

# Viewpoints

## Missing

*Community efforts commendable, other cases need similar support*

With all the events surrounding Dale Dinwiddie's disappearance, no one can do anything but applaud the efforts by her parents, her fellow students and students from Heathwood Hall, her old high school. The manner in which they have brought the issue of missing persons to the forefront has made all of us aware of the possibilities of it happening to each of us. It has been an excellent example of a community coming together to help the Dinwiddie family.

Operation Safe Streets was formed to keep this issue always in the minds of students through annual benefits for missing persons. The group was started by those instrumental in organizing and passing out the Dinwiddie fliers and should be a force to keep incidents like this from happening again.

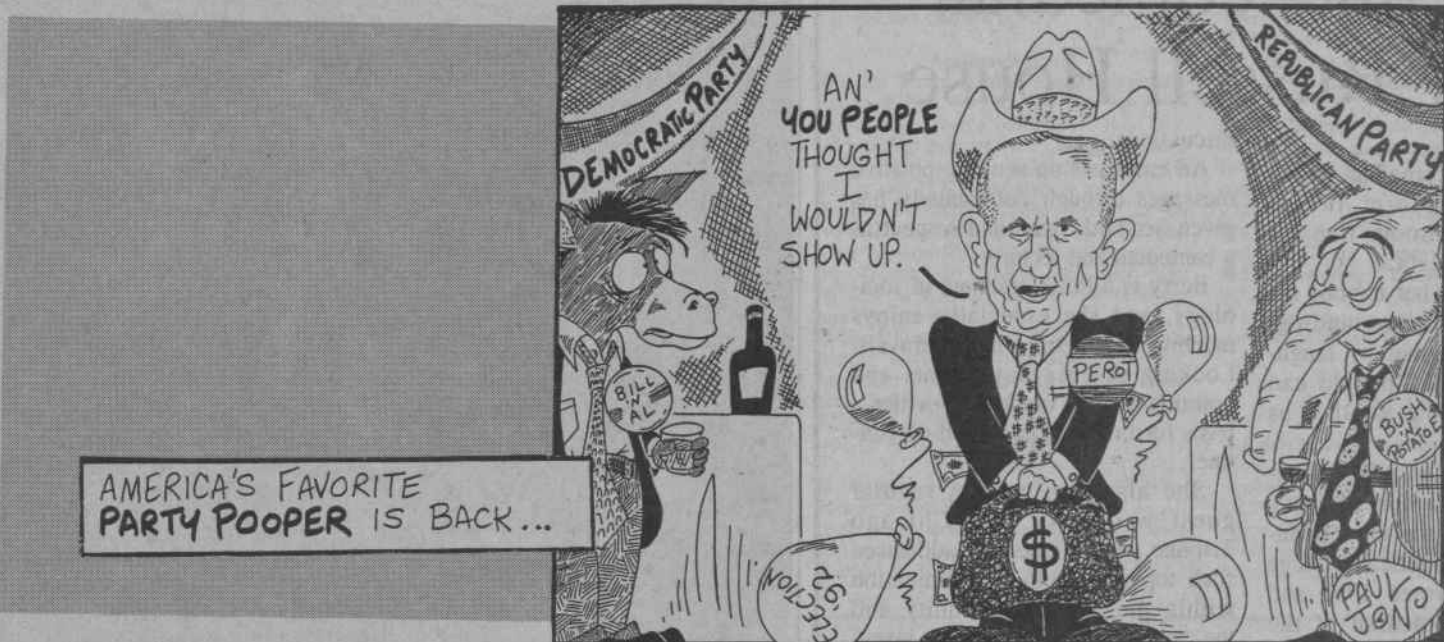
The issue of safety at Five Points has also been addressed. It has finally occurred to people that the area could be a dangerous place to be late at night. Thousands of people congregate in the space of a city block or two each weekend. There may be safety in numbers, but numbers can also camouflage the actions of a few. Derelicts and vagrants wander in and out of the crowds, and hang around the streets all night long. People need to be warned about going out or ending up alone. The numbers didn't help Dinwiddie and neither did the police.

