



Lee Cloutz, Editor in Chief ■ Chris Muldrow, Viewpoints Editor

Editorial Board

Erin Galloway, Wendy Hudson, Susan Goodwin, Allison Williams, Jimmy DeButts, Ryan Wilson, Carson Henderson, Radhika Talwani

Police should rein in horses

St. Patrick's party shows shortcomings

The famed Five Points mounted police might have clip-clopped over people's rights at this year's St. Patrick's Day festivities.

People are complaining that the police horses intimidated several people at the festival, including a large group of people gathered for the last musical show of the night. Apparently, a policeman made a mistake and tried to clear people from the street at 5:15 instead of 6:15.

According to The State, a woman was stepped on by a horse, and some other horses stepped on participants' feet. Now, Police Chief Charles Austin is saddled with the decision of whether to allow the horses to patrol during large festivals.

The horses are certainly visible and are thus useful means of deterring crime. The St. Patrick's situation shows that horses are not ideal for every situation. Perhaps the Columbia Police could adopt a bicycle patrol similar to USC's. The bikes offer excellent mobility, they're good for maneuvering in crowded sections of town, and they're much less expensive to maintain than a posse of horses. They're also faster cruising around Five Points than horses are. (Ever been driving behind the horses?) They might be fast galloping after thieves, but they're slow on the city streets. Five Points' roads are open, and thus it is a car-driven area despite the heavy pedestrian traffic. If it were closed in to cars, perhaps the horses would be more feasible.

The Five Points horses are nice to have around, and they probably give the Columbia Police added visibility and some degree of control over crowds. As the festival showed, however, the horses aren't always at the head of the pack.

Use categories to track roving groups of friends



BEN MARTIN AND CASSIE STURKIE
Columnists

We partied down to Five Points Saturday with a group of friends to celebrate the Luck o' the Irish. The green beer flowed readily, the Root Doctors jammed, and the Jägerettes looked, well, sleazy as usual. Our group of friends, at any given time, resembled an active amoeba.

We had seven guys and four girls, plus a few people who came and went throughout the day. Believe it or not, the major challenge throughout the day was not elbowing our way to the beer trucks. Rather, the challenge was in keeping our group of friends together.

In any group, there is always the person who is the Informer. This is the person who is constantly looking around to see who is there. Not satisfied with his own business, the Informer announces to the group at five-minute intervals who is where, who is with whom, who is wearing what and who is too drunk to walk.

The Informer is always a great person to have around so that you can keep up with the day's gossip. However, if the Informer gets too annoying, just send the Runner to get a beer for him or her. That'll keep the Informer's mouth occupied for a while, at least.

The Runner is the athletic one of the group. If you need another beer, an order of fries or someone to spy on your ex, this is a useful person to have around. You have to flatter the Runner all day long so that he or she will continue doing whatever it is you are too lazy to do yourself.

Compliment the Runner's speed and agility, but don't get mad if your beer is only three-fourths full when it finally reaches you. After all, being a Runner is hard work, and naturally, the Runner gets a little thirsty.

With all of this beer drinking, one member of the group has to go to the bathroom every half hour. The Urinator is the person you

will find in the Port-a-Potty line, conversing with all of the other Urinators. Don't get us wrong — we like our friend the Urinator. But a lack of bladder control in one member of the group always holds up the rest of the group.

Another person who holds up the group is the Wanderer. The Wanderer is the social butterfly who has to stop and talk to everyone she sees. In fact, Wanderer-types don't even have to know the person they're talking to — they'll just find some in-depth conversation to get into while the rest of the group taps its feet impatiently.

Chances are, if you are missing a member of the group, the Wanderer can be found somewhere in a 25-foot radius gabbing away. Our suggestion in dealing with a Wanderer is to put him or her on one of those leashes that moms use to keep up with their kids at the mall. Without this kind of attachment, your group will never cover any distance, since you will spend all day looking for the Wanderer.

Your group of friends may have all four of these players or maybe just one or two. You may even be one of these players yourself. Nevertheless, with the Carolina Cup and Mayfest just around the corner, we think it is important for you to be knowledgeable of your group's dynamics.

If you have a Wanderer in your group, make sure you also have an Informer to let you know where he is or a Runner to fetch him. If you have a Urinator in your group, your only hope is to carry a paper cup with you at all times.

Good luck keeping your friends together. But if worse comes to worse, find a comfortable chair, put on your Ray Bans, cross your leg and let them find you.

Cassie Sturkie, a Wanderer, and Ben Martin, an Informer, are seniors in the Honors College.

