

Viewpoint

Monday, October 8, 1990

The Gamecock

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Sex

It may be fun, exciting, loving, but it does have its down-side

Sex is a big issue at USC and at other colleges and universities across the country.

The big problem is that many students like sex, but not so many like the responsibility that should accompany the act.

The number of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies reported to the Student Health Center alone should be enough to scare students into taking precautions. But, no matter how often these figures are published or otherwise presented to students, the message just doesn't seem to get through.

During the past few years, national emphasis has been put on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, but that is not the only thing you can catch from having careless, unprotected sex. You can get venereal warts, syphilis, herpes, gonorrhea, pubic lice, chlamydia and several other conditions, as well as less-threatening, but just as uncomfortable, yeast infections. (Which, by the way, can be carried by both men and women and can affect men, especially if contracted through the mouth.)

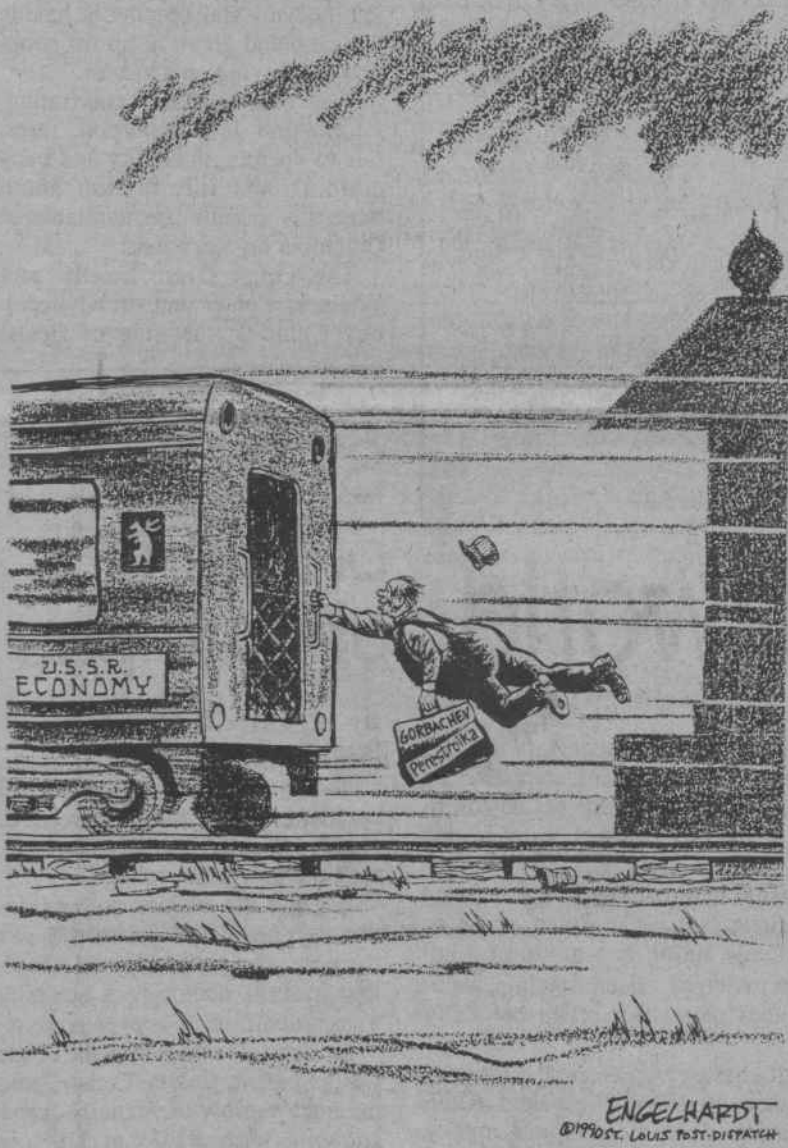
People don't seem to be as worried as they should be about these things. There should be no sexual encounter that doesn't include the use of a condom, regardless of the inconvenience, unless the couple wants a pregnancy to occur. Otherwise, there is a chance that pregnancy or any number of STDs could occur. Birth control pills don't stop sexually transmitted diseases.

Some people claim they're not worried because they know their partner's history. Do they expect the partner to say, "Oh, yeah. There was this one party, and I was really drunk, and I can't remember who it was, but ...?" Not likely.

