

Kraft

'State' story validates actions of USC's conservative gadfly

Well, *The State* newspaper had to go and do it — it ran a story in Friday's Metro section about Janice Kraft, a USC marketing senior who also is USC's conservative gadfly.

Kraft was at USC's Florida State game, which was a nationally broadcast game right before Election Day, and she was carrying a sign, or "placard," supporting Ron Paul's candidacy for president.

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, USC has a policy against such political signs in USC facilities. And it seems a good policy if it's not taken too far.

In Kraft's case, it wasn't taken too far. She was making a nuisance of herself. After she was told she couldn't hold up her sign, she made another, with the same words on it, so it was, in effect, the same sign.

Originally, the reserve police officers, better known as, unfairly known as — the blue blazered Gestapo, told Kraft she could hold her sign in the stands. But when they asked their superior about it, he told them the policy was no signs anywhere in the stadium.

So they went back and had to get the sign from Kraft. So she made another one. They came back and got that sign as well. So she made another one. And they had to come back and get that sign as well.

And Kraft is crying persecution — USC is trying to limit her free speech.

Baloney.

She wasn't the only one who lost signs that day. Bush supporters lost their signs. Dukakis supporters lost their signs. But she was the only one who, as she said in her letter to *The Gamecock*, continued to make signs with cardboard that was amazingly convenient. The other people were a nuisance, they had signs that had to be taken up, but Kraft continued to make a nuisance of herself.

So at the Navy game, she brought another "free speech placard" and walked around the stadium for a long while before she was again removed from the stadium, as *The State* story said.

One of her signs said "Pardon Oliver North, Indict Congress," but it listed neither what crimes of which North is guilty and therefore deserving of a pardon, nor did it say what charges should be listed in the congressional indictment.

The other side of the sign said something to the effect of USC and its foundations should divest any investments held in companies doing business with the Soviet Union.

Support for Ron Paul. Support for Oliver North. Support for divestment from the USSR. Support for indictments issued against Congress.

Kraft is entitled to believe and speak freely about any and all of these issues. But does she have the right to carry a sign to a USC event and make it look like the rest of USC's students believe the same things? No she doesn't. The right to free speech carries no right to misrepresentation with it.

At a gathering of students, alumni and fans, she has every right to talk to people about the causes she supports. But she doesn't have the right to turn what is for the rest of us a simple, pleasurable sporting event into a statement of support for some political cause.

