

Criteria

Raising admissions standards would be beneficial to university

University officials are considering raising the standards for admission, and USC would benefit from such a move.

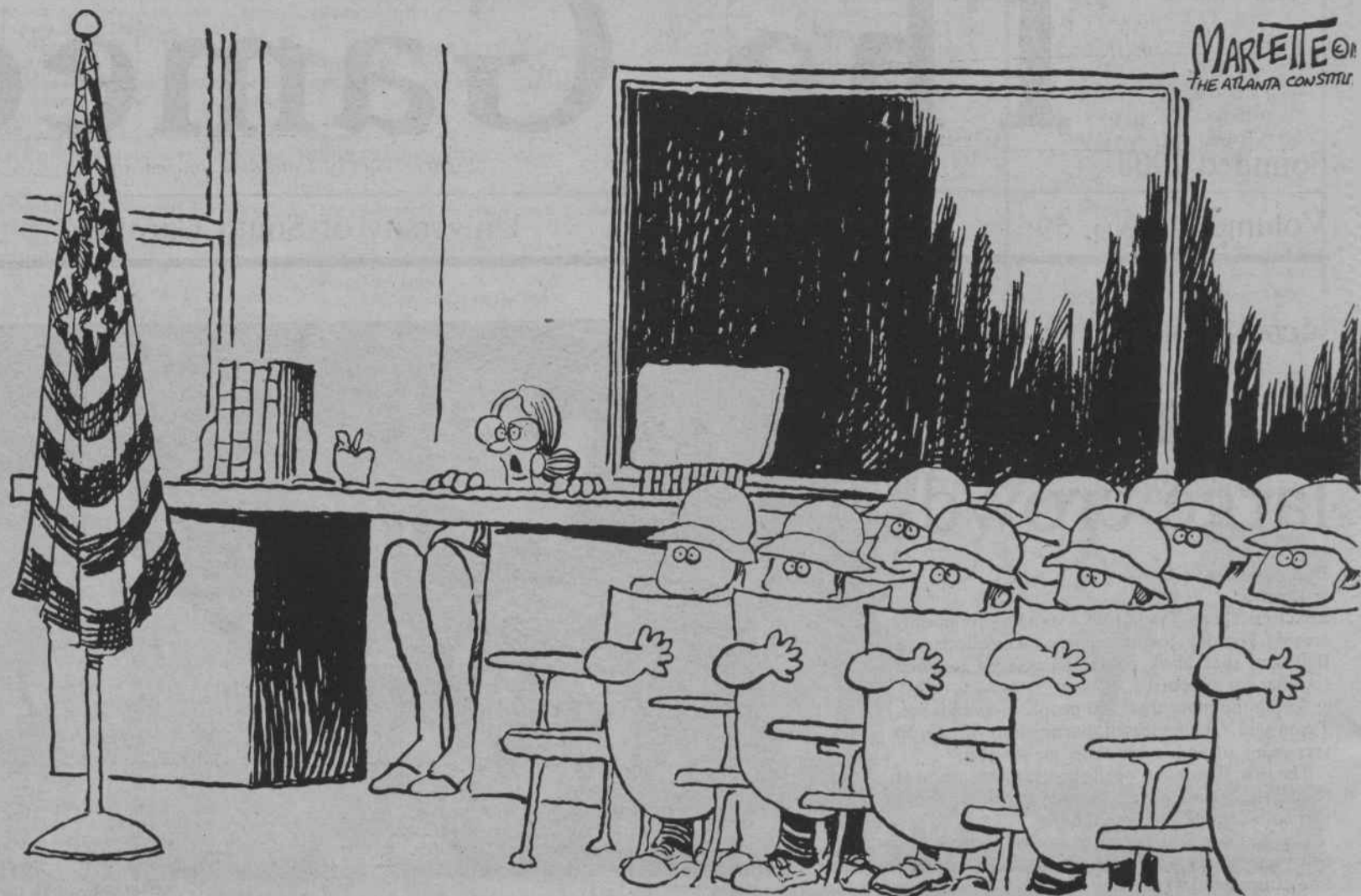
According to the proposal, the entering freshmen in the fall of 1990 would have to have at least a "C" average in four units of English, two units of laboratory science and two units of other subjects. Two years of a foreign language and a score of at least 1,000 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test would also be required. Math courses and English classes would have to be geared toward college preparation.

This proposal is not a radical upgrade from the current standards. For example, this past year's freshmen needed a 900 on the SAT to be accepted by the university. Of those freshmen, only about 4 percent would not have reached the proposed criteria.

An increase in admissions standards would help make USC a better university. By requiring college-preparatory classes, USC could cut the number of remedial courses needed for freshmen. USC spends much of its time and resources teaching subjects that should be taught in high school. One recent study reported that 46 percent of freshmen in the state's colleges needed some type of remedial work; an increase in standards would alert high school students that they need to work hard on their studies to get into USC.

