

## Oops

## Tennessee weapons plant needs better way of moving Tritium

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is responsible for the production and development of nuclear weapons and is one of the most secure government installations in the nation, lost three-quarters of a shipment of Tritium, the most crucial ingredient in nuclear weapons.

They LOST a part of a shipment of Tritium. And if that isn't bad enough, the shipment was lost ON the base itself — between two buildings.

No one knows exactly how much of the shipment was lost or where it went, but the fact remains that the key ingredient to making a nuclear explosive was misplaced, or stolen.

If it was misplaced, it shows the ineptitude of the planning and handling of this sensitive material. If it was stolen, which is the scariest of the two scenarios, it shows just how vulnerable the United State's military and security installations are. And if it was stolen, imagine the consequences of allowing radioactive, explosive material to fall into terrorists' hands on U.S. soil.

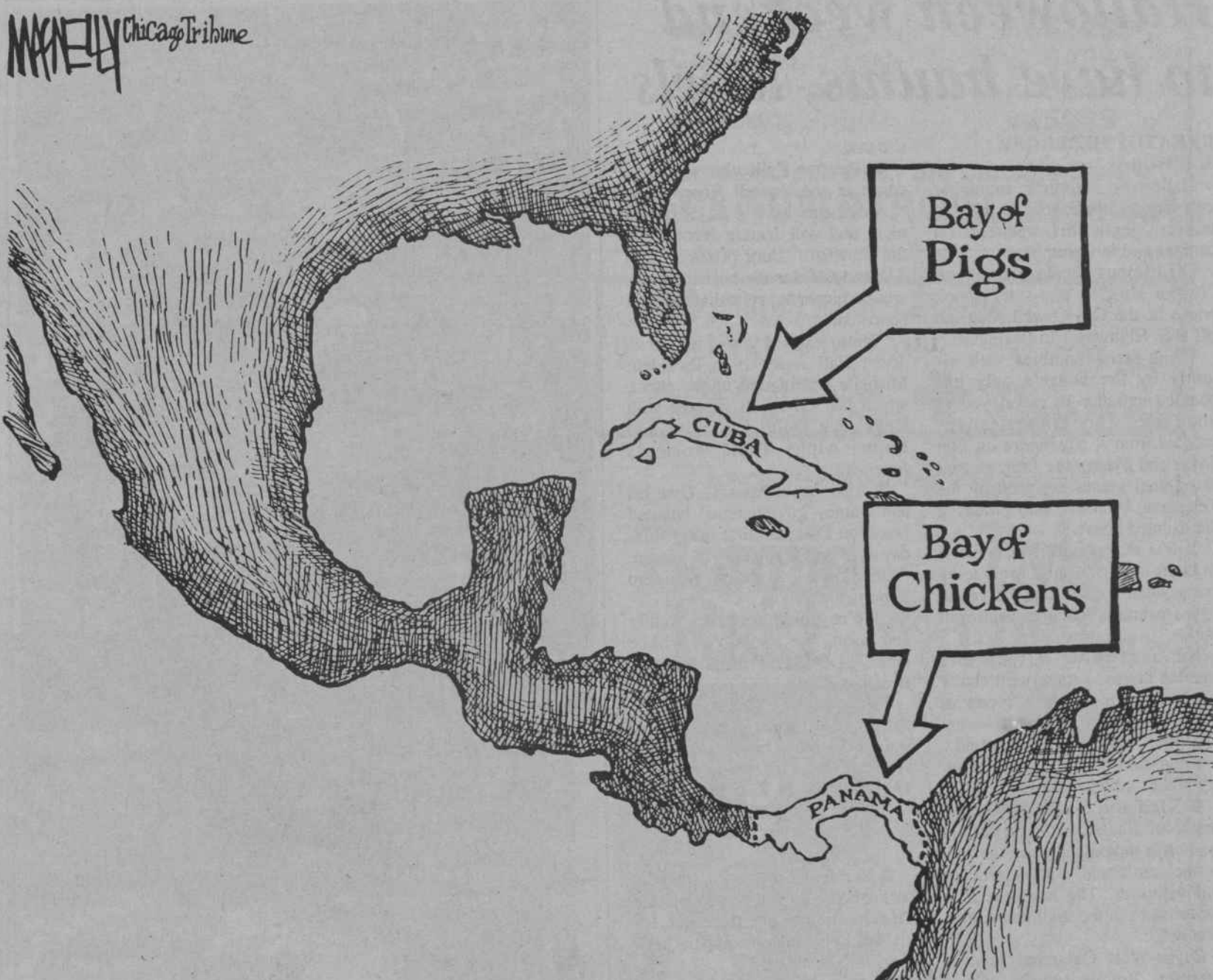
The possibilities are frightening.

