



Serving USC Since 1908

Wendy Hudson, Editor in Chief • Matt Pruitt, Viewpoints Editor

Editorial Board

Lucy Arnold, Jamie Clark, Erin Galloway, Gregory Perez, Stephanie Sonnenfeld, Allison Williams, Larry Williams, Ryan Wilson, Chris Winston

Structural growth masks internal decay

Well, the year 2001 is rapidly approaching and so is the premiere of the inevitable "Master Plan" for USC. It's finally been realized that six years may be just enough time to make USC the best that it can be; the most for its students; the epitome of modern education.

So, buildings are being torn down to make room for new dorms and parking garages. USC alums such as Leeza Gibbons and Hootie and the Blowfish are giving USC free PR and a better name. The administration is melding with students via programs like The Preston Residential College. Recruiting is at its height, pulling in students from all over the country and across the world, allowing USC to gain a truly international feel.

All seems on the up and up. Yet, deep beneath the surface of the structural improvements lies a problem that concerns every aspect of the university: the instructors. Due to increasingly drastic higher education budget cuts by the South Carolina Legislature, USC is losing its teachers to higher paying universities.

With bits and pieces of money slowly being taken away from the university, cuts have to be made everywhere and the teaching staff always seems to feel the cuts the most. The lure of better paying positions at equally desirable universities is an easy draw for USC professors who never seem to receive raises or be at a university in a state that yanks higher education money away every fiscal year.

Structural improvements look good and sure, USC's overall reputation is cultivating pride in all areas. Yet, by losing top ranked instructors to other universities USC won't be progressing; they'll be digressing.



QUOTE UNQUOTE

"It's not even a requirement to have to accept applications...I get to appoint the people for the position."

SG Vice President Darcie Shively, on the appointment of new senators

Phillips another link in chain of abuse

It was a busy weekend for Nebraska runningback Lawrence Phillips. A weekend he shouldn't forget for a long time. It was a weekend where he went from Heisman-hopeful to common criminal in a 24-hour span.

On Saturday, Phillips ran for four touchdowns as the No. 2 Cornhuskers routed Michigan State 50-10. On Sunday, he was arrested, and charged, with assaulting his girlfriend. Shortly after the incident, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne removed him from the team.

It baffles me that someone in Phillips' position would allow something like this to happen, but then again considering the recent trend of violence against women by athletes, he is just another link in the chain.

His name can now join Warren Moon, Bobby Cox, Scottie Pippen, and O. J. Simpson on the list of recent sports personalities that have trouble conveying emotions without violence. (It's interesting how wife-beating became news after a star athlete was charged with the murder of his ex-wife.)

I have a huge problem with guys like this, but it seems that spousal abuse has become a favorite pastime of our "role models." You would think that a year's worth of the Simpson trial would shed some light on these horrible tragedies, but apparently the message still isn't getting across.

I have always wondered what brings men to hit their loved ones. Is it just our violent nature, or is it that we are just so insecure about ourselves that it takes hitting a weaker opponent to make us feel better?

As I alluded to before, spousal abuse is not a isolated incident. I know of people I grew up with that have hit their girlfriends in anger, and I am sure everyone can name someone who was a victim or the perpetrator of such abuse.

I think as we are brought up with many mixed signals. The

RYAN WILSON
Sports Editor

biggest problem is, somewhere along the line, we were taught that violence has its rewards, and there are some that misconstrue this to mean that it is okay to be violent if the rewards are justified.

I guess what scares me the most about this recent string of athletes abusing their spouses, is the fact that they are athletes. As a former college football player myself, I completely understand the huge disparity of strength between men and women. It's not just enough that ordinary men are hitting their spouse, these guys (Bobby Cox excluded) are several times stronger than their spouses, so the damage can conceivably be more severe.

I have always believed that you don't need to fight to prove your manhood. A real man doesn't strike out at women.

It's a shame that Phillips didn't learn this. He sacrificed the possibility of a second straight national championship and a chance at the Heisman, just because he couldn't control his temper. What's is even more stupefying is that the whole ordeal probably started over something trivial.

A sad commentary on the whole situation is that Phillips will sit out the rest of the year, then get drafted in the NFL next spring. His talent on the field will get him a couple million. (If NFL teams were not scared off by dope smoking Warren Sapp, why would they shun an aggressive guy like Phillips.)

