

Honors

President undercuts one part of school to promote another

President John Palms was gracious enough to write an article for this paper describing the achievements of the university. However, when Palms mentioned South Carolina College (the honors college), he said the following: "The honors college offers a superior education to young people who might otherwise attend academically acclaimed schools outside of South Carolina."

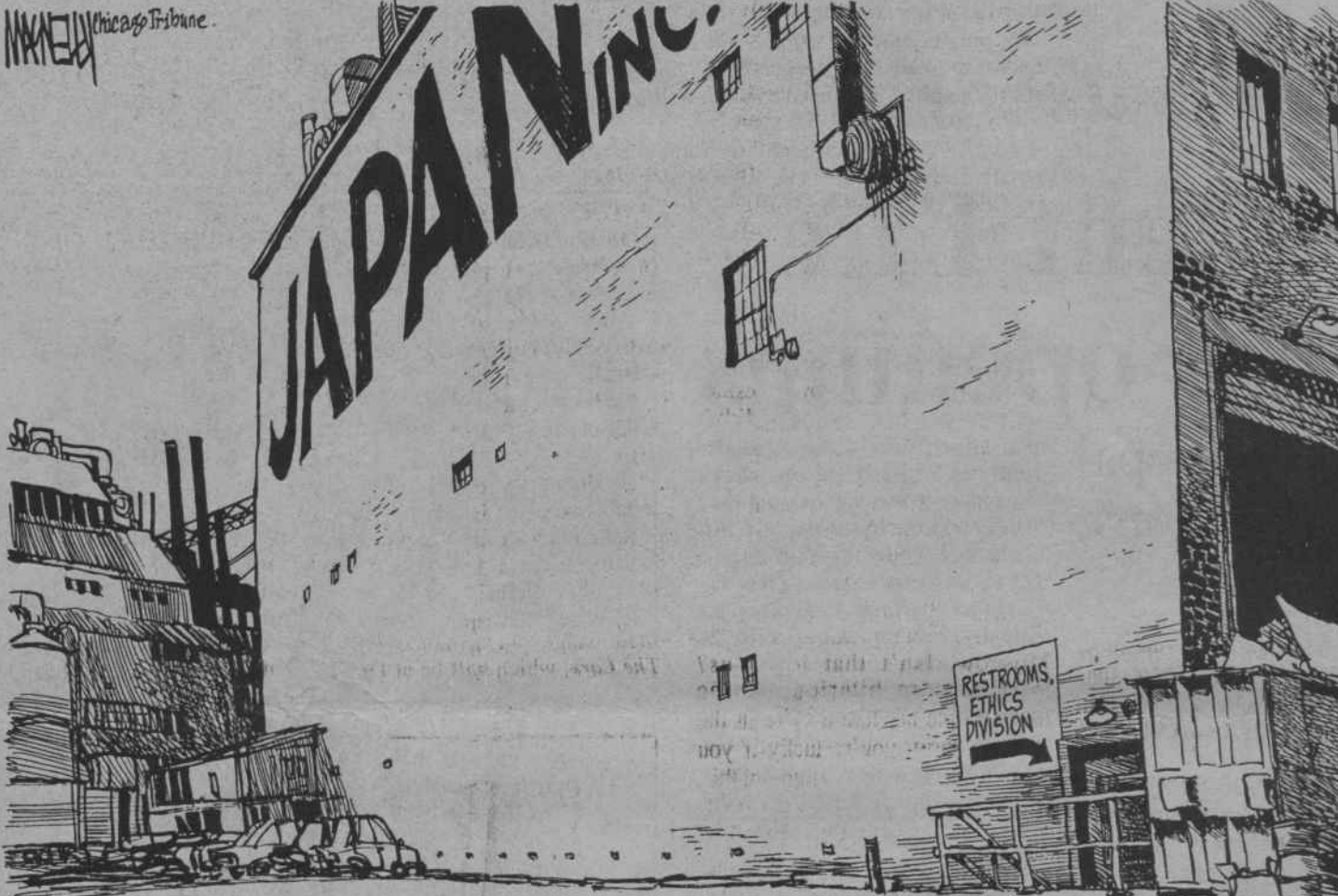
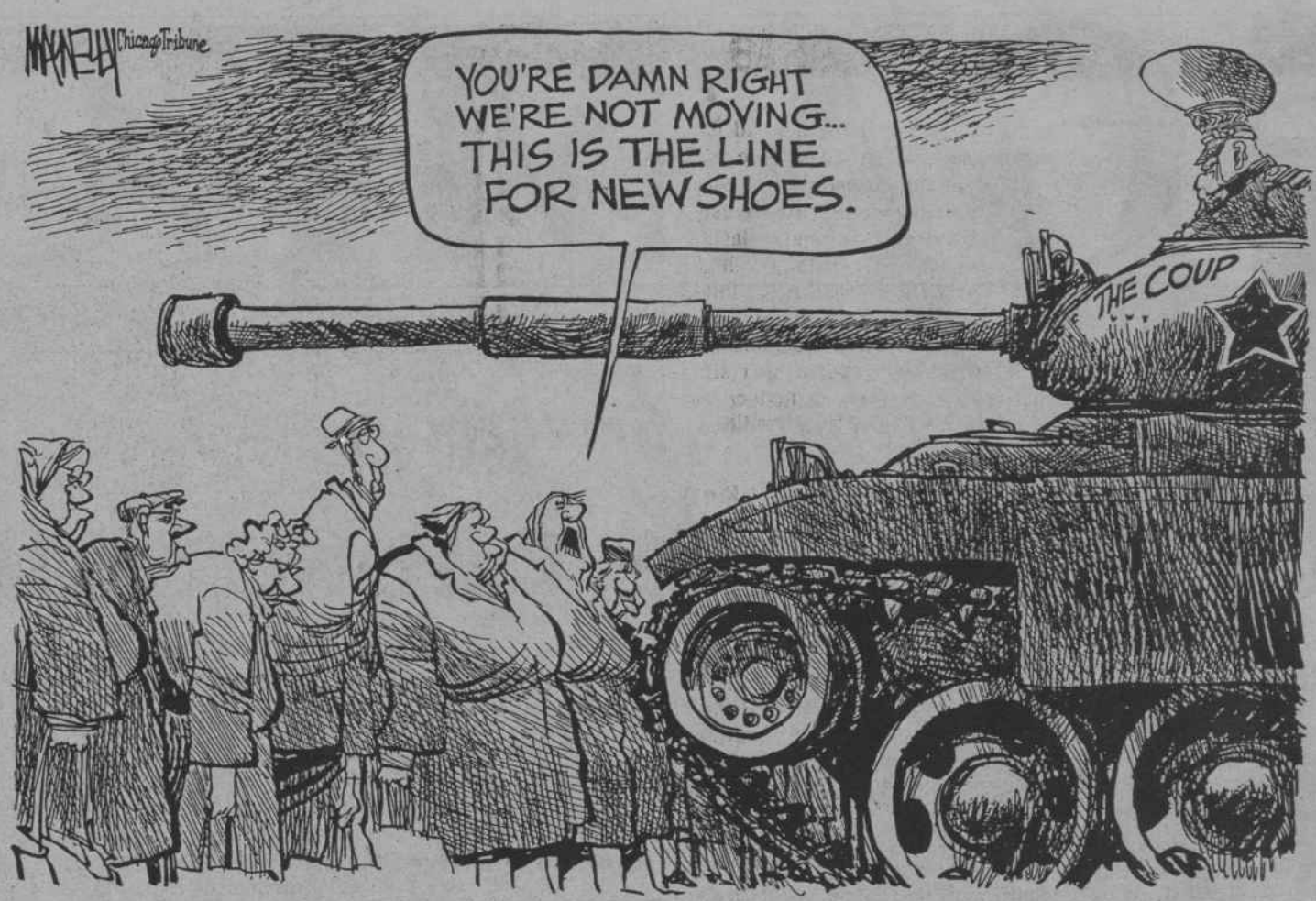
This was an unfortunate choice of words. To say South Carolina College is a "superior education" for those who want to go to an "academically acclaimed" school is insulting to the rest of the university. It is sort of like saying, "USC stinks, but at least we have the honors college."

