

Money

Student Government should create effective book exchange

Although at first glance it all seems like a step backward, the removal of the book exchange bulletin board this week was the right move. Perhaps Student Government can try again and get it right.

The concept of a textbook exchange as a means of fighting high prices at area bookstores has been around for a long time. Each semester it seems that prices for texts spiral even higher, and students have no choice but to pay. At the end of each semester, they sell back many of their books to the stores, which offer a measly sum for the used texts, but manage to sell those same used books next semester at outrageous prices.

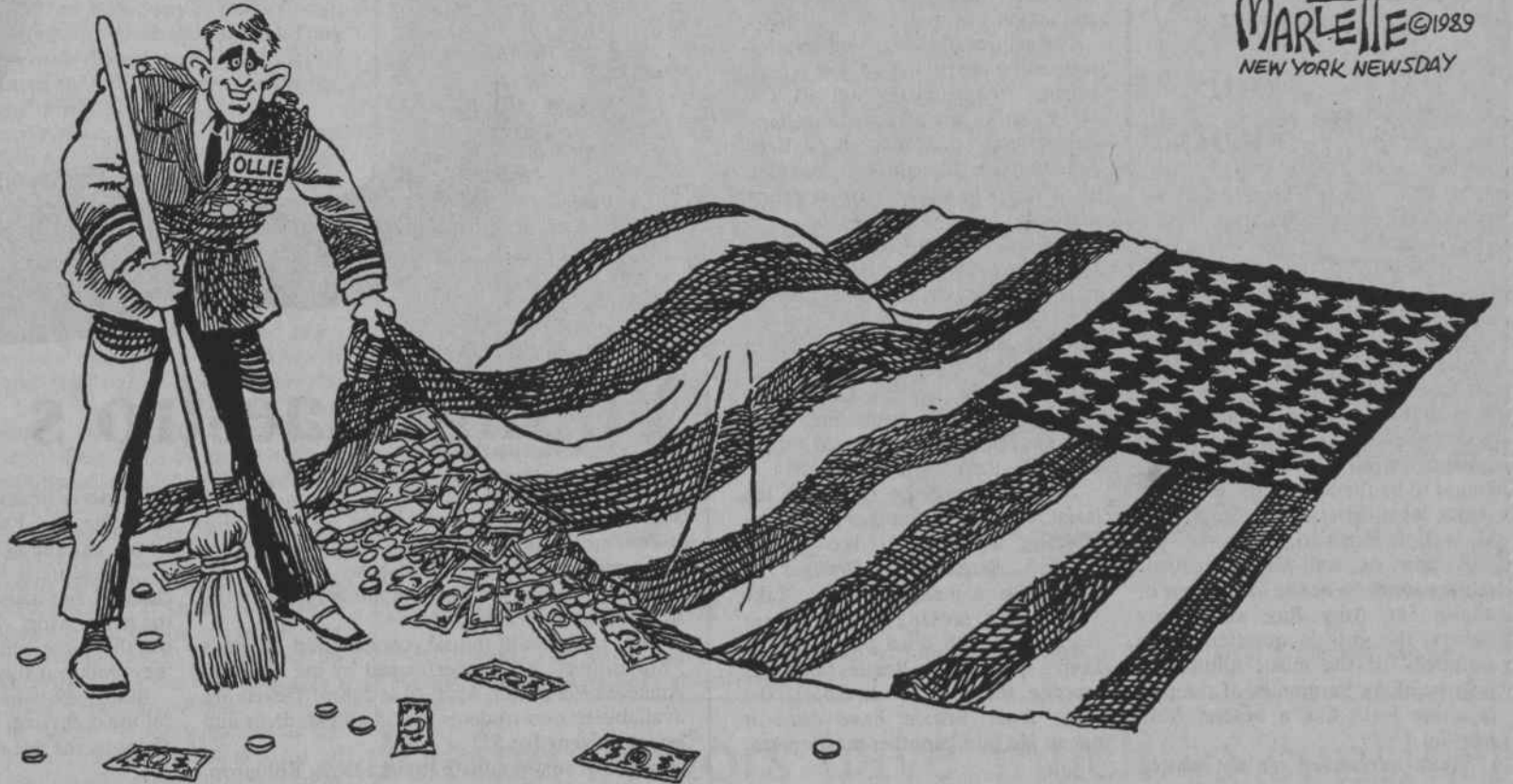
The solution appears simple enough: cut out the middle man. If students sell books to each other, they all save money in the long run. The only hitch is starting a system that students can use and rely on to exchange textbooks.

During its waning weeks earlier this semester, the administration of James Franklin, former S.G. president, put up a bulletin board on the first floor of the Russell House. Its purpose was to allow students to advertise what books they had for sale and how much they were asking.

But the bulletin board was a pathetic fiasco, simply because it failed to attract students. And if it had, it would have been overwhelmed — a university the size of USC needs more than one bulletin board to run a successful exchange program. In the end, the only function the bulletin board served was to let Franklin claim he had fulfilled one of his campaign promises, when he really had not.

