

The GAMECOCK

Editorials Commentary

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Campus Insecurity

Last spring a Carolina coed and her date were attacked one evening in the park behind South Dorm. They were robbed and the girl was raped.

Not a very pretty picture. And in the name of good taste, we did not publicize the incident. There was no front-page

story. In fact, there was no publicity of any kind.

Campus police locked the Pickens and Blossom Streets gates to the area in an effort to keep students out of the park. But students were never told why.

A few rumors were circulated, but no facts were made available. So students jumped the fence or removed bricks and continued to use the park.

Last Saturday night a similar incident occurred.

Perhaps publicity last time might have prevented the recurrence. It's too late to wonder. . . . But it's not too late to prevent a next time.

About 9 p.m. Saturday a Carolina student and his date decided to take advantage of the poorly lighted area behind South. Unfortunately darkness also invites danger.

The couple was jumped by three boys—non-students—and robbed. The girl was threatened but not harmed.

The area behind South is not the only danger spot. Campus security men report incidents involving couples parked in cars, particularly near the tennis courts on Wheat Street.

And last Sunday night four Carolina boys were assaulted and robbed in three separate incidents. The robberies occurred between 8 and 8:30 p.m.—one in front of Davis College, one at the north end of McKissick Library, and one between at College and Henderson Streets.

What can be done?

Lighting was improved last year, but it is still inadequate in many areas.

A bus service was initiated last year from Capstone to Sumter Street but has been discontinued. Perhaps such a service should be started again to eliminate much of the need for students to walk alone at night.

Three campus policemen now patrol USC on foot at night, in addition to one patrol car. Supervisor of campus security, George Key, said a fourth policeman will soon be added.

Key told *The Gamecock* that the gates to the park behind South are locked at dark to discourage students from using the area and to keep out the "undesirables."

We feel more might be accomplished by making students aware of the danger. We urge that inhabitants of University city be aware and on guard.

Do not hesitate to report "suspicious characters" to the University police. If an area is inadequately lighted, report it to the proper authorities. And do not venture out at night alone.

Incidents such as those of the past weekend are not reason for panic—but they should induce alarm and caution.

Elections Again

It's hard not to be trite about election confusion.

Confusion during campus elections is old hat at Carolina, the "in" thing.

It happens every fall—and despite promises and good intentions, it happens again every spring.

Chairman Mike Thomas and the Election Commission did a commendable job this fall. We're not blaming them. It's a difficult job—one with little praise or reward—and they worked hard.

But many of the same mistakes were made again—and we added a few new ones.

Study after study has been made—with few results. Let's DO something this time instead of studying the problems again, and do something in time for spring elections.

We suggest using voting machines instead of the present computer ballot. They can be "borrowed" from Richland County. High schools throughout the state use such machines in student council elections.

Voting machines would eliminate the problems involved in printing ballots—names misspelled, names omitted, etc. Last year the Elections Commission used black ink on the ballots. The computer must have red ink, so the Commission spent several long sleepless nights hand-counting the ballots.

Machines would also cut down on the "stuffed" ballot boxes that seem to be a way of life in USC elections. Little, if any, control is maintained at most polls to see that students vote properly.

Since the machines would count the votes, much time could be saved. This year the computer broke down, leaving the Commission helpless and causing results and run-offs to be delayed. Last year, because of the ink problem, the ballots had to be counted by hand.

Also students have to be educated in the process of marking the ballot correctly, or the computer will spit it out.

