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Students need vote on board of trustees

Four current representatives have no power to defend students

The S.C. House of Representatives is preparing to take a vote on an issue very important to USC. Lawmakers are considering allowing a student to have a voting seat on the Board of Trustees. You might be thinking to yourself, "Don't students already have some representation on the board?" Well, sort of.

The Student Government president and vice president and two members of the student body appointed by the president are student representatives to the board. This means the board has a resource of four students to turn to for opinions on policy decisions. These four students, however, do not get a vote on the board. The vital power of voting is retained by people who don't have the vested interest in the university students have. Without a vote, the students can merely sit and listen and try to jump in if student interest are at stake, but the board has free reign to ignore the student representatives.

The Legislature, therefore, needs to give students a vote on the board of trustees.

Invade family reunions for free food, photos



DREW STEWART
Columnist

I had a very interesting evening Sunday night. I got to be on a major radio station here in Columbia, Kicks 96.

The folks out at Kicks had what was called a "Replacement Players" weekend, meaning they had their listeners come in from around the area of Columbia and announce the songs on the air at Kicks 96. I was amazed. The folks at Kicks had all of the music pulled out in advance and had everything I was to say written down and scripted, which is completely different than what I expected. But I was happy it was scripted. If it hadn't been, I probably would have told Summer stories until I was off of the air.

The afternoon before my brush with fame, I was at my family reunion in Santee, S.C. (I'm not sure of the population, but there are probably more people in the class you are ignoring to read this column right now than in all of Santee).

No one in the family is from Santee or has ever resided there. I guess the reason for having it there is to make everybody have the same long ride rather than sparing one lucky person who gets to have the reunion at his or her house.

Depending on which family I reunite with, the Stewarts or the Martins (my mother's family), my distant relatives always get me confused with either my dad or my brother, Seth.

They always come up to me and say, "Seth, I heard you was playin' football. How many tackles you made, sonny?"

Also, all of them ask me how Clemson is. When I explain that I don't go to Clemson, most of them tend to lose interest in my college experiences.

The ones that are interested in the fact that I go to Carolina always talk to me like I know every athlete at the University of South Carolina like a dog knows his favorite fire hydrant.

They say, "I heard that Steve Tannehill is gonna start next year. You talked with him about

that?" or "Next time you see Steve Tannehill, will you get his autograph?"

I don't know Steve Tannehill personally, and I don't think he knows me. I have seen him around campus once, and he probably doesn't have the slightest idea what this little ol' country boy looks like.

But yet, my family assumes I am as close with every single athlete as a dead possum to a roadside.

A family reunion is also no place to go if you are very sensitive about your weight. When I first arrived, despite my recent 10 pound weight loss, nearly every relative said, "You been hittin' the ol' cheeseburger joints, eh' Seth?"

I guess it has something to do with the way old people think. I believe they think that obesity is the key to health, and if you looked at them and saw what they ate, you would agree with me.

Family reunions are great places to find great food. Every time I run out of money, I always go down to Riverfront or Sidney Park, where most weekends, there is some family reunion going on.

I usually just jump in the food line without asking questions. If someone asks me who I am, I just say I am Uncle Bill's son (every family has an Uncle Bill). I usually just mingle until picture time. If I get close enough to the family, I usually jump in the picture, too.

So far I have been at the family reunions for the Canteys, Anselms, Bleases, Tillmans and Leibowitzes (and in the pictures of every one of them too).

The only time I got caught was the time I tried to sneak into a black family reunion, but that was stupidity on my part.

Even though most of them have very good offerings, every once in a while, a rich old aunt will show up with her share of "donkey balls" candy (I DIDN'T MAKE THAT UP, EITHER) which taste like another part of a donkey, but I have to eat them or else face certain disownment.

If I ever see another donkey ball, I'll puke.

Drew Stewart is a journalism junior.



