

# Georgia Tech coach baffles Gamecocks

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP).— A newspaper columnist on Sunday called Bobby Cremins "wacky." University of South Carolina trustees questioned Cremins' mental stability. And those were only the more printable comments.

One critic suggested that his decision to accept, then reject, the Gamecocks' coaching job was some kind of bizarre plot to exact revenge for forcing out mentor Frank McGuire and firing friend George Felton.

In barbershops and bars, the sometimes epithet-laced talk centered on how Cremins had elated Gamecock fans with his announcement Wednesday that he would leave Georgia Tech to coach at his alma mater, then burst their bubble with his announcement Saturday that he was staying in Atlanta.

"Cremins, we all know, is a little wacky. So as we learned more about the mental and emotional gymnastics he went through as he arrived at his decision, maybe we should have shed a little more doubt on (Wednesday's) scene," Ken Burger wrote in *The (Charleston) Post and Courier*.

Cremins said Saturday that to come to South Carolina would be deserting the Tech players and his promise to be there for their careers. Cremins himself wasn't available to comment — he took off for a weeklong vacation, Tech athletic director Homer Rice said.

But Cremins' wife, Carolyn, said he barely had accepted the South Carolina coaching job when he began having second thoughts.

"Bobby got there and thought, 'Oh my gosh, what have I done?'" she said.

Mrs. Cremins said she and their youngest child, 16-year-old Bobby Jr., did not ask Cremins to return to Georgia Tech.

"I encouraged him to go, not because I wanted him to go, but because it seemed he wanted to go so badly," she said. "But once he said he'd made a mistake, I fought like a tiger to get him (home) and let him change his mind."



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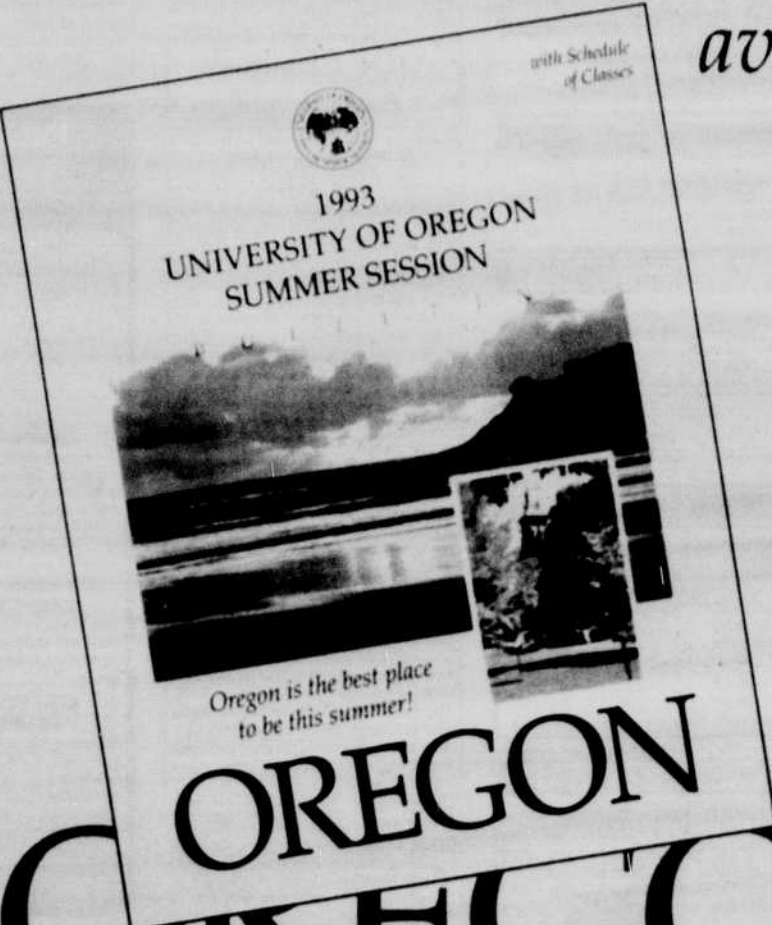
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