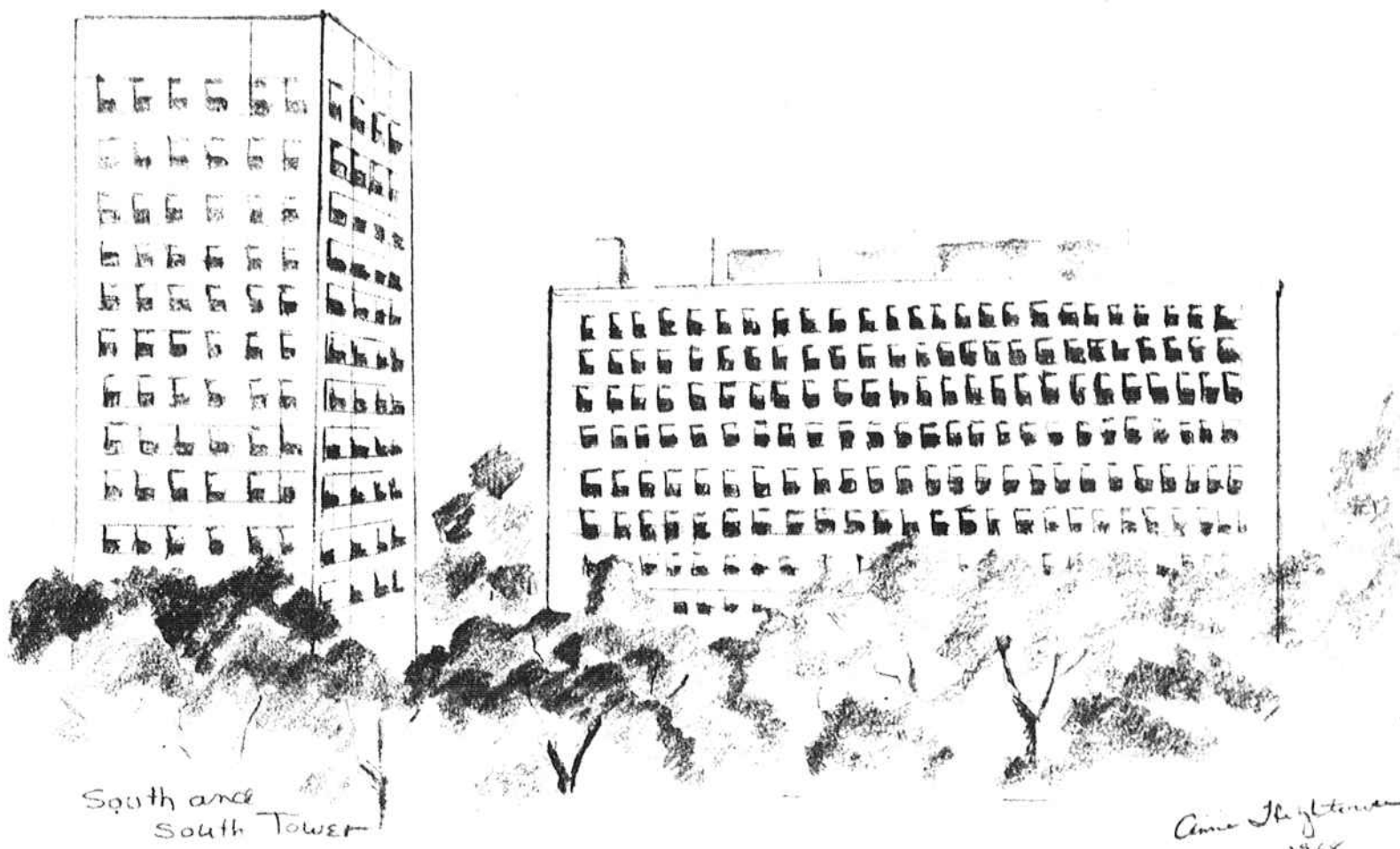
Voting machines would add prestige to an election. In the words of one freshman, "They're impressive. They make me feel that the election is important."

That's one suggestion. The Election Commission has its own suggestions for improvements.

Let's do something before spring elections.



Ready To Make A Run For The Dorm?



Carolina Sketchbook

Students Can Handle Beer

By ROLLIE WATERS
Editorial Assistant

"The internalization of extremely rigid parental values leads the child to be critical and severe in evaluating his own behavior—to develop a severe conscience. Often, too, the result is an 'infantile conscience,' in that the individual blindly accepts the moral rubrics he has been taught and does not attempt an evaluation of their merits."

The preceding quote is from the abnormal psychology text taught here at the University. This particular quote is under the subtitle, "Rigid, unrealistic moral standards," and is extremely applicable to the attitude of a minority of USC students as in regards to the so-called "Beer Legislation" that

was recently unanimously passed by the Student Senate.

Of course, everyone who is against the drinking of beer is not mentally deranged. Conversely, all those in favor of serving beer in the Golden Spur are neither drunkards nor immoral.

The Student Senate exhibited a progressiveness in judgment and a high level of confidence in the student body by unanimously voting in favor of this bill. This in itself should make us all extremely proud of our representatives.

However, there is a lack of confidence professed by some of our fellow student's which is typical of the logic found in some of the fundamentalistic groups within our society. These groups have developed a strong

tendency to demand authoritarian power; whether it be the courts, the police, or a college administration, to censor the temptation of "evil" that will surely corrupt us all.

This lack of confidence is completely unjustified. Beer is as available as drinking water in

the campus vicinity now—but I have not noticed anyone falling out of their chairs lately.

You see, the overwhelming majority of our students are responsible people—even though we do like to raise a little hell now and then. I'm sorry some of you can't see this.

