

Poll: Assassination attempts publicity ploys

By HAROLD REAMES
Gamecock Staff Writer

USC students queried by The Gamecock Wednesday said recent attempts to assassinate President Ford were attempts to get attention, not the result of conspiracies.

Most of the students said gun control legislation would have little effect on the prevention of assassination attempts.

RONNIE JORDAN, a senior psychology major, said the second attempt was not as shocking as the first because it was an outgrowth of the first. "I was surprised because I thought most of the people were pretty cool towards Ford," he said.

"Gun control would have no effect whatever," he said. "If you want a gun you can get one, I don't care who you are."

"I don't believe it's an organized conspiracy. It's like one radical group saw somebody try it so everybody's trying it."

"I THOUGHT it was kinda funny that someone would go to such effort and not get the job done."

said John Wood, a senior biology major. "It was certainly not professional because no professional would get himself into that situation. I would assume there's some radical element involved."

Wood said he favors gun control but he does not see how it would be an effective deterrent to assassination attempts.

Sammy Reese, a junior physical education major, said gun control legislation is only one of many precautionary measures that need to be taken.

"PEOPLE CAN get guns if they want them," he said. "There's always somebody that's going to be able to get one," Reese said.

"Something has to be done as far as precautionary measures, especially in the light that they interviewed the lady (Sara Jane Moore) and then let her go," he said. "There have to be stricter precautions taken."

"I don't really think it's anything against Ford. I think it's more of a problem within them than an at-

tack on Ford. Maybe it's a need to be noticed and that's their way of expressing it," he said.

"I WAS pretty much shocked that there would be a second attempt," said Danny Sansbury, a hall advisor in Preston dormitory. "But as long as they keep publishing them people who are psychologically messed up will do things like this to get attention. Fromme had her picture on Time and Newsweek a week after it happened."

"I guess I was also relieved that they missed again," he said. "They should be a lot stricter on gun control. It's too easy for any Tom, Dick or Harry to get a gun."

Sansbury said it is frightening that Americans did not seem as shocked by the second attempt as they were by the first. "Their reaction wasn't much," he said.

"Either people don't place any value on life or only their life means anything to them," he said in reference to Fromme and Moore. "It must have been some sort of attempt to establish

themselves.

"THE SECOND one was just as much of a shock as the first one," Richard Reed, a senior journalism major, said. "I am kind of disturbed by the violence in the United States."

"I really don't think the assassination attempts were worthwhile, and I don't think Ford's personality had anything to do with them," he said. "I think

the attempts were more of an attempt against the office.

"These people weren't criminals. They didn't come through the penal system. These people were concerned with changing society, and I don't believe criminals would take that upon themselves. I don't think criminals would be that concerned," he said.



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The GAMECOCK is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published twice weekly, on Mondays and Thursdays, during the fall and spring semester and once a week during the summer with four issues in August by the USC Board of Publications and Communications.

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.

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