

CHE

Enrollment caps should not be imposed on four-year colleges

The state Commission on Higher Education has proposed a plan that would put enrollment caps on South Carolina colleges and universities. The plan has drawn criticism from business leaders, university presidents, professors and students in a series of public hearings P and rightly so.

The CHE's proposal to place enrollment caps on four-year state universities is designed to promote and encourage interest in two-year technical colleges.

Instead of looking to the future as far as education is concerned, the CHE's plan is looking to the past.

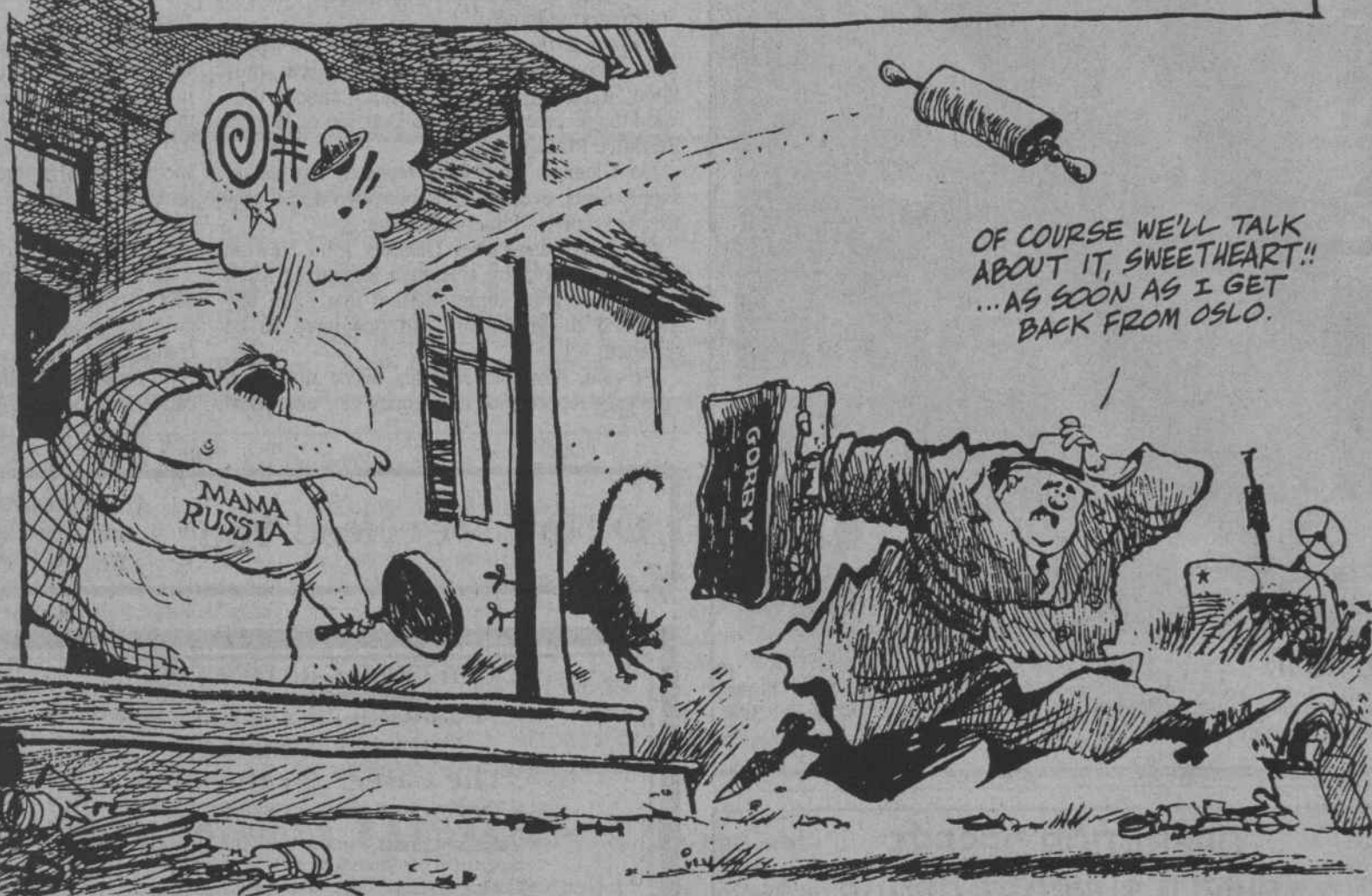
More and more college students are being told that even a four-year degree might not be good enough in today's job market, and more students are being encouraged to go to graduate schools for advanced training. Thus, it seems likely that students who want higher education will not stop with a two-year degree.