'The Lamecock' Get Out Of Dodge

By Steve Heller

With Tom Jones as Marshall Dillon and Eugene Cooper as Fetus, USC professors are getting the hell out of Dodge.

What is the reason? Money, scratch, gelt, beans, coins, bills, bread, green, gold . . . you name a coin and everybody knows what you're talking about. No one here has any money but other schools (state schools included) have money enough to buy our professors away.

So we have fine Gamecock spirit with no professors. We've lost quite a few recently . . . the scent of money seems to have overcome the perfume of idealism . . . Well, money isn't everything and the Pope isn't Catholic and Slater food is delicious—all are as veritable as the next.

So, what to do?

USC should realize if we don't spend money we might as well close up shop and merge with Richland Tec. Listen—new dorms are fine and the Coliseum will be out of sight, but if you're going to spend millions

to house people, you ought to spend more to educate them.

Free concerts are fine, but I'd rather spend a buck to go and have the money go to a worthy professor. I came here to get an education, not learn the process of elimination.

The industry of colleges is just as big a rat race as the next business. It is a known fact that South Carolina is twenty years behind the Union. And, if we keep going the way we are, in fifteen years we will be forty years behind.

That's groovy—I'm going out to put on my raccoon coat and curse the Japanese. No alcoholic beverages are served on government property—we'd rather you drive somewhere to drink—there's always the need for more room space . . .

. . . and, as the faculty parking lots are slowly opened up for student use and the sun lowers in the east, the shadows of an old institution crumbles to the ground in a heap.

Letters To The Editor

Weapons For Carolina Women

Dear Miss Zalkin:

A matter of importance to all Carolina women occurred this week, but is known to only a few. A resident of Capstone was "bothered" by an unidentified male at night. Fortunately, in trying to escape she ran into a campus policeman near the Administration Building. However, the assailant was not apprehended. The University Police have filled out an "official report."

As an interested friend of a young lady who is also a Capstone resident, I phoned the University Police, the Columbia City Police, and a local gun shop in hopes of learning of some kind of weapon, other than a pistol, which could be employed by a young lady in self defense.

I learned tear gas is illegal, and to the best of my knowledge, possession of a pistol in a dormitory is against USC regulations. Thus there seems to be no means of giving Carolina women a weapon. However, the gun dealer suggested that a whistle used by an official at a ball game be employed. The cost, including a lanyard, is approximately \$2.00. Yet in order for this to be effective a policeman must be within earshot.

I know the Dean of Women

has encouraged girls to travel in groups after dark. But a girl may have to go to the library or another building at a time a friend cannot go. Thus the questions remaining in my mind are: Does anyone know of a real weapon which can be employed?

With the modern science of drugs and chemistry it certainly seems that there is some kind of product on the market which would render an assailant helpless, yet not mortally wound him. If no weapon is available, could the possibility of campus-wide use of whistles be explored? Perhaps the mandatory possession of a powerful flashlight might be added.

In summation, this campus saw a series of unfortunate incidents last fall. An "official report" has been filed on what almost was another such incident. But really, what has been done, what can be done, and what will be done?

JAMES IRVIN WALLACE, JR.

Dear Miss Zalkin:

As a 36-year-old bachelor freshman (and other things unsaid), I have a definite apprehension of approaching in a serious vein matters political and social at USC. Nevertheless, with apprehensions intact, I

have some comments on Student Power.

First, I think the concept of Student Power is a ridiculous denial, a conscious negation, of two important, essential facts: (1) The faculty had to go through the same thing we are now going through when they went to college, and (2) The faculty are teaching us and giving us grades on the bulk of our knowledge concerning administrative and sociological affairs. If it is suggested that a student making outstanding grades in business administration be appointed to the business committee, does it not stand to reason that if he is making outstanding grades he is but learning and using in the same manner the knowledge of his professors? Likewise, etc., other subjects, other fields.

It seems to me that needed more than student power over the faculty is a sense and feeling of unity with them. With unity, the students automatically have a strong voice because they are a part of the whole. In other words, we and the faculty comprise the University. We then, under unity, do not need student power because we have Carolina power.

GEORGE E. WHEELER, JR.

Defends Church

Dear Miss Zalkin:

Green Street Methodist Church should be allowed to stay where it is because of the doctrine of separation of church and state. If educational advancement can come between one of the basic principles on which our country was founded, then this is regression, not progress.

Green Street cares. They care about students and the problems they face, and they care about the community in which these students have to live.

Does Carolina care? It doesn't seem so. Carolina seems only to care about itself and what it calls progress, no matter who gets stepped on.

WARREN