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Wednesday, 06 September 2006

## Anton Gunn, S.C. House District 79



**Wednesday, 10:45 a.m.** Our second candidate of this election season could hardly be more unlike the first if they had teamed up to do it on purpose. Anton Gunn holds precisely the opposite view on property taxes -- he believes they were cut too much by the action in the recent legislative session, and that the burden was shifted to the wrong tax altogether. Lawmakers should have increased the income tax, rather than the already regressive sales tax.

He is also highly knowledgeable about almost every current issue before the Legislature, with extensive experience wrestling with various agencies in the executive branch as well.

This might make for an easy choice if these two men were opposing each other, but they are not. Mr. Gunn is facing a Republican incumbent we also like a lot -- Bill Cotty.

Mr. Gunn, whom we endorsed in the June Democratic primary, was one of the more impressive candidates we spoke with in

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 NCAA on the warpath  
 Must intellectuals use the language  
 properly?  
 They euthanize horses, don't they?  
 How they voted on the cigarette tax  
 Arrggghh! It was painful enough the first  
 time  
 Dissed by 'Foreign Policy'  
 I feel like Batman

that cycle. I had not known him before, and I was highly impressed with his knowledge, his energy, and his zeal to transform South Carolina into the best of all the states.

He is a big man -- a former lineman for the Gamecocks -- and he does not think small. "What will our state be like in 2026?" More importantly, what do we want it to be like, and "Who has the vision" to get us there? He says repeatedly that he wants to get South Carolina "past the status quo," in which we have been trapped by lawmakers going for the cheap and easy, not for the best long-term strategies. He says we're caught in this status quo in part because of "McDonald's policies." A fast-food burger looks good, smells good and tastes good. Kids love it. "But what happens if you eat it for 10 years?" He says current policies in S.C. are no more nutritious, however appetizing they may seem at a given moment.

He says Mr. Cotty's principled opposition to "vouchers" for private schools isn't the same as being for public schools, and he repeatedly says it's better to define yourself by what you're for than what you are against. He proposes "signing bonuses" for the best teachers when they go to the worst schools. He wants teachers to have to face their peers' assessment as well as those of their supervisors. He wants teachers who are letting the team down to be shown the door: "People need a job and they need to make a living. If they aren't doing that job, you need to help them find another way to make a living." He stops short, however, at letting principals fire teachers at will, preferring the principal to have "significant weight" in a multilateral decision.

He calls health care "the sleeping giant," noting that everybody - - from patients to businesses to care deliverers -- suffer from the problems in our current system, one way or another.

He is appalled by the recent tax "reform," which moved school funding from the reliable property tax to the volatile sales tax. He says it's like a breadwinner with a family to feed jumping from a good, steady salary to working on 100 percent commission -- it puts the family's needs at risk. (Mr. Gunn loves analogies.)

And more to the point, "Bill Cotty is the one who sponsored that tax reform bill. He's the one that wrote it out on the back of that chicken box."

"When I win -- and I do think I'm going to win," Mr. Gunn says, "the first meeting I want to have is with Bobby Harrell... to help me understand ... what is your vision for South Carolina? How do we get to be the great state we can be?"

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interest advocate.

Anton is also a victim of Al-Qaeda's terror attacks. Anton's younger brother Gunn was killed in the Al-Qaeda terror attack on the USS Cole in October of 2000. Anton has been a vocal speaker on dealing with and overcoming the personal effects of terrorism, as well as the implications of terrorism on our lives.

In addition to his work within South Carolina, Anton delivers his message of **Driven Life™** through keynotes, seminars, workshops and retreats across the United States.

Anton's new book, **Revolution Driven Life™**, is due for release in late 2001.

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How has all this affected you? → Anton - family / g. father.  
→ Sports. Lineman.  
→ Lou Holtz S.C.

VA → Louis.  
Elge → (6-12-157) ?  
→ Louis "Lucky" → Special military unit  
baseball zymo.  
Louis - Every City  
Electric, Norfolk

(teeth!!) → 1950 → Louie - dad.  
Clarence

Norfolk → Elvin Smallwood - Zyrp.  
Dorothy (Parker) By br Aluc.  
↓  
10 kids. (1949 → 1964)  
Catholic School.

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G-GF. m. Bos  
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Obama answers Hillary's shot with a PBR  
 Ron Paul lives!  
 Desperately seeking video tech help  
 Now I know how Dr. Frankenstein felt  
 Hillary's Makeover  
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 But you're probably wondering what Katon means to ME, Al Franken...  
 This makes me feel SO much better  
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 Act your age: Join the Grownup Party  
 Hamburger hegemony: Military history as a food fight  
 The Obama Effect: Democrats' chances in the S.C. House  
 One million and counting!  
 Free Thomas Ravenel  
 Stupid sells  
 Talk about your cheap thrills...  
 Here's a free psych eval: It you're planning to whack Jesus, you've got problems  
 The Final Countdown: Millionth page view likely coming up Friday  
 The Energy Party Manifesto: Feb. 4, 2007  
 Tom Friedman's back, and he's going to bat for the Energy Party!  
 A Grownup Party forum  
 Why do people compress files -- or use PDFs?  
 A Brad's Blog primer  
 Did Obama get the job done in denouncing Wright?  
 Hillary joins McCain in pandering on gas tax; Obama stands up to them both  
 Rev. Wright still fails to clarify  
 Payday lenders reduced to quoting McGovern  
 Somebody's Big, Stupid Second Cousin  
 The latest COLA outrage  
 Aunt Joy's Cakes  
 SNL parodies of media and Obama  
 Preview: Cindi's column Sunday explaining restructuring  
 In Hillary's defense, it DOES work...  
 And I get this pooge WHY exactly?  
 We'd KILL a guy for passing intel to Israel?  
 Yeah, the press likes Obama, too. So?  
 Trying to keep up with candidate interviews  
 He DID wag his finger -- he actually DID!  
 No, but he's got time for THIS  
 Is Bill Clinton wagging his finger at us AGAIN?  
 I'm not the only one tired of the Hillary-Obama battle  
 Michael Koska, H77, Republican  
 David Herndon, S.C. House Dist. 79  
 The 'Fighter with the Hard Left Hook'  
 Bad news: Hillary likely to force war of attrition well beyond today  
 AP says S.C. House poised to nix

He calls himself a bridge-builder who would call upon his years lobbying on behalf of the disadvantaged (as director of SC Fair Share) and similar experiences to help him find the keys to working with other lawmakers of all stripes.

Anton Gunn is nothing if not confident. He dismissed the effect of a third candidate expected to pull votes from Mr. Cotty on the right: "I expected to win by 500 votes. With him in the race, I might win by 800 or 900."

Posted by Brad Warthen at 06:50 PM in [Endorsement interviews](#)  
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### Comments

I'd like to see Mr. Gunn explain why a person who owns a more expensive house should pay more in property taxes than someone who doesn't. There are no additional services received for the extra taxes. There's a \$100K price range difference in the houses in my neighborhood. We all get the same schools, same police, same fire department, etc. Yet the top end homeowners pay about \$1000 per year more for the same thing. How does that make any sense?

I'll probably vote for Mr. Gunn just to get some fresh blood into the House. We've got far too many career politicians. The Richland 2 school board has three incumbents running who have been on the board for 16, 12, and 12 years. That's more than enough.

Posted by: Doug Ross | Sep 6, 2006 8:10:42 PM

The property tax is a proxy for wealth. Wealthier people tend to live in more expensive homes, thus higher property tax.

