

VIEWPOINT

Election

Perot not a shot in the dark in view of the competition

The 1992 presidential campaign has become more confused and more peculiar by the minute.

The Democratic nomination, at one time almost sewed up by Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, has been thrown into turmoil by Clinton's checkered past including adultery, poor management, smoking pot and many other human characteristics.

The anti-establishment but flaky message of former California Gov. Jerry Brown and the suspended campaign of former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas are both gaining support in the wake of Clinton's problems.

On the other side, President Bush is trying to act presidential, by doing nothing and even going on vacation. Conservative columnist Pat Buchanan has seemingly dropped off the face of the Earth, now that the press has found a new outspoken character to follow around in Brown.

If the election was held today, voter turnout would be disastrously low for the simple reason that American voters are thoroughly disgusted with the current president and Congress and all the people trying to succeed them.

A recent Times Mirror poll showed two-thirds of voters are dissatisfied with the current presidential candidates.

However, there is one man who in preliminary polling could keep either party from winning the White House. He is Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot.

Perot has been openly considering whether or not he will enter the race for the past few weeks. He said he will only run if he is on the ballot in all 50 states.

In most election years the thought of a third party candidate would be insane.

But a third party candidate like Perot, who will spend \$100 million in a presidential campaign, has a decent chance of winning the presidency or at least making the lives of the Republican and Democratic candidates miserable.

Perot is also a character, but one the typical American may like and actually relate to in a unique sort of way.

For example, Perot could have dozens of chauffeurs to drive him around, but instead he drives himself to work every day like any other Dallas commuter.

His money has not made him into an elitist snob who doesn't understand Average Joe's problems, a common criticism of Bush.

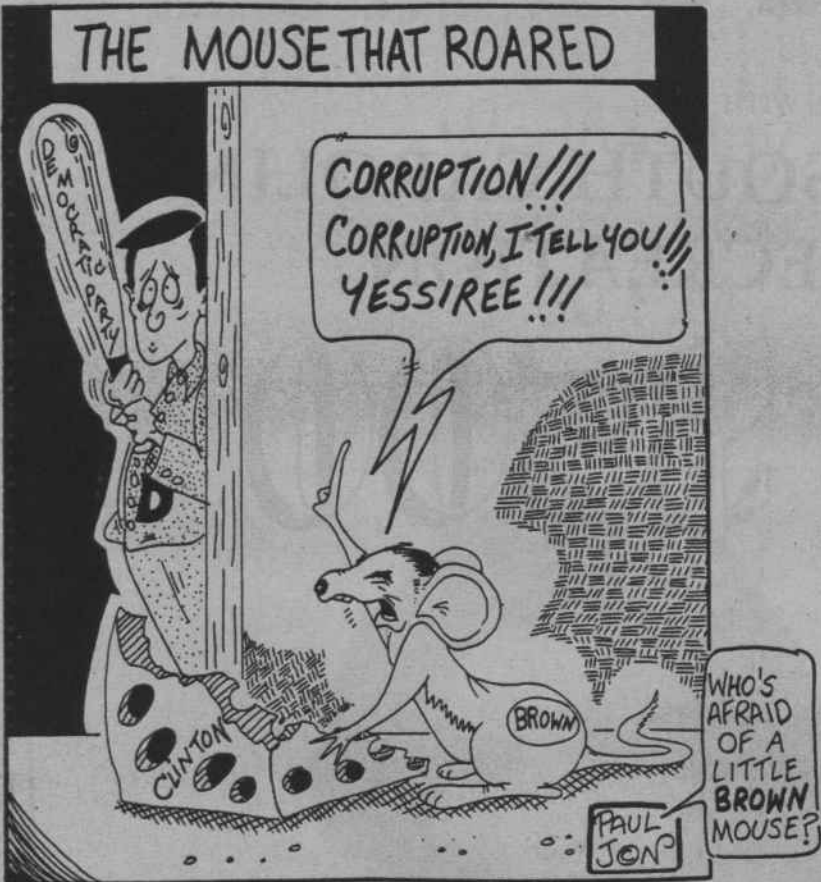
His views are mixed ideologically. He is neither conservative or liberal.

This is illustrated in a few select views of his. His handling of foreign policy would be similar to Ronald Reagan's but he is also pro-choice and pro-gun control.