Still, the new admission standard would remain flexible. Students who scored less than 1,000 on the SAT could make up for that by having exceptionally high grades or ranking in the upper part of their classes. This flexibility provides an option for the students who are not good test takers or had a few tough classes that lowered their grades.

USC's Faculty Senate, which will make the final decision on the new standards, has returned the proposal to the admissions committee for a few minor alterations. Once those changes are made, the Faculty Senate should act by implementing the new standards. By doing so, they will be making a statement that USC is committed to becoming better and better until it ranks as one of the best state universities in the country.



"...ONE NATION, UNDER SIEGE, INDEFENSIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND AK-47'S FOR ALL."

Television shows stretching limits of taste

"I got 13 channels of \$#%& on the TV to choose from." — Pink Floyd

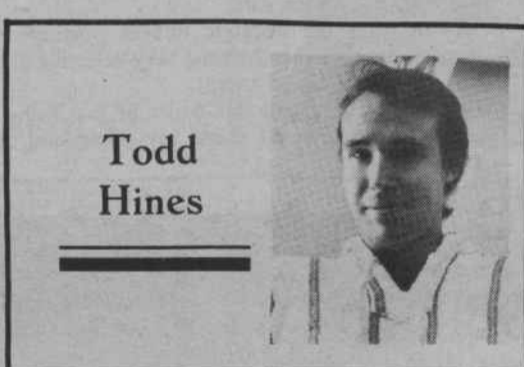
Have you noticed what's happening in Television Land lately? It's growing up and at a blazing rate. Those plastic people are becoming a bit more realistic.

The deal is that the three major networks can no longer afford the editing board that used to pare off the rough edges of everything. Networks are now doing their own paring, which leads to some livelier entertainment.

TV characters are now expressing expletives that would curl Tonto's feather. Unfortunately, even with columnist's license, I am unable to pollute these last vestiges of decency in American media with the kind of words that are now going around like a bottle of Mad Dog 20/20 in a high school parking lot. Trust me, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure them out.

For instance, the characters on *Moonlighting* are fast becoming purveyors of the expletive explosion. In the show's first season Dave was reduced to calling Maddie a "meany" and Maddie would rifle back that Dave was just a big "dummy." It loses a little something unless you're seven years old. Them's fightin' words at that age.

But now Dave, without batting an eye, calls Maddie a !#\$%&, and Maddie breezily calls Dave a =#\$%!*. That's real. When someone you work with says something snide you don't huff up and say, "You, you... dummy!" You attack their heritage or call them something socially disgusting, something that carries a little weight.



Todd Hines

Likewise when you bang your shin on a coffee table you don't stop and search for a word that won't offend anyone before you crumble in pain. You say what's on the tip of your tongue. "Gosh golly" is not there. There are little words far more menacing and far more expressive of the pain such as "I#\$%&*" or simply "#\$%&."

Let's forget movies "edited for television." Those words flashed on the screen used to be a red flag for me. I'd turn the channel in a skinny minute knowing that most of the funniest lines were in a pile on the cutting floor. But now at least entire scenes are not zapped because someone says "#\$%&." It's still a bit annoying when mid-sentence Dirty Harry becomes momentarily muted and calls someone an "\$#%hole." Harry wouldn't just call someone a hole and then give them one through their head. He's made of coarser stuff.

Not only is it in the words, but changes are taking place in the themes on TV. There's one show that's fast becoming a favorite of TV viewers — *Married With Children*. Those writers don't mess around. They go straight for the jugular, and it's often where a lot of pent up laughter is stored. The program totters on a line between lewd and pansy, the place where many normal shows lie. Few dare to live on this line. And people are not stupid. The jokes are not explicit, but everyone knows what they are getting at except maybe my sister.

Furthermore, there's a lot more skin on TV. Not enough to lose advertising, but more than there used to be. Shows are unabashedly showing people wandering around in their tighty whities. This is natural. People aren't always dressed for breakfast or walking around the house fully clothed. Here the networks have imposed a little self-restraint because I have yet to see anyone "buck nekkid" as they say in McCormick County. Try watching 24 hours of BBC programs, and you'll understand what I mean.

Finally, some may claim there are more bedroom scenes lately. TV should never be a viaduct for sexual education, but it should in the least attempt to represent one of our national pastimes. I'm not talking ABC's *Monday Night Orgies*, but the bed chamber shouldn't be avoided exclusively. Important stuff goes on in there that sometimes is even essential to the plot. I think in actuality what's happening lately is longer bedroom scenes. Besides, if you're not partial to scantily clad people in bed you can always turn the \$#%&!# channel.

