

## Planning

### New user fee for Russell House would hamper campus groups

Russell House is in disrepair. Everyone knows that. Carpets are torn in places; chairs are becoming abused and scarce; and the building needs improvement and some renovation.

But to begin charging a fee for organizations, clubs and individuals to use the rooms in the student union is a bad idea. It would end up hurting the students more than helping the building.

The idea is for the Russell House to charge organizations such as the Cinematic Arts Committee, fraternities and sororities and clubs a fee — more correctly a tax — to use any of the rooms in the building for events. It would mean for any group to hold a concert, a movie or a seminar where admission is charged, it would have to pay for the use of the room, auditorium or ballroom.

The money from the fee would go to the improvement of the building.

The directors of the Russell House, Department of Student Life, think users of the rooms should "give something back" to the building they are using for free.

The problem with this kind of fee, though, would be that organizations such as Cinematic Arts that have had trouble meeting their financial obligations would be burdened with an extra expense that probably would doom them eventually. It would mean that if fraternities and sororities want to sponsor bands, they would have to begin charging more money at the door to make up the difference. And that would mean attendance would decrease.

If that is the case, it is conceivable that no one would continue to have any events at reasonable prices in the Russell House any more. The fee could conceivably drive the students and the student events away.

No one wants this to happen.

In order for this potential tragedy to be avoided someone needs to come up with a viable plan and present it to Dean of Student Life Jerry Brewer at the open forum at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Russell House Theatre.

Brewer, who will make the ultimate decision sometime after the forum, said this is the only alternative he has found to make up for the money needed for the improvements in the building.

He has gone to the Senate Finance Committee looking for the money, but he was turned down.

If no organization can come up with a workable solution to this problem, the fee will be charged. And if that happens, students may find they have less to do at Russell House from now on — fewer bands, fewer movies and fewer speakers — less fun.

There is another way.

One way would be to add a mere 50 cents to everyone's student activity fee to be solely designated to go to Russell House improvements. The money generated could make the difference. Some people who don't use Russell House may say they don't want to pay for the building they don't use, but Russell House is for the students, and all the students should be concerned.

If the user fee goes into place, all the students will be hurt, even though only some of the students — organizations — are paying.

It makes more economic sense to rally as a student body and suggest a minuscule increase than to begin losing valuable events because no one can afford to go.

Student leaders must go to the meeting Tuesday and speak their minds. If something isn't suggested, everyone will be hurt.

McNEELY Chicago Tribune



## Problems could put library in hot water

I was looking for a place to go swimming over Christmas break.

When I read *The Gamecock* Monday, I found I could have come on down here to USC to do that water-immersion thing. I could have gone swimming in that centerpiece of USC's attractive campus — Lake Thomas Cooper, better known as the library.

A pipe bursts, and magazines and documents get ruined. A leaky roof once took out other tomes as well.

These leaks and bursting pipes make it seem like Thomas Cooper is one of the reactors at the Savannah River Plant.

A scenario: It's a dark gray day outside; the rain begins to pour; a girl in a yellow raincoat and yellow rain hat with an umbrella walks pouring Morton's Salt all over the place.

We're talking serious *agua* here. And a guy, alone in the stacks late in the afternoon, stops and asks himself, "Did the building just moan? No."

In this scenario, this likable long-haired fellow is one of those students in black who normally sits around outside Gambrell, but it's raining, so he decides to go to the library, sit down and read his *Compleat Marx, Engels*.

He reads about some of the bitchin' parties the proletariat are going to have when they throw down the imperialistic, capitalistic, entrepreneurial



Stephen Guilfoyle

whores who have hoarded all the wealth.

"Wow," he says, but then thinks, "Did the building just groan? Nah."

"Ahhhhhhhh."

And then he is engulfed by the biggest white-water rapid since Moses had his big gig at the Red Sea.

Even worse for him, his *Compleat Marx, Engels* is destroyed, to be read nevermore, nevermore. And speaking of that, the floods may take out the *Compleat Poe*.

But I can't make fun forever, because this is a serious problem with the library — a real problem because books are getting ruined.

It's costing us a whole, whole lot of money. But the real cost is much higher. There are some priceless books housed in the library. So what happens when the water gets through the first floor and floods the archives?

USC is a government depository. Thousands of government documents are housed at USC, both in print and in microfilm. What if the government gets leery, thinking if we can't keep our magazines safe, how can we keep its documents safe? Maybe we should be asking that question right now.

Something should be done and soon. It's happened twice now, so it should be checked just to confirm if these are isolated incidents or signs of a deep-rooted problem.

A library should be more safe, more secure, more airtight than Fort Knox. All they have at the fort is gold, gold and gold.