QUOTE UNQUOTE

"I feel that the House made a very bad mistake. I think [the cuts] send a bad message across the state of South Carolina"

Darrell Jackson,
Senator

United States needs to intervene in Bosnia

Three years ago today the war in Bosnia began. On that day the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was recognized as an independent state, and on that same day it was invaded by neighboring Serbia. For three years now, the world, including the United States, has stood by while a multiethnic democracy was being conquered by a foreign state. In these three years have been seen some of the most heinous acts of our times, the massacre of civilians, indiscriminate shelling of civilian populations, the creation of death camps and subjugation of women as sexual tools. Thus far, 200,000 people have been killed, 50,000 women raped and 3 million people expelled from their homes. United States action to alleviate this situation, to at least allow the people of Bosnia to defend themselves, is now long overdue.

For at least 500 years Bosnia has been a symbol of peaceful coexistence and cooperation. Its three major ethnic groups, Muslims, Serbs and Croats, lived, worked and loved together in peace and toleration. Almost a full quarter of its marriages were between members of different nationalities. Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is the only place in the world where one can find Muslim Mosque, Eastern Orthodox Cathedral, Roman Catholic Cathedral and Jewish Synagogue within 100 meters of each other. During the holy days of each religion, members of the other denominations would rejoice with their Bosnian brothers and sisters. The population is so intertwined that no division of the country on an ethnic basis is possible without forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes or killing them all together.

In 1991, the Yugoslavia's communist system began to collapse, and the country disintegrated. The leader of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic, refused to agree to a decentralization of power in Yugoslavia or recognize the Yugoslav government. In response, the republics of Croatia and Slovenia declared independence. Milosevic, in control of the Yugoslav Army, moved to annex parts of Croatia inhabited by Serbs. He declared that all Serbs should live in one coun-



NEIL BAUMGARDNER
Guest columnist

try, just as Hitler declared for the Germans. In early 1992, Bosnia, wary of encroaching Serbian dominance of what was left of Yugoslavia, held a referendum in which 68 percent of the population voted for independence. The Bosnian government moved to implement this desire, and on April 6, 1992 the European Community and much of the rest of Europe recognized the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent state. On that same day 100,000 men of the Serbia's Army seized 70 percent of Bosnia's territory and began the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims and Croats in those areas it seized. People were expelled from their homes or sent to concentration camps for extermination. Women and girls, from the ages of seven to 70, were sent to "rape hotels" for the pleasure of the Serbian Army.

In the months and years to come the U.S. and European powers organized numerous conferences in order to end the war. The multiethnic Bosnian government, which includes the representatives of Bosnia's Muslims, Serbs and Croats, has been forced to negotiate with people who claim to be the representatives of Bosnia's Serbs for explicit purpose of dividing the country along ethnic lines. This has repeatedly failed as most of the "peace plans," accepted grudgingly by the Bosnian government, have been rejected by the "Bosnian Serbs." The U.N. Security Council has passed numerous resolutions, all of which have either been ineffectual or ignored.

Serbia claims to have withdrawn from the conflict but even today continues to send supplies and troops for its war. Meanwhile Bosnia, despite being a member of the United Nations, has been denied the right of self-defense the U.N. Charter guarantees. This has been done through an arms embargo that was applied to the old Yugoslavia and never

Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent state. The embargo has been decry by the International Court of Justice and the U.N. General Assembly as a grave violation of Bosnia's right to self-defense under international law. Without the ability to obtain arms, Bosnia is forced to attempt to oppose tanks with rifles. The result is a one-sided war and the mass atrocities that are seen today. If this situation is allowed to continue the war will widen and probably draw the United States in. Unless stopped, Serbia will spread the war to Kosovo, an Albanian province of Serbia, which would draw in Albania and Turkey, and Macedonia, which would draw in Greece and Bulgaria. The allowance of Serbia's aggression against Bosnia is setting a new standard of international law in Europe that might makes right. Unless it is stopped, it will have potentially horrible portents for the rest of Eastern Europe and the world.