Franklin's successor, Marie-Louise Ramsdale, wisely decided to take down the bulletin board and take another look at the possibilities of a textbook exchange. She said this week that she is committed to creating an effective program that would last.

It will take a serious effort to establish an exchange that will appeal to students, but it is an effort worth pursuing. With hard work, perhaps Student Government can indeed serve students, providing them with a system that can help them exchange textbooks — and save money.



MARLETTE ©1989
NEW YORK NEWS-DAY

Bond between mother and child touching

There is nothing more inherently beautiful and touching than the sight of a woman holding a small child. It's a bond, a warmth and a feeling unlike anything else on earth. It's something only women can really understand and men can merely envy.

Maybe because it's spring, when emotions run high, or maybe because I'm getting older, but lately I've noticed more the glow of a woman with child.

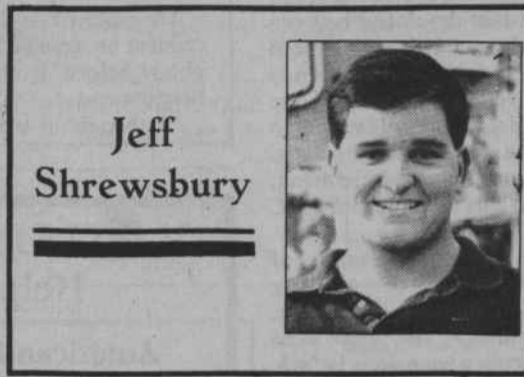
I've always seen the mother-child bond as something special, but as I grow emotionally and intellectually, I've begun to become moved by the sight.

I first noticed it St. Patrick's Day in Five Points this past March.

I was in Five Points with some friends enjoying the weather and the Irish cheer, and we had stopped by the side of the street to rest. We sat watching people walk by, joking and laughing, and reveled in being a part of a wonderful day.

As I sat near the curb, a couple with 11-week-old twins sat down next to us. A young woman sitting next to them began a conversation with the parents who were bottle feeding the two children. When this lovely dark-haired woman saw the children, she began to smile broadly and moved closer to the couple who were so proud and happy of their babies that they were happy to show them off. Soon the woman was holding one of the babies in her arms.

She cradled the little girl, wrapped in a blanket with her eyes closed and sucking on the bottle,



Jeff Shrewsbury

and held her close to her chest. She had such care to her movements that the child felt no discomfort. She held the baby's head in her palm and gazed at her face.

She began to rock with the child and hum soothingly as she swayed slowly.

Soon tears began to roll down this woman's cheek. She was happy, but she was crying. She was so affected by the moment that emotions took over and welled tears in the corners of her eyes.

I think it was the most touching moment I have ever seen. Here was this woman, who had no children of her own, as she was young and unmarried, sitting with a stranger's child and holding it as if it were her own. You could see the bond and the — for lack of a better term — love between them.

It seemed so amazing that with all these people milling around, the woman was completely oblivious to anything but the child.

It was truly a beautiful moment that I won't soon forget.

This scene made me think about families and the sacrifices parents go through to raise children, but the sacrifices and the pain that every parent endures seemed to fade in comparison with the bond and the warmth a baby, helpless and unexpected, in the arms of a woman can exude.

Men can love children as much as women, and they can have a bond, but it's a different bond than that of women. Men can love children, but they can never feel like they were a physical part of them. Women carry children. They went through the physical stress and pain of birth. They went through the hormonal changes. They went through the feeling of supporting another living being.

Men can only imagine what that was like. And it is this distinction that makes the bond between woman and child so different than man with child.

A woman can be physically beautiful all her life, but she is never more emotionally and internally beautiful and content than when she is with a child in her arms.

It's an inner emotional strength men can never know.

I'm jealous.

"THAT'LL BE OUR STORY TOO—GIVING UP ILL-GOTTEN GAINS WOULD AMOUNT TO A 'PAY CUT'"



Letters to the editor

U.S. should lift embargo

To the editor:
This letter is in response to the editorial in Monday's issue of *The Gamecock*. Three obvious points were made:

- 1) U.S. mindset toward Cuba remains locked in antiquated cold-war hysteria;
- 2) the United States should end the economic embargo against Cuba as a first step toward improved relations between our countries;
- 3) the trade embargo and other U.S. cold-war policies toward Cuba have driven the island nation further into the clutches of communism.

When reading this editorial, what immediately came to mind was how these three points even better apply to Nicaragua. The Ronald Reagan Administration successfully escalated the Nicaraguan revolution into East-West terms. Clearly, Soviet involvement with the Central American nation was minimal until the Reagan Administration interfered by its aggression against the Nicaraguan people.

