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Violence, intolerance increasingly prevalent

People don't use minds to solve debates

Four high school students in Kentucky are being tried in the shooting death of a man. According to investigators, the students drove past the man's truck and shot him through the heart because he flew a Confederate flag from the truck.

Anti-abortion activists in several states are being tried for attempts, some successful and some unsuccessful, to kill employees of abortion clinics.

Students at a Columbia high school are remembering a friend of theirs who was killed a year ago after an argument with a classmate. The world, it seems, has become a very intolerant place.

Debate doesn't settle arguments anymore; guns, knives, fists and fire have become an "equalizer," and innocent people are injured every day because people can't decide to talk out their problems.

What's the solution? The possibilities people have suggested range from gun control to gun education in schools to bodyguards to increased police. The real solution, however, must get to the root of the problem. The real solution is to teach people to defend their views with words, with ideas, with debate. The real solution is to remind people that it is savage to solve conflict with bloodshed. The real solution is to try to teach some tolerance.

Appease budget gods; sacrifice library, lawn

Well, the Legislature is thinking about cutting more funding to USC, which means we students are going to have to tighten our belts, cut corners and work together to keep this whole higher education thing working.

In the spirit of campus-wide cooperation and student participation in cutting the budget, I offer you, the students of USC, the Beardman's Guide to Making USC a Deadly-Efficient Tool of Stealth Educational Opportunity (DET-SEO, for short. Pronounced deet sa oh. Why? I don't know.)

We've already seen cuts in the area of toilet paper deliveries for Horseshoe residents, cuts the residents made with relatively little pain. (Painless paper cuts, as it were.) To further this area of "extra fat" in the university's budget, I recommend everyone not go to the bathroom for the rest of the semester. If everyone "holds it" for three months, we'll save thousands of dollars on water, paper and bathroom cleaning products, dollars that can then be diverted to another more critical area.

All grounds maintenance should cease immediately on the USC campus. Who needs finely trimmed lawns, flowers and landscaping? What's a little scrub brush, poison ivy and kudzu in the grander scheme of things? Botany classes will have an easily accessible environment to study. Maybe the bookstores can make some extra money for the university selling garnet and black machetes.

Of course, not all the natural wonders on campus will be treated that way. The historic Horseshoe trees will be cut down as lumber.

We should eliminate campus dining facilities, too. With the added wild blueberries and blackberries from the forest/campus and a nice corn field replacing one of the activity fields, students can grow their own food. Hankering for a burger? Throw your organic chemistry book at a chunky Horseshoe squirrel, and you've got fresh meat for days.

We'll have to reduce the number of campus organizations, of course. The potpourri of student groups will be replaced by one large organization called "The Club." (Not to be confused with the auto-theft protection device with the same name.) The Club would have meetings once a week where members could do fun things like play Duck, Duck, Goose and knit mittens for each other.

The Gamecock will do its part to cut spending, of course. We'll cut our paper to one page, mimeographed on one of those purple-linked contraptions you know and



CHRIS MULDROW
Viewpoints Editor

love from elementary school.

The library will have to take some budget cuts, of course. The library's collection of books will be replaced by a 1975 edition of The World Book Encyclopedia with the "Q" volume missing. Magazine subscriptions will be reduced to Popular Mechanics and Seventeen. Rather than running your ID card through a computer to check out books, you can just write your name on a sheet of loose leaf paper. And I almost forgot — late fees are increased to \$200,000 a day per book.

To start pumping some revenue back into the university, parking fees will have to be increased again. Students wishing to drive will pay \$350 to park in Orangeburg and walk to class. Any students with cars within 20 miles of campus will be forced to sell their cars for half of the cars' retail values; the university will resell the cars through the bookstore for full price.

Computer labs with sophisticated IBM and Macintosh computers will be replaced by a guy with an abacus and an Etch-a-Sketch.

To save on building maintenance costs, classes will be held in tents on the Horseshoe. Professors will be eliminated, too; that guy in the second row who acts like he knows everything will be teaching every class. Blue books will be marked up \$20 each and required for every class assignment students complete.

