Viewpoints

Transition

New ethics code for top officals indicator of Clinton's term

President-elect Bill Clinton meets with President George Bush today to discuss the transition of government and the methods for the installation of cabinet posts and the nearly 30,000 federal appointee positions needing to be filled within the first weeks of the new term.

With Clinton's new ethics code, the new president may find it difficult to find the kind of person who would fit, or be willing to fit, his mold as an ethical federal official.

The implications for a new cabinet and new restrictions on federal officials following public life would set a valuable precedent severely limiting lobbyists' activities. His ban on cabinet and subcabinet officials lobbying for foreign interests would be a major step in stopping the "revolving door" and would help eliminate those seeking positions merely for monetary gain.

Senior officials would be asked to pledge never to become registered as an agent on behalf of foreign governments. Lobbying the U.S. government would not be allowed until five years after leaving office.

It is not clear how these pledges would be enforced or if there would be any real legislation to keep such bans in place. It would place responsibility on the officials to keep their collective noses clean — something which the media could help check in the event of broken promises.

And a five-year ban on domestic lobbying would definitely cut the ocurrence of conflict-of-interest issues which may arise after

But how does a president reduce problems of conflict of interest when presented with a cabinet candidate whose prior activities may affect future decisions? A dilemma of this sort presents itself for the budding Clinton administration.

Vernon Jordan, who has often been mentioned as possible candidate for attorney, has held a board of directors seat at RJR Nabisco who owns interests in tobacco. He has since dropped this position and removed himself from his Los Angeles-based law firm to make himself more acceptable for the position of attorney general.

Does Jordan and potential appointees like him naturally bring sympathies toward big business, specifically the tobacco industry, as a result of being involved major business decisions?

Removing himself from his former positions is a superficial move at best. The damage has already been done. But can qualified candidates be removed from an atmosphere of dog-eat-dog into another atmosphere which calls for the betterment of the country to be considered?

It is not clear if this dilemma can ever be resolved given the kind of people who are attracted to public life such as lawyers, bankers, business people, etc. What is clear is the attempt being made to check the natural tendencies of politicians and to restrict

foreign lobbying. Foreign lobbying should be the chief concern of Clinton's reform of the "revolving door." In a world which will consist of future trade wars and economic competition, agents bargaining for international pork barrel are a threat to our national security.

Clinton may lack foreign policy experience, but the restriction of foreign lobbying is an issue where the president-elect is right on



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SIR, I'M CURIOUS IF YOU BELIEVE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE HAS RISEN WITH THE APPROACH OF OUR HOLIDAY SEASON EVEN THOUGH OUR ECONOMY'S STILL IN SHAMBLES.





Malcolm X: Movie anticipation not understood by most Americans

It's finally here. Spike Lee's Malcolm X comes to the big screen today. After months of seeing big black X's on old and young people of all races, I'm glad that they'll finally learn what that X means.

Malcolm X was assassinated 27 years ago and has since been virtually erased from the history books. I remember one class in all my years of public school where Malcolm X was mentioned. I think I got a paragraph of notes on it, and it wasn't on the test.

Every Black History Month, we hear Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and not one word about Malcolm X, Stokely Carmicheal or Marcus Garvey, who were all civil rights leaders with large followings, but didn't appeal to mainstream America.

Many people don't understand the X-citement because they don't know anything about Malcolm or they believe he's a racist. Most people only know of him through T-shirts and posters that show him holding a gun, with the caption "By any means necessary."

Rap artists have been trying to portray posi-

tive images of Malcolm X by sampling snippets of his speeches in songs and music videos. Many of these artists use Malcolm X as a gimmick, but at least they are calling attention to the legacy of a man who rebelled against the status quo.

JENNIFER FULLER

ASST. CAROLINA EDITOR

Malcolm X's return to popular culture annoys mainstream America because they fear the ideas of a strong black man who believed in getting equality "by any means necessary." This phrase doesn't mean inciting violence as many people believe. It means people should make a stand for what they believe in and make their views known in no uncertain terms, even if it risks their job or social standing.

It means instead of striving to be buddies

with their oppressors, people should concentrate on bettering themselves and their com-

People also conveniently delete the year of Malcolm's life after his trip to Mecca. Malcolm's anger toward whites was transformed and he became more humanist, but his ideas of social change didn't waver.

Malcolm X's violent image is a result of the media portraying King and X as opposites. This is a red herring to divide black people between King and X camps, and to alienate blacks from Malcolm by calling him a racist.

As a woman said on a talk show, featuring

Minister Louis Farrakhan, "We (blacks) are tired of you (whites) trying to pick our friends." If you're wearing an "X" hat because it's in

style, see the movie. If you equate Malcolm X with David Duke, see the movie. If you support Spike Lee's effort to educate and entertain, see

Whether you like the idea or not, go and see for yourself. As Public Enemy said, "Don't

Height discrimination will not stand in my administration!

After two weeks of rapid transition, my team has hit a stumbling block. Actually, don't have a transition team. It's just a whino in a Winnebago parked outside the White

But, I digress. As my team and I looked over the serious issues confronting America, I came across a group of individuals who have been discriminated against for centuries. It is the most heinous and reprehensible kind of which I can think.

All across America, men between the height of 4-foot-10-inches and 5-foot-3-inches are being treated as though they were children. As president, I will not stand for such intolerance.

