

Viewpoint

AIDS

Early-age AIDS education necessary to avoid spread of deadly disease

Her son, Ryan White, was diagnosed with AIDS in 1984 when the disease was still relatively unknown to most Americans and the AIDS education policies in America's schools were virtually nonexistent.

Now, three years after Ryan's death, Jeanne White is still traveling around the country, speaking about the deadly disease to audiences, especially teenage ones.

And Monday night, she participated in an AIDS forum held at USC, where she called for AIDS education to begin in the fifth grade.

During last year's presidential campaign, the issue of AIDS education took a far back seat to the economy, the federal deficit and health care. And it hasn't been a top priority so far in the Clinton administration's first two months.

But as the administration is distracted by so many other issues and events, from the Russian crisis to our own economic woes, AIDS continues to claim more and more Americans every day. This is the frightening reality.

Of course, our suggestion to help fight the AIDS crisis is more federal funding for medical research and education. It's not original, but it's just the best solution.

The key element of increased funding, though, is to give the money to elementary schools rather than secondary schools, as White suggested. The younger students learn about AIDS and its consequences, the better.

It is imperative that AIDS education reaches children before they become sexually active, and, for many, middle school and high school is too late.

Throwing money at the problem is not the answer, but education has proven to be an effective tool in making people aware of the problem, and money well spent on early-age AIDS education is definitely worth it.

Most people know of somebody, probably a relative or friend, who has either AIDS or the HIV virus. And, unfortunately, many people know someone who has died from it.

This will continue to be the case until a cure to the disease is found. But, until then, we can only hope to keep people aware of the power of AIDS, and education is the best way to do that.

Compromise necessary in church-state issues

During the past couple of weeks, I've been reading various letters in The State concerning whether prayer, Bible study and other Christian traditions belong in our public schools. Naturally, most of the letters support putting these values into the public school system here in the metro area, especially since we are in the deep part of the "Bible Belt."

Indeed, this is a most intriguing issue to me and even a somewhat amusing one considering some of the arguments these people have used. In respect to these people and to the supporters of the issue's other side, however, I realize this is a very touchy issue.

Although I do not feel church and state should be intertwined, unlike many Christians, I feel that I possess some helpful suggestions that may be able to satisfy both sides of this issue.

First, let me touch on a couple of inaccuracies made by some Christians that I feel are a necessity for my argument.

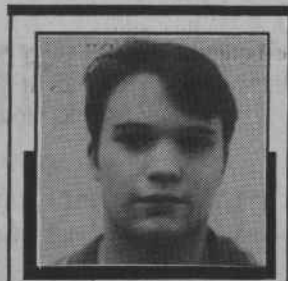
One argument I've read in the papers and heard from talking to some Christians on campus is that this country was founded on Christianity and, thus, we should have Christian teachings in our school systems.

Actually, our great country was founded on religious freedom and our carefully constructed Constitution clearly says the United States will have no established church or religion, even though Christianity does seem to be the dominant religion in contemporary America.

Another argument I've heard from Christians is their concern for our society's moral values. This strikes me as kind of amusing, especially coming from fundamentalists. Although moral values are important, these people act as if Christians are the only moral people around, meaning only Christian values should be taught. That's very offensive to other people, plus myself. I've known many non-Christians from other religions or no particular faith who have excellent moral values.

My suggestions for this matter are, in truth, a bit simplistic, but I believe they are satisfying and quite effective.

First, rather than having prayer



JAY TILLEY

in school or before football games, why not have a moment of silence? This way people who want to pray can do so at their discretion and those who don't care can do whatever they please. Organized prayer outside of church is simply offensive to those of other religions, especially to atheists.

Secondly, if there is to be Bible study in our public schools, then I believe we should have the study of all Bible interpretations, including both Protestant and Catholic, along with other ancient scriptures, such as the Koran. Again, this is being fair to all religions. This should also be an elective so as not to offend atheists.

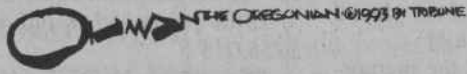
In addition, this would enlighten students and help them to understand other interpretations of the divine, which, in turn, would help them to better understand other people and their cultures.

