

Racism

Newsletter gets far more attention than it deserves from USC students

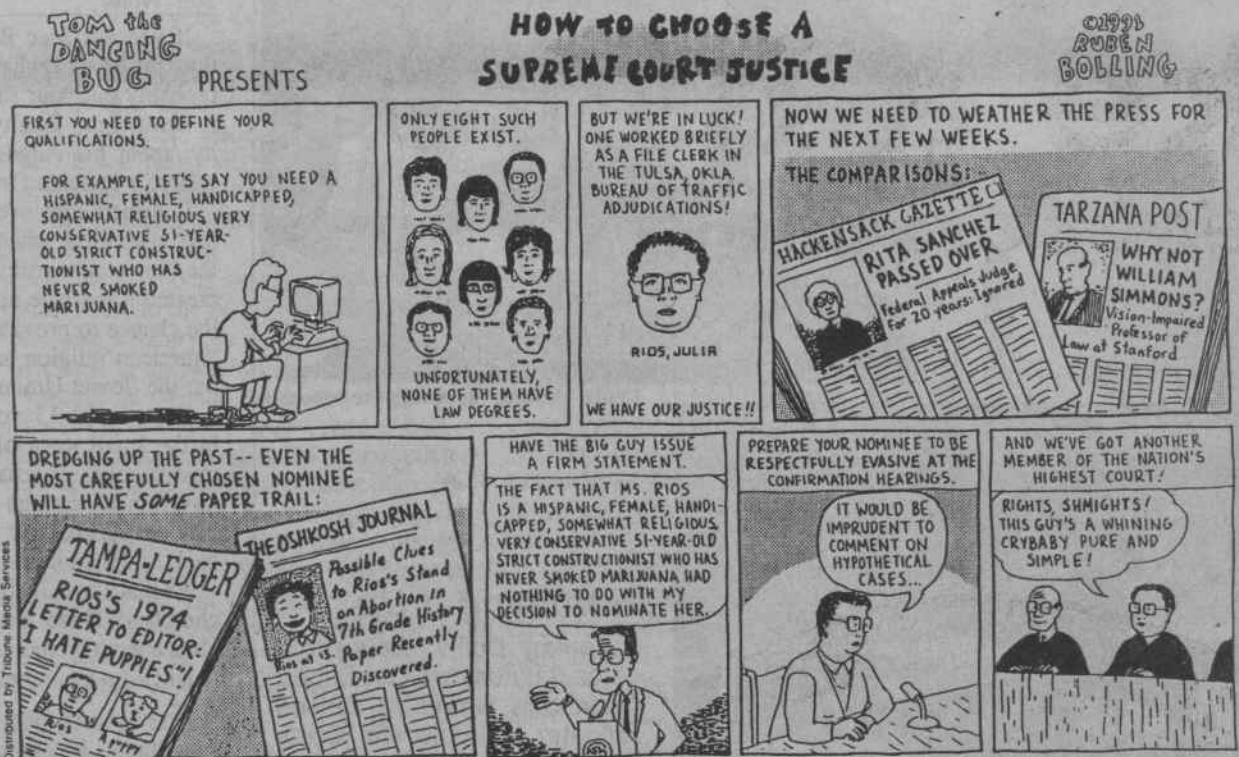
There is an extreme shortage of humor on this campus. Students are so serious about every facet of USC life that they losing their sense of humor, or more precisely their sense of what is important. A prime example is the amount of attention focused on the "Cockwheat" character in the *Gamecock Fever* newsletter.

Cockwheat is a parody of Buckwheat of Little Rascals fame. The allegedly funny article has been seen as racist by many students and administrators for its stereotypical treatment of blacks (African-Americans if you prefer). Whether or not the article is actually prejudicial is not the point. Did this insignificant flier really warrant demands by Student Government and the NAACP for a boycott of *Gamecock Fever's* sponsors?

The world is full of ethnic hatred and terror, but is Cockwheat contributing to that? Only recently, blacks and Jews were killing each other in New York City over a racial incident. Cockwheat pales in significance. Why not urge racial understanding instead of dwelling on a silly article?



THE SPEAKERS' REVIEW / SPEAKERS' CHRONICLE



Woods should take risks in order to win

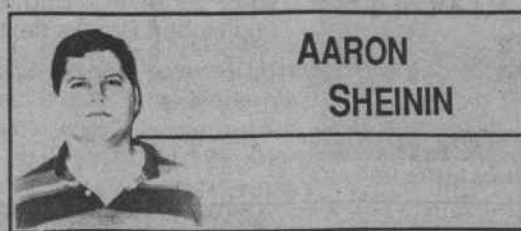
Of the 68,200 men, women, children and drunks in attendance at Saturday's game, how many of you left feeling good about where this Gamecock team is going?

