

Tough

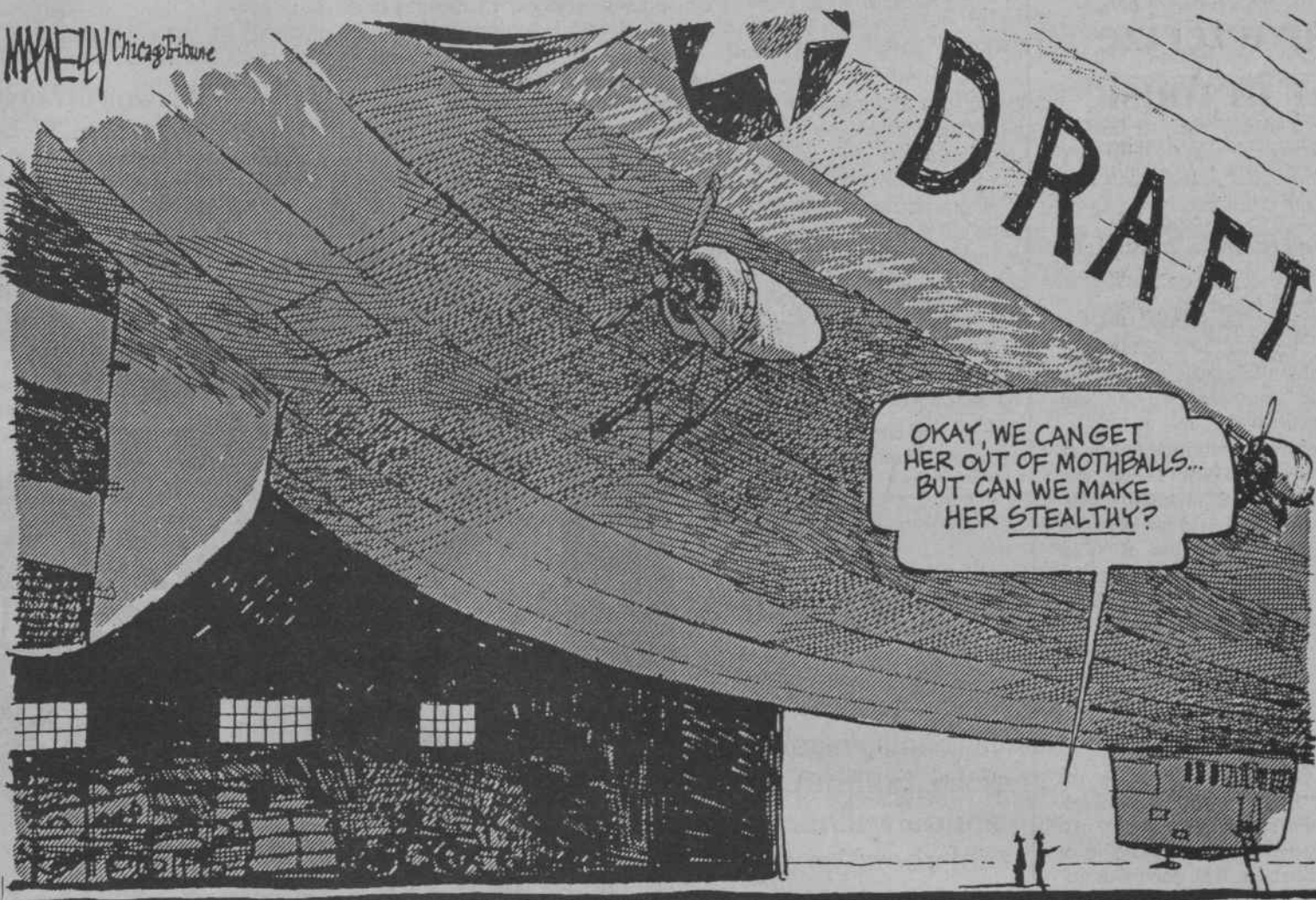
Economics, crimes, war possibility makes being a student difficult

It's tough to be a student. Students are approaching finals, and some are caught up in shopping for the holidays with what little money they might have. For some students, the semester has already ended. They are now in the Persian Gulf ... waiting, as we are all waiting, to see what will happen, to see if there will be war. This generation of college students is too young to really remember Vietnam. For most of us, it is history — history that we hope will not be repeated. But conflict is not only a concern in the form of war. Crime and drugs are on the increase. In the news, we read about students dealing with vandalism, increases in attacks and racially motivated confrontations. We see more students being involved with drug problems, and sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise at America's colleges and universities.

College used to be thought of as a haven of higher education, not affected by the ills of society. But that is simply not true. For some students, this is the end of the education road: graduation approaches. Students that once looked forward to graduation with eager anticipation are now concerned. With recession becoming a daily reality, some students grapple with the fact that the job market is not standing to attention or waiting with open arms to greet them.

For the students that return to classes next year, increases in housing costs and inevitable increases in tuition are waiting in the wings. Housing and tuition costs are always increasing; but this year, financial aid is being cut. More students will need to get jobs to finance their education. But because the job market is in turmoil, some students can't get jobs and therefore can't go to school.

