

Parking

Students should stop fighting other students, band together

The parking problems have taken a new twist. Somehow, commuting students have started snapping at resident students for taking "their" parking spaces, and resident students have started snapping back.

And the ones who should be snapped at, so they can be made aware that there is a serious parking problem at USC, the administration, sits back unaccosted and unscathed.

No new plans have been announced to alleviate the problems, which means the university probably still refuses to acknowledge the problems exist.

And, from reading student letters and talking to students, something the people at parking apparently haven't done, *The Gamecock* has learned there is indeed a problem, and a big problem, with the parking situation.

Some people get privileges and no fines, while others just ticketed, cited, fined left and right — they get screwed.

It's time for the double standards and favors to end. It's time for the administration to take this problem seriously.

Here's a few things that have been brought to the attention of *The Gamecock*, abuses that should be ended immediately.

1) People, especially new members of the USC "family," get ticketed for not parking "head in," as all the signs say. There should be a grace period at the beginning of the semester.

2) People, parents especially, still get ticketed during the week before classes when parents and students are trying to move in. And with two long holidays — Thanksgiving and Fall Break — coming up, which means there will be a mass student exodus, it will happen again unless someone tells the meter maids to calm down and show a little compassion.

3) Handicapped students who took the time to buy a handicapped sticker so they can park in handicapped spaces reserved for them are more often than not ticketed for parking in those spaces because the police and meter maids are too interested in writing tickets to bother to check if there is a sticker on the back bumper. Nope, if it's there, it get's a ticket.

4) Certain special members of the university are granted special license plates and can park even in handicapped parking spaces and get away with, apparently with the consent to the parking department.

5) Students who have faculty or administrative ties can also get parking stickers for those lots, just by getting a "job" in some office, a sinecure for daddy's little darling boy or girl.

6) Meter maids will start writing a ticket and a student will come out and explain to them — most of the time using the truth — the dire circumstances that forced them to park in the wrong space and are ready to move, but the meter maids will ignore the students, go on writing the ticket and put it on the car anyway, knowing full well the driver is standing right in front of them.

7) Worst of all, in the midst of what might be USC's worst crime wave in recent years, some USC police officers are still driving around, writing out parking and speeding citations when they should be walking the university campus, trying to get the outsiders back where they belong.

USC probably takes in enough money in fines alone to have already paid off most of the parking garages. Why should they have to pay \$60 a semester to park in those two garages? That's \$20 more than it was in 1983, just five years ago, not just an inflationary increase.

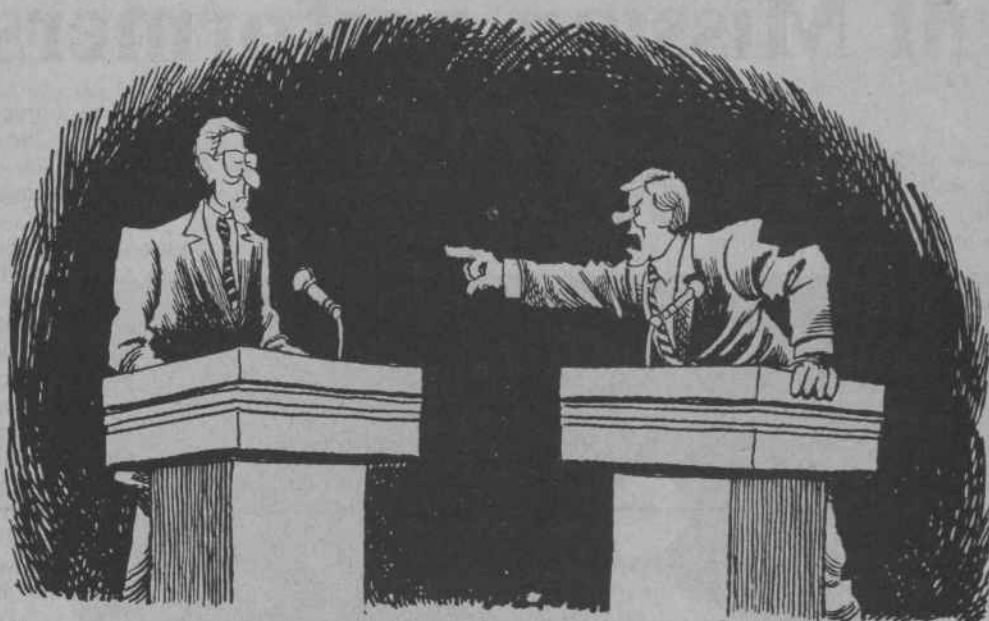
The Division of Parking and Vehicle Registration makes beaucoup dinero, from fees and from fines. Yet students, faculty and staff just get more and more of a hassle when they try to do what anyone wants to do, park nearby where they live or where they work or study.

