

## Flag burning

Flag burning law draws protest from real patriots around U.S.

At 12:01 a.m. this past Saturday, the new federal law banning flag burning took effect. At just about the same time in several different places in the country, people who have already sacrificed their minds and bodies for America in war defied that new law by burning a flag in protest. The people holding the matches were Vietnam veterans, and they were damn angry that the country they fought for has a law telling them how to be patriots.

Who would know better what makes a good patriot than someone who slogged through jungles during war dodging bullets and watching other patriots die? They are damn angry that the symbol of liberty and patriotism is being placed above patriots and liberty themselves.

The new law says it is illegal to "desecrate the flag of the United States." The veterans say the law is merely an infringement on their rights to express themselves. They say they wouldn't burn flags anyway, but they should have the right to do it if they want to.

And they're right. They should have that right.

This new law says, in effect, the flag itself is more important than the principles for which it waves. The law makes it clear that you will be a patriot in mind and action or you will be punished by the law. That goes against America's foundations.

Americans should be able to express themselves any way they want as long as they don't infringe on anyone else's right not to. This heinous act of burning the flag we love is nothing more than burning cloth that happens to have the symbol of liberty on it.

Just because some ignorant person burns a piece of cloth because he thinks he's making a bold statement, doesn't mean he's any less a patriot. He is merely expressing himself.

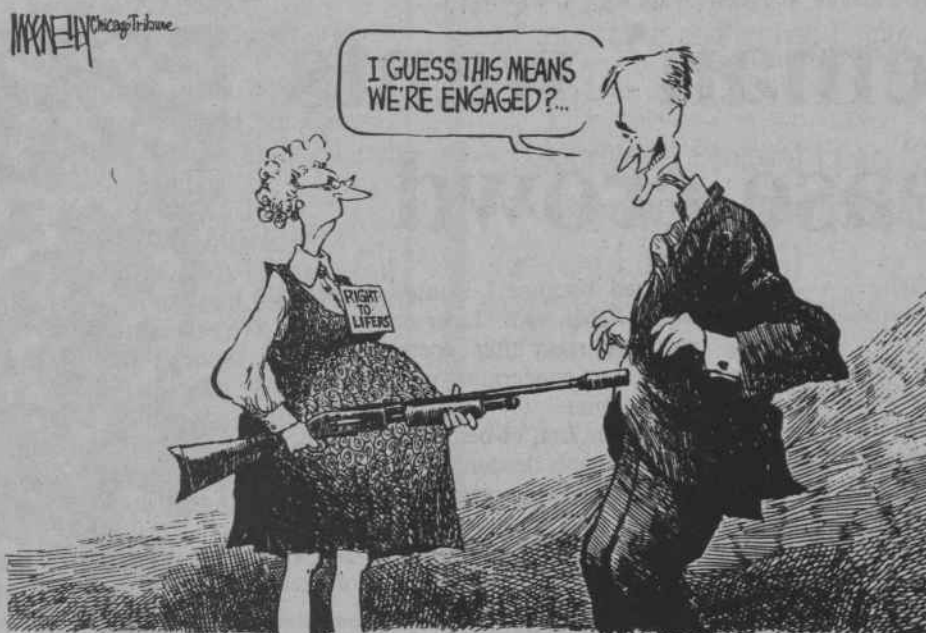
The symbols for what we believe in should not be forcibly put above what we believe in.

Some supporters of the new law say burning a flag illustrates exactly why the law is needed — because America is the only place you can do that and escape a firing squad.

But that's exactly why the law is not needed. Americans know they are in the freest country in the world and they don't need some law to make them show it.

The protests this weekend came from those who should not be questioned about their patriotism. They've made their sacrifice. And it is a slap in their faces and all the people who have ever died for the United States' ideals if we make laws saying how, when or where you can or cannot express your love of America's present policies or hatred of them.

If the protests continue, maybe Washington will get the message. More likely than not, however, the eggheads in Congress will try to sweep it under the rug and go on to the next blatantly political feather for their caps.



## Ellis fans got what they wanted — sort of

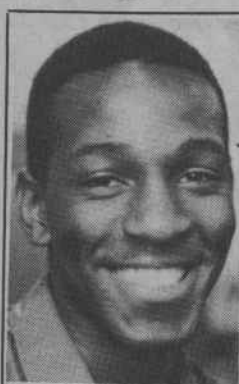
As Todd Ellis lay in pain on the grass of Williams-Brice Stadium Saturday, the victim of a N.C. State blow to the knee, a chilling irony was taking place.

