

Success

Coastal Carolina team better than some without fan pressure

The Coastal Carolina College Chanticleers made the NCAA men's basketball playoffs Wednesday night, the first time in the school's history.

Coastal Carolina is one of the branch campuses in the USC system and has about 4,300 students. Coastal has no real athletic stadium. To see Coastal basketball games, one has to sit on bleachers in the P.E. center.

The University of South Carolina, on the other hand, has the 12,400 seat Carolina Coliseum and boasts one of the best-funded athletic programs in the entire country. Clemson, similarly, has a huge program in all sports, and its Littlejohn Coliseum seats 11,020. However, USC and Clemson probably will not make the NCAA playoffs.

This is not meant to demean either team. USC and Clemson are both in tough basketball conferences and had difficult schedules. The point is, Coastal Carolina did more with less. Coastal has only been a Division I basketball program since 1986 and has a miniscule sports budget compared to the giants of South Carolina sports: USC and Clemson.

Yet the Chanticleers are in the Big Dance. To other small schools that don't emphasize athletics, Coastal is an example of what can be done with determined effort. Rich alumni are not needed, just hard work. Even if Coastal is eliminated in the first round (a distinct probability), the Chanticleers can be proud of their undisputed mark as the best basketball team in South Carolina.

Possibly the main reason Coastal won is that no one expected, or more to the point demanded, them to. The players and staff could concentrate on school and the game without worrying about not being "good enough."

No Coastal fans were going to call for Coach Russ Bergman's head on a platter if he didn't take his team to the tournament. No Chant fans complained about all the money "wasted" on the team.

Instead of throwing good money after bad on more recruiting, more everything, in a continuous effort to be Number One, maybe USC and Clemson (and big sports programs in general) could learn from Coastal. It is no dishonor to play hard and not succeed. Without the pressure to win at all costs (which is particularly strong among USC fans), maybe, just maybe, the Gamecocks and Tigers can have better teams. Give the players a break.

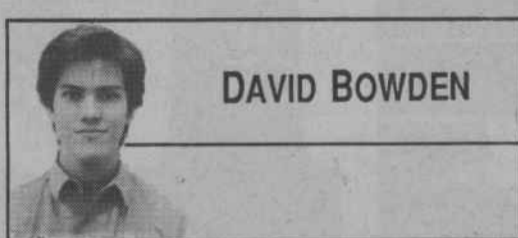


Animal activists need to eat more meat

There is a growing movement in this country to protect animals from slaughter for food and scientific experimentation. While this sounds good in principal, it is really a bad idea. Here are a few good reasons.

Proper scientific experimentation requires test subjects. Any reputable scientist uses animals to further research on drugs and procedures that will help mankind. True, some hamsters and rabbits die as a result, but that is too damn bad. Call me crazy, but I would rather have a hundred rabbits die so that a human being can avoid getting cancer. I really don't think some hard-core animal activists would say this.

I am no doctor, but it doesn't take Marcus Welby to realize that it takes real, live animals to get the best data on experimental drugs. Using nonsentient tissue in experiments (which is advocated by many animal activists) obviously



DAVID BOWDEN

won't work as efficiently. A lab rat with fully functioning respiratory, digestive and circulatory systems makes a better model of a human body than a lump of tissue.

Some animal activists portray scientists as a bunch of evil old men in blood-stained lab coats, giggling as they strap another hamster into a tiny little electric chair (or maybe they use the rack).

I think people who are making experiments

in order to save human lives from AIDS, cancer and heart disease deserve to be applauded. Portraying them as sadists who like to hurt animals is an insult to them and their noble profession.

As for morons who say "meat is murder," I hope you get eaten by a tiger or other large carnivore. Those who would have humans no longer eat meat are going against nature, plain and simple. Why do humans have canines in their mouths if they didn't evolve from meat-eating primates? I don't see lions eating granola trail mix.

"Animal rights." That is one of those ridiculous phrases like "limited war" or "lifeless corpse." By my book, when animals start walking around on their hind legs and inventing the wheel, let them have freedom of speech. Until then, beef is good food.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Animal testing nasty, cruel

To the editor:

While listening to a discussion about animal research on WVOC this past Friday morning, I was quite amused at a caller who identified himself as an international student at the USC School of Medicine. To avoid him embarrassment, I will call him Mr. R.

Mr. R snidely intimated that since insects and bacteria were also lifeforms, they should be given rights according to the animal rights ethic. At present, there is no way of telling yet whether or not insects or bacteria are sentient beings.

We do know, however, that all mammals, and probably all vertebrates, feel pain and pleasure in ways very similar to us. Therefore, it is ridiculous to argue about the possible rights of cockroaches, etc., when we have not even extended consideration to animal species very close to our own.

Furthermore, animal rightists are not so naive as to think that computer simulations alone can or will replace animal research. Enormous medical progress has been made using in vitro (test tube) research, clinical research and epidemiologic studies in conjunction with computers.

Advances, such as the isolation of the AIDS virus, the discovery of penicillin, and the development of X-rays, anti-depressant and anti-psychotic drugs, have all been made without the use of animals. The list goes on, but space prohibits me from mentioning them.

