

Aid?

USC Scholars scholarship funds misdirected, program terminated

The names of 86 of the 382 students who are receiving or have received financial assistance through the USC Scholars program were released Tuesday during a press conference held by USC Interim President Arthur Smith.

Under federal law, the names of students receiving aid under such a program cannot be released without their prior consent.

One hundred and fifty students requested that their names not be released, and the remaining students simply did not respond to either of two letters sent requesting permission to release the information.

The release raises many questions:

How were the recipients chosen?

The criteria used to determine who would receive the USC Scholars financial aid were vague, and were not the same as those used to determine recipients of other forms of financial aid (through the Financial Aid office).

Who received the financial aid?

Among the recipients were the children of USC executives Arthur Smith (USC Provost, before becoming Interim President), Dennis Pruitt (Vice President of Student Affairs) and Pete Denton (Business and Finance department) — prominent university figures with equally prominent paychecks.

How much did the students receive?

The amounts vary, from an unidentified recipient who, by the end of the 1990-91 academic year, will have received \$33,782; to a former student from Nebraska who received \$11 during the 1985-86 academic year. One student is receiving \$7,200 for the 1990-91 year, and some have been awarded up to \$9,495.50 for a single academic year.

At first glance, the USC Scholars program, which will terminate at the end of the current academic year, appears to have been a financial assistance program where money was given away at the USC president's discretion, often to prominent people and often in amounts exceeding the needs of the average university student.

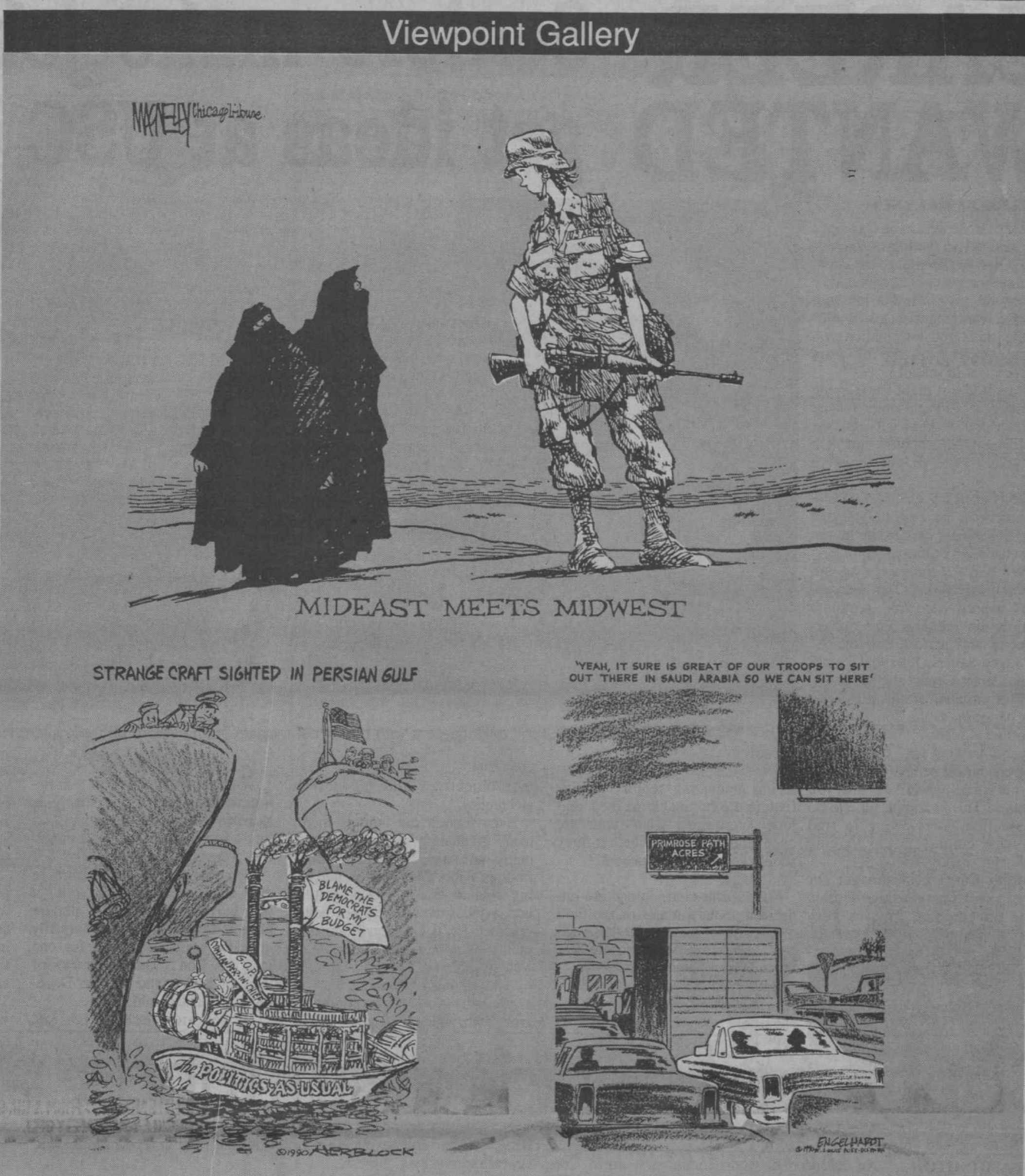
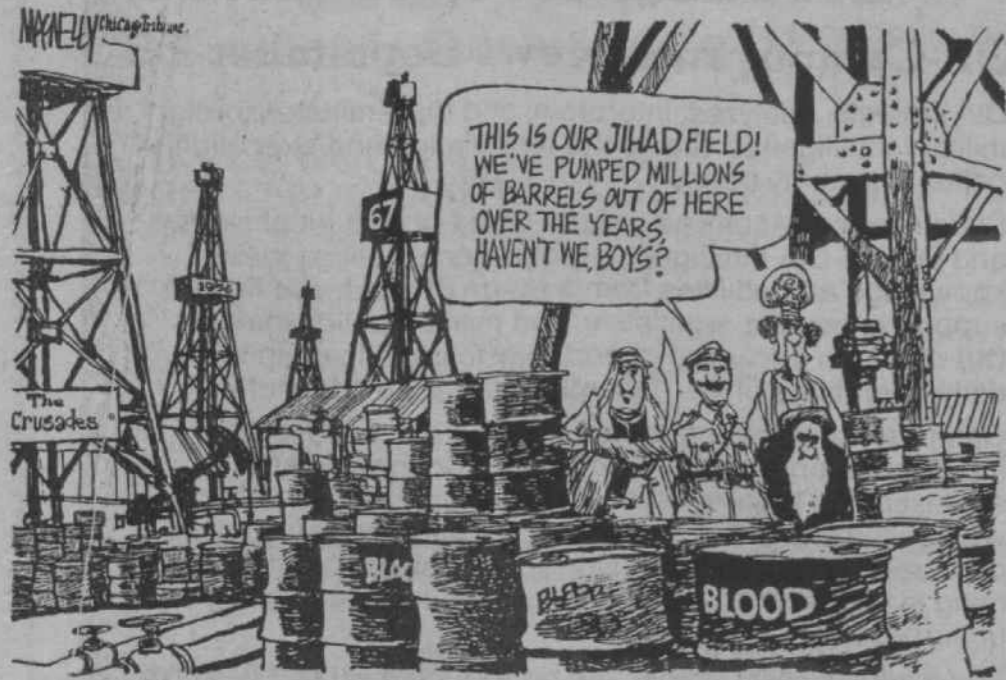
Why would Pruitt's, Denton's or Smith's children need monetary assistance to get through college when their parents make enough to put them through and still be very comfortable? Why (except in a very few cases, such as foreign students) are yearly awards of up to \$9,500 being given to students, when the average year requires only about \$6,000? Why were there no set guidelines for this assistance that would have given all students a chance to receive it?

