

## Changes

### United States should capitalize on Cuban-Soviet relationship

For three decades, Cuba has been America's next-door enemy, overtly and covertly. Although Fidel Castro continues to harangue the United States, the recent visit from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev indicates that times could be changing in the island country.

The summit between Gorbachev and Castro was a classic confrontation between new and old. The Soviet leader has brought dramatic changes to his country while Castro insists on staying with a strict communist dictatorship. Before Gorbachev's visit, Castro whined that following the Soviet Union's reforms would be like sleeping with another man's wife.

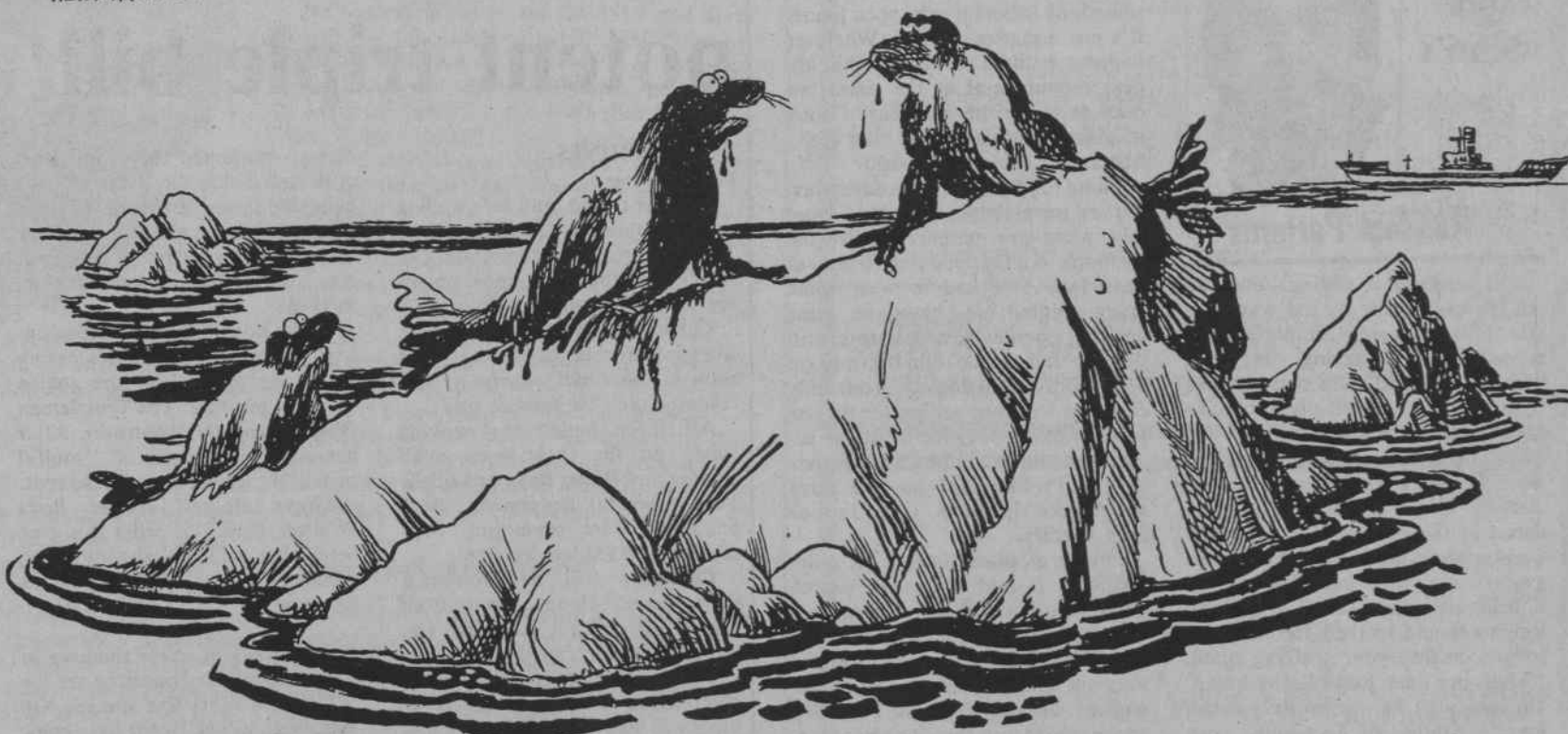
Although it is difficult to determine exactly what the two men discussed during their meeting, Gorbachev obviously has the upper hand. Cuba's government relies on the Soviet Union for everything — even its very existence. For example, Cuba receives more than \$5 billion in military and economic aid from the USSR each year; what used to be a client state has turned into a welfare state. Relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba will probably change drastically in the next few years.