It's tough to be a student.



Editor reflects on good, bad of semester

When Robert Gonzales founded *The Gamecock* on Jan. 30, 1908, he had specific goals for the newspaper.

Gonzales wrote in his first editorial, *The Gamecock* "will cause everybody to realize more fully what University life should mean." I believe the purpose of this newspaper has not changed in its 82-year history, although there are many people at USC that might not agree.

"The editor in chief will deal with college conditions fairly and squarely as he sees them; this paper was not established to further the interests of any organization, but the interests of the (university)," Gonzales wrote. Those words might as well have been mine because that is how I have approached this job this semester.

Many editors have come and gone since Gonzales. I am only a small link in the chain, and now my term has come to an end.

My term did not begin amid fanfare or hoopla. It began as orchestrated chaos and ends the same way. I have never worked as hard as I have this semester. No one told me that being editor was going to mean being a leader, a motivator, a disciplinarian, a counselor, a diplomat, an ambassador and a fighter.

I came to the job a little too naive and a lot too idealistic. I thought that I could make a significant change in the USC community with this newspaper. Obviously, that did not happen. Instead, I had to settle for a few small victories — a few good stories, a nice photograph or



JEFF WILSON

two, and a couple of well-written columns and editorials.

People only see the words that are printed on these pages. They never see the stories behind the stories, the things I will never forget. I cannot forget the look on the student's face when I told him we couldn't do a story about his fiancée breaking up with him.

I will never forget the woman who called and just wanted to talk to someone because she might not be able to come back to school because she can't afford it. She didn't want an article written, she just didn't know who else to talk to. So she called me, and I listened. After a half hour of her shedding tears, she thanked me for listening and hung up. She never called back. I hope she's still here.

I never thought I would have to explain to people, who I thought knew me, my reasons for doing something like running a color picture of the Homecoming queen in the newspaper. "It's never been done before. Why do it now when a white girl won?" someone said. "You couldn't have put more color in that picture even if you

tried," another person told me.

I ran the picture of the Homecoming queen because I wanted to. The decision was made weeks before the five finalists were selected and before the controversy over the lack of minority representation on the court surfaced, and I wasn't going to go back on my decision. People didn't see me upset about the controversy. They didn't see the frustration on my face or hear the outrage in my voice when I was told I couldn't sit in on a meeting with the Homecoming commission and some minority students to discuss the situation. All they saw was the picture in the paper.

This semester I have been called everything from a conservative to a bleeding-heart liberal. I will never forget the woman who told me my newspaper was a rag. Or hearing professors who haven't read the paper in five years call it "The Gamecock" or "The Lamecock." But I just smile and keep going.

Many nights I have stayed awake worrying about this newspaper. I rearranged my life around this paper, and sometimes I wonder why. No one really cares about what we write or how the paper looks. But I guess I do. That has to be good enough.

Gonzales didn't know what he was creating when he founded *The Gamecock*, but I'm glad he did.

In a nutshell, it's been real.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Actions might affect group

To the editor:
I am responding in reference to my letter on Friday. I recently talked to the President of Delta Upsilon. I was informed that the party that I was thrown out of was not a fraternity sponsored party, but the party was thrown by a bunch of guys who were members of the fraternity.

People must understand that if they are affiliated with a group or an organization, then their actions might reflect on that group. Also, the people who were at that party who didn't do or say anything were just as guilty. I understand that the Delta Upsilon fraternity is one of the only white fraternities (or sororities) who are trying to promote good race relations on campus. But, they still should know the views of all of their members, and take that into consideration before letting them in. Why don't they have any mixers between black and white sororities and fraternities. That could be the ultimate test of whether people are willing to change.

So next semester during rush, take time to look at your new members and see if they are all the same. Some diversity might help out your organization, and letting in people with backwards views will hurt it, as with Delta Upsilon. It wasn't them, but one of their members who tried to keep racism alive.

Also the stepshows are open to all students, white and black. I wonder if some of the "other" parties are. I've been to a few Kappa

Sigma parties, and I wish the others were like it.

Robert T. Davis
political science sophomore

Gasoline tax fuels recession

To the editor:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Congress for the \$0.05 per gallon gas tax that went into effect last Saturday. The gas tax is supposed to help correct the budget deficit and aid federal highway and wetlands preservation programs. It also concurs with the class warfare "soak the rich" philosophy of many members of Congress in that wealthy drivers of "gas guzzling" luxury cars like V-8 Mercedes, Lincoln and Cadillac products will supposedly bear the burden of the tax.

What they don't realize is that the burden of this tax will probably be shouldered to a much larger extent by already overtaxed working class Americans. These are the masses of Americans who drive older, less economical cars and pick up trucks either because they need them for work or because they can't afford to buy new ones. For example, typical older full-sized picks used by construction workers and farmers often deliver only 13-15 MPG in town.

As the economy seems to be entering into a recession and as gas prices have risen \$0.30 or more per gallon over this time last year, it is unbelievable that Congress would choose such a time to impose a \$0.05 per gallon gas tax on Americans.

