

## CIA

Who is director of this agency not as important as its mission

Senate confirmation hearings of Robert Gates are almost as pointless as the Clarence Thomas interrogation. Gates has been accused by a former colleague of being slow-witted and crooked. Veteran CIA analyst Hal Ford said Gates was slow in realizing Communism was on its way out and repressed the views of those that disagreed with him.

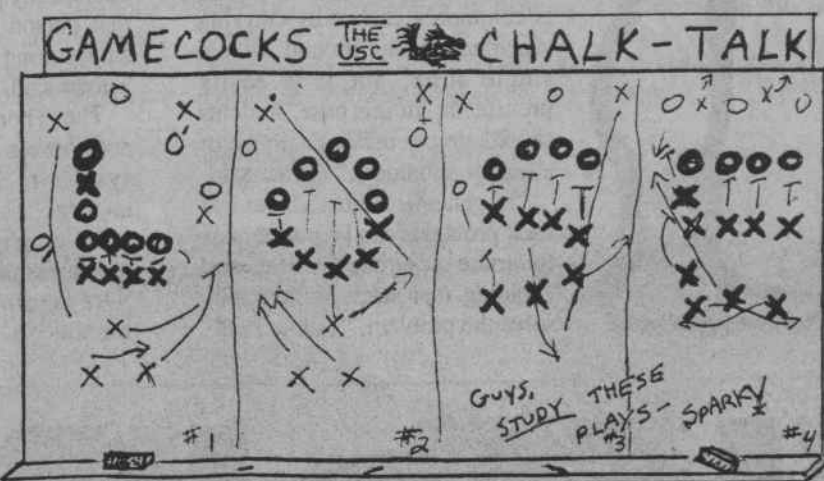
Imagine that, Gates found it hard to believe the Soviet Union was collapsing during the 1980s. The only person who could have predicted the recent dramatic events in the USSR during the early '80s would be Nostradamus, and he probably wasn't working for the agency at the time.

The other criticism of Gates is equally dubious and irrelevant. Ford claims Gates had to know about the Iran-Contra Affair because Gates is so intelligent. That's supposed to be a criticism? Most likely, anyone we hire from within the intelligence community to run the CIA is going to have skeletons in their closet.

The Democrats are following the fallacious reasoning that if they reject Robert Gates in confirmation hearings, President Bush will see the error in his ways and nominate Timothy Leary, or Mother Theresa, or even Walter Mondale. If Gates is rejected, Bush will put up another conservative clone. The Democrats political brinksmanship is pointless. Unless we find out Gates was a member of the Manson family, let's just get this over with and confirm him.



"THE SUBLIMINAL SEDUCTION EXPLANATION"



Sign/William

## Violence makes discrimination worse

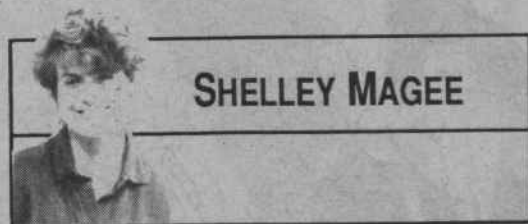
This week California Governor Pete Wilson voted down the gay rights bill. Once again I am wondering when we are going to drag our judgemental moral codes out of the dark ages.

We can't, as a society, seem to accept that there are homosexuals among us, who will continue to be homosexual whether we acknowledge them or not.

After the civil war blacks were not given many rights. It didn't make them go away. It only succeeded in oppressing a race of people in a pathetic show of narcissism and fear.

Today people seem to think that because they have a more common sexual orientation than their neighbor, it gives them the right to decide the rules by which that neighbor should live. Well, no matter how anyone might try to justify it, that's discrimination, which I find loathsome in any form.

However, as much as I stand behind the fight



SHELLEY MAGEE

for gay rights, I must say that the retaliation to Pete Wilson's decision can only be counter-productive.

After learning of Wilson's veto, 5,000 demonstrators came out to protest. This I applaud. If people don't voice their disapproval when our government is narrow-minded, we will never create change. My problem lies in the fact that those demonstrators became destructive and violent.