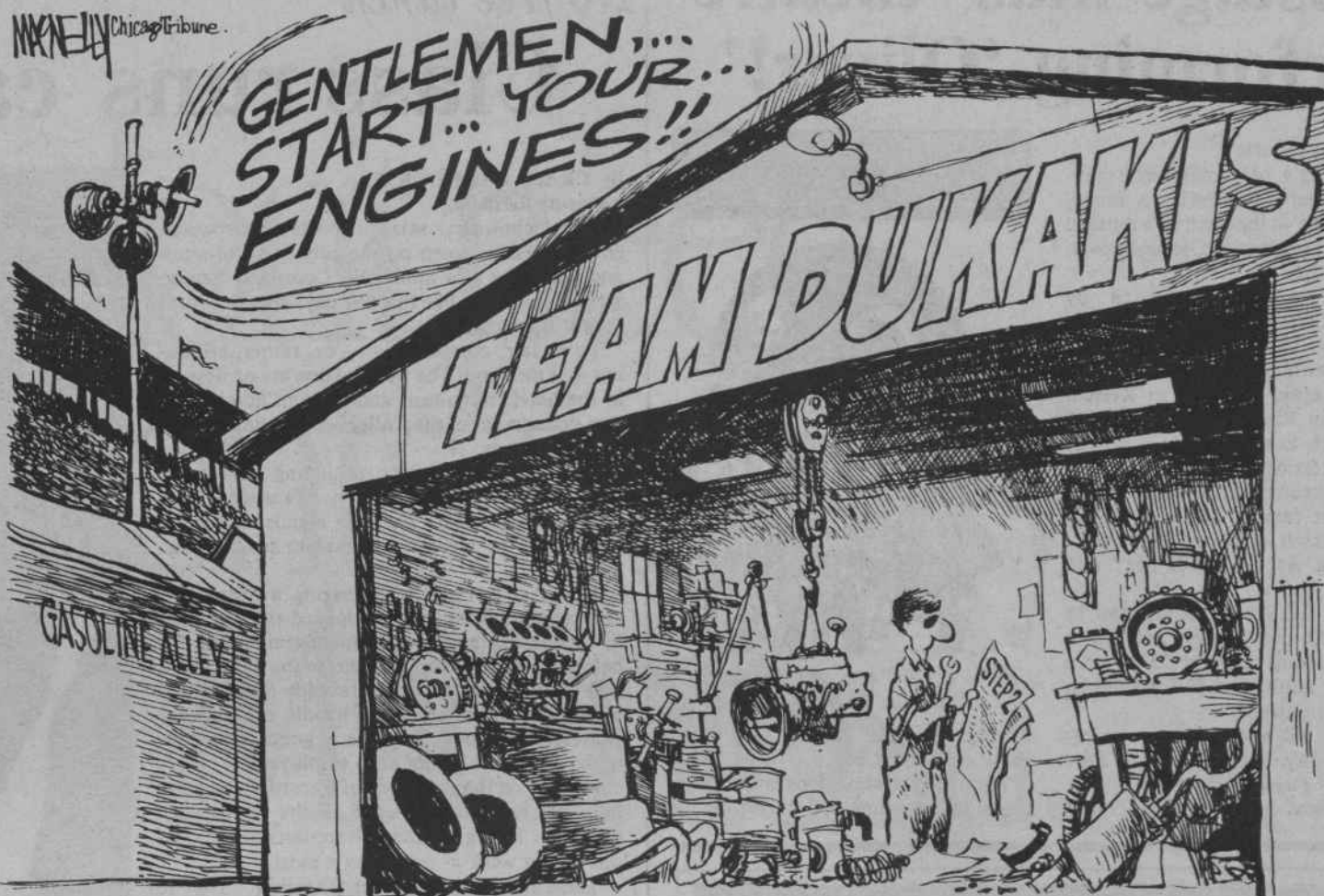
No one put a gag over Kraft's mouth, no one said she can't talk about what she feels is right and wrong. The policy is in effect to prevent her from using her signs to wrongly show that USC students support something they do not.

Williams-Brice Stadium and the rest of the university's sports facilities are places where people go to watch sports. It's wrong to seek to use athletic events as stump rallies and political stumping grounds.

No one has the right to make a statement, carry a banner or do some kind of action that suggests this university or its students support a political candidate or platform when those students do not.

It was wrong last year when USC President James Holderman gave a jersey to then-presidential candidate George Bush, because it may have wrongly been construed as university support for Bush. And it was wrong when former S.G. President Michael Hogue presented then presidential candidate Bob Dole with a jersey at another football game, because it may have wrongly suggested that the students supported Dole.

The reserve police officers who threw Kraft out of the games and took her "free speech placard" from her were only doing their jobs enforcing a university policy. If Kraft has problems with the policy, she should seek to change it or get it removed before she goes around breaking it and begins complaining about her "violated" rights.



How Mike Lost.

Letters to the editor

Sengstacken is a whiner

To the editor:

I was disgusted by the selfish, whining attitude displayed by Pvt. Bill Sengstacken in his column about the National Guard ("Be all you can be? Not in this leaky tent," Friday, Nov. 11). Tell me, private, what were you expecting when you joined the Guard? Featherbeds? The Guard prepares you to defend your country — that means war, private.

I doubt the enemy forces will be so kind as to hold battles only on nice, sunny days. And I doubt that your every whim will be catered to. A leaky tent bothers you? You may not have even that much on a battlefield or on your next drill. My father is in the Guard, and he hasn't always had a tent, leaky or not, to sleep under in the rain. He still has to put up with such minor inconveniences, even though he is now a colonel.

The National Guard doesn't treat its members any differently than the regular armed forces treat its. The Guard is an important part of our nation's defense. In case of an emergency, the Guard would form 50 percent of our total Army mobilized fighting forces. The Guard has a long and proud history. It has fought in every major war since the American Revolution. Not only have Guardsmen faced the ravages of war, they have faced the ravages of natural disaster as well, and they have saved many lives.

