

USC

Despite criticism, S. Carolina still a good university to attend

Our ex-president was a bandit, perverts roam the library and the Gamecocks have never won a bowl game. So what? USC is still a great place to go to school. The constant discovery of controversy makes one forget that USC is very good scholastically, culturally and, of course, socially.

USC has nationally respected programs in international business, international studies, journalism and engineering. We have distinguished faculty at the cutting edge of their fields, professors that advise the federal government.

Columbia is not the cultural mecca of the universe, but we are hardly devoid of entertainment at USC. It seems like hardly a week goes by without a new play, musical, dance troupe, guest speaker or comedian coming to town, not to mention the dozens of movie screens within access to USC students.

Despite the administrative crackdown on fun at the dorms, partying still has a constructive place on campus. When will the administration realize that alcohol is not a dirty word? What is good is that USC no longer has the embarrassing reputation as nothing but a party school.

As for sports, USC obviously has enough to offer to be accepted by the Southeastern Conference. True, football and basketball can be improved, but that is no reason to blast a university of higher education.

USC has a beautiful campus, and intelligent students. Anybody who says different has obviously not been on campus for more than 30 seconds.

This is not meant to be pro-USC propaganda, but a realistic look at a much maligned institution. It is all the more amazing that some USC students have nothing positive to say; after all, the students more than anyone can make it a better place.

"WHAT ABOUT THE SHOPPING MALL AND THE GAMBLING CASINO?"



USC bureaucracy one of many gripes

It's the end of the semester, so if you can stand one more "end of the year ramblings," then read on. If not, you're probably from New Jersey anyway.

University gripes

I could talk about this category forever. After conferring with other members of the paper, I have decided that we must belong to the most corrupt university in history. It's disgusting what goes on here. But to tell the truth, I can't blame the crooks. They must know that nothing will ever happen, as far as the students are concerned. With the exception of a few, I can't believe that no protests, house burnings or at least more hate mail have been generated by student outrage.

Maybe it's as much my fault as anyone else's. I've written about it and tried to inspire some response, but my efforts have been ignored. Sure, people have bitched and moaned a little, but what has actually happened. If I thought no one would care, I'd go to Hawaii on university money also.

I still think people like Holderman should have to come back to USC and live like the average student. Not the ultra-hip students with the BMWs, but the average student trying to make it to the next check from the 'rents.' I'd like to see Holderman try to deal with the "silverware lady" in Grand Marketplace or try to sneak by with a tea refill without getting harassed.

Maybe he should even try to do the simple arithmetic in his head while in line to see whether or not he is going to go over the nominal limit on his meal card. Just remember, Jim, steak fries are 85 cents, and water is only 10,



AARON SHEININ

but a tea is 72 but you get a free refill, if you have a receipt, but it's only good on the day of purchase, and you have to give it to the register-lady or you're going to hell. Ahhhhh! Summer, hurry up and get here.

All bow to the parking god

Is it just me, or do other people get billed twice for stuff here? I swear, I'll get a bill from parking for \$12, then three weeks later get one for \$108. Not only that, but they send a bill for the same thing to my parents — without telling either one of us that the other got one too.

Also, I tried to sneak by the housing inspection with my own refrigerator, and got busted. OK, I'm guilty, so now I pay for it right? It was my fridge after all. BUT. My roommate also got a bill. OK, so the fine for the fridge is a total of \$35. But if my roommate didn't tell me about his bill, and we both paid, the university would be making \$70 on us. Man, I just don't understand. Has this happened to you? I know a few others that it has happened to. If it has happened to you, drop me a line, and let me know. I'll be here this summer so I will get it. Maybe if we get enough pissed-off people to write in, we can get an answer.

To the university's credit, I have not had the chance to ask them about it, so don't fire-bomb anyone's office — yet. Stay tuned this summer,

and I'll keep you informed in the summer *Gamecock*.

Ungrouped ramblings

... so this friend of mine Larry had a good anecdote about the Persian Gulf War. He said when the war was over, USC should try and annex some of the occupied land — cause, you know, it would really help with the parking problem.

... *Deliverance* is a sick movie. I'm not sure they could have paid me enough to play the part of that one hillbilly who made Ned Beatty squeal like a pig... we need a university golf course. Maybe someone could run for Student Government on that platform...

... did anyone else notice the lights were on at the stadium all weekend? Whatever was going on, couldn't they have done it during the day, when it wasn't wasting ungodly amounts of money?...

... has anyone else noticed that on the night before a game that several USC athletes could be seen drinking free beer all over Columbia — and then get spanked the next day. I don't know, what are you going to do?

... as long as we're on athletics, did your hear that one of the charges UNLV's basketball team was accused of was giving athletes rides to class?! At least they're going to class. What a crock. We get rides to class too if we want them; it's called the Shuttlecock here. The NCAA needs to rebuild about as bad as we do.

