use of conversion therapy for minors.”

— President Barack Obama’s statement on banning sexual orientation conversion therapy

“Sexual assault is a serious problem on college campuses, and it is important that rape victims feel comfortable stepping forward. It saddens us to think that their willingness to do so might be diminished by our failings.”

— Rolling Stone Managing Editor Will Dana on the retraction of the magazine’s November article, “A Rape On Campus”

“I take it as I need to improve as a man. I take it with pride. I need to get better. And I think over my career, since my rookie season to now, I’ve gotten better. But obviously there’s more room for me to improve as a man.”

— Bubba Watson’s response to an ESPN poll of viewers’ opinion of golfers at the Masters
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3 spring game questions answered

Brennan Doherty
@BRENNANDOHERTY

When South Carolina’s 2015 spring practice comes to a close Saturday with the annual Garnet & Black Spring Game, the Gamecocks will have completed one of the bigger transitional periods since head coach Steve Spurrier took over in 2004.

For the first time in quite some time, someone not named Connor Shaw or Dylan Thompson took first-team reps at quarterback and the Gamecocks had to replace its leading-rusher and their top two offensive linemen.

Coming off a poor season, the South Carolina defense has also had to adjust to a new coach in co-defensive coordinator Jon Hoke and his new scheme.

The quarterback position is still up for grabs and there are several other unknowns with the Gamecocks, but here are three questions that have been answered this spring about South Carolina.

Who will step up as a potential No. 2 wide receiver to compliment Pharoh Cooper?

Even with an experienced supporting cast at wide receiver last season, it felt like now-junior Pharoh Cooper was Mr. Do-Everything for South Carolina. Now surrounded with inexperienced teammates at the position in 2015, Cooper may have to do even more for the Gamecocks.

With that said, there has been one player who has stood out this spring as wide receiver and his name is Deebo Samuel.

Now a redshirt freshman, Samuel watched the Gamecocks from the sidelines on Saturdays this past year, but he seems ready to take on a major role on the field come fall.

“Deebo is doing well,” Spurrier said. “Deebo is going to play a lot.”

What type of changes would new co-defensive coordinator Jon Hoke make to the defense?

Following a very disappointing and struggle-filled season on defense, Spurrier knew he needed to make a change, so he reunited with his old pal Jon Hoke. Hoke was Spurrier’s defensive coordinator for several seasons at Florida and he’s now a co-defensive coordinator along with Lorenzo Ward.

Hoke has installed a more traditional 4-3 style defense, a change from the 4-2-5 the Gamecocks have run in the past.

While South Carolina still has a lot more to learn about the way Hoke wants them to play, the defense seems to be coming together.

“We’re definitely making great strides,” South Carolina redshirt junior spur Jordan Diggs said. “Each day, everybody is coming out and working hard.”

How would Marquavius Lewis look upon his arrival?

When junior college transfer Marquavius Lewis decided to make South Carolina his new home, Spurrier and his staff rejoiced. The Gamecocks’ pass rush was non-existent in 2014 and Lewis has the ability to make life miserable for opposing quarterbacks.

Still, no one quite knew how Lewis would look when he arrived for the start of spring practice, but the Greenwood, South Carolina native has impressed to this point.

“He’s a great player. He fits in perfect,” South Carolina junior linebacker Skai Moore said of Lewis. “As soon as he came here, you could tell he was a great teammate.”

While the South Carolina coaches would like Lewis to lose a bit more weight before the season starts, he already appears to be the Gamecocks’ most athletic player along the defensive line.
A longtime caterer to the Columbia area and regular at Soda City farmers market, the Spotted Salamander is a lunch spot didn’t know you were looking for. The cafe is in the heart of historic Columbia and with chalkboard menus updated daily, natural lighting and homey decor, has an ambiance as delightful as the food.

One of the first things I notice when I walk into the Spotted Salamander is its opportunity for community. A long communal table stands in the center of the cafe, with strangers sitting by strangers all sharing a midday experience: lunch. Because most people only have a certain amount of time for lunch, the meal sometimes becomes strained, a chore, rather than something to look forward to. But the Spotted Salamander is reinventing lunch and customers take notice.

The Spotted Salamander was named after South Carolina’s official state amphibian. The cafe and catering service’s dedication to South Carolina isn’t just represented in their namesake but also in their use of all local ingredients. Everything is made from scratch every single time. The company thinks every party should be unique and works with customers to create an individualized catering menu. When asked what the most rewarding part of running a catering service is, Jake said, “Making brides happy.”