Today's Guard trains just as hard as the regular forces do. Guard units are prepared for deployment to hot spots all over the world, including the Middle East. Guardsmen must make many sacrifices to belong to the Guard; they take time off from their regular jobs; they miss holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special events in their families' and friends' lives; they endure less-than-comfortable training conditions. The vast majority of the men and women in the National Guard are every bit as dedicated and as patriotic as their regular military counterparts. The S.C. Army National Guard has been ranked No. 1 for five of the past eight years, including last year.

Pvt. Sengstacken, you obviously did not closely read the National Guard creed, if you read it at all, especially the last lines:

"Wherever a strong arm and a valiant spirit must defend the nation, in peace or war, wherever a child cries, or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand... I am the Guard. For three centuries, a soldier in war, a civilian in peace — of security and honor, I am the custodian, now and forever... I am the Guard."

Since your only interest in the National Guard seems to be money, private, I suggest you get out at the earliest possible opportunity. Whiners disgrace the uniform.

Elizabeth Cassidy
journalism senior

USC cops just meter maids

To the editor:

For three and a half years, I have diligently defended Carolina's ad-

ministrative policies and programs. However, the students have been getting a raw deal that no longer can be ignored. Our university spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on an ineffective campus police system. One would believe that a police force should serve the public — one that protects and provides for the individuals' safety. This is not the case at Carolina. It seems as if the motto at the station has become, "Ticket as many vehicles as we can at all possible times."

Students live in fear that if they park in an "undesignated" space close to their dorms, they will receive a ticket (the equivalent of 10-15 servings of steak fries) either during the night or early the next morning. However, many students, female especially, find themselves doing the former or resorting to parking a good distance away from their dorms, jeopardizing their own safety. Why should a student be placed in such a dilemma?

Because this is an urban setting, there have been countless, heinous acts of a criminal nature on campus. But what we have is not a useful police force, but a team of meter maids who do not ensure the safety of the students.

The solution does not lie in more campus lighting or shuttle rides from Five Points. What is needed is a valid police force that will protect the students instead of inflicting unneeded financial hardship on them through endless meter monitoring. No student should ever be trapped in the nighttime parking/walking dilemma. But as long as the campus rent-a-cops keep ticketing like mad, the problem will persist. I am dismayed to see that USC no longer stands for "Use Sense and Caution," but, "You're Screwed Constantly."

Robert D. Garfield
political science senior

Israel not free bastion

To the editor:

I applaud your editorial in the Viewpoint section (Wednesday, Nov. 17) recognizing Israeli terrorism and intransigence and supporting the Palestinians' right to self-government.

Be prepared for a barrage of "shocked and amazed" people who believe the fairy tale that Israel is a tiny, beleaguered nation facing gratuitous terrorist attacks from an inhuman population. As Professor Edward Said points out, the Israelis control two fronts: territory and international myth. More than a hundred nations recognize the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), the victims of terrorism are inordinately Palestinians, and Israel gets away with brutality, massacres, illegals, and immoralities which anywhere else would sicken the world. But you will be censured for your anti-semitism, because when a people resist genocide and religious persecution, and children with pebbles face fully armed soldiers receiving more than \$9,000 each from the United States, they are really just anti-semites.

60 Minutes gave a report last month on the tremendously powerful American Israel Political Action Committee. It is well-known that the Israeli government hears numerous criticisms from its own newspapers,

but woe to anybody in the United States even hinting at criticism of Israel. But the good news is that the American Jewish lobby, previously monolithic and arrogant with power, has received one small blow: they failed to elect their candidate (Dukakis) to office. Seems Bush and Quayle had thought it possible at various points in their careers to run foreign policy (and sell arms) in the Middle East by considering the interests of the United States and Israel, but not the interests of the American Jewish lobby. Don't they know that the United States is not allowed to develop its own foreign policies?

Eric Winkel, Ph.D.

