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New fees for resume service not necessary

Tuesday's Career Fair at USC provided students with an opportunity to present themselves to roughly 80 potential employers.

The event also brought to the surface a source of discontent for many students: the new cost of using the Career Center.

In order for a student to receive assistance from the Career Center, in distributing his or her resume, they must first purchase a \$25 program called "Resume Expert Plus." By using the program, the Career Center hopes to create a uniform resume layout and make the processing of resume information easier.

Having uniform resumes and expediting the processing of information are positives. Virtually forcing students to purchase a \$25 piece of software to in order to receive any help from the Career Center is definitely a negative.

If students do not have their resumes on the "Resume Expert Plus," they are not eligible to receive assistance from the Career Center during events like Tuesday's Career Fair, nor are they eligible for any on-campus interviews. Students are also required to attend workshops in order to become familiar with the software, which can only be used on IBM-compatible computers.

Are the benefits worth the hassle? Some students complain that job fairs offer a limited selection, and that their individual college is more helpful in attracting employers than is the Career Center.

Given the fact that many students can only use the program in campus computer labs (since it strictly for IBM), it seems that it might have been more practical to install the program on a few computers in various labs. If a schedule was established for individual students to work on their resumes, conflicts would be kept to a minimum.

And student dollars would be kept in their pockets.

Republicans slashing your higher education

It's mid-September: do you know where your loan money is?

If it seems like you just got your loan check three weeks ago (which you did), and already it's gone (as mine is), there is only one group to blame: the Republicans.

Yep, for the ninth year in a row, the size of higher education's money pot has been left with less than both the year before, and from what the law requires. Our Republican governor and his yes-men (or is that reversed) have made the decision that higher education is something for those who can afford it; and the rest can find their own way.

South Carolina law outlines that schools are allocated funds based on a complex formula, considering the number of students enrolled in the school and the amount of floor space their buildings have (no lie). The 1995-1996 budget calls for higher education to receive a dismal 65% of full-funding. The last time higher education received anywhere close to full funding was in 1986, when Democrat and present Secretary of Education Dick Riley was governor. Riley's strong support for education is legendary: he's the author of the now defunct Education Improvement Act—gutted by Carol Campbell and David Beasley (e.g. see the decline in basic skills scores announced this week).

The result of this is higher tuition fees each year. In fact, the tuition at South Carolina schools is amongst the highest in the southeast. In 1994, tuition at USC was \$3196, \$3,176 at The Citadel, and \$3,036 at Clemson. At neighboring University of Georgia, the same, or better, education cost \$2,352, while at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, one of the best public schools in the country, in state students pay only \$1,569.

The commitment to education is why both Georgia, home to the 1996 Olympic games, and North Carolina, now the tenth largest state in the country with great living conditions, have excelled, while South Carolina and its communities have plummeted. They spark opportunity for their future; we extinguish it.

Then, they capped tuition increases at three percent, so only a certain amount of the moneys cut

could be recouped through student fees. The result is less money to be spent in the classroom and more and more reasons for our best professors to pack up and move north. But wait, it gets better. During the next couple of months, the Republican Congress will severely limit your ability to get student loans, and slash the amount you will be eligible to receive. Under the Republican Contract with America, 53,000 students in South Carolina alone will have their student loans cut. That is the total number of students attending state-supported, four-year schools in South Carolina. Subsidized loans—which allow you to wait until you're done with school before you start paying interest—will be history. Forty-six hundred South Carolina students will become ineligible for Pell Grants.

Good-bye, dreams! Good night, opportunity! Welcome to McDonald's, would you like fries with that?!

This is what is happening to YOU. Not to some mysterious "they," not to the kids down the street, not to people living in Butte, but to YOU. The amount of money being allocated to colleges goes down, the quality goes with it. The amount of your loan goes down, the time you can spend studying, or partying, goes with it because you spend the time working to buy books. The support to education goes down, and so does the availability of jobs and opportunities and the general quality of life in South Carolina. I don't know too many big businesses that want to locate their companies and families in a state that won't educate their kids.