Your objections could just as well be applied to the income tax and sales tax. Why should Bill Gates have to pay more in income tax than you or me? After all, he receives no additional services for his much larger income tax payments. In fact, he probably receives fewer services because most of the services he requires he most likely provides for himself, e.g. security, retirement, health care etc.

lawmakers' pension COLA  
 Not everyone at the Journal is clueless  
 about McCain and Sanford  
 McConnell spends 30 grand on big ol'  
 gun  
 'Sanford as veep' AGAIN? Geez, would  
 you people give it a rest?  
 Canadian snipers in Afghanistan?  
 Strange moments in cinema  
 Waiting for Pennsylvania to buckle  
 down and decide  
 Dayhawks  
 Robert's rough day  
 'Hillary-style attacks'  
 This time, 'The Nation' has a point  
 McCain stoops to pander on gas prices  
 A black, Jewish Texan walks into a  
 police station...  
 Phone message of the day: Analysis of  
 an Ariail cartoon  
 Forget Real ID; Big Brother's going  
 private  
 Just two shopping days left until  
 Husband Appreciation Day  
 OK, so I jumped to a conclusion  
 A working class hero is something to  
 be, and golly I sure wish I could sound  
 like one right about now...  
 Good for Nikki  
 Folks, paying your taxes isn't some kind  
 of big, freaking deal. It just isn't  
 Dan Ross, father of S.C. GOP  
 presidential primary, dies  
 'I know you are but what am I?'  
 Presidential resonance: One of my pet  
 peeves  
 Benjamin Byrd, S.C. House District 77  
 Mary Barber Kirkland, S.C. House Dist.  
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 Stanley Robinson, S.C. House District  
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 Mike Sturkie, S.C. Senate District 23  
 Here's the problem with John McCain  
 Andy Brack on Queensland  
 How lawmakers voted on their pension  
 COLA  
 Capt. Smith in the news  
 'I thought I told you kids to keep your  
 toys out of the parking lot...'  
 Obama trails Hillary by several frames  
 Hear Peter Beattie's speech  
 Why can't we be smart like our sister?

Ditto for his consumption. Why should he have to pay more sales tax on his private plane than I would on my car? After all, his plane purchase is paying the annual salary for dozens of workers while I probably barely cover a month's salary for one worker.

Gunn does sound like a blast of fresh air even if he is a Dem. If he would just walk his talk, he would probably be better than Brad's RINO buddy Cotty.

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Posted by: LexWolf | Sep 6, 2006 10:22:35 PM

LexWolf, are you feeling well? You're scaring me, man.

Anton Gunn is an impressive guy. If I managed to convey that, I'm glad.

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Posted by: Brad Warthen | Sep 7, 2006 8:52:32 PM

Gunn's concept of government is outdated and tied to more spending by the same agencies who have failed us.

Show me a candidate who will make do on just a 5% sales tax, no income tax and no property tax ( a relic of the slavery era).

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Posted by: Lee | Sep 7, 2006 10:33:26 PM

Brad,

I don't agree with the (lefty) author of this piece about the issues but on the approach to the issues he absolutely has you nailed!

### Technocracy

This statement by Brad DeLong disturbed me on so many levels and I've had difficulty sorting them all out.

*I am, as I said above, a reality-based center-left technocrat. I am pragmatically interested in government policies that work: that are good for America and for the world. My natural home is in the bipartisan center, arguing with center-right reality-based technocrats about whether it is center-left or center-right policies that have the best odds of moving us toward goals that we all share--world peace, world prosperity, equality of opportunity, safety nets, long and happy lifespans, rapid scientific and technological progress, and personal safety. The*

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*aim of governance, I think, is to achieve a rough consensus among the reality-based technocrats and then to frame the issues in a way that attracts the ideologues on one (or, ideally, both) wings in order to create an effective governing coalition.*

This, in a nutshell, is the worldview of the Sensible Liberal. It's the belief that there are Sensible Policies concocted by Wise Men (and women), preferably ones with advanced degrees, which are Right and True and Good. Wise Men may disagree a bit about the means, and we should throw a few conferences to hash these differences out. Politics and ideologues who do not share the ideology of the Wise Men, who of course are not really tainted by ideology, get in the way of enacting policies which are Sensible.

It's a **dangerously wrong view of the world**. First, there are absolutely fundamental differences of opinion about the direction of this country which will have tremendous impact on the lives of people. DeLong's been tangoing with Greg Mankiw long enough to know that we're not just talking about minor tweaks. There are wide differences of opinion about not just the means but the goals, and those differences of opinion aren't just about debates between Pat Robertson and writers for the Nation. Those differences of opinion exist throughout society, including in the club of technocrats.

Second, it's a useful conceit to imagine you're above ideology, to plant your feet in a place and call it the center, imagining you have the facts on your side and everyone else is an ideologue, but **that's hogwash**. Certainly some people are more informed by the facts than others, but that doesn't free them from ideology.

Third, as someone who has spent a reasonable amount of time around the kinds of people DeLong is talking about, **I'm not sure I want them running anything**. The sensible technocrats haven't exactly had the best track record lately, in part because imagining you're above it helps to isolate you from the consequences of what you're advocating.

How's that "free trade" working out for Mexico? How'd that currency peg work out for Argentina? How'd that energy deregulation thing work out for California? How'd that shock therapy work out for Russia? How's the privatization of federal government functions coming along? Oh, and how's that Iraq war coming along?

I'm not pinning all of these things on DeLong, I'm just saying that the Consensus View of Sensible Technocrats has been pretty disastrous for a lot of people. Sensible Technocrats are above of all driven by the belief that They Are Right.

When the Russia collapse happened one Sensible Technocrat who was partly responsible for the disaster said it all would've worked out swimmingly if only they'd listened to everything he had said. Perhaps true, but not how the world works in practice.

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Posted by: LexWolf | Sep 8, 2006 12:22:28 AM

### A Tenant's Guide to Renting

The first challenge every tenant faces is finding an apartment for rent that suits their individual needs. For today's tenant, the most effective apartment search can be done using an online apartment finder. Tenants should decide what they require in an apartment or house rental before beginning their search. For example: the number of bedrooms, location or distance from public transportation and how much the tenant can afford to pay in rent, furnished or unfurnished apartment, etc. By making these important decisions first, tenants can avoid renting an apartment or house only to regret it later. Many tenants today are taking advantage of the convenience of the internet to locate apartments for rent as opposed to the traditional print publications.

Once a possible apartment or home has been found, it is the tenant's duty to thoroughly inspect the premises making a commitment in the form of a security deposit. A tenant should not rely on the landlord or the landlord's agent to tell the tenant if anything is wrong with the property. The tenant must inspect the property carefully and ask questions about it. Inspecting the condition and functionality of the following areas/features of the apartment before committing yourself as a tenant is highly recommended.

1. Kitchen appliances in working order.
2. Water pressure strong, plumbing without leaks.
3. Electrical outlets and wiring working.
4. Walls and ceiling painted or papered without cracks
5. Ventilation or air conditioning accessible.
6. Floors, railings and bathrooms in good repair.
7. Fire escape easy to use.
8. Stairs safe and well-lighted.
9. No rodents or insects.
10. Heating system in working order.
11. If furnished, check and write down condition of all furniture.
12. Windows and doors operable and weather-tight; screens provided.

The tenant should also check the security of the building to find out if there is a dead-bolt lock, security chain, or through-the-door viewer.