Editorial erred on Israel

To the editor:

As someone who enjoys dual citizenship of both the United States and Israel, it occurs to me that if I was going to write an article criticizing the U.S. government, it might do me well to find out who the president is and what political party he belongs to. If the writer of the article, "Israel," does not know that Yitzak Shamir is the prime minister of Israel and heads the Likud (conservative) party, as opposed to Shimon Perez, who heads the Labor party, how can we possibly take the article seriously? If one does not know who the policymakers are, it is doubtful that one has a real grasp on the policies that have been proposed. If I wrote an article claiming that Michael Dukakis, who heads the Republican party, defeated the Democrats, no one would take my article or myself seriously.

The author of "Israel" might take time to note that the man he believes to be the leader of the conservative Likud party has actually proposed giving the West Bank to the Palestinians as a Palestinian homeland. Mr. Perez has a plan for Israeli withdrawal from from the majority of the West Bank.

Beyond the government and election nonsense is a more serious matter. To suggest that the Israelis have placed the Palestinians in concentration camp-type internment is a crime against the six million Jewish people murdered under Nazi oppression. This is by far the most regrettable statement *The Gamecock* has made this year.

An overwhelming majority of Israeli society is opposed to apartheid in South Africa, and a large number of the population participates in Peace Now, a group that seeks peace with the Arabs. All Israelis want peace. It is difficult to find even a handful of Israeli families who have not experienced war or lost at least one family member. Israel's declaration of independence guarantees equal rights to Arabs in all phases of life. But in the occupied territories, there is a Palestinian population that shares no support for Israel's educational system and institutions, its flag, government or legacy; they have furthermore dedicated their lives to destroying the state of Israel and Israeli civilians. The voice of the Palestinians, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), bombed the West Bank 5,000 times in three years. The PLO even put dynamite in an ice cream truck and drove it into

an Israeli kindergarten, killing children. The situation is difficult, and solutions are hard to come by.

When the United States won Texas, they didn't call it the occupied territory of Texas; they called it the state of Texas. So it is with the West Bank and Gaza. The only exception is that many Palestinians attempted to leave Israel in 1948 in hopes that when the Arab nations destroyed the infant Jewish state, they could then return to the land. After the war these people tried to enter Arab nations but were denied entry by their Arab brothers. These Arabs became homeless and ended up in refugee camps. My only hope is that a lasting and peaceful solution can be reached. I can tell you this, however: Israelis love their children, and they will stop at nothing to obtain peace for them.

Robert Schwartz
theology/philosophy senior

USC lottery not bad idea

To the editor:

Why don't we have a lottery for scholarships, financial aid and Senate seats, too?

Lorri Shealy
Pendleton parker

View rattled, hum bugged

To the editor:

I'm writing in response to Bill Sengstacken's review of *Rattle and Hum*, U2's latest album ("Picking Your Notes," Nov. 18). *Rattle and Hum* is an album depicting American music at its rarest and best. Old-style blues and country music have been long forgotten by our generation and our music.

The song "Angel of Harlem," which "really gets under my skin," happens to be written for blues great Billie Holiday (ever hear of her?). I agree it is different to hear a horn section in a U2 song, but U2 has earned the right to experiment with different types of music, which is what they are doing with this album.

"When Love Comes to Town," a blues song on the album, includes vocals and powerful guitar work done by B. B. King. Another American music pioneer, Bob Dylan, collaborated with Bono in the writing of "Love Rescue Me."

Rattle and Hum is an album of experimentation and a celebration of the *Joshua Tree* tour, one of the greatest tours in years. It includes live versions of "Silver and Gold," "Pride" and "Bullet in the Blue Sky," all songs written about American issues that we as U.S. citizens refuse to face. Bill Sengstacken's review of *Rattle and Hum* lacks the depth and insight needed in order to listen to a U2 album. Bill Sengstacken is a narrow-minded critic who refuses to accept U2's new and diverse experiments with various styles of American music.

Monica Costello
journalism freshman

The Gamecock

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

Editor in Chief
STEPHEN GUILFOYLE
Copy Desk Chief
WAYNE YANG
Assistant Copy Desk Chief
KATHY BLACKWELL
News Editor
HAL MILLARD
Assistant News Editor
MARY PEARSON
KELLY C. THOMAS
Features Editor
SUSAN NESBITT
Assistant Features Editor
TOM JOYNER
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

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.