As I said before, we all should learn something about the Simpson trial, and the Phillips incident reiterates it. We should learn that spousal abuse is a serious problem that can't be swept under the rug. Before O. J. was a possible murderer, he was a wife beater.

The rest is just smoke and mirrors.

Women's conference offers chance for basic rights

A giant United Nations conference is taking place in the world and the doubters are sure that no definitive revolution will emerge from it, sure that it will be nothing but talk, sure that it is a waste of time. The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China does promise speeches and declarations. What it does not promise is instant results; there are no instant results in social change. But conference will not be a failure. The real impact of the WCW is the attention it focuses on women's issues, the networking between women who share similar goals, and the, perhaps unsettling, presence of so many strong women on the world stage.

Certainly, there are times when "the powers that be" should stop their idle talk and posturing and proceed to doing something. The world's women are "the powers that aren't"; words and declarations are the tools they have to reach the power centers of the world with their messages of inclusion and empowerment and protection of women. Words may seem flimsy swords with which to fight historic battles, but the battles are too important to be lost to defeatism.

In reading the Draft Program for Action from the conference, one is struck by the simplicity of many of its themes. Basic human rights that are in many areas denied to women are affirmed as rights regardless of gender. While lesbian non-governmental organizations may grab headlines, the real concerns of most delegates are much more mainstream.

The declaration asks for: equal health care and food allocation for girl children; and end to gender preference attitudes that lead to abortion of female fetuses and female infanticide; access to economic

LAURA HALL

Guest Columnist

resources, savings and credit; protection of women against violence and sexual abuse; recognition of the right to control sexuality—to say "no" to sex; and equal opportunities for education and vocational training. Not exactly radical concepts, but unfortunately, most of the world's women do not enjoy these rights.

A second major theme is empowerment. Because so much of the burden of the world's most pressing problems falls on women, they want to be included in decision-making at all levels. One fourth of all households in the world are headed by women. Poverty is more prevalent among women. Violence against women is not universally condemned. War leave women vulnerable to becoming pawns when terror tactics of mass rape are used. Women are less educated, yet they bear much responsibility for family income or subsistence. Despite this gender discrimination, women occupy only 10% of national and international political offices. Women believe that they can contribute to all aspects of public and political life and should be part of decision-making from the family level to the international. The world cannot afford to do without their skills and energy.

Most people would not argue the legitimacy of these goals, but many question the legitimacy of the forum and its declarations because it may not conquer the world in a week. This is shortsighted and historically naive. Ideas can change the world. The spread of democracy is an example of the amaz-

ing possibilities. First, European monarchies fell to democracy's forces, transforming the way people thought about how power is distributed. Then, this seemingly unique Western concept expanded throughout the world's diverse cultures.

Now, even when progress is slow, no one raises doubts about the cultural relevance of democracy, saying that certain cultures simply cannot tolerate such alien ideas. No one says that we should be sensitive to totalitarianism because it is a cultural norm. No one suggests that the spread of democratic ideas should be controlled by governments or should be silenced because some aren't listening. But that is what is said about women's rights. We all stand for democracy and feel comfortable saying that is a right of all people. We should be equally insistent about women's right.

Changes in the acceptable age for marriage, new laws affirming a wife's right to say "no" to sex with her husband, and increased women's suffrage are hopeful examples of what is possible. Though it may take as much time as the spread of democracy, ideas about women's rights will also reach wider audiences and cease being an issue scuttled by arguments of culture and postponement.

When basic human rights are being denied to large segment of the world's population solely due to gender, then the fight must go on even when it is a slow and tortuous one. And even when no one is listening and cultures seem intractable, the message that women's rights are human rights must be proclaimed until governments, men and women listen. When something is right, then it must be said—over and over again—it must be said. This conference continues to do that.

Unseen help merits thanks

Has anyone ever noticed that some people seem to get all of the credit while doing nothing to deserve it? Well I have, and I plan to expose the truth. I submit to you that it is time that we give a heart-felt thank you to some very important individuals on campus.

We, as students, spend a lot of time studying, drinking cold beer, helping to found organizations, and becoming members of those organizations in order to sustain others. In the process, we generally tend to make a very large mess. What is generally fixed becomes broken and what was once clean is now messy.