If students want to go to a four-year college or university but don't get into a school in South Carolina because of enrollment caps, they will more than likely go out of state rather than settle for going to a two-year school. Granted, four-year colleges are not for everyone, but if people want to go to four-year institutions, enrollment caps are not going to stop them.

Maybe South Carolina colleges and universities are growing at a rapid rate, and perhaps they are getting too large. Maybe enrollment caps are needed, but that should be the decision of the colleges' and universities' administrators and trustees.

MAXWELL Chicago Tribune

At Home with the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient.



THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE



Indecisive spirit possesses President Bush

As the president flounders over issue after issue, I can't help but ask, "Who are you and what are you doing in George Bush's body?"

Following in the footsteps of the oh-so-popular Great Communicator Ronald Reagan, Bush was elected with overwhelming popularity. The world he faces is changing quickly. The weakening Soviets are restructuring, allowing for freedom of religion, private property and open markets. Communism crumbled in Eastern Europe, and Western Europe plans to reunify by 1992. It is clear that the international system is radically changing.

Bush is a man of the inside, a long-time member of the elite establishment. He has been involved in the comings and goings of the federal government for years, is involved in foreign policy and believes in personal contact with diplomats and world leaders. His popularity thus far is greater than Reagan's at this point in his first term.

Then suddenly Bush became possessed by a wimpy demon resembling former President



Sharon Williamson

Jimmy Carter.

It began one dark and dreary day when Bush gave in on the budget issue to House Republican Newt Gingrich. Once the demon sapped Bush of his vigor, Bush tripped over his own two feet, tossing and turning over the tax-the-rich issue.

Bush faces some problems hauntingly similar to those faced by Carter: hostages, an oil crisis, a recession and a lack of a supportive political base when the hard times hit. But given his track record, it was expected that Bush would handle such problems more authoritatively.

The hostage situation will have to be dealt with sooner or later. If the Gulf Crisis worsens and attention focuses on American hostages in the Middle East, public pressure will force Bush to act. With 200,000 troops in the gulf, with oil at \$40 a barrel and with the American public facing gas prices that rise almost daily, attention is not likely to stray from the Middle East situation.

While Bush has focused his attention on foreign policy, the budget crisis snuck up on him. His policy of ad hoc crisis management has turned on him now that there's more than one crisis.

Bush has been deluged by the abrupt change occurring in the world today. He got spooked, and the image of The Mighty Unyielding President Bush is beginning to crack. The lame Carter specter that haunts Bush needs to be sent back into history, and Bush needs a refresher course to remind him what he believes in. Then he needs to put the power boots back on and get back in the driver's seat. Where's George?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Israel acting in self-defense

To the editor:

After reading *The Gamecock's* editorial (Wednesday, Oct. 10) concerning Israel, I wondered if I had by mistake picked up a copy of the *PLO Times*. But when I checked the front page, I discovered that the frightening collection of distortions, exaggerations, and one-sided half-truths had indeed been printed by our student newspaper. Needless to say, I was appalled.

Referring to the deaths of several Palestinians rioting at the Temple Mount last week, *The Gamecock* accuses Israel of "... slaughtering civilians." First, I would not characterize an angry mob of rock-throwing Palestinians — rocks, I should add, that have killed and maimed dozens of innocent Israeli citizens — as "civilians." In addition, the riot was almost certainly intended to provoke a harsh Israeli response. The incident occurred at the Temple Mount — the most sacred place on Earth to Jews — during the religious festival of Sukkoth when a large number of Jews go to the Temple Mount to pray. Not expecting any trouble (past rock-throwing and rioting has been limited to the occupied territories like the West Bank), Israeli police were not prepared for the clash. Police and troops trained in riot-control methods and equipped with tear gas and rubber bullets constantly patrol the West Bank, but not the Temple Mount. As a result, Israeli police were forced to use live ammunition to protect worshippers from the rioters.