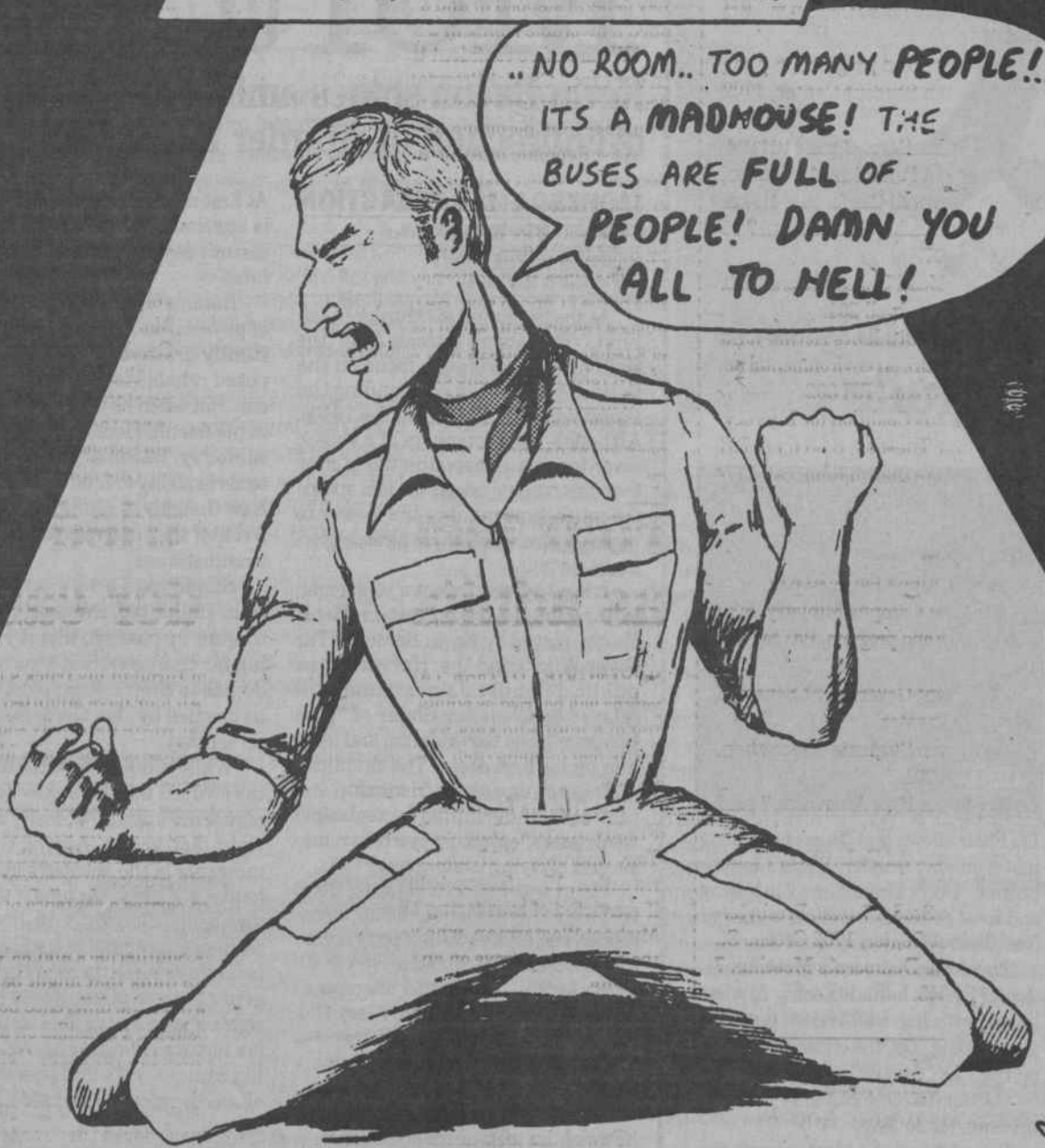
Of course, we could harass our legislators long enough to make them avoid cutting the budget for higher education.

They love it when they're bombarded by phone calls, faxes, mail and visitors demanding representation — it shows them we constituents care. There's nothing a legislator likes more than the hacking, nagging, annoying sound of a couple hundred thousand college students (because those orange guys up the road will get cut, too, as will every other state-supported school) beating down the doors in protest.

