

Future

After difficult year, university must work toward improvement

Another academic year at USC is rapidly coming to a close, and with this conclusion comes a time to reflect on the past year. The 1988-89 school year has been a time of soaring highs and plummeting lows at USC, but the university has survived through it all. With dedication and hard work, it can get better.

The year began with the hullabaloo over the change in moniker to "The USC." Although the transformation is essentially irrelevant, it does indicate a change in attitude. But it will take more than a meaningless cosmetic alteration to make this university as good as it can be. It will take real action.

This school year has also been plagued with the perpetual problem of money. USC and this state's lawmakers need to work together to bring more funding to the university. The effects of a lack of funding from state governments will linger into the next century through tuition increases that leave qualified students unable to attend USC. Budget problems will also leave USC behind in the area of faculty salaries, and the quality of education will not improve. USC's library will also slip. The bottom line is that you get what you pay for, and if lawmakers do not provide adequate funding for USC, then the university will fall back into mediocrity.

The athletic department had more than its share of problems this year. Gamecock squads in almost every sport performed well, but at the same time, allegations of steroid use tainted the university's reputation and cast doubt on the athletic department. USC must ensure that the athletic programs are clean of drugs and corruption and work to restore the university's good name.

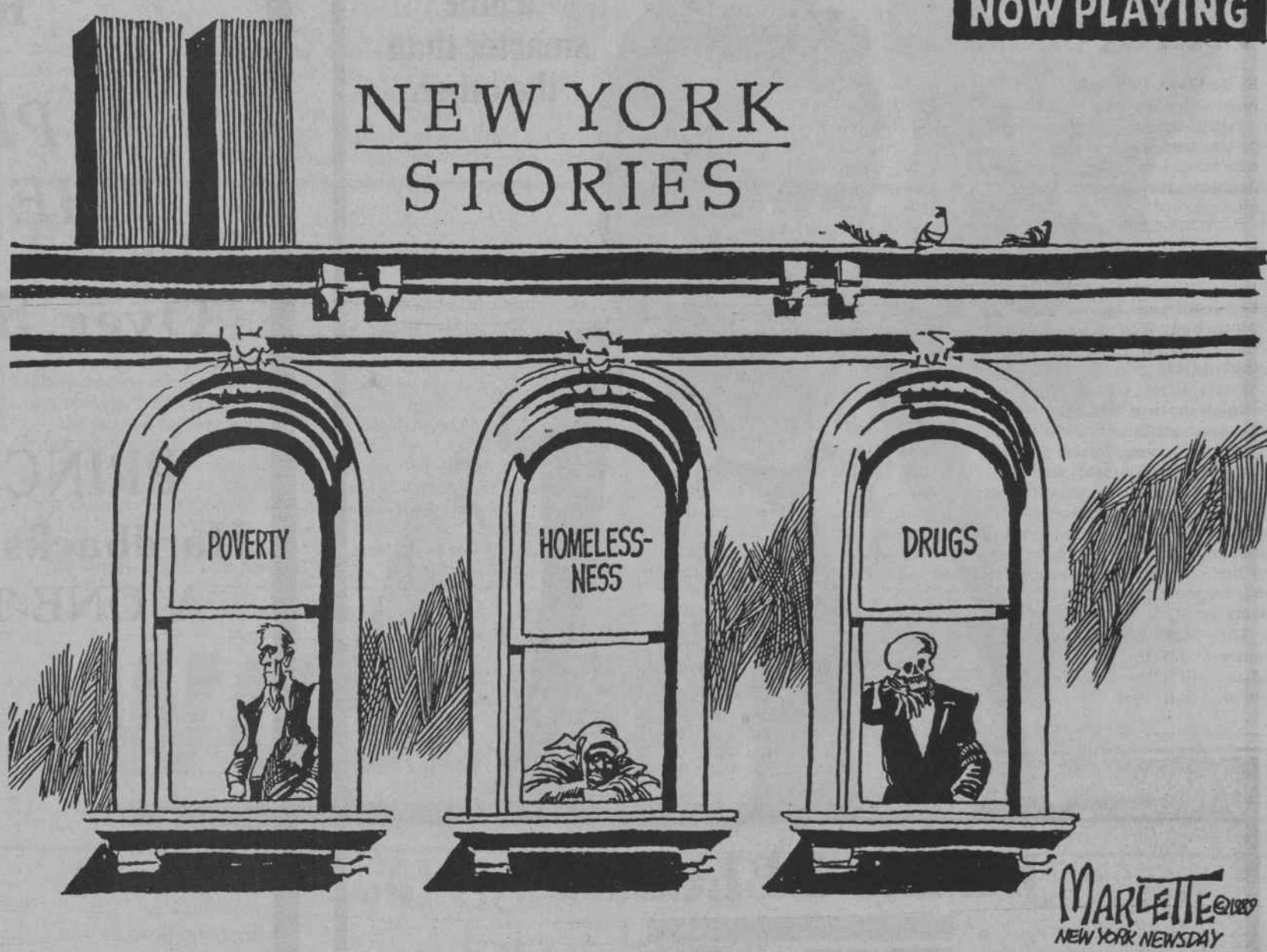
The death of Joe Morrison earlier this semester came as a terrible shock to the entire university community. Despite the football team's problems, Morrison will be remembered as a man who brought a winning tradition to USC. He will be missed.