Thankfully, many have urged the lifting of the US arms embargo on Bosnia. Sponsored by Republican Robert Dole and Democrat Joseph Lieberman, legislation is now before the House and Senate that would allow the people of Bosnia to defend themselves and possibly restore the beautiful, peaceful country it once was. The passage of this legislation is far from certain, and our congressional representatives need to hear our concern for the Bosnian people's fate. On this, the third anniversary of this horrible war in Bosnia, please call or write your representatives (at 1-202-224-3121 or U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20515 and U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20510) to urge them to support lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia.

The fate of Bosnia and the future of the world is in our hands.

"The greatest tragedy is not the brutality of evil people, but rather the silence of good people," said Martin Luther King, Jr.

Neil Baumgardner is the president of Americans for a Free Bosnia of S.C. and Students Against Genocide of USC.

Death penalty strange punishment



NIGEL RAVENHILL
Columnist

Monday I received a letter from my pen pal, Marion Pruett. Marion, a.k.a. SK-907, resides on Death Row in Tucker, Ark. We've corresponded for about a year. For 12 years he has lived behind the bars of the maximum security unit awaiting society's vengeance for his checkered life of violence.

Marion is a serious bad ass, a criminal with a long history of armed robbery, jail breaks and murder. He started riding as a teen-ager with a bike gang on the East coast and along the open roads ended up on the FBI's Top Ten list of people you don't want to sneer at in a restaurant. Had we met, then I really doubt that we would have hit it off well amid the Harley's and tattoos.

He arrived on Death Row from the conviction for the double-murder of two mob hitmen who killed his wife in retaliation for Marion's testimony under the Witness Protection Program against their crime family. Suffice to say that somewhere in his developmental process he went bad in a big way.

He has now found peace with Christ, and ours is an interesting relationship. The strange shadow that hangs over this warm exchange of letters and photos is that our friendship will cease when the state of Arkansas puts him to death. This seemingly inescapable finale lends a decidedly odd twist to our discussions of crime and punishment, gun laws and common places we've visited.

It has also irrevocably changed my perception of capital punishment. Regardless of the evil within a person, I don't believe that any society that remotely considers itself even moderately civilized can justify the taking of another individual's life for any reason. Compounding a previously tragic and unnecessary loss of life via an equally violent dose of homicidal retribution is morally and ethically wrong.

The United States and South Africa stand alone among Western countries in retaining capital punishment. It is an interesting coincidence that the United States also has one of the most violent societies on earth. While it may be impossible to confirm a causal relationship between the existence of the death penalty and an elevated violent crime rate, this would make for an interesting study.

What capital punishment does is provide the community with communal revenge. It is group

of Christianity has proved to be the most puzzling. The strange dichotomy of Christians who quote scripture in defense of their anti-abortion stance and yet strangely ignore these same words of God when they come out in favor of executing convicted killers seems rather odd. It makes for a peculiar triad — Christian/pro-life/pro-death penalty.

I faintly recall that in my Christian education I was taught to uphold the Ten Commandments as a strict model of proper conduct and thought — things like I shall not covet my neighbor's wife, nor steal, nor do eight other equally heinous things. How strange, then, to live in a culture where so many followers of Jesus gloss over the tenth, "thou shalt not kill." It must be quite a thrill to selectively ignore in all good conscience major tenets of one's faith. Supporting capital punishment while simultaneously following the Lord must be a strange rush. But do you think that God is smiling from the hypocrisy within his flock?

Having abandoned the Christian faith during the past two years, I was very intrigued by last fall's race for governor. Both candidates piously fell over themselves as believers in the Christian faith. Which Christ do David Beasley and Nick Theodore follow? The carpenter who refrained from judging others and preached compassion or the man from Galilee, his name embroidered on a patch, throwing beer cans at the TV?

Marion and his peers have committed some horrible acts. That is uncontested. I'd prefer to be able to watch them bust rocks on a chain gang in the summer's heat for 50 years than give in to a primal desire to dismiss their lives as easily as they dismissed those of their victims. Executing prisoners is more barbaric than their crimes because I'd like to think that our visions of civility are more than skin-deep.

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