

# VIEWPOINT

## Parent

### USC must accept responsibility and allow Coastal to separate

When parents nurture a child and watch that child, it is hard to let that child leave.

That's the situation USC administrators and trustees have found themselves in.

The Coastal Carolina campus wants to separate from the system and other branch campuses may be on their way out, too.

When the decision was announced this past summer, USC President John Palms and trustees balked at the decision. They said it would ruin the system.

The USC system was created to enhance the education of college students across the state. It was created to give students who couldn't make it to the Columbia campus the opportunity to still earn their education from USC.

It was also created to heighten higher education across the state. And that's what it has done.

Coastal has become a major college in the state. They're by no means as reputable as Clemson, Furman, or even USC-Columbia. Yet, they're respectable. And they earned that respect by working through the system.

Now, they want to try it on their own. They want to go out there without having the Big Brother campus of Columbia overseeing their business.

And they should be allowed to separate. USC-Columbia has to accept the role of a parent who sees their child leave home. They have to let their child leave home and see the challenge the world has to offer.

Coastal has matured to the point that they can leave the system and go on their own. Meanwhile, USC can take pride in watching that campus make it on their own.

And if any other branch campuses want to leave, USC must be sure that those campuses can make it on their own.

Parting with a child is hard, but USC must take on that responsibility and stop acting overprotectively.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Free trade can hurt economy

To the editor:

American manufactureres cannot compete with foreign countries like Mexico, who pays thousands of workers as low as 55.5 cents an hour, and sells billions of dollars worth of products to America.

Many American companies have moved to foreign countries, taking advantage of lower wage scales — their products are sold in the United States at prices that bring them huge profits, resulting in these countries selling approximately one hundred billion dollars more annually to the United States than they buy from us!!

Let's immediately contact our elected officials to:

1. Immediately stop all purchases from foreign countries until they pay their workers wages and benefits comparable to America's.
  2. Place barriers against all countries who have barriers against U.S. products, and against all foreign subsidized products that undersell our own.
  3. Bar foreign countries from selling more products to the United States in monthly dollar volume than it buys from the U.S.
  4. Immediately put a stop to so called "free trade," which has been a disaster to American manufacturers.
  5. Let us work to rebuild our own deteriorating economy.
- Any American who supports free trade is actually helping to destroy our own economy and the American way of life.

John O'Ban  
member, LET'S SAVE  
AMERICANS FIRST

## Editor's note...

Is something bothering you, getting under your skin, or just ticking you off? If so, then write about it! Send us a letter telling us your views on whatever's on your mind about USC, the U.S., the world or life in general and we'll do our best to print it. What better forum for your ideas than The Gamecock? Put pen to paper and let your voice be heard — now.

### USC VOICES

#### Question: Do you think the U.S. should offer economic aid to Russia?



Jenny Anderson  
English

"Yes, I do, because the U.S. needs to give the world the impression that they are their friend, and strong allies are very important to U.S. strategic plans."



Paul Rucker  
Computer Engineering

"Yes, I think they should. We're a world power and I think it would be good for us to help get them going again."



Brett White  
Finance

"I don't really think so. I think we are in a time to help ourselves more. We're just getting out of a recession, we need to help ourselves."



Mitchell Sitton  
Engineering

"No. I don't think so, because they were our enemy for a long time."

## Cross Fire

### Americans have right to choose

We have been taught all our lives to honor free speech as one of the most important distinctions that sets our country apart from totalitarian dictatorships.

Because we have the right of free speech, each of us is free to express our opinions, consider the ideas of others, and to criticize social policy without fear of government reprisals.

There have always been those who argue some speech is just so socially irresponsible that it should not be permitted. The most popular target has been erotic speech. Others have suggested the same principle be applied to speech which offends racial minorities, women, and gays and lesbians. This is the thrust of the "politically correct" speech codes many colleges have adopted the past couple of years.

Before them, of course, was the moral majority which today still often succeeds in suppressing religiously incorrect speech, particularly in school curriculums, libraries and local theatres in many communities throughout the country.

Recently, intolerance for diverse points of view have been extended to music, principally rap. 2 Live Crew's "Nasty As They Wanna Be" album comes readily to mind as an example of speech which drew attacks from both the feminist and religious communities and resulted in criminal prosecutions in several towns in the Southeast under obscenity laws.