For more than three seasons, Ellis has been the subject of blind criticism.

Even with a strong arm and leadership qualities to match, Ellis never blossomed into the All-America quarterback many fans expected him to be. If he had a bad game by their standards, there would be calls for his replacement.

Saturday, those calls were answered. There was an eerie hush at the stadium when Ellis remained on the ground after the other players had risen.

"Oh no!" the fan next to me shouted. "There



Wayne Washington

goes this season and next."

That statement, said even though the fan was obviously not aware of the fact that Ellis was closing out his career at USC this season, has a bit of truth to it.

Say Ellis bounces up from the ground and leads the Gamecocks to a stirring victory. Say the Gamecocks go on to win two of their next three games. USC would have finished the season at 8-2-1. Throw in the possibility that Ellis could have led his team to its first major bowl victory, and the Gamecocks would have been voted in the Top 20 at the end of the season.

And Top 20 teams have a much easier time recruiting great high school players than do 6-4-1 teams.

Strange, isn't it, how one play can mean so much.

The fans were disappointed to have their love-hate hero felled against the arch-rival Wolfpack.

Ellis' disappointment, however, was probably more acute. Here he was, under a new coach and the umpteenth offensive system he's had to adapt to, and he was steadily becoming the great quarterback he, more than anyone else,

wanted him to be.

Against East Carolina this season, Ellis changed the play at the line of scrimmage countless times, hitting his receivers when they were covered one-on-one. He took the sack instead of trying to force the ball into double coverage. He looked off defenders who were trying to read his eyes to determine where he was going to throw the ball.

But all the fans saw was the big numbers and the lopsided final score. Development, progress, leadership, they missed.

Sure, at this point in his career, Ellis could have been comparable to great college quarterbacks of the past like Miami's Vinny Testaverde or UCLA's Troy Aikman. But Ellis was a big-time quarterback behind a small-time offensive line in comparison to other major college football lines.

So, the third play of the 1989 N.C. State-USC game will always be remembered. It will be remembered as the play that determined a season.

But hopefully, it will someday be looked back upon as the play that made USC fans aware of how valuable the attributes loyalty and patience are.

## Letters to the editor

### Honors college is same for all

To the editor:

During my past three semesters here at The USC, there have been quite a few things that have brought my blood to boil; the parking situation, the new visitation policy and tuition increases just to name a few. But the occurrence which brings my silent acceptance of these situations to an end appeared in the Oct. 11 issue of *The Gamecock*.

As an Honors College sophomore, I applaud South Carolina College's realization of the need to increase black enrollment. I can attest to this through my own experiences. Having been enrolled in eight SCC classes thus far, I have yet to share the classroom with an African-American student. But the method espoused by Renea Harrison, SCC coordinator for Academic Affairs, to increase their enrollment enrages me to no end. The idea of "judging the applications of African-American students differently" is not only an insult to the standards of South Carolina College, but to the black race itself.

Standardized test results, such as SAT and ACT scores, have played an integral part in the admissions process of not only the Honors College, but universities and colleges nationwide. If these standardized tests are deemed as not being a reliable judge of a student's ability to perform, then why are they used at all? I am not questioning the validity of the assertion that black students do not score as well on the SAT as white students; I have seen no evidence to support or deny this conclusion. But the idea of setting up different admission standards according to race is insulting. Is the Honors College suggesting that black students are incapable of meeting the same standards as white students?

If the standardized test scores are an accurate portrayal of a student's potential, then allow them to continue as a part of the admissions process here at SCC. But if these scores can't be applied as a universal standard, then they shouldn't be used at all. Instead of lowering the requirements for admission (based on race, income or any other category inherent to a student), perhaps the Honors Col-

lege should simply find a new way to evaluate its applicants.

Valerie A. Palmer  
SCC economics sophomore

### Express faith not hatred

To the editor:

In reading some recent letters to the editor in *The Gamecock* (e.g. Samuel Edward Dunham's letter of Oct. 25), I have been struck by a sad (but not surprising) observation. It seems that some people see no discrepancy between their profession of Christian faith and their simultaneous expression of hatred toward fellow human beings. Perhaps a little soul-searching is in order.