As the Beach Boys sang, "Be true to your school, just like you would to your girl or guy. Be true to your school, let your colors fly. Be true to your schoooooool." (Then they advanced to a vocal range impossible for me to emulate in print.)

Chris Muldrow is a journalism senior. His column appears every Friday.

AND NOW, A WORD FROM CHARLTON HESTON FOR THE U.S.C. "SHUTTLE COCK"...



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QUOTE UNQUOTE

"A high majority of the rapes we have on campus are acquaintance situations where alcohol is frequently involved, whereas metropolitan areas probably experience more stranger rape and incest."

Eileen Korpita,
Program director of
Sexual Assault Services

Abortion contradicts beliefs about human life

Today I am going to begin a discussion on what is probably the most controversial and divisive issue in American politics since the Vietnam War. The battle over the abortion issue is both intense and serious. According to public opinion polls, more Americans take a position on this issue than any other. Protests, rallies and blockades related to the abortion issue can be seen in America on almost a weekly basis.

The pro-choice faction, those who favor liberal abortion rights, have attempted to manipulate their position through the use of unprovable statistics and inaccurate representations of the American people. The dominant media culture, the public education system and the Democratic Party have been their biggest allies.

On the other hand, the pro-life faction, those in favor of making "abortion on demand" illegal, are rarely given positive media coverage. Most coverage is for incidents that involve arrests or the rare "acts of violence" by criminals who don't behave in a manner consistent with the pro-life position. The Republican Party, conservative Christian denominations (e.g. Southern Baptists, Roman Catholics) and grassroots pro-family groups have been their biggest allies.

I have written many articles that included references to my pro-life position, but I have never taken this issue on directly. I feel now is the time. First, let me tell you why I am pro-life; then I will make my argument in favor of my position. The reason I am opposed to abortion on demand is quite simple: 1. It contradicts my beliefs about human life and



TOMMY TOUCHBERRY
Columnist

murder as both a Christian and an ethical human being. 2. I believe that laws which allow for abortion on demand are in direct contradiction to the intentions of those who wrote the Constitution of the United States of America.

Let me begin my argument by sharing with you the "medically proven facts" we know about conception. According to the Michigan Educational Fund, "The moment of conception is the beginning of a new human being. All of the genetic information necessary to build our body and our brain is present at this moment. Nothing will be added to this unique individual from the moment of conception except food and nourishment."

I believe at the moment of conception that my Creator has endowed each and every fetus with the characteristics that will make it a human being distinct and different from any other human being ever conceived. When a mother aborts her child (and it is her child, not a bunch of cells) she is destroying a human life that has been uniquely created by God.

This destruction of life is no different from dropping your baby from the top of a tall building, shooting and killing an abortion doctor or running in the mall and blowing people away with a semiautomatic weapon. How would you feel if you knew that your

parents had considered aborting you? Pretty terrifying, isn't it? I, for one, am extremely grateful my parents are opposed to abortion on demand.

Now, let's look at some of the misinformation distributed and promoted by the pro-choice crowd. First, they say that "abortion should stay safe, legal and rare." Let us agree that illegal abortions in general are more dangerous than legal abortions. Given that supposition, we can infer that abortions were rare when illegal and are now very common after legalization.

Let's look at abortion statistics provided by the government: Total abortions per year have averaged between 600,000 and 1.6 million since legalization in 1973. There are no such statistics before 1973. But there are the statistics of women who died because of illegal abortions. Between 1950 and 1967, less than 300 women died per year because of abortions. As medical technology advanced, abortion deaths dropped steadily to 39 in 1972, the year before Roe v. Wade.

In 1973, with abortion legal in all 50 states, the death toll held nearly steady at around 30-35, and that number has not changed since.

Conclusion: Since the number of deaths was quite low in 1972, there must have been few illegal abortions performed. Thus, making abortion on demand illegal would curb abortions period — most women are not willing to commit a federal crime.

Next week, I will continue my discussion of this all-important issue.

Tommy Touchberry is a marketing junior. His column appears every Friday.

