

Justice?

Woomer heads to electric chair; death penalty debate splits S.C.

At 1 a.m. this morning, convicted murderer Rusty Woomer might or might not have been executed in South Carolina's electric chair.

Woomer is convicted of having killed three South Carolinians and having seriously injured two others. Three of his victims were women, two of whom he brutally raped.

If he is executed, the families will feel justice was done. Many of the people in South Carolina who favor the death penalty will also believe Woomer got what he deserved.

Capital punishment has become a very sensitive subject in this state and in the rest of the country over the past few decades, and even more so in recent years.

There is a definite sway in the public opinion in the United States concerning capital punishment. More and more people are beginning to favor the death penalty. Recent elections across the United States have continually shown that candidates supporting the death penalty have been winning races against those not in favor of it.

Despite the ever-growing number of people who support the death penalty, the question remains as to whether it is right.

Many argue that an eye should be paid for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. If not that, then the execution will allow the family of the victim to feel something has been done — maybe not justice, but at least something that will allow their loved one to rest a little easier.

They also argue that capital punishment serves as a deterrent, making potential murderers think twice before killing someone.

Opponents of capital punishment argue that retributive justice is uncivilized, accomplishes neither justice nor acts as a deterrent and brings society down to the level of the killers.

But something has to be done, right? The question is what.

In modern times, where crime levels continue to climb, capital punishment has been a continuous source of debate with these same arguments. In fact, the United States is the only country in the Western world that allows capital punishment.

Maybe these countries know something that we don't. Maybe we know something they don't.

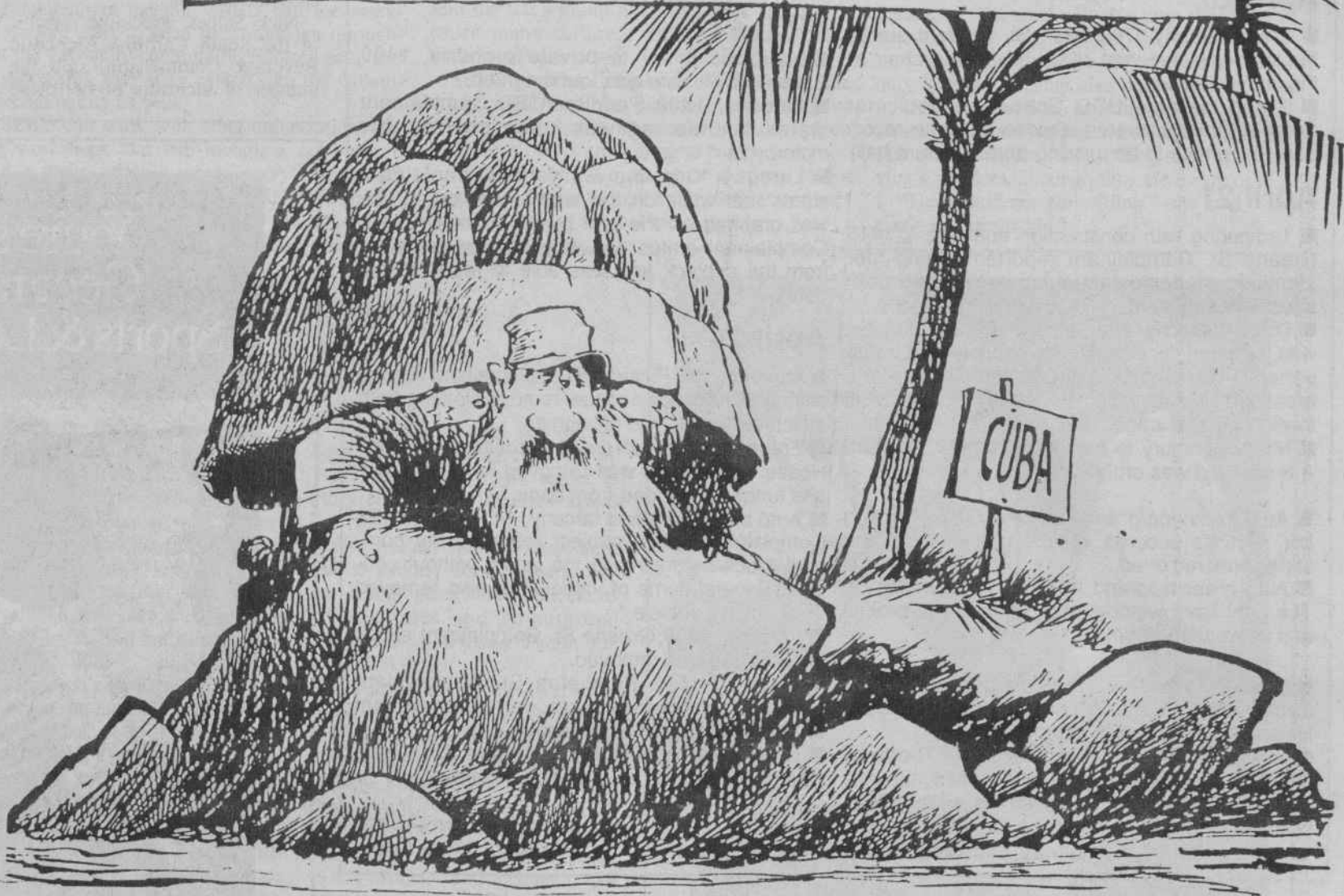
The question remains: what are we to do with those who commit murder, often brutally and more than once?