These decisions are not all final, and they can be reversed. Fortunately, President Clinton will protect students and veto student loan cuts. But we make ourselves open target because we don't stand up for our needs as students. This is your life we are talking about. We are members of this society in full, and each of us better make ourselves heard—or our forum will be taken from us.



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QUOTE UNQUOTE

"There aren't any companies I'm interested in. They think business is it, . . . Business majors might be interested, but I'm not."

journalism senior Molly Koon, on Tuesday's Career Fair

Would note service reproduce Beardman's doodles?

I think I've found the job for me—a job suited to my skills and expertise—I wanna be a note taker.

Yep, I can sit in class for you, taking notes to my heart's delight, carefully dotting my "i's" and crossing my "t's" and gleaning all the key elements of various professors' discourses on life, liberty and the pursuit of early pre-postmodernism recreational crop procurement systems.

You might have heard about the note-taking service that's come here from UGA and FSU. The service hires designated note takers for various classes. They diligently take notes and type them in, and students in the classes can pick up the notes for a fee. The service also dresses up any sketches or assorted visual aids the hired note taker scrawls on his or her notebook.

The only problem I'd have as a note taker is that my notes vaguely resemble ancient cuneiform, except scientists and linguists have been able to interpret cuneiform. I have a difficult time figuring out exactly what it was I was writing in class; sometimes ancient

CHRIS MULDROW
Beardman

Viking explorers creep into my Southern history or my prominent journalists wax poetic on Juliet's beautiful DNA structure. Sometimes I think I just take notes because it's what everyone else in the class is doing, like the pitiful lemming I am.

I'm wondering whether the note service would reproduce my doodles on the side of my notes. The graphic artists might have to call me and ask what exactly a picture of a superhero firing a machine gun at Barney (who's dressed in a Milli Vanilli mask...hey, I can't explain it...) has to do with sociology.

I've not quite gotten organized this semester, too, so all my notes are in one notebook, separated by hand-drawn lines. But it sort of looks kind of organized if you're not one a' them freaky neat types.

I'm a little lost on why exactly people would want to buy notes. The service argues it's not a way for people to skip class: the university's attendance policy prevents that. Heh. Heh. Heh. Sure, some professors check the roll, but if you've got one of those 3,000,000 person rooms in Gambrell, it's a whole heck of a lot easier to skip counting students and just weed out the class skippers (and non-note takers) through tests, quizzes and other fun reindeer games.

Maybe the service is there for people who get sick and need notes. Forget the other people in class—it's a dog-eat-dog world, and those sick weaklings are wearing beef jerky boxers. Is that guy who keeps dropping his pen so he can look up the girl's dress in front of him really so repulsive that you can hit him up for a day's worth of notes without shelling out your hard-earned Ben and Jerry's money? I'm scared I'm gonna ask for notes from somebody in class now and get handed an invoice.

Of course, I have loaned notes to

people before and not gotten them back before the test in the class. But I killed those people, so it's not a problem anymore.

The note service requires the note takers to not tell the professor who the note taker for the class is. Like the professor's not going to know the guy with the tape recorder, Powerbook and five-subject notebook isn't up to something when the note taker asks for the third time how to spell Prioleau.

I think the next step for note taking and selling is note-test barter services. I'll take notes for you if you take the GRE for me. I'll supply a fake beard, vital statistics and No. 2 pencils. You'll go in and actually take the test so I can avoid the pre-test nervous stomach and post-test pencil bubble cramps. I'll even provide special customized doodles of members of your family, dogs, your favorite top 40 bands and the first 25 presidents of the United States. I'll put the notes in the notebook color of your choosing and rub graphite on the back of your hand to make you feel as if you've been sitting in class all day.

Hootie demonstrates how to handle success, retain musical integrity

Wednesday, Columbia's own Hootie and the Blowfish returned to their home town to play to a packed Capital City Stadium with numerous other area bands. Hootie, whose members are former USC students, has just completed a nationwide tour that has left them the most popular band in the land.

