

Duke

Louisiana gubernatorial race shows state of American politics

David Duke's campaign to be the next governor of Louisiana has had major repercussions throughout the nation. Duke, an ex-Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, appeals to the middle class of Louisiana. His calls for an end to welfare subsidies has a large audience in the state.

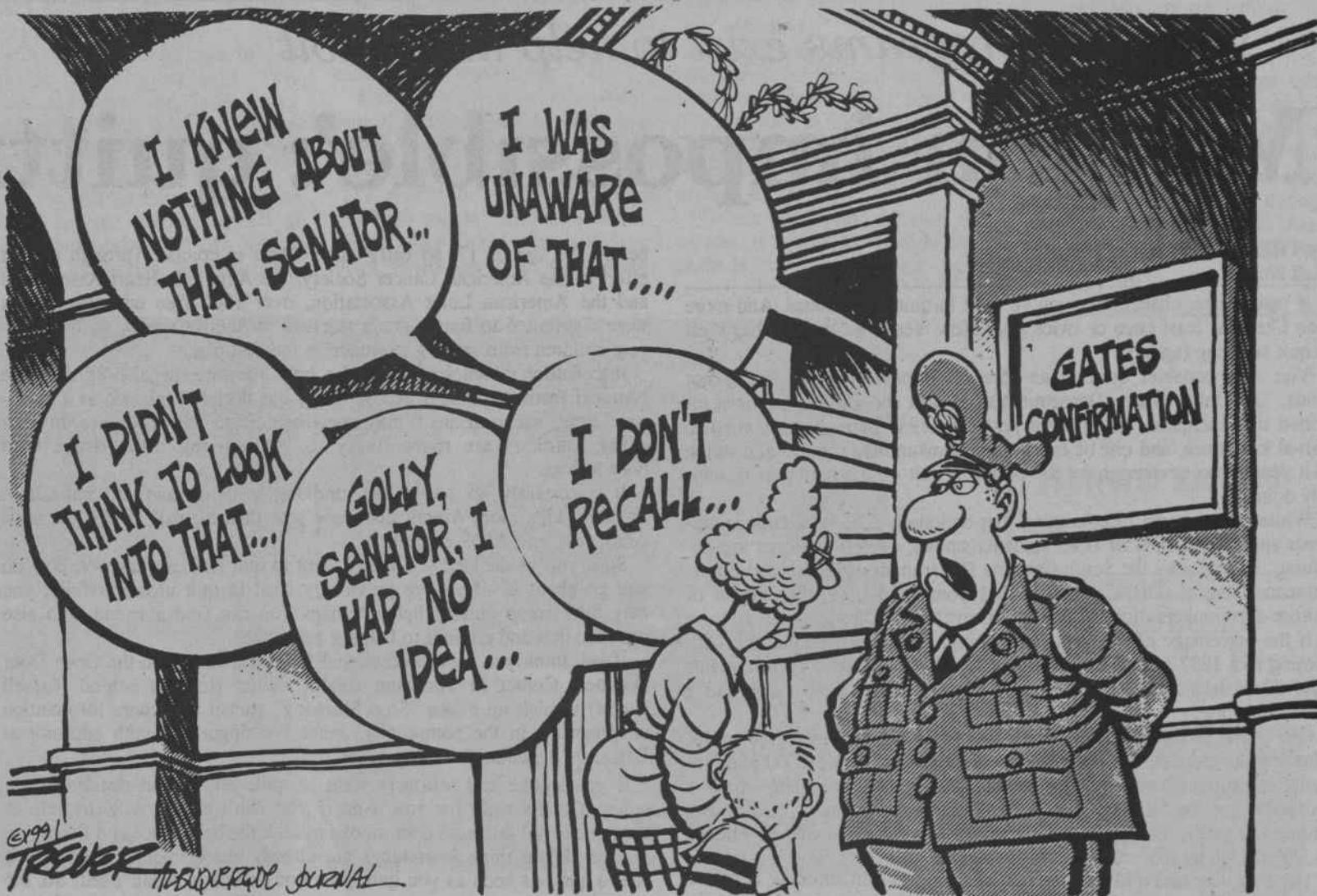
Those familiar with the politics of the Bayou State shouldn't be too surprised, however. Duke's opponent Edwin Edwards is no paragon of virtue either. Yet two things make Duke's campaign special: his past association to a neo-terrorist organization and the message he is preaching.