**BEWARE OF EXISTING DAMAGES:** In order to avoid being blamed for damages that already exist in the rental unit, the cautious tenant should take every step for self-protection. Before moving in (or as soon as possible thereafter), the tenant should make a list of all existing damages and repairs that need to be made. A copy of the list should be presented to the landlord and attached to the lease. This way the landlord cannot blame the tenant for damages caused by others and the tenant will know what the landlord intends to repair. If the tenant keeps good records the landlord will not be able to keep the tenant's security deposit for damages that were actually caused by others. Taking pictures before moving in is also strongly recommended.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Paul Rossano, associated with [www.AllSpaces.com](http://www.AllSpaces.com) who "Conveniently Connects All People with All Spaces in All Places" has been dedicated to the Real Estate rental market for over 8 years. He has assisted over 25,000 tenants with their renting needs. Any questions about renting apartments, houses or other rentals, feel free to visit [www.AllSpaces.com](http://www.AllSpaces.com) or email him at [Paul@AllSpaces.com](mailto:Paul@AllSpaces.com).

Posted by: Jamie | Sep 13, 2006 4:45:51 PM

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## Anton Gunn



"I am running to bring responsive and responsible leadership to our government and to move our state into the twenty-first century."

[DONATE](#) to this candidate

[Click here](#) to learn more about Anton's campaign.

Anton J. Gunn is recognized as one of the top under-35 community leaders in America. For more than a decade Anton has advocated for working families and individuals in South Carolina and throughout the country. Through work and volunteerism, Anton has served as a community activist, a

consumer advocate, and an educator. As did another Twenty-First Century Democrat candidate, Andrew Rice, Anton lost a brother in an al-Qaeda terrorist attack. Anton's brother was killed in the 2000 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole. In honor of his brother, Anton is dedicated to achieving real security for those he can serve.

"Mr. Gunn has an aggressive view of government's role, and he masterfully weaves issues together to sell his vision." – The State

### What Makes Anton an Extraordinary, Visionary Leader?

Anton is running on bold plans for two of the Democratic Party's meatiest issues: education and healthcare. As a lifetime advocate for children's issues, Anton calls quality public education "the foundation of our great society." Anton has a plan to provide better resources and services for South Carolina's public school children, who suffer from some of the worst public education resources in the nation, and also to increase salaries for the state's public school teachers. Anton also has plans to make healthcare universal in South Carolina. Responding to the significant development issues in his community, Anton is also pledging to make smart growth one of his top issues, emphasizing better planning; better coordination; and adequate funding for citizens, developers and government to work together to create a sustainable growing community.

"Together we can make South Carolina schools the best in the nation. We can grow our communities without traffic that prevents us from getting home to our families. Together, we can create safe places for our children to play. We can build a healthcare system that takes care of workers while allowing small businesses to thrive."- Anton Gunn

**Background**

Anton Gunn currently serves as executive director of South Carolina Fair Share, a nonpartisan, statewide consumer group that investigates public policy and lobbies for reforms that focus on working families in the Palmetto State. He also is an experienced and established small businessman who owns his own motivational speaking company. Anton grew up in Hampton Roads, Virginia and is the eldest son of a Navy veteran and a public school teacher. He is a Gamecock football letterman who walked away from the game to use his leadership for South Carolina's working families. Anton is married to Tiffany Johnson-Gunn and they have a daughter, Ashley. He is a member of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road. An avid sports fan, Anton enjoys football, basketball, and traveling.

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**Race Facts**

**Race Type:** Democratic Challenge

**Primary Opponent:** Won

**Primary Date:** June 13, 2006

**General Opponent:** Rep. Bill Colty (R-incumbent), Michael Letts (independent)

**General Election Date:** November 7, 2006

**General Election Results:** Loss, 44 – 45 percent

*August 31st, 2007*

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*Arlington National Cemetery Website***Cherone L. Gunn**

Seaman, United States Navy



Courtesy of the Washinton Post

**Family Pride Helps Dry Tears****By Steve Vogel****Washington Post Staff Writer****Saturday , October 21, 2000**

**In the end, there never was any question where Seaman Cherone L. Gunn would be buried.**

**On a beautiful October afternoon, with a salute of rifle volleys ringing in the warm air, the 22-year-old Virginian killed in last week's attack on the USS Cole was laid to rest yesterday at Arlington National Cemetery, where so many thousands who died in the service of their country have gone before.**

**"That's where he deserves to be," his brother, Anton Gunn, 27, said after the service. "It's where all national heroes should be."**

**Cherone Gunn, a sweet-natured young man who had dreams of being a police officer, was carried in a flag-draped coffin to his grave site by a casket team of six sailors. He was followed by dozens of members of his extended family and by friends, many of whom traveled from Virginia Beach, where the sailor was born and raised.**

**His father, Louge Gunn, a retired chief petty officer who served 20 years in the Navy, knelt and pressed his forehead against the casket. Then he rose to his feet and, struggling with his emotions, proudly saluted his son.**

**His mother, Mona Gunn, the principal of Fairlawn Elementary School in Norfolk, wiped away tears.**

**"I'm very proud," Anton Gunn said, speaking on behalf of the family. "He made his family proud. He made his country proud."**

**At the family's request, Gunn was placed in the cemetery next to a shipmate who was also killed in the apparent terrorist attack on the Cole on October 12, 2000 at a port in Yemen. Chief Petty Officer Richard Costelow, 35, who lived at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County with his wife and three children, was buried at Arlington earlier**



in the day at a private service for family and close friends.

Cherone Gunn was born on Valentine's Day 1978, a birthday that his brother said seemed to color his personality. "He was one of the most lovable guys anyone could ever hope to meet," said Anton Gunn, a graduate student studying in South Carolina.

Gunn had joined the Navy because he wanted to serve his country and was looking for experience that would help him become a state trooper, according to his brother.

Costelow was sent to serve on the Cole in August. During Wednesday's national memorial service in Norfolk, President Clinton singled out Costelow's earlier service at the White House.

"Richard Costelow was a technology wizard who helped to update the White House communications system for this new century," Clinton said.

Another victim from Maryland, 19-year-old Seaman Craig Wibberley of Williamsport, will be remembered at a funeral today in Hagerstown. His family held a visitation yesterday evening at St. John's Episcopal Church in Hagerstown.

The Navy announced yesterday that Gunn and Wibberley have been given posthumous promotions from seaman apprentice to seaman. Costelow was promoted from petty officer first class this week.

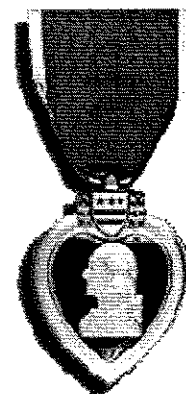
During yesterday's service for Cherone Gunn, a Navy officer presented Louge and Mona Gunn with the American flag that draped their son's casket when his body was brought to Dover Air Force Base last weekend aboard an Air Force jet.

Flags were also presented to Cherone Gunn's twin brothers, Jamal and Jason, and to Anton.

Kneeling over the casket, Anton Gunn spoke to his brother. "I told him that I loved him, and that I was going to miss him," he said.

After a Navy bugler played taps and the ceremonial team quietly filed away from the graveside, Louge Gunn was reluctant to leave his son. He kept placing his hand on the casket, and after he finally walked away, he looked back.

Anton Gunn, speaking after the ceremony, said there was a message in the death of his brother and the 16 other sailors aboard the Cole. "Remember, they died for the country," he said. "They died defending a



country we love. They died for us. That's  
what's important."

As he spoke, he clutched the flag tightly to his chest. "This is the last  
physical piece I have of him," he said. "It'll never leave me."