There are many students on the USC-Columbia campus alone who could use the money, which was given to people who didn't really need it.

Hundreds of students are scraping by on student loans that will take years to pay back, or are working two jobs to put themselves through school. And our former president finds it ethical and fit to give huge sums of money to "rich kids."

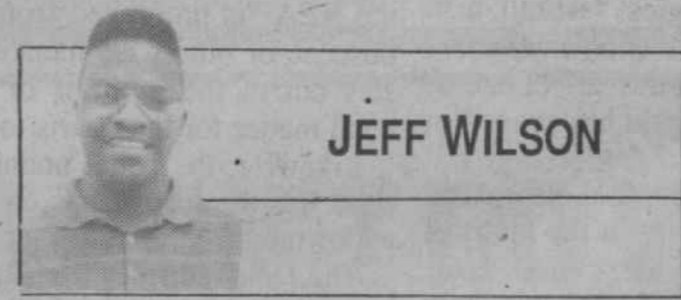
The idea is ridiculous and the fact that it happened adds yet another blotch to James Holdeman's "great achievements."

Arthur Smith should be applauded for terminating the program, and we can only hope the money saved by doing so will go towards helping those students at the university that really need it.



Times may change, but the issues don't

People say the more things change, the more they stay the same. I was flipping through some old issues of *The Gamecock* from the Fall of 1980, just to see what the major stories were. I wanted to see what was upsetting students, and what was exciting them. Surprisingly, the issues that had the students talking 10 years ago are the issues that have students talking today.