Every day, the Spotted Salamander has a new deviled egg recipe, charcuterie arrangement and croissant flavor. The menu is eye-catching — mouthwatering, enticing phrases such as “house kimchi,” “root beer-glazed” and “bacon-wrapped” written in colorful chalk on the blackboard. Their Instagram is also updated daily to show the menu and pictures of the day’s specials.

When the food arrives, I have to take a moment to admire the placement. Little touches are important to the cafe. Every table has its own kitschy salt and pepper shaker set. Tables are numbered on postcards from locations like Myrtle Beach and bear messages in the handwriting of strangers. Each plate is garnished with a pickled okra. While some people might consider salad a consolation meal, the Spotted Salad is both delicious and filling. Pulled chicken in a sweet tea vodka barbecue sauce is the standout. The house-made croutons are a satisfying companion.

Photos by Kamila Melko | Weekender
is light and fresh-tasting and doesn’t sacrifice heartiness or flavor. The shrimp are sizable, and the croissant bun flakess to perfection.

But the dessert. Oh, the dessert. I almost had to ask Shillato if the powdered sugar on the crack pie was really powdered sugar — it was that addicting. The slice of pie appears modest — much slimmer than most slices of pie. However, the crack pie is so rich, I found myself forsaking traditional pie. Chocolatey and moist, it put just about every dessert I’ve ever had to shame. Except for the berries and cream croinut, that is. Both Jake and Jessica immediately mentioned the croinut when asked what their most popular item is. It’s no doubt that part of its pull-factor has to do with the daily toppings — they’ve had some particular success with girl scout cookies — but the actual foundation of the dessert, the croissant dough fried like a doughnut, is what keeps people coming back for more. Flaky. Soft. Sweet, but not so much as to overpower the topping. The positive traits of the croinut are endless. Sadly, the Spotted Salamander’s supply of them are not. Arrive at Soda City early on Saturday morning if you’re looking to purchase one because

When you want it:
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday and at Soda City Farmers Market on Saturdays

Where you can get it:
1531 Richland St.

What you want:
Spotted Salad (mixed greens with pulled chicken in a sweet tea vodka barbecue sauce, bacon, cheddar cheese, tomatoes, house-made cornbread crouton and buttermilk ranch)
Pork Belly Cuban (pork belly, pickles, ham, cheese and tarragon honey mustard)
Chocolate Crack Pie (sugar, spice and everything nice)
Croinut of the day
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College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management
One of the most recognizable landmarks in Columbia is a 50-by-75-foot mural on the wall of what used to be the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank at Marion and Taylor streets. The mural was painted by local artist Blue Sky and is titled “Tunnelvision.” The mural depicts a tunnel leading to a beautiful sunset view and is so realistic it looks as though a car could drive right through it.

Anyone who lives in Columbia has driven past “Tunnelvision” and been captured by its mystery, by how easy it appears to just turn left, leave Columbia and enter the mural’s strange world. However, once the mural becomes just a normal part of your driving route, it’s easy to forget how mysterious it once was. Blue Sky says the idea came to him in a dream, but perhaps he had a subconscious reason why tunnels were on his mind.

Columbia has more mystery than you might think. Columbia has an underbelly. Actually, not unlike a cow, it has several underbellies.
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Below the city's streets are a series of tunnels. Whether secret or public, still open or closed up, the tunnels are there and we walk over them every day.

There are actual tunnels and there are rumored tunnels, proved explanations and conjecture. Much of the history about the tunnels was trapped inside when the tunnels were closed off, leaving us modern-day Columbians to speculate about their purpose. Though the general public may not know much about Columbia's underground, there are groups of explorers who are always trying to find a way down.

Anderson Burns, a former reporter for ABC Columbia, has a web series called “Hidden Columbia” in which he explores lesser-known stories and places in Columbia. His videos brought awareness to the forgotten tunnels and sparked interest in reopening them. Burns went looking for the tunnels in the name of journalism, but many Columbia tunnel-goers admit to just looking for trouble.

On Reddit and other blogs, users post stories about what they call the “Columbia Catacombs.” These so-called catacombs are service tunnels beneath USC, some of which are still open and serve as steam tunnels for USC’s energy facilities. Most of the tunnels, however, are now closed. Entering them is grounds for expulsion from USC. But after reading so many stories, it's hard not to want to lift a random manhole on campus and see if it leads to the tunnels.

