

# Silent Voices Dangerous

Americans are no longer the pioneers of the world. No longer do we meet our challengers with clenched fists and gritted teeth. The prevalent sound in America today is a whimper, or worse yet, complete silence.

College campuses have been quiet for some time now. Perhaps this is because youths have become tired of bashing in their own heads, wearied by the realization that the riots of the sixties did little good, and perhaps have become lazy and selfish.

Few would say that democracy is not at least a good idea. The basis of this idea, however, is that each citizen must keep informed, be active and concerned.

Otherwise, the government will cease to be in partial control by the people, and unscrupulous parties will be able to take this power into their own hands.

Many will say that this takeover by elite groups is inevitable. They have an excellent point, for it is being witnessed today in the increasing executive powers, in the unscrupulous actions and poorly veiled attempts by Nixon and his friends to circumvent our judicial and congressional systems.

The fact that a group of people would try to gain this power is hardly surprising. The alarming fact is that although Nixon's popularity has decreased, there are still many who do not understand that the office of the President is not synonymous with America, and that the attempt to gain more power is an attempt to divest us of our freedoms.

It is frightening especially that even those who do realize what is happening care so little that they do nothing about it except perhaps to complain privately.

Presidential trouble is only one of the crises we face today. Environmental concerns are being sacrificed for the energy crisis. Renewed conflict still threatens to break out in the Middle East. Congress is the weak and almost cowardly opponent of the administration.

Americans have lost faith in their government. Racial and sexual inequities persist, and worse economic troubles loom ahead.

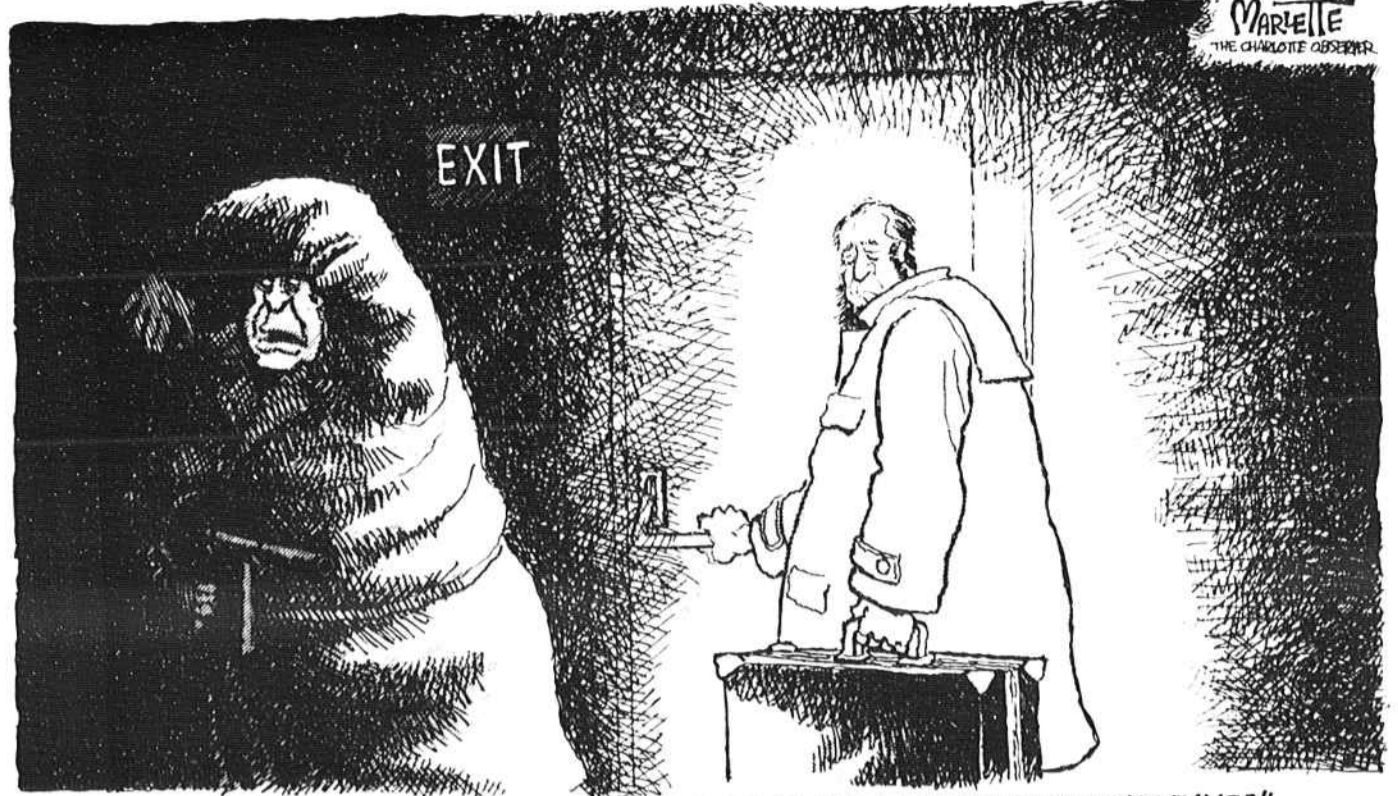
Instead of meeting these crises with a fighting and determined spirit, we allow ourselves to sit back and wait for someone else to do it.