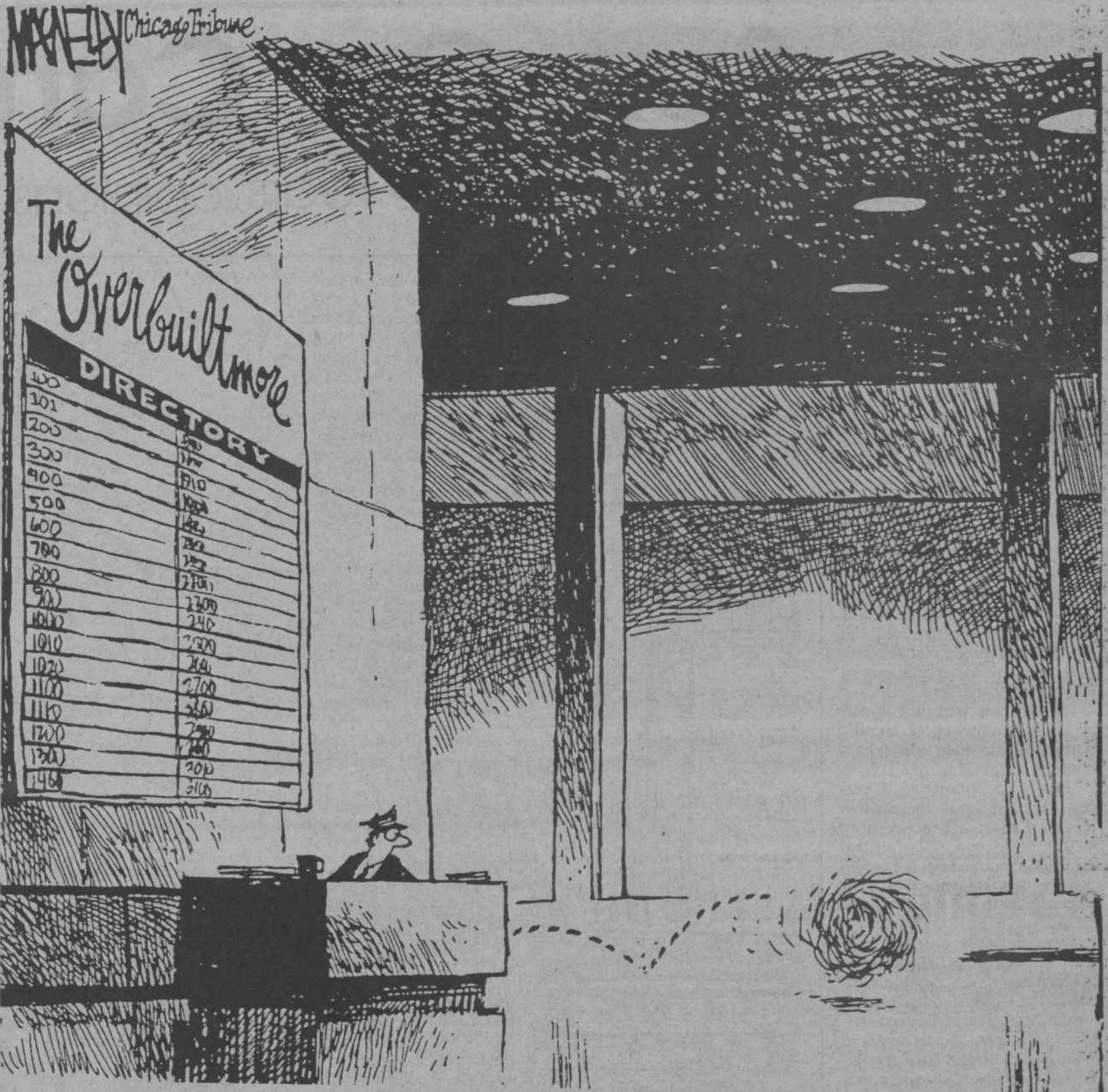
Pregnancies and STDs are not only inconvenient, painful and uncomfortable, they are also costly. Treatment and prescriptions are not cheap and add up to much more than the price of a condom or two and some spermicide.

Take precautions and ensure your safety in these matters.

'WHEW! GOOD THING I MADE IT, BEING THE ENGINEER'



ENGELHARDT
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Female sportswriters not in it to 'look'

Some of the sportsmen and sports writers of the world need to be dealt a swift kick in the tight end.

What do I mean? I mean some of these "professionals" feel it necessary to differentiate between male and female sportswriters and whether they should be allowed to do their job by interviewing in the locker room. There is NO good reason (or excuse) why a woman should not be allowed in the locker room to talk to team members before or after a game — based solely on the fact that she is female.

I do agree with one point these people are advocating — there should be separate press/team meetings set aside where all reporters (male as well as female) could talk to the team members without 1) the team members (and their wives and girlfriends) being worried about female press people seeing them *au natural*, and 2) female reporters being worried about having crude sexual slurs directed at them.

The problem is not that the team players say crude things. Everyone knows the crass language of locker-room talk, and reporters expect it and are not offended by it. The problem is that women are still seen as inferior, as less than professionals in their fields, as less deserving of respect and courtesy and as less human than men in many areas. The problem is that men get angry or frustrated or don't feel in control of a situation and they feel the need to dominate — and if a woman appears to be the closest object to vent all those feelings on, so



KELLY C. THOMAS

be it. The problem is that women reporters are expected to put up with taunts and come-ons and sexual insinuations made by team members — things a male reporter would never be expected to put up with.

