

The USC

Name change is embarrassing, stupid; change it back to USC

After a semester of living with it, it is now time to assess the wonderful change that has come over USC since it has changed its name to "The USC."

Or lack of change.

The name was supposed to stress the unity of USC's nine system campus. But it's interesting to note that people in Spartanburg are beginning to wish that USC-Spartanburg was not a part of the USC system.

So the unity argument goes out the window.

The word "the" stresses uniqueness. So one must ask, is the University of South Carolina THE one, THE only USC? No, you have Southern Cal, Southern Colorado and others using the initials.

The other main use of the word "the" is to stress definitiveness. So one must ask is the University of South Carolina THE best, THE pace-setting USC?

Let's be realistic. The University of South Carolina sets the pace in some schools, but if you walked up to someone outside of the Georgia, North and South Carolina area and asked them where USC is, they'd say Los Angeles.

Maybe you haven't noticed, but *The Gamecock* has been using USC all semester instead of The USC. Basically, we think the name change is stupid and embarrassing.

Earlier this year, WIS-TV news did a story on the name change, and they contacted Southern Cal. Southern Cal officials, to paraphrase Susan Aude Fisher, said *No, they weren't aware of the name change, and they just laughed when asked about it.*

And the national television audience that saw us get beat by Florida State was probably laughing when they saw "The USC" where Carolina should have been in the scoreboard.

Students may not be really upset by this, but it is embarrassing. But it's guaranteed that students aren't going to say they attended "The USC."

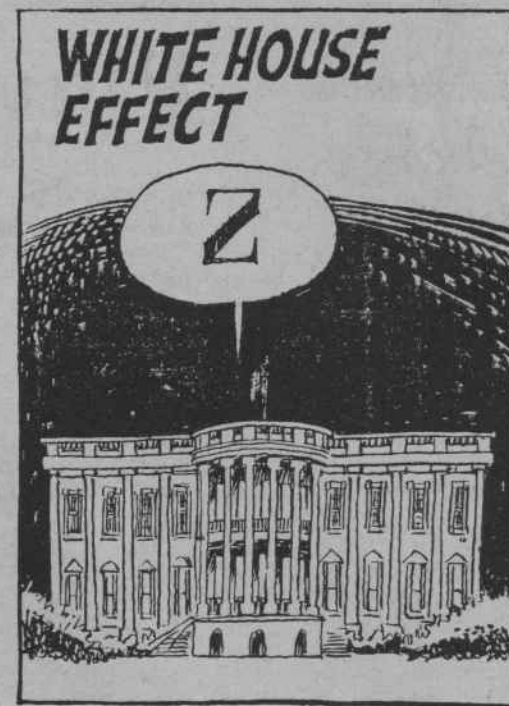
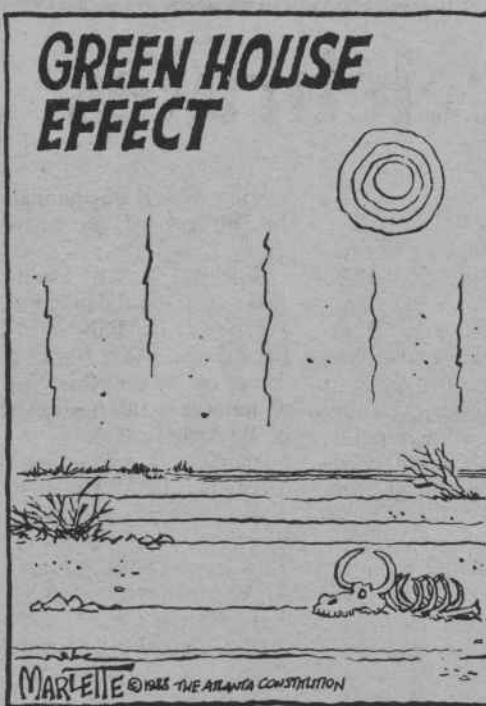
Students should make their opinion known about this issue. It makes us look silly; it may hurt us in the eyes of potential employers.

And really, it's a stupid name. The USC. Yeah, right.

Is our other nickname changed too — do we attend The Carolina?

Let's get back to where we belong. It wasn't worth the \$1,966 we paid to get the smokestack painted. It wasn't worth any amount of money we spent to redesign our parking stickers and all the rest of the name-bearing USC paraphernalia.

Let's stop being a joke and get back to business. This is the University of South Carolina, known and loved to those who went there as Carolina and USC.