Despite the huge success generated by their latest album, "Cracked Rear View," the band members of Hootie and the Blowfish appear to be just as normal as they were when it all began 10 years ago, and that has to something about handling success (see Eddie Vedder).

Some of us might not like the bands music, but we have to look at Hootie for what they really are: Average, simple men who like to get drunk and play average, simple music. We should all consider it amazing that such common people, who we used to see at in Five Points regularly, are now some of the most famous and recognized people in the land.

Personally, I would have rather seen all this rah-rah happen to a more talented and diverse band, but Hootie does represent an aw-shucks attitude and an honesty that is as close to home as a Circle-K hot dog. Plus, their mainstream easy listening music does appeal to today's mainstream pop culture.

Over the summer, I heard an announcement over the radio saying that Hootie had signed to play the North Charleston Coliseum in late August. It was also announced that the show was going to be broadcast worldwide on the Westwood-1 Radio network.

LARRY WILLIAMS
Columnist

I must have pinched myself a hundred times. Worldwide??? It seems like just yesterday that they were playing at Rockafella's, now they're playing to the world, much less a sold-out, 12,000 seat arena.

I also have to admit that I was rather shocked when I opened a "Rolling Stone" magazine to see a band from Columbia at number one on the Billboard charts. To realize that Hootie is as big or bigger than bands such as Pearl Jam, Nirvana, and even Michael Jackson, is truly remarkable; however, success is fleeting, and Hootie could easily sink down the tubes as easy as they shot up the charts.

Many people would rather have seen other bands from Columbia grab the spotlight the way Hootie did. Lay Quiet Awhile? Kindred Soul? Isabelle's Gift? The aforementioned bands probably have significantly more talent than the Blowfish, but it is unlikely that any of those bands would have handled success like Hootie has.

Hootie, unlike some people in the State House, has also done more than their part to attempt bring the state of South Carolina some other recognition—besides the negative kind that it normally receives. It seems that, whenever confronted with the opportunity to do so on national television, the band always brings the spotlight to their home state. This has to be positive for our beloved state, considering there ain't much to crow

about these days in 'ole South Cakilaky.

Hootie has been outspoken in their opinion of the Confederate flag, which continues to fly atop the State House, as well as David Beasley, who refused to support bringing the Stars and Bars down.

Hootie has also brought much attention to the University of South Carolina. On their worldwide concert broadcast from Charleston Darius yelled "Go Cocks" for the world to hear. Sure, our football team needs all the help they can get, but you have to wonder what English-speaking people not from around the south imagined when they heard that one.

Unlike most big-name bands who have exchanged their musical independence for pop fame, it seems that Hootie has always played the type of music that they play today, which says something for their integrity. So what if what they play is easy to listen to, play, or tap a foot to? I personally don't love the music, but at least they're really playing and really act how they feel.

It is truly amazing the metamorphosis that has happened to four average Joe's in one year. They have sold seven million copies of their "Cracked Rear View" album, a number only reached by bands such as the Beatles. Even though their music might not be appealing to some of us, we still must remember one thing: that Hootie and the Blowfish have been nothing but a positive asset to our university, community, and pride in a state that lacks so much of it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Housing services need to listen up

Editor:

Housing and its system of maintenance for the Horseshoe Area need an overhaul. I am not speaking of individual maintenance staff members—all of them (some of whom I now know by name) have been friendly to me and to my roommate. However, our almost incessant requests for certain repairs have been ignored since school began, and many of the repairs which have been made were not made to our satisfaction. I am not picky, but I would like to use the toilet or shower without feeling like I am in a nightclub or horror movie (our bathroom ceiling light has a distinct, strobe light effect). I am appreciative of the work which has been done, but why were so many calls to maintenance necessary? We pay a lot of money to live in campus housing, and it seems that residence hall and apartments could be inspected before students return. This is a warning to all not to take roach infestations, broken air conditioners, and the like, lightly. Maintenance services are not necessarily the sole guilty party here; housing has a responsibility to provide students with the accommodations for which they pay.

Kara Bridgman
anthropology senior