

Presenting the Tour de Columbia

I ride a bicycle around campus.

Yes, I am the guy who almost ran you over yesterday, the guy who speeds around huge crowds, the guy who drives almost as badly as auto drivers throughout campus. I almost have to use a bike to get from class to class in time because, in a bout of scheduling masochism, I planned back-to-back-to-back-to-back classes in Gambrell, the Coliseum, the BA building and McMaster. I run a little Tour De Columbia every Tuesday and Thursday to make it on time.

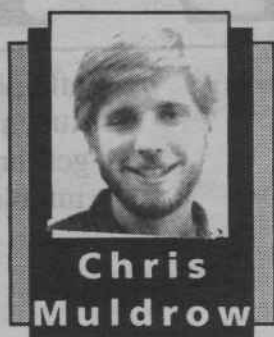
Most people who walk to class do not like us bikers. What many people do not realize, however, is how much sacrifice we bike riders must make to make your lives miserable.

It is dangerous, for instance, to ride around in throngs of people who are walking like so many sheep to class. Pedestrians drift into a world of their own, making it extremely difficult for us to aim our wheels of death effectively. Determined, strong pedestrians make pretty easy targets because they walk in straight lines. We can lead them well and buzz them with ease.

Pedestrians who drift aimlessly, however, tend to swerve and dodge without us knowing their true direction. The old "I swerved several times before I hit him" situation comes up, and we bike riders risk hitting a wet spot on the cement or a particularly slippery freshman and sliding into oblivion.

Tracking pedestrians is difficult, also. Too many guys wear blue jeans, braided belts and baseball caps. I started tracking one student with my bike and landed across campus, only to realize I had been following the wrong person. Some of my fellow bike riders have suggested pedestrian tags kinda like the tags they put on ducks ("they" being that mysterious group of unknowns who do the stuff we cannot explain).

The sport of pedestrian biking could



Chris Muldrow

probably benefit from tagging, and pedestrian populations could be monitored more carefully, but no definite actions on tagging have been pursued.

A lot of people do not realize the cleaning we have to give our bikes after we actually hit a pedestrian. I have had to use SOS pads to clean student guts and chemistry notes from my spokes.

We also have to blow a lot of dough on bike maintenance. I, for instance, had to get a new seat because one of the friendly Towers squirrels made a meal of mine last year. Ironic, don't you think, that I brought my bike up four flights to avoid damage, and a squirrel ate the seat on my balcony.

It would be a little better if I could work on the bike myself, but I cannot seem to figure out the subtleties of bike repair. I rebuilt my car's engine, but I cannot get the little doohickey to move the chain from one gear to another. I think it is a bike industry plot to make people such as me turn to the Shuttlecock.

Fashion also takes a back seat when you decide to ride a bike. When it is cold, you have to cover up every exposed piece of skin or you will be wind-chilled. It does not matter what you use to cover up, especially at 8 in the morning.

If it is hot, it does not matter what you wear because you are inevitably going to walk into class drenched in perspiration. I worked last year, and I would walk into

the office with a dripping dress shirt, wind-blown hair, a tie flung over my shoulder and an attractive grease stain on the lower leg of my pants. I looked like I got in a fight with an airplane and lost.

Bike-specific fashions are even worse than the things we throw together. I own a helmet, but I rarely wear it because I am scared the Jolly Green Giant will mistake me for a mushroom and can me. And bike shorts...well, bike shorts are pretty self-explanatory.

Bike security is a real concern, too. Apparently, disgruntled pedestrians are stealing components off of parked bikes. Who else would be cruel enough to steal a seat? Can you imagine accidentally sitting down without checking? OWWWWWWW!

Either my bike was stolen last year or I loaned it to somebody and they never returned it. I am using one of those U-locks with the insurance policy on it now. If my new bike gets stolen, I can be stubborn, buy another bike and have it stolen. It is really funny to ask the police the chances of them recovering your stolen bike; I have never seen a police officer laugh uncontrollably like that before.

So, we bikers are a troubled, persecuted lot. You do not have to be scared of us. Just wear bright colors, keep alert, paint a bullseye on your back and dive into the bushes when we pass you, and everything will be OK. (Actually, you could probably just shout out my name if I pass you on my bike. In an effort to turn around and see who called my name, I will probably take a nasty spill into a bench or something. I will be your comic relief for the day!)