We students shouldn't be attacking each other. That only allows the division to ignore the problems and sit back and laugh smugly at our own pettiness that divides us and prevents us from banding together to fight this.

So *The Gamecock* is going to start trying to get the students to come together. If you've got or get a ticket, send us a copy of it. Explain why you got it. If we can get a good idea of how many tickets are really written, we can make a stronger case.

If you think you were written a ticket wrongly, don't pay it, go to the parking department and fight it. They have been known to listen to students on occasion.

Keep those letters coming, so we can get a full view of the scope of this problem, and we'll keep turning up the heat until the administration gets off its duff and does something for the students.



"OH, YEAH?! WELL I MAY NOT BE JACK KENNEDY, BUT YOU'RE NO RICHARD NIXON EITHER!"

Homosexuals have right to live lifestyle

Every day on campus I hear jokes about gay and lesbian people, hear people muttering "faggot" or "dyke" about someone who looks different from them, or who they just don't like, and hear "Sir — oops, I mean ma'am . . ." when I walk up to the lunch counter. Well, yesterday was National Coming Out Day, and its purpose was to correct all that and make being gay just another special, personal part of someone's life.

The theme of National Coming Out Day was "Take the Next Step," and it encouraged Americans to bring themselves closer to a true understanding of and comfort with homosexuality. For gay people, it meant a step "out of the closet" by acknowledging themselves as gay, telling a close friend or even writing an editorial in their school paper. For friends of gay people, it meant making an effort to understand that aspect of their friends' lives, sharing in their lives, or advocating gay rights. For everyone, it meant trying to come closer to that day when a true equality of rights exists, and all people can be proud of who they are. I hope it worked for all of you.

I am very proud of who I am and of my sexuality. I don't consider my sexuality to be the definition of myself, just as I don't consider my skin color, sex, political beliefs or hobbies to be my definition. Rather, it's a special part of myself that I

Guest editorial

Kris Hartley



share with people to make them understand that not all lesbians are man-hating, 18-wheeler-driving dykes named Butch, just as all gay men aren't lisp-ing, slender, blond hairdressers. We all have our personal stereotypes, but when we apply them wholesale with no consideration for reality, we harm only ourselves by shutting out someone valuable from our lives.

I grew up in Columbia, and until I moved to Virginia three years ago to attend Virginia Tech, I'd never knowingly met another lesbian, nor had I proclaimed myself one. Back then I was just as ig-

norant about gay men and lesbians as many USC students are today, and this ignorance was lonely and unnecessary.

Many individuals argue that homosexuality does not need to be openly discussed because heterosexuality isn't advertised. So why should homosexuality be displayed? In reality, every heterosexual in the country is free to "flaunt" their relationship in public and have no comments made about them. But if two women held hands in public, it would be scandalous, and everyone nearby would stare. Our country is geared to heterosexuality and a suppression of opposing realities.

By living in a community where there were openly gay people, I learned that there is no one type of homosexual, just as there's no one type of heterosexual, and that "queer" can be a label of pride if you wear it that way. I hope yesterday showed the whole Carolina community that we can, and we will be proud of ourselves. And we will be outspoken about gay rights until everyone can be proud of us.

If you want more information about the Gay and Lesbian Students Association, please call Dorothy Disterheft at 777-2094 or Amitae Avitae. If you want to call me, as others have done already, please get my number from Columbia information — the number in the USC directory is wrong.