Party insiders have said a Perot candidacy is a threat to both Bush and the Democratic nominee.

American voters are being driven by fear and anger, and the results of those feelings could be anything.

In 1992, Ross Perot is definitely a viable and electable third party candidate.



USC VOICES

Question: Do you think college students have changed their sexual behavior because of AIDS?



Deanna Lombardo
Advertising major

"They don't take it seriously enough, and no one thinks it will happen to them."



David Yoon
Business graduate student

"I think they have, but not to a considerable degree. There has been a slight change because their role models have said to practice safe sex. The attitude about sex has changed a lot from the '70s to the '90s."



Christian Francis
Psychology major

"Yes, they are definitely more cautious because you hear about it so much. No one wants to die."



Michelle Roberts
Office Information Systems major

"Yes, they got scared. They realized that anyone could get it. It's not any race, any gender or any sexual preference, so they have changed their sexual habits."

Cross Fire

Regulations only help consciences

Drinking.

I think it is fair to say most college students do it, and they do it a lot. Most college students are not 21. Most college students drink, right? Get the connection?

Fraternity parties are a particularly popular place to drink. The university has laid a myriad of rules and regulations on fraternities and other organizations who want to have alcohol parties.

First of all, they have to attend some "alcohol awareness workshop" thing which is supposed to educate them on the risks of alcohol parties. Fraternities go through this workshop acting all serious, like it really means something and walk out laughing. I've seen it happen. It's a joke. One big joke.

Second, the university says if there is going to be alcohol at an on-campus party, those under 21 have to be marked so everyone knows they are under 21. That's when most head for the bathroom with a bar of soap and a washcloth.

It just doesn't work.

Third, if a fraternity wants to have a keg party, they have to go off campus, since the university enforces "no kegs on campus."

Off campus. Like where you have to drive to. Away from the serenity of your

third-floor room in Bates.

Would you rather go to an on-campus party and safely walk home or an off-campus party and get behind the wheel of your car with five of your buddies and hopelessly drive away into the darkness of the night and ...

You know how the story goes.

Oh, and what about the hundreds upon hundreds of bottles and cans which have littered McBryde Quadrangle on more than one Sunday morning. You don't have to be a member of Greenpeace to know this is not the ecological way.

Meanwhile, fraternities can't win. They are stuck with these huge responsibilities which take the capital 'P' out of Party.

However, all of these rules have helped to curb the underage drinking problem and enforce the federal law.

Not.

The people in administration, while they sit pretty with their fancy suits behind their mahogany desks with their name plates and secretaries, are kidding themselves if they think this will work. The only thing they're doing is making themselves feel better.

-J.T. Wagenheim

J.T. Wagenheim is the Assistant News Editor of The Gamecock.

Alcohol policies necessary

USC's Alcohol Policy as it relates to Greeks: No kegs or party balls, quad parties must be limited to four hours, an alcohol workshop must be attended beforehand, and food must be served with the alcohol.

Yes, it sounds very restrictive. But consider these points voiced in The State newspaper Sunday:

- The Animal House atmosphere is non-existent among Greeks now.

- Greek organizations are less liable with the rules.
- B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Beer) is stressed to put the responsibility on the individual and not the group.

- Monitors are a necessity, and more responsibility is taken to insure safety.

I attended one of the workshops last semester, and Jerry Brewer, director of Student Life, did a lot to help students understand how to have a good time safely. In fact, he even suggested many creative ideas for successful parties.

I have heard plenty of students say, "I'm responsible enough to drink."

Well if this is true, then they should be

responsible enough to know what smart drinking entails. They should also know that the university knows it can not condone underage drinking — something that is against the law.

USC did not write the law, but USC does have to live by it. And I think the school's done a good job of it.

Students need to follow this example.

Yes, the old phrases "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" and "Don't hesitate — designate" can be annoying. But there is a lot of truth in them. Parties too often get out of hand when fraternities don't collect keys, watch out for excessive drinking or plan more creative activities.

Everyone benefits from the university policies. And until our lawmakers can get their heads together and lower the age limit (to include voting 18-year-olds), students will have to learn what responsible drinking means.

