Think *The Student Printz* is in the Tank?

A few USMNEWS.net readers have expressed the view that USM's student newspaper, *The Student Printz*, has been, thus far during 2011, in the proverbial tank for the institution's administration. This opinion has also been stated by some USMNEWS.net reporters and contributors. With such a popular opinion, one has to wonder what *is* going on during the *TSP*'s editorial meetings. Back during the controversial Shelby Thames administration of USM (2002-07), the *TSP* was threatened with its very existence in response to negative reports and editorials about that same administration. These threats were too controversial for Thames to act upon, so he instead financed a pro-Thames administration "student-run" magazine. That glossy periodical predictably failed to survive that administration.

Current USM president Martha Saunders appears, to many at least, to be more clever than Thames when it comes to public relations types of issues. Any move to silence, or bend the *TSP*, would likely be done much more silently by Saunders than by her predecessor. Perhaps the answer to the implied question here lies in Tearanny Street's 28-March-2011 USM presser entitled "Three New Staff Members Join Southern Miss Media Center," wherein USM *officially* announced the hiring of Chuck Cook, formerly a photographer for *The Times-Picayune*, as the News Content Advisor for USM's *TSP*.

Chuck Cook

According to what Street writes about Cook, pictured above, in her presser, "[h]is primary responsibility is advising the editors of *The Student Printz* and studentprintz.com." Street also points out that "[f]ormer *Student Printz* advisor Maggie Williams has become a full-time instructor of journalism and will continue to coordinate the school's internship program." As always, USMNEWS.net followers are invited to make up their own minds about this situation. Still, sources point out that, based on the information presented here, the opinions of those aforementioned readers and contributors can be easily predicted.