Back in the ‘60s, the tunnels were a popular exploration site for USC students. Online, users recount their underground adventures: fraternity brothers drunkenly wandering the tunnels, kids dropping acid in the tunnels and even secret parties in the tunnels. Whether the majority of the student body knew about their existence, the catacombs have been a big part of USC’s culture and history since the university’s founding. There’s even an urban legend about the Columbia catacombs — the “Third Eye Man.” First spotted in 1949, the “Third Eye Man” is rumored to live in the USC utility tunnels, where he eats live chickens. The man supposedly has silver skin and a small third eye in the middle of his forehead. Reported sightings of the “Third Eye Man” have been printed in The Daily Gamecock several times. There have been no reported sightings since the catacombs were sealed.

Burns rediscovered tunnels at Riverfront Park, which were built in the early 1800s and were supposedly used by horse-drawn carriages. Today, the tunnels that aren't boarded up with bricks are hidden almost completely hidden by foliage, but the wooden floor of the tunnels is still intact. Though it’s impossible to know now, these tunnels were rumored to lead all the way to the Statehouse.

The Hidden Columbia crew also exposed the tunnels underneath Five Points. It is unsure if these tunnels connected to any of Columbia’s other tunnel systems at some point. Now, they are a popular spot for graffiti artists. One choice graffiti reads, “We will open the eyes of those who are ignorant.” Informed locals tell of secret tunnels beneath the Statehouse and Bull Street Asylum, but so far, there is no evidence of their existence. Still, it’s intriguing to entertain ideas of a whole, connected tunnel system underneath Columbia.

While we go about our daily lives at school or work walking around the city, there's a whole forgotten history under our feet. Maybe even a creature who eats live chickens. Maybe even mole people — no, definitely mole people. We don't have any evidence to the contrary.
Gamecocks head to Gainesville

Will Helms
@WHELMS21

No. 21 South Carolina (23-11) has won three straight games for the first time since opening SEC play with a sweep of next-to-last place Kentucky.
The team will look to capitalize on the momentum this weekend as they travel to Gainesville for a three-game series with No. 10 Florida.

The Gators come into this weekend’s matchup tied for third in the SEC East with the Gamecocks. Both teams will look to improve their 6-6 conference records as the two square off.

The Gamecocks are coming off a close 4-2 win against The Citadel on Wednesday and blowout wins against Appalachian State and Mississippi State.

South Carolina has gotten off to slow starts all season, not just in games, but in series, too. The Gamecocks have outscored their opponents in all innings but the first and the ninth.

The Gamecocks are also 5-0 in Sunday games, and have yet to lose an SEC series finale, despite dropping their past three conference series. In fact, in the series against Missouri, Georgia and Mississippi State, South Carolina is 0-6 in the first two games and 3-0 in the finals.

In those three wins, the Gamecocks are averaging 9.33 runs per game. In the six losses however, they are scoring just 3.33 runs a game, putting extra pressure on the pitchers.

Florida, though ranked in the top 10, has had a somewhat disappointing season so far. The 25-9 Gators are coming off a series loss at Missouri this past weekend, however, they scored 22 runs Tuesday against Stetson, including four home runs from freshman catcher J.J. Schwarz.

Schwarz is one of five everyday starters hitting over .300 for the Gators, compared to just three for the Gamecocks.
Florida has also hit 34 home runs as a team, 11 more than the Gamecocks. But the Gators’ biggest advantage lies in their home field advantage.

“They’re awfully good at home,” South Carolina head coach Chad Holbrook said. “We’re going to have a good chance.”

The Gamecocks will send sophomore right-hander Wil Crowe to the mound on Friday and junior lefty Jack Wynkoop will pitch on Saturday. There is “a good chance” freshman right-hander Brandon Murray could start Sunday; however, Holbrook stressed that he will do everything he can to win Friday and Saturday and that the Sunday starter is to be announced.

That may mean pitching Murray earlier as the freshman is 4-0 with a 1.66 ERA.

In all likelihood, Florida will pitch ace Logan Shore on Friday and some combination of sophomores A.J. Puk and Dane Dunning on Saturday and Sunday. Shore was last season’s Perfect Game Freshman of the Year.

Friday’s game will begin at 7 p.m. and will be shown on SEC Network Plus. After this weekend, South Carolina will host Presbyterian in a midweek game before a three-game home showdown with Vanderbilt.
**Weekend Calendar**
April 10 to 13

**FRIDAY**

**GRAND-GUIGNOL RADIO THEATRE**
Gambrell Hall
Fri and Sat, 7 p.m., Free

USC’s French student theater troupe, the Comédiens Carolingiens, will perform an adaptation of two Grand-Guigol plays. The performances will incorporate recorded sound effects and black and white movie clips and will be in French. English synopses will be provided.

