

Viewpoints

Andrew

Hurricane rips through Florida, uncovers heart of United States

I don't know if Andrew is a Democrat or a Republican, but he has something to say to both presidential candidates about the state of the country.

Andrew has ravaged southern Florida without mercy, turning communities upside down and showing us how delicate society is put together. Underneath a thin veneer of order lurks the unsettling discovery that we are out of control. We live day to day with the perceptions of a government, at the highest level, able to contain our hostility toward one another and also give us the safety net for our basic survival. The U.S. government and all its resources can barely manage even this.

Of all the talk of infrastructure, first by Tsongas, then by Perot and Clinton, and finally by George Bush, none of these candidates could fully appreciate the ensuing mess and the lack of coordination of national and state relief efforts.

Workers from SCE&G made it to Florida before representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) only to find their equipment and the two states' electrical systems incompatible.

With electricity down, thousands of homeless people are confused about where to go for help. Migrant workers, borderline poor, and insured homeowners make up a great portion of the southern Florida population. This cross-section of people provided an easy target. Migrant workers are afraid to accept help, and thousands precariously living on the edge have been irretrievably lost.

After days of careful thought, the Marines, Army and Navy were finally deployed to build tent cities for the estimated 250,000 homeless. Only 20,000 can be housed at a time. In addition to this limited capability, there's been confusion over who is running the various relief efforts. The Army says it's the U.S. transportation department, but Florida governor Lawton Chiles says there is no single boss in charge.

Now we come to FEMA, the hoped-for white knight. FEMA has proved to be nothing more than a federal appointee weigh station, a place for minor officials to fatten up before the long road to sub-cabinet positions. FEMA is in competition with the Red Cross, and local and state charities are they are losing.

Internal defense and investment in domestic security have been lacking in the last 15 years, because it has not been a priority. Now, we have no choice but to make it a priority. We can make a fresh start by doing all we can, as former Hugo victims, by donating food, clothing, furniture — anything — to help the people of Florida get over this crisis and move on to improve our country's ability to handle such emergencies.

Hurricane Andrew is a clear and defining metaphor explaining a lot of things about the direction in which this country is headed.

It took a hurricane to uncover the real America. It took a hurricane to show us we are not as powerful as we think, and we are still defenseless against nature and its power. A hurricane may not have a political bias, but it sure has a funny way of showing us what's wrong with the country.

"THANKS FOR READING THE FUNNIES, MOM — COULD YOU DO THAT FAIRY TALE I'VE HEARD ABOUT, 'FAMILY VALUES', SOMETIME?"



'JUST WAIT TILL THE NEXT VOYAGE, WHEN I GET A NEW CREW!'



USC VOICES

Question: Do you think USC is accessible enough for disabled students?



Zachary Maddox
Graduate student
Library Science

"I've only been here for two weeks, and it appears to be accessible. I've seen one or two in wheelchairs, and they seem to be doing alright."



Tonya Berry
Graduate student
Sociology

"From what I can see, yes. I've seen lots of little ramps. I live in Capstone, and they've got a lot over there."



David Hiller
Junior
Criminal Justice

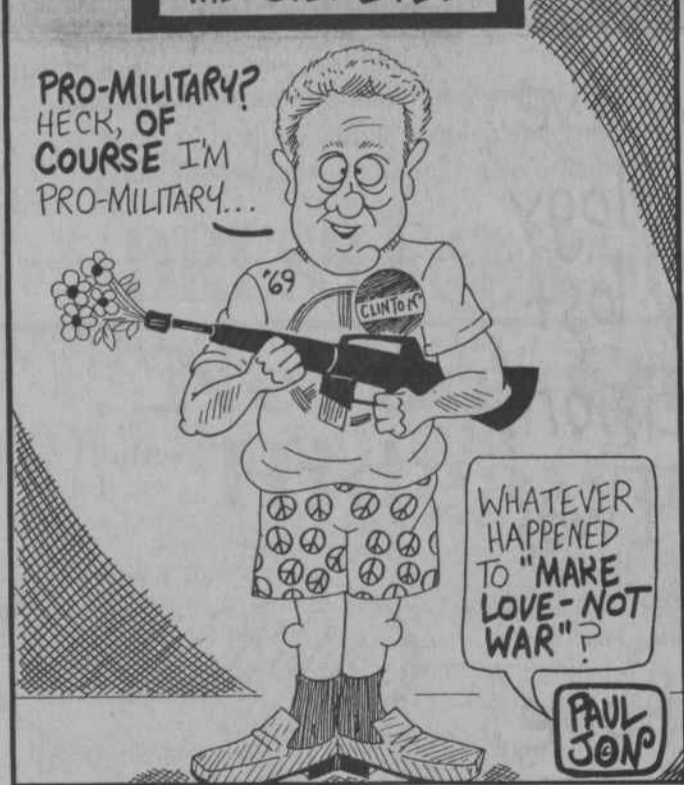
"For the most part, the campus is accessible to the students. Still, there are some older buildings that need to be updated to make it totally accessible."



