

Equity

Students have no rights because there's no student on the board.

American revolutionaries cried "taxation without representation" as they fired upon the British and severed the chains England had wrapped around the colonies in the 1770s. They said they were being taxed and controlled by a body of government that neither listened to their rational pleas or recognized their right to have a say in their own lives. Those brave Americans who broke from the "motherland" could not console the fact that they were being governed by a body in which they were denied representation.

That was the basis of the American Revolution that put this great country on the course it is currently following. They realized that for a population to be truly happy and free they must be involved in the decision-making process that rules their lives.

With that in mind, USC students should be rioting on The Horseshoe. They should be carrying arms and demanding a voting student member on the Board of Trustees. Currently the board, which governs the university and specifically how the students will live their lives during their time here, has no such voting member. They have state Legislators, local businessmen, bankers and politicians, but they have no one to speak up for the students — no one to cast the student vote.

The Student Government president is the closest thing students have to a board member, but that position can only lobby and plea for help and understanding.

If there were a student member on the board, this whole visitation hub-bub would have been easier to swallow. As it happened, students were excluded from having a voice. They could protest, lobby and speak nicely, but when it came right down to it, the board didn't care what the students thought and changed it anyway under the pressure of Mike Fair.

If there had been a voting student on the board, the policy probably would have still been passed, but at least the students would have had, on the record, a say in what happened. As it was and is, the students can only sit outside the doors of the board room with fingers crossed, hoping the members will take into consideration how the students feel. The board, to its credit, usually has the students somewhere in mind when it meets and makes crucial decisions.

But, until a member of the student population can be on the same level, have the same chance to vote and be as effective and influential as any member of the board, there is an injustice at The USC.

One would think the board would want the students to be involved in the decision-making process so that they could be fairly treated and hold no hostility toward the decision makers. As it is now, the students feel segregated from their rights.

Nothing hurts more than to be denied something just because someone says "no." As school children we were told what we could and couldn't do by the principals and teachers. Even if what they decided was unfair to us, we had no say in the matter. It was the most frustrating of all feelings — a feeling of helplessness and vulnerability.

That was supposed to change when we started paying for our education. If we are paying the "taxes," we should have the "representation."

"READ MY LIPS"



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Letters Policy: The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at a maximum, 250 to 300 words long. The writer should include full name, professional title if an employee with USC or Columbia President, or year and major if a student. An address and phone number are required with all letters sent. 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.



'Real world' offers similarities to college

As college students, we are told these are the best times of our lives. We are told to enjoy our youthful freedom and lack of responsibility. Be young, be foolish, but be happy.

We are told that life is different after college. The "real world" is cruel and unsympathetic.

Chuck Dean is a graduate and former columnist for *The Gamecock*. He has ventured out into the real world and is working on a magazine for Whittle Communications in Knoxville, Tenn. His definition of what the real world means to him is quite different.

"The real world feels like you've got this big term paper due that you haven't started, and you have to make an A on it or you'll flunk the course. You know you have to go to the library

and do so much research, and you haven't even started. You feel this forward progression, but you don't know what toward . . . like Saturday night TV.

"Actually there is not a real world; it can't be rigidly defined. It's like when you turn 18 or 21, you don't feel any difference. You don't step out into the real world and say 'this is the real world.'

"But you do change. You become less daring, more worn out. Society fattens you up, and you lose some of the wildness of youth. It's not that you necessarily become more mature. . . you set all these societal Do's and Don'ts. . . you become boring.

"The real world is the same one you were in when you were in college. YOU'RE changing, the world is the same. You need to talk about the real ME. Don't take everybody's word for what the real world is. Learn to laugh. If you don't, it will eat you up whole."

For those of us about to embark on the great journey into the real world, Chuck offers some key points to remember.

● 1. Be reckless. "I never believed that crap in elementary school when they told us 'you can be whatever you want to be.' But it's true.

You can have fun trying, too. But you can't be slack or lackadaisical. There's going to be 10 people who aren't, and they will stomp on you to take your place."

● 2. Get up early. Get a jump on people. Too much time is lost. Show initiative.

● 3. Make lists.

● 4. Be keen. "Learn to be nice to people you work with and hate. You need to be keen. Know and be aware. Pepsi helps me a lot. I think whoever invented it should get an award."

● 5. Make everyone think you're easy even if you're not.

● 6. Don't eat meat.

● 7. Buy a good pair of boots.

● 8. Believe in yourself. "If you don't believe in yourself, who will? You are the one in control, not the world. You have to bite the world before it bites you. If you're true to yourself, you can make it."

When asked if the real world had changed him, Chuck said, "I'm the same. I do the same things, but I'm afraid I'm going to lose that young wildness."

I guess Chuck would say the real world is what we make it. . . .

Letters to the editor

Quote source of Presley info

To the editor:

To Mr. Vincent Sample, whose letter entitled "Just Humans A Pipe Dream" appeared in the Oct. 20 edition of *The Gamecock*: Sir, you write, "Elvis Presley said all a black man can do for him was buy his records and shine his shoes." Evidently, you possess either a large legal defense fund or a small sense of journalistic ethics to besmear the reputation of one of this country's most beloved and respected entertainers without the support of quotation marks. Mr. Sample, please betray to the press the source of your attribution to Mr. Presley.