What effects can we expect from the new gas tax? For one

thing, Americans will be worse off financially, as they will have less money to spend on luxury items like food, housing and college tuition for their children. As a result, fears of a recession will be reinforced, and resultant actions such as delaying major purchases and lay offs will worsen the already bad situation of the economy.

Eric Lien
MIBS graduate student

Group works against racism

To the editor:
We are writing in response to the Dec. 7 letter to the editor from Mr. Robert T. Davis. In that letter, we feel that Mr. Davis made a valid point about race relations among blacks and whites on the USC campus. Obviously this is a problem that should concern us all, and the editorial outlet is a reasonable vessel from which to stimulate thought and change. Therefore, we feel that Mr. Davis' concern for the relationships between the races and his attempt at pointing out certain problems and misconceptions between them is praiseworthy. On the other hand, we do challenge his judgment in using the actions of Delta Upsilon fraternity to illustrate his point.

In the letter, Mr. Davis cites a Delta Upsilon "party" that he was thrown out of as an example of racism on USC's campus. For the record, the incident he is referring to was a private party and not a Delta Upsilon sponsored event. It happened over a year ago, and its host has since graduated. Nobody is perfect, and Delta Upsilon is no

exception to that rule. Since that time, Delta Upsilon has made strong efforts to improve race relations on this campus.

Delta Upsilon initiated the first large-scale interracial Greek philanthropy this year by doing the gameball run for Multiple Sclerosis with Alpha Phi Alpha. The fact that a "white" and a "black" fraternity and the possible significance of the event was not lost or ignored by either fraternity. The event was extremely successful. Not only did the two fraternities run the gameball to Clemson, but we also participated in two different social events in attempts to get to know each other better. To culminate the week, the two fraternities put on a joint stepshow, featuring teams from both Delta Upsilon and Alpha Phi Alpha.

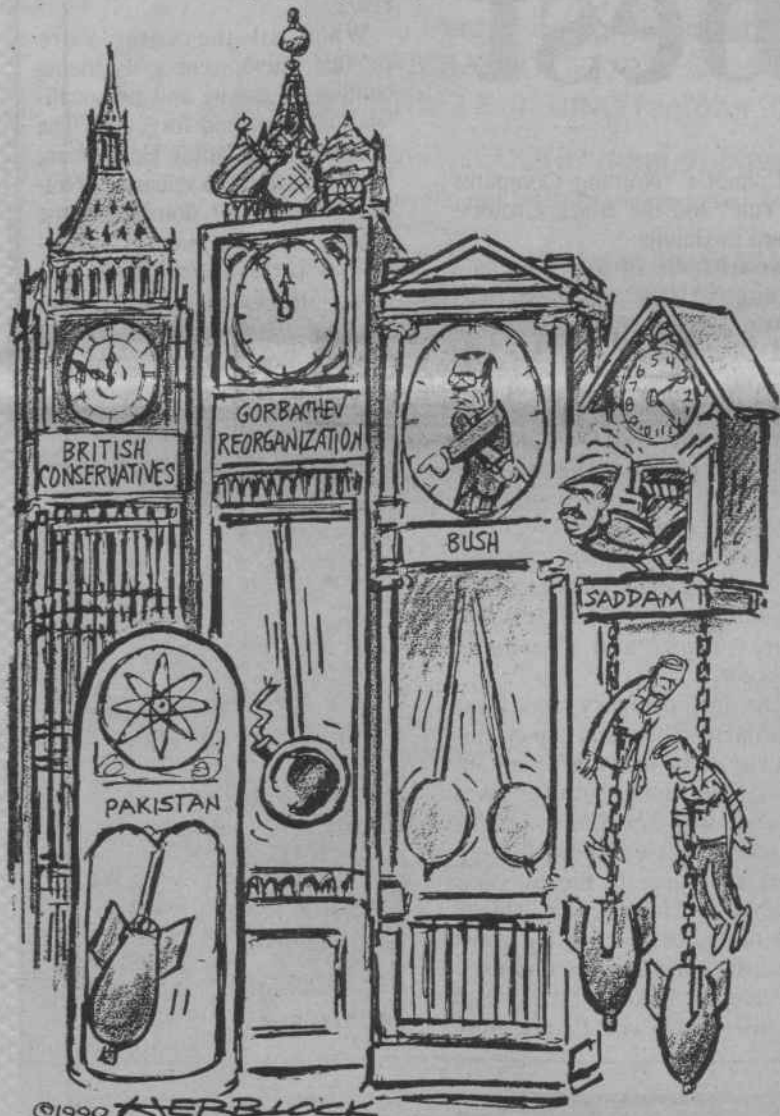
So Mr. Davis, you are right about the problems that do exist, and you are equally correct in that we should all wake up and make positive efforts at improvement. You are incorrect, however, in your broad portrayal of Delta Upsilon as a racist fraternity. We wish you would have taken the time to examine the good faith efforts Delta Upsilon had made in this area before you painted us as a "racist" fraternity. We apologize for the incident you made mention of in your letter, but in no way does it reflect the overall attitude of Delta Upsilon.

Ray E. Jones
President, Delta Upsilon

Gary H. Johnson
Second Vice President

Bryan Vacchio
Social Chairman

CLOCK SHOP



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