Two things are disappointing about Palms making this comment. First, the "regular" university class system is not bad at all. Nationally acclaimed professors teach classes at USC, plain old USC. Many of these professors also teach in the South Carolina College, but one should not think SCC has a monopoly on the best professors.

USC is a great school, certainly among the best in the Southeast. It is not on par with the Ivy League, but few Southern universities are. This school is among the country's leaders in international studies and business courses. A more positive outlook from the USC president is the first step to becoming a national power in other academic areas.

Second, South Carolina College is very good, but cannot honestly be compared to truly "acclaimed" institutions of higher learning such as Harvard or Stanford. Such comparisons have been made by USC administration before. It is both a slight to the regular campus and false advertising to potential applicants to speak of the honors college in such glowing terms.

This is not meant in any way to slight the students and faculty of the honors college. As stated previously, SCC is a fine institution and has an important place as part of the university. However, the USC administration — President Palms in particular — should not sell the rest of the campus short to promote the honors college. SCC should be judged on its own merits, not in relation to the deficiencies of USC as a whole.



Friday on Viewpoint

- Hospital care in America: Fill Out This Form Please
- Dennis Shealy shares the secret of the universe
- Outraged readers write spiteful letters

Gripe of the Week

It is a shame that some professors insist on assigning huge amounts of unnecessary reading to students. It is not so much the number of books assigned as the knowledge that the majority of books will be of no use on the course's tests. Reading is an obvious part of the learning experience, but professors should be cognizant of the fact that books are expensive and students should not have to buy texts they won't need to fulfill the course's requirements.

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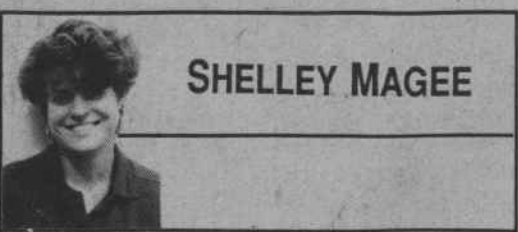
University should not lower standards

It is not a quick and easy clean up job sitting in the lap of John Palms.

