

## Smoking

### Universities must find balance in controlling use of cigarettes

Universities across the United States are taking action against cigarette smoking, a trend that reflects this country's move away from this unhealthy habit. Schools should discourage smoking, but they should also respect the rights of those who want to use cigarettes.

Many schools have announced tougher smoking restrictions in the past few years. The universities of Nebraska, Texas and Illinois have imposed tough rules against smoking. At Penn State, smoking is banned everywhere except in a few residence halls. Georgia State has stopped selling cigarettes in its bookstore. Stanford has even banned smoking at outdoor events.

Universities are places of learning and have a responsibility to educate their students on health issues. School officials should see through the tobacco industry's smoke screen and make students aware of the health hazards of cigarettes.

Countless studies have shown that cigarettes cause lung cancer, emphysema and heart disease. The American Lung Association estimates that smoking-related health problems in South Carolina alone amount to almost \$230 million a year in hospital bills. Secondhand smoke has also been shown to be hazardous.

Non-smoking students should not have to face the health risk presented by cigarettes. Universities should ensure that classrooms and eating areas are free of smoke. At the same time, smokers must be allowed to practice their vice in private as long as they respect the rights of others. If they want to smoke, they, as adults, have the choice to do so.

USC, for example, has done a good job of providing a relatively smoke-free environment while retaining the right of smokers to light up if they wish. But the university could do more to alert students to the risks inherent in a smoking habit.

The smoking controversy will continue to flare up, and America's universities will be just one staging ground in the battle between those who wish to smoke and those who don't. The two sides will eventually have to compromise and find a delicate balance.

McNeely Chicago Tribune



## Sexual harassment commonplace at USC

A friend of mine was walking back from the library one night this past week around 7:30 when she was sexually harassed. Yes, that's right — sexually harassed.

A guy was hiding in the bushes beside the reflection pool. As she passed by, he called out to her: "Pssst. C'mere."

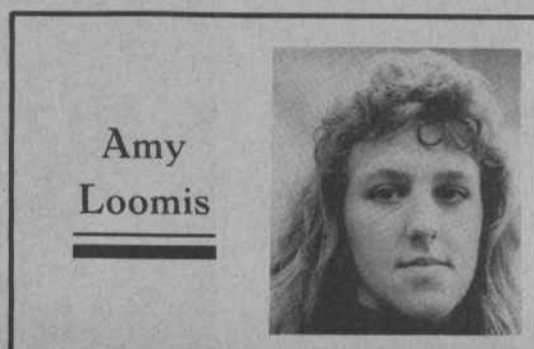
Needless to say, she was alarmed and started walking at a faster pace. "All I could think was, 'Oh, God, what if he rapes me,'" she told me later.

She noticed two girls walking in front of her and asked to walk with them. She told them some guy was bothering her.

At this point, the guy in the bushes came out and told my friend to "relax" and that "it was only a fraternity prank." He dismissed her fears as silly. She quickly told him that she didn't think it was very funny and that it's not guys who have to worry about being raped on this campus.

This isn't just one isolated incident. This kind of harassment has happened to my friend before.

This past year, a USC construction worker followed her into the bathroom. It wasn't late at night. It was in the morning during classes. He looked under the stall she was in, stared at her for a moment and then left. She reported it to the cam-



Amy Loomis

pus police, who informed her that there was not much they could do unless she could tell them who it was.

About a week later, the same man approached her and asked her if she knew him. She found a University Police officer and identified the man. He was brought in. She discovered that it was not the first time he had done something like that. He, of course, denied it. Because my friend couldn't make a definite positive identification and it was his word against hers, the officers told her not to press charges. Pardon me, but isn't voyeurism

reason enough to act? She was told, "We can't press charges, but we can see that he gets let go." They told her he would be fired. If it was known by the police — and ultimately his employer — that this man was a repeat offender, why was this man allowed to remain a USC employee?

USC administrators tell women not to walk alone at night, but incidents occur all times of the day, every day.

My friend is not alone in her vulnerability. Every woman on this campus is vulnerable. All she has to do is walk out of her room.

I realize, of course, that USC can't be all-knowing, all-powerful and all-protective. But is it too much to ask for USC to take disciplinary action against sexual offenders, especially repeat sexual offenders who work for the university? Is it too much to ask that this university stress that sexual harassment isn't funny and that it's not just a prank in the eyes of some?

There is hope with the existence of Women Students' Services and its efforts to raise awareness of women's issues and concerns, but a little more common sense and responsibility on the part of USC and its administrators is not too much to ask for.