Country music more than dogs, pickups

I'm sure all of you reading this column have been to South Carolina at least once — where else would you get this paper? Therefore, each and every one of you has had to have heard country music at least once in your life.

In my hometown of Summerton (pop. 975), you can pick up more country stations than you can see rednecks at a truck pull. For every station, there is a different type of country music.

Now most of you Yankees (Politically correct term: Southernly deficient) are saying, "Drew, all of that crap sounds the same to me. It's just a bunch of Bubbas singing about their dead hunting dogs and how their wives ran off with their beer money in the four-wheel drive."

My response: While there are a few songs with that subject matter, not all of them deal with such harsh life problems.

You might want to clip and save this column so you won't sound unenlightened the next time your friends and you visit a fine establishment such as Bubba 'N Buck (Columbia), The Silver Spur (Orangeburg) or any dove shoot. While I could not do justice to all types of country unless I had the space of the complete Webster's Dictionary, I have narrowed it down into four basic types.

First of all, there is the extremely popular new country, which is what most of you are familiar with. This type of music sounds to me like a bunch of long-haired hippies couldn't make a living making rock 'n' roll, so they threw a steel guitar into their regular act and called it country. Most of the teen-agers (including myself), weary of hearing the rock stations play "Stairway to Heaven" 70,000 times, embraced new country like a wino embraces a bottle of Olde English 800.

The second type is what I call contemporary country, which is what you can hear on WCOS. The artists in this group usually have more than one steel guitar note, and the singers actually have accents. Most of this stuff is kind of slow, and it borders on adult



DREW STEWART
Columnist

contemporary, but it's still fun to listen to.

The third type, my personal favorite, is classic country. This is the real syrupy, twangy country that would make a man with the masculinity of Bluto cry. Check out any country prior to 1975 to hear this stuff.

Last, but not least, is outlaw country. This is the rowdy, raucous redneck stuff that makes you want to trade in that Honda Accord for a 1978 Ford 4X4 raised so high you've got to have warning lights to keep air traffic from buzzing the top of the cab. The topics of these songs include the words "drunk," "bar," "wife," "dog," "whiskey," "jail," "sheriff," "judge" and "pickup."

Some other things about country you need to know are:

- The Eagles are not country. Alabama is not rock.
- When a country artist mentions a country club, he is not talking about Augusta National.
- The difference between a violin and a fiddle. When Itzhak Perlman plays it, it's a violin; when Charlie Daniels plays it, it's a fiddle.
- If you're riding through downtown Summerton and see a bunch of people standing still with their hats over their hearts, there's a good chance George Jones is playing on the radio.
- Yes, those names are real.
- The longer the title, the better the song.
- There's no one named Marshall Tucker in The Marshall Tucker Band.

Master this basic country knowledge before you try it on anyone. If you think what happens to guys on the Pace Picante Sauce commercials is bad, try forgetting who sang "He Stopped Loving Her Today" (George Jones, 1980).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recommended tutors not necessarily best

After much thought and consideration I came to the conclusion that there is a conspiracy in the chemistry department. It appears the TAs are a bit fed up with private tutors on this campus, especially the services of Mike Watford. I'm quite sure everyone has seen his advertisements around the campus. He is "The Professor."

I first met Mike in mid-October 1993. I was struggling in Organic 333 and couldn't seem to understand what was going on. I had sought the help of the teaching assistants, but they only confused me more; this angered them because "organic is easy." This is true for some, but not for all.

Mike Watford is a private tutor who charges by the hour. He not only teaches, but shows you tricks and tells you stories on how to remember certain things. He has an undergraduate degree in chemistry as well as a master's degree. He can honestly boast about his tutees. With his help, inside the sessions and out, some have gone on to dental school, medical school and pharmacy school.

Can the TAs brag of such accomplishments? While I have no desire to go to medical school, Mike is aware of my plans and has helped in any way possible. By writing recommendations and serving as a character reference, Mike has proven to be a tutor who cares.

So keep all of this in mind when you look and choose from the "approved tutor" list. I think that the professors are being unfair and that the teaching assistants are afraid of "friendly competition."

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