The other problem is many women professionals allow this to happen. They think they're "not causing a fuss" or "ignoring it," but when it comes down to it, they're letting it pass, giving people the go-ahead to do the same thing at some other time.

For those who don't know, there are few or no press meetings or conferences for most national sports. This is supposedly due to lack of meeting space and time. So the only way for a reporter to get a good story, one with team input and feeling, is to get in the locker room either before or after a game to talk to the players. For years, women were denied this access to the team, and were unable to get the full coverage achieved by their male peers.

And, believe it or not, most female sportswriters are women who are truly interested in sports writing, and are not just out to "look," as New England Patriot tight end Zeke Mowatt accused one female reporter of doing — implying she wasn't in sportswriting for professional reasons. Would he say the same thing to a male reporter? When I asked a *Gamecock* sportswriter this question, he said no they wouldn't because there would be no need to say that to a male reporter. All I have to say then is to a careful guys, you never know who might be a homosexual.

We've all heard said of controversial TV shows, "If you don't want to see it, turn the channel." Well, the same applies here — men, if you don't want it seen, don't show it. The TV show is there whether you like it or not, and women reporters are in the locker room whether you like it or not.

As long as there are no press-team meetings and as long as the only way to get a good story is to be in the locker room, women sportswriters will have to be allowed equal access to the locker rooms. It's not exactly the choicest place to conduct an interview, believe me, but if it's necessary, it's necessary. And if ever someone decides that team-press meetings are prudent, and women are no longer allowed to meet with the players in the locker room, that access will also have to be denied to male sportswriters. Fair's fair guys — in love and war ... and sports.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Constitution misapplied

To the editor:

A recent pamphlet put out by the university sparked a passionate Constitutional challenge which in turn sparked a subsequent challenge to the challenge (this seems common enough in *The Gamecock*). It is not without reluctance that I must enter the public arena and offer my two cents on these two letters by Messieurs Shaffer (Sept. 26) and Cox (Oct. 1), for it would seem that the only thing that is not Constitutional around here is the analyses within their letters.

Mr. Smalls, a professor at the USC School of Law, has a fundamental rule of legal analysis that I think bears repeating here. "Before you think great thoughts, consult the rules." Where Constitutional analysis is involved, for better or for worse, the justices of the Supreme Court make the rules. It is apparent that Mr. Cox and Mr. Schaeffer did not consult the rules.

The test for whether a state action violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment is stated in *Everson v. Board of Education*, among others. In order not to violate the Establishment Clause, three requirements must be satisfied: (1) the government action must have a secular purpose; (2) the primary effect of the government action must be one that neither advances or inhibits religion; and (3) the government action must not foster an excessive government entanglement with religion.

In *Gillette v. United States*, the court stated that the Free Exercise Clause bars governmental acts which would regulate religious beliefs as such, interfere with the dissemination thereof, or impede the observance of religious practices, or would discriminate in favor of one religion over another, *where such acts are not otherwise justifiable in terms of valid governmental aims* (emphasis added). Therefore, when the burden placed on a particular religion is significant, the government must demonstrate a compelling or overriding public

interest served by the government action.

I do not offer my personal view on whether the university pamphlet violates either the Establishment Clause of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment; I would only ask that Mr. Shaffer couch his criticisms and passions within the guidelines delineated by the "rules" of the Supreme Court before concluding that university actions are "obnoxiously" violative of the First Amendment protections. Doing so is not only mandated in order to make a valid constitutional attack, but it also serves to avoid the "free-form thinking" (Smallism #2) that pervades the letters to the editor thrice weekly.

And Mr. Cox, your analysis (which oddly enough rhymes with "urinalysis") is flawed only in that it would ignore the effect, if not repeal entirely, the Fourteenth Amendment. Without belaboring the point, suffice it to say that the First Amendment is made applicable to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment. And while distinguishing the University of South Carolina from the U.S. Congress

seems easy enough (although I have never attempted to park on Capitol Hill), separating USC from the South Carolina lawmaking bodies is a horse of a different color. I am not indifferent to the well-written paragraph explaining what could be termed a compelling state interest served by the pamphlet, but to say that Mr. Shaffer's complaint is based upon a misunderstanding of the First Amendment because it applies only to Congress is simply and fundamentally incorrect.

I think this forum for comment supplied by *The Gamecock* has become a vastly underused tool for expressing ideas and thoughts on relevant issues supported by facts and rational arguments framed within the rules applicable to the subject matter. While "free form thinking" is unquestionably not without merit, it is better suited to barroom conversations about the latest Amy Loomis column on frog licking than the constitutionality of the actions of the University of South Carolina.

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