Letters to the editor

Movie protests showed faith

To the editor:

In response to John Gemmill as well as others who feel that protests to *The Last Temptation of Christ* are unfounded, I wish to make two points, if I may:

First, tangible evidence exists to support Christ's existence. Countless biblical accounts have been researched and found to be true by both Christians and non-Christians. Much of life 2,000 years ago has been pieced together for study and verification. The data compiled to support the life of Christ and the existence of God has played a major role in the conversion of several "intellectuals" such as C. S. Lewis and Lew Wallace. If biblical fact isn't enough, science has provided some intangible form. Is a protest wrong, then against a distortion of solid evidence?

Second, following Jesus Christ calls for faith, growth and devotion. Faith and growth come through an accurate understanding of and devotion to God's word. He is evident both through this work and in one's own life. You are correct in stating none living has walked and talked with Jesus, but the sad thing is that you have missed my second point: One comes to know God, today, through reading his word. As one learns more, devotion to Him is imminent. Active protest, stemming from this devotion, is done in an effort to dispel mistaken notions of who Christ is. Christian faith is that which is placed in the real Christ, is it not? We don't claim to have "arrived," but what we do know, we try to share. It isn't boasting . . . but rather gratitude in action.

Serena K. Homes nursing sophomore

Solutions crazy, lame

To the editor:

I have read Mr. Dunlap's letter regarding the parking problem at USC, and I must say that I am truly inspired. I just can't decide whether I want to start riding my bike to school or take the bus. Besides providing me with my daily aerobic exercise, a bike would be neat for cruising door to door this winter, especially when the temperature gets down to about 18, and it's pitch dark by 5 p.m. And on those mornings when I just must revert to my former selfish ways and drive to school, it is certainly good to know

that there are great parking spaces available at 6:45 a.m. But wait, if there are such great opportunities at that hour, I bet if I got here at 4:30 a.m. I could really get a super fantastic spot while even getting to see the sunrise.

Yes, thanks again for waking me up to the realities of authority and teaching me such valuable lessons about life. You won't hear whining from me. I close with just two final comments. Please do not lecture me anymore, Mr. Dunlap, and would you and your ridiculous proposals also take a long hike?

Tim Renick College of Library and Information Science

Coverage was inadequate

To the editor:

We are responding to *The Gamecock's* editorial "Racism" and Becky Huntley's letter "Racism charges unbelievable," both articles in the Oct. 10, 1988, issue of *The Gamecock*.

First, we would like to address *The Gamecock's* staff — Why did you use inexperienced, beginning photographers to cover such an important event as Homecoming? We believe that people are interested in more than just the game but also the homecoming queen. Since students take an active part in electing their queen, whether black, white, or other, they might appreciate an article on the winning nominee. An article informing the student body on the homecoming queen would not be a "fluff" piece. *The Gamecock* is the school paper, therefore it only makes sense to print material on campus activities and happenings as well as outside news.

To Becky Huntley, had you been elected homecoming queen, wouldn't you expect a decent amount of recognition for your achievement? You seem to have a problem with the whole idea of Homecoming anyway. You see it as a "beauty pageant" when really it is much more than that. Miss Homecoming Queen should be a well-rounded individual, intelligent and active in campus activities. Each homecoming queen nominee possessed the qualifications. The fact that you feel "she waded, she wiggled, she won" shows your personal bias toward the idea of homecoming queen.

Whether the issue is racial or not, the fact still remains that Miss Nanette Graham, Homecoming Queen 1988, deserved more recogni-

tion in *The Gamecock* than she received.

Lisa O. McCrea occupational therapy sophomore

Dawn Pasquarello psychology sophomore

Dukakis shows weak-will here

To the editor:

Have you heard the news? Gov. Mike Dukakis (Mass.) and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas) have decided to blow off South Carolina — as well as most of the South.

It seems that Dukakis hasn't been able to relate to many of the voters down here and as a result he is behind Vice president George Bush in the polls. So, the Dukakis/Bentsen team has decided that there is no point in putting in an effort here.