Webmaster: Michael Robert Patterson

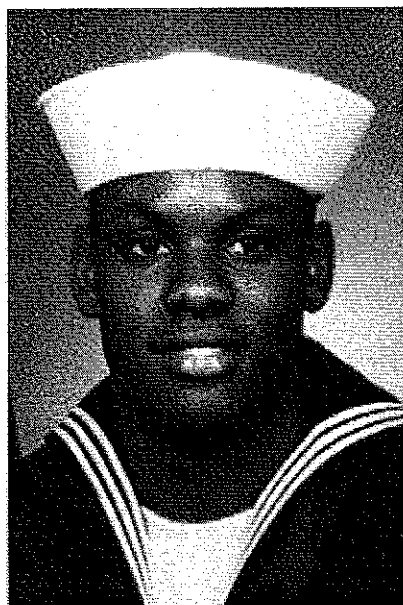


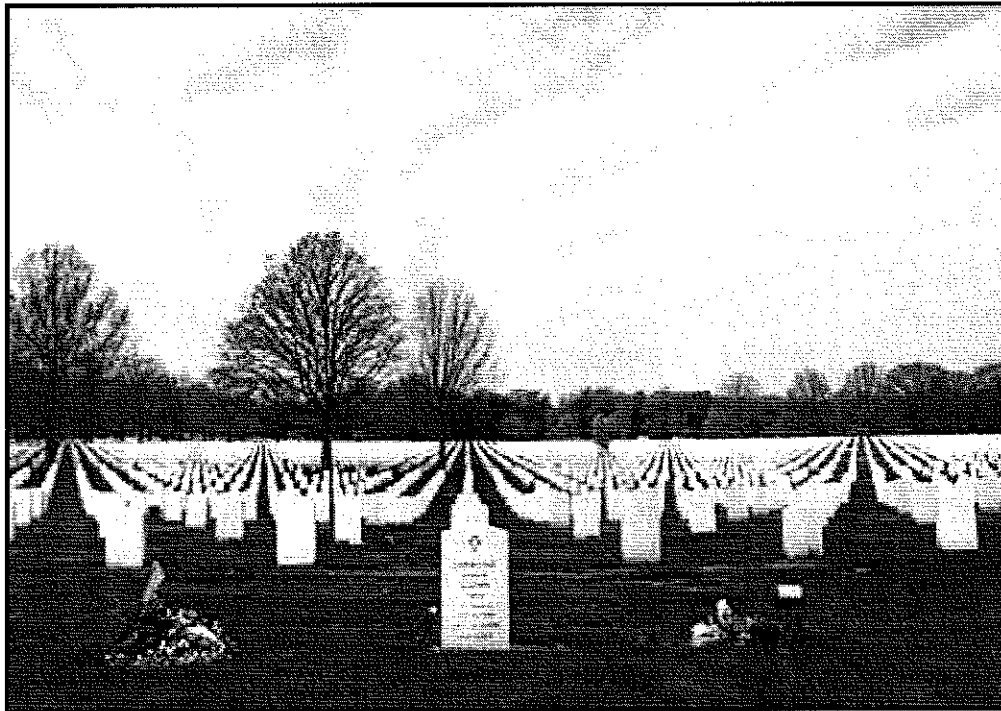
Photo Courtesy of the United States Navy



Christian Taylor, 8, whose uncle, Signalman Seaman Recruit Cherone Louis Gunn, was  
killed in the bombing of the destroyer Cole, received the flag that draped his uncle's  
coffin from the sailor's father, Loue Gunn, at the funeral Friday at Arlington National  
Cemetery.



Photo Courtesy of the United States Army





Photos Courtesy of Ron Williams

[Click Here For More Information On USS Cole](#)

Posted: 21 October 2000 Updated: 30 August 2001 Updated: 6 July 2003 Updated: 27 April 2004  
Updated: 7 January 2007



Photo By M. R. Patterson, 27 June 2003





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## Health Action 2007 Consumer Health Advocates of the Year

The annual "Consumer Health Advocate of the Year" awards are presented to individuals with outstanding contributions on behalf of our nation's health care consumers. You can hear the ceremony by clicking on one of the following links: [RealPlayer](#) | [Windows Media](#)



**Vincent DeMarco**

Vincent DeMarco is the Executive Director of the Maryland Initiative, a coalition of organizations seeking to secure quality health care for all Marylanders. Mr. DeMarco and the coalition played a vital role in passing the Fair Share Health Care law, which ensures that large companies do their part to keep health care affordable for everyone.

The Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative is currently working on the Healthy Maryland Initiative proposal to increase the state tax \$1.00 per pack to reduce teen smoking and expand health care.

Over the past 20 years, Mr. DeMarco has worked to build grassroots coalitions to advance important public health issues, including reducing gun violence and teen smoking and expanding health care. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where he teaches students how to address health issues through coalition building and voter education.



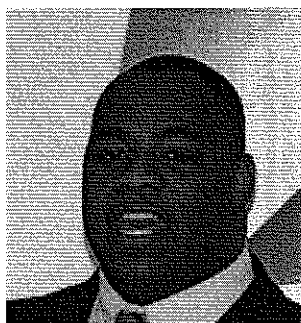
**Anne Dunkelberg**

Anne Dunkelberg is Associate Director for the Center for Health Priorities, an organization that seeks to improve the social well-being of low-income Texans. Ms. Dunkelberg focuses on issues related to health care access, as well as general issues regarding immigrants' access to public benefits.

Ms. Dunkelberg's research and analysis of Texas health policy programs is used throughout the state, and other advocates regard her to be an expert on Medicaid, SCHIP, and immigrant access.

Ms. Dunkelberg played an important role in advocating for the passage and implementation of the Texas State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and she continues to be an active member of the Texas SCHIP coalition. She is also a member of the Governor's Families Eligibility Policy Working Group, the National Access to Health Policy Making Medicaid Work in the 21st Century Initiative, and the Governor's Medicaid Reform Workgroup.

Anton Gunn is the Executive Director of South Carolina Families, a statewide consumer group that investigates public policy reforms that focus on working families. He has expertise in health care policy and advocacy.

**Anton J. Gunn**

finance, health care policy, public benefits, community economic development, grassroots advocacy, organizational development, and capacity building.

For more than a decade, Mr. Gunn has advocated for individuals and families in South Carolina and throughout the country. Through his volunteerism, he has served as a community activist, a community advocate, an educator, and a voice for progressive social change.

Mr. Gunn was a 2006 candidate for the South Carolina House of Representatives in District 79, and he came within 298 votes of defeating a 12-year incumbent. He also owns a successful motivational speaking company, appears on two weekly radio shows that provide political commentary on current issues, and is a member of the faculty at the University of South Carolina.

#### **Previous Consumer Health Advocate Award Recipients**

<b>2006</b>	Tony Garr, Executive Director, Tennessee Health Care Campaign (TN) Anthony Wright, Executive Director, California Health Access (CA) Kim Perry, Food Research Action Center (Washington D.C.)
<b>2005</b>	Aranthan S. Jones, Senior Health Policy Advisor, Office of Rep. Donna Ellen Leitzer, Codirector, Senior Citizens' Law Office, Inc. (NM) Mary G. Troupe, Executive Director, The Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities (VA)
<b>2004</b>	Ruth T. Perot, Executive Director, SHIRE (Washington D.C.) Robert Restuccia, Executive Director, Community Catalyst (MA) Bruce Lesley, Senior Health Policy Advisor to Senator Jeff Bingaman (AZ)
<b>2003</b>	Joe Ditre, Executive Director, Consumers for Affordable Health Care (IL) Richard N. Gottfried, New York State Assemblymember - D Bart Diener & Ericka Smith, SEIU Local 660 (CA)
<b>2002</b>	Elliott Naishtat, Texas State Representative - D Jim Duffett, Executive Director of the Campaign for Better Health Care Silvia Portillo, Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee (El Comite) (CA)
<b>2001</b>	Richard Kirsch, Executive Director, Citizen Action of New York (NY) Chellie Pingree, Former Maine State Senator - D Margarita Romo, Director, Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc. (FL)
<b>2000</b>	Garnet F. Coleman, Texas State Representative - D Justin Dart, Jr., Renowned Disability Advocate Many Pino, Health Action New Mexico (NM)
<b>1999</b>	Gordon Bonnyman, Executive Director, Tennessee Justice Center (TN) Martin Gallegos, California State Assemblyman - D The Parents of the UPO Head Start Medicaid Managed Care Monitoring Project (DC)
<b>1998</b>	Angela Monson, Oklahoma State Senator - D Maryann O'Sullivan, founding director of Health Access (CA) Bridgett Taylor, Minority Staff for the House Commerce Committee (CA)