The U.S. war against Nicaragua has devastated the Nicaraguan economy (not to mention the billions of U.S. taxpayers' dollars poured into Reagan's war). Nicaragua was forced to escalate its military defense. After all, the United States invaded and/or occupied Nicaraguan soil many times since the 19th century. The damage already has been done by Reagan and his right-wing supporters; therefore, I will not address what we should have done over the past eight years. I will address instead what policies George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker should pursue. The trade embargo against Nicaragua should be dropped. This embargo and the Reagan war have driven Nicaragua, with nowhere else to turn, into the hands of the Soviets. Contrary to Republican rhetoric, the Sandinistas have shown some democratic and free-market tendencies. The Sandinistas were elected and plan to hold more elections in early 1990. Nicaragua has expressed its desire to resume good relations with the United States.

Not only does the United States have an opportunity to improve relations with Cuba, but it also has a

moral obligation to do so with war-torn Nicaragua.

Michael Yoder
Graduate student, geography

Queries plague fusion concept

To the editor:
Is fusion at room temperature everything it is claimed to be by its supporters, or is it the incredible hoax that its critics claim? There is no sure way of knowing until after the scientists from the University of Utah publish their findings, thus allowing others to verify it or denounce it scientifically. What would fusion at room temperature entail, assuming that it does truly occur?

There are many possibilities that can be brought up. Among them is the belief that fusion is breaking known laws of physics and the belief that room-temperature fusion is the answer to mankind's energy-dependence blues. These beliefs, while possibly being true, will most likely be found untrue in the near future.

For fusion to break the laws of physics, it would have to show an increase in order compared to the expected overall drive toward entropy. Many claim this is the case. That this fusion reaction is increasing the order of its environment without an even greater rise in entropy seems (from the description of the experiment) to be true, except that consideration over the possibility of degradation of the component metals, palladium and platinum, has not been voiced. If degradation does occur, it would explain the rise in order by the production of extra energy and the fusion of the deuterium with a possibly large loss of order in the structure of palladium and/or platinum.

What about the benefits of fusion in supplying energy for all mankind? If the possibility of degradation does become fact, the creation of huge amounts of energy must be tempered with the eventual loss of the component materials. If, on the other hand, degradation does not occur, one must realize that the component materials might become too expensive for use in the production of electricity. All one has to do is look at the

shocking rise in the price of palladium to realize that this is all too possible an outcome to simply dismiss. This may once again show how human greed can overshadow the potential advantage for all mankind.

Andrew J. Lawrence
Chemistry/international relations sophomore

Upperclassmen get bad deal

To the editor:

I am writing in regard to the article published in *The Gamecock* concerning housing and the displacement of juniors and seniors from their preferred roommate spots in those dormitories.

This problem, obviously caused by the new visitation policy, has forced many students who were satisfied with their hall-bath dormitories to relocate to suite-style and apartment-style dorms. Also, those students who lived in Burney and Douglas, the new freshmen dorms, got first pick of those dorms they wanted to live in. Of course, many students in these dorms were rising sophomores, but they were given first priority to live in Capstone and Columbia Hall, previously set aside for mostly upperclassmen.

Many students, including myself, have had to change their living plans and either choose a less accommodating dorm or search for off-campus housing, an often unaffordable alternative. As a rising junior, I should be given the privilege of living in Capstone or Columbia Hall. Also, my situation has been very unfortunate. By being bumped out of my room in Capstone, I have been separated from my roommate and my friends in the adjoining suite. Now I must live in Sims for another year, without air conditioning and with someone I do not know — someone I hear was bumped out of her Capstone room, too.

I realize I am not the only one in this unfortunate situation, but I hope I speak for people when I urge that something be done with the preferred-roommate plan. When a student lists a preferred roommate, it sure would be nice to think that this

move is not a waste of ink on paper. A dorm is a student's substitute for a home. If we cannot guarantee comfort in our home away from home, why should we be comfortable with staying at USC?

M. Celeste Burch
Psychology sophomore

Programs need canteen space

To the editor:
Since Eric Ward was unable to talk with me about the background on the proposed conversion of the canteen in Gambrell before writing his article Monday, it might be useful to clarify a few points.

The proposed conversion was the only relief we in Gambrell could identify for the growing space crunch in that building. The increase in students, classes and computers has reached a critical point in Gambrell. The proposed conversion would give four large offices, one for history and three for GINT. The offices would be used for graduate students, not faculty. They will accommodate 16 to 24 GTAs and GRAs.

The proposed conversion would necessitate moving the vending machines from the canteen to the lower level of Gambrell. All the vending machines can be accommodated on that level. We could not, however, locate any space for the tables that would meet the fire marshal's codes. Anyone using the vending machines and wanting a place to sit would need to go to one of the three large foyers in Gambrell. There are benches, but no tables, in all three central lobbies.

We are sorry about the loss of tables at which to sit, eat and study, but given the serious space needs of our programs in Gambrell, there seemed to be no other solution. Contrary to some rumors circulating, the proposed conversion would not affect the nearby canteen in the Welsh Humanities Building and the sidewalk tables by the reflecting pool. These are completely separate from the Gambrell canteen and would be unaffected by the proposal.

Carol McGinnis Kay
Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences

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