We panic at the gas shortage, but we don't care about the pollution of our air and water. We picket supermarkets during meat shortages, but we condone vast political corruption. We are unconcerned that capital punishment may be reinstated in South Carolina as the only punishment for murder, but we certainly raise hell if we can't get tickets to the Notre Dame game.

Unfortunately it looks like Americans are only concerned when their stomachs, gas tanks, pocket books, or leisure time is affected. Even students, who have traditionally been idealistic and verbal, are not active.

This age is the bleakest of all. Humanity's excesses are turning back on us and the environment we've created will surely obliterate us unless something is done.

Yet we still are silent. We do not have to and should not burn buildings, riot in the streets, or kidnap congressmen to let ourselves be heard. But we must speak out soon, before the power of speech is taken away from us.



"ONE OTHER THING, SOLZHENITSYN—TURN OUT THE LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE!"

## Our Mail

### "Punishments" For Deed

TO THE EDITOR:

On Wednesday night (Feb. 13), someone took it upon themselves to "extinguish" the lobby in Preston with the fire extinguisher. (By the way, there was no fire.)

As a resident of Preston, I was informed that the beer party in the dorm, planned for Saturday after the game, had been cancelled. I was also informed that the TV in the lobby is "offlimits." (I guess that means I'm not suppose to watch it). These were the "punishments" all residents of Preston-Woodrow were assigned for the terrible deed. These are suppose to make the guilty party(s) talk. Who in hell is going to confess over a couple of beers and TV privileges? Don't you think a severe scolding and being sent to bed without supper would have been a much better punishment?  
Spencer Starr

### Disgusting Aftermath

To the Editor:

On the eve of ticket distribution for the Notre Dame game, a great many students descended upon the Coliseum for a night of listening to music, beer drinking, card playing and waiting.

Surely, a fabulous time was had by all, but the aftermath was disgusting. Bottles, cups, beer cans, wine bottles and other nauseating signs of nature's futile battle with civilization was all that was left behind. One does not have to be an environmentalist or nature lover to be sickened by the debris that so thoroughly encompassed the building.

Partial responsibility must be accepted by the university for not providing sufficient trash receptacles; however, the greatest responsibility lies with the students, who apparently made no effort to clean up their mess. If they don't have any respect for the university, at least they could have some consideration for the general student body, journalism students and other ticket seekers who had to be subjected to this revolting garbage all day.

The get together that turned out to be a garbage dump, might be classified as neglect. But if you look deeper into the situation "neglect" seems inadequate.

Ignorance is a much more appropriate description. Try to care a little more about your environment as well as other students.

BROCK WOODS

### Brain Collapse

To the Editor:

There must have been a brain collapse or eclipse of objectivity when the Gamecock staff published the feminism pro-con arguments in Monday's paper. Both articles were somewhat "con".

Women are, of course, different from men, and this difference sometimes is exploited by both anti-libbers, as well as pro-libbers.

Radicalism and tokenism will simply not do.

Women, in order to be equal, should not strive to take away the male 'ego', nor should they try to outdo men in all fields of endeavor.

The compromise solution, it seems, is for both men and women to work hand-in-hand, vis-a-vis with one another to solve such problems as pay discrepancies, unequal divorce proceedings, sexism by both sexes, abortions, rapes, and work opportunities.

The basic difference between men and women is not physical; it is in thought of the degree of equality. One cannot be 'free' until one has witnessed slavery.

Howard Shanker

## opinion

"It is a newspaper's duty to print the news, and raise hell."

--Wilbur F. Storey,  
The Chicago Times, 1861

Editor  
Doug Williams

Managing Editor  
Bill Grant

Ad Manager  
Art Frank

## The Gamecock

Although The Gamecock is a publication of the students of the University of South Carolina, it is not an official publication of the university. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the university, the student body or all the staff members of The Gamecock.

Editorial Page Editor.....Vivian Cooper  
News Editor.....Tommy Fowler  
Sports Editor.....Steve Parker  
Photo Editor.....Russ Jeffcoat  
Assistant News Editor.....Carl Baab  
Sports News Editor.....Jim Hersh  
Circulation Manager.....Keith Gressman  
Entertainment Editor.....David Havird  
Editorial Staff.....Bill Outlaw,  
Jack Sowell