

VIEWPOINT

Lost Trust

Government's misuse of power turns electorate against them

Power. Everyone's hungry for it, and then they abuse it. They take advantage of it and get as many free airplane flights, limousine rides and trips to Hawaii as possible. USC should be familiar with the abuse of power. Former USC President James Holderman used public money for trips and other personal expenses.

Washington, D.C., take note. There's increased debate about how the executive and legislative branches have been using their power. John Sununu, former chief of staff; James Baker, secretary of state; Dan Quayle, vice president; a ton of legislators and other executive branch members have been named in misuse of power cases.

Baker can no longer take government-paid airplane flights on personal trips. Sununu resigned after criticism of how he used government planes. Representatives fear for their jobs after the "Rubbergate" scandal. Speaker of the House Thomas Foley is answering questions about his involvement with the postal service.

Gee, our heart bleeds. Not. There is no compassion for these people. They are average people, so why should they have extra benefits?

It's a power abuse, and it's wrong. We pay taxes so these people can use our money to take personal trips. It doesn't matter if they have some sort of privilege to misuse our money. It's still wrong.

Don't think you'll get away with it. People remember when they've been betrayed. We will remember, and when it comes election time, you will pay. You will pay for every misuse of power.

You've betrayed your constituents. You've lost our trust, and you will no longer serve. You will lose your job, and you'll know what a recession feels like.

We trusted you, and you turned your back. We will turn our back on you.

That's a promise you can take to the House bank and cash. We promise it won't bounce, too.

"JUST WEAR THIS OVER YOUR MOUTH AND SEND IN THE NEXT PATIENT"



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USC VOICES

Question: Are United States' environmental standards sufficient?



Linda Deane
Education major



Jason Caruso Cox
Psychology major



James Brailsford
Computer Science major



Junling Ren
Education major

"It's not as good as England's. It's halfhearted. It is good to see recycling centers like the one behind Yesterday's. One thing that surprised me here was seeing such big cars with only one person in them."

"No, I feel that the government officials of America do not realize the problems that America will face in the future. The damages may be irreversible if we do not act now."

"Well, they're average. They could be better. I think we should do more about air pollution and endangered wildlife."

"Yeah, they are sufficient enough right now compared to the Chinese. The places I've been in China, they don't care as much about pollution as people do here. They throw their wrappers everywhere. When I visited Florida, I was impressed because everyone was concerned."

Cross Fire

Students should run recycling

Responsibility of recycling programs on university campuses technically should be everyone's responsibility, but in reality, this would never work.

We believe student groups or student government should take up the responsibility of recycling. The basic reason for this is that students historically, and presently, run better programs than administratively run recycling programs in the United States.

For example, the University of Colorado at Boulder, runs the top recycling program in the country, and its program is run only by students.

Other reasons that students should run recycling programs on universities are:

Recycling is a '90s thing, in the sense that we have grown up with the idea, or at least more so than those persons making the big decisions in the administration, and students are more innovative. Thus, we students have a better grasp on recyclability of materials on campus and the innovative technology that is now used.

Secondly, there's less bureaucracy involved. In a grass roots project, you need

grass root organizations. Students can and do provide that type of leadership and organization; administrators can't.

The success of such a program is ensured by student cooperation. If students run the show, their vested interest is almost insurance for the success of the program.

Finally, students in their idealism, which isn't bad or naive, are less likely to be involved in special interests and look less for making a buck or doing someone favors. They will get the job done and ensure student's wastes are recycled.

Furthermore, convenient products like styrofoam would not permeate campuses because students who run programs are not tied in with corporate contracts.

Looking at the whole picture, student government should run campus recycling programs and the administration should give where it can, with no strings attached.

- Carl Maas & Beth McKay

Carl Maas is a student senator and Beth McKay is president for Students Allied for a Greener Earth.

Administration should help recycle

Who should bear the brunt of the responsibility for recycling on the USC campus, the students or the administration?

There needs to be cooperation between both sides, however, the administration needs to assume a much larger role in campus recycling.

Quite simply put, the administration has the money, manpower and equipment in place to institute a much broader and more extensive program than the students can. As recycling is an aspect of waste management, responsibility for such programs should be undertaken by custodial and operational services. This would ensure recycling containers would be widespread and well serviced across the campus.

After all, students don't have to take their trash any farther than the nearest trash can, whether it be in a classroom, hallway or hall bath. Why should they have to take their recyclables any further?

Also, if student volunteers are used to operate recycling programs here on campus, they are not easily held accountable for breakdowns in the services. This becomes important when one considers the fact that

these volunteers could be called upon several times a week to pick up potentially messy recyclable materials from across campus.

Source separation is the best and most effective method of recycling. However, the institution of such a system is quite costly. In a time when the budgets of almost all student organizations are being closely scrutinized, imagine the difficulty such a group would have in attempting to institute an effective source separation program.

While student participation in recycling is an important aspect of any proposed program, USC's administration must work with them and provide more help in areas where the student organizations are resource-poor. An important step in this process would be listening to concerned student organizations and groups, then helping them institute programs through personnel and financial support.

- Matt Bebbler & Deborah Drucker

Matt Bebbler and Deborah Drucker work with student government on campus recycling projects.

If you have an issue or question you would like to see addressed in *Cross Fire* or *USC Voices*, Please drop it in a Suggestion Box or Call *The Gamecock* Newsroom at 777-7726.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Persian Gulf not "good" war

To the editor:
Mr. Thosteson, I agree with you that President Bush is skilled in foreign affairs. Many years of service in the CIA has something to do with that. It also explains his apparent disregard for less heroic issues like AIDS, education and abortion. Don't call the Persian Gulf War a "good" war, an "altruistic American accomplishment." You've been watching too much of "Hogan's Heroes" and "McHale's Navy." If you really believe Bush represents truth, justice and the pursuit of happiness, tell me why Kuwait is so important? Oil,

condition the whole country if they wanted to. Also, American corporations depend on the oil from that volatile region. Here is your "seditious treachery": a democratic system in which the pursuit of power supersedes the needs of the people it supposedly represents:

Cashocracy. You ultra-conservatives who perceive "evil" forces all around you are so busy being patriotic and absolutely right that you forget that even communist, gay, immigrant drug addicts who wear plaid have a right to become American citizens. The system is counting on people like you to muddle what is really at issue. Do you wave the flag for America, or to defend your fragile conception of what it means to be an American.

Andrew C. Wood
English senior

Pornography inspires violence

To the editor:
I would like to address the Cross Fire article that proposed "Pornography does not breed violence." The author is under the mistaken impression that pornography is basically about sex. It is not. It is about power, discrimination and abuse. Indeed, the author wrote that violence is the problem. Pornography is violent in every sense of the word. It is both overt and covert.
Furthermore, I agree with her assertion that pornography has nothing to do with women's sexuality. In its essence, pornography permits violent acts which subjugate women and children. Also, let us not forget men can be victims too. Sex is only the vehicle. Thus, op-

position to pornography is not an opposition to sex. It is an opposition to violence through sex.
Before any debate can continue over the elimination or constitutionality of pornography we should get the facts straight. Today, the only forms of pornography which are illegal are children in films and snuff films. In snuff films an unsuspecting victim is killed in the movie for sexual/violent pleasure.
If anyone has any doubts that pornography breeds violence, read case histories of serial killers. I am not saying that unstable personalities seeking ideas and ways to express violence find plenty of inspiration in such movies. Think about this issue. It's important because it affects the perceptions and values placed on other people.

Tina Rhodes
Criminal Justice graduate student

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