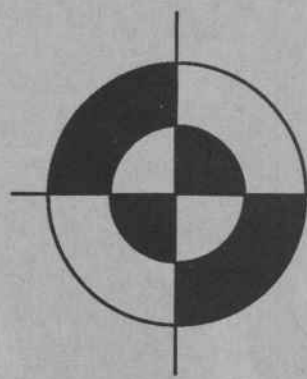


Viewpoint



CROSSFIRE

Are the proposed rate increases for on-campus housing justified?

PRO

GORDON MANTLER

Housing service's announcement of a 4.7 percent increase in the cost to live on campus at first sounds like a ridiculous joke of a proposal.

In today's economic times where most students have problems enough in paying for tuition and other expenses, which have also been jacked up, how can the university possibly expect to charge students even more for our current luxurious accommodations?

But after thinking about it for a while longer, the answer to this is quite simple.

If paying higher housing rates will bring us a higher quality of life in the residence halls, than we should accept them. Not all of the residence halls have access to cable or air conditioning, so residents of those halls without these amenities will benefit from the improvements. I know living in Preston in August and September is a near-hellish experience. And air conditioning is not cheap to install.

Eliminating both the registration of privately owned refrigerators and the ban on microwave ovens will also be added conveniences.

Plus, giving computer owners the opportunity to hook into one of the many mainframes on campus is an excellent benefit with endless potential.

Granted, students have demanded these changes for a number of years. And even though it's taken a little long, housing services has responded.

In addition to improving the quality of residence hall living, the financial shape of the university is another reason for the rate hike. They simply didn't have much of a choice.

If increasing housing costs is the only way to improve or, in some dorms, maintain the quality of on-campus living, then we must grit our teeth and bear it. Nobody likes to pay more for anything; that's the same attitude the residents of South Carolina have towards taxes. So if you're not willing to pay, then don't expect the added benefits.

The bottom line is this: the university is in a difficult position financially and must find money somewhere. Don't blame the administration or housing services; take your anger to the Statehouse.

The way I see it, we're getting something in return for the rate hike. They could have raised the cost and given us nothing.

Gordon Mantler is Viewpoint Editor of The Gamecock

CON

MELISSA TENNEN

When I found yet another cockroach scurrying out from under my phone, I decided I had had enough of the on-campus life style.

And to top it off, housing services tells me they may hike the next year's housing rate by 4.7 percent.

I can see how this increase might be necessary, but I really do not see where my money is going. Not only do I have cockroaches, but I have to deal with an unfair visitation policy (one for which I did not ask), a residence hall that will not buy us a vacuum cleaner and walls so thin I can hear my neighbors thinking.

The living conditions in the residence halls are unbearable, making me feel like I am in the middle of abject poverty.

But I am not.

I'm in university housing, paying almost \$1,700 a year, and I'm not getting the basic services I deserve, such as a shower that does not fluctuate between hot and cold within 10 seconds.

Then, the housing office tells me that I have a housing increase because of inflation?

Well, I understand the basic principles of inflation, as any college student would. And I do sympathize with the problems the university faces each year, such as filling up the residence halls in order to break even, as the housing office says.

I also realize it is not housing services that has ultimate control over the visitation policy; that's the USC board of trustees' domain.

If housing services is worried about losing its numbers in the residence halls, then maybe it should consider petitioning and pushing the board to change its mind. This may arrest some of the declining numbers, maybe even creating an over-demand for housing.

This is a primary reason why many students leave on-campus living.

Inflation will definitely hurt USC housing, especially with the budget problems we've been enduring.

The budget is causing tuition to rise a little each semester, yet students hardly complain. But housing hikes hit closer to home because students feel more directly affected.

Where are the benefits of living on-campus now if it will cost more to live on-campus than off?

I'd love to live on-campus for the sake of convenience. But before the cockroaches start calling each other on the phone, I think I will look elsewhere for housing.

Melissa Tennen is a news editor of The Gamecock

Opportunity

Election of female as Clemson trustee positive sign for women's movement

Even though it's 1993 and women have come a very long way towards achieving equal opportunity and respect, there is still much more to do.

The General Assembly elected Wednesday the first female to Clemson University's board of trustees, a move long overdue.

Patti McAbee, the wife of McCormick Rep. Jennings McAbee, was confirmed after beating out another woman, Darra Cothran, for the trustee position.

But why did it take Clemson their entire 104-year history to get their first female trustee? It is true that hardly any women before the '60s held a position of power other than in the traditionally female fields of nursing, schoolteaching and social work. But in the past 20 or 30 years women have had increasingly more opportunities in many fields of endeavor, including business, government and journalism.

Of course, South Carolina is way behind the rest of the country when it comes to female representation in both government and higher education. There are very few female representatives in the General Assembly, and in the state's fourth congressional district, a moderately progressive woman, Liz Patterson, was ousted by an ultra-conservative white male, Bob Inglis.

That's not progress.

Carole Simpson, a highly successful African-American female journalist, spoke to a group of USC students Wednesday about women in the media and how she broke the female barrier in the male-dominated field of broadcast journalism.

Even though there are extremely successful women in the field, such as herself, Connie Chung, Diane Sawyer and Leslie Stahl, the field is still very male-dominated, she said.

Progress has been made in the United States and in South Carolina when it comes to women gaining positions of power and influence. The election of Patti McAbee is definitely a positive sign of some progressive thought in the state.

However, one female out of 13 is still an abysmal record.

Simpson said some news organizations, including ABC News, have done a halfway decent job of equalizing pay and opportunities for women. But she warned that institutionalized discrimination does exist and will continue as long as it's tolerated by the upper echelons of power.

Progress has been made, but there's still a long way to go. And in South Carolina, that road is even longer.

