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Decision is made; time to evaluate

The Elections Commission acted appropriately in assessing one infraction for President-elect Amy Bigham, according to Jerry Brewer, Director of Student Life.

Now that the decision is made, it's time for the campus to start communicating on ways the controversies surrounding this election can be prevented next year. As the cliché says, we must always learn from our mistake, and it's time for many people to evaluate the elections process.

The appeals process needs to be looked at carefully. Brewer expressed concern that he was forced to make a decision in a student governance situation. Added to his concern was the fact that Attorney General Tom Young had to drop out of the appeal process because of conflict of interest. Student Government needs to establish an impartial means of students handling the appeals process. The Attorney General is needed, but a backup must be available. Perhaps a second student judicial unit could be used for appeals; it must be an impartial, small group that will make efficient decisions and have power to obtain evidence of elections violations.

The infraction process is obviously flawed. It's not clear in the rules who should be punished and how much they should be punished for different violations. The violations and the penalties should be assessed.

The makeup of the Commission should be evaluated. Representation of minorities is necessary, as is openness during the elections. These elected offices are public offices supported by public funds, just like elected offices in any government. The conduct of the candidates and the commission, therefore, should be open.

Racial conflicts have arisen, indicating that racial problems still plague the campus. We need to evaluate how we get along with each other and make this campus work together.

The smoke has cleared. Let's get rid of the fires.

Choice of drinks indicates character



BEN MARTIN AND CASSIE STURKIE
Columnists

One of our friends, Brad, was interviewing for a job last month. This was not a summer job, mind you, but a real, earn-a-salary job. Brad's interview was with a prestigious consulting firm, so he definitely wanted to make a good impression. Before the interview, our friends discussed what he should wear, what he should say and how he should schmooze. Then, the conversation turned to the ever-important question: what should he drink for a cocktail?

We all agreed that his choice should be a classy one. It would be rather embarrassing if Brad took a swig of Beast in front of the senior partner. It's obvious that college drinks are different than drinks in the real world. This difference is because of that green motivating factor for every college decision - money (or the lack thereof).

So, with Ben back at the computer, we thought we would provide our own suggestions for what your choice of drink says about you.

First, we will discuss beer. This is a college campus, of course.

A few rules of etiquette before we begin. Ladies, you should never drink beer out of a can in front of guys, as this looks cheap. Always opt for a bottle, or for a cup as a last resort. Guys, whatever beer you drink, please refrain from burping in front of the ladies.

Malt liquor is out. Period. Budweiser, Bud Light, Michelob and Michelob Light are all respectable beers. You will look like the average Five Points patron with one of these beers in hand. But if you really want to impress someone, we suggest that you order an imported beer — a Heineken, perhaps. Other fairly exotic choices are Dos Equis, Molson's Ice, Corona or Killian's Red. Drinking one of these imports says that you are either very refined or are in need of an ego boost.

Our last word on the subject of beer is the brand Zima — if you

drink it, you are probably one of those trendy people who wear fake fingernails or actually went to a New Kids on the Block concert.

Next, we have the liquor drink. At this time, we must give deference to our friend Byron, who makes the best liquor drink ever.

Rum and Coke is always an attractive choice for a liquor drink. We recommend screwdrivers for the ladies, but not for the guys. After all, most juice drinks look a little prissy. Macho drinks are Jack Daniels and water, Jack Daniels and ginger ale and basically Jack Daniels and anything.