Of course, since I am a towering 5-foot-1inch man I'll be lucky if I can see over the White House desk. Why should I be punished for some freak nuclear accident that injured my height genes?

As a result of my investigation, I have decided to file a class action lawsuit against many

industries that violate our civil rights: Fashion: Why is it that they don't make clothes in our size? I'm too big for boys' extra large size, and too small for mens' small size. Am I condemned to live in Garanimals and Toughskins? They have Big & Tall, why not Short and Thin? I call that discrimination,



Grocery stores: Why is it that all the good stuff is too high for me to reach. When I was a child, the Lucky Charms were always on the bottom shelf. No problem. But now that I'm older, I need to keep regular, so I need to have a high-fiber cereal. And where by chance are they located. Yep, on the top shelf!

I have to imitate King Kong scaling the Empire State building, all in the name of a good bowel movement.

Amusement parks: Why should short people be deprived of the joys of the amusement park. I stood in line for 30 minutes so that I could get on the roller coaster. Finally, after my anticipation grew to enormous heights, I was stopped by the ride handler. He stood me next to this stupid chicken with its hand raised, then said, "Sorry son, you're not big enough to go on this ride."

Why? Was there some magical law of physics I wasn't aware of. Was I going to fall out and splatter on the ground differently than a taller person? I didn't think so.

Fast Food: How is it that McDonald's, Subway and all these other fast food chains can get away with having these four-story counters. When they're back there making my sandwich, how do I know what they're

For all I know they could be slicing up rodents and feeding them too me. Considering the recent Food Lion scandal, I wouldn't be shocked to find this to be true.

Randy Newman: I, like all vertically-challenged people, are greatly offended that Mr. Newman, singer of "Short People Got No Reason To Live," got rich and famous at our expense. And so on behalf of all of us short people, I will distribute the winnings equally. We were short-changed, and I guarantee that we will be victorious.

The morale of my story is really quite simple. Discrimination is stupid. There is no reasor, to treat people differently. Whether you're short or tall, black or white, Christian or Muslim, it should make no difference. We all have our differences, and only by accepting these differences can we learn to grow as a people.

Understanding comes not from looking at the similarities, but at the differences.

Letters to the Editor

Sig Ep congratulates newspaper

To the editor:

On behalf of my recently acknowledged kleptomaniac fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, I am inclined to write a response to the front page story regarding this Thursday's Tigerburn.

First of all, I would sincerely like to offer my apologies to our friends of The Gamecock staff as well as any of the readers who were not able to locate a copy of the school newspaper. I hope the absence of the newspapers was not too detrimental to the educational enhancement of the student body, and that the thousands of other circulating papers were found and used to their maximum potential.

I do believe we as students are privileged to have a quality school newspaper with a staff as dedicated and serious to insuring that their target audience is satisfied and reached. This is very professional and should be commended. In light of this, I am grateful that The

Gamecock was generous enough to give our annual Tigerburn pep rally the free advertisement that we received in Monday's article. I realize that a newspaper of this caliber would normally charge a large fee for this type of publicity.

This leads me to my last point. I am glad to see The Gamecock finally putting a Greek event on the front page, because I must admit that I have been disappointed in the lack of coverage of some events in the past. If you are able to accept friendly, constructive criticism, I would like to share with you a few stories that many people might consider front page quality.

This year's Cockfest by Pi Kappa Phi was a hit and deserved a front page story as well. All of these are very worthy of making the front page, and trust me, these are only the beginning. Hopefully by putting Tigerburn on the front page on Monday, The Gamecock is taking positive strides toward publishing an effective balance of front page stories. Keep up the good work guys!

Andy Hill President, Sigma Phi Epsilon

Gamecock, Wagenheim bash Greeks

To the editor:

As I glanced across the front page of Monday's edition of The Gamecock, I was amazed to find what could very well have been the biggest waste of twelve columninches I have seen this semester. The headline: "Sigma Phi Epsilon takes papers, rack for Tigerburn rally." The aim: greek bashing. Imagine that... To think that one would find valuable front space dedicated to the liberal mindset of anti-greek sentiment! Well, this is certainly not a first.

After drying my tears of laughter over the complete waste of space on the front page, I decided to look onward to see what else, besides the comics and personal ads, I might find amusing. Ah, page two: "Crime Report." Here I found such things as "Malicious injury to personal property," "Harassment" and "Larceny." But of course, none of these could possibly be as news-

worthy as the borrowing of a news-

paper stand by some fraternity guys. Now that's news! Front page news! Hardly.

Let's pretend for a moment, Mr. Wagenheim, that you were trying to do something good for the university (don't get nervous, I said pretend)—like organize a pep rally. And you needed, say, 5,000 newspapers.

Now pretend you don't work for The Gamecock. Where would you think to get them from? Certainly not the famed "old issue room." So here we have a few guys who, granted, didn't use the best judgement when borrowing the rack. They saw before them an opportunity to help their cause, which in turn could help all of us, and they are all of a sudden residents of prime front page Gamecock real estate.

Well, I think this time the ignorance back-fired on you. Thanks for making me laugh. And now that I am finished with my issue of The Gamecock, I think I'll take it to Tigerburn where it belongs.

> Steve Robinson President, USC Fraternity