Sure, it's great to get the first win under the belt, the obvious cannot be ignored — are we getting any better, or are we again saturated in mediocrity? If the action on the field at Williams-Brice Stadium isn't going to get any better, they should at least sell beer. Now that would be an improvement.

Let's look at the highs and lows of the Virginia Tech game and the season as a whole. In the Tech game, we actually saw an intensity-attack defense, at times. What was that I saw, a Gamecock player showing emotion after making a tackle? After Eddie Miller's 55-yard reception in the first quarter, Bobby Fuller ran down the field pumping his fist.

Frighteningly enough, the first thing I thought about was how Fuller looked like Terry Bradshaw trotting down the field in a Pittsburgh Steeler's uniform. But we are not in Pittsburgh, Fuller didn't just pass to one of the greatest receivers of all time, Lynn Swann, and the Gamecocks are not climbing the mountain to championship status.

I'm drifting though, this is supposed to be the highs, right? Senior leadership. This was actually something I witnessed Saturday. Robert



AARON SHEININ

Gibson, especially at outside linebacker, played with the intensity missing the first two weeks. Inside, it was Joe Reeves making the impact with his play as well as his attitude.

On the offensive side, Bobby Fuller was again the most valuable player, showing great poise in the pocket and finding the open receiver. Speaking of receivers, David Pitchko has got to be the most underrated player on the Gamecock squad. Has anyone seen Pitchko not come through on third and long? Robert Brooks and Eddie Miller sometimes live up to the billing, but Pitchko is the only receiver this season whom I have complete confidence in. Change his nickname to Hoover and put him in the starting lineup.

One more high. Brandon Bennett and Terry Wilburn are the only two "young players," as coach Sparky Woods is so fond of saying, who actually look like they are improving. Both showed signs of improvement Saturday, but

likewise, both made mistakes. However, this is a perfect lead-in for the lows. How much longer are we going to hear about the "young Gamecocks?" When does young just become an excuse for untalented?

But maybe this is too harsh, maybe they do need longer to mature as players. Maybe the talent is there, but the coaching is not. But maybe, just maybe Woods could come out and admit what most are pondering — without the win against Virginia Tech, he might not coach an SEC contest. Sooner or later Sparky has got to stop making excuses about a young secondary or an inept kicking game, or he may never see them mature.

Insert disclaimer here, it says. I like Sparky Woods, and I don't want to see him fired. He is a genuinely nice man in a tough situation, but nice doesn't win much in this world, especially football games. Nice doesn't get contracts extended, and nice doesn't win championships. Aggressive play and talented players do.

Sparky, if I have any advice for you, it would be to live a little. You said after the West Virginia loss, that you wanted the players to go out and have some fun, so why don't you listen to your own testimony. Gamble on fourth down (since you obviously can't trust your field goal unit), fake the punt, run the flea-blicker, or your odds of keeping your job are slim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

USC system good as whole

To the editor:

This letter is in response to a recent *Gamecock* editorial which addresses the issue of overcrowding within USC-Columbia during a time of statewide financial hardship. First I must agree with Ms. Magee's objection to allowing students to continuously meander in the system while their GPAs remain far below acceptable standards.

Furthermore, if minimum standards throughout state-supported colleges and universities were raised, then perhaps the South Carolina General Assembly could put more money into the retention of quality educational services and into curbing the increasing cost of tuition.

Being slightly more compassionate than I, Ms. Magee was inclined to offer assistance to the numerous people unable to make the cut at USC-Columbia. She would have them attend one of the satellite campuses, such as USC-Aiken, in order to determine whether or not they are capable of scholastic success at a four-year university. However, some, including myself, find objection with such reasoning, and I will briefly explain why.

First of all, may I remind Ms. Magee that USC-Aiken is a four-year university with academic standards at least as strict as those of USC-Columbia. It seems rather illogical to send someone to a four-year university in order to see whether or not they can succeed at a four-year university.

I chose USC-Aiken over USC-Columbia for its friendly academic and social atmosphere which places great emphasis upon the student. Although having already attended another institution of higher learning, I found my course load to be quite challenging. Thanks to USC-Aiken, my education has been thorough and I have obtained the knowledge, self-confidence and preparation necessary to continue on towards greater scholastic endeavors.

Unfortunately, many acquaintances of mine found the curriculum at USC-Aiken beyond their capabilities, and so they moved on;

some even transferred to USC-Columbia. Hence, one can understand how members of the USC community outside of Columbia would take offense at the gross and outdated misconception that USC-Columbia is and should be the most academically challenging.