But all was not tragic at USC. The opening of the Koger Arts Center signaled a new era for the university. Students can now enjoy excellent performances at a facility designed for them. Academics continued to improve as USC's graduate business program (among others) received praise.

Ultimately, it has been a tough year for USC. Still, the university community has weathered it all, and hopes are high for the future. Perhaps those hopes can become reality.

NOW PLAYING

NEW YORK STORIES



Graduation conjures fear of fading away

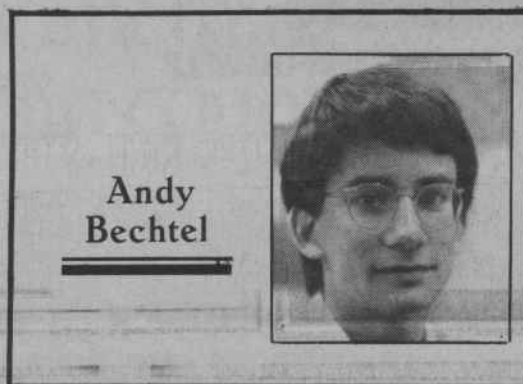
"Memories. You're talking about memories."
— Harrison Ford in *Blade Runner*

The last time I graduated from a school, I was surrounded by marine mammals bobbing restlessly in their tanks, and the backdrop for the ceremony was a small lake littered with props for a hillbilly ski show that was never performed.

That was in June 1985 at Sea World in Orlando, Fla., my hometown. Down there, some lucky high schoolers get to hear fractured valedictory speeches at local tourist attractions under the early morning sun. I was one of those fortunate students who got to sit in the Florida heat for two hours as the black cap and gown absorbed the sun's rays, creating a miniature greenhouse effect in each person.

I recall not a single word of those addresses that day, but I do remember tossing that cheap piece of cloth-covered cardboard into the sky with everyone else — save my friend Scott, who simply clutched his to his chest and stood in silence.

Afterward, Scott and I floated in the cool water of a swimming pool, bobbing restlessly like the whales, otters and seals at Sea World. We talked for a while about what it all meant, but failed to reach any moment of clarity.



Andy Bechtel

But we agreed that we were going to evaporate from the legacy of high school — the senselessness of hall passes, the facism of the principal as Big Brother, the profound agony of algebra, et cetera.

Something else that sticks in my mind is what Susan, my pal from elementary through high school, wrote in my yearbook: "And will we fade away? I think not. I know we will keep in touch."

But the tragic tale of time reveals that Susan

and I have not kept in touch. We have both evaporated from each other. I wonder how many people who tell me the same thing nowadays will disappear, and I wonder how many people I tell that, only to fade away. It'll be just as much my fault as theirs, just as it was between me and Susan.

Then again, we do keep in contact with the precious few. I have kept in touch with Scott, and, as he wrote in that same yearbook, we shall be lifetime friends. Those words stand true four years later and will remain valid.