... does anyone else despise Rickey Henderson like I do? What a crybaby. He doesn't deserve to wear Lou Brock's jock strap — he probably couldn't fill it either...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Athletes don't get respect

To the editor:

I just finished reading Miss Whitlock's April 22 letter to the editor. I'm having a hard time deciding whether or not Miss Whitlock is just dumb or misinformed. I'll choose the latter, because after all, she's in college and can get a 2.0, which she declared to be so easy.

Miss Whitlock, you are obviously not an athlete and don't care to be one. What is even more obvious is that you have no clue about what is involved with Division I sports. I am a former USC athlete and have two roommates who are members of the track and cross-country teams. Let me fill you in on one of their typical days:

The day begins at 6:30 a.m. A little four or five mile run to start the day off. Then it's off to an 8 a.m. class. Gee, I wonder if you're awake yet? Nah, probably out late last night in Five Points spending that hard earned money. He's home in the afternoon. Practice again at 3, this time a hard workout. He usually stumbles on home around 5-5:30. A quick shower and then dinner, and it's off to mandatory study hall! Oh, what fun!

He's home by 10-10:30 and pretty exhausted, time for bed. If he's lucky, the phone won't ring early the next morning and he won't have to report for drug-testing. Oh and yes, alcohol is prohibited even if you're 21, so any Five Points bar-hopping is not

allowed.

The point of this letter is not to say athletes don't receive benefits. They do. It's not to make everyone feel pity. It's not saying they should be paid. I do not agree with that, but don't go saying that athletes have it easy. Most can't get jobs because the NCAA forbids it.

There are no off-seasons for Division I athletes. It's a year-round job, taking up 20-30 hours a week. That is physically draining. Football practice doesn't end after the last game. Sure, there's a one or two week break, but then it's time to hit the weight-room and there's spring practice. The same holds true for any sport. After the last basket drops, the last goal scored, the last field goal kicked, or the final race run (and so on), the season isn't over. Catch a clue!

There are no summer jobs, because most athletes have to be at school weeks before the other students so people like Miss Whitlock can crowd into Williams-Brice, or the coliseum, or Sarge Frye Field, or the Graveyard, and watch a sporting event.

Let's not even talk economics. USC athletes bring huge amounts of money and jobs to the Columbia economy. Every T-shirt, football jersey and bumper sticker sold in any Columbia store contributes in a small way to the local economy. Not to mention the excitement and happiness USC sports bring to a pro-less sports city.

Finally, I must address the asinine statement concerning the lack of talent of USC athletes. USC produced many All-Americans this year and last, many of whom are good friends, and I take offense to

that comment. Even more than that, it insults the majority of USC athletes who are not All-Americans and bust their ass to excel in their sport.

Sure any of us would like to suit up and play a sport for a scholarship. It's just like a music or academic scholarship. We didn't put in the thousands of hours that it takes to become a Division I athlete. It's not natural or inborn. You have to practice and that's what a Division I athlete has done since the age of four or five.

So you see, Miss Whitlock, it's not a matter of choice, it's a matter of ability, ability that is earned through hard work and determination. That's why athletes receive scholarships. So next year, when Williams-Brice erupts in a frenzy as Rob DeBoer barrels in for a TD or JoJo English brings the coliseum to its feet with a thunderous tomahawk slam, remember that emotion, remember how it feels; that's awesome athletic ability.

James Duffner
Finance senior

RHA misuses student money

To the editor:

In the April 24 *Gamecock*, there were two responses concerning the previous article about the RHA's use of funds. Both were from the RHA. That's nice.

Unfortunately, they utterly miss the issue as I see it. According to the original article, RHA spent about \$1,000 on students, but about \$5,000 on themselves.

I don't care if you've attended every meeting since the beginning of time. I don't care if you think you deserve a banquet. I don't care about your RHASC or your SAACURH. I am not involved in these things because I have witnessed them and seen their uselessness. The point here is you are spending my money for your gut.

Sorry, but that will not do. You don't do me any good. You serve no legitimate purpose except to "make the university look good." If you want to spend my money, spend it on me. I don't care for cosmetics.

If I could cut the portion of my money which goes to you, I would. Certainly, you should not expect me to go to your meetings. I don't need the company of a crowd of people who are more fashion than substance. If I wanted that, I would run for a student government office.

To sum up, let me say this: cut the bull-crap. Take a look at yourselves — you don't do anything useful. Quit patting your own backs and covering your skins with the thin veil of the "Senate." The Senate, I would guess, is attending your banquet, and without a doubt would vote a fancy dinner for itself.

Get real, people. I think *The Gamecock* surprised you. I think you finally realized how little you actually do, and you became like a person with a hole in the seat of his pants. Everyone else saw it before you did. I know I'd be embarrassed. Put it on your resume.

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