Also, rather than teach about just the religion of Christianity, I feel students should be offered religion classes similar to ones offered here at USC.

The point here is respect, understanding and enlightenment. I realize the importance of having one's children learn their family's respective faith, but that is the job of churches and private schools. As Americans, we are called the melting pot of the world, but to say that Christianity is our state religion would be a total misunderstanding.

Clearly, that's not what great men such as Thomas Jefferson and the other framers of the Constitution intended, so we have separation of church and state. And let's keep it that way.

Jay Tilley is a columnist for The Gamecock.



- 407. The Grape Juice Channel
- 408. The Patty Duke Channel
- 409. The Fading Washington Journalist Channel
- 410. The High-Pitched Whine Channel
- 411. The Music Video for Housepets Channel
- 412. The Gay Bowling Channel
- 413. The Satanic Ping Pong Channel
- 414. The Nixon Channel
- 415. The "It's A Wonderful Life" Channel
- 416. The Mediocre 1947 B-Movie Channel
- 417. The F-16 Bombing Run Channel
- 418. The Burned-out Talk Show Host From the '60s Channel
- 419. The Girls Working Their Lats Channel
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- 421. The Arrogant Cardiologist Channel
- 422. The Fiber Channel
- 423. The Congressional Hypnosis Channel
- 424. The Crummy 1970s Ma TV Movie Channel
- 425. The Please Stand By Channel
- 426. The Scam Channel
- 427. The Waxy Build-up Channel
- 428. The Boiled Carrot Channel
- 429. The Precocious Brat Channel
- 430. The Spanish Game Show Channel

- 455. The Asinine Commentary Channel
- 456. The Inane Rejoinder Channel
- 457. The Cereal Channel
- 458. The Neptune Channel
- 459. The National Anthem Channel
- 460. The Marxist Dogma Channel
- 461. The Numbers On The Bottom Of The Screen Channel
- 462. They're Going Too Fast, The Numbers Channel
- 463. I Still Can't Read The Numbers Channel
- 464. Why Don't They Slow The Numbers Down Channel
- 465. The Smug Financial Analyst Channel
- 466. The Overly Groomed Real Estate Con Man Channel
- 467. The Mute Button Channel
- 468. The Oddball Call-In Channel
- 469. The Chaucer Channel
- 470. The Milton Channel
- 471. The Gratuitous Remark Channel
- 472. The Smarmy Lie Channel
- 473. The Mollusk Channel
- 474. The Sweaty Clinton Jogging Channel

- 475. The Bush Getting Off Of A Plane Somewhere Channel
- 476. The Get An Afterlife Channel
- 477. The Hydrangela Channel
- 478. The Ginsu Knife Channel
- 479. The Salad Shooter Channel
- 480. The Popeil Pocket Fisherman Channel
- 481. The Slim Whitman Channel
- 482. The Zamfir Flute Channel
- 483. The Obscure Congressman From Oklahoma Channel
- 484. The School Lunch Menu For Omaha, Nebraska Channel
- 485. The Precipitation Channel
- 486. The Blue Glow In The Living Room Channel
- 487. The Bad Early '60s Sitcom Channel
- 488. The All-Greg Brady Channel
- 489. The Al Gore Dental Records Channel
- 490. The Channel Jay Leno's Gonna Wind Up On Channel
- 491. The Pathetic Comedians In Front Of A Brick Wall Channel
- 492. The All-Boy Scout News Channel
- 493. The News Anchors Getting Ready To Run For Congress Channel
- 494. The Canadian Parliament Channel
- 495. The Idaho Senate Channel
- 496. The Vast Wasteland Channel
- 497. The .00006 Neilsen Channel
- 498. The Only A Dog Can Hear Channel
- 499. The My Thumb Is Worn Out Trying To Get To This Channel



Letters to the Editor

USC will endure loss of Cremins

To the editor:

I always knew garnet and black were our school colors, but I didn't know yellow was one too. And our school mascot has always been the Gamecock, not a chicken. The events of the past few weeks have had most true Gamecocks walking on pins and needles, elated beyond all belief. Then they were dashed against a hardwood floor, left only scratching their heads down by one with no time left on the clock.