A point should be made about Duke's past. Being a former member of the KKK should not preclude anybody from running for office. It is unfair to punish someone for past mistakes; that would mean no one can ever have a change of heart.

A politician who renounces his membership in such an organization should be given a fair chance. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia is a good example; Byrd is a former Klansman, but is now a leading Democrat with an excellent record on civil rights.

On the other hand, David Duke is no Robert Byrd. Duke has said quite recently that he admires Adolf Hitler and thinks that America fought on the wrong side in World War II. Duke deserves his bad press notices.

The scary thing is that his message is falling on millions of receptive ears; his supporters are not poor and uneducated, but regular middle class people. Many whites do feel disenfranchised in their own country by rampant special interest groups and reverse discrimination. They feel the government is now prejudiced against them. Duke plays on their fears and their anxiety; their legitimate concerns have to be addressed before Duke and his ilk get more support from Americans.



"WHO'S TESTIFYING? OH, THAT'S OUR CHIEF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER..."

News editor clarifies misconceptions

I hear a lot of people are up in arms over *The Gamecock*.

From the early comments we've received from those little suggestion boxes, I see our readers aren't completely satisfied with what they're reading.

And why not? Are we too sensationalist? A lot of people are quick to say yes. But sit down and think about this?

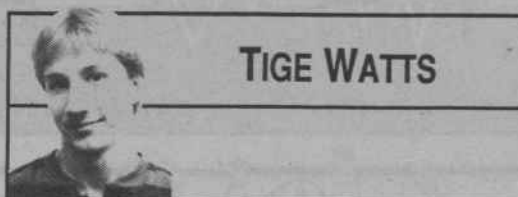
Would you rather read an article about former USC President James Holderman or an article about USC's Garden Club?

Speaking from experience, the news section tries to pick out those stories USC students would be more likely to read.

Don't think we're not going to change. In fact, I'm going to have a meeting with my news staff today at 6 p.m. in Russell House, room 321 to see what we can change. For all those interested, come today. You don't have to be a writer, just a concerned newspaper reader.

But what would you like to see changed around here? We need your help. I don't know what you want and I need help. We need your suggestions.

Another item my department has been criticized for is the lack of campus coverage. True, a lot of stories have dealt with the president's



TIGE WATTS

office, senate and crime. But we also need your help in covering some more student life.

I have no idea what's happening with every single club, but I sure would like to know. We need clubs to let us know a little more about themselves and what programs they offer to students. That's why I want to try and set up some sort of correspondence. Any clubs and organizations interested, please call me at 777-7726 or 544-1585.

Believe me, I really do want to improve this paper and run stories that interest more of the student body. But I need your help.

Paraphrasing a famous Transcendentalist (who I will leave to you to fill in the name), I plan to localize, localize, localize a lot of our stories.

Along with story focus changes, we're also changing some of our style.

We changed the font style for the briefs so our readers can read them better. We also got

rid of that little flipped corner on the 20 Seconds graphic. Other plans are to enlarge pictures and run more feature stories.

While I'm on the subject of *The Gamecock* I want to take the last few inches of this column to clarify some misconceptions of the newspaper.

■ **I do not write all of the unsigned editorials.** The only ones I have written include the ones titled "Hatred" and "Fairness." The rest of the editorials are written by other members of this staff.

■ **We are not close-minded.** We've been criticized for being "racist." Columns only express the individual's opinion. They're not the opinion of the entire staff.

■ **I encourage everyone to join the staff** whether they're white, black, yellow, purple, blue, polka dot, etc. to help give us many different angles of coverage. Everyone thinks differently and we need to cover those different ideas.

■ **We do not waste your money.** A percentage of your student activity fees do support us, but we put that money to giving you a service. We like to inform you and we want to give you what you want.

But, in order to give you more of what you want we need your ideas. Please, let us know.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nomination embarrassing

To the editor:

I am writing in regard to the Supreme Court nomination process. I thought that what the Senate leaders and the American press did was very embarrassing and shameful. The reasons for them doing what they did was to prove whether or not Clarence Thomas was guilty or innocent, in which case they were in no position to judge anyone's innocence.