-Greg Rickabaugh

Greg Rickabaugh is Carolina! Editor for The Gamecock, and is a Delta Tau Delta Fraternity member.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

University must punish rapists

To the editor:

Recently I attended a forum "Campus Rape: A University Responsibility?" sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. I was appalled at the lack of empathy by USC faculty toward students who are the victims of rape.

The university is drafting a policy that will deal with sexual assault cases. It will follow the same outline as the procedures used for drug and alcohol use on USC campuses. According to the Campus Security Act, developed by the federal government, "Any University official must report the reported

crime to police. This includes sexual assault." These new guidelines will create a "society-centered" approach toward sexual assault, rather than a "survivor-centered" approach. The victim will not have a choice as to whether to report the assault to the police. If the victim chooses to report the incident to any university official, then that person must report the crime to the police.

At the forum, I felt good that USC seemed to have a positive attitude toward change and seemed to be taking steps to accomplish these changes. However, the university and the students' ideas about change differed drastically.

For instance, Dennis Pruitt, USC's vice president of student affairs, said that with the current policy, students

sounding guilty of sexual assault might be required to do community service, seek counseling, read books about sexual assault or write a paper. He made it clear that each case is handled on an individual basis.

Writing a paper or even reading books seems an appropriate punishment for cheating or disorderly conduct, but for RAPE? Rape is a crime, and it is punishable by law. Yet, these offenders remain on campus doing their community service or writing their papers with the potential to rape again and again and again. It is an endless cycle.

It was stated several times that USC is a university and not a judicial system. However, USC seems to have a judicial system for other crimes such as possession/use of illegal substances and even plagiarism. For instance, students

can be expelled or suspended for illegal substance use. It seems only appropriate that expulsion should be the minimal punishment for sexual assault offenders at USC. The offenders commit a crime, a violent crime. Moreover, there has got to be concern for other students on campus if the offender is allowed to continue his or her education.

Being a victim of rape and a concerned student, I have firsthand experience of how USC "handles" sexual assault cases. It's despicable. The students at USC can fight for change on this important issue. More importantly, with the number of students who attend USC, the students have the power to make this change happen.

Megan Berkey
Journalism senior

Fetuses' lives nonnegotiable

-Kathy Heberger

Having compassion for the helpless, for the people who cannot take care of themselves, is what makes humanity decent.

It's frightening to live in a world in which survival of the fittest is the standard for good living.

I'm against abortion because I'm against killing a person who hasn't had a chance to fight for himself.

When I hear women and men screaming for the right to choose abortion, I feel afraid in this society. This is an age of selfishness and conceit if we think we are significant enough to be able to decide to extinguish potential life.

Today in America, being pregnant can be one of the most stressful, scary, saddening states for a woman, especially if she is poverty-stricken, alone or has demanding, strict parents. But unlike people suffering from Alzheimer's disease or hunger, they are victims of circumstances that were in their control.

The potential life inside a pregnant woman deserves nothing less than to be born and have a chance to live.

It's hard to separate appearance from reality at times. When Baby Theresa lay all pink and tender in her mother's arms, little palms cushioning her father's thumb, it was almost impossible to believe the doctor's verdict — that she had nothing upstairs and would amount to nothing. We had to let her go.

Reality plays cruel tricks on our emotions. An 80-year-old man with tears rolling down his face clutches a teddy bear in a hospital room. But he'll never remember his name or understand his misfortune that Alzheimer's disease will eat away his brain until he dies. We have to let him go.

In reality, AIDS patients die every day, and the nurses and caretakers of them become so accustomed to the transiency of life that they stop feeling the pain and confusion of death. We have to let the victims go.

The baby inside a woman will come out of her body bloodied and screaming, gasping for breath, ready to eat. The mother has been responsible and respected this now squirming infant for the past nine months.

Doctors slap the newborn, forcing air into its lungs. Nurses wrap the baby in a blanket, keeping its body heat from escaping. The mother pushes her nipple into the infant's mouth and pushes her breast to the baby until it sucks the milk.

It takes a team of people to get the baby going and to keep him alive, and it will require many more people's assistance to survive through the next 18 years of his life.

This teamwork is an example of humanity in its most compassionate state, helping a helpless new member get going.

It only takes one person's choice to let this life slip away. We have to let Baby Therasas, victims of terrible accidents, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease slip away. It's the compassionate thing to do.

If we are intelligent, as we are in American society, we should have the gumption to make abortion illegal.

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