Furthermore, weeding out those who consistently maintain a very low GPA would not save USC-Columbia money, for monetarily, it would only benefit the State Treasury. Since the state subsidizes most of an in-state student's education, a decision by a student to discontinue their affiliation with USC-Columbia would cause the school to lose funds which would have been used to finance that person's education.

Also, for South Carolina to subsidize the same student's education at USC-Aiken would save little money, since the state's cost for subsidizing a student's education varies only marginally between public colleges and universities.

In conclusion, we here at USC-Aiken could not care less whether or not USC-Columbia enhances their quality, rankings and prestige if it must be at the expense of the other eight system campuses. It is this central-minded attitude that has led USC-Coastal Carolina to seriously consider seceding from USC, and if it could continue, other schools will inevitably follow suit. For those students who find themselves bewildered by the size of USC-Columbia, perhaps a smaller university such as USC-Aiken can help. However, for those students at Columbia who are content with their unacceptable performance, I can think of no better place for them than USC-Columbia.

Sean William Bell
Political science senior
USC-Aiken

Phone sales big nuisance

To the editor:

Something has got to be done about the solicitation problem on this campus. It's too often that I am awakened by some telemarketing employee who's trying to trick me into buying something I don't want or need.

Credit cards are a popular one. The person tells you they are sending the card and asks for verification of your address. No, you don't have to talk to them. You can hang up, but half the time they'll end up sending it to you anyway.

If we want credit cards, we'll apply for them. If we want magazines, we'll order them. Solicitor phone calls are not only irritating but unnecessary. Whatever happened to the old theory of college students scrimping for money? I know I can't afford a credit card and as for magazines, who has time to read them during a frustrating semester of schoolwork? Come on solicitors, give us a break. Don't call us — we'll call you!

C. Clayton
Retailing sophomore

Alcohol, cars don't mix well

To the editor:

Imagine that your family is having a get-together in your honor. All of your friends and family are there. Some have traveled hundreds of miles just to be there with you. All are sharing stories and reminiscing about all the good times you all have shared together. Some have brought pictures, another gives you a T-shirt from your school, while another remembers to bring you a baseball hat from your favorite team. There is a lot of laughter and many tears... at your funeral.

Because someone let one of their friends drive home drunk, your friends are now attending your funeral.

A typical night out at Carolina usually begins at a party or somewhere in Five Points. Everyone goes out with only the best of intentions, to have a good time with friends. Only after hours of drinking it is time to go back to your dorm or apartment. You all pile into someone's car and drive back.

You laugh and joke about how it's a miracle you made it home without getting into an accident or pulled over. Next time maybe you won't be so lucky. Next time you're driving home and swerve into the wrong lane, hitting another car head-on. You stumble away unharmed while the other driver has a

broken neck. He narrowly escapes death and might be paralyzed from the neck down for the rest of his life.

Or you allowed a friend to drive, who also has been drinking, again you swerve into the wrong lane and continue to drive in it. This time when the cars hit, both drivers are killed, and you walk away. The families and friends of these victims are devastated. I know because I am one of these friends.

Two years ago my friend Joey was hit head-on by a drunk driver. I have known Joey since junior high; he's smart, a great athlete and a terrific guy. After Joey's accident, the doctors said he'd never walk again, but luckily for Joey he has a terrific family and a lot of close friends who helped him as he struggled down the road to recovery. They were there to give him the support when he needed it as he pushed himself to his physical limits. Joey beat the odds. It's been more than a year now, and Joey is walking again.

David wasn't as lucky as Joey. When a drunk driver who had been driving on the wrong side of the highway hit his car, he was killed. It hurts to talk about David in the past tense because anyone that knew him knows that there is no way David's spirit could have died that night. David was a talented young lawyer, a caring brother and son and a best friend to many. Although David has passed away, he is still with us. He will be remembered always in the hearts of those whose lives he touched.

I am not here to judge anyone or try to force my views on you, as the sign-men outside of Russell House do. I just hope that in writing at least one person stops and thinks before they do something that could not only affect your life but the lives of those closest to you and the lives of others you may never know. Go out, have a great time, because God knows I do and David would, but do it with responsibility.

One last thing, keep Joey, David and his family in your prayers, and anyone else in that situation and pray that you never find yourself in that situation.

P.L. Laing
HRTA senior

CARTOONISTS:
USC students who like to draw (good) editorial cartoons should please send samples to David Bowden, Viewpoint Cartoons, Drawer A, Russell House, USC, 29225. We would prefer to run only USC students' work if possible, so keep the cartoons coming!

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