Letters to the editor

Big Bill lacks profundity

To the editor:

Bill Sengstacken's column in the *Gamecock* (Friday, Nov. 18) moved me with the sublime profundity of a sudden urge to visit the toilet.

U2 has finally let Bill down (I can't tell you how good that makes me feel inside). Bill is disturbed by the very thought that U2 isn't going to continue to make sequels of *War*. The poor fool can't stand to hear brass instrumentation in a U2 song. Time is slipping through your fingers, Bill. Music just isn't what it used to be — but wait, have you heard REM's latest hit, with its blatant exploitation of U2 trademarks? Maybe there is hope, Bill. Get lost, Bill.

And Mr. Stipe, you're slipping! They're finding meaning and metaphor in your lyrics! Have you dreamt lately of waking up and finding Sting in the mirror? Look at this line: "I've a rich understanding of my finest defenses" — ooh! Shall we send this one off to Reader's Digest?

Bill, it's a shame you missed out on the humor, energy and terror of Document, which you disregarded with the rusty cliché, "at best uninspired." Give it a leash, man — what can you possibly mean by "inspired?" Such words are for Popes, not critics. This kind of Freudian slip, Bill, has often marked the merciful end of a critic's career.

Allow me to remind you that next time your religiosity tempts you to open your Bible of music criticism, you might do well to recall the words of your fellow man of letters, Johnny Rotten — "And blind acceptance is a sign — of stupid fools stand in line!"

Dan Jensen
math and physics junior

Alliance needs to be realistic

To the editor:

Only in America can a student take a political sign into a ball game and hold it up alongside the ones saying "Go Cocks!" or "Hi, Mom."

Everyone knows that I don't speak for the whole campus, but I do have the right to speak for myself, and that's what I was attempting to do at the last two home football games. You all may not agree with what I say, but please respect my right to say it. Thanks.

Janice M. Kraft
management/marketing senior
"USC's Conservative Gadget"

Bill not such a bad guy

To the editor:

I would like to know how prepared Elizabeth Cassidy (letter, "Sengstacken Is A Whiner," Monday, Nov. 21) is to defend her country. As a civilian, she seems quite prepared to defend the National Guard.

Some students at the university have been forced to make unpleasant sacrifices to meet their ever increasing financial obligations to this fine and reputable institution. Not everyone can send their tuition bill to Col. Cassidy.

Perhaps if the National Guard wasn't advertised as a paid weekend camping trip, we wouldn't see so many disgruntled Guardsmen.

And while I'm defending Bill Sengstacken, who took quite a beating on Monday, I have a few remarks for Monica Costello (letter, "View rattled, hum bugged" Monday, Nov. 21).

First of all, I liked the movie, but that doesn't mean it makes a great album.

I don't think experimenting with American blues is either "new" or "diverse." Both the Beatles and the Rolling Stones did it over two decades ago. But then, you are just a freshman, so maybe you don't remember those bands.

And I can see why it might "get under my skin" to hear a white European male sing a song written for a black American female. No sexism or racism intended, but Bono simply doesn't have the voice or the soul of Billie Holliday.

Don't get me wrong, I am very much a fan of U2 (and the National Guard, for that matter), but I think it is a cop out to release a live album after every tour.

Philip Cook
media arts senior

Sculpture gone, mourned

To the editor:

As a sophomore now living off campus, I don't get to walk around and see campus as much as I did when I lived in Douglas — oh, those Douglas days — so I am late to appreciate some of the changes that occurred over the summer, like the new interior of the *Gamecock*/Wild Pizza. Until then, all of the other changes I've noticed were improvements.

However, on Oct. 21 I was returning from the coliseum and heading towards Russell House. As I passed the library, my thoughts meandered their way back to my freshman year and some late night adventures out to see the "acid sculpture" (who gave it that name?), which is located on the back side of the brick wall near the ramp going to Bates.

As I looked for the familiar hand grasping the torn iron rail, I was astonished to see that section of the fence missing. Alarmed, I hurried to the other side of the wall for a better look, only to find the statue gone. All that was left was a hollow space where the work of art once rested.

For those freshmen who never had a chance to experience it, I'm sorry. It was a dark-brass-sort-of-collage sculpture with the major portion of it consisting of an outline of a man who appeared to be coming out of the wall with his right hand holding the iron rail nearby. Positioned around this was a variety of other small brass engravings of faces, hands, feet, guitars and many other strange objects.