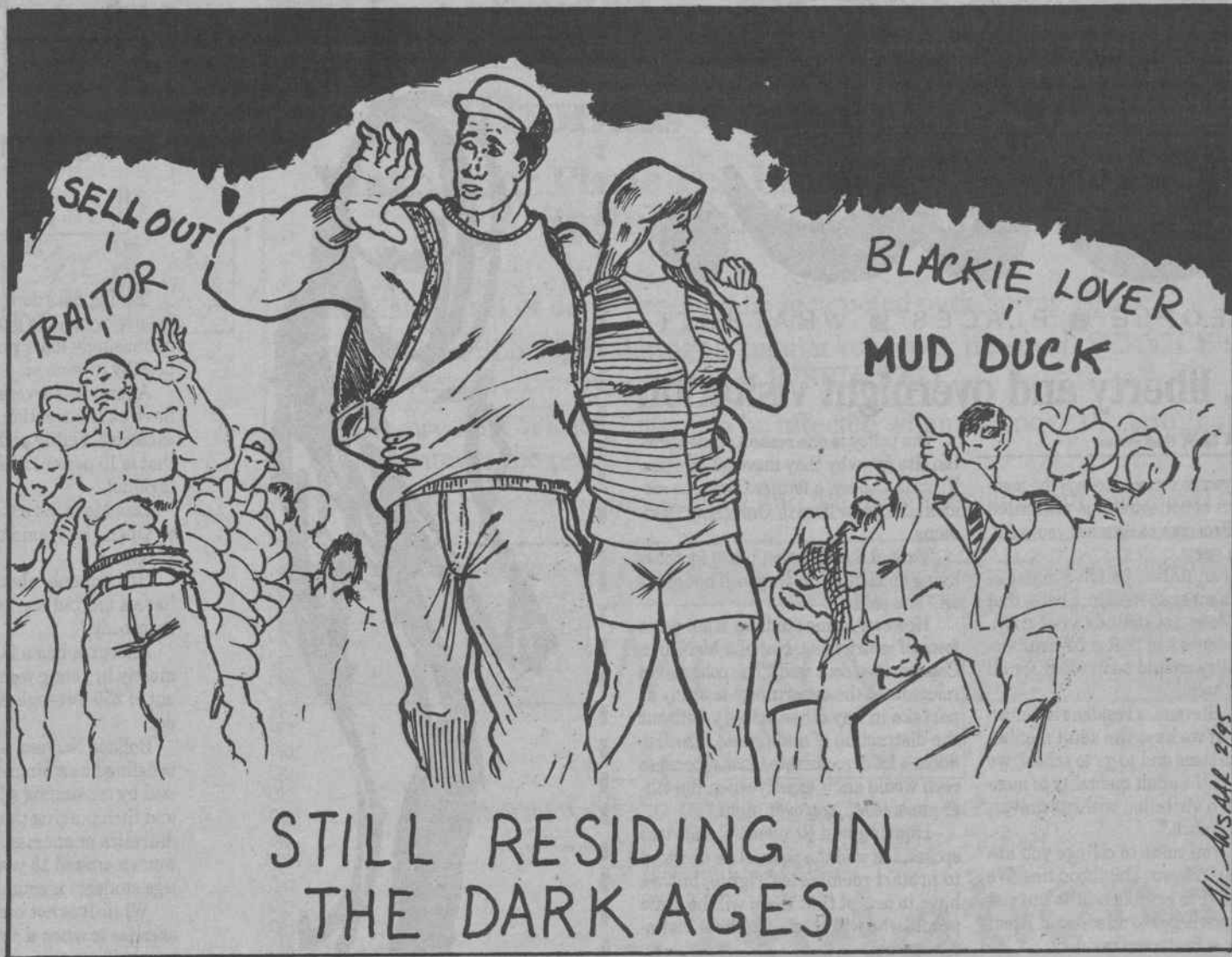
We must clap for any pitcher drink. Pitcher drinks say that you like variety in your life, and that you will be taking a cab home from Five Points. Our favorites are Long Island iced tea and electric lemonade. However, if you drink sex on the beach, you are probably a virgin waiting for it to happen.

Lastly, that small but dangerous temptress, the shot. Taking shots says only one thing: you are on a mission. Goldschläger and Jägermeister are the shots of choice in Five Points. The night that you turn 21, these are what will send you to bed. One last word of caution: never take a shot during dinner. This is a clear indication that the night will go downhill. Fast.

