

Viewpoints



Cross Fire

Diversity

Week of programs highlights individuality

All this week Carolina is observing Diversity Week, which is being advertised as a celebration of the human spirit. The week offers many events from volunteer programs, lectures and forums to movies, dances and prayer services allowing students to come together and look at issues usually ignored or given too little attention.

Diversity Week offers students the chance to look at different cultures and experiences within the multicultural society in which we live.

Multiculturalism is a part of this country's history and is the key to our future. Acceptance of all kinds of cultures, ethnic groups and religions only brings a variety of ideas from which we can choose. It should be an important part of American society, as the competition of ideas promotes the best in the country and the best in all of us.

Many who are skeptical of multiculturalism and do not wish it "shoved down our throats" can simply step aside. No one is forcing you to become part of an outdated American melting pot.

Diversity in our society calls for the compilation of a great mosaic, a picture composed of many smaller pieces. Your piece is just as important as any other's in the big picture, and without that piece, there is no image. We do not want you to melt in with the rest of us. We are simply asking for the free exchange of ideas, one of the propositions this country was founded on.

So if you have the time, be sure to take part in one of the many programs offered. Take the time to learn something about another culture, or at least about your own. This week is also a way for you to look into your own culture and strengthen your identity to keep your piece of the mosaic untarnished in the big picture.

USC branches should go

The so-called break-up of the USC system which has been described as removing three four-year colleges, other than USC-Columbia, is a good idea.

USC-Spartanburg, USC-Aiken and Coastal Carolina have been part of the system, but never adhered to the rules of the system.

The USC board of trustees lays down standards for all schools within the system. Spartanburg, Coastal and Aiken have blatantly disregarded these rules for years.

They have set their own admission standards, hired their own professors and set their own curriculum — all without the consent of the board of trustees.

The board has tried to standardize the system by setting high standards for its students, but Spartanburg, Aiken and Coastal have opposed these standards every year. The three schools say it is impossible for their students to meet these standards.

The students of the branch campuses are graduated with a diploma which says, "The University of South Carolina," without ever setting one foot on the Columbia campus.

They should be held responsible for the high academic standards and curricula set by the board. A person can be graduated from one of these branch campuses without doing as much work as your average USC-Columbia student.

I understand students at these schools are always not like your average USC-Columbia student. Many are professionals working on their degrees so they can get a better job or better pay. However, they should be expected to meet the same academic standards we are.

They should meet our standards or leave. The schools also squabble annually about how much money they are losing in the system.

Fine, they should try supporting themselves without the name "University of South Carolina" for a few years. These schools will come back begging to be part of the system again.

I understand it may hurt some students if Spartanburg, Aiken or Coastal leave the system, but these universities have been acting on their own for years.

If we allow them to drag this university down by not adhering to our academic standards and by blatantly disregarding the rulings of the board, we are only defeating ourselves.

—Chad Bray, News Editor for The Gamecock

University serves state

President John Palms would like to weaken the ties of a portion of the USC branch campus system. He would also like to make the Columbia campus stronger and achieve "our distinct mission."

Forget how USC-Aiken and USC-Spartanburg feels. Forget the students in this state who would like a degree with the USC name on it, but can't afford to move themselves and their families all the way to Columbia.

Let's just be selfish and take care of our own interests here at Columbia.

Sounds a little bit like Holderman rhetoric to me.

To Dr. Palms, I send a few personal messages about your plans and the way you are conducting them:

■ You are not being accountable to the students. As in your recent dean evaluation and football program reassignment changes, you continue to keep us guessing.

This goes for how you feel about the branch system. We are now trying to guess what will happen to the four-year and two-year campuses.

Tell us, please. Let us know what you are thinking.

■ I agree about Coastal. If they want to go, let them go.

■ By letting the campuses go, USC at Columbia will have those campuses to fight with over state educational funding. As Rep. Herb Kirsh, D-York, said, "We're going to have a lot more turf fights."

And you think we have problems with funding now?

■ The Commission on Higher Education and many other state leaders, including some on the USC Board of Trustees, have said the general feeling among the state is that we don't need more four-year colleges in the state. By kicking these campuses out, you are encouraging more independent four-year campuses throughout the state.

■ What will more independent colleges mean for South Carolina.

As Kirsh says, soon after they become independent, the campuses will want football teams and other things characteristic of an independent college. Again, how much money will that take away from our share of the pie?

Instead of backing out of our ties with these campuses, we should be strengthening them. This state does not need another fractionalized system of giving public education.

We are the University of South Carolina — not the University of Columbia.

—Greg Rickabaugh, Editor-in-Chief for The Gamecock

It's About Time...



William Gibson

I'm dysfunctional, you're dysfunctional

If Bill Clinton wins in November he will be the first post-therapy president to occupy the White House.