A library houses ideas, sometimes thousands of years worth of the collected thinkings and ruminations of mankind. A library houses our written history, our differences and our individuality. What is contained within should be treated like the most precious of stones.

A library is a storehouse of ideas, and what is mankind, but a living, breathing storehouse of ideas? We must protect our ideas, because we'll be protecting ourselves — at least the part of ourselves that really matters.

## Letters to the editor

### Franklin fails to achieve goal

To the editor:

We would like to compliment James Franklin on his performance as USC student body president.

Franklin has an excellent future ahead of him as a politician. He has already learned to manipulate the truth to his advantage.

We voted for Franklin because he promised to give students an alternative to the outrageous prices of textbooks at the USC bookstores by establishing a network of book trades between students. We were reminded of Franklin's empty promises when a cashier demanded \$42 for a worn-out textbook with its pages stuck together.

The only accomplishment Franklin has made was toward his resume. James, for your own sake, do not use USC as a reference.

Norman I. Fewell  
Political science senior  
Randy Elmore  
Biology junior

### Dean, paper have integrity

To the editor:

I understand this may sound like more backscratching between Chuck Dean and me, but if you know me, you know I very seldom get around to scratching backs for no reason other than my pure laziness. This, however, deserves attention that even my monumental laziness could not suppress.

First, let me point out that Dean

has recessed so far from what they call normal that he has adopted the crazies' trademark of a permanent stocking cap. But like a lot of our blessed certified nuts, Dean turns life into art and, when he is at his best, art into life.

Dean's recent column (in which he told of doing Ecstasy) deserves applause from those of us who are subject to this country's ridiculous drug laws, as well as anyone who believes in free speech, civil liberties and any of the other red, white and blue stuff they say our country was founded upon. Seldom, if ever, do journalists speak as openly as Dean did, although I am sure many have similar experiences.

Now I am not promoting drugs, but I wholeheartedly promote a person's right to do what he wants to himself and to write about it with consequence.

I especially cheer Dean's courage at doing this in the days of tougher drug laws. I'm sure there are many campus papers out there in Reaganland that would have never printed Dean's piece. *The Gamecock* showed journalistic integrity.

Not everyone believes we need tougher drug laws or that we need them at all, but few of us speak up. Thanks, Chuck, for speaking up. Thanks to *The Gamecock* for allowing him to.

Vincent Craig Wright  
English senior

### Letter restores faith in men

To the editor:

Please excuse my sexism, but I was really surprised to see that a guy had

written such a strong retort to Tommy Joyner's *Playboy* article. It seems unusual that a guy would have such sensitivity toward how degrading something such as that article is.

I feel really grateful to him for taking our defense, not because we aren't capable of defending ourselves, but because it restores my faith in men.

I guess it's obvious that there are women who pose for *Playboy* and there are men who read it, but not all women like to be viewed as sex objects. It's nice to know there are guys who respect that.

Thanks a lot, Greg Gilbert.

Liz Calhoun  
Humanities freshman

### Starks' column liberal, amoral

To the editor:

Oh no, here comes Sam Starks with more of his flatulent attempts to articulate. Last year, the world was reduced to a giant racist conspiracy. This year, it looks like he is parroting the most liberal, amoral, knee-jerk societal primitivism that he can wring out of that bucket on his shoulders.

There are plenty of car washes around, Starks; stay away from a writing profession. Your concepts of morality are those of a member of the crudest kind of tribe. Or better yet, dish out all the addiction, crime and pestilence to your own family. Oops, but then again, it's already there, isn't it? You can keep it. There's never anything wrong anymore for some kinds of people, and Starks, you're one of them.

Spiros Papeleacos  
Graduate student

### Activity fees for student use

To the editor:

As USC students, we all should be concerned when the administration begins to tamper with student funds, specifically student activity fees. A new proposal has been set forth that recommends that student activity fees be used to increase the Russell House's operating budget. This means that student money, which is supposed to supplement and/or provide extracurricular activities on campus for every fee-paying student, will be used to replace equipment and buy furniture for the university.

Every student organization (i.e., honor societies, political groups, sororities, fraternities, etc.) will be subject to this. For example, if money designated for the student movie program is used to cover administrative operating costs, student prices could increase, or the number of movies shown on campus could decrease significantly. Obviously, the student, you, will be the victim in this maneuver.

Is this right? This is student money. Your money! You have a right to question this. A forum will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Russell House Theatre. I recommend that students who care how their money is spent attend this forum. Also, Student Government can help, if senators and officers know students care. Call and write.

Melina D. Davis  
Vice president  
Carolina Program Union  
International studies junior

## OLLIE OLLIE OXEN FREE!...



## The Gamecock

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