

Nukes

President Bush breaks ground, but there's still long way to go

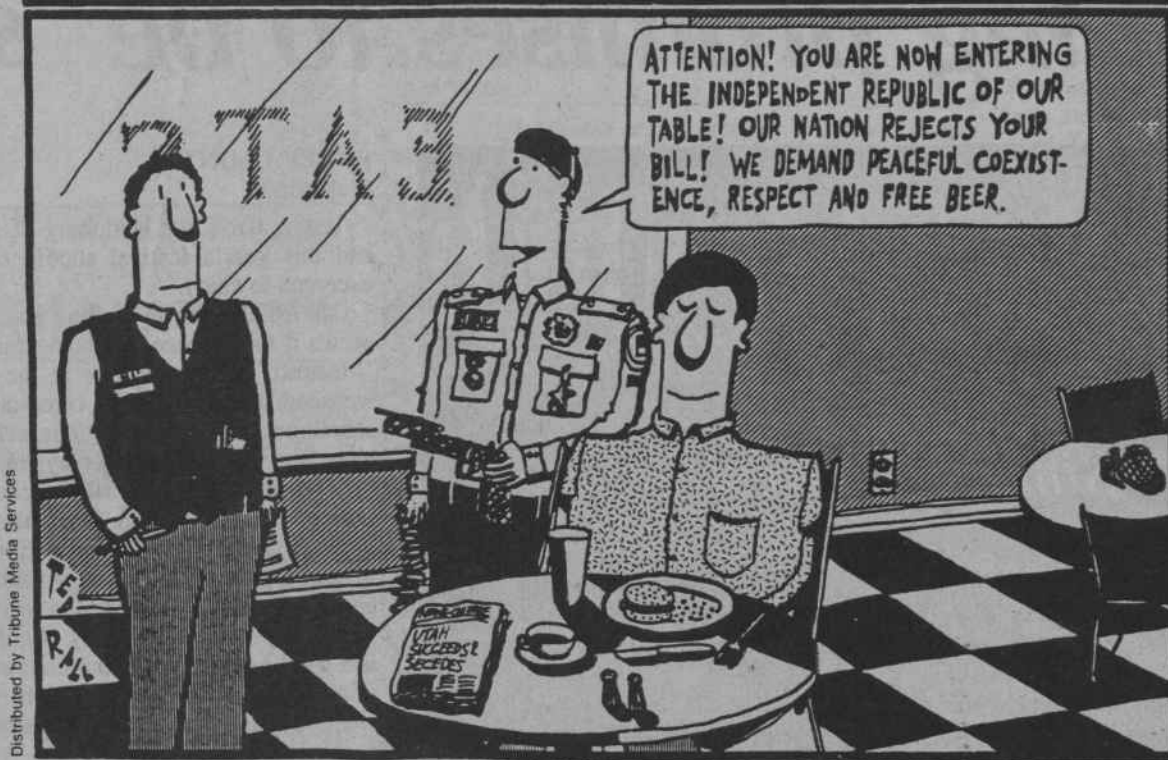
George Bush made an announcement Friday of critical importance to the world. In one speech, Bush eliminated the Strategic Air Command, American short-range nuclear missiles in Europe and South Korea, nuclear warheads on U.S. surface ships and a great deal of the U.S. submarine-launched cruise missile force. The amazing thing is he was being conservative in his reductions.

Bush's announcements greatly improve world peace and stability. However, it is a shame that the president continues his wasteful obsession with the B-2 bomber and the Strategic Defense Initiative. A stealth nuclear bomber is a first-strike weapon. It is destabilizing and unnecessary. SDI has merits, but it is prohibitively expensive. The best way to protect the United States from Third World ICBMs is to prevent them from getting them in the first place.

Amazingly enough, some people still think America should push for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This situation would be completely unstable and unworkable. A nuclear-free world is a liberal fantasy for as the cliché goes, "the nuclear genie is permanently out of the bottle."

All the same, Bush has gone far towards creating a cheaper, and safer, nuclear deterrent. Let's continue this progress with cuts on wasteful projects. Who knows, we might just be able to afford some educational spending.