The United States can benefit from this delicate situation in many ways, but President George Bush seems reluctant to budge from America's antiquated policies toward Cuba. Rather than clinging to cold-war rhetoric, Bush and Secretary of State James Baker should be looking into how the changes between the Soviet Union and Cuba will affect American relations with the island country.

The first step toward breaking the ice with Cuba is bringing an end to the U.S. economic embargo. This policy has been in place for three decades and has done little to alter Castro's politics. If anything, the embargo has only driven Cuba further into communist repression. By allowing American businesses to deal directly with Cuba, the U.S. relations between the two countries will improve, and the American economy will benefit. China and the Soviet Union have begun to experiment with the free market; perhaps Cuba can be the next communist country to move toward capitalism ever so slightly.

The United States has a marvelous opportunity to moderate relations with Cuba. Estrangement need not last forever, especially when both parties can benefit.

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NEW YORK NEWSDAY



"REMEMBER WHEN THEY USED TO ONLY BLUDGEON US?!"

## Fight for visitation rights far from over

The issue of visitation has been at the forefront of our minds lately, and I believe that as students it is imperative that we understand not only the implications of last Thursday's board meeting, but also the reasoning behind the actions of the Board, the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee and Student Government. Although the majority of us do not agree with the outcome, perhaps an explanation of the chain of events, many of which were not public, will put everything into perspective.

Shortly after I was elected Student Government president, I attended a meeting of the Ecology Committee, where we were informed that it was highly unlikely the Ecology Committee proposal would pass the board in its original form. The members of the Ecology Committee, however, were satisfied with the work they had done, and it was the consensus of the Ecology Committee that any changes in policy and subsequent recommendations to the board would be made by the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee. It was further resolved that the Ecology Committee wanted to maintain visitation privileges closely resembling those established within its report.

Between the Ecology Committee meeting and the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee, I spoke with several board members, many students and administrators and tried to establish some common ground. Although well aware of general student satisfaction with the current system, we had been informed that unless an alternative plan ac-

Guest Column



Marie-Louise Ramsdale

ceptable to the majority of the board members was proposed, Rep. Fair's motion for no overnight visitation, campus-wide with the exception of apartments, would in all likelihood be adopted. It was therefore with great reluctance that the members of the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee endorsed a proposal that allows for phase-out for freshmen in 1990 and sophomores in 1991 with continual reassessment and re-evaluation over the next few years as complete elimination of visitation, with exception of apartments, is addressed. It was essentially this proposal that the board passed last week.

Although this proposal is in my opinion, one that fails to consider the lifestyles of students, whom it will directly affect, and shows a considerable lack of regard for the students who will attend Carolina in the future, there essentially

was no other choice for students. All other options and concerns were conveyed to the board, but as students we were in effect powerless. Once Rep. Fair turned that question of visitation into one of morality, we were unable to direct attention away from it. This case is a perfect example of legislation without voting representation, because we had no vote in this matter.

The question we must address now is where do we go from here? We do not believe that the fight for visitation is over, and as students, we need to remain strong and united for the remainder of the war. If nothing else, last Thursday's outcome bought students the time necessary to educate and to demonstrate to the people of this state that there is so much more to visitation than sex.

In retrospect, perhaps the most positive aspect of this entire issue has been that student interest has been raised. We are asking now that you do not become discouraged because there is so much left to do. This issue has proved that as students we do need a vote on the Board of Trustees, and we will begin to work for such a vote this summer. With a vote we will, in the future, be able to make motions and cast our ballots as students on the issues that affect us. We must move forward to this goal of a vote together. In closing, please remember my door is always open. There will also be an open forum to further discuss the outcome at 6 p.m. on Tuesday in the Russell House Theater.

"IT'S MADE IN THE U.S.A."



## The Gamecock

Best Non-daily Collegiate Newspaper, Southeastern Region  
Society of Professional Journalists, 1987-88

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## Letters to the editor

### Apathy hurts student rally

To the editor:  
This concerns the matter of what is being done toward the proposed visitation policy.

I went to Capstone Thursday to participate in a demonstration against the proposed visitation policy of Mike Fair. Taking in consideration of how large USC's student population is, I expected to see an enormous group of angry people picketing. Instead there were only maybe 50 people, and 10 of them were reporters. The crowd was quietly sitting under some trees, holding up three posterboards that said "Students for Individual Morality." Don't get me wrong. I'm not putting those who participated in the demonstration down, but instead those people who didn't attend. It's pretty pathetic, or should I say apathetic. The people who didn't attend might not care now, but they'll be doing a lot of bitching next semester when their lives are governed differently.

Students of USC, the time is now to express yourselves. There is nothing you can do about it once it has happened. Don't just sit to the wayside and let someone bulldoze over your rights. Fight back and show them that you care what happens in your life.

Remember the old saying that "children should be seen and not heard." We're not children anymore.

