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RAPPIN'
Thomas Wyatt

DON'T LET THE GASLIGHT BURNT ORANGE YOU ON THE WAY OUT!

Gaslight! By definition, means to attempt to make (someone) believe that he or she is going insane (as by subjecting that person to a series of experiences that have no rational explanation).

If you've heard **Tom Herman's** self-praise about how the **Longhorn** football team has skyrocketed since his arrival; following the unceremonious firing of **Charlie Strong**, then you, too, have been *gaslit*.

To hear this man, make claims, over-and-over again, about what "shambles" the program was in when he took over, is akin to the same self-glorification President **Trump** lauds about how he stopped **COVID**; By banning people from **China**.

Herman can spin the moon to whomever is foolish enough to listen; but the truth will set you free. It did Herman. Oh, in much the same way it happened to Charlie Strong: unceremoniously. But if the light isn't bright enough for you yet, then let me turn up the gas a lil-bit-*mo*.

The person replacing Herman, lost his job at the **University of Southern California** because he was an alcoholic.

BUT - there is an article written to us "Dear **Longhorn fans**" by **Matt Zemek** that reads in part: "The main thing to know about [coach] **Sarkisian** is not his battle with alcoholism, which stopped his USC tenure **before he could complete a second season in 2015**. **Sarkisian** has, by all accounts, dealt with that particular demon. It could be the very thing which enables this new job at Texas to become a success. We don't need to base an evaluation of **Sarkisian** on his personal life. Let's keep this within the painted white lines of football."

Oh, Really?!!
Like my main man **Nelly** said, "It's gettin hot in herre!"



By **John Harris Jr.**
VILLAGER Sports Columnist

(**VILLAGER**) - Call it the "I hope he rubs off on us" theory.

That's **Steve Sarkisian**, the Alabama offensive coordinator and former head coach at USC and Washington, replacing **Tom Herman** as the new head football coach at the University of Texas at Austin.

Sarkisian brings a 46-35 career record to the 40 Acres with head coaching stints at Pac-12 members Washington and USC. Lately, he's been the primary play-caller at Alabama, which is in the driver's seat to win another national championship. Alabama faces Ohio State for the title on January 11.

It's too early to have a strong opinion about **Sarkisian**, who was fired by USC in 2015 - not for his coaching record, but after reports surfaced that he had shown up drunk to a team meeting. **Sarkisian** didn't turn heads as offensive coordinator with the NFL's Atlanta Falcons, so he returned to Alabama to serve under legendary coach **Nick Saban**.

Which brings us to UT's "I hope he rubs off on us" theory.

Has working with **Saban** made **Sarkisian** a better coach, one worthy of UT director of athletics **Chris Del Conte** and the university's brass paying **Herman** and his staff a whopping \$24 million just to go away before paying **Sarkisian** and his new

Wait-And-See About Steve Sarkisian Hire



Texas Longhorn mascot **BEVO** chillin' during a Texas spring game at **Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium**.
(**John Gutierrez**, USA TODAY Sports)



Nick Saban
(Dale Zanine-USA TODAY Sports)

staff? Well, he'd better be.

Someone joked on social media that firing **Herman** to hire **Sarkisian** is like driving past a Chili's and pulling into the parking lot at Applebee's.

I concur.

Let's look at recent examples of some other Alabama assistants who parlayed their relationship with **Saban** into high-profile head coaching jobs.

In the three years since leaving Alabama as its defensive coordinator, **Jeremy Pruitt** is 16-19 with no winning seasons as Tennessee's head coach. Ugh. In the two years since leaving as Alabama's offensive coordinator, **Mike Locksley** is 6-17 with no winning seasons as Maryland's head coach.



Steve Sarkisian
(CAL SPORT MEDIA/ZUMA PRESS)

Double-ugh.

Maybe coaching isn't the problem at UT, where too many folks feel like the football program is something that it's not. Maybe the problem runs deeper.

Could it be that higher-ups at UT continue to mistakenly compare themselves to Big 12 rival Oklahoma, even though the Longhorns have never produced that same level of consistency?

Oklahoma has won 14 Big 12 football titles since 2000, including the last six in a row. UT has won three Big 12 titles and won its last one in 2009.

People couldn't wait for UT to fire **Mack Brown** following the 2013 season, eight years after he guided the Longhorns to a national championship - UT's first



Steve Sarkisian
(Heartland College Sports)

national championship in 35 years.

News flash: **Nick Saban** has won more national championships (five) than UT (four).

The logic for firing **Brown**, who won two of UT's Big 12 titles? Anybody can do what **Brown** did because he had **Vince Young**.

That's what folks said when Tennessee fired **Philip Fulmer** in 2008, a decade after **Fulmer** led the Volunteers to their first national title in 31 years.

Anybody can do what **Fulmer** did.

Twelve years and six coaches later, Tennessee is still waiting for its savior coach to arrive with no national championship in sight.

Be careful what you wish for, UT. You just might get it.

INSIDE



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http://austintexas.gov/covid19

GET THE FACTS | FREE PUBLIC COVID-19 TESTING | TRACKING DIGITAL DASHBOARD | SELF-ASSESSMENT | STAY HOME ORDERS | HEALTH PROVIDERS | CARE

The Next Step to a New Givens Pool

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department invites you to the Givens Park Aquatic Facility Community Meeting. During the meeting, you will meet the Project Team, share your ideas and help us design your future pool. Join us to celebrate the launch the planning of your new community pool.

Givens Aquatic Facility: Community Meeting #1

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqcOuqrzgvHNPLbVCfI42LRImzHmbLlpGH

Passcode: **GivensPool**

(Also available on Facebook Live)

We will host this meeting online and registration is required. If you are unable to attend, the meeting will be recorded and posted for viewing later.

Stay up-to-date

For latest updates on hours, modified procedures, and the list of prohibited items and activities, please visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/givens-aquatic-facility-renovation>.