#### **Families USA Lifetime Advocacy Award Recipient**

<b>2001</b>	Rep. Henry A. Waxman, U.S. House of Representatives - D
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St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

September 26, 1998, Saturday, 1 North Pinellas Edition

## Ex-player recounts academic cheating

**SOURCE:** Compiled from Wire Reports

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. 6C

**LENGTH:** 575 words

**DATELINE:** COLUMBIA, S.C.

Former South Carolina offensive lineman **Anton Gunn** said Friday that while he was with the Gamecocks, players copied homework from tutors and looked at sample tests.

"I won't say it was expressly a push from anybody's football staff," Gunn told the Associated Press by phone from Washington. "It's really a bigger problem with all of college football."

Comments by Gunn first appeared in the Wall Street Journal.

Harold White, who heads the university's academic support program, said Gunn's charges were false. "I think Anton's distorted his recollections of his time at the university," White said.

Gunn would not point fingers at his two football coaches at South Carolina, Sparky Woods from 1991-93 and Brad Scott in 1994. And he said athletic director Mike McGee, who came aboard in 1993, has worked hard to improve academics among athletes.

"I knew this was just something that had to be said," Gunn said. "It's a widespread problem that happens all over the place, not just at South Carolina."

During a class in his freshman year, Gunn said, a tutor completed a player's homework and other players copied it.

He also said a professor allowed him to miss two tests because of road games and based his grade on a final exam and class participation. "Would that happen for a regular student? I don't know," he said.

Gunn said during his final season, he took a Tuesday-Thursday class that made him late for practice. He said coaches didn't like that and continually let him know.

White said any tutor who does an athlete's work is fired. His staff monitors tutors, who are graduate students, to make sure they don't come close to impropriety, White said.

Class schedules are discussed with players and professors so athletes don't get trapped in courses where there is no flexibility for road trips, bowl games and tournaments, White said.

Gunn said some of his comments to the Wall Street Journal were overplayed. There was no list of teachers who favored athletes, as the article said, "but everybody kind of knew who those professors were," Gunn said.

MARYLAND: Coach Ron Vanderlinden isn't naming his starting quarterback for today's game, forcing Temple to prepare for two distinctive styles. Vanderlinden insisted he expects both Ken Mastrole and Randall Jones to play.

"We'll have to put in two different kind of defensive game plans," Temple coach Bobby Wallace said. "Mastrole is

pretty much a drop-back, pocket passer. Jones is more of a running type of quarterback."

NEW MEXICO: LB Ryan Taylor, who had 11 sacks last season, quit the team. "I just lost the love for the game," he said. This year Taylor pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges of assault and battery. He was accused of hitting and choking his girlfriend April 5. He denied his legal troubles played a role in his decision to quit.

TENNESSEE: Temporary goal posts were erected at Neyland Stadium for tonight's game against Houston. Fans tore down the regular posts Saturday after a 20-17 overtime victory against Florida. Permanent posts will be installed after the Houston game.

OBITUARY: Charles "Beefy" Eaves, captain of the 1945 Georgia team, died of heart failure in his hometown of Elberton, Ga. He was 75. Eaves, an offensive/defensive guard, was elected captain but broke his back during the season opener and was hospitalized for the rest of the season.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 28, 1998

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**TYPE:** DIGEST

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The Associated Press State &amp; Local Wire

March 17, 2008 Monday 9:39 PM GMT  
Correction Appended

## Obama's SC political director to run for state House

**SECTION:** POLITICAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 283 words**DATELINE:** COLUMBIA S.C.

The former top South Carolina political adviser to Barack Obama is running for the state House of Representatives.

**Anton Gunn** filed Sunday, the first day candidates for federal, Statehouse and local offices can officially enter their races.

Gunn is running for the seat state Rep. Bill Cotty is retiring from. He also ran for the seat in 2006. "I came real close. I lost by 298 votes out almost 14,000," Gunn said Monday.

Gunn left his paid role with the Obama campaign after the Illinois senator won the Jan. 26 Democratic presidential primary here and has not returned to his job at South Carolina Fair Share, a consumer advocacy group.

Republican Sherri Few is running for the seat. She said she will file Tuesday. Cotty narrowly beat her in the 2006 primary.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign said it had paid his \$10,158 filing fee. At least three people have said they will challenge Graham in the primary, including Buddy Witherspoon. The former Republican National Committee member's campaign said he will file later this week.

U.S. Rep. Henry Brown and Republican primary opponent Paul V. Norris of Johns Island both paid their \$3,386 filing fee.

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson also filed to run again. Phil Black of Lexington has field to run against Wilson in the Republican primary and Democrat Blaine Lotz, a retired Air Force colonel from Hilton Head Island, also filed for Wilson's seat.

U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis hadn't filed Monday afternoon, but Republican challenger Charles Jeter did. The Spartanburg man served in the Reagan administration's Environmental Protection Agency.

And Republican Nancy Harrellson of Marion has filed to challenge Democrat House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn in the 6th District.

**LOAD-DATE:** March 18, 2008**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**CORRECTION-DATE:** March 19, 2008

**CORRECTION:** In some versions of a March 17 story about a former political adviser to Barack Obama running for the state House of Representatives, The Associated Press reported erroneously that **Anton Gunn** has not returned to work for

South Carolina Fair Share. He has returned to his job as the group's executive director.

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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Associated Press Online

September 25, 1998; Friday 20:08 Eastern Time

## Ex-Gamecocks Player Rips University

**BYLINE:** PETE IACOBELLI**SECTION:** Sports**LENGTH:** 671 words**DATELINE:** COLUMBIA, S.C.

Former South Carolina offensive lineman **Anton Gunn** said Friday that while he was with the Gamecocks, players copied homework from tutors and looked at sample tests.

"I won't say it was expressly a push from anybody's football staff," Gunn told The Associated Press by phone from Washington, D.C. "It's really a bigger problem with all of college football."

Gunn's comments first showed up in The Wall Street Journal.

Harold White, who heads the university's academic support program, said Gunn's charges were false.

"I think Anton's distorted his recollections of his time at the university," White said.

Gunn wouldn't point fingers at his two football coaches at South Carolina, Sparky Woods from 1991-93 and Brad Scott in 1994. And he said athletics director Mike McGee, who came aboard in 1993, has worked hard to improve academics among athletes.

"I knew this was just something that had to be said," Gunn said. "It's a widespread problem that happens all over the place, not just at South Carolina."

Gunn talked specifically about his freshman year when during one class, a tutor completed a player's homework and other players copied it.

He also said a professor allowed him to miss two tests because of road games and based his grade on a final exam and class participation.

"Would that happen for a regular student? I don't know," Gunn said.

Gunn said during his final season, he took a Tuesday-Thursday class that made him late for practice. He said coaches didn't like that and continually let him know. "It made it difficult to come back," he said.