David R. Gooldy  
Biology junior

### Visitation not top priority

To the editor:  
For the past couple of weeks I have been following the articles in *The Gamecock* about all the ruckus over changing the USC visitation rules. I would like to say that I am very glad to see the students of USC getting in-

involved in something they feel should be left up to them to decide.

Wouldn't the time Rep. Mike Fair and the Board of Trustees spent on this controversy be better used to bring tuition costs or crime on campus under control? I've been a student at USC for four years. The tuition has almost doubled, and crime continues to be a major concern.

Kelly Logan  
Marketing senior

### Fair against heterosexuals

To the editor:

I, as a Christian heterosexual, would like to thank Rep. Mike Fair for his efforts with regard to USC's "no opposite sex" visitation policy. I, however, have only one concern. What about the gay population at USC? As a result of your self-righteous, narrow-minded morality, 90 percent of the university's population has been discriminated against. Consequently, your policy has favored gays and lesbians attending this university.

Perhaps this was a slight oversight. I certainly hope so, but it still does not change the fact that the policy he proposed still exists waiting to be passed. In all actuality, there was not a problem with the existing visitation policy. Mike Fair's proposal has made 2,600 gays and lesbians extremely happy. This is 10 percent of the total population of 26,435 adults on the university's campus (as quoted by the secretary to the USC Board of Trustees). The 10 percent homosexual population was quoted by the Gay and Lesbian Student Association serving the Carolina campus.

I would like to also address the fact that there are 112,614 students at the various state-supported universities and colleges in South Carolina (as quoted by the S.C. Commission for Higher Education). I am not sure if it has occurred to Rep. Fair and other legislators or not, but most of these 112,614 students are tax-paying, voting residents of South Carolina. In a letter to the editor of *The State*

newspaper on April 13, Leslie Toole stated that she was a tax-paying citizen and, "As a taxpayer, I do not condone a university allowing its students to do whatever they choose while my money supports it." Well, Toole, we pay taxes as well, and I'm sure as the fine, upstanding, moral tax-paying citizen that you are, you can appreciate our position that all taxpayers should be heard.

After all, our country was founded on the basis of individual rights and the freedom of choice, not the actions of reactionary zealots like Toole and Fair, which will only serve to destroy our basic rights that have been taken for granted for so long.

Alan Hamilton  
English sophomore  
Joseph Myers  
Political science sophomore

### Letter writer overzealous

To the editor:  
The overzealous letter of Sheldon Edwards concerning the Confederate flag (*The Gamecock*, April 14) requires response.

The ideology that motivated the secession of the Southern states was states' rights. While it is equally true that the states' rights in the minds of many decision makers of that time was the "right" to perpetuate white supremacy, it is inaccurate to say "they were all fools representing a sick and illogical ideology." It is a fallacy to say that an individual's motivation for an ideology, if indeed illogical, makes the ideology itself illogical.

I am neither a "good ole boy" nor a racist, but it does matter to me how many South Carolinians were killed in battle, as I'm sure it was important to their families and sweethearts.

I would like to remind the readers as well that the founders of this nation were also "illegal soldiers under an illegal flag." A revolutionary's cause should not be invalidated simply because he is a revolutionary.

Michael V. Hammond  
First-year law student

### Headline lacks article's point

To the editor:  
Regarding a story on the front page of the April 11 issue, I found it somewhat upsetting that a newspaper with a circulation size of *The Gamecock* would be so careless with its headlines.

The title, "Tens of thousands rally in favor of abortion," is hardly representative of the purposes or the views of the people involved in the rally, which is so colorfully described in the story the title is supposed to introduce. Those thousands of people were marching in Washington to advocate a woman's right to have an abortion and not to advocate abortion itself. There is a significant difference.

Those who advocate a woman's right to have an abortion are advocating the principle of choice in regard to an individual's control over his/her own body. This in no way necessitates having an abortion, but merely the opportunity to decide for oneself, according to one's own ethical and moral code. According to the pro-choice movement, no one has the right to force a woman to do anything with her body that she does not want to do. This may entail giving her the choice to have an abortion, but it also entails the right to choose to carry the pregnancy to full term. There are those within the movement who personally disagree with the method of abortion to resolve the situation of an unplanned pregnancy, but in turn, they agree that each individual must have the right to make this decision for herself.

It would be to your paper's great advantage, as well as to your readers', that more care is taken in striking up a bold and catchy headline. Whether it be for a homegrown story or a story that originates with a large wire service, there is no excuse for sloppy journalism.

Jo M. Render  
Graduate student, international studies

Letters Policy: *The Gamecock* will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at a maximum, 250 to 300 words long. Guest editorials should not exceed 500 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for style or possible libel. *The Gamecock* will not withhold names under any circumstance.