

Bell Camp

University should put facility up for auction, build new park

For years, Bell Camp has served as a place for recreation for USC students, faculty and staff, but the idea of selling the area has been circulating for the past few years. Now that the issue has come up again, USC should take action and strongly consider selling Bell Camp and using the proceeds to build a better recreation area closer to campus.

Michael Mungo, chairman of the Board of Trustees, estimates that the 217-acre camp located about 14 miles east of campus is worth about \$5 million. The land is rapidly being surrounded by housing developments, causing it to become a highly marketable piece of property.

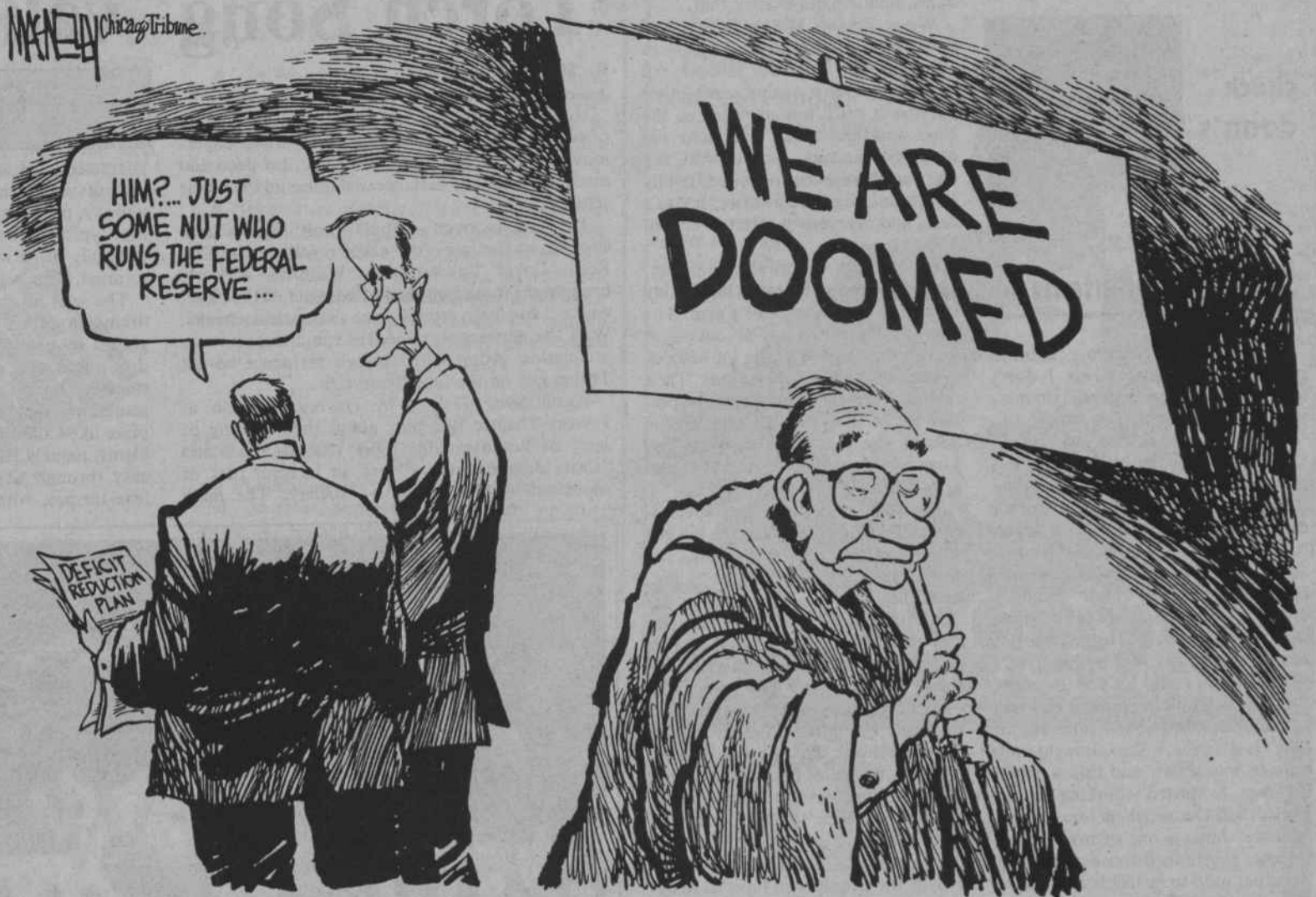
The area includes a small lake, a lodge and picnic tables. It also includes nature trails and softball fields. Bell Camp has its assets, but USC could provide something even better for its students, faculty and staff.

One of Bell Camp's main problems is its distance from campus. Not all students can make the drive to use the facility, and those who can would rather go elsewhere, because private sports facilities have left Bell Camp somewhat obsolete. Other places simply have more to offer.