There is the choice of either locking them away for the rest of their lives or putting them to death.

This is a question each person must answer for themselves, but more and more people across the country are becoming fed up with crime and looking to the death penalty as a solution to the problem.

MAXWELL
Chicago Tribune

AGED MUTANT NINJA TURTLE



Armed gates would be expensive mistake

OK, kids. It's time for all of us thoughtless and ill-bred students to stop for a moment and reflect. Stop laughing and talking, stop walking or moving. Hey, if you can handle it, stop breathing for a minute — this is important. We have totally stepped beyond our limits. Not only are we immoral young children who have no self-control, not only have we deigned to voice our opinions on (gasp!) political matters — some of us have now stepped so low as to drop all hint of decency and (shock! horror!) park in faculty parking areas! I can't believe our generation has turned out like this. I'm so ashamed.

(OK — so I'm being dramatic, sarcastic and maybe a tad juvenile about this, but we must fight fire with fire — even if it is only with Bics.)

OK — here's the deal. The faculty are uptight (and rightly so) that students are parking in lots specifically set aside for faculty. I'd be ticked, too. But let's be reasonable.

(Before I start, might I say I neither own a car, nor do I drive, so I can be considered fairly objective in this matter.)

First, I myself have seen faculty members rushing onto campus, parking in student lots without checking their faculty lot (or maybe they just forgot they had their own precious lots?), and rush into the nearest building where they were late for class. I have seen faculty members return to their cars parked by parking meters not 100 yards from a faculty lot with empty spaces, find a ticket on their windshield



KELLY THOMAS

and let it fall to the ground. These are not imagined scenarios. These are real, bona fide happenings here at THE USC.

Now, let's look at the options available. First, we can put armed gates on faculty lots at a cost of about \$10,000. Problem solved. Students won't park there anymore and faculty can have their coveted lots all to themselves. Hey — while we're at it, why don't we spend another \$10,000 or so (since the university obviously doesn't suffer from a lack of money) to put armed gates on the student lots to keep out the faculty and staff who don't need to park there because they will have their own gated lots. That's just what this country needs — more 'Keep Out' signs and a greater sense of the word 'MINE.' Sounds good to me.

(And, by the way, you can't tell me faculty only park in student lots because students are in the faculty lot. I know better.)

Or, we can save our \$ (many thousand) and simply spend a couple of weeks having the cars of the offending students towed out of the fa-

culty lots. When students have to shell out \$35 to \$40 each time they park in faculty lots, they will soon become as conditioned to not parking there as Pavlov's dogs did to salivating at the sound of the bell. And I'm sure the fair and objective faculty won't mind having THEIR cars towed from student lots as well. AND, since cars are towed for the university by City Garage at the OWNERS' expense, and therefore costs the university absolutely nothing (as in zero, zilch, naught — and I know this because garage dispatcher Diane Rice told me so), it would be less expensive to the university, and students might actually get away with not having their parking fees raised again next year. I would include faculty in this, but they don't pay parking fees and, as Parking Committee Chairman Peter Becker put it, "There is no need to change (that fact)."