The Arkansas governor has talked about how he has worked out his troubled marriage and gone through family counseling for his brother's drug addiction and his father-in-law's alcoholism.

At the Democratic Convention, Gov. Clinton resembled what might be Donahue's dream show. The stage was set with Bill Clinton on the podium saying "I love you," to his wife, and Roger Clinton saying, "I love you," to his brother and kissing his Alcoholics Anonymous good-behavior chip.

Mr. Gore rounds out the post-therapy ticket, by talking about a counseling program he and his wife, Tipper, entered. According to Tipper, the couple learned more about marital teamwork from the sessions.

ROD DOBSON
COLUMNIST



Pilar Perez, a young Brown delegate from Santa Monica, Calif., said everyone in the state's delegation was comparing the convention to group therapy.

Sally Jessy Raphael, while watching the last night of the Democratic Convention, was amused. Raphael said, "These people belong on talk shows." She also said "They're the stuff we're made of."

The post-therapy candidates Gov. Clinton and Sen. Gore may yet be dysfunctional concerning the issues.

For example, Mr. Clinton said in the fall of '88, "I am opposed to abortion and to government funding of abortions. We should not spend state funds on abortions, because so many people believe abortion is wrong."

On July 23, 1992, at the Democratic Convention, Mr. Clinton said, "Abortion should be safe, legal and rare."

On Sept. 15, 1983, Mr. Gore said, "In my opinion it is wrong to spend federal funds for what is arguably the taking of a human life."

On June 16, 1992, Gore was quoted as saying, "The decision to have an abortion is an intensely personal one, and I do not believe that the government should participate in the decision."

Webster's Dictionary defines dysfunctional as "impaired or abnormal functioning." A drastic shift like the one mentioned above is not normal.

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Women don't 'deserve' rape

To the editor:

I wish to commend J.T. Wagenheim on his Viewpoints article concerning rape in the Oct. 19 paper. So few men really acknowledge what a terrible crime it is. I have never heard a man say that "rape warrants either the death penalty or castration."

I have often asked men what are their views on rape. Some have said that a woman "got what she was asking for" if she was dressed provocatively or was aggressive in meeting men. Others have said they felt bad for women, but couldn't necessarily relate. Most have said they have never known anyone in that situation and therefore feel they have no opinion.

For the men reading this column who believe that a woman "got what she was asking for," my opinion is, no matter how a person is dressed or acts, they do not deserve to be raped. Would you feel the same way if it were your daughter who had been raped and the defense for the accused claimed

that she was dressed in a way that made people think she wanted sex? I doubt it.

I believe men don't understand the definition of rape. Rape is defined as one person forcing their will on another to have sex. Think back. Have you ever tried to have sex with your wife or girlfriend and they said "No?" If you continued advancing on them in hopes they would change their minds or would just let you do what you wanted without an argument, then you imposed your will on them to have sex. By legal terms, if she said "no," and you had sex anyway, that is rape.

There are two reasons why there are not stricter laws against rape. First, most lawmakers are mostly men who do not see rape as a threat to them, so it isn't a prime concern to them. Second, voters have remained silent too long. Men and women alike should write their congressmen concerning rape and demand stricter laws. If the sexes work together, we might get something accomplished.

Again, I wish to commend J.T. for his sensitive and courageous insight. I hope that with future edu-

cation of men about rape and stricter laws, the rate of rape will decrease to nonexistence.

Marion Allen
Medical technology senior

Student describes 'walk to God'

To the editor:

I would like to publicly thank a very special friend and hopefully encourage anyone whose life may be in a storm.

Recently, I entered into the greatest wilderness on my Christian walk. My circumstances carried me to a barren plane where pain and uncertainty were my only companions.

I had two choices: to trust in God or turn and walk away from the one I called Lord. I chose to trust.

The scriptures became my strength, replacing how my natural mind told me to react to the situations facing me. The dramatic difference between ritualistic

Christianity and an intimate relationship with Christ became real. Daily prayer and honest, obedient study of the Bible, God's instruction book for life, filled me with new hope and an unexplainable peace.

Nonetheless, there were some tough times spent in the hands of the potter as he molded me a little more.

The temptation to resist and refuse God's working in me came, but I didn't, because I know that Jesus gave His life to make possible forgiveness and freedom from the power of sin for all who will call upon him.

Four years ago, I gave my life to Christ and he gave me a new heart, a new family, a new way of life. I will never be the same again. "The Lord is my shepherd...He restores my soul...in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures forever more." (Psalms 23, Psalms 16).

Lord Jesus, you are my joy, my life, my reason to live, and I thank you so very, very much.

Joseph Hansen
Jazz and Media Music

Letters to the Editor