

## Suicide

*Doctor should not be punished for showing compassion, mercy*

Dr. Jack Kevorkian was questioned last week by police for his role in assisting two terminally ill women to die. Instead of being harassed by local law enforcement, Dr. Kevorkian should be praised for his work in bringing assisted suicide to national attention.

America shows its Puritanical roots with its many antiquated conceptions and laws. More than half the states in the union have laws against assisting another to commit suicide. Hopefully, the humanitarian work of Kevorkian will change the attitude of the country about suicide and euthanasia.

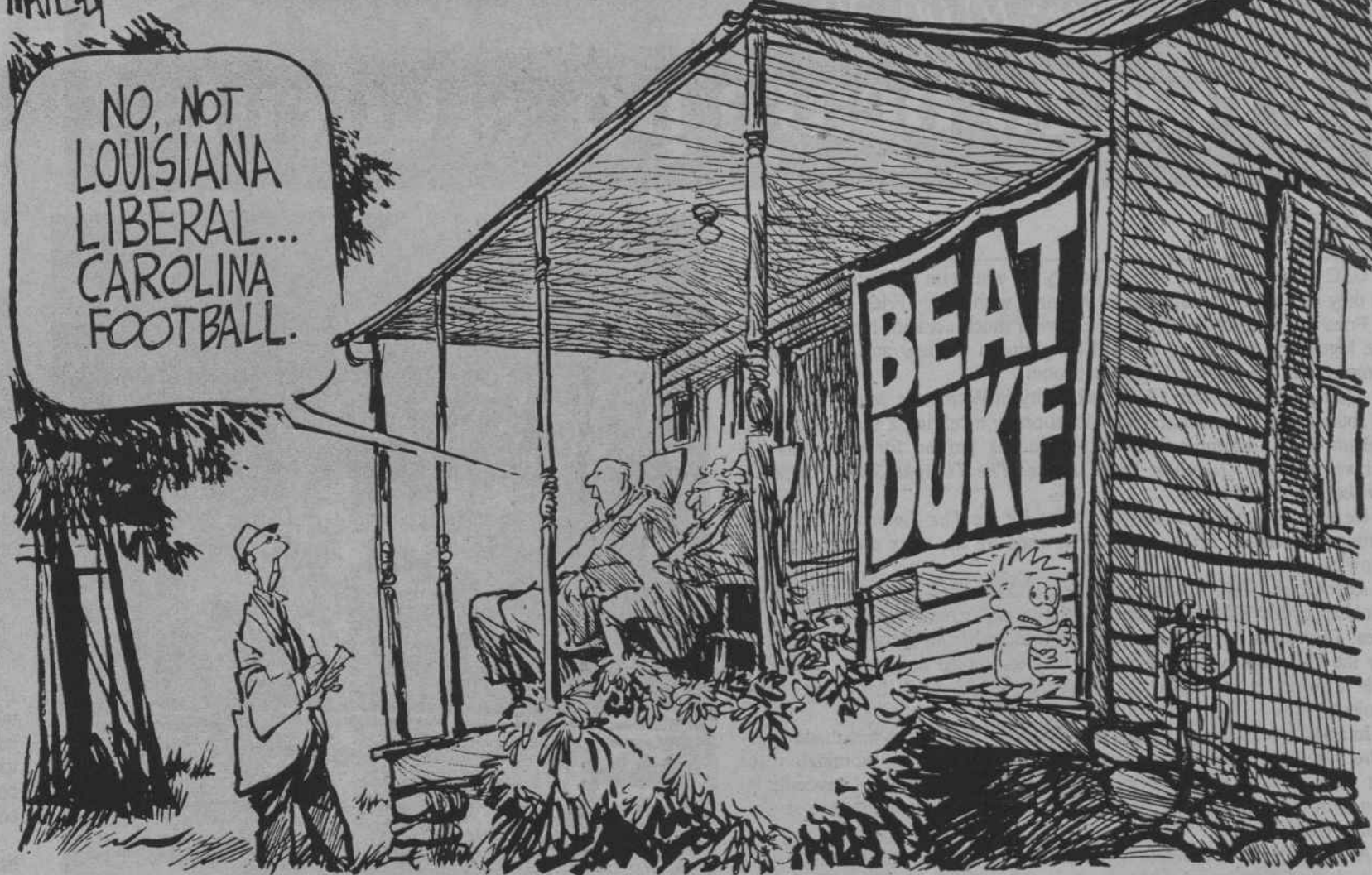
To put it bluntly, terminally ill people have the right to die. This is not immoral. It is immoral to force a person to live a miserable, painful existence when he or she wants to end it all. It is also immoral to prosecute those who would help another end their personal torment.