Regardless of how it was lost or where it is, this should send a big message to the people in charge of national security that something needs to be done.

The laboratory needs to revamp its handling methods and security when moving this material. It is an inconceivable blunder to let this stuff out of sight. It should be treated like a president.

If the U.S. is going to continue to make this substance and continue to use it, it should not continue to lose it. The consequences are too great.

MANNELLY Chicago Tribune



## ITEM: U.S. OFFICIALS HELPING ADVISE U.S.S.R. ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS



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## It's sweet when American justice prevails

There are certain special times in life when it becomes easier to lean back into your soft easy chair and smile, confident there is justice in the world.

All too often, we Americans, and humans in general, are bombarded with news of the bad and the ugly, and we tend to forget the good. We hear about murders and suicides and bank robberies and tax evaders and injustice.

We hear all about the guys who embezzled a \$1 million from the children's fund and skipped off to Rio. We hear all about spoiled athletes getting out of a rape charge. And we see celebrities maneuver their way out of an assault and battery charge because they are "THEM."

We are so inundated with what's wrong with our society that we forget the system does

work. And it's those times when the system works that we feel good about the place we live and the whole scheme of things. It's an immensely satisfying feeling for the common Joe to hear about the rich celebrities being punished just like the regular people.

There is rightness in the world, but we seldom hear of that. When we do, we smile.

Case in point: Zsa Zsa Gabor and Jim Bakker.

This week, these two entirely different people were in entirely similar situations. Both are celebrities and have been, or are, on the top of the world. And they both committed crimes. Both deny it, but both were convicted.

Zsa Zsa, as we know, slapped a police officer in California when he tried to write her a ticket. And Bakker, well, he used his status as a so-called giver of salvation to make himself a modern-day Caligula — wallowing in his own lavish vice.

Well, this week they were both convicted and sentenced to do time. Zsa Zsa got three days at a shelter for homeless women and Bakker got 45 years and a half million dollar fine.

Because of the mind set we have about the way the system works and how the rich and shameless seem to always get away with "mur-

der," normally we would have expected these two to get out of their predicaments. We would have expected they would have maybe gotten a slap on the wrist.

But they didn't. They got spanked on their bottoms.

Bakker's sting will last longer, but they were both deservedly sweet.

When the world watched as Bakker was led from the courthouse in shackles, it finally hits us — there is justice in the world sometimes. Bakker took the trust and money of the believers and squandered them on himself and now he is paying for it.

Zsa Zsa only hurt herself, and the cop of course, but she thought she was above the law. She figured she was Zsa Zsa and could do any damn thing she wanted. Well, she was wrong, too.

America's system works more often than it fails, but we hear more about the failures and are used to it. It is weeks like this when these little wrongs are righted that we sink deeper in our favorite chair and feel so much more content about life because there is at least a little justice in the world.



Jeff Shrewsbury

## Letters to the editor

## Gays can be Christian too

To the editor:

Mr. Aaron's comments in *The Gamecock* on Oct. 13 about gay men and lesbians illustrates why coming out is so important, and so difficult. If you've never experienced that kick-in-the-skull sensation of being hated for who you are, by someone who doesn't know you, let me tell you it does hurt. Please don't add insult by claiming that your quote about putting me to death isn't hateful.

