

Secession

Coastal Carolina has reason to leave the USC system

Fort Sumter revisited. In the time-honored spirit of South Carolinian independence, USC's Coastal Carolina branch is thinking of secession. Coastal is the second biggest campus in the USC system, behind only USC-Columbia, and is the fastest growing of any system campus. Sitting only ten miles from the Grand Strand, it is easy to figure out why Coastal is becoming so popular.

But why secede from the USC system? At first glance, Coastal would seem to be shooting itself in the foot by leaving the aegis of the mother campus. However, USC-Columbia's poor treatment of Coastal — and the other regional campuses — has long been a subject of controversy, and if President Palms doesn't change that attitude soon, Coastal may soon leave the fold.

USC-Columbia treats the regional campuses more like colonies than smaller partners. To use the USC name and utilize USC services, all system schools have to pay user's fees. The regional campuses have little control over how this "tribute" is spent.

Faculty salaries at system schools lag behind those at the main campus. In addition, new buildings and structural improvements are hard to come by through the USC bureaucracy.

To add insult to injury, USC-Columbia shows its contempt for the system campus curriculum by making it very difficult for students to transfer credits from a regional campus to USC-Columbia. If USC is truly one big system, why do classes at the regional campuses not count equally?

The main campus administration stonewalls any attempts by the other USC schools to improve themselves. Coastal has been aggressively expanding, despite Columbia's road-blocks. For example, USC-Columbia tried hard to keep Coastal from adding a graduate degree program. Columbia has not fully supported this initiative; however, Coastal will try to offer master's degrees starting in 1993.

Coastal Carolina is a good school, and judging by last year's season, has a better basketball team than USC-Columbia. If President Palms doesn't get rid of the master-slave mentality his predecessor had for the system colleges, other schools may follow the lead of USC-Florence (which is now Francis Marion College) and get out.



People don't care about 'real' news

A great tragedy took place Friday night in Sarasota, Fla. Pee Wee Herman was arrested for indecent exposure of a sexual organ.

An even greater tragedy took place Saturday and Sunday. Pee Wee Herman's arrest was the lead story for many newspapers.

How can a man who's been arrested for getting it on with his hand make the front page of a newspaper while the mutilation of 14 bodies only gets page eight coverage?

I guess that's the way we press operate. But can we really blame the press?

The functions of the press is to inform the public and make some money. We give the public the news they want to hear.

I'm sorry to say that Pee Wee playing with his pee wee is more important than the crumbling of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. At least it is to the average Joe.

With the inventions of TV and radio, more people want to be entertained. That's logical. But along with their desire for entertainment comes their apathy towards "real news."

How many times has the President come on TV for an address during "The Cosby Show" and you've shaken your fist at him?

No one cares anymore about news. Only 57% of the population reads a newspaper everyday. Of that total, almost 85% of them are above the age of 35.



TIGE WATTS

Newspapers aren't the only ones hurting. If CBS, NBC, and ABC did not have news services, people really wouldn't care. Maybe FOX would be wise not to invest into a network news show.

The lack of interest has made newspapers pander to "sensational" news. No one cares about how many first place awards the USC accounting firm has won. But people sure would like to know how much money Holderman spent for his intern's bathrobes.

Yesterday's lead story in *The State* was about Di and Charles' 10th wedding anniversary. Who gives a flying %&! if they've been married 10 years. Where was the story about Yeltsin being invited to the Moscow Summit? I guess it wasn't important enough.

When the "Justify My Love" video was the leading story on Nightline, more people watched that show than ever before. And then

to further show how bad it was, they had a five-minute follow-up on developments in the Gulf.

Thus, Madonna being Madonna was more important than the Gulf.