There are other occurrences of missing persons that don't involve numbers. Numbers aren't involved in their disappearance and numbers aren't involved in efforts of support to help find them. And the media, in most cases, is not on their side.

There are 597 missing person cases still active in South Carolina and none of them have gotten the attention of Dinwiddie's disappearance. In The State, Debra Gutierrez Garnsey compared Dinwiddie's case and its attention to her daughter Jamie Gutierrez's disappearance six years ago. She said the same doors open to the Dinwiddie family were shut to her.

Dinwiddie's case has been a high-profile campaign and has gotten national exposure on "America's Most Wanted," and it has only been about two weeks. Other families who have had children missing for months could only hope for as much.

There should be just as much compassion and media coverage for all missing persons.



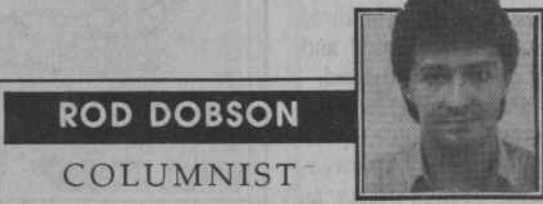
## Just a few questions for Bill Clinton

Clinton's private life (questions of infidelity) has no relevance in his bid for president. His dodging the draft has no relevance. But, Mr. Clinton if these issues are not relevant, why not give the truth in both situations?

While we're on the subject of truth and answers, I have more that needs to be brought to your attention before November.

Okay, you probably have not read much more than the title of your running mate's book *Earth In the Balance*, when you said it was magnificent. But if Gore is serious about what he wrote, he is the most radical ever nominated by either major party. If, like him, you think a "wrenching transformation of society" and "a change of the very foundation of our civilization" is imperative, will you please give details before November?

Mr. Clinton, about your taxes on the rich: If the money you wanted to take remained with the rich almost all of it would be invested (fact).



ROD DOBSON  
COLUMNIST

What makes you think as president you could spend it more efficiently than the one who earned it? Mr. Clinton, you have tried for 12 years in Arkansas, and your state remains at the bottom. The 128 tax and fee hikes endorsed by you may have some bearing on your poor showing. What do you think, Mr. Clinton?

Mr. Clinton, in Washington, D.C., the city's health commissioner says school nurses will dispense condoms to students, even if parents write letters requesting their children not be issued them. Mr. Clinton, who do you support the

commissioner or the parents?

Mr. Clinton, do you think the free distribution of condoms is a good idea? If so, why? Because it works? How, when statistics show an epidemic of teenage pregnancy and sexually communicated diseases, at a time when sex education and free contraception are readily available. Your comments would be appreciated.

Finally, many claim you have an immense enthusiasm for government, having been in it all of your life. You have put virtually everything on your policy agenda. In your view, is there one human want or difficulty you don't define as a public policy problem?

As all have been told, nothing you have done in your private life is of relevance in this campaign. We all differ on what is relevant or irrelevant. We all agree the issues are relevant, so it would be prudent for you to give some answers before November.

## Unsigned editorials to be staff opinion

Well, my name sure has made the newspaper a lot recently. I probably should clear up a couple of things about the editorial content of the Viewpoints page.

"Apology," the unsigned editorial of last Monday, was somewhat uncalled for, but in other ways it was needed.

Two of our former staffers mentioned it was not the opinion of the entire staff. They were right, it was only the opinion of a few on the staff. Many on the staff felt we should not insult our past editors, and the editorial was taking unnecessary pot shots. Most agreed a different perspective was needed besides the liberal side that was "rammed" down our throats, as one student put it.

I guess my emotions from the past year took over in presenting the "Apology" editorial. It should have been a column under my name. But I do not back down from any points made in the editorial.

In the future, all editorials will be a consensus of the staff's opinions. This is the professional thing to do. This was one of my objections to last year's staff, which I was a part of. I was never, ever asked my opinion on the editorial, even though I was one of the top section editors. And anybody who tells you that it is professional for one person to come in and write the editorial with no other input is mistaken.



