

## Change

World communism on the ropes, capitalism need only bide its time

Marx talked about "economic determinism" and the inevitability of communism taking over the globe. Now the only place communism is going is into the history books.

Yesterday, hundreds of thousands gathered on Moscow streets calling for President Gorbachev's resignation. The Soviet Union might be going the way of China by shutting down demonstrations with military force. Even if it does, however, it is only the last desperate act of an anachronistic regime.

While we should be saddened for the Soviet people if their government is in fact moving back toward repression, we can also be confident that the forces of communism are getting weaker daily. Now there are only a handful of nations that even call themselves communist, even fewer that actually follow true Marxist/Leninist doctrine.

We are in the era of capitalism determinism. The Third World looks to the West, not the Communist world, for economic and political guidance. We should give financial assistance to these fledgling states, but it is not necessary to back that aid with military force.

What is the point of losing troops to prevent communism when these communist nations will eventually find their way to capitalism anyway? Witness Vietnam's declaration that it wants to be the next Newly Industrialized Country. If only Lyndon Johnson could have seen 25 years into the future, we could have saved many lives.

There is something the West can do, though, to ensure the democratization of the world. The United States, and the West in general, must behave in a manner fitting a democratic market economy to continue to be an example to the world. For example, it is ironic that a criminal suspect in Czechoslovakia probably is treated better than he would in, say, Los Angeles.



## Animal testing necessary and humane

As a faculty member and scientist, I was shocked and disgusted at a recent flyer I received in the campus mail. The headline of the flyer, from the Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (SETA) begins: "Thousands Exploited and Abused at USC!"

It states, "Did you know that the average USC vivivector is pocketing \$135,000 of your tax dollars this year for research on primates, cats, dogs and a host of other animals? . . . Today on our campus, more than 19,000 animals are being abused, maimed and killed in 36 different types of experiments."

These statements are so untrue they require a response. The flyer continues on with such statements and was accompanied by a brochure from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine with the "facts" about animal experimentation. Unfortunately, it too has many statements that are either totally untrue or distorted half-truths, designed to excite rather than to inform, and to obtain the sympathy of most people who do care about animals.

I believe students at a university are interested in a realistic view of the world and should not allow themselves to be misled by sweeping statements of the kind given in this mailing. The animals used at USC are composed of more than 90 percent of "other animals," mostly rats and mice, with a daily census less than one-half of the number given.

Moreover, if the average "vivivector" is pocketing this kind of money from your tax dollars on federal grants, he would clearly be in prison. Few of the full-time faculty at USC even make this much money. The researchers should have already become millionaires and retire!

It is true that some researchers have a proportion of their salary listed on their grant, but this is in lieu of, rather than a supplement to, their faculty salary, and has nothing to do with whether they do biological research, nuclear physics or whatever.

The implication is that the animals are abused, burned, mutilated, etc. and they exhibit



FRANCIS ABEL

Guest Columnist

"reaction." While some basic reflexes are maintained to very low levels of anesthesia, in people as well as animals, it is not true that the animals used on research labs are subject to painful procedures.

It is rare that an animal suffers anywhere nearly as much as a person would visiting his dentist. These statements are designed to excite rather than deal with the deeper issue of whether or not one should use animals for any investigative work, even though the results are important to human health and, in fact, also to animal health.

The flyer also states that some alternatives have been adopted in certain institutions and that computers can be used instead of animals. While it is true that computers can be used for certain models, and we already use them extensively in our teaching and research, the biological information fed into the computer was obtained from animal research.

In fact, any prescription drugs (and most over-the-counter drugs) that are sold in the United States have been tested on animals by FDA mandate. This has protected us from some of the disastrous effects that have occurred when untested drugs have been used in other countries.

Every time you take a drug, please remember that the reason this drug is considered safe for human usage is, in part, because of animal testing. Moreover, "top-flight" medical schools have not "banned" dog labs, as stated, but have had, in some cases, to abandon them because of the extreme expense of using live biological systems to teach medical students.

In the pounds in most large cities, more than one thousand dogs and cats are sacrificed each

month; it does not seem unreasonable to me that a few (less than 2 percent) of these same animals should be used for medical research and for teaching medical students about mammalian systems. The animals are deeply anesthetized, which, on a one-on-one basis, can be done in a more humane manner than in a pound.

The real problem is the SETA group and similar groups such as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) apparently feel that the use of any animal, perhaps even dead ones or animal products, for improving human or animal health is wrong. The argument then must be whether or not it is ethical to use animals or animal products for meat, clothing, pets, work animals, zoos, etc., or if they can only be observed in the wild.

If the answer is that one may raise animals for human purposes such as food, then the use of animals, such as rats for medical research, is clearly justified. One of the statements attributed to members of this group — that a rat is equivalent to a boy — I do not find personally acceptable either as a physician or as a parent.

To respond in more detail about the other brochure, "The Facts about Animal Experimentation," would make this much too lengthy. It lists the large number of advances that have been made without the use of animals, for example, the discovery of human blood groups.