As frustrating as their situation is, gay activ-

ists are certainly not going to succeed in making progress come more swiftly by breaking windows, spray painting on buildings and assaulting police officers.

Martin Luther King led the greatest human rights movement in history, peacefully. He was wise enough to know that irrational and violent behavior would only cause his supporters to lose ground in their battle for equality. In analogy, the gay protestors' behavior will only give people a reason to feel Wilson made the right decision. The only people the protestors proved showed a lack of judgement were themselves.

To finally crumble the walls of prejudice, gay rights activists must prove to society that their homophobic attitudes are unfounded. Violence is certainly not the answer. If you hold someone at gunpoint you can probably make them say anything, but that certainly doesn't mean they'll believe it.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Writer getting even sillier

To the editor:  
After listening to Tige Watts rhetoric for two months, I finally have to say, enough is enough. When he said the Communists should remain as political party in the Soviet Union, just to keep a two-party system, I wondered what flavor of Jell-O he was using for brains. Why not say the Tories should have remained as a political party after the American Revolution. We were only a one-party system then too. But Mr. Watts' mindless blathering is protected by the First Amendment, so he has the right to express his view.

Yet, I find myself getting more and more disgusted with his "point of view," and his editorial on Sept. 27, 1991 drew the line for me. First off, let's get beyond the fact that Ken Dew is a minister. Mr. Watts' disdain for religion is obvious.

But let's do something Mr. Watts doesn't do in his articles. Let's look at the facts. In the past

10 years, today's youth are having sex at a younger age, getting pregnant more frequently, abusing drugs and alcohol, committing suicide at an alarming rate, becoming more and more involved in serious crime and dropping out of school more often than any previous generation. Also, in the past 10 years, we have seen the advent of MTV. Depending on what report you read, today's youth spend anywhere between 4-8 hours watching this daily.

Now, I don't know about your powers of deductive reasoning Mr. Watts, but if you sit anyone, adolescent, teen or adult, in front of the TV for 4-8 hours watching and listening to "Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll," whoever is seeing this will not only believe in it, but will want it.

Mr. Watts, you say people will not (and I quote), "listen to Madonna and go right out and imitate her." Then explain the thousands of teenage girls back in the mid-1980s who dressed just like the "Material Girl." Dressing like, acting like, let's face it, people succumb to peer pressure and become so impressionable that they

want to be just like their idols. Finally, "What about rebellion?" (another quote) How can you even compare the American Revolution to the rebellion of youth today? The former was a moral uprising against an oppressive government, the latter is a hedonistic nosedive from the morals of our forefathers. But I guess one has to have morals to lose them, doesn't one, Mr. Watts?

Keith Hoffmann  
MIS junior

### New program goes to streets

To the editor:  
This is in response to the editorial written on Sept. 23 concerning racism and prejudice. It stated, "Maybe the mixing of all ethnic groups at USC will help the problem. Let's get started." Good news! USC has already begun.

On Nov. 1, USC will participate in a national program called *Into The Streets*. It will provide students, faculty, staff, administrators and community members the opportunity to go into the streets for a day of community service. The

ultimate goal of *Into The Streets* is bringing people to a lifelong commitment in community service.

To participate, USC has had to form a coalition representative of our campus. Our coalition has brought together all kinds of people — a "mixing of all groups" if you will — from across the campus and the community. Together we are identifying issues facing society and by going into the streets we can begin to solve them.

The *Into The Streets* challenge statement says it all too well, "... We must strive to create communities that listen to and value all voices. Our diversity is our greatest strength. Believing each individual has something to contribute to unifying the world in which we live, I will..."

I encourage everyone to accept this challenge by participating in *Into The Streets*. By doing so it will strengthen student community partnerships as well as diversify the leadership and the volunteer base culturally, politically, ethnically and economically. Look for it. "IT'S" coming.

Kim Lovelace  
Student coordinator,  
*Into The Streets*

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