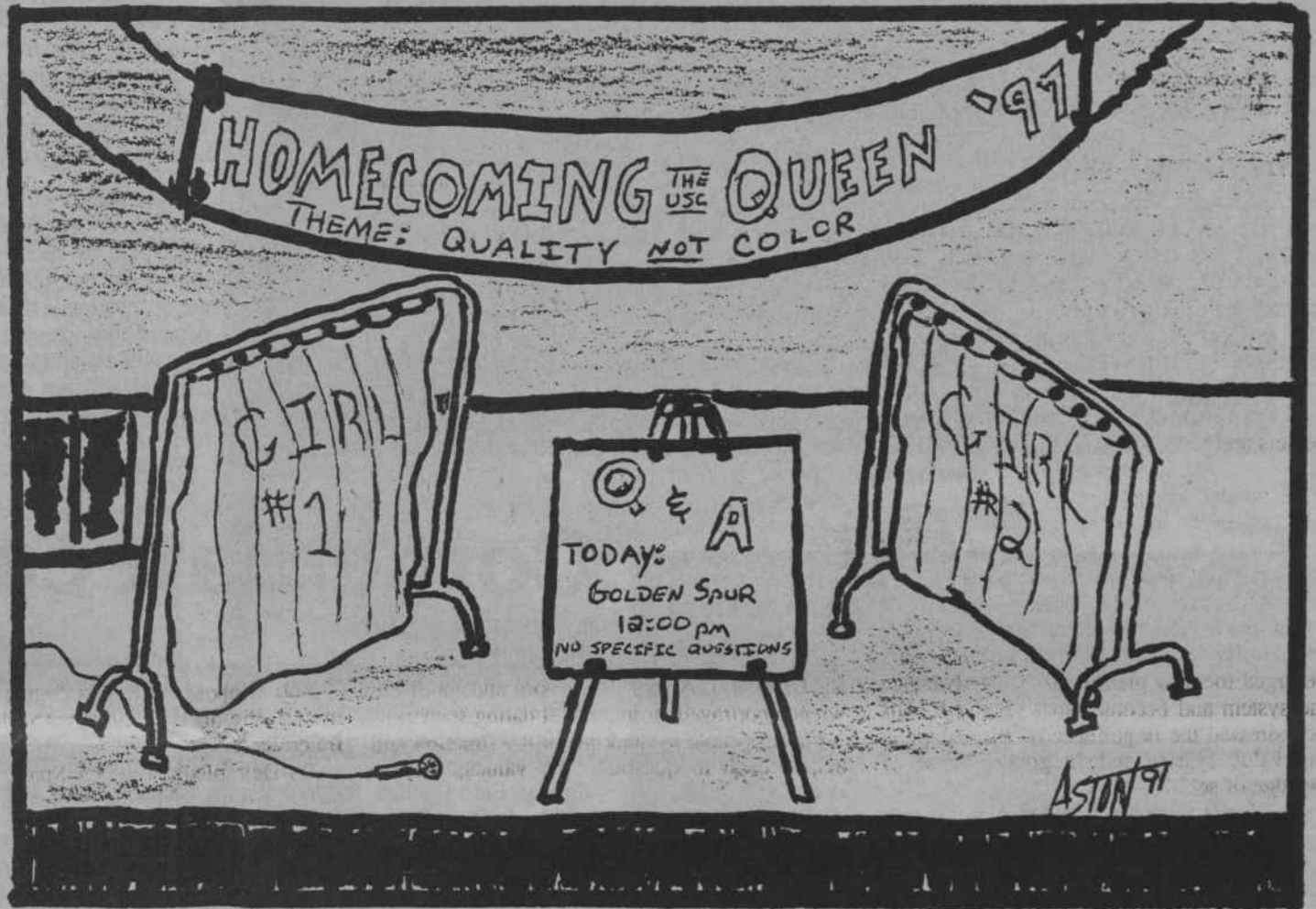
SECESSION FOR FUN AND PROFIT



Distributed by Tribune Media Services



"I THINK THE QUESTION, REALLY, IS 'WHICH POTENTIAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ARE NOT RUNNING?'"



Star Wars waste of money for America

I picked up the newspaper Saturday morning and almost vomited.

No, I did not vomit because of the quality of stories in *The State*. Rather, I was appalled at the latest political action of blunderous George Bush.

Yes, I do admit it's a good idea to get rid of nuclear arsenal capable of blowing this and other solar systems apart. But let's at least have some good intentions when we do such an action.

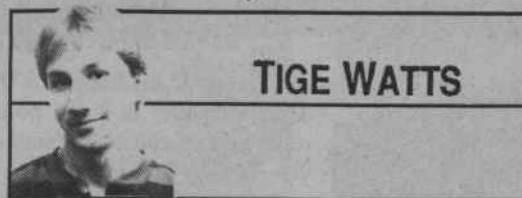
Bush is not cutting nuclear weapons for the benefit of world peace, instead he's putting the final nail in the Democrat's already-sealed coffin.

Did anyone really listen to Bush's speech? One thing that struck me was the absence of cutting SDI, more commonly recognized as "Star Wars."

Why in Sam's hill do we need this dumb, expensive program? It was started with the "evil, Communist empire in mind." George, last time I checked there is no longer any evil, Communist empire.

So now, honest taxpayers, are stuck with paying up the wazoo for a useless defense mechanism.

Also, if Bush is benevolent in this action where are domestic reforms?



TIGE WATTS

Bush, as usual, said nothing about domestic intentions. Never mind the fact education is falling rapidly. Never mind the fact we pay more for the federal debt than anything else. Never mind the fact bankruptcies have almost tripled over the past 10 years.

I was reading *The State* Sunday and was appalled at the information in the opinion section. Knight-Ridder did a survey on our crippling economy and the results were shocking, to say the least.

Here's a few of those results:

- In 1980, hourly wages averaged \$7.78. That total is now \$7.54.
- Weekly salaries plunged from \$275 in 1980 to \$260 this year.
- U.S. office vacancy rates grew from 5 percent to almost 18 percent.
- In 1980 the gross national debt was \$909 billion. Thanks to Reaganomics and Bush's pansy economic plans the number is now \$4 trillion.