White said any tutor who does an athlete's work is fired. His staff monitors tutors, who are graduate students, to make sure they don't come close to impropriety, White said.

Class schedules are discussed with players and professors so athletes don't get trapped in courses where there's no flexibility for road trips, bowl games and tournaments, White said.

Athletes are told to find out early if a professor won't let them miss exams so another class or professor can be found. "That happens very infrequently," White said.

White said three current football players have classes that conflict with practice. "The coaches just have to deal with it," he said.



Gunn said some of his comments to The Wall Street Journal were overplayed. There was no list of teachers who favored athletes, as the article said, "but everybody kind of knew who those professors were," Gunn said.

White said fraternities often peddle such "rocks for jocks" classes, but his program has never used them.

Gunn, a history major, also blasted the large number of criminal justice majors he saw among athletes. White said there were 17 criminal justice majors during Gunn's senior year, most on the football team.

White didn't understand Gunn's problems and said he was hurt by an ex-player he considered a friend.

Gunn even applied to be a South Carolina academic advisor last year.

"He felt strong enough to want to be a part of it," White said. "Now he tells us we're a renegade outfit."

Gunn, who graduated in 3 1/2 years, works for the Center of Community Change, which helps inner city high school students graduate.

Gunn said he talked openly about his days at South Carolina because students need to see that the NCAA doesn't emphasize the student part of student-athlete. "No one sees the entire picture," he said.

Gunn, who lettered in 1994, is ready for the backlash. He has a history of outspokenness, once saying that offensive linemen were slaves because of the work they had to do to play.

"We went from the cotton field to the football field," he said he told reporters in 1994. "Then it was white and black, now it's everybody."

"A lot of people are going to be saying that Anton's been saying that since he's been here. 'Same old Anton,'" Gunn said Friday. "They'll want to know why I'm lying or why I'm wrong. I've been an advocate my whole life ... That goes with the territory."

**LOAD-DATE:** September 25, 1998

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

May 23, 2007 Wednesday 10:11 PM GMT

## Obama rounds out top S.C. staff

**SECTION:** POLITICAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 135 words

**DATELINE:** COLUMBIA S.C.

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama has rounded out his South Carolina campaign by adding Rick Wade as his top adviser.

Wade was director of South Carolina's alcohol and drug abuse agency when he resigned in 2002 for an unsuccessful run for secretary of state.

Obama's campaign said Wednesday it also added Stacey Brayboy of Manning as state director. Brayboy helped run the coordinated campaign for Gov. Tim Kaine's 2005 race in Virginia and was regional director for Wesley Clark's 2004 presidential campaign in South Carolina.

Jeremy Bird, a former Democratic National Committee deputy national field director in 2004, will be Obama's state field director and worked on former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's 2004 primary campaign. Dean is now the DNC's chairman.

Obama previously hired Anton Gunn as his state political director.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 24, 2007

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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The Associated Press State &amp; Local Wire

February 15, 2002, Friday, BC cycle

## Diversity on the playing fields, less on the sidelines

**SECTION:** State and Regional; Sports News**LENGTH:** 1798 words

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EDITOR'S NOTE - The Associated Press, in monthly stories, is examining race relations in South Carolina at the start of a new century. The series has considered how race influences health, education, justice and politics as well as race relations pertaining to American Indians, Hispanics and other ethnic groups. This final installment looks at race and sports.

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By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - Broadcaster Bob Fulton was amazed the first time he saw Jacksonville's young Henry Aaron power a baseball over the flagpole in a 1953 game against the Columbia Reds. Fulton said so to his radio audience.

But this was the land of Dixie in a time when the best of everything - including baseball talent - had to come wrapped in a white package.

The next day, about 50 people called to complain. "You can't say things so complimentary (about blacks) if you want to stay around here," he was told.

Almost 30 years later Fulton called George Rogers' 1980 run to a Heisman Trophy. But that time, South Carolina fans of all races hung on Big George's every move. "That did a lot to show people it was OK to cheer for black athletes," Fulton says.

In South Carolina, where life - from politics to education and from health to justice - is often still painted in black and white, the playing fields, arenas and stadiums seem to welcome talent no matter what the shade.

The sidelines, though, are still mostly white and have been since days of integration. The state's two major universities, Clemson and South Carolina, have one black head coach each.

On the field "there's much more focus on the green," says Anton Gunn, who played on the offensive line for the Gamecocks in 1994. Full stadiums mean dollars and prestige for athletic programs. Top performers are cheered regardless of color.

Consider:

- Clemson fans chanting, "Woody, Woody," as quarterback Woodrow Dantzler, in his final appearance at Death Valley last season, became the first player in NCAA history to rush for 1,000 yards and throw for 2,000 in a season.

- BJ McKie, Melvin Watson and Larry Davis delighting a packed Carolina Coliseum in an earsplitting 84-79 overtime, ESPN victory over Kentucky that was part of the Gamecocks' Southeastern Conference basketball title season in 1997.

- Pro golf fans turning out in record numbers in 1999 when Tiger Woods made his first, and so far only, appearance at the WorldCom Classic on Hilton Head Island.

"A lot of it is generational," says Tom Regan, the chairman of the University of South Carolina's Department of Sports & Entertainment Education.

Many people who wanted all-white teams decades ago are now in their 60s and 70s. "This (new) generation makes up its own mind on things, and attitudes seem to be changing," he says.

There was much to change.

Fulton had a front-row seat to Old South opinions during a half century broadcasting with the Columbia Reds - the Cincinnati Reds' South Atlantic League team - and with the University of South Carolina.

He saw the troubles of a young Frank Robinson, who spent two years with the Reds before moving to the majors. The fiery Hall-of-Famer who won Most Valuable Player awards in both the National and American leagues was largely left alone during a stellar 1954 season.

But when an arm infection the next year limited his swing and production, fans in Columbia were not so understanding.

In one game, Robinson reached first when someone lit into him. "They talked about his mother, his father, things I couldn't repeat," Fulton recalls.

Robinson had enough, grabbed a bat and headed toward the fan. He was stopped by his manager, otherwise "I think he might have killed that guy," Fulton says.

Robinson's frustration was no different than that of any black ballplayer in any other Sally League town in the 1950s. In the era of Jim Crow, some restaurants would not serve them and they slept in separate quarters from their white teammates. They also had to deal with the fans.

When Kansas City took the Columbia franchise and blacks were more common in baseball, one manager played a lineup where the first five hitters were black.

"By the third inning, there was hardly anyone in the ballpark," says Fulton, who moved to the South from Philadelphia.

Regan says the emergence of NBA stars such as Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Isiah Thomas helped white Southerners accept black athletes. "They showed those previous perceptions were ill-gotten," he says. "That was essential, I think, to a breakthrough."

Gunn, the former Gamecock lineman who now heads the nonprofit consumer advocacy group South Carolina Fair Share, said black players received attention in the early 1990s, but race was rarely a part of it.

"You had people treating you much nicer because you were on the football team. You had others who were angry because you got free this or free that," he says.

Homer Jordan, Clemson's black quarterback during its 1981 national championship season, felt comfortable at the Upstate school.

He said he didn't hear of many racial problems or taunts, adding the fans were about the school and the team, not the color of the athlete's skin.

"There were very few blacks at Clemson when I went there. Most of us were on the football team. But people took us in right away," he says. "They loved Clemson, and we loved Clemson. That's what it boils down to."

Alex English, the Denver Nuggets great, was one of the first blacks recruited to play basketball at South Carolina where he set the school's career-scoring mark - a mark that stood for two decades until surpassed by BJ McKie three years ago.

