

Editorial

Brunton's Hectic Summer

When you left for the summer, the USC Administration wasted no time at all in getting themselves into all kinds of trouble with their boss, the state of South Carolina.

First on May 23, the story broke that the university was lending money to the Carolina Research and Development Corporation. If you don't know what CRDC is, check the deed to your land - if you own any - chances are good that CRDC owns it.

It seems that business vice president Brunton just can't keep himself out of fiscal trouble in his life long endeavor to buy up all the land within eye shot of his office in the administration building and put up buildings.

CRDC buys land for Brunton for future university use. Brunton once told the Gamecock that when it gets down to it, he is CRDC. Well, when CRDC got a little short of capital funds in their buying spree, Brunton would occasionally bail them out with a little cash from the till.

What happened on May 23 was that the latest state audit showed this lending facet of USC finances, and state auditor Pat Smith got his bowels in an uproar over it. He subsequently told Brunton to keep his hand out of the cash box without state authorization, and Brunton in essence thumbed his nose at the highest fiscal officer of the state.

Needless to say, Pat Smith, being a crotchety old man of finances who's been in the auditor's office for many years, didn't take kindly to being ignored. That's when the attorney general got into the picture, and after two months of judicial machinations, handed down the decision that the State Auditor was indeed the only state official who had authority vested by the legislature to invest idle funds laying around state institutions.

So this put Hal Brunton into quite a fix, since by the time of the ruling he had thousands of dollars out in loans to CRDC and CRDC was in no position to pay it back in one lump sum. So CRDC had to sell the bulk of its holdings to the university and then return the money they received for the land to the university also. What a mess for Hal. But he bounced right back and if you read the newspaper Sunday you'll see that he has already announced plans for one of the reclaimed land sites. That is the cultural arts center that will speckle with buildings the area roughly bounded by Senate, Henderson and Bull streets.

It was about this time of the summer that Hal had a couple other traumas in his fire-ball financial empire, euphemistically referred to as the University of South Carolina.

On July 6, a new newspaper came to Columbia, called Osceola, and on the cover of this latter day muckraker, staffed by some very talented fugitives from Clemson, was Hal superimposed on a picture of a bulldozer that was in the process of molesting some of the local tenants of Wheeler Hill (near Bates House.)

The Clemson grads had few kind words for Hal and quoted a lot of poor people living up there who don't think much of the way the university acts as a landlord (or slum lord.)

But then to top off Hal's summer, while he was on vacation, the beer-rights in the Golden Spur were approved by the state alcohol commission, and the new night club was set up under the Student Affairs Division, which means that Spur revenues will not be passing over Hal's desk. For a man who's motto is "I was born in the depression, and it hurts me to destroy a capital asset," this was the ultimate blow.

An extremely paranoid person might think that the reason students are living in Columbia Hospital, and far away apartment complexes, and tracking mud through campus classrooms because of erupting streets and walkways under construction, is that Hal is getting even for a particularly trying summer.

We're not that paranoid, yet, but couldn't we find a solution to this man's obsession for rearranging the earth around us. Maybe if we save our pennies, someday we can buy the university back from him.

-PET



WOULD YOU BUY
A USED UNIVERSITY
FROM THIS MAN?

Registration Blues

Our alert associate editors have discovered yet another reason for the streamlining of USC's complicated registration—the health laws.

With thousands of people from all parts of the country crowding into the coliseum during the two days, it isn't difficult to pick just about any communicable disease known to mankind: flu from Virginia, a cold from New Jersey, mono from Alabama and God only knows what from New York.

After all these years of searching for a better registration, perhaps a few well-placed words might bring the Health Department in to investigate second semester registration. It's worth a try.

-RHH

GAMECOCK

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The GAMECOCK intends to publish as many letters as space on the editorial page will allow. We will try to present as many divergent points of view as we can in the belief that readers are interested in what their fellow readers are thinking - about university policy, GAMECOCK viewpoints, corruption in high places or just letting off steam.

We hope we will receive a large number of letters. We hope that we can be fair about running the let-

ters. Therefore, we ask that all letters be typed, double-spaced, on a 65-space line, signed by the author with his or her full name, address and social security number. No anonymous letters will be run. Names will be withheld if the reason is sufficient. And no poetry - send that to the Crucible. And we must reserve the right to edit for length, libel and taste. Please address all letters to Harry Hope, The Gamecock, Drawer "A", USC.