BRANCH CLOSURE SCHEDULE TO EXPRESS NEWS



NOT TO GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES, BUT WHEN DO WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING REPLACEMENT FANS?...



QUOTE UNQUOTE

"We are the only outlet in the whole state for the type of music that we're playing right now. I think the proposed changes are already available in Columbia. Nobody is going to listen to the same thing stations out there already play."

WUSC-FM music director Eric Greenwood

Israel should halt religious apartheid

Shortly before spring break, Messianic Jew Zola Levitt spoke to students about the importance of Israel and Judaism for Christianity and of the need to support Israel against the media, replacement theologians and Muslims. While trying to bond Christians to Israel and its Jewish foundations, he chose to ignore any mention of the native Christians (mainly Palestinians) who continue to live under Israeli occupation in the land of Christ.

Do you agree with the speaker and the Israeli government that the native Christians living there don't matter and that it's OK for the Israeli government to continue discriminating against them just because they're not Jews (or not officially recognized as being Jewish)? Or, as a believer in equal rights for all peoples, would you be willing to agree with Israel Shahak's statement, "Although the struggle against anti-semitism (and of all other forms of racism) should never cease, the struggle against Jewish chauvinism and exclusivism, which must include a critique of classical Judaism, is now of equal or greater importance?" If so, then please read on.

To begin to understand the exclusivist nature of the Jewish State, let's examine how Israel defines itself. The official Israeli definition states that "Israel 'belongs' to persons who are defined by the Israeli authorities as 'Jewish,' irrespective of where they live, and to them alone." As Shahak explains in his 1994 book, "Jewish History, Jewish Religion," this definition means that "Israel doesn't officially 'belong' to its non-Jewish citizens, whose status is considered even officially as inferior." From this basis, the Israeli authorities settled members of a Peruvian tribe, who recently converted to Judaism, on land in the West Bank that was confiscated from Palestinians, a



WA'EL MASRI
Columnist

land from which non-Jews are officially excluded. According to Israeli law, 92 percent of Israel proper and 70 percent of the West Bank land is "officially designated only for the benefit of Jews."

In this respect, the mandated discrimination by the Israeli authorities is even worse than that which existed under any apartheid government in South Africa, since the native Africans there were not officially limited in where they could live to the same extreme degree which Palestinian Christians and Muslims are constrained in their own homeland.

But how can Israel be called an apartheid state when it embraces Jewish peoples of all color? This may be true, but it is undeniable that Israeli law gives much less respect to non-Jews, be they citizens of Israel or merely Arab civilians living under occupation, than to Jews. Basically, if you substitute the term "white" for "Jew" and "black" for "non-Jew" while describing the Israeli judicial system, you get a society that mirrors that of apartheid South Africa.

Israel's system of apartheid is especially apparent and severe in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — both illegally occupied by Israel since the 1967 War — where Jewish settlers are subject to Jewish-Israeli civilian law while the native Palestinian populace must obey the harsh dictates of the military governors.

Thus, before we accept Levitt's call to further strengthen our support of Israel and Judaism, we must be willing to embark on a comprehensive

critique of the official Jewish attitudes toward non-Jews. Shahak, himself a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, concluded his book by stating that such a critique "is what many Jews justly demand from non-Jews: to confront their own past and so become aware of the discrimination and persecutions inflicted on the Jews. In the last 40 years the number of non-Jews killed by Jews is far greater than the number of Jews killed by non-Jews. The extent of the persecution and discrimination against non-Jews inflicted by the 'Jewish state' with the support of organized Diaspora Jews is also enormously greater than the suffering inflicted on Jews by regimes hostile to them."

Finally, while Levitt referred to the New Testament as "the amputated Bible," Shahak reminds us of "the precept according to which Jews are instructed to burn, publicly if possible, any copy of the New Testament that comes into their hands ... thus on 23 March, 1980 hundreds of copies of the New Testament were publicly and ceremonially burnt in Jerusalem under the auspices of Yad Le'akhim, a Jewish religious organization subsidized by the Israeli Ministry of Religions."

Despite such acts, the U.S. government continues to give Israel unconditional support and many billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars. Do you want the Clinton Administration to use your money to further strengthen the apartheid system that has existed in the Holy Land since 1948 when the exclusive state of Israel was imposed on the native Palestinian population?

Wa'el Masri is a graduate student in MIBS

Why wait for the elevator to go up one floor?

Hey, folks, what's going on? I am psyched to announce that comps are over and that I must ace only one more class to receive my master's degree. If you asked me five years ago whether or not I was going to pursue a master's degree, I would have laughed at you and said, "You're nuts." However, it is now my proudest accomplishment.