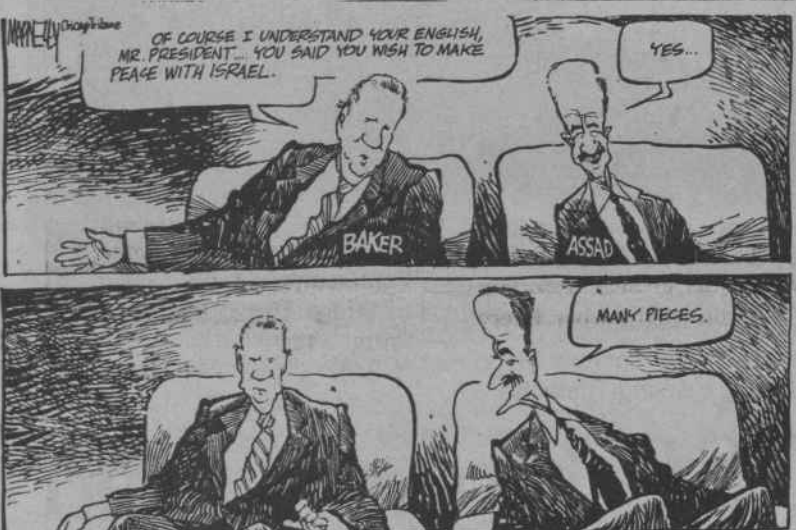
Sin and sex are two definites to selling newspapers. People can't get enough of it (obviously Pee Wee can't either).

Along with apathy to news comes apathy to political ideas. Political correctness is a hot topic nationwide on college campuses. *The Gamecock* has run only one column about the topic and then no letters to the editors were written in response.

The Gamecock has, however, run numerous letters to the editors about religion, homosexuality, and animal rights with more stacked up for a bonfire. So, are you saying to the press that animal rights are more important than political correctness?

Even USC President John Palms was amazed his campus is not hot on the topic of political correctness. He's said people have asked him how we're reacting to it but he can't tell them anything.

Granted different topics have different importance to different people. But shouldn't universal topics also have universal importance to everyone?

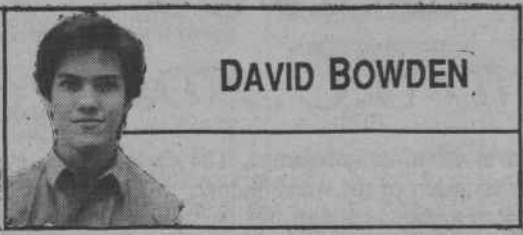


Bank scandal good for exploitative news

The controversy over the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has been called the biggest scandal in American history since New Coke. BCCI tried to take over First American Bank in Washington in a veil of secrecy. BCCI launders money for some of the most crooked people in the world, and First American knew it. So did high-ranking officials in the Carter administration.

Obviously, this news is music to the ears of Congressmen, reporters and Republicans. Congressmen will be shooting themselves over who heads the Select Congressional Sub-Committee on "Launder-gate," or whatever other idiotic name they give to this fiasco. Reporters all see Pulitzers and book-deals dancing before their eyes. Republicans are just glad this scandal doesn't affect them much, for once.

There is a lot of blame to go around, how-



DAVID BOWDEN

ever. The CIA was involved with BCCI, which puts that agency in some dubious company. BCCI was the bank of choice for a who's who of creeps, including Saddam Hussein, Ferdinand Marcos, Manuel Noriega, Abu Nidal, the Colombian drug cartel and, for all we know, that guy from Milwaukee.

Knowing the federal government, the taxpayers will end up paying for a Special Prosecutor who will investigate BCCI for years and

finally bring up charges on two low-ranking officials for jay-walking. We can all thank the Gods that no grand-standing Lieutenant Colonel has come out of the wood-work to cry on TV.

Unfortunately, many careers will be destroyed and reputations sullied in this mess. So what? We don't know these guys! And anyway, their ruined, wretched lives make good copy. Talking about BCCI has killed a great deal of space for journalists around the country, including myself.

This is a juicy story, and I'm sure we will all be sick of it in the coming months. Let's just hope we don't find out profits from BCCI didn't get diverted to any Central American rebel groups or used to hire Cubans to break into anybody's campaign headquarters. That's blasé.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abortion right must be kept

To the editor:

The recent letter to the editor entitled "New nominee good choice" of 8-17-91 by Rick O'Neil failed on a number of accounts. What Mr. O'Neil does not understand, or neglects to articulate, is that the appointment of Judge Thomas puts much more at stake than survival of *Roe v Wade*.