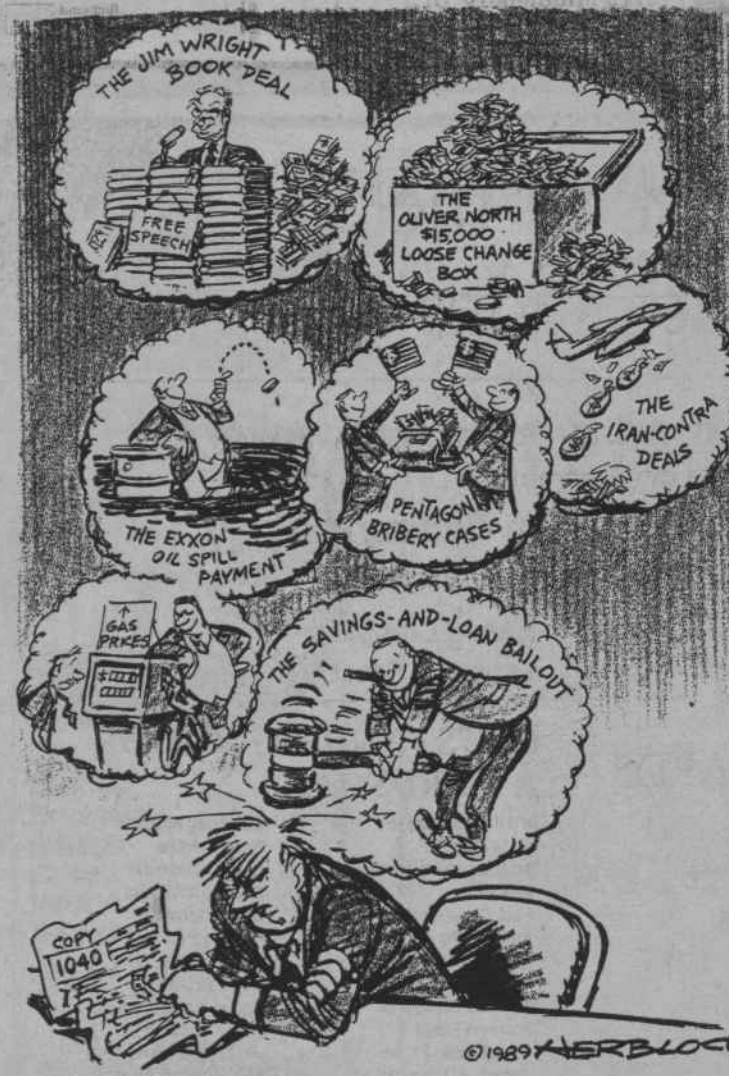
And again, I will keep some lifetime friends from USC, people who cannot be allowed to fade away. I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

But alas, all of our beings shall once again slowly evaporate across this campus. Resistance is useless. The process is inevitable, and I have already surrendered.

My hands?! Where are my hands?! Am I already fading out of the university's landscape? Have we won the victory over ourselves? Do we love James Holderman?

So there you have it: the end. Hasta la vista, USC. Goodbye to all my beautiful friends. Take care, feed the people and stay alive.

REFLECTIONS OF A PUBLIC TAXPAYER



Letters to the editor

Soccer games need regulation

To the editor:

I am an international student at USC. I am from Spain, and like most Europeans, I am a great soccer fan. For many people in Europe and around the world, there is no feeling comparable to seeing two sides on a football ground playing in a national or an international tournament; it is a sensation I have often tried to explain to my American friends.

I understand the news that arrived from England, reporting the killing of 93 people during one of the semifinals of the English F.A. Cup. Events of this sort may sound completely foreign to the American public, but Europeans are getting more and more used to them.

I remember images of the deaths of more than 30 Italians at the hands of Liverpool hooligans in the finals of the European Cup in Brussels some years ago. Those television images were seen live around the world, shocking everybody. As a consequence, tough penalties were imposed on English clubs, and the International Football Association seemed to say: "We are going to make sure this will not happen again!" However, seeing the news from the stadium in Sheffield, I realized it had indeed happened again, only this time with the result of twice the number of victims.

To those who fail to understand the nature of these events, I shall say they not only prove there is something wrong with football as a sport, but also with the society that allows these things to happen.