I have no idea where I am going to work, where I am going to live or what I am going to do for a living, but I do know one thing for sure — I am proud to have furthered my education. Perhaps many of you are trying to decide whether or not to strive for an advanced degree. Well, to use a Rockyism: "Go for it." How can you possibly go wrong in advancing your knowledge?

Anyway, I have seriously veered off from what I wanted to discuss today (actually, it seems that I never even got on the path). Since I have openly expressed my views about events that bother me lately, I have decided to designate March as Pet Peeve Month. Hence, my topic this week is people that take the elevator to go up or down one floor.

Oh, you folks know who you are; you are the people who wait three to five minutes in front of an elevator to get from the first to the second floor, get in the elevator before the people on it can get off and then complain that someone is in your way when you wish to get off the elevator.

Considering we live in the "get in shape" era (otherwise known as the "exercise till you drop '90s"), I cannot figure out why people refuse to walk up or down one lousy flight of stairs. Are people afraid of wearing out their sneakers?...Oh, I apologize, I am in the South...I meant tennis



SCOTT KAPLAN
Columnist

shoes. I guess this explanation would make some sense since tennis shoes are so expensive these days. However, I do not believe shoe prices are the real reason for people standing around in front of elevators these days.

Another explanation that comes to mind is my newly formulated social theory. Perhaps, people feel that hanging in and around elevators is a cool way to meet new and old friends. I mean, when you are standing in the middle of the Russell House (or any other campus/office building) awaiting your chariot to take you upstairs, what else is there to do besides stare at people and acknowledge their presence? Well, I am sorry to disappoint you, but I doubt this is the reason for taking the elevator one flight either...at least for most people.

So, what is the reason? I have no idea! But I do have a plan. How about the next time you get on the elevator with someone who merely rides up or down one floor, you simply ask them why? It is as simple as that. Here, practice with me: "Hey dude (or dudette), why did you wait (X amount) of minutes for the elevator to simply go up (or down) one flight when the stairs are merely 10 feet away?"

Now, keep in mind that you must be careful when doing this. Some people might get very offended by this question because they do not have

a very good reason for traveling such a short distance via the elevator. On the other hand, some people will have a very good reason. "What are some good reasons?" you ask. Well, I have come up with a list off the top of my head...unfortunately, by listing these excuses, anyone who reads this article will be equipped with an answer to the aforementioned question, too. However, I figure that this does not matter, because I highly doubt anyone is going to actually ask someone the aforementioned question.

Anyway, here are some good reasons for taking the elevator up or down one flight of stairs: (1) medical excuses (trouble breathing, leg problems, etc.); (2) carrying a lot of stuff (arms full of fliers, food, books, boxes); (3) using a dolly or moving furniture; (4) you are in absolutely no rush at all, want to waste some time waiting for the elevator and wish to see your friends (refer to my second explanation); (5) the elevator opened as you were passing it on your way toward the stairs (I believe this to be a very viable reason...it is a bit lazy, but none of us are perfect.); and (6) you LOVE riding elevators (That is a McDonald's joke, in case you did not get it.).

Well, the next time you are passing by an elevator and you see a group of people waiting for it to arrive, maybe you will think to yourself, "How many of those people are going to get off on the next level?" It is probably more than you imagine. Until next time, take it easy, folks.

Scott Kaplan is a graduate student in education.



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

Chris Carroll
Director of Student Media
Laura Day
Creative Director
Jim Green
Art Director
Elizabeth Thomas
Adv. Graduate Assn.
Renee Gibson
Marketing Director
Christopher Wood
Asst. Advertising Manager
Erik Collins
Faculty Advisor

Lee Cloutz
Editor in Chief
Chris Muldrow
Viewpoints Editor
Carson Henderson
Radhika Talwani
Copy Desk Chiefs
Erin Galloway
Wendy Hudson
Susan Goodwin
Allison Williams
Features Editors

Jimmy DeButts
Ryan Wilson
Sports Editors
Kim Truett
Photo Editor
Ethan Myerson
Ryan Sims
Graphics Editors
Gregory Perez
Design Editor
All Anusar
Jason Jeffers
Cartoonists

Tieffs Harper
Tina Morgan
Asst. News
James Ponce
Asst. Photo
Ben Pillow
Stephanie Sonnenfeld
Asst. Features
Larry Williams
Asst. Sports
Keith Boudreaux
Circulation Editor

Letters Policy

The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be 200-250 words and must include full name, professional title or year and major if a student. Letters must be personally delivered by the author to the Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for style, possible libel or space limitations. Names will not be withheld under any circumstances.

The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters, with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.