The editorial goes further to suggest that Israel is practicing Nazi-style genocide in an attempt to "... systematically exterminate a minority population in their country." The author of the article has

obviously forgotten that the Nazis gathered Jews, Catholics, blacks and other "inferior races" from throughout Europe, sent them to concentration camps, and murdered over SIX MILLION innocent people. That, my friends, is genocide. Israeli soldiers and police constantly clash with Palestinians on the West Bank, and surprisingly few are killed because of the restraints placed upon soldiers. In fact, nearly half of the Palestinians killed in the INTEFADEH have been killed by other Arabs for cooperating with the Israelis. To the hundreds (thousands?) of Israelis who have been killed and injured by PLO terrorism — directed at peaceful civilians — retaliation is simply self-defense.

I agree that a solution to the Palestinian problem is necessary. True, Israel has not done everything in its power to find a solution. But the answer is not merely as simplistic as the editors of *The Gamecock* seem to think. In nearly 20 years of Jordanian rule of the occupied territories (1948-67), nothing was done about the Palestinians. The Arab countries, with the possible exception of Egypt, refuse to cooperate in any settlement because they like the current situation: anything which hurts Israel works to their advantage. As for Israel, if they give up the West Bank, who do they give it to? Jordan? King Hussein (not Saddam) has enough problems; he does not want it back. The PLO? Why negotiate (and give strategically important land) to an organization whose charter vows to drive the Israeli Jews to the sea? At present, it is a no win situation — for both sides. Negotiation and the willingness to talk seriously and accept compromise is needed from the Israelis AND Palestinians.

Unfortunately, *The Gamecock* has chosen to ignore the facts and jumped on the "blast Israel now" bandwagon. Such attitudes can only spur more hatred at a time

when reason and understanding are badly needed. I suggest that the editors think twice before making such serious and sweeping accusations in the future.

David Cohn
interdisciplinary studies senior
President, Hillel at USC

Students help bring recruits

To the editor:

In a recent conversation with a USC alumnus, a delightful story was shared with me. The alumnus had volunteered to represent USC at a college fair, an event which introduces high school students to many different college opportunities, in Orlando, Fla. At the fair, a prospective student and her family told the alumnus about an experience they had while visiting the University of South Carolina.

The family had been touring several colleges in the Southeast when they decided to drive to Columbia to look at USC's campus. On the Horseshoe, they encountered a current student, studying for a class, who was so enthusiastic about her school that she spent three hours giving the family a campus tour and talking about student life. The prospective student, impressed by the USC student as well as the beautiful campus, intends to enroll at the university next fall.

As an admissions counselor, I have learned that any college's most successful and important recruiters are current students and alumni. This is to thank all of you who help others discover the outstanding academic and extracurricular opportunities at USC, either informally when you talk to friends at home and befriend campus visitors, or through programs such as the Carolina Tour Guide Association, Carolina Tip-Off, Freshman Outreach and the Game-

cock Alumni Recruitment Network. Keep up the good work.

June Newton
Admissions Counselor

'Imagine' not realistic idea

To the editor:

Recently, the world heard a United Nations broadcast of the Beatles' song "Imagine." There is no doubt that the melody is beautiful, but I wonder how many Americans really have "imagined" the world described in the lyrics.

If you have not already done so, please do "imagine" what is praised in the following lines: "Imagine there's no Heaven, it's easy if you try. No Hell below us, above us only sky. Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do. Nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too. Imagine no possessions. I wonder if you can."

It could be stated that the most popular musicians are not necessarily the best informed political scientists, even without raising the question as to who really wrote these words.

Even the real life advocates of the brave, new world order acknowledge that there never has been a place on Earth where religion was completely stamped out, nor a place where mankind's natural desire to defend private property rights was completely destroyed. Neither is it hard to "imagine" how different our governmental system would be if it were to become a hybrid with all of the tyrannies, which now exist.

The song concludes with the line, "you might think that I am a dreamer." If this atheistic, one world, socialistic super-state is your dream, then I encourage you to wake up. You are sleeping to a lullaby, but you are having a nightmare.

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