Amy Taylor
Graduate student
CLIS

"I wouldn't really know because I'm not one (a handicapped student) — but probably not. I know, for example, that you can't get in Sloan."

"THE G.I. BILL"



School spirit needs some improvement

Spirit at USC is heading straight for the gutter.

The other day I saw USC Athletics Director King Dixon driving to work in a baby blue Cadillac. Now King, I do realize we aren't playing North Carolina this year, but come on! Baby blue? Whatever happened to the big garnet bomber you used to cruise the streets of USC in?

We're in the Southeastern Conference now, and with that comes better competition and much better publicity for USC. With affiliation in the SEC, South Carolina should also become more spirited.

How many times have any of you turned on Saturday afternoon football and seen half of the students from Alabama completely painted in crimson and white? On the same note, how many USC students don themselves in garnet and black for football games. I'd probably be able to count them on one hand.

Take a look around on your daily walks to class. Try and count how many Gamecock hats and t-shirts you spot. Again, you won't need

J.T. WAGENHEIM
News Editor

more than one hand to count them.

Who can we blame for the school's apathy? The students? The administration? The losing football team?

Or what about the tease most of our sports teams give us at the start of their seasons? Take the basketball team the past two years. They were scorching their competition and on the level of nationally-ranked teams. What did they do? They went on losing streaks at the end of the year.

No wonder students can't be excited about the "Fighting Gamecocks," because they throw in the towel by the fifth round.

We need something that will get us excited and keep us that way. Could Duke University

have won the national basketball championship this past year if they went undefeated the first 15 games, then lost their next eight in a row? No, and we shouldn't carry that mentality when talking about the "Lamecocks."

But there is hope. With USC's entrance into the SEC, the recruits will come in (academically eligible or not) and take over and lift us to a new horizon. These new guys need to excite and make us come to the football, basketball and baseball games to cheer them on.

Our coaches must also coach to win, not coach to *not* lose. Sparky Woods needs a firecracker lit up his butt. He needs to be a motivational father figure, not a caressing mother figure.

Williams-Brice stadium should be a home-field advantage for USC, not a home-field disadvantage.

And, by golly, administrators should drive garnet cadillacs, live in garnet houses, paint their pets garnet and black, have Gamecock toilet seats and have a tattoo of a gamecock.

Does that jive with you, King?

The Gamecock

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cola. police slow to respond

To the editor:

On Friday, August 27, I went to my Blazer in the parking lot behind Park Circle to find that the passenger window was broken completely out. The steering wheel was completely broken and nearly unattached.

I was very upset and angry. While my sister, a friend, and I (three girls) waited for city police to show up, a young man gladly stayed with us and calmed us down. This young man stood by us for at least an hour when 911 finally showed up. This young man also flagged down and yelled at Campus Police to stop; however,

they stated, "This is not USC's property. We cannot help you," and proceeded on their way.

I didn't get a chance to thank the young man because I was talking to police. I hope that young man reads this letter because our heart goes out to him. Thank you so much for taking your time, it really meant a lot to us.

This does show that through all the devastation, there are still some compassionate, caring, and concerned citizens in this world. Thank you young man!

Denise Ward
Early childhood education senior

Rhonda Ward
Chemical engineering senior

Nancy Harling
Chemical engineering junior

Pro-life cause misrepresented

To the editor:

I disagree entirely with the article written by Mr. Sikkema (pro-life does not always mean anti-choice). The only evidence presented by Mr. Sikkema is that an unborn child's heart is beating just 14 days after conception. This is hardly enough evidence to warrant an article justifying "pro-life." The article is further weakened by no mentioning of, or taking into account, the views of the opposition. Mr. Sikkema makes no effort whatsoever to explain why the opposition's view is not as correct as his view.

In the article, Mr. Sikkema

places more emphasis on the rights of the mother. It is impossible to decide whose rights are more important. You are making a value judgment, Mr. Sikkema, based on assumptions. The beliefs stated in your article are irrational due to the incredible lack of factual support. You cannot expect to persuade the reader on the lone basis that these are your opinions and your beliefs, so they must be right. Your hastily composed article does not do justice to the case against abortion by "pro-lifers." Next time please be more thorough and include discussions of the different theories set forth thus far (utilitarian, Kant, Ross, Rawls, etc.) in regard to the ethics surrounding abortion. Thank you.

Gordon Sherard
History senior