"MY GOODNESS—IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER WINDFALL"



## Letters to the editor

### USC mourns as Kraft goes

To the editor:

The character of life as a student at USC changed drastically this semester. The undergraduates are still viewed as a meal ticket by the administration; the lighting around campus is still deficient; the police still write parking tickets more than anything else, but the mood, the very atmosphere of the campus has radically and irrevocably changed. Perhaps it's part of the national, political/economic transformation associated with the Ronald Reagan presidency, but it reaches much deeper than that. It concerns the departure of Janice Kraft.

Reflect, if you will, on the impact she had on all aspects of the university environment. 1. History — who else could confound even the revisionists by explaining that communism and fascism are one and the same, working together toward a common goal? 2. Political science — revolutionized the concept that anarchy is really a form of government. 3. Economics — we should divest from the Soviet slave economy to help the oppressed Russian people, but we should not divest from South Africa, lest we hurt the blacks who may or may not be oppressed. 4. Religion — publicly shouted down a nun-thrice who had dared dispute CIA reports, based on the flimsy excuse of firsthand knowledge. 5. International relations — supported beating up much smaller countries as a way to solve differences. 6. Debate — referred to by an officer of the Athenian Society (arguably a debating society) as "bastardizing the concept of constructive argument." 7. Athletics — combined the sports of football and basketball with political advertisement. 8. Logic — often expressed how she loved this nation, under Ollie (which is Arabic for God) as it's such a Nazi/commie police state. 9. Hygiene — exposed fluoridation as a communist plot. And not to mention psychology. . . . Kraft's views were seen by some to be a tad off center, but all will admit

that she added spice and flavor to the often dull fare we academics regularly face at USC. Or as one Horseshoe juggling person remarked, "I liked Janice; she made me laugh." Her social and political commentary couldn't have been expressed better by Sen. Joe McCarthy, who is probably smiling despite the heat and stench of his present environs.

Even the sky mourned her absence in the chill dampness of the first week of classes. I, for one, and I know I'm not alone, shall miss Kraft as we return to the stark claustrophobia of conformity and normalcy.

John R. Hanson  
SCC economics junior

### Pro-lifers rely on humiliation

To the editor:

"Pro-lifers offer real choices" is a farce. Elizabeth Calhoun is not looking at both sides of the issue.

In her letter, she refers to girls coming to a crisis pregnancy center not wanting to have an abortion, but nevertheless in tears because they could see no "other choice." Where would these girls be if they had not had the option of terminating the pregnancy, carrying the child for full term only to care for an unwanted baby for the rest of her life? Marrying some kid she doesn't love and doesn't love her? Finding herself scorned by peers and relatives? Or worse . . . going back to a "back-alley" clinic for an unhealthy, illegal and not-always-guaranteed abortion? You who try to seem so humane — is that what you wish for these young girls?

But Calhoun asks where the pro-choice activists are when these girls keep their babies and need help. Let me turn that question around. Where are the pro-lifers when a woman goes through the immeasurable emotional trauma and intense physical pain of an abortion? I'll tell you where they are. These so-called "humane birthright" supporters are taunting and jeering at the women who made this

### Abortion not federal issue

To the editor:

This letter is in response to your editorial on abortion, which characterized the right-wing's support for the reversal of *Roe vs. Wade* as ironic because "abortion is a matter for the mother, not the government, to decide."

Until the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the question of whether a woman could obtain an abortion was up to individual states. The issue was, and continues to be, which government should decide and not whether government should decide. Therefore, there is no irony in the right-wing's opposition to *Roe*. Its position is consistent and firmly supported by the concept of federalism and the legitimate interests of individual states to regulate the actions of its citizens.

### Officials naive about crime

To the editor:

In response to the Jan. 25 article on the holiday robberies on the Horseshoe, I would like to bring up a few points that Kelly Thomas did not address.

First of all, I would like to state that \$4,000 worth of valuables were stolen from my Rutledge apartment. The thief must have felt very secure with the lack of security, because he not only robbed several other apartments, but lived in mine for several days and was even seen watching television in another apartment.

According to Vice President of Law and Safety Carl Stokes, the university does not beef up security during holidays. What they do provide is three walking patrolmen and five motor units for the entire campus.

University officials were extremely naive in thinking that this was ample security. I wonder if the thieves knew exactly how well our valuables were protected? The way I see it, if the university is not going to make a decent effort to provide proper security, they should be held financially responsible, no matter what the housing contract says. Anybody know a good lawyer?

Mike Stumbris  
Political science sophomore

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Lawrence P. Rizzo  
Second-year MBA

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