Many lesbians and gay men cherish their religious heritage, and there are as many of us in the leadership of every faith. Growing up gay in an often hostile world, one spiritual lesson we learn is to love and accept people as God made them, instead of trying to remake them in our own image.

Painfully, your passage of murder is there in Leviticus. And it's not the only such reference. But these words reflect the prejudices of their authors, their cultures and their translators. They are not the words of a God of love. If we imperfect human beings can be patient and open with people we disagree with, even with people who say we should be put to death because it's in the Bible, surely an all-loving and all-capable God can manage to be half as kind as we can.

Being gay is not what I believe or what I do. It's who I am. I have in no sense chosen to feel what I feel, any more than you choose

who you want to be attracted to. Though, I wouldn't now change if I could. You might as well put me to death for having brown eyes.

If you say your God is going to reject me, then that's the way it will have to be. No matter who I sleep with to please the Almighty, I will still be gay. I don't think I can fool God by lying.

I spent my childhood in fear. Afraid that God and people were really as mean as you say they are. Afraid they would hurt me if they found out who I was. Only after I began to come out to friends and family did I finally discover that in fact they are not hateful; they have continued to love and accept me for who I am even if it was new to some of them at first. I can only hope that Mr. Aaron and his God will someday be able to do the same.

Wayne Johnson  
Public health graduate

## Hugo was not overblown

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Dan Jensen's letter concerning Hurricane Hugo. I take offense to his statement about "making Hugo out to be more than he was" because I have been to the coast, and I have seen the damage that was caused by this massive storm. It would be really difficult to exaggerate the problems that many areas of the state are still facing. Many people are without homes, and some lost

everything they had. Those in the state's harder-hit areas are still standing in lines to receive food and other supplies that will hopefully keep coming in from across the state and around the country. I realize that there are many other problems in the world, and I am concerned about them, but there are still countless problems that South Carolina must face in Hugo's aftermath. Unfortunately, those who had very little before the storm are suffering the most, and we cannot just forget about them now that Hugo has gone. All of the excitement is beginning to die down, so now is the time to continue our efforts and keep doing whatever we can to help those who are still in need and will be for many, many months to come.

Stephanie Myrick-Pendarvis  
Philosophy junior

## Articles are misinformed

To the editor:

Two articles have recently appeared in *The Gamecock* concerning black students and South Carolina College; the first, "Honors College Wants to Increase Black Enrollment," has led to several unfortunate misconceptions which could prove detrimental to recent efforts which had been successful in attracting black students to SCC.

First of all, the "very elitist, lily-white image" of SCC was an opinion expressed by many black students who resist invitations to

apply to the Honors College, not an opinion of Ms. Harrison, as the article suggested. It typifies our struggle to overcome a stereotype which inhibits many fine black students from engaging in an educational opportunity which would be very profitable to them.

In no way has the USC Admissions Office lowered its standards of admission to SCC for any group; however, it would be foolish to ignore the statistical evidence that blacks regularly perform at a higher academic level than their SAT scores usually indicate (*Black Issues in Higher Education, Chronicle of Higher Education*). Consequently, when examining the credentials of various underprivileged groups (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, the poor), we pay greater attention to the candidates actual academic record than to standardized test scores.

The relevant point is black students seem more likely to be frightened off by the 1200 SAT standard for SCC than white students. There are other criteria which are also considered when students apply to SCC (high school record, class rank/size, grade point average, AP/college prep courses taken, and — especially — motivation). ALL applicants are judged on such criteria, not only black students.

We appreciate *The Gamecock's* interest in SCC and our work for the entire USC community.

Reenea R. Harrison, Coordinator for Academic Affairs, SCC  
William A. Mould, Master, SCC

## The Gamecock

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