JEFF WILSON

On Sept. 8, 1980, *The Gamecock* reported that USC dorms were to have cable TV installed in the lobby of the dorms. Housing officials wanted to see how students would react to the cable before plans could be made to install cable in individual dorm rooms. The response must not have been as expected because it took 10 years to get it installed in the Towers. And the university is still discussing whether the cable will be expanded to all the dorms on campus.

Students hot about parking," was a headline from the Sept. 5, 1980 issue of *The Gamecock*. "I think metermaids should be more understanding before they start ticketing the way they do," junior Ginger Greer said 10 years ago. "They realize the parking problem we have at USC, but they don't let up at all." Oddly enough one of my friends said almost the same thing Monday. Go figure.

On Sept. 12, 1980, *The Gamecock* reported "Book prices: publishers, book dealers, professors blame cost increases on inflation rate." The increasing prices of books in 1990 needs no explanation. I bought books. The prices are definitely high.

I also noticed in those old newspapers that there are some things on campus today that we take for granted that were new and exciting 10 years ago. I pass the music lounge everyday on my way to work, never really giving it a second thought. It just always seemed to be there. It doesn't seem to get much use these days. But back in 1980, it was built to provide students with a

"perfect escape from a noisy campus," according to the Sept. 8, 1980 issue of *The Gamecock*.

On Sept. 12, 1980, the newspaper did a story about the newly installed automatic telling machines and how they were changing students' banking habits. I use the teller machines without a second thought. They are no big deal to me.

We think we are reporting something new, something fresh, but many of the things we report are nothing new. The students think the problems they face this year are new and different, but they are not.

It will be interesting to come back to USC in 10 years and see if students will still be complaining about parking and textbook prices.

It will also be interesting to see if all the dormitories will have cable then. And what about the new things that are popping up on campus that we think are revolutionary, like they call boxes and phone registration. Will they just be passe like the ATMs and the music lounge? Only time will tell.

Historians say history is a cyclical thing. Looking through old issues of *The Gamecock*, I found out how true that really is.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E. Europeans need U.S. aid

To the editor:
Powerful and pervasive was orthodox communism in Eastern Europe, and mighty is its fall. Standards of living have dropped precipitously, and not a few people look longingly to past years when work was easy and life comfortable. Their world has shattered to be replaced by noisy protesters, inexperienced politicians and empty shelves. If communist dictatorship led to economic stagnation, its end has brought ruin.

determination occurred in the context of economic disaster. As India showed following the British withdrawal, if anything is worse than dictatorship, it is anarchy. Yet, chaos is a real prospect facing at least Romania and Bulgaria, as well as the U.S.S.R., where desperation and nationalism combine and 'freedom' means not having to obey any laws.
Facing change is never easy. Following years of rhetoric denouncing communism, America should be committed to providing material and financial aid to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, lest her words be revealed as mere self-serving propaganda.

America could do much now to alleviate the pains of Eastern Europe's transition to democracy. For the most part, however, our leaders have simply argued that aid now cannot reform the entrenched bureaucratic systems. They are right only in that aid now cannot reform the system NOW. The countries of Eastern Europe currently face what they faced after World War I, when democracy and self-

If America fails now to intervene constructively, her inaction will be as destructive and insensate as her military intervention in South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America — where oft-times fascist dictators were (and are) supported solely due to their 'anti-Commie' stance... a little generosity on America's part now would be a wise invest!

John R. Hanson
(On Exchange)
Budapest Univ. of Economics

Students don't support U.S.

To the editor:
How is it that some students of USC manage to have such a command of worldly knowledge? One sophomore writes in and states badly in reference to Saddam Hussein, "he would not attack Saudi Arabia." Dude, YOU don't know what the hell he would or would not do.

A columnist writes asinine allegations of the President's involvement in the invasion of Kuwait. To him, I do believe that members of our government are of a higher political intelligence than you and would have weighed the pros and cons enough to discourage such action if they dreamed of it.
Furthermore, why must the Armed Forces be constantly bar-

aged with words of their reluctance to take budget cuts? Social Services don't want their budget slashed either; no agency does. Granted, there is some excessive spending, but it will always exist. I should be a junior but I gave two years of my life to serve my country in the Air National Guard. Being on active duty at various Air Force bases has given me the insight to know the first cuts made would be in pay — not toilet seat purchases. Inflated prices aren't the fault of the government. It's civilian contractors who try to screw money out of a government that must pay the price they get to receive materials they need.

Lastly, why can't people support their country, right or wrong? To those who can't and who must incessantly bitch about domestic and international policies, how many of you have written a congressman or senator instead of a college newspaper?

Walter Hummel
psychology freshman

The Gamecock

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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.