

Opinion

'Happy with what I have'

By Moby Salahuddin



Evelyn Montgomery is indeed one woman whose work is never done. She works as hard as most people but, like Sisyphus, to her lot fell a job that is taxing to the patience, exhausting to the body. Evelyn, 38, is a cleaning maid in USC's dorm at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

"I wouldn't want to be cleaning dorms for the rest of my working life," she swore. "When you are cleaning them it doesn't seem like you are getting anything accomplished—the boys dirty it even as you are cleaning it."

"It surprises me," she shakes her head. "They pour soda on the floor. Shoot off fire extinguishers. Students in college don't seem as advanced as the ones in high school."

Evelyn has been working in USC dormitories for six years. Each semester is different, she says, each one brings in a different type of student.

"Last semester was terrible. There were days when I felt like turning around and going back home. You'd step on the floor and your foot would stick." Evelyn made a face.

Just as students differ from semester-to-semester, so the nature of the work varies from day-to-day.

"Monday is the worst day," she declared. "They have been here all weekend without anybody to clean after them. You know they don't go home and do the things they do here."

Evelyn's experience with college students has not disillusioned her with the advantages of a college education. She has a husband and five children, makes \$2.52 an hour, but is trying to save money to send her children through college.

"Finishing college is the most important thing for them. I am always after them on their grades," Evelyn said with a laugh. One of her daughters is married but four children in school are doing well, she said.

Actually, judging from the reports, another daughter is doing particularly well, Evelyn said. "Her teachers are always saying how smart she is. She should be a leader some day."

Her eyes smile as she talks of her children. "I want my children to be successful. I want my

children to be always somebody in life. I don't want them to grow up plain."

Evelyn herself is planning on furthering her education. She is a high school graduate and now is looking forward to learning typing at night school. She hopes her job as a typist "won't be as tiring as mopping floors and picking up trash."

"I would have never thought I'd be working as a maid. I always figured I'd work in a beauty shop. But I got married soon and so couldn't keep up with cosmetology."

Evelyn explained an aspiring beautician has to work for a while with someone else in the field before being allowed to set up private practice.

She said she doesn't regret getting married—she's been married 19 years now. Both she and her husband, a mail handler in the post office, spend a lot of time with their children.

But if Evelyn had her way, this time she would stay longer in school.

"I would like to go back to school...find a job, make as much money as I possibly can," she said, speculating on the possibilities. "If you have a good job you can have a nice home. You could have lots of room—you wouldn't be cramped up."

Nice homes are one of the things she likes about America. "People have beautiful gardens—flowers are real pretty." The other nice thing is "you can raise your own vegetables," Evelyn said.

She is happy with this country. "America is a good place to stay. Women in America can do just about anything they want to do. You can buy a car, own a home, move about freely. I like my freedom," she said.

However, Evelyn is not as satisfied with President Ford. "I can't say I dislike him, because he is human," she said. But she suggested he would do better to settle domestic unrest before trying to solve problems elsewhere in the world.

Times are bad, she said, jobs are getting tighter, "a lot of people are losing their homes." But Evelyn is content. "I am happy with what I have. I don't worry about myself. I worry about my children."

The Gamecock's mail

South Carolina and the ERA

TO THE EDITOR:

By the recent decision of the state legislature to kill the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) the leaders of this great state have demonstrated to the people their high degree of enlightenment and awareness to the changes taking place in the outside world.

They have shown what years of schooling and experience in public life have done to elevate them to a point where only the most esteemed statesmen, such as George Wallace and Lester Maddox, have achieved.

These men have proved beyond a shadow of a doubt the true merits of being simple-minded and stubborn. In a world that is changing in all respects they have seen through their "opened" eyes that if South Carolina is to progress to a point at which it can provide decent opportunities to its people it must rely on the proven methods of the old masters of Southern conservatism.

To the unenlightened person it may look as though these prominent leaders have dealt a severe blow to the promise of equal

rights. Only a lunatic may feel that for lustrous economic and social growth a state must employ all of its natural resources, including its women, to their fullest capabilities.

If a person agrees with the theory that South Carolina has the potential for growth that exceeds that of most other states, he must be radical. To the leaders of this state such people are in a minority and not capable of intelligent thought anyway. This is why they must make such decisions for these poor souls.

I must truly congratulate these men and say, "Keep up the fantastic work." Who knows? With such capable men making decisions for us in a few years we may be with Alabama and George on the top of the list of states 20 or more years behind the rest of the nation.

RICH KULKASKI

Could Cromer out sing Carpenters?

TO THE EDITOR:

All year long I have put up with the imbecilic entertainment

reviews of Chuck Cromer. When he referred to basketball coach Frank McGuire and his players as King Frank and the turkeys in an entertainment column I cast that off as unprofessional journalism and the writing of someone with an intelligence quotient ranging between 50 and 75.

In his latest so-called review, Cromer refers to two of the greatest musical talents of the '70's as 1. a consumer rip-off artist and 2. a joke.

John Denver and the Carpenters have brought countless hours of listening pleasure to me and millions of other fans in the United States and throughout the world. Their talents provide a welcome relief from groups such as Black Oak Arkansas, Led Zeppelin, Humble Pie and countless others who's only talent is to scream their guts at you until your head splits.

Until Cromer begins to make objective reviews instead of sarcastic and unsubstantiated remarks about people that do have a true talent, or until he has sold 27 million records and arranged and written his own music, I will never put any stock into the pure bunk that appears in his column.

LENNY DOLIN

Editorials

Law admissions

The Board of Trustees' decision to give a committee appointed by the President power to select 7 per cent of the first-year law school class is being bogged down by confusion and protests from the law school.

It has become obvious that the Board acted without fully realizing the problems that their decision would cause. Law students are justifiably afraid that the decision will allow state legislators to get acquaintances, who do not deserve law school entrance, into USC's Law Center.

The law school faculty is in the midst of adopting a resolution to have Law Center Dean Robert Foster meet with President Patterson to come up with an agreement about first-year admissions policy.

The Board's idea of having a committee to select 7 per cent of the first-year class has both good and bad points. If the law school faculty and staff would have strong representation on the panel it would be controlled so that it would not turn into a farce in which politicians and Board members would be calling the shots.

However, the Board has handled the entire situation poorly. Instead of studying the situation and formulating a plan to allow disadvantaged students or those who obviously deserve a chance to prove themselves in law school entrance, the Board quickly pushed through a decision that was totally lacking in planning.

Board chairman T. Eston Marchant admits that plans for the committee were not yet formed and that a meeting with law school officials must still be held.

All of these things should have taken place before the Board decided that the 7 per cent selection process was

necessary. The law school obviously feels the proposal is not needed and their opinion should have been searched for months ago.

Clemency program

Quietly, almost without notice, the conditional clemency program for Vietnam war military deserters and draft evaders ended Monday. Only 22,500 of 126,900 men eligible to apply had done so.

Ironically, news of the clemency program's ending was hidden beneath an avalanche of dispatches from newsmen in Saigon and Phnom Penh detailing the latest news on the retreating South Vietnamese and the fleeing Lon Nol.

It is evident that just more than two years after the Paris Peace Agreement was signed South Vietnam will fall to the North Vietnamese. The United States, which spent more than a decade trying to help South Vietnam, should realize that any effort they make to arm the Vietnamese with military supplies will only prolong the agony in Indochina.

Congress should resist President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger's attempts to get supplemental military aid.

Then the President and Congress should make another attempt to come up with a clemency plan that is acceptable to a large number of draft evaders and military deserters. Only then will the United States be on the road to recovering from its unsuccessful foreign policy mistakes.

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