I remember it was particularly fun to be with someone who had never seen the statue before. We'd return to Douglas after a party to find everyone else asleep or passed out. Then, while still "under the influence," we'd trek out to see the sculpture. Most of the time, the person would freak out and just stare, hypnotized by its strangeness.

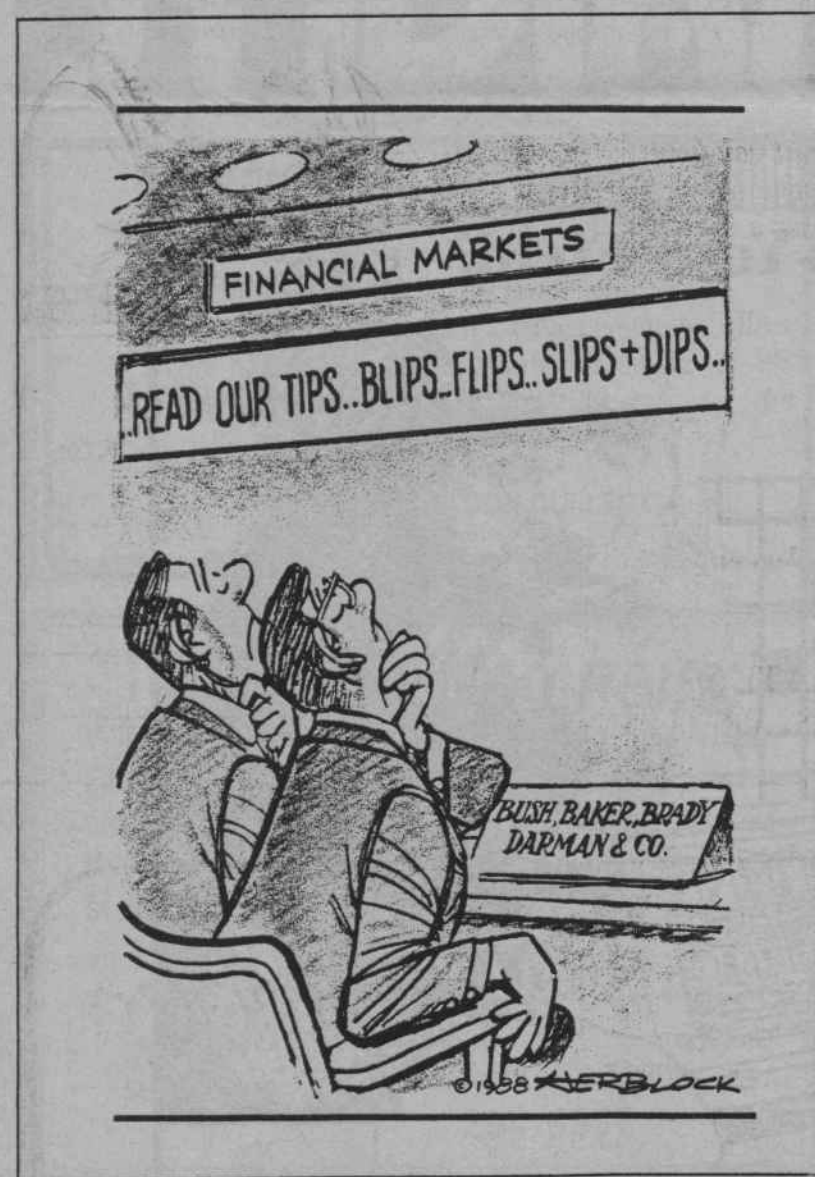
The next day, the person would ask me if it was real, wishing to return under normal conditions. After that, they'd start asking why and how it was there.

I don't personally know how it got there (though I've heard stories of a devil-worshipping fraternity) and now I don't know why it is gone. Everyone I spoke with was surprised and saddened with its disappearance.

Was it stolen? Very unlikely. More likely is that it was removed by the good university. Why? I can only guess: censorship of art. Whether that's true or not I'll probably never know.

Peter J. Nyikos
mathematics professor

Michael Haunstein
business sophomore



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U.S. stands for free speech

To the editor:

It is apparent to me that certain members of *The Gamecock* editorial staff do not understand the meaning of free speech. One of the beautiful things about America is that anyone can go into a public place and yell "down with the government," or whatever, and it is perfectly legal. That's the kind of freedom that people in the communist world are fighting and dying to obtain.

Only here in America, can a theater show a controversial film, and outside people are picketing both for and against it. Only here can a college newspaper print an editorial like you guys did last week and get away with it. Only here can I write