I shudder at the thought of what would happen to America if our president turned away from any task that appeared difficult. After all, presidency is no cake walk. If Gov. Dukakis can't relate to and work with South Carolinians, how does he expect to handle Congress or the Soviets? Maybe he will decide that there is not point in putting forth an effort there either.

Tiffany Hoefler English junior

Monday ads 'shove in face'

To the editor:

I would like to take a few moments to express my opinion on the overwhelming number of homosexual messages in the "Personals" of the Monday issue of *The Gamecock*. Everyone deserves the right to advertise, for this reason I do not have any harsh words for *The Gamecock* itself, even though it did run a series of articles on homosexuals last year and did not give the same time to heterosexuals.

"Come out of the Closet Club"? Give me a break! I must congratulate you for covering over half of the personal section with your articles. But if you are so "gay and proud," why were only one third of your comments signed? Are you not as sure of yourself as you want everyone to believe or are there only five of you who want the campus to believe there are fifteen?

I have no grudge against homosexuals. During my first semester at USC, I found that one of my three

assigned roommates was gay.

Although he did agree to leave at the end of the semester, the time I lived with him was not unpleasant. He was very considerate, very intelligent and kept his activities out of the spotlight. Why can't the rest of the "Come out of the Closet Club" gain my respect in the same way? There are many people who find what you choose to do extremely distasteful. I, for one, don't want to hear that much about it. If I felt ill and threw up, I would not carry it around campus and show it to everyone, and I would not advertise the fact in *The Gamecock* either. I'm not telling you to repent for something in which you truly believe, just please don't shove it in my face.

Eric Beckner biology sophomore

VP's pick shows bad judgment

To the editor:

We must not forget that the president of the United States does not run the complicated machinery of government by himself. He must appoint hundreds, if not thousands, of qualified people to carry out the functions of the executive department.

George Bush said that the most important decision that he would make would be the selection of his vice-presidential running mate. As the first, and probably only executive decision he ever made, he selected Dan Quayle for that important position. If that represents the quintessence of Mr. Bush's judgment in the selection process, should he be elected president, we are in very deep doo-doo, to use one of his favorite intellectual phrases. That is the issue — Mr. Bush's judgment, the man who wants to be president — not Quayle's qualifications, which everyone, Republican as well as Democrat, agrees are non-existent.

On the other hand, in spite of the dishonest distortions of Gov. Dukakis's record in Massachusetts, we have heard little, if anything, to question his ability and integrity in this most important executive function. This is most evident in his vice-presidential selection. He did not pick a stooge or a clone. He demonstrated his intellectual integrity and his true concern for the country by selecting a man most qualified for the job, even though they may have some disagreement on issues. That's integrity — and, really, what else are we voting for?

Joseph A. Capalbo Merrylane Farms Route 2, Eastover

The Gamecock

Best Non-daily Collegiate Newspaper, Southeastern Region Society of Professional Journalists, 1987-88

Editor in Chief
STEPHEN GUILFOYLE
Managing Editor
SON HA
Copy Desk Chief
WAYNE YANG
Assistant Copy Desk Chief
KATHY BLACKWELL
News Editor
HAL MILLARD
Assistant News Editors
STEVE PRADARELLI
MARY PEARSON
Features Editor
SUSAN NESBITT
Assistant Features Editor
TOJO
Sports Editor
KEVIN ADAMS
Assistant Sports Editor
CHRIS SILVESTRI
Photography Editors
BRIAN SAULS
TEDDY LEPP

Datebook Editor
JENNY SHARPE
Graphics Editor
MICHAEL SHARP
Comics Editor
TRACY MIXSON
Adviser
PAT MCNEELY
Graduate Assistant
PHILLIP MCKENZIE
Director of Student Media
ED BONZA
Advertising Manager
MARGARET MICHELS
Production Manager
LAURA DAY
Assistant Production Manager
RAY BURGOS
Assistant Advertising Manager
BARBARA BROWN

Letters Policy: *The Gamecock* will try to print letters received. Letters should be, at a maximum, 250 to 300 words long. Guest editorials should not exceed 500 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for style or possible libel. *The Gamecock* will not withhold names under any circumstance.