It is students' parking fees and tuitions that are raised because of ideas like this. Student parking lots are in need of paving and repairs, and students' classes have had to be cancelled the last several years because of lack of funding. Do we really need to spend \$10,000 to keep a few irresponsible kids out of faculty

lots? I say tow the suckers and let the individuals feel the financial pinch — not the rest of the university. And if the faculty still want armed gates, let them start paying for that privilege — and not use student money.

COOLING TREND



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Letters Policy: The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at maximum, 250 to 300 words long. The writer must include full name, professional title if a USC employee or South Carolina resident, or year and major if a student. An address and phone number are required with all letters sent. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit letters for style, possible libel or in case of space limitations. The newspaper will not withhold names under any circumstance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pizza will help child abuse

To the editor:

There is a great problem in the Columbia area that has not been receiving the attention that it deserves. It is a silent tragedy, one in which the victims have no voice and, the abusers, asserting total control, are free to work destruction on innocent lives. The problem is child abuse. On the surface it is not as lofty and dramatic as some of the other pressing problems advocates endlessly argue about in the media. And it is not as immediate to our lives as college students as some of the other very important things, which people battle about in the columns of this very letter-to-the-editor section. But unlike all those passionately controversial topics, this is something about which we can all agree. And unlike all those frustrating dilemmas that come about in the discussion of all those other things, this is a problem about which we can easily do something.

This Saturday a lot of hard working people are going to set out to put USC in the Guinness Book of World Records by building the world's longest pizza and in the process help the needy abused children at United Way's Palmetto Place in Columbia.

All that everyone has to do is come down to USC P.E. Field A on Saturday April 28 between 1 and 3 p. m. and down a few slices

for charity. It's an easy way to do something to help the community and, an easy way to be a part of a world record setting event.

So instead of sitting down on Saturday and writing more boring letters about Blue Jeans day, and instead of just doing a lot of talking, why don't we show that this generation isn't apathetic as we go on down to the P.E. field and do something that could really help people.

Ken O'Brien
Math/Education senior

Quality better for columnist

To the editor:

I am writing concerning the April 23 column by Amy Loomis. The quality of work produced by Loomis has certainly improved, and I commend her for addressing such a relevant issue for the students of USC. I hope the points she has brought up are taken to heart by the administration, and a solution is found soon.

Nick Leoncavallo
Office Information Systems Junior

Personals not gossip forum

To the editor:

I was shocked at the immaturity

and absurdity of Ken Fowler's April 25th letter concerning personals in *The Gamecock*.

A personal is just that — personal! It wasn't written to you. It was written to show that one person cared about another's birthday. Who cares if you didn't like it? I'm sure she was touched even though it said "to" instead of "dear."

If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all. Using personals to get your enemies and spread gossip is the most immature thing I've ever heard. Would you like it if someone wrote, "Ken got Debbie to test positive?" I doubt it. To you Ken, grow up. This is a university, not kindergarten.

Lynda Olszowy
English freshman

Soccer coach misjudges skill

To the editor:

Coach Berson of the USC soccer team dropped Bernard Grant from his squad, ignoring his substantial credentials as outlined in the letter "Soccer victory merely luck." Grant is now in fine company, joining the ranks of two other Berson rejectees capable of playing for the school.

First is Emeka Okoro. Most impartial coaches, when told of a player who represented his nation (Nigeria) and scored a hat-trick against West Germany in international competition, would be quite

curious to see this undeniable talent. Okoro was told no try-out and directed down bureaucracy lane.

Anthony Onwuegbuzi, a black Englishman of Nigerian descent, has played for his English university (Kent) and been on soccer tours to the Soviet Union and the United States. He was also a teammate of Grant's on the city of Columbia champions, the Nix. The unbiased would therefore agree that he has performed at the European-university level and had plenty of experience with the American game. He was given no try-out and told that his status as a graduate student would present undefined "difficulties."

From the perspective of skill, it is not possible to rationally deny these men a try at the USC squad. What then, is the explanation?

Would the three not fit into the overly structured Berson strategy that chokes individuality and stems the flow of creativity? Or is it normal to make access to a simple try-out an adventure in red-tape?

Since this letter speaks of three black men, one each from the Caribbean, Africa and the United Kingdom, it touches the rightly sensitive issue of racism. It does not seek to accuse but rather hopes for the courtesy of a response from Coach Berson. What motivated him to give the run-around to these players, and why did he not even judge proven skill and talent for himself?

Rawdon Adams
Economics alumni, 1989