But it does not point out that the basic chemistry related to blood groups, antigens and antibodies, structures of blood proteins, etc., were done using animals in order to achieve the technology level to study human blood groups. Many other misleading statements are a part of that document.

Under the guise of concern for animals, this organization does a disservice to humans, to progress in human disease and to animal welfare, as well as to ongoing research in biology, chemistry, veterinary and human medicine.

Francis L. Abel, M.D., Ph.D., is professor and chairman of the Department of Physiology of the USC School of Medicine.

## Volunteering great way to use free time

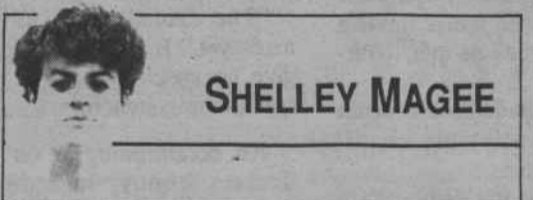
You know, I've come to learn that the most important thing I have is time.

Usually I don't seem to be able to find enough of it. Gee, I don't suppose anyone out there can relate to that. But I stopped and really thought about it the other day, and I realized that perhaps I have a lot more than I think. It's just a matter of how I spend it.

Do you know the average American spends somewhere in the vicinity of three-and-a-half to five hours a day in front of a television set? I wonder how much we really get out of that time (except for when *In Living Color* is on, of course).

Recently I've discovered a great way to spend some of that kind of time that all of us manage to piddle away doing basically nothing. I call it people time.

Many of us don't realize how many people out there would really enjoy taking up one or two of those hours in our week we take for granted.



SHELLEY MAGEE

I have recently become involved with a service organization that does some volunteer work in the Columbia area. In the past few months I have done everything from calling out BINGO numbers in a retirement home to helping illiterate adults learn to read. And you know what? It makes me feel really good. And more importantly it makes the people I'm spending that time with feel even better.

Even for the busiest person, an hour a week is really not that much to spare. As human beings we are all guilty of being wrapped up in ourselves. I know because I'm no exception. So when our lives are full, we tend to forget how

many people are out there who's lives could use some filling.

When I was volunteering at the retirement home today, a sweet little old lady I see every time I'm there said to me, "It's so good of you kids to come out here. I know we're not very much fun, but you make us feel important. You know, that's a wonderful feeling."

And you know, she is important. Everyone is important. Getting a visit made her day. Think about this. If all the students of this university set aside the time it takes to watch a TV show once a week and spend it with someone who needs it, there would be about 25,000 people out there who would have a great reason to feel important.

It takes so little to bring someone happiness. And you might be really surprised. What you thought would be a chore may well give a whole lot of happiness back to you.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Homosexuals unChristian

To the editor:  
In her *Gamecock* editorial March 22, Shelley Magee made the presumptuous statement that people are born gay. Where were the headlines? Last I heard, no one knew why people were gay. I've been to a GLSA meeting and asked the people there what they knew or thought about the cause of homosexuality and they said no one knew for sure.

It appears to me that Shelley Magee's statement was a bit of propaganda used to associate homosexuals with other minorities with legitimate complaints (as if to protest homosexuality were in the same league as to discriminate against someone based on the color of their skin). This isn't a reasonable association, for a rational and moral objection to homosexuality can be based on the

fact that homosexuality is a behavior. Skin color is not a behavior.

Furthermore, I don't believe all people who object to homosexual behavior necessarily hate or fear the persons themselves. It is possible to object to the behavior of the individuals while, through an act of will (I know some of you out there must not believe people have wills), maintaining a respect for the homosexual's personhood.

I personally believe all human beings (even the unborn) are made in the image of God (thus hating the person would be despising the image of God) and that human beings are a wonderful creation, but through disobedience to the will of God, we are now in a sinful and depraved state.

Have you ever wondered why people just aren't honest, generous and peaceful with another as they ought to be? Why don't people do the right thing? Mostly because they don't feel like doing the right thing. Which leads me to another point.

Your feelings, as domineering as

they sometimes seem to be, aren't the final determinant of your behavior (though some use them as the final criteria for judgement and decision making). Your will is. We are not victims who can not help what we do. It might be possible that one can somehow inherit homosexual feelings, but I don't see how it can be said that one has to engage in homosexual behavior . . .

I believe men are meant for women and vice versa. I believe homosexuality is a perversion which as a temptation (option if you insist) isn't necessarily willed into being but as a behavior (that) can be willfully avoided.

In the United States of America, I'm expected to tolerate the expression of minority beliefs, and within reasonable limits, minority behavior.

I am, however, not expected to agree with or support every idea or form of behavior that enters this plurality. I don't believe someone

should be labeled homophobic, prejudiced or unenlightened because they believe homosexual behavior is immoral.

Tim Mallace  
Jazz and media music junior

### Prejudice only blocks peace

To the editor:  
Thank you very much Dan Barabas for stating everything I have ever wanted to say in your editorial column on March 27, "Ignorance, not gays, harmful to USC."

Why cannot people accept others for who they are and the differences that each of us portray, whether it is gender, race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality? Until we proceed to accomplish this, the world will never live in peace and harmony.

Jennifer K. Chambers  
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