Innocent student pedestrians targets of crazed motorists

Lace up your hiking boots, and stretch your legs. Strap on your backpack, and secure your compact umbrella. Kneel on the ground, and say a little prayer. It's time to walk across the campus.

Hundreds of students take to the flyer-littered sidewalks every day to hike the treacherous course to class. Unfortunately, not many students take the steps necessary to guarantee a safe and prompt passage across the grounds of USC. Thousands of dangers and diversions await around every corner, and a good student must be prepared.

Traffic is the most threatening obstacle to effective USC hiking. All walking students must realize that Columbia residents in cars have much more pressing matters than any USC student, so they always have the right of way. They need to turn right on red, race through yellow lights and play pedestrian tag because they have important business to attend to, whereas students are only getting an education.

And when rain hits the Midlands, all car drivers are required to speed up at least five miles an hour and make even more irrational decisions when driving near pedestrians. Rain apparently increases the importance of any appointments drivers may have.

The only defense against auto superiority is the development of lightning-fast reflexes and super-human-jumping ability so the pedestrian can fling himself clear of any danger. Pedestrians should also consider learning how to flip car drivers off without actually making the offensive gesture visible to the driver. Nothing's worse than being run over by a Shuttlecock because you shot the driver "the bird."

Certain students have special situations that make campus hiking even more difficult. For example, journalism students must climb the pool hall hill to get back to the rest of campus. The university should provide a chair lift (or even one of those rope lifts and a pair of rollerblades) to drag students up to Russell House.

Bates residents have to walk across the scenic Bates bridge



CHRIS MULDROW

every day, a tedious walk hampered by the bridge's speed bumps. Students need to campaign to have the speed bumps removed to expedite bridge travel.

Engineering students have to go to Swearingen, which is actually in Orangeburg instead of Columbia. I know engineering majors who leave for class the day before so they'll get there on time. Some of them are still 10 minutes late. The university should provide free California Dreaming meals and Green's gift certificates for engineering students to make their trip more worthwhile.

Weather is a big challenge to hiking students. All rainstorms in the area appear to be accompanied by the typhoon wind of death, a howling wind that inverts some umbrellas and tears the tops off others. Instead of using an umbrella, students should invest in a wet suit and some swimming goggles and should follow the "become one with the rain" philosophy. A truly skilled hiker will leave a large puddle in all the classrooms he enters that day, insuring that other students can experience the same feeling of rain harmony.

USC is a big campus, and it's tough to get from the Coliseum to BA, even when there is great weather and little traffic. Until the university gets a squirrel-powered monorail or some other reliable transit system for the entire campus, students will be forced to walk.

Maybe a couple more minutes between classes can cut down on bulging calves, tired students and dangerous crosswalk games of Ford Escort-college student chicken.

Chris Muldrow is a columnist for The Gamecock

Letters to the Editor

U. S. not as innocent as columnist portrays

To the editor:

After reading Matt Hanley's editorial in the Monday, April 5 edition of The Gamecock, titled "Nuclear-capable Third World frightening threat," I felt confronted by an even greater threat: that U.S. jingoism embarrassingly lives on.

A suggestion to those who wish to elevate the United States and Western "civilization" as self-appointed guardians of a supposedly irresponsible and infantile world: wake up to the new world order.

First, for many years, the United States has not paid its U.N. dues. Even if the United States did "pay for the United Nations," so do many of those "crazy little countries" that Mr. Hanley condescendingly alludes to.

Second, define hostile. Is it limited to non-Western nations or does it also include U.S. military training of Salvadoran death squads to massacre children in El Mozote?

Third, Mr. Hanley appropriately expressed concern over South Africa's recent nuclear revelation.

Kerry Reese
International studies junior

But I doubt that U.S. intelligence was unaware of this development since the U.N. Monthly Chronicle, particularly the April 1980 edition, is full of allegations of U.S. complicity in leaking nuclear technology to South Africa.

One incident, in which this technology was reportedly being channeled across the Canadian border and through select European countries, involved the reported presence of a U.S. Navy boat.

During the Cold War, the United States considered South Africa a capitalist ally in the face of communist expansion and even went as far as to back a World Bank loan to the regime and to prevent it, during one incident, from being boot-ed out of the United Nations.

This letter serves not to qualify destabilizing actions that occur in the non-Western world, but to destroy the arrogant facade of self-righteousness and replace it with reality. The United States is not the savior of the world, nor is this wanted. The world is a dangerous place, and all countries share the blame.

'Fool' should report Dakota pig races

To the editor:

As a "stupid, loser, Ernest & Julio Gallo-drinking, Brie-eating, no-cheering, chowderhead UNC fan" (Sportin' Fool, Feb. 12, 1993), I take this opportunity to say "I told you so!" Dean Smith, the coach who has done "less with more than any other coach," (Nancy Salomonsky & Tony Santori, Jan. 25, 1993) and "will get bounced from the NCAA tourney before the round of eight," (Sportin' Fool, Feb. 12, 1993) has taken the Tar Heels to a national championship.

I would never gloat were it not for the Gamecock sports editor's insightful comments such as "we hate to say we told you so... but we told you so! We have been telling you all along the UNC Tar Heels are simply not that good." (Nancy Salomonsky & Tony Santori, Feb. 1, 1993). "Well, who is laughing now, baby?" (Sportin' Fool, Feb. 12, 1993).

Your sports department should leave the prognostications to the real journalists and stick with

Monday morning quarterbacking. However, since the Gamecock allows predictions by blatant amateurs, please allow me to make a prediction: The Sportin' Fool will be reporting pig races at the South Dakota State Fair for the Fargo Gazette if and when he graduates. Oink, oink, Fool.

Beau Seaton
Law student

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