By selling Bell Camp in a public auction, USC could make millions of dollars and use that money to build a modern recreational complex. It could include racquetball courts and a swimming pool in addition to what Bell Camp now has. In short, USC could have a place to provide faculty, students and staff with an excellent facility to enjoy.

Ideally, the location would be as close to campus as possible. Because of USC's place in the heart of Columbia, it may be difficult to find a place close to the university. Some have hinted that Lake Murray would make for a good location, but that part of the Columbia area is almost as far away from USC as Bell Camp. Lake Murray would be a valuable asset and beautiful backdrop for a park, but the distance from the campus is a serious drawback.

If nothing else, USC should analyze the situation and weigh all possible options. The sale of Bell Camp could provide a chance for the university to do a lot for the students, faculty and staff of USC.



Ronnie moves to ultimate city of angels

St. Peter wasn't in a particularly good mood when Ronnie Reagan came through the blinding light and started to try on his wings.

"Hold it a minute, pal. You're a former president, aren't you?" Pete said, folding his arms across his chest.

"Well... yes, I am."
"You've got to be passed first before you can get your wings. You need to go to the presidential suite on the other side of the next cloud. Someone will take care of you there."
"Well... all right."

Ronnie wobbles his head a couple of times and then toddles off. In an instant he's projected into a huge room. All the former U.S. presidents are there sitting in groups talking. Except, in the corner, Ronnie notices two former presidents huddled in the corner sucking their thumbs.

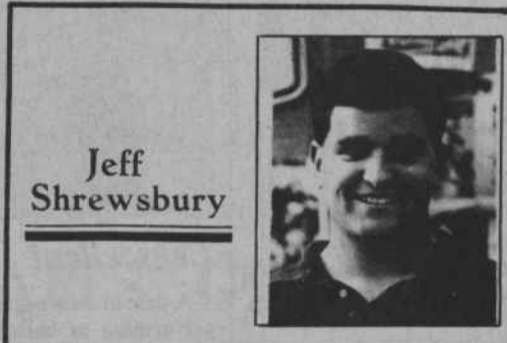
"Well... who's that over there?" he asks one of the Secret Service angels by the door.

"That's former presidents Nixon and Andrew Johnson. They're being punished for their presidencies. They have to sit in the corner for a couple hundred years."

"Well... that seems a little harsh."
Just then Franklin Roosevelt rolls up to Ronnie. He lights a cigarette and leans back in his wheelchair.

"You're that Reagan guy, aren't you?" FDR asks. "You used to be an incredibly bad actor in my day. Are you still?"

"Well... yes, I am. Thank you for remembering. Might I say you're looking pretty good, Mr. President," Ronnie extends his hand, but FDR



Jeff Shrewsbury

refuses to shake it.
"Cut the small talk, Gipper. Didn't you cut funding for every domestic program that helps the poor, handicapped and elderly and use that money to buy weapons?"

"Well... I... uh..."
"I think I shan't talk to you again," FDR says as he begins to roll off.

Ronnie gets a pained look on his face.
"Well... I was only trying to help my career... uh, I mean big business... uh, I mean national security. Yeah, that's it, national security."

FDR salutes him with the finger as he rolls off to light another butt.

An angel comes up to Ronnie and explains he must answer for his presidency to all the former presidents before he can get his wings.

George Washington strolls over.
"You, sir, sit down. I shall be needing a moment

of your time," George says adjusting his wig.
"Have you any regard for the Constitution, sir?"
"Well... yes. I mean I've heard of it. I read about it once in grade school — in 1918."

"The law is the law, sir, and if we circumvent that law, we are no better than the common barbarians of our forefathers' days. If we disregard the law for which my compatriots died, we are no Americans — that would make us wags. Do you understand, for what I speak?"
"Well... uh... no, frankly," Ronnie says cocking his head.

Every president except the two in the corner make their way to Reagan and grill him for centuries. Most have heated words, but former president Jimmy Carter had to be restrained.

"Liar! That's what you are, Reagan, a liar!" Sarcastically, as John Adams holds him back, "Sure, I'll balance the budget. Sure, I'll help the poor, homeless and less fortunate. Sure, I could have handled the hostage situation without just sitting around... yeah that's rich. Remember the TWA, Ronnie, same thing, man, same thing!"

Carter has to be sedated.

Finally, after the grilling is over, Ronnie, tears streaking down his cheeks, jumps up and screams.
"Well... I was a good president. I wasn't indicted. Haven't I one friend here? Just one?"

"I'll be your friend."

Ronnie slumps back in his chair, dejected.

"Well... that's great. Herbert Hoover wants to be my friend."

"Cheer up, Ronnie, George Bush will be here soon," says an angel, helping him to the corner.

"ANYBODY GOT COPIES OF THOSE GOOD OLD 1980 SPEECHES?"



