

Viewpoints

Staff

The unseen, unknown workers are the backbone of USC

USC is flooded with students everyday. We storm the campus, walk for miles and miles, eat and drink, study and gather in hordes, and leave our trash all over the place. And then we go on with our lives, oblivious to the hard workers who surround us. These workers don't wear suits, they don't sit behind desks, they don't answer phones, and they don't shuffle papers...they work. Maintaining the campus is like managing a city and with 26,000 students, USC takes up a vast acreage of Columbia. The campus has everything a small city does: a police department, a token government, a post office, places to eat... but it takes an army of real workers to make this place run. For any lost freshman, they are a valuable source of information. Just ask them, and they can direct you to any place you need to go. They are the eyes and ears of the campus. To the ladies and gentlemen who work as dining hall servers, custodians and groundskeepers, we would like to commend you for picking up after us, a bunch of spoiled college brats. We're slobbs, and we tend to take you for granted. Much like our parents did, you clean up after us and at times guide us. What would USC be like without you? If the staff were to suddenly disappear, USC would quickly resemble the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. With garbage strewn all over the place, we'd run to class and complain about the filth. The weeds would grow over the campus, and make it look like a Peruvian jungle. And who would feed us? We certainly can't feed ourselves. They are underpaid, and deserve more than they make. Could anyone invasion our professors picking up all the trash, or cleaning out the french-fry vats? So, the next time you see a member of the university staff, take some time out and thank them for all the hard work they do. Stop and talk with them, and treat them with respect. The Gamecock would like to thank the hard-working people who keep USC running.



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The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be 200-250 words. Full name and professional title, or year and major if a student, must be included along with address and phone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit letters for style, possible libel or space limitations. The Gamecock will not withhold names under any circumstances.

Cross Fire

Marijuana should stay illegal

Marijuana is an addictive drug which many people smoke to gain a sense of euphoria or, more aptly put, a "high." Marijuana seemed to characterize the "cultural" revolution of the sixties and seventies. Many high profile leaders as well as the average Joe Blow, have smoked or tried marijuana at one time or another. Its popularity is mainly attributed to its accessibility and relatively low cost. Proponents for the legalization of marijuana seem to think legalization will cause a decline in its usage. They argue legalization will take the fun or thrill out of smoking an illegal substance. The same fate is predicted for other drugs like cocaine and crack. The problem most of these advocates seem to overlook is the nature of the substance. Marijuana is a drug that is inherently addictive! If marijuana is legalized, this country will be a venerable wasteland of marijuana junkies. A rush to try the drug by those curious to learn about the "pleasure" of marijuana will eventually lead them to fall prostrate to their marijuana masters. Young children and teens with society's blessing will experiment with this drug causing harmful mental and physical effects on their bodies. Educational and moral decline will soon follow. Students will no longer care about future goals or becoming functioning members of society. Most will be lost in an artificially induced haze, not caring about education, success or society, but only wondering where that next high will come from. Marijuana also bolsters anti-social tendencies and low morale. Marijuana as a crop would gain the status like cotton had in the nineteenth century. People would center their lives around the drug, neglecting their families and friends. Replacing them with an insatiable desire for "Mary Jane." The legalization of marijuana would have serious repercussions on our society as we know it. Crime and poverty would drastically increase causing serious economic and social disorder. Levels of productivity and world competitiveness would fall off. This would create an even wider gap between prosperity and poverty. If marijuana is legalized, it would signal the inevitable collapse of an already increasingly immoral society. But hey, people would have a good time doing it.

—John Nunnery
Columnist for The Gamecock

Cannabis is the miracle drug

For the past three thousand years people from all races and cultures have benefited from the use of cannabis. It was not until the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 that the United States had any law pertaining to marijuana use. Up until that time, hemp growth was encouraged in the United States for use in medicinal areas. However, large pharmaceutical companies became wary of the raw plant's success and lobbied Congress to make the plant illegal. Since then, numerous people have argued vehemently against the plant's prohibition, including Jack Herer, founder of HEMP (Help End Marijuana Prohibition) and author of *Hemp and the Marijuana Conspiracy: The Emperor Wears No Clothes*. Herer lists some very interesting facts in his little but informative book: •From 1842 to 1900, cannabis was in 50 percent of all medicines sold. •Marijuana has been proven to help those suffering from conditions like glaucoma, epilepsy, tumors, asthma, and arthritis. •In September 1988 DEA administrative law judge Francis Young said, "Marijuana is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man." However, information on the plant's healing potential was stymied when all independent university marijuana research was halted in 1976 by the U.S. government. Large, pharmaceutical companies now have a complete monopoly on the plant's research. The reason these corporations are so nervous about the release of information on marijuana is because they know the drug, in its raw form, has a great amount of medicinal promise. These corporations would lose their collective butts if marijuana became easily accessible to sick people who use expensive and ineffective manufactured drugs. It is no wonder the largest part of funding for campaigning against the legalization of marijuana comes from pharmaceutical companies, alcoholic beverage suppliers and tobacco producers. These are the people who stand to lose the most if marijuana was accepted. It's hypocritical and illogical that the government gives these businesses subsidies and then prohibits marijuana growth. Every year legal-drug overdoses kill 20,000, alcohol kills 150,000, and tobacco kills 350,000. Not one death has been tied to an overdose of marijuana. In pursuit of the almighty dollar, we have excluded a possible "miracle drug" and encouraged the use of known toxins. Strike another one up for the U.S. government.