Finally, it is sad, but insightful, commentary on the Medical School when its students say, "Animal research is just as important as breathing." To whom? People who are sadists or making money from the exploitation of animals, perhaps, but not to me nor the hundreds of thousands of animal rights advocates in this country.

It scares me to think that such is the mentality of our future doctors and/or researchers. Thus, my advice to Mr. R and other medical students of his ilk, as well as the faculty who teach such twisted thoughts: take some long courses on compassion, ethics and moral responsibility. Obviously, all that "pragmatism" has calloused your souls.

As for me, I would rather follow in the footsteps of great men like Leonardo da Vinci, Ghandi and

Albert Schweitzer who passionately declared that a species willing to be "saved" through vivisection would not be worth saving.

Patricia McKnight
Elementary education freshman

U.S. still has role as leader

To the editor:

The war in the Persian Gulf at long last resounded with the bells of victory ringing for the coalition forces headed by the USA. The causes of the gulf war, although detrimental in one way to the environment and the innocent civilians of the countries involved, scored no doubt positive political results for the coalition member-states, and most of all for the USA.

The impeccable strategic and tactical skills of Gen. Schwarzkopf, the excellent negotiating talent combined with the firmness of moral purpose of Dick Cheney and the unwavering stand of Colin Powell in coordinating the multinational forces of the coalition... that was proof not only of technical superiority, but also enhanced the political justification of this war.

Once again, the USA reinstated its position as a leading world power, scoring a political victory that will most certainly assure George Bush's re-election for a second term in office. With this political gain at hand, there is yet another crucial step to be taken in the hereafter of the war — this is the time of George Bush's unique chance to set the pillars of the New World Order.

It is important to re-establish negotiations with the old powers in Europe and possibly some of the Arab allies in the Persian Gulf in order to embark on this new and grandiose venture at the end of the 20th Century, the New World Order, as a step toward security and cooperation in the world.

Katerina Kaloyanova
Journalism graduate student

Former leader robbed USC

To the editor:

I would like to say congratulations to Aaron Sheinin for his column on James Holderman. Excuse the cliché, but you hit the money right on the nose. I find it utterly ridiculous that I pay well over \$4,000 a year for school and for

what? An Excalibur figurine to Bill Cosby for speaking at the 1986 commencement?

Well, I was at that commencement to see my brother graduate from law school, and I don't think Cosby's 15 to 20 minute speech was worth a \$3,000 gift. And what about this trip to Hawaii for three weeks with his entire family? It is the biggest joke in the world; however, the joke is really on us — the students.

If we do not stand up and do something, like having the university press charges, then we have failed as students. We need to press the issue in order to not have this kind of thing happen again.

Maybe (we should) have a better way of Checks and Balances at this USC. We pay so much money to USC, and for what? — I ask again. Certainly not for a president that cares about the students. It is a shame our money is being pissed away in the wind.

Stephanie Moskos
Retailing/Fashion merchandising junior

Soldier writes about support

To the editor:

I am very glad to hear that so many students are strongly expressing and debating their views on the war in the Persian Gulf. Some have taken the time to write me and express their views. I would like to reply en masse to the Carolina student body. (This letter was written Feb. 7, but was only received Wednesday, ed.)

I am glad that so many of you value peace so highly. If the whole world felt and acted like you, we would not need armies. But that's not the case, at least not yet. Our lives would be greatly different if Americans had not formed armies and fought for our independence from the British. History tells us that many people attempted many political and peaceful ways before we went to war against King George III.

Life in the second half of the 20th Century could have been very different if the U.S. had not gone to war against the Axis powers in World War II. If you want to maintain your peace-at-all-costs viewpoint, then consider for a moment what life would be like under rule by Nazi Germany.

Many Americans were strongly opposed to war and wanted to remain isolated from it. I am not saying Iraq is an exact copy of

Nazi Germany, I am saying that after all other peaceful attempts to solve an international dispute or crisis have failed, then war is sometimes the only alternative.

Have we done all we can do peacefully to restore the legitimate Kuwaiti government to power? I say yes, we have. Can we allow a dictator like Saddam Hussein to continue his international terrorism? No, we can't. I also understand that this is a debatable topic and since we live in America, we are entitled to our own opinion. In support of my opinion, I note these facts:

1. After months of the embargo and weeks of war, there is still plenty of food for sale in the streets of Baghdad as reported by the news media allowed to broadcast from Iraq.

2. Hussein has repeatedly claimed that Kuwait is now a province of Iraq. The Iraqi government does not even refer to Kuwait as Kuwait any more. They have given it their own name.

3. Hussein has repeatedly called for world-wide terrorism.

4. Iraq has repeatedly attempted to bring Israel into the war and escalate the conflict.

5. The barbaric treatment of coalition POWs by the Iraqi armed forces.

6. Iraq went to war less than two years after Hussein came to power and has been at war with at least one of his neighbors constantly for the past 10 years.

7. The dumping of oil by Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

We are now at war, and that means men and women will be killed. Let us remember what President Lincoln said to the public about the soldiers that died in the battle of Gettysburg:

"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Jim Knight
Operation Desert Shield

THE GREAT ETHICS BATTLE



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News: 777-7726

Advertising: 777-4249

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