What concerns me more, however, is Mr. O'Neil's invalidation of *Roe v Wade* on the basis that abortion rights are not found explicitly in the Constitution. I have to assume that, as a law student, Mr. O'Neil knows that a number of rights that most Americans consider Constitutionally protected are not stated explicitly in the Constitution. The Constitution itself states in the Ninth Amendment that just because the Constitution has enumerated certain rights, does not mean others should be denied.

For example, the right to choose a spouse is not stated explicitly, but has been deemed a right to be protected by the Constitution. Therefore, I can only conclude that Mr. O'Neil is using his legal edu-

cation to distort reality to meet his needs. The Constitution, like life, is not frozen in time.

Finally, O'Neil's argument that abortion rights advocates should not worry if *Roe v Wade* is overturned if a "wide majority of Americans support abortion..." is simplistic and insulting. It minimizes the gravity of the current situation, and the battles that will ensue in every state throughout the country. He appeals to the idea of mass opinion as a proper forum for the determination of individual rights.

It is the function of the Constitution and Supreme Court decisions, however, to protect rights that could be put in jeopardy by mass opinion. The right to choose abortion as a right to privacy is one of those rights. It is a right that cannot be called into question when the sentiment of the times sees fit.

Evelyn Louise Allen
Public health student

Apartheid not only problem

To the editor:

Mr. John Babalola, in his July 17 letter criticizing President Bush

for lifting sanctions against South Africa, notes that "De Klerk has said that even after apartheid, there is not going to be a 'one-man, one-vote' democracy." While I agree that South Africa "is still a racist country, unfree and undemocratic" by modern Western standards, I am skeptical that a one-man (inclusive), one-vote policy would fundamentally change societal injustice.

For his part, Nelson Mandela, while urging just such a change, repeatedly emphasizes that black-majority rule would not become a "dictatorship of the majority." Mandela hopes to reassure his white countrymen that their rights as individuals and as a group would be safeguarded, largely through constitutional checks, from the overbearing will of the black majority — a clear reference that South Africa would not be another Northern Ireland (prior to British dissolution of the Stormont parliament) or Israel.

White South Africans often point to these nations as examples of majority rule completely divorced from any notion of democracy — where fundamental human and civil rights are denied a large segment of the population that fails to meet religious and ra-

cial criteria. In fact, the racist Zionist and Apartheid legal structures are closely modeled on British "security" laws for Northern Ireland.

The empowered whites of South Africa suffer from a "siege" mentality, i.e., they feel surrounded by hordes of uncivilized blacks who would run riot if not vigilantly suppressed. Similar rationale guides Ulster Protestants (engulfed in a sea of Catholic inquisitioners), Israeli Jews (besieged by unwashed Arab masses) and even Americans (the Communist conspiracy!) in supporting brutal and militant policies. Overcoming the fears underlying repressive actions is beyond the scope of sanctions or force (as was used against Iraq), but requires consistent confidence-building measures.

South Africa is slowly moving in the direction of democracy. Lifting sanctions now may indeed hinder further reform, but both blacks and whites must eventually agree on how to live together constructively and peacefully through political and economic power-sharing. And since majority rule is no guarantee of democracy, South Africans must struggle with whether democracy always entails one man-one vote.

John R. Hanson

THE GAMECOCK

News: 777-7726

Advertising: 777-4249

DAVID BOWDEN
Editor in Chief

TIGE WATTS
News Editor

AARON SHEININ
Carolina Life Editor

RICH TAYLOR
Sports Editor

DANIEL BARABAS
Graphics Editor

JULIE BOUCHILLON
Photo Editor

JENNIFER JABLONSKI
Copy Desk Chief

LAURA S. DAY
Production Manager

RAY BURGOS
Assistant Production Manager

RENEE A. GIBSON
Advertising Manager

CAROLYN GRIFFIN
Business Manager

ERIK COLLINS
Faculty Adviser

Letters Policy: The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at maximum, 250 to 300 words long. The writer must include full name, professional title if a USC employee or South Carolina resident, or year and major if a student. An address and phone number are required with all letters sent. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit letters for style, possible libel or in case of space limitations. The newspaper will not withhold names under any circumstance.