**AN EVENING WITH JOHNNY MATHIS**
Koger Center for the Arts, 1051 Greene St.
Sat, 7:30 p.m., Tickets begin at $39

The longest-running artist on Columbia Records, Mathis has performed everything from Christmas music to jazz standards. The American music icon will perform his hit songs at the Koger Center.

**SATURDAY**

**GARNET & BLACK SPRING GAME**
Williams-Brice Stadium, 1125 George Rogers Blvd.
Sat, noon, Free

The Gamecock football team will hold its final practice of the spring in this full-length scrimmage, facing off in a game with real referees, real points and a recognition of several athletic teams at halftime. Parking is available at the State Fairgrounds for $10, and tailgating is encouraged.

**COLUMBIA OPEN STUDIOS**
701 Center for Contemporary Art, 701 Whaley St.
Sat and Sun, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Free

This year marks the fifth anniversary of Columbia Open Studios, a weekend-long tour of local artists’ studios across Lexington and Richland Counties. The tour encourages out-of-towners to visit the galleries.

**SUNDAY**

**ADVANCED BREWING CLASS**
Old Mill Brewpub, 711 East Main St., Lexington
Sun, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., $50

Brewmaster Matt Rodgers will teach participants every aspect of home brewing. Lunch will be provided.

**SECOND SUNDAY ROLL: BUS TOUR OF CIVIL WAR SITES**
The Robert Mills House, 1616 Blanding St.
Sun, 2 p.m., $4-$12

See Historic Columbia. Visit the Robert Mills House for a tour of Columbia’s antebellum and Reconstruction era structures. The tour will explore churches, hospitals, armories and private homes and educate tour-goers about Columbia during the civil war and Sherman’s March.
The Whig calls the basement level of 1200 Main St. home. Whether you want beer-battered fries, smoked gouda mac and cheese or the best cheeseburger in town, the self-proclaimed “Greatest Dive Bar” in North America has it all, including a full bar. The Whig has been serving hungry subterraneans since 2005.

Thomas Cooper Library

For when studying above ground just isn’t cutting it. Of the Thomas Cooper Library’s seven floors, five of them are underground. Almost every USC student is familiar with T-Coop, so grab a coffee, take the elevator down to the bottom floor and hit the books.

The bottom of Lake Murray

Before Lake Murray was Lake Murray, it was the Saluda River Valley, a community with almost 5,000 residents. In the 1920s, the land included a few churches and schools, and 193 graveyards. The graveyards contained over 2,000 graves. By 1929, the land had been cleared, a dam had been built and the manmade lake we now know as Lake Murray had been completed. But the graves? For the most part, they’re still there. Next time you visit Lake Murray, cross your fingers that it isn’t haunted.

The Underground Mall

Believe it or not, there’s an underground mall beneath the historic Arcade Building on the 1300 block of Main Street. The mall was going to feature themed restaurants, bars and shopping. Though it closed in the ’70s due to water leakage and a homelessness problem, the mall is still accessible today from inside the Arcade Building. Historic Columbia gives public tours of the underground mall every year, and spaces always fill up quickly. Though dingy and decaying, the underground mall still has some remnants of what it once was, including a paper menu from a bar advertising draft beer for 65 cents.
**Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Relinquish power
9. It’ll knock you out
15. Major influence in ’60s music
17. Is subjected to a series of attacks
18. Disturb
19. Even though
20. Be off
21. Like Walter Mitty
22. Spinal column?
23. __-dieu
24. Base address
25. To the point
26. “In bad company,” to Bierce
27. Right triangle ratio
28. Renders less dangerous, in a way
30. Brightly colored silica
32. No mere joy
33. Antarctic expedition vehicles
35. Three-sect. exam
36. Deck out
37. “Cattle” or “Reddish” wader
39. Lulu
42. River to the Gulf of Finland
43. Bigwig in big oil
44. San Francisco Giants closer Sergio
45. Onetime cohort of Eazy-E
46. Dance named for a horse’s gait
47. ACC team with a turtle mascot
51. Out of character
52. “__, & Juliet”: 2011 animated film

**DOWN**
1. “Fringe” cocreator J.J.
2. Sultanate on the South China Sea
3. Many dates involve one 4 Words of consolation
4. Keep from escaping
5. Suggest
6. Apron wearer
7. Like sponges
8. Sullied
9. One of Mowgli’s mentors in “The Jungle Book”
10. Goal
11. __ so weiter: Berliner’s “et cetera”
12. “In bad company,” to Bierce
13. “Cattle” or “Reddish” wader
14. Suggested
15. Like Walter Mitty
16. Relinquish power
17. Disturb
18. Even though
19. Be off
20. To the point
21. Like Walter Mitty
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