Paul Dhillon
Graduate student

Christianity is good news

To the editor:

Many letters in the *Gamecock* lately have been tossing around the idea of religion. Christianity to be exact. People seem to have mislabeled Christianity as a condemning religion, full of bad news. This could not be further from the truth. Christianity is a victorious way of life that is full of good news.

Mr. Dunham presented a small part of the book of Romans. The first part he left out (Romans 1:29-32) says that all that have "unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; and are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; those who practice such things and those who give approval to such things are worthy of death."

Now, Mr. Dunham, most everyone will agree that not only are homosexuals included in this list, so is everyone else. This is the bad news of mankind.

If we read farther into the book of Romans, we find the good news, the second part that was left out. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his own love toward us

in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 10:9-10 tells us what we must do. If you believe that Jesus is Lord in your heart you will be righteous, and if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved. No strings attached, people. Just these two simple things. These are the only requirements God gives. Let no one else tell you different.

I don't know if the Pope rejected homosexuals, but I do know that God does not reject anyone if we come to him on his terms. I am not a homosexual, but I am a sinner, and through Jesus Christ I have been made clean so that I can receive the gift of eternal life. Praise God.

John Troutman
Business Sophomore

Beethoven not a black man

To the editor:

I am writing in response to a letter by Willie Lewis that appeared in the Oct. 25 issue of *The Gamecock*.

As an intellectual and as a musician, Mr. Lewis, I am offended by your ignorance. Your letter asks, if not rhetorically, why most people do not know that Beethoven was black. I assume you are referring to the German composer/musician Ludwig Van Beethoven. I also assume that you used the word black to connote a descent of African origin. The answer to your question is that most people do not know that Beethoven was black simply because he was not. I sincerely wish that I knew your source of information on Beethoven heritage.

From *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, 6th Edition, Volume 2*: "Beethoven, Ludwig Van (Baptized 1770, Vienna. d. 1827 Vienna) German Composer." According to Maynard Solomon's 1977 biography, entitled *Beethoven*, the composer was German by birth, for he was born in Bonn. Beethoven was, however, of Flemish descent, hence the use of Van, not Von, to proceed his surname. There were even rumors

that Beethoven was the illegitimate son of the King of Prussia. In any case, Beethoven certainly was not of African descent, and I am offended by your false statement regarding the heritage of the composer to fuel an already scorching racial inferno.

Please, Mr. Lewis, research your facts more carefully. Though Beethoven was described as having black hair and a swarthy, complexion, which later in his life became gray and florid, respectively, his heritage was not African. In *Grove Dictionary*, Mr. Lewis, you will find several photos of portraits and sculptures of Ludwig during his life. If nothing else convinces you, these works surely will.

In conclusion, I am sure that you are offending many people, myself included, if you assume that Beethoven was black simply because he was of dark complexion. You might even offend someone racially.

Karl Wohlwend
Music Junior

Christian love has no bounds

To the editor:

The following letter is in support of Wayne Aaron, who rightly spoke out against homosexuality in an earlier editorial and is a rebuttal to Ms. McCaleb's noble, but misguided views.

First, we as true Christian believers, do not hide behind the Bible. We do, however, have a personal, loving relationship with the one who inspired it. The fact is, until the spirit of God opens your eyes, you'll never understand that Christianity isn't a "religion" as you would like to see it. It's a living experience involving a relationship with the one who not only created the entire universe, but also created as absolute, set moral values to go along with it.

Second, true Christian believers aren't prejudiced. How can we be? We know very well how human we are and realize that we're in the position to judge no one. However, the difference between us and non-believers is that we've been forgiven for our sins because we've ac-

cepted the gift of Jesus's sacrifice. And with this gift that we've received, we are compelled to at least mention to those who are dying around us that there's a better, more fulfilling way to live. Not our way, mind you, but his way. Not because he likes to give us rules to live by, but because he loves us and truly wants the best for us. Jesus didn't create men to lie with men or women to lie with women. To do so is a mockery of the way he intended things to be. And for us to stand by and not say so because someone might think we're being judgmental is unacceptable.

Let me leave you with this. We true, Christian believers love each and every homosexual that lives because Jesus says that everyone is worth loving and saving. And AIDS doesn't make us snicker. It breaks our hearts. And it breaks our hearts even more that so many people in America today are living lives that will never give them the satisfaction or fulfillment they seek because they consistently refuse to acknowledge the sovereignty of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Of course, this is America, and we all have the right to refuse anything we want to. We, as Christians, do not dispute that or stand in the way of it. However, the fact is, God still says homosexuality is wrong, regardless of what our government might allow or what certain "enlightened," "open-minded" individuals might say. And we tell you this because we love you. We tell you this because we know there is a better way in him and the eternal life he offers, and we only want you to have it, too. And as long as we keep loving him and loving you, as long as we have breath in our bodies, as long as his spirit continues to say that it's true, we'll keep telling you . . . even if it makes you uncomfortable, even if it makes you angry, even if it makes you hate us enough to curse us, beat us and nail us to a tree somewhere to die.

Keith Courson
Criminal justice senior
Jamie Fuller
Biology sophomore