"Being in the South, people's minds have expanded," says English, a Columbia native now coach of the NBDL's North Charleston Lowgators. "The cities have grown. It's just a different environment."

Despite progress on the field, the sidelines seem to be much the same as when Fulton broke in as a young broadcaster. Black success on the playing field has not translated as quickly into the names of blacks in coaches' offices.

"There aren't many schools that I can go to" if looking for a job, says Bill Tate, who has taken Timmons High to nine state football championship games in 30 years.

He coaches at a small Class A school in a largely black community in the Pee Dee. There are many black head coaches in similar communities but less diversity at the larger 4A and 3A schools, he says.

But hiring is left to local school districts, says Ronnie Matthews, head of the South Carolina High School League. "Without having done a formal survey, I can think of several fine coaches, black and white, in football, basketball and all our sports," he says.

But Tate compares the state's high schools to the NFL where black and minority coaches become offensive and defensive coordinators then struggle to move on to become head coaches.

"You've got to trust the fact they can do the job and go out and hire them," says Tate. "If they win, give them a chance."

The white-black coaching gap widened when South Carolina's high schools were integrated, says Willie Jeffries, who recently retired from historically black South Carolina State after nearly 30 years in college coaching.

While black students moved to integrated white schools, only a few of the coaches from the old black schools got a chance to follow.

"We lost as much as three-quarters of our black head coaches then. They just got wiped out," and most never returned to coaching, Jeffries says.

In addition, many black athletes aren't necessarily thinking about careers as coaches. "I had about 98 guys on my last team, and all thought they were going to the NFL," Jeffries jokes.

Clemson hired Marcia Fletcher-Noad in 2000 as women's track and field coach, the first black head coach in school history. South Carolina's only minority head coach is nationally respected track and field coach Curtis Frye, who was part of the U.S. Olympic staff in 2000.

Fletcher-Noad says her hiring shows Clemson was aware it needed diversity.

"What they're going to do about the awareness is yet to be seen," she says. "We know it's got to be more equal, so why not be the ones to make it happen?"

Clemson's women's track team has a number of black athletes, and Fletcher-Noad feels they can look to her as someone who ran in the same shoes.

"In cases where it may be the best choice, we have a responsibility to make sure we're fulfilling what the team needs, perhaps to do what hasn't been done before," she says.

Getting more black head coaches will take time, says Regan, the sports educator. In high schools and colleges, star players turn over every two or three years; in the pros, 10 or 15 at most. Coaches stay much longer.

"Careers are a long time, and there are not that many coach openings," he says, adding athletic directors are concerned that a coach, no matter the color, can keep stadiums and arenas full.

South Carolina's Mike McGee pursued Kentucky coach Tubby Smith, who is black, for the USC basketball opening before hiring Dave Odom last April. Smith, like Odom, was a high-profile candidate with pizzazz needed to help fill the school's 18,000-plus arena scheduled to open next season.

South Carolina's Lou Holtz and Clemson's Tommy Bowden, both hired in 1998, have affected the bottom line. The Gamecocks sold out all three of Holtz's seasons while Bowden's team averaged 80,152 in the stands per game this year, second-highest in school history.

"You've got to meet the needs of your constituency," says Regan. "That's the cash cow."

But just as South Carolina has made progress in other areas of race relations during recent decades, so too, time and

attitudes have changed in sports.

In 1955, Charleston's Cannon Street YMCA became the first chartered Little League in South Carolina as it tried to compete for a trip to the Little League World Series.

Dixie Youth Baseball was formed that year with segregation a goal, according to its charter. The segregation clause was removed in 1967 and the Confederate flag logo last year.

In 1989, Conway High School suffered through a devastating season when 30 black football players boycotted the team after the black starting quarterback was replaced by a less-experienced white player who was an assistant coach's son.

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., then head of the State Human Affairs Commission, said the switch by Conway coach Chuck Jordan was not racially motivated. This past fall, Jordan's Conway team advanced to the finals of the Class 4A Division II state title game.

"When you have a good program, you're going to have good community support," says Matthews, head of the high school league. "That means from everyone."

**LOAD-DATE:** February 16, 2002

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**GRAPHIC:** With AP Photos XGRV101-102, CF103 of Tuesday, CF101 of Thursday.

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Chicago Tribune (Illinois)

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune News Service

February 15, 2007 Thursday

## In South Carolina, black voters weigh in on Obama

**BYLINE:** By Dahleen Glanton, Chicago Tribune**SECTION:** NATIONAL POLITICAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 1204 words**DATELINE:** COLUMBIA

COLUMBIA, S.C. \_ As an African-American, Dean Stewart is proud that a black man has a good shot at becoming the next president of the United States.

He likes Sen. Barack Obama's style, his intellect and his compassion. In fact, Stewart said, Obama reminds him of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"He understands what he is up against as a black man, and he and his wife have said they are not afraid," said Stewart, 41, who owns a barbershop in Columbia.

Regardless of his admiration for Obama, D-Ill., however, Stewart is not sure he will vote for him next year when South Carolina holds its primary election. He also likes Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., the candidate he thinks has the best chance of winning the presidency and one he feels he has known for almost 15 years.

On Friday, Obama will travel to South Carolina for the first time in more than two years. While the rest of the country has elevated him to celebrity status, he is likely to find his greatest challenge yet in the South, particularly among blacks. Obama is not as well known as other candidates.

Votes for Obama won't come easily here, according to political experts. The South is home to the nation's largest concentration of African Americans \_ one of the Democratic Party's most loyal constituencies and some of the most dedicated supporters of former President Bill Clinton.

While Democrats traditionally are overpowered in general elections in the overwhelmingly Republican region, blacks will play a major role in primary elections in states such as South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. About 50 percent of voters in South Carolina's Democratic primary are black.

The Jan. 29 primary in South Carolina will be the fourth early contest after Iowa, Nevada and New Hampshire, which bolsters the state's role in the selection of the Democratic nominee. Among the Democratic candidates, early polls in South Carolina show Clinton with 34 percent of the vote, followed by former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina with 31 percent and Obama with 10 percent.

Black voters, in particular, have found themselves in a dilemma. Should they support Obama and possibly make history or should they support Hillary Clinton and bring back a team many feel was the most dedicated to black causes since President John Kennedy?

"In my district, people are going with Hillary," said state Sen. Robert Ford, a Democrat from Charleston. "I am sure there will be some young blacks who will be behind Obama, but elderly blacks are going with Hillary because they love Bill and they love Hillary for standing behind him for eight years."

Like many African Americans, Stewart would like to see what he considers to be a dream ticket, with Clinton as the nominee and Obama as her vice presidential running mate.

"It would be like the Super Bowl with Chicago and Indianapolis and two black coaches," said Stewart. "Either one is a winner."

Though more than 2,100 tickets for his appearance Friday at the Columbia convention center flew quickly, particularly on the predominantly white campus of the University of South Carolina, Obama is still relatively unknown to a vast number of voters in the state. Another 1,500 tickets were distributed for a town hall meeting in Orangeburg on Saturday.

"People down here don't know him, and South Carolinians in many ways are a difficult lot," said Cole Blease Graham, a political scientist at the University of South Carolina. "They like to see their politicians up close in the flesh, shake their hand and look them in the eye."

"Blacks will determine the winner in South Carolina, and if it came down to it right now, it would be Clinton because of the lack of exposure Obama has here," said Graham. "If Obama can win some attraction from whites and overwhelming support from black voters, he can beat Clinton."

Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., the House majority whip, announced this week that he would not endorse a presidential candidate. Earlier, Ford and state Sen. Darrell Jackson endorsed Clinton, saying she had the best chance of winning. The men were credited with turning out a substantial black vote for Edwards who won the state primary in 2004.