■ Not only did the debt grow, but so did the interest on the debt. In 1980, we paid \$75 billion in interest. We now pay \$304 billion.

Bush's GNP growth is the worst since Truman started his second term. Bush's GNP growth is only 1.5 percent. That's a whole 1.7 percent less than bonehead Jimmy Carter's GNP growth.

One last area to look into is what our budget pays. According to the fiscal year 1992 budget, we will shell out:

- \$304 billion — interest on debts.
- \$295 billion — defense.
- \$289 billion — social security.
- \$114 billion — Medicare.
- \$46 billion — education and job training.
- \$19.5 billion — environment.
- \$14.5 billion — administration of justice.

In a time of world peace around the corner, can we continue to pay \$295 billion for defense. Let's be reasonable, can we afford so much to kick Saddam Hussein's butt with as much authority? I think not.

If Bush wants to be the education, environment, economic president, he needs to stop deceiving us. He needs to start pumping money into the domestic budget.

Health workers must have AIDS testing

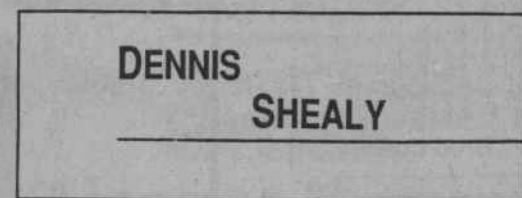
Thursday, Kimberly Bergalis started testifying before Congress on the need for mandatory HIV testing for all health care workers in the United States. Bergalis is dying of AIDS. She claims to have been infected by her dentist.

Health care professionals, on the other hand, contend that the risk of acquiring HIV infection in this way is so slight that mandatory testing would prove to be more detrimental to solving the AIDS crisis than helpful.

The big problem with this point of view is that AIDS is lethal. When a person becomes infected with this virus they are going to cease to exist a lot sooner than they otherwise would, and I fail to see why anyone could be against mandatory testing.

I understand the arguments against it on the grounds of rights of the health care professionals, and the risks of accidental infection being relatively slim when proper procedures are followed. The nature of accidents, however, are that they are accidental, beyond the control of those involved, and the risk of accidental infection, no matter how slim, is too high.

I'm certainly not saying a health care professionals should lose their job or be forced to



DENNIS SHEALY

work outside of their area of expertise if they prove to be HIV positive, but the person being treated certainly has a right to know and to make a decision as to whether they are willing to be treated by a doctor or nurse or whomever that is HIV positive. If health care professionals truly care about the well being of the whole patient then they should realize a patient's fear for themselves or their sick children can be just as detrimental to the quality of their life as whatever it is they are being treated for. Patients should not have to worry about their health a month or year or three down the road.

Another woman who believes she was infected by her dentist wears a medical ID bracelet saying she has AIDS because she says she doesn't want to be like her dentist (who died of the virus) and infect another person. She

should be the example for others who are HIV infected, policy makers and activists. The ACLU says mandatory testing for anyone or group (college students included) would be too stigmatizing. Well it might be, but I think the issue of other people's safety should take precedence. People don't have to lose any rights if they test positive, but they should be willing to admit, like this woman, that they are potentially harmful to other people.

This isn't meant to be an attack on the personal freedoms of anyone, but I think the reality of the AIDS virus needs to make people think and take the well being of others into consideration. I've met people with AIDS before in social situations and I wasn't afraid to shake their hand or sit beside them, but the knowledge of their illness simply made me aware of the potential for personal harm. I didn't feel AIDS was going to jump out and get me, but I would have certainly taken a step back if they had cut a finger or in some way created a risk situation. This is the kind of perspective that needs to be developed, not some idealistic notion that slight risks rules out a persons right to know and choose who will care for them.

THE GAMECOCK

News: 777-7726

Advertising: 777-4249

CHRIS SILVESTRI
Editor in Chief

DAVID BOWDEN
Managing Editor/Viewpoint Editor
TIGE WATTS
News Editor
AARON SHEININ
Sports Editor

BRANT LONG
Copy Desk Chief
OCTAVIA WRIGHT
Carolina Life Editor
TEDDY LEPP
Photography Editor

PATRICK VILLEGAS
Asst. News Editor
TRACEY DAVIS
Asst. Carolina Life Editor
VIRGINIA MARSHALL
Asst. Copy Desk Chief

GORDON MANTLER
Asst. News Editor
RICH TAYLOR
Asst. Sports Editor
GREG RICKABAUGH
Asst. Photography Editor

WAYNE WILLIAMS
Comics Editor

ERIC GLENN
Darkroom Technician

RENEE A. GIBSON
Asst. Media Director/Advertising Manager

LAURA S. DAY
Production Manager

STACIE LEWIS
Asst. Advertising Manager

RAY BURGOS
Asst. Production Manager

ERIK COLLINS
Faculty Adviser

CAROLYN GRIFFIN
Business Manager

LARA CHAPMAN
Asst. Classified Manager

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.