In our connoisseur's guide, we have not sought to condone drinking. Rather, if you are of age and decide to partake in the Five Points festivities, we want you to know what your drink says about you. After all, style is not for everyone. If you want to be stylish, you have to know that a classy drink is a must-have accessory.

And about our friend Brad - he chose a scotch on the rocks. And got the job. Way to go, Brad!

Cassie Sturkie and Ben Martin, both 21 and legal, are seniors in the Honors College.



QUOTE UNQUOTE

"A complete review of the election codes will be a top priority of mine, and I will include many students in the review process."

Amy Bigham,

President-elect of Student Government

Everyone should have a good set of tools

Welcome to Wednesday, March 1st, the sixtieth day of the year we refer to as 1995 AD. Today, I wish to cover the all important issue of "to own or not to own tools" (AKA: The Tim Allen Story). As many of you may already know, HQ (Home Quarters Warehouse) is closing its doors and leaving good ol' South Carolina. I feel remorse for the property owner who must now find someone to lease his/her property, and I feel even worse for the staff at HQ that needs to find new jobs. However, I was also very excited because I know great deals when I see them.

About ten months ago, Lisa and I purchased a condominium. Since I have never owned real estate before, I never realized the importance of owning good tools. I am not simply referring to a screwdriver and hammer. I am talking about a good ratchet set, a drill and bits, wrenches that do not snap in half, an awl and possibly even a staple gun. These are tools that you never even think about until you start doing a project. Actually, you realize that you need a specific tool about two minutes after you get full of grease or five minutes before the stores close.

Anyway, about a month ago, as I was passing HQ, I noticed a sign that stated HQ was going out of business and that everything in the store was 20 percent off. The sensation that came over me was weird. I may have even grunted. The next thing I knew, I was standing at the entrance of the store. I was sucked in by the smell of wood, the sound of power tools and the little yellow sign that read "Everything must go...20 percent off everything in the store."

Well, I figured how could I go wrong? Most tools



SCOTT KAPLAN
Columnist

hardly, if ever, go on sale...at least not the ones you need when you go to purchase them. That first day I got a few items that I felt would be helpful in the future (including a few cans of WD-40, which I sometimes refer to as the "miracle in the blue & yellow can"). One week later, I was back in the store with Lisa looking at light fixtures and a kitchen faucet (ours leaked and the sprayer didn't work...you truly learn to appreciate something trivial like a sprayer when it no longer functions).

We purchased the faucet, and we even bought a shower massager that day (it is great for washing our dog). I was excited to get to work and install our new faucet (a la sprayer). So as soon as I got home, I changed into my "working in filth clothes" and began my own private season in hell.

About ten minutes after I started, I realized that I did not have (you guessed it) the right tool for the job. I did not feel like driving to HQ again, so I went around the corner to our local True Value store and bought what I felt I needed.

Unfortunately, at a little past 6 p.m. on Sunday, I realized that I needed something else in order to get the job done.

Okay, so my little project was not going as expected; my faucet was disconnected, everything stored under the sink was now on our counter-top and the stores were all closed for the evening...I

know, I know, "get over it." I did.

The next day, right after work, I got right back in the saddle and started over again. I eventually finished the project and felt pretty damn good about it. Every time I get a drink of water I think "I worked my \$%#&\$ off to install this thing...boy does this water taste great." By the way, Lisa and I love the sprayer.

I vowed that I would never get caught without the right tool ever again. The next week I went to HQ again. Now everything in the store was listed as 30 percent off (everything is presently 40 percent off, but there is not much left). I was excited, and my tool collection increased significantly. I also visited my newest favorite store...The Home Depot. If you have never checked this place out, you have no idea what you are missing.

The employees know what they are talking about and are the most helpful group of people I have ever met. NOTE: I am not getting paid to speak for The Home Depot...I just respect good service.