We're understaffed. There's nowhere to park. We can't get into the classes we need because they're all full. Budget cuts are threatening to make it even tougher to get into classes, not to mention the cuts to maintenance, student activities and student services. In short, this university ain't big enough for all of us.

None of this is John Palms' fault, poor guy, but he is the direction we are all looking in for the solution. I'm not trying to add to the already developing ulcer, I'm sure he must be suffering from at this point, but I do have some questions.

With enrollment as high as it stands now, why are we encouraging students with dismal grade point averages to float around taking classes if they're unable to get into a major? The university will allow students to continue taking classes with a GPR as low as 1.23. The absolute minimum GPR to remain in any college of USC is a 2.0. What happens to these poor people when they can't get into a major?



SHELLEY MAGEE

Sure, the university makes money, but do these students get the education they came here for? And we get overcrowded classes we can't get into, yet we must take to graduate, because these people have to take classes somewhere.

Perhaps the university should be channeling more of these borderline students as freshmen to the university's branch campuses. It's one thing to have a student's GPR drop after they've already been admitted. But why admit freshmen with low grades and test scores when they could go to Sumter for a year first and see if they can handle it?

It is an already existing policy that students who perform well in their first year at Sumter

or Aiken, etc., can transfer relatively hassle free to USC proper and pursue a major field of study. Maybe this function could be used more effectively to weed out some of the students who are not cut out for the four year university experience. This is also a way in for students whose high school performance may keep them from being admitted to Columbia when they actually have what it takes to do well here.

Everyone gets a chance. All you have to do is prove you can cut it.

Now I know it's not all this cut and dry. I also know some efforts are being made in this direction. But we need some results and we need them a lot faster than anything we're seeing right now. Easy for the columnist to say, right?

The USC hardly needs to become a school for the elite, but there's no need to lead students down the wrong path — that costs time and money for everyone.

After all, this is higher education we're talking about. That means higher costs, higher learning and higher standards.

Presidential veto doesn't make sense

This past week, George Bush vetoed a \$3.86 billion budget for the District of Columbia because it allowed money to be spent on abortions.

Bush called spending money on abortions "unacceptable."

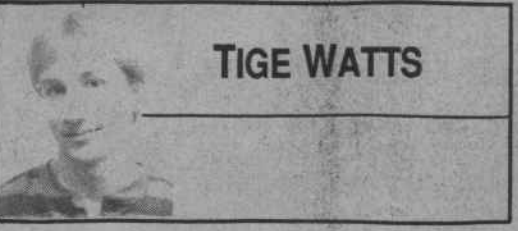
Now sit and think about this. George Bush, the man who asked America to read his misleading lips, doesn't want to spend a small amount of money on abortions. Instead, he would rather stick it to us taxpayers to support these unwanted children.

Bush and the other self-righteous nincompoops in Wichita, Kansas fail to realize one thing — abortion saves us a lot of money.

Everywhere in the grand old USA is under some tough financial times, except for maybe Utah. Is it very sensible to stop funding for abortions?

Most people who have abortions, especially in D.C., are from broken homes. They have no money and that may be one reason why they get in so much trouble.

Now these poverty-stricken women can't get an abortion because they have no money. So they sit around for nine months and give their baby away, loading more burden on our finan-



TIGE WATTS

cially weak government.

And George Bush says spending money on abortions is unacceptable.

During his campaign, Bush said he supports adoption not abortion. Gee, George how many of your adopted kids would be black, addicted to crack, born premature and expected to live only six more months. I guess none.

Let's not kid ourselves anymore. No one wants children who are "different." When you go to the orphanages or foster homes, you don't see any Beaver Cleavers, Laura Ingalls or Theodore Huxtables.

Would it really be more acceptable to spend \$1 million per each unwanted child until they're 18? It's kind of sad we want to spend all that money for children who would eventually end up in prison, anyways.

Don't swallow the thinking that abortion is

an easy way out of a hard situation. A person has to carry around that guilt for the rest of their lives. They have to think about how they didn't allow a person the chance to live.

So people who have abortions don't need these self-righteous, self-centered, insensitive, baby-doll waving, anal-retentive abortion protesters waving their religion in their faces.

What's the deal with Operation Rescue in Wichita? I support their freedom to protest and I'm actually supportive of it. They have a political thought and should be allowed to voice it.

However, they should be allowed to voice it peacefully. Once they start blocking entrances to abortion clinics, they begin to overstep their bounds. No one has any right to stop someone from doing something legal.

I applaud Judge Kelly for starting to arrest them. Operation Rescue no longer was protesting peacefully. They were violently jamming their beliefs down everyone's throat. These protesters were becoming more violent than the actual act of abortion.

Until the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, abortion is legal and cost-efficient. Let's be sensible and not let self-righteous bigots tell us what to do.

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.