—Clay Murphy
Columnist for The Gamecock

State budget woes not result of recession

The root cause of South Carolina's budget deficit is federal mandates and programs which have led to employment increases in S.C. government in the past 10 years, state officials have said. Growth in South Carolina state government is in line with the rest of the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the past 10 years, state government employment grew at a faster pace than did the private sector in the state. According to the S.C. Employment Security Commission, jobs in the private sector increased 28 percent between 1982 and 1992. In the same 10 year period, state government employment increased 43 percent. While some of the blame for the state budget woes may be placed on the tax and spend Congress, South Carolina must take its share of blame. For example, heads of state agencies will receive pay increases effective Oct. 1, 1992. The three highest paid agency heads in the state are USC President John Palms, whose 1992-93 salary increased to \$138,213, MUSC's president, whose salary is \$122,423, and Clemson's

ROD DOBSON
COLUMNIST

president, who makes \$120,273. Given all of the facts and figures, the fact remains that much of the state's budget woes come from political posturing in an election year. Gov. Carroll Campbell and the state Budget and Control Board first attempted to cut only new money from the budget. The state Supreme Court ruled that targeted cuts by the board violated state law. The Courts decision forced the Budget and Control Board to order across-the-board budget cuts of 4 percent. Some elected officials have found this a good opportunity to score political points. For example Richland County Rep. Tim Rogers said, "Carroll Campbell will not make all the tough decisions. He wants all the power." Lt. Gov. Nick Theodore and House Speaker Bob Sheheen have supported the idea of the legislature being called back, but said it was

Campbell's decision. Theodore said, "Only the state's General Assembly has the legal authority to determine what is most important to South Carolina." Bob Sheheen, D-Kershaw, said the legislature could do a more effective job of cutting the budget. This is political posturing at its best. Rogers, Theodore, and Sheheen have made a mockery of state government. These men in their positions of leadership knew before they ended the legislative session that they had a budget deficit. If they are as capable as they claim, why was the dirty work left to the governor? Donald Spann said it best, "When everyone's in charge, no one's in charge. The Legislature is in charge, so no one's in charge." Gov. Campbell said, "We're not going to be another California." This was after Campbell's demand that two-thirds of the General Assembly agree to a plan and give up any thoughts of raising taxes. It was because of the governor's astute leadership that we will not be burdened by a circus of political grandstanding in this election year.

Freshmen need transportation to games

Picture this...you're walking down Assembly Street at 11:30 p.m. with a few friends after a football game. Cars are driving by, people are screaming, and horns are honking while you hike back to campus. How many of you can say you've experienced this? I'm sure not many. Recently, my friends and I had the pleasure of walking home from the first game of the season and I must say, it was not an experience any of us want to repeat or any of you want to go through. When I tell people this story, they ask me why we were walking home in the first place. The answer is quite simple. We had no other way to get home. Surely, we weren't going to stay at Williams-Brice Stadium or catch a ride with a stranger. Walking was basically our only

AMY MCKNIGHT
COLUMNIST

option. Of course, we could have taken a cab; however, we are freshman without jobs living on extremely limited funds. We considered taking a city bus, but to our surprise, there wasn't one to take. That's when we realized the university should provide transportation for those of us without cars. Since then, I've called the Shuttlecock to find out if they provide transportation to home foot-

ball games. I was upset to hear that they don't. I also found out that at one time transportation was provided by the university, but for some reason it no longer exists. If university officials have the impression that transportation is not needed, they are mistaken. There are girls who live in my hall who gladly take advantage of the free football tickets, but have only attended one game so far this season due to lack of transportation. Students who are fortunate enough to get a free ticket to the games should be able to actually go to the games. They would be able to if the university would provide transportation to the remaining home football games and any other sporting events.

Letters to the Editor

Victim criticizes coverage

To the editor: Three weeks ago, I was struck and run over by a truck while riding my bike on the sidewalk along Greene Street. That following Friday, The Gamecock published a photo from the accident without the sensitivity of a story. This decision disappointed me as it caused a tremendous amount of distress for

my friends, professors, and fraternity brothers and sisters who had not yet learned of the accident. Your publication made it possible for them to discover my misfortune while reading The Gamecock in class or over lunch, without any reassurances of my condition. I feel this was insensitive, inconsiderate and uncalled for when a simple phone call from your staff would have resulted in my roommate assuring The Gamecock, though I was hospitalized, I would be fine. Don't get me wrong! I want the students and members of the community to learn of my accident and

the many others that have occurred. I want them to be startled into a more careful driving practice. Too many bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists travel carelessly and assume the good judgment of others sharing the roadways. In experiencing my accident, I urge and plead with all to think twice and look twice before they pull out, swerve, maneuver or take another's judgment for granted. Lastly, I would like to take this time to thank all of the beautiful people who have helped me through this ordeal. I was extremely impressed at the quick responses

of passers-by who saw the accident, especially Amy Kantra, who remained at my side, reassuring me and assigning others to tasks of notifying emergency personnel and my friends. The Residence Hall Staff and residents were also a tremendous source of comfort to me. I thank all of you who took the time to pray for me and the driver of the truck. I have felt them all as I have escaped serious injury and have been recovering quickly. Thank you all very much and may God bless you all. Mary Lee Maneely
Music Ed/Performance senior