Football is clearly, at least in Europe, a reflection of a social and political situation. Unemployment-stricken countries such as Britain, Italy or Spain have a representative group of people who live and breathe nothing but football, people who have given up hope of raising their living standards, people sometimes

without family or friends outside their local football club. For these people, the colors of their team are little less than a religious symbol.

For this reason, it is absolutely necessary to revise the regulations that aim at controlling football fans, but what is more important is that we study the origin of the problem. The origin is not in football itself, but in the socio-political situation whose reflection shows pictures of violence and boundless atrocity.

The cure for these latest waves of cruel fanaticism in football is a change of philosophy of dehumanized society, a system that diverts people's attention from their political, economic problems to sport, making sport a way of channeling their repressed anger and frustration that could otherwise provoke political unrest. The killing of the Liverpool fans by the fanaticism of fellow supporters shows there is a fundamentally political and social problem of a magnitude that last-minute inquiries by British authorities will not be able to hide.

Manuel Lirola
Graduate student,
Comparative literature

Abortion kills innocent life

To the editor:

Once again, the controversy over abortion is front-page news. Why is it that after 16 years of widespread practice, countless court decisions supporting this basic reproductive right and the staunch abortion defense of the U.S. Congress, do the legions of pro-life malcontents continue to bring this unpleasant subject before the American people? The answer, in my opinion, could be summed up in two words. It is because of the Sound.

Many don't hear it. Some stubbornly refuse to listen to it. Others ignore it. But to an ever-growing

number of Americans, the sound grows louder each day.

It is the cry of injustice, the sound of the weak and helpless, alone and unloved being ground into the dust by a society drunk with the wine of self-gratification. Can you hear them?

They are the unwanted babies of Columbia — 8,000 per year who have no advocate, who have no legal defense, but silently await their execution from the prison of their mother's womb. Most are gone by the time they reach 14 weeks; little arms and little legs ripped from their torsos by the powerful vacuum machine in the hands of the calloused abortionist.

And they are the rejected babies of Atlanta, where many survive up to nine months before meeting their cruel fate! Can you hear them, America? The cold, sharp scalpel is doing its work. Too large to fit through the pelvic opening intact, they must be pulled from their cells piece by piece. Can you hear them as their innocent little skulls are being crushed by the powerful forceps? The sound is deafening.

And they are the little ones in 1,000 different cities whose silent screams beg for a reply. Twenty-five million in 16 years. Every 15 seconds another lost. Like the slave at the end of the taskmaster's whip and the Jew under the Gestapo's boot, their only hope is that someone will hear the Sound.

Wayne E. Mitchell
Columbia resident

Rep. Fair must be removed

To the editor:

I first want to apologize for writing about Mike Fair; but as long as he continues to force his lifestyle on others, I feel that it is necessary to

criticize his actions.

Last year, he attempted to justify his initiating of a ban on overnight stays by those of the opposite sex by saying he was worried the university could be held liable for AIDS cases. Earlier this year, he justified his opinion by saying his daughter would be attending Carolina. Now he is attempting to justify his actions on the grounds of his religious convictions.

Fair says he doesn't try to convert people. This makes absolutely no sense. Is converting others to Christianity not one of the priorities of a Christian? Was this not the purpose of the disciples? While he may not try to convert others to follow his faith through reasoning, he attempts to force others to follow his idea of a Christian lifestyle through legislation.

Fair calls pre-marital sex unhealthy, immoral and illegal. He is causing sex to be unhealthy by trying to remove condoms from the dorms. Pre-marital sex is immoral to him because it conflicts with his morals, which are not necessarily the same morals possessed by each of the students he is supposed to be representing. It is illegal because of others like him who force their values on people they should be representing.

Because of Fair, fewer than 15 people have signed up for dormitories designated for no overnight, opposite-sex visitation; 300 additional students have said they will move off campus if the proposal is put into effect, and the university is expecting more disciplinary problems and is being forced to employ a larger residence hall staff and modify buildings.

Not only is this man a problem to the students, he is a hindrance to the university. I believe it would be a benefit to everyone, including his daughter, if he were removed from his position with the university.

Scott Deans
English junior

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