Once again, a government (in this case Michigan's) is interfering where it doesn't belong. The Michigan state senate passed a bill in March that would make assisted suicide a felony. The question is, why? Why should a medical doctor be punished for caring about others so much that he would help them end their suffering in any way possible?

Some criticize Kevorkian for being so public; they say that he is drawing attention to himself and not the problem. Actually, his appearance on *Donahue* and other shows helps promote the idea of the right-to-die movement. He is a crusader for an issue that many find offensive and unseemly.

That Kevorkian is willing to sacrifice his professional reputation for his cause is admirable. Instead of threats of a four-year prison sentence, Kevorkian and others like him deserve an award for compassion.

WMEAD Chicago Tribune



## Confirmative Action



## AIDS needs to be taken more seriously

Sometimes I wonder just how much our government cares for us.

When we spend \$291 billion dollars on defense, why do we have such low support for AIDS testing?

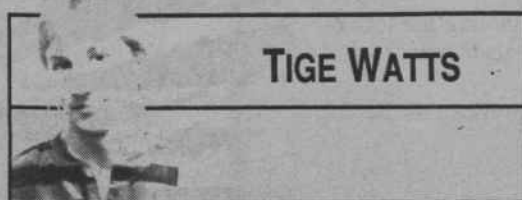
The last part of the 1980s showed us AIDS is not just a "gay man's disease." We will all in some form be affected by the disease.

We will either know someone who has the disease or someone in a high risk of getting the disease. Yet, our big bureaucratic government still does not recognize the disease as a "big issue."

We have to get rid of our cold-heartedness and stop saying the gay society should take care of their own problem. AIDS is everyone's problem. From Jesse Helms to Jesse Jackson, everyone will have to work together and solve the problem.

One of the ways we're going to have to solve it is by spending some money to find a definite cure. Money for AIDS testing is now very minimal and it needs to be pumped up.

I'm tired of reading the headlines in the



TIGÉ WATTS

newspapers citing the number of heterosexuals and babies dying from the disease. This is a problem we have to stop.

Nobody in the government wants to do anything because they're afraid of the negative atmosphere about AIDS. True, AIDS is commonly found in the homosexual community. But is that enough reason to not solving this disease as quickly as possible?

Why should the non-homosexuals be punished with a disease commonly found in the homosexual community?

Also, it's not a crime to be gay, but it is a crime to not put enough effort into solving a problem in the gay community.

If any congressional leader is reading this I

plead with him to pump the money into the system to find a cure.

Why do we need to spend \$291 billion on defense? We have enough military power to wipe off all of our enemies on this planet and Pluto, too.

Is it too much to ask to put some of that money into AIDS testing? Let's at least put a lot of that money into our health budget or education.

We don't need to go around kicking Saddam Hussein's butt. We need to start working on finding a cure for such a disease.

If this was a true "kindler and gentler" nation, wouldn't we also want to spend more money on education? No wonder we bite when we're compared to Japan and South Korea. We can no longer continue spending so little for something vital to America's success.

If George Bush really wants us to be the best in the world for science and math, he better hand over the money.

And on AIDS testing, we have to stop pointing the finger blaming one another for AIDS and just start finding a cure.

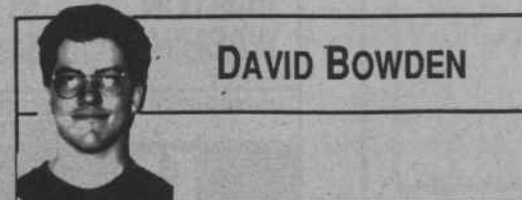
## Sappy sports journalism out of control

After watching the pre-game show for Game Six of the World Series, I have decided CBS does not deserve to televise sports, period. And CBS Sports' Head Geek Pat O'Brien should be deported . . . to Lebanon.

CBS's pre-game show is an example of a sickening trend in sports broadcasting. For some reason, sports producers feel a need to throw a sappy, bleeding-heart, pointless puff-piece into regular sports commentary.