Thanks for the memories

By **NANCY SALOMONSKY** and **MELISSA TENNEN**
Encore Editors

So, what did you think? The first semester of Encore has come and gone. It went well for us. And we hope you liked what we accomplished with The Gamecock's first arts and entertainment section.



Salomonsky

Of course, during the semester, Encore changed in appearance, story coverage and photography. All this was for the better.

In the beginning of the semester, we tried to define what an arts and entertainment tabloid should be like. This was not easy. We determined part of that definition would include band, CD, movie and food reviews. Then, we tried to hit local hot spots and profile college bands that we thought you might be interested in reading about.

The calendar was no easy task to keep up. Staff Writer Allison Williams helped us compile the calendar whenever she could.

The horoscopes were silly, we admit. But it was all a part of our fun and light reading for the tabloid. The crossword was also meant to be fun.



Tennen

Our staff writers did an excellent job in helping us get the tabloid off the ground. For that, we thank them tremendously. If it were not for them, we could not exist.

Bryan Mims took you to the mountains, and Wendy Hudson added her fashion flair to Encore. Eric James Stamey explored some of the bands USC has to offer. Stephen Kirkland toured the local bars, giving us a bird's-eye view. And Tara DiGirolamo discovered some interesting pickup lines.

Overall, we can say this semester has been fruitful yet hectic. We survived it quite well. We want to thank you for reading our work and being patient with us. We hope to see Encore develop and grow as a tabloid for next semester.

If you have any suggestions for next semester's Encore, please call 777-7181 or mail information to Encore c/o Student Media, USC Russell House, Columbia, SC 29208.

Thanks! And have a good holiday!

TRACKS TOP 20 ALBUMS

The following are the top 20 albums sold at Tracks this week:

1. Snoop Dogg - "Doggy Style"
2. Guns n' Roses - "The Spaghetti Incident"
3. Pearl Jam - "Vs."
4. Tom Petty - "Greatest Hits"
5. Metallica - "Live"
6. Beavis and Butt-head
7. 10,000 Maniacs - "MTV Unplugged"
8. Hootie and the Blowfish - "Koochyppop"
9. Michael Bolton - "The One Thing"
10. The Cranberries - "Everybody else is doing, so why can't we?"
11. Frank Sinatra - "Duets"
12. Smashing Pumpkins - "Siamese Dream"
13. Rod Stewart - "Unplugged"
14. Mariah Carey - "Music Box"
15. Heart - "Desire Walks On"
16. Nirvana - "In Utero"
17. Sleepless in Seattle - Soundtrack
18. Paul McCartney - "Paul is Live"
19. Prince - "Greatest Hits"
20. Rush - "Counterparts"

Gamecock Graphics/THE GAMECOCK

FICTION • NONFICTION • POETRY • ART • PHOTOGRAPHY • ILLUSTRATIONS • SKETCHES

PORTFOLIO MAGAZINE

Submit Anytime.
YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.

Room 317 • Russell House • 777-5793

The following are the top 10 singles sold at Tracks this week:

1. Janet Jackson - "Again"
2. Twelve Guage - "Dunkie Butt"
3. 2 Pac - "Keep Ya Head Up"
4. Michael Bolton - "Said I Love You"
5. Bryan Adams - "Please Forgive Me"
6. Salt n' Peppa - "Shoop"
7. Shaquille O'Neal - "I Know I Got"
8. Tag Team - "Whoomp! There It Is"
9. The Cranberries - "Linger"
10. DRS - "Gangster Lean"

TOP 10 SINGLES

SOME OF OUR STUDENTS ARE STAR PUPILS.

From 90210 to your zip code, safe motorcycle riding is essential. So take a Motorcycle RiderCourse like Brian Austin Green of Fox T.V.'s Beverly Hills. 90210. You'll learn techniques that not only make you a safer rider, but a better rider as well. Call 1-800-447-4700 to be the star of your class. MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

Give the gift of life, Give blood!



American Red Cross
South Carolina Regional
Blood Services