James U. Gleaton  
Education graduate student

### No one hiding behind Bible

To the editor:

In response to "Do not hide behind Bible."  
It bores me to listen to people who title themselves as open-minded intellectuals babble as the daily know it all. On the other hand, apathetic infidels bashing God and the Bible infuriate me.

Only a fool would state the Bible was written by "ordinary men who had spiritual feelings." These were men close to God and those "spiritual feelings" are something — I'm sure Amy McCaleb would not understand.

Do not be so ignorant as to think that Christians "hide behind the Bible." It makes me feel like vomiting whenever I hear this. If anything, we must continually stand in defense of it. Likewise, it's stupid to think that the Bible gives place to prejudice.

However, the Bible does distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. Life isn't an "everything-goes" experience. Contrary to some beliefs, there are rights and wrongs. With the wrongs, however, judgment and punishment shall come. (One of rights and wrongs. With the wrongs, however, judgment and punishment shall come. (One of them happens to be a queerish acceptance of homosexuality.)

Finally, if you don't agree with the Bible, wait until you pass away before you start telling Christians not to take it so literally. Until then, keep your talk-show opinions to yourself.

Douglas Winters  
Electrical engineering junior

### Hugo really was big deal

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Mr. Jensen's letter titled "Hugo not only thing going on." Being a resident of the Charleston area, I was able to experience firsthand the "welcome change of pace" that Hugo brought to the coastal counties. Let me tell you — when I went home that weekend, it was a great "adventure," reminiscent of past camping expeditions, due to the loss of water and power in the area — for some of us, cooking on an outdoor grill, for others, eating canned goods and packaged foods for days, taking sponge baths in the dark, and not having to bother with those worldly, man-made "luxuries" such as the television, microwave, air conditioner and refrigerator. A nice added bonus was the mile-long lines waiting to get into the numerous (almost enough to count on one hand) grocery stores that decided to open the day after Hugo struck.

Forgive us Hugo victims for being so uncaring about the rest of the world, but for most of us, OUR world has completely crumbled around us. Nearly everything we have worked so diligently for has been wiped clear by the hand of Hugo — our homes, our furniture, our clothing, our boxes of memories and, with them, all of our past hopes and dreams. I'm sure you are very familiar with the many Hugo horror stories from the multitude of news reports and magazine articles focusing on this tragedy.

Forgive the media for spotlighting the devastating effects of Hugo, but apparently, they are a bit more sensitive than Mr. Jensen to the plight of others. A final word to Mr. Jensen: YOU just think about being more caring about the situation of others because you may need the help of them someday.

Joelle Lastica  
Chemistry sophomore

### Loomis writes about nothing

To the editor:

I don't know about the rest of USC, but I am getting really fatigued with Amy Loomis' column in *The Gamecock*. Let's examine some of the subjects that she has chosen to write about this semester.

When we first heard from Amy, she was complaining about the difficult time she was having getting into some of the local bars. However, her problems seem to be somewhat unique. Every weekend, hundreds of underage drinkers descend upon Five Points. I find it difficult to believe that Amy, who is of age, has such a difficult time. More importantly, WHO CARES? Even if she contends this has something to do with feminism, there exists much more evidence to the contrary. Many bars only allow underage women into their establishment, while excluding underage men.

The next topic that she decided to bore us with concerned her harrowing freshman year. I don't wish to appear unsympathetic. Many people have problems trying to adjust to the unspoken rigors of college life. However, Amy's whining simply didn't seem to be newsworthy journalism. Like many of Amy's columns, there seems to be little resolve toward this otherwise worthwhile topic.

Her latest sop was one of the most outrageous pieces of journalism that I have ever seen. Amy's attempt to bring us closer to the state fair resulted in a quasi-artistic flow of garbled emotion. I couldn't decipher whether or not Amy even enjoyed herself. In fact, I tend to wonder whether Amy has fun doing anything at all. Her freshman year was a wash. She doesn't even seem to like the fair. She was nauseous almost the entire time she was there. Yet, she calls the place magical. By Amy's definition, I guess a warm six-pack and a stale burrito are also magical.

The point is, Amy is using a valuable resource to purge her emotions. Her latest installment belongs in the *Portfolio* magazine and not in *The Gamecock*. Maybe she should take up poetry or abstract art. However, her forte doesn't seem to be in field journalism.

Michael Cummings  
English senior

"WOW! YOU THINK ANYTHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN HERE?"



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