"I considered who I thought was best able to serve right now. The day after the election, who will walk into that office and be able to serve from day one?" said Jackson, who also serves as pastor of a 10,000-member Bible Way Family Life Center in Columbia. On Thursday, the Clinton campaign confirmed that Jackson has negotiated a \$10,000 per month consulting contract with Clinton, according to the Associated Press.

"Sen. Clinton brings a Rolodex of people who have served well and a lot of it has to do with President Clinton. Most people view them as partners," said Ford. "People love Obama but they really love the Clintons."

Obama's supporters said people will love Obama too, once they get to know him.

"Sen. Obama hasn't even gotten to South Carolina yet and people are excited," said Anton Gunn, Obama's political director in South Carolina. "When he gets here and people have the opportunity to hear his message up close and personal, a lot of those who are undecided will be making up their minds."

Lachlan McIntosh, executive director of the South Carolina Democratic Party, said that while there is excitement over Obama's visit, Edwards, who was born in South Carolina, draws big crowds too. Clinton also plans to visit the state next week.

"Sen. Obama is sparking the interest of a lot of people we have not seen involved in politics before, particularly young people," said McIntosh. "John Edwards has been here once this year and several times last year. We will find out Friday night whether Obama is as big as John Edwards."

While national polls suggest that race will not be a factor in Obama's bid, some analysts said it could come into play in the South.

"South Carolina is one of the most racially polarized places in the country and black people in South Carolina have never elected a black candidate statewide," said David Bositis, senior political analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington. "There are places in the South where people don't think anybody black can be elected to anything. So when they think about the presidential election, they don't think of Obama as someone with very good prospects."

State Sen. John Drummond, who at age 87 has been in the Senate for 42 years, said he has not seen much support for Obama. Right now, he said, the race in South Carolina is between Clinton and Edwards.

"I think (Obama) will do alright, but he is about four years off," said Drummond. "A few years ago, I don't think he would have had much of any support in South Carolina, but he has earned it. He's a rather attractive guy and I can see a lot of good down the road."



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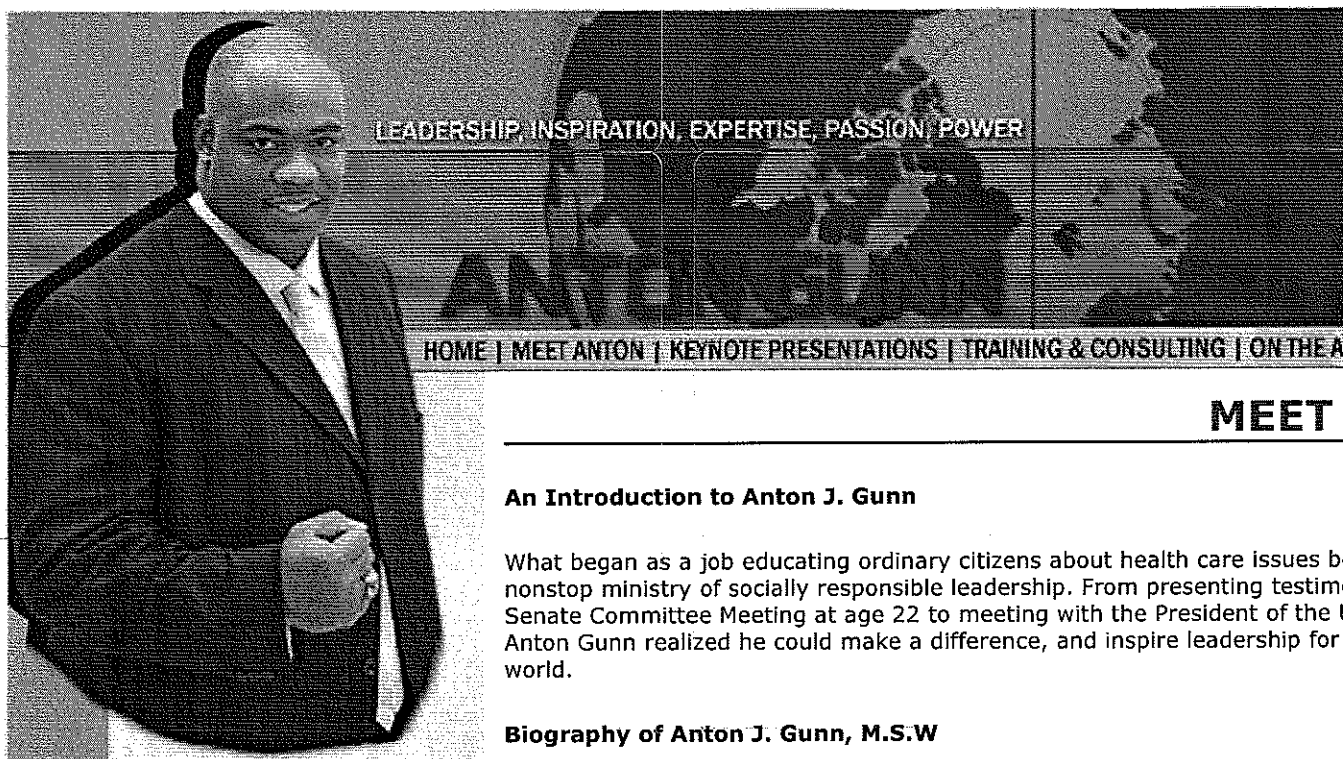
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### **An Introduction to Anton J. Gunn**

What began as a job educating ordinary citizens about health care issues became a nonstop ministry of socially responsible leadership. From presenting testimony at a Senate Committee Meeting at age 22 to meeting with the President of the United States, Anton Gunn realized he could make a difference, and inspire leadership for the world.

### **Biography of Anton J. Gunn, M.S.W**

Anton J. Gunn is one of the leading social commentators in this generation. He brings his expertise in business, history, politics and culture to help individuals and organizations become enlightened, productive and successful. One of the voices for progressive change in the home state of South Carolina, Anton has spent a lifetime dedicated to understanding and addressing the challenges that an unjust world presents. He channels that knowledge into entertaining and practical approaches that facilitate organizational change.

Anton has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The State* and the *American People*. He also has appeared on ABC's *Good Morning America*, CNN's *The Situation Room*, *Wolf Blitzer* and the *CBS Evening News*, as well as numerous appearances on other national and international media.

Anton is an experienced public policy analyst, governmental affairs liaison and advocate on social and political issues. With an intimate knowledge of federal legislative processes, for more than a decade, he has provided program management, community organizing, program development, group facilitation, and collaboration for local, state, and national organizations on public policy issues.

Recently, Anton served as the state Political Director for U.S. Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign. Anton was the senior staff member with the role of providing strategic political leadership, guidance and counsel to Senator Obama during the South Carolina Democratic Primary. With assistance from Anton, Barack Obama's campaign achieved a dramatic victory with 55% of the vote.

Previously, he served as Executive Director of South Carolina Fair Share ([www.SCFairShare.org](http://www.SCFairShare.org)). Anton is a frequent speaker and advisor to groups on public policy and social issues. He also serves as a guest lecturer and speaker at Ball State University, Columbia College and Webster University. Anton was previously a faculty member at the University of South Carolina and has been appointed as a member to several state and national organizations.

Anton grew up in Hampton Roads, Virginia the eldest son of a Navy Veteran and a high school teacher. Anton holds a B.A. in History (1994) and a Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina where he played Division I college football. He is the founder of the University of South Carolina Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, which works for the rights and welfare of college athletes. He is also a Gamecock letterman who walked away from the game of football to begin his career as a social commentator.