### Ice-T lyrics just dangerous hype

"I'm about to dust some cops off," Ice-T exclaims. Ice-T then turns to the audience and screams:

"What do you want to be?"  
"A COP KILLER!" everyone roars.  
Far be it for me to infringe on anybody's First Amendment rights, but is there a more subtle way to get your point across without alienating the group of people you want to change? It seems that a song like this would only serve to promote even more suspicion between the police and black males.

While Body Count's new album is mildly engaging, especially in placing the heretofore rap-singer Ice-T in front of a metal/thrash background, it is not of any great consequence either musically or politically. The riffs and lyrics are interesting at first but drone on in repetition to the point where it becomes a tedious listening experience. I can't imagine that even Ice-T sees this album as anything more than a summer pastime between rap albums.

So it is not likely the song "Cop Killers," will catch on far beyond that of the first

single "There Goes the Neighborhood." But if it does... It will mainly be due to the hype and not to Ice-T's songcraft. The album has been out for quite awhile and it has taken police organizations from Texas and New York several months to discover "Cop Killers." And of course once somebody mentions it, everyone has to jump on the bandwagon - even our illustrious Vice President - in an attempt to find a black villain.

It all goes to show you that the Bush camp doesn't have its act together. If Nixon were President, Ice-T would have already been on file as a dangerous subversive and this unpleasantness would be in the past.

The song has gained such notoriety now only because of its unfortunate timing after the Los Angeles riots, and although the song was recorded before L.A. burst into flames, Ice-T's song shows the feelings that were brewing in the aftermath of the Rodney King incident.

—Jack Dunn  
Jack Dunn is the Sports Editor of The Gamecock.

## ABC now getting its just desserts

- Aaron Sheinin  
"Obviously, a lot of folks are trying to cause me difficulty."

These are the words of C. Wilbur Hodge Jr., commissioner of the Alcoholic Beverage Control. He's talking about a State Law Enforcement Division investigation into, among other things, his wrecking of a state car on a night he was admittedly drinking.

There's a billboard in West Columbia that says "I've only had a couple drinks, I can drive," and then makes some sort of plea against drinking and driving. Apparently, such things are trivial to men like this.

SLED is also looking into allegations that ABC commissioners accepted free lunches, took trips to topless bars and received money in exchange for favors. Oh, my. Such a tangled web. I guess the saying about there not being any free lunches doesn't stick to them, huh?

ABC is the thorn in the side of most college students, bar owners and anyone else with a sense of decency. Its agents walk into bars as if the absolute power of God were behind them, which in fact may as well be true for any unsuspecting underage drinker or bar owner.

Now, I know there are some who are going to rally behind the theory that these underage drinkers are in fact breaking the law and the agents are in fact doing their jobs.

Were ABC employees doing their jobs when Ken Allen, a former ABC executive director and board chairman, paid for commission members to eat lunch at various restaurants, which is among the allegations under scrutiny by SLED? Or where they, per chance, doing their jobs when they visited topless bars with Allen?

Allen is now an independent attorney who often argues cases in front of the commission for clients seeking liquor licenses. Hasn't anyone stopped to think just maybe the commission is going to go a little easier on Allen's clients than others?

Hodge has called Allen a friend. Well, sure he is. He'd be my friend, too.

"I'll tell you this," Hodge told The State newspaper. "You are not going to buy me for a grilled chicken sandwich." Yea, whatever, pal. I don't think anyone is going to accuse you of being that cheap. It probably at least takes a steak.

"The Booze Police," as they've become known in certain circles are also coming under scrutiny in Greenville where Commissioner Wayne Crick called his son at a party to tell him to leave before ABC agents raided it. I wonder if the kid told anyone else

at the party? Would you? Or would you let your friends lose their driver's license for 90 days and face a stiff fine for, gasp, drinking? And I just wonder if Crick was sitting back with a cold one when he made that call. Oh, but he's of age.

It makes me smile to think this organization is finally getting accused of being what has been rumored for quite a while — a corrupt, scandalous secret police bent on enforcing overbearing laws while they accept unethical gifts from people like Allen.

If the SLED investigation turns up nothing at all, a small victory can still be claimed. At least the public will become aware of the rumors, and maybe, just maybe ABC's pride and shield will take a dent or two.



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