So what is the point of all this gibberish you have just read? I just want people to realize that being well prepared is important, and that doing it yourself can save you a bundle. Tim Allen may be very funny, and men will always be made fun of for drooling over a new power tool, but when it comes right down to it, owning tools is smart. It may even be a rite of passage.

Whatever the case, the next time you are about to pick on your friend for owning a tool set, take a deep breath...exhale and keep in mind that you may need to borrow a tool from him one day.

Scott Kaplan is a graduate student in education

Get off the couch and do something

Too few people are involved in campus

Fate. Whether you believe in destiny or not, fate still controls our lives. The interesting aspect of fate is that you have two choices: 1) You may control your fate by the choices you make and the action to implement them OR 2) You may lose control of your fate and give it to someone else. Which one would you do?

Sadly, most people choose option two. USC students (you know who you are) tend to get home right away either on campus or off campus and watch television, play Sega, or do just about anything to get away from your studying.

I hear students saying, "I can't believe that @\$%^* professor gave me a D!" or the ever popular, "Student Government is just full of resume-builders." There are those people who tend to just not control their future. You get a D because you didn't study.

Student Government can't do much unless you give your input to your senators. Most people don't even find out who their senators are. Walking down the hall I heard someone saying, "Dr. Who Palms?" It is sad to see students just go to class and hide in their room or simply go home off campus never to return until the next class period.

What do these USC students put on their resume? Studies have shown that a person with a 4.0 GPA who lived in a cave and never experienced REAL student life is not as likely to be hired as a person with a 3.5 GPA who was active in a couple of committees at their school or community.

If you live off campus, you're even more prone to catch the "I'm-just-a-student" syndrome. You have to fight it. Walk into the student activities center



CHUCK GRIFFITH
Columnist

and ask for a list of student organizations.

The way I see it, you're not going to make a difference by sitting on the couch in your underwear watching Montel Williams.

You have to just jump in. There over 250 student organizations at USC, and if you don't like any of them, start your own!

Being active in different organizations at USC has taught me more about the REAL world through time management, stress control and professionalism.

Besides those benefits, I have gained some of the most trusted and talented friends that I know I will have a lifetime.

To those who choose number one, don't give up. Going with option one above will help you learn more than any classroom can teach. The people I run into who are active in the way this school works know that their rewards are ahead, and that keeps them going.

Your fate is controlled by you. Fight for what you believe in, and don't give up!

Steven Spielberg didn't become a household name by just sitting on the patio fanning himself and drinking sweet tea.

I'm not sure what the philosophical reason is for students to run around like a rabid gorilla for their organization or beliefs, but they love it and are better people for it.

Say what you mean, mean what you say, AND GIVE A DAMN!

Chuck Griffith is a media arts sophomore.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Premise difficult to prove

Can you say "crybaby?" I just read the article in Friday's Gamecock about the racism claim against the Election Commission in regard to their handling of a candidate's campaign violations. My question is: How can a student group claim that its favored candidate had been racially discriminated against based on a premise that is at least difficult to prove, if not entirely impossible? According to the article, the AAAS claims that the Elections Commission would have treated their favored candidate differently if she had committed the same violations as the winning candidate did. The student group's president is quoted as saying, "I know that if it had been Teresa, she would have been kicked out in 30 minutes."

Um, OK... I'm sorry if you believe that, but I fail to see how your conjecture is (1) sustainable and (2) reasonable. I acknowledge the fact that racism is still a problem even in academic institutions, but before one can accuse another of racist activity, there must be sound evidence to support that claim, and in this case there isn't any except for the fact that the candidate who won the election has lighter colored skin than her opponent.

The article presented no further reasoning for the AAAS's claim. One may point out that the Elections Commission did not have "enough black representation" (whatever enough means), and because of this, the mean white people on the Elections Commission decided to let one of their own get away with a hand slap. This argument assumes that people will do anything for one of their own kind, which, as I think about it, is what the AAAS is doing.

Herb Hollar



News: 777-7726
Advertising: 777-4249
FAX: 777-6482

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Director of Student Media
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