They (the Senate leaders) made it look like Clarence Thomas was in court and they were the grand jurors, but yet they were still asking the questions as if they were lawyers too. Why was this all necessary? It only proved one thing: that the process was very ridiculous and he still got nominated. Why waste taxpayers' time and money as they often do?

Tasha Squire
Business major

Meter rates way too high

To the editor:

I would love to jump on the bandwagon to debate the current and everlasting issues of racism, homosexuality and environmental awareness, but I would like to address a very disturbing topic: the rise in parking meter fares. I pay \$100 a semester to park in Blossom St. Garage, but on the occasions that I need to park at a meter for a few minutes I am now confronted by the option to pay not a nickel or a dime, but a quarter for 37 1/2 minutes.

This is my fourth year at USC and in Columbia, both of which I admire, but the deletion of the option to pay for parking meters in increments of time really chafes my pants! If I could see where this pocket change goes, which really adds up on a student's income, I may be more receptive.

I know that the city meters are the culprits of my discontent, but where does that leave the students who have given these meter-gods sacrifices of silver for the past few years? Without a garage or decent parking spaces, that's where. I feel oppressed as a student and I feel like whining about this trivial matter. Maybe I'll start my own awareness group.

Walker Bowen
Psychology senior

Anti-abortion not "pro-life"

To the editor:

I want to bring attention to a term which has to be the daddy of all recently-coined euphemisms: "pro-life."

In the hypocritical public relations battle for popular sentiment, no one wants to be anti-anything; being for something is much more positive, right? I guess being against something is viewed in the modern era as rash and not quite politically correct.

But the fact remains, most "pro-lifers" are simply against abortion; they are not, in fact, averse to the death penalty or to sitting down to a nice juicy steak. Indeed, most people are not for life in all situations, as the bored label "pro-life" would implicate. They are for life only in situations they've rationalized to be important.

In a land where the elderly are

transformed to "senior citizens," lying becomes "disseminating disinformation," invasions change to "troop initiatives" and the poor become "underprivileged," I suggest we avoid the temptation to label with terms to save our sensitive ears. A proper "pro-lifer" would be vegetarian, anti-capital punishment, anti-abortion and an animal rights activist who would veer off their course when an ant steps in their path. This, as you can see, is absurd.

Let's start a new trend in America and call a dog a dog. If you are opposed to abortion, you are anti-abortion. "Pro-life" is an affront to the intelligence of the voting community and should be expunged from our vocabulary immediately.

Wyatt Urmey
Advertising/journalism senior

USC safety not problem

To the editor:

As chairman of the USC Safety Committee, I felt I should respond to Kipp Shives' guest editorial entitled, "Campus police have misplaced priorities," in which he complained about being stopped and asked to show his ID to the campus police.

In point of fact, by occasionally stopping individuals at "odd" hours — or whenever — the police are helping prevent larcenies, rapes and other crimes. Even if only very few of the individuals checked are trespassing, the effort is well worth it.

There are a number of off-campus individuals who we know have committed crimes on campus,

but for various reasons cannot prosecute. When the police stop any of these individuals who have been warned to stay off campus, they have the right to arrest and charge them with trespassing. The entire policy of checking IDs is to protect Mr. Shives, his friends and all others that have legitimate reasons to be on campus. Incidentally, I believe that most everyone sympathizes with the plight of the homeless. However, last year there was an attempted rape and an assault in the campus area by a homeless person.

The police do many other things including crime awareness and prevention programs. If everyone on campus paid more heed to these programs, brochures and tips printed in *The Gamecock*, perhaps they would not leave their wallets, purses and bookbags unsecured in high risk areas.

I also wonder if Mr. Shives and his friends are aware of Project ID? A friendly campus police officer will happily come to his dorm room or office, give him tips on security, assign him a special ID number that can be traced by police agencies around the world and the officer will then engrave that number on the property in that room.

One more thing. The Division of Law Enforcement and Safety, Student Government and the Safety Committee and others all sponsored a Safety Week last week. As usual, though, most of the people that really needed to be there to attend the various programs and read the free printed materials given seldom seem to take advantage of these opportunities.

Richard Conant
Chairman, Safety Committee

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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.