GREG RICKABAUGH  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

speaker. What I am talking about is the recent multiculturalism seminar given by Julia Hare, a clinical psychologist from San Francisco.

Less than 200 people showed up. Not even a Datebook request was made. And that's free!! How did they expect people to know about the event?

Carolina Program Union apparently gave \$1,500, Residence Hall Association donated \$500, Student Government Association allocated \$500 and the main sponsor, the Association of African American Students, gave \$1,000.

I wouldn't label it a waste if the organizations had adequately advertised the important program, but without it students are gyped of their money.

And the other question is: In bad economic times and numerous budget cuts, does USC need to spend that much on a single speaker with other more important needs at hand? It has become a trend by many of these organizations to bring expensive speakers to this campus.

It is not needed. Think about the students first and foremost. Think about the free midnight movies that Carolina Program Union could have shown with the money, think about the living conditions that could have been improved by RHA and think of the organizations who were

refused a portion of their important funding needs last year by student government.

Please think again before spending so much of student fees on a poorly advertised event.



# The Gamecock

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## Letters to the Editor

### U2, IRA not Celt warriors

To the editor:

I believe you should have retitled C.E. Holman's column (Sept. 24) in Viewpoints as "Author misunderstands terrorists." I'm not sure this letter should be addressed to a naive student of political science, human rights, and Irish history, or to a bored op ed writer doing anything to get the Letters to the Editor section running. Either way I found the article, rather the column, rather disturbing.

First off, I don't think U2 is exactly an IRA, or even a Sinn Fein representative. And I don't think the IRA could be equated to "Celtic warriors."

Historically, Ireland has been a conquered land. Those "ancient Celts...race of skilled warriors..." were Norsemen who overwhelmed and "occupied" a race of peoples that fled toward the interior of Ireland as the conquerors remained on the coast to establish posts on which cities like Dublin now stand.

This doesn't legitimize British rule via absentee land ownership. But let's not kid ourselves about the glorious Celtic past of Ireland either. Also, the Roman Catholic Church did more to "conquer" the Celtic race than the British, unless Catholicism is part of the Celtic past and you want to ignore the pagan Druid practices still seen in places like Innismore of the Aran Islands.

Lastly, the IRA was split over the Act of 1920 and the Proclamation of 1916, just as most of Ireland. Matter of fact the Free State government helped the British wipe out Republican rebels after 1920 and this all resulted in the Civil War of 1923. So, your association of the IRA with the Irish government is inappropriate, likewise is this hereditary Irish-American support of the IRA. Ironically, it's people like C.E. Holman, the Kennedys, and Bob Jones that have caused the Troubles to be as torturous and well fueled for the last 20 years, and even longer.

Carl Maas  
Psychology senior

### Somalia needs Live-Aid effort

To the editor:

I was glad to read the front-page article in Sept. 25's Gamecock about the graduate student from Somalia and the recent local efforts to raise money for his war-torn and desolate country. However, it struck me funny how the story on U2, the band with a "message," was pasted right next to it. How easily and soon we forget!

In 1985, Bob Geldof and other "politically conscious" pop music stars, including U2, banded together in order to raise money for the starving victims of East Africa. They billed "Live Aid" as a global, all-day benefit concert. It occurred simultaneously in London and Philadelphia. Phil Collins, the hero of "Live Aid," unselfishly gave of himself by performing on both sides of the ocean. They even cut an album, "We Are the World,"

whose profits went directly to charity.

The "Feed the World" campaign of 1985-1986 succeeded in raising a great deal of money, but that is all. At the time, many concert-goers referred to "Live Aid" as the Woodstock of the 1980's, but looking back, that is such a farce. It has proved to be nothing but a short-lived and short-sighted event for opportunistic pop music bands like U2, who bask in the spotlight and the "cacophony of psychedelic excess." The campaign simply has not followed through on its goal of providing relief. "Feed the World" is another example of our failure in the 1980's and 1990's to act on and continually address serious global issues.

As the starving continues in East Africa, tell me something. Where are the "politically conscious" rock stars today?

David Blick  
History graduate