My first two years I spent in Maxcy, and am now a resident of the McBryde Quad. I dare say that I have seen almost every type of mess which can occur naturally, and those that have a little help. It has been a college term that has seen un-godly amounts of vomit, people urinating in places that only dogs should be allowed to get away with, and the arch enemy of all carpets: gum and cigarettes.

There have been numerous broken windows, doors and many holes punched in thinly-plastered walls. If this is not enough, we can always talk about the plumbing that seems to swallow everything from earrings to rolls of toilet paper. Not to mention the fact that they clean our toilets. Indeed, we are a destructive lot.

The next area I would like to discuss is that of service in the food lines at the Grand Market Place. How many meals have we as a student body eaten at this place? How many will we continue to eat?

Third, I would like to ask, who picks up all of the cigarette butts that the thousands of students throw on the ground? Yesterday I passed a gentlemen spreading pine straw in one of the flower beds trying to improve the beauty of our campus. I asked him how he was doing and he simply responded, "I'm fine, thank you for asking." Another group of people are the secretaries who take time to proof-read letters and fill

TRAV ROBERSON

Columnist

out forms that help people graduate.

The point is that we have many administrative personnel who take credit for running a university when in reality if it were not for these individuals the university would not function; in these modern times. We have individuals who, simply put, work very, very hard in order to provide us with services which, in turn, grants us time to supposedly focus on academics. We take these individuals for granted every day and in reality they are the individuals that keep us going on our merry way. I suggest that we as students stop and say thank you to a wonderful work force.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the maids who deliver our toilet paper and clean our toilets. I would like to thank the maids for cleaning up puke that often ends up on the floor and in the carpet. Ms. Pat and Ms. Velma have served me almost every meal I have eaten in the Grand Market place. Laura has taken my money and tried to cheer up the customers from the pits of sorrow which result from high prices.

On behalf of the student body, I say thank you! I would also like to apologize for those of us who take you for granted everyday. We must remember that just because we are getting an education does not make us better than anyone else. I would like to thank all of the employees who do their job well and keep our university clean, the chalk boards clean and the garbage cans empty. I suggest that if you see someone working or cleaning just stop and say hello and thank you. After all, it doesn't cost a dime to be friendly and someday it might be you who just wants to hear. Thank you.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Perusing through the pages of the September 12 issue of "The Gamecock," I was not surprised to see that there was no mention of the Young Democrats debacle of last week.

Okay, I can understand a liberal rag wanting to protect its own. But it did surprise me that you would draw attention to the story's omission by printing Trevor Spencer's heart-wrenching story of being snubbed by Pat Buchanan and the College Republicans.

I attest to being a Republican and a conservative, but I would not be so naive as to defend the actions of each member of my party. I don't know the facts, and perhaps it was unjust that Mr. Spencer and his cronie were excluded from this event. Perhaps not. In any case, Mr. Spencer suggested in his article that Republicans view it as a crime to be liberal. On behalf of fellow Republicans, we most certainly do not. We just don't think it's particularly smart.

We would all do well to learn and understand the issues from both sides, and this paper does little to enhance this process. Instead of learning a little about a state senator's attempt to embarrass the governor for political gain (however damaging to the Young Democrats), we get Trevor Spencer's whining about not being able to heckle a presidential candidate.

On behalf of all thinking voters, let's have a little more balance.

Dan Phillips
Biology senior



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

Student Media • Russell House-USC • Columbia, SC 29208

Wendy Hudson
Editor in Chief
Matt Pruitt
Viewpoints Editor
Chris Winston
Copy Desk Chief
Erin Galloway
Allison Williams
News Editors
Keith Boudreaux
Circulation Manager

Lucie Arnold
Stephanie Sonnenfeld
Features Editors
Larry Williams
Ryan Wilson
Sports Editors
Jamie Clark
Photo Editor

Martha Hotop
Tina Morgan
Asst. News
Ben Pillow
Chris Dixon
Asst. Features
Robbie Meek
Asst. Sports
Jason Jeffers
Cartoonist

Ethan Myerson
Graphics Editor
Ryan Sims
Online Editor
Chris Carroll
Director of Student Media
Laura Day
Creative Director
Jeff A. Breaux
Art Director
Gregory Perez
Design Director
Kim Golden
Asst. Advertising Manager
Erik Collins
Facility Advisor

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 Monday, Wednesday and 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 editor or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is its parent organization.