That's just how close the Carolina community came to seeing the past glory of Gamecock basketball revived, but what may seem to be certain disaster may actually be the rebirth of prosperity.

A true Gamecock never gives up. Think of Frank McGuire, who has endured through everything from his first USC team's record of 6-17 to an eventual ACC championship and a No. 1 ranking. Carolina just suffered its worst season since 1964-65 with a record of 9-18. Through past coaches Bill Foster, George Felton and recently Steve Newton, McGuire has always offered support. He lives as Coach Emeritus of the Gamecock squad and is a tribute to what a true Gamecock is.

Think of King Dixon, who inherited a troubled athletic program in October 1988. Despite criticism, he brought respect to the football program, following the steroid scandal and death of Joe Morrison, by hiring Sparky Woods. Dixon remains a true Gamecock, from his days in the Gamecock backfield to his recently-left post as athletic director.

And remember Woods' teams, from their big losses to Clemson and Florida State and a heartbreaking squeaker to The Citadel to his triumphant wins against Mississippi State, Tennessee and Clemson. Woods, along with Dixon, still leads USC into uncertainty in the SEC but has prevailed with integrity and leadership in the past despite wins and losses. True Gamecocks.

And one cannot forget Tom Price, Bob Fulton or Sarge Frye. All three men have dedicated themselves to the Gamecock cause. Fulton's voice, Price's memory and Frye's green thumb are all priceless. Gamecock athletics are what these men thrive on, again, perfect examples of what a true Gamecock is.

For me and many others, Saturday's announcement by Cremins was a nightmare; it was shocking that one of Carolina's own turned his back on USC and its entire family of alumni, friends and fans. It was a sad day and a cheap shot; however, the true Gamecock prevails in the end.

With all the cuts and bruises, plus mental scars, it's time to sharpen the spurs and paint them gold again. The sun has shone on Frank, Sparky, Mark, Nancy and all of the fine coaches here at USC. And with our fate in the hands of Dr. John Palms and Mike McGee, I have no fear. It's time to rally, Gamecocks, and get ready, for the fest is yet to come. USC is an outstanding university and deserves the best, and "by God, it's gonna get the best!"

Chip Spradley
Broadcasting junior

Anonymous remarks have polarizing effect

To the editor:

Through four years of higher education at USC, I have at times been disappointed by a number of issues. Included in this great litany of complaints is what I have perceived as a lack of foresight on the part of administrators (paying millions for the Carolina Plaza Hotel, then cutting back on faculty and classes), a lack of common sense pervading nearly every crevice of USC (parking rates, visitation policies and the obscene cost of on-campus housing) and finally a lack of professionalism in the media (The Gamecock).

For some reason I was driven to write in response to the March 29 issue of The Gamecock and the article "A League of Their Own: Feminism not always radical" by Holly Liboff. What struck me about this article were the views held by the "anonymous student." Through his anonymous shield, he was able to say some extremely offensive remarks about the intellectual capability of women.

Because his remarks seemed to be so inconsistent with the other quoted remarks in the article and with general educated opinion to be found on a college campus (excepting the small contingent of backwoods dinosaurs to be found at USC), a number of questions came into my befuddled brain.

Primarily, why does this individual get the privilege of anonymity, while I have to provide my name and address? Surely, we are both doing the same thing: expressing our opinions.

Secondly, is it responsible reporting to allow the testimony of

half-wits who are too scared of retribution into an otherwise good article, which merely detracts from the good points made?

And finally, does this person really exist, or did Ms. Liboff invent this ogre in order to provide the radical view that is the polar opposite of everything her article was about? My suspicions lead me to believe this may be the case. How can we verify that these idiotic remarks were actually made? You know who is writing this letter because I am compelled to provide that information.

Is it right that remarks that only cause harm and discontent, further polarizing feminists and non-feminists, be allowed in an article when we have no idea if these remarks were ever made in the first place? Sensationalism in the media often creates fake ghosts and unwarranted fears. I only hope the staff writers at our little fish wrapper aren't following in the same unenlightened tradition.

James Story
Baccalaureus senior

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