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Letters to the editor

USC's blacks self-centered

To the editor:

Blacks are in the beginning of a celebration of what is at least supposed to be a celebration. Organizations of the university are sponsoring events celebrating the history of blacks in America. But the attendance at these events has been less than favorable.

Blacks have done many miraculous things in history. Many people believe that the civil rights era began in the 1960s. There were many people fighting for civil rights 100 years before then. Ida Wells Barnett, a black woman, was arguing against lynchings during the 1800s. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a black man, performed the first successful open-heart surgery. Dr. Charles Drew, a black man, gave the world plasma. He bled to death being transported to a "black" hospital because he was refused treatment at a "white" hospital.

How can blacks be unconcerned, considering the state of affairs today? Affirmative action cases are being overturned; the average income of black families is 78 percent lower than that of white families. A former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan is winning primaries in Louisiana. One of the issues of his platform is welfare reform to reduce the number of black births.

Perhaps USC is representative of society as a whole in that blacks are only concerned with I, me and mine. There is so much fighting among themselves that they forget about everyone advancing as a whole.

I encourage everyone to learn more about Afro-American history. There are classes given and books written on the subject. To not do so would be

to lose an important part of history. Or is that important?

Edwin J. Wilson
Graduate student
Phi Beta Sigma fraternity

Space agency helps nation

To the editor:

I was really glad to see the column about NASA in the Jan. 27 issue of *The Gamecock*.

I am grateful that someone finally took notice of the positive aspects of NASA. I am really fed up with the negative attitude that Americans have taken toward NASA since the *Challenger* tragedy. People have forgotten that before the *Challenger*, NASA had 25 successful shuttle missions and two since that time.

Space exploration is a dangerous business. NASA has done everything possible to protect the shuttles from further catastrophes. Whatever happened to the saying, "we learn from our mistakes"?

I think our society has learned to take too many things for granted, NASA included. When most Americans hear the word "NASA," they think of space exploration. I think the column about NASA pointed out that there is much more to the government agency than that. NASA has benefited us as Americans more than we realize.

Megan Lynch
Undeclared freshman

Abortion not valid choice

To the editor:

This is in response to Karen

Smith's letter to the editor ("Abortion must be kept legal," Monday). I'd like to give her and others like her something to think about.

I would like to make it perfectly clear that I am strongly pro-choice, but that's where the question comes in. Is it a choice to kill or not to kill? I think not — the choice came when the woman took the risk of becoming pregnant. The choice is no longer there; there is a living human being inside her instantly, no matter what science says. How can anyone say that when egg meets sperm there is not life? Do we just wait until it gets bigger, then it is life?

Let me give you a scenario to think about. A pregnant woman walks down the street and passes a bank on her way. The bank is being robbed. As she passes, the robber runs out shooting; he shoots the woman in the stomach and kills the child. Can he be tried for murder? You better believe it! The same woman walks down the street and heads for the abortion clinic, goes inside and kills the child. Can she be tried for murder? No. Any way you look at it, it's murder. So we should make it a choice of who is allowed to murder? How can we?

And what if she is raped? A child should not be forced not to live (to be murdered) because the father committed a crime. What if they used birth control, and it didn't work? Then there are support groups and clinics, and there are so many people in this world who would love to have the chance to have a child and cannot and would adopt.

There is no reason a person should murder a child because she doesn't want the child, is afraid to tell her parents or is afraid of what others will think. There is no reason to kill an innocent child, and there is no choice of who should be allowed to.

Susan DeMarco
Graduate student
Student Personnel Services

Group lacks facts on SRP

To the editor:

We had to laugh when we read a recent flyer from Greenpeace that was asking for people to come listen and testify against the Savannah River Plant and its evils to the environment. All anyone ever hears from Greenpeace and the media is biased accusations about the dangers SRP represents to the environment.

If Greenpeace members would only take the time to examine the environment surrounding SRP, they would find that wildlife thrives in its forests and streams. Its heated ponds (not radioactive) make it possible for fish and reptiles to breed year round. The bald eagle, our national symbol of freedom, roams SRP's forests free of any danger from chemicals or radiation.

Greenpeace just cannot accept the fact that they get more radiation from watching *The Little Rascals* than they would receive from any SRP radioactive "leak." We took the time to examine the facts before we attacked a nuclear facility — we wish Greenpeace would only do the same. Greenpeace should stick to saving the whales instead of getting involved in false accusations against SRP.

We are not asking for anyone to take our word for it — we are only asking these people to examine our proof as well as our facts about SRP. We are tired of hearing lies from liberal, hackey, communist hippies who pollute our beautiful USC campus. Greenpeace is applauded for not wanting one new production reactor at SRP — we need five of them to do the job right.

David S. Petersen
History senior

Billy Mikelonis
Geography junior

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