Saturday, CBS ran a story about a children's hospital that happens to be near the Metrodome. Pat O'Brien was shown giving autographs to cancer-stricken little kids. He also spoke in a heartfelt voice about how these kids are fighting for their lives. My question to CBS is, why is this piece running before the World Series?

I have nothing against hospitalized children. My heart goes out to them. But why should we, the audience for a baseball game, be brought



DAVID BOWDEN

down by a maudlin piece that blatantly tries to tug on our heart-strings? Get the hell out of the children's hospital, Pat. You're just a sports commentator, although you obviously have delusions of being the next Charles Kuralt. Well, Pat, you're not, so get back in the Metrodome and interview Dave Justice.

Like I said earlier, this trend towards sappiness is almost epidemic in sports journalism right now. Sports broadcasters and writers should try to bring out the human interest in stories, true, but they are going far beyond that agenda. On CBS, NBC and even my beloved

ESPN, I am constantly seeing tear-jerker reports about Coach So-and-so's work in the soup kitchens or Player X who is trying to come back from career-threatening dental surgery. And, don't forget the slow-mo of the sports figure's face with melancholy piano music in the background.

It is as if the sports departments of the major networks are all colluding to "show America what is really important." Well, sports broadcasters, I know the World Series isn't as important as some kid with cancer; I know the fates of my favorite teams aren't as important as peace in the Middle East. I know that, and I don't need Pat O'Brien to remind me.

What these sports producers are forgetting is that people watch sports to forget about their problems, not to be reminded of the horrors of the world. When sports get so socially-conscious and just plain wimpy, it is a sad day for America, and a sadder day for sports fans such as myself.

## THE GAMECOCK

News: 777-7726

Advertising: 777-4249

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Rights group hypocritical

To the editor:

Thank you Mr. Robert L. Ellington. In your letter of Sept. 18, you defined racism for all of us who supposedly couldn't understand. According to him, the definition is "Racism: discrimination through laws based on prejudice." Thanks to the incidents that occurred surrounding Soni's Pizza, he has single-handedly shown the hypocrisy of the black rights leadership.

How is this hypocrisy proven? Easily. Three black students went down to Soni's Pizza and called Mr. Soni a racist. Now, both the Association of African-American Students and USC's NAACP chapter have come to their support. However, this cannot be a case of racism, according to the definition. Sajiv Sony is an immigrant from India.

Therefore, he is not white. If he is not white, then he does not

"own" the power structure. If he does not "own" the power structure, he cannot be racist. After all, Mr. Ellington wrote that "it's impossible in this society for African-Americans to be racists, simply because we don't have control over the power structure." If it's impossible for one minority group, then it must be impossible for all minority groups.

Many rights need to be secured for all minorities in this country. However, nothing will be done until this wall of hypocrisy falls and rational thought, along with consistency, becomes the foundation of the civil rights effort.

Ted W. Wooten III  
International studies senior

### Social apathy U.S. problem

To the editor:

Like many of you, I sat glued to

the TV during Fall Break, watching with great interest the Thomas confirmation hearings. I watched senator upon senator bemoan the activities of the Judiciary Committee during the nationally-broadcast three-ring circus. The cry from across the fruited plain has been, "Expel them all!"

Incumbent bashing is nothing new. People get really riled up with issues yet the ballot boxes rarely hear their cries of dissatisfaction. The return rate in our "democratic" Congress is nearly 100 percent. Talk about job security — our Congress' return rate is even higher than the Supreme Soviet was under Communist control.

This should not come as any great surprise when less than half of the eligible voters turn out for major elections; the response is even less during non-presidential years. Although we as citizens enjoy this freedom which men and women in this country have fought and died for, many Americans see

no reason to spend the few minutes it takes to vote.

Apathy. It's not just limited to federal and state elections. Look at last year's voter turnout in the student government elections. It's shameful when a relative handful of students decide who will represent them in this important forum.

Homecoming is still fresh on our minds. The pages of *The Gamecock* were filled with complaints about the events during this special week; yet, look how many of these people took time out of their schedules to become members of the Homecoming Committee? Apathy. We would rather sit idly by and rant and rave that traditions are dying.

Armchair quarterbacks permeate society. Those with the biggest mouths are often those who do the least to change the situation. Words don't get the job done — actions do! Have we the right to jeer and scorn if we ourselves are not willing to throw our hat into the ring and participate?

Christopher A. Smith  
B.Ar.Sci senior