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Letters to the editor

USC promotes campus safety

To the editor:
An article in Wednesday's edition of *The Gamecock* titled "USC women still face barriers" contained two quotes regarding safety on campus. As a graduate student and reserve police officer employed with the Division of Law Enforcement and Safety, I take issue with the statement made by Maria Klutz that "it would be a great idea if something was finally done about security here." Being directly involved with safety programs on this campus, I would like to identify a few programs currently in place.

The Division of Law Enforcement and Safety has promoted programs of such topics as date and acquaintance rape, personal safety and theft prevention since the early 1980s. Presentations have been conducted for students in the Russell House; I have attended faculty and staff development sessions addressing safety concerns as well as scores of freshman University 101 classes. For example, in the fall 1988 semester, our office spoke to 33 groups from residence halls and freshman classes totalling 869. At each session, various pamphlets were distributed to the students explaining the programs offered as well as a list of important campus phone numbers (i.e., USC police and APO escort service). These pamphlets are located throughout the campus.

USC Safety Days is a week-long event sponsored by the Division of Law Enforcement and Safety and Student Government. It includes a different program every day. For example, bicycle registration, rape awareness and self-defense are among a few. Unfortunately, some of these programs are not fully taken advantage of by the USC community. Safety Days last fall only at-

tracted a total of 86 persons over a five-day event.

So we can see that the programs are made available to the students, but it is up to them to take some responsibility for their own safety and realize that the university is doing its best to protect them. For more information about these programs, contact the Division of Law Enforcement and Safety at 777-8400.

RPO Paula A. Woods
Criminal justice graduate

Koger column embarrassing

To the editor:
I found the "Koger Arts Center, breeds pretentiousness" column of Friday to be shortsighted and an embarrassment to the student populus, to the university and to the city of Columbia.

The opening of the Koger Arts Center deserves as much publicity as it has received and more — not for the fact that USC is on any "cultural map" or for "posh" reasons. But to recognize the fact that with its opening comes the beginning of a new era of arts in South Carolina and a major step toward the "2001 Plan." The opening of the center will afford many opportunities. First, and most noticeably, it brings an opportunity for the people of South Carolina to enjoy the cultural events that would have normally passed South Carolina by. The center has also offered employment to more than 385 USC students and strengthens USC's recognition of the importance of the arts.

The university is making great strides in the arts, proven with such names as Richard Thomas, Robby Benson, Karla DeVito and Paul Giovanni, as well as linking with the very reputable Shakespeare Theatre

at the Folger in Washington, D.C. All this is through the guidance of President James Holderman, who was awarded the Columbia Music Festival Association's 1988 James Y. Perry Lyre award for the promotion of the arts following a long list of distinguished recipients. Why not some positive columns about such accomplishments?

I guarantee that this weekend at the Koger won't be pretentious. Friday and Saturday nights Karla DeVito will perform along with many USC students in a musical review that promises to be incredible. (Note: Chuck Dean, no, she's not the Karla on *Cheers*; she's the Karla who can sing, dance and act and appeared in numerous Broadway musicals, had a gold record and performed with Meat Loaf.) Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. will be a free day of arts with backstage tours, refreshments and a menagerie of student talent (all showcased at the Koger Center). No tuxedos are required, only student attire — the dress is come as you are. The center isn't just for the "hoity-toity." It's for you and me — that is if you can open your mind and enjoy it.

Every advancing opportunity should be looked at in a positive sense and not ridiculed by one who is uninformed. Please do not continue to embarrass USC students by writing columns that make us look shortsighted and ungrateful. Yes, "the Koger Arts Center is open." But let's not "forget about it." Let's use it.

Bruce Littlefield
Broadcasting senior

Lab animals treated well

To the editor:
We and fellow co-workers were

rather offended by the article on research animals at USC that appeared in the Wednesday issue of *The Gamecock*. While technically correct in content, this article was definitely written to imply that professors are not being honest about the actual conditions and treatment of research animals at this university.

Also, at no point did the writer, Hayden Donehue, indicate that she had personally investigated the conditions in animal facilities. Her sources included references to *Newsweek*, University Services statement and interviews with several professors on campus. We think Donehue is not qualified to judge the actual situation, especially if she has not taken the time to see for herself. Therefore, she has no right to imply dishonesty on the part of others. She has no proof.

In addition, the caption accompanying the photo of the laboratory rat states that the rat is attempting to escape from testing. Sniffing behavior does not constitute an escape attempt. This shows a definite lack of knowledge on the part of the writer as well as a lapse of moral character to use such a sensationalistic tactic to gain attention to the article.

As graduate students, we work closely with the animal care personnel in charge of the animal research facilities on campus. We are ever impressed by their dedication and concern for the animals in their charge.

We are really disappointed in *The Gamecock* for resorting to such unprofessionalism. Once again, they have printed a story without making a real attempt at proper research. Before taking potshots at scientific research methods, try learning some journalistic research methods.

Renee Y. Flinchum
Biology graduate student

Lisa M. Kwarsick
Medical school graduate student

The Gamecock

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