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**Editorial Board**

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

## Student apathy matched by faculty

Each year, students elect officers and senators to represent them in the student government. Each year, student government fights apathy — trying to draw students into the governmental process. Faculty members often attempt to wage war on the apathetic — stressing the importance of participation.

However, the faculty equivalent to student government, the Faculty Senate, suffers from the same apathy. At the last meeting of this body, roughly half of the members of the senate were present. Only a third of the members were present for a meeting last spring to examine and revise the tenure procedure. Less than 10 percent of Faculty Senate members responded to an interest survey distributed last year.

Student apathy is disturbing. Faculty apathy is even more disconcerting. Faculty members have a closer association with, and more bearing on, administrative decisions (ideally this situation would be reversed, since the focus of the university should be the students, but this is another matter). Faculty members are relatively influential in decisions which determine policy and hence have a responsibility to monitor the quality and status of our university.

Just as student apathy defers the decision-making process to a "higher authority," apathy from the Faculty Senate defers the process to administrators. Important decisions need to be made by those who will be most affected by them.

Ask your professors if they care about the decisions being made while they sit in their offices. Remember that these decisions will ultimately affect the student and the state of the university as well.

## Family values still important today

During my two years as an op-ed writer for the Gamecock, I have often espoused the theme "family values." This theme, which has its origins in the 1992 Bush campaign, has become the cornerstone of conservative politics in America today.

The "family values" theme refers to a variety of pro-family issues. These issues are of utmost importance to every American who believes in our basic Judeo-Christian values. If it were not for these values, the United States would never have become the most productive country in the 20th century. America would not have enjoyed the highest standard of living.

Often, we get bogged down in the logistics of these issues. These pre-family issues, such as opposition to "abortion on demand," same-sex marriages, drug and alcohol use and abuse, and "value-free" education are important. The support for parental rights in determining their child's education, ending public taxpayer funding of sacri-religious materials in museums and on PBS, and lower tax burdens for all American families with children are important, too.

The real goal of all these issues is to promote an environment where the traditional family unit can not only survive, but prosper as well. As cheesy as it may sound to you as a college student, it is critical that we turn our culture around on the issue of family responsibility. We need more families that look like the Cleavers' and less that look like Murphy Brown's.

The problem with modern day America is that we have a breakdown in the traditional family unit. Liberal social and economic policies have helped increase the number of children born out of wedlock, divorces,

**TOMMY TOUCHBERRY**  
Columnist

single-parent families, and other types of dysfunctional families. Of course, I am not saying that liberal political policies have contributed to the demise. Other factors include Hollywood, the mass media, and an overall decline in religious faith and obedience.

The Christian Coalition is the most despised organization by the un-Christian left. The liberals hate the Coalition because the Coalition exposes liberal anti-family policies. Liberals believe marriage is a "comfort-zone" to be entered into long after a couple has had intimate relations (sex). They also ignore the fact that marriage is "for better or for worse." Liberal and commitment are two words which just don't seem to go together.

I would like to relate my personal life to this issue of family values. Last Thursday, I proposed to my girlfriend. Luckily, she said yes. We are now happily engaged and are planning to get married next June.

My fiancée and I were both raised in Christian families. We both believe in these same values and morals. Traditional family values are a very important part of our life.

Now, I know this may sound totally foreign to some of you; but I think you should realize that there are still some of us around who believe in traditional values and old-fashioned romance. My fiancée and I will never encounter any of the problems that run rampant in today's society. The reason: family values. We learned it, we love it, and we live it.



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

**QUOTE UNQUOTE**

"Faculty governance is something to be treasured. If the faculty aren't there to vote, then we are giving up these rights."  
Past Chair of the Faculty Senate Marcia Welsh, on the lack of participation from Faculty Senate members

## Life imitates art: irony rears its head

**TRAV ROBERTSON**  
Columnist

Irony? Ladies and Gentlemen, this has to be the collective term for last week's end. Today, I plan to take you on a journey, on which we will explore this term and how we as a collective body are saturated with it. Last week, I discovered the possibility that one of the very institutions which is supposed to truly allow every person to be free, as well as, to be the voice for truth and justice, is saturated with irony.

It is perhaps ironic that I am still naive enough to believe in unbiased institutions. This institution is the media. Especially the media on a campus which can have a devastating, or wonderful, effect on an individual. Is this bad or is this good? Well, I do not know. However, I admonish that we may gain some small insight through three areas of question and analysis. First, what is irony? Second, I will discuss two very controversial incidents that occurred last week. The executive session that our student senate called in order to discuss the confirmation of Kris Wustrow and the inflammatory and degrading article that appeared in The Carolina Spectator concerning an English professor. Third, the sacred free press.

The first area of question and analysis is that of irony. My good friend Mr. Webster asserts that irony takes place

when someone expresses a sense contrary to that conveyed by the individuals actions or words. Several other definitions of this term are: opposite and the frustration of hopes, as well as covert sarcasm. I would like to suggest that, with these definitions in mind, irony may be that of the individual, or that of the collective whole, which in turn means society. With these possible definitions in place and at our disposal we move to the second area of question and analysis.

Last week our student senate, which I am a member of, decided to go into an executive session in order to discuss Kris Wustrow's confirmation. An executive session means that everyone is forced to leave except the senators, nominee, and the vice president. We believed that we should call this session because there were some questions about the nominee and his performance as parliamentarian of the senate. We, as a collective body, felt that these questions were better suited for private discussion then being talked about on the front page of a news-

paper and in public. In my opinion, the irony, inherent in this situation, is that later in the week Mr. Wustrow allowed himself to be associated with a some garbage that is printed on paper — which did exactly what we chose not to do to Mr. Wustrow. We gave him enough respect to not air his dirty laundry in public, yet he and his fellow "writers" decide to embarrass and attack an individual who is trying to educate people. How ironic!

The Freedom of the Press. When our forefathers fought and died for the freedom of the press did they have any idea that those ideals would create such a wonderful monster with a schizophrenic personality? Should our press be used to destroy the character of individuals? I am the last person who hates to be realistic, but there is irony inherent in the phrase, Freedom of the Press. Granted, we all have a right to publish newspapers and books, but there will always be copy editors and a need for space which helps to sell and run our newspapers. However, what happens when a newspaper makes up details or even misrepresents facts. Have you ever noticed how small and ineffective a retraction is. I did not seem to notice one after last week's false report that the Student Senate broke the law and voted to confirm

a nominee in executive session. In reality, no vote can be taken in a session of this nature. Who checks the media? Will they always have the last word?

In conclusion, it seems ironic that almost every institution has some system of checks and balances, except the media. There is no doubt that we need newspapers to report some opinions about various aspects of our life and the world in which we live. However, when will we push aside the simple irony that the media is supposed to report the facts, not divert people's attention from the real issues that are affecting our campus and world today? I would suggest that, until we have more intelligent and responsible individuals, there is a need for copy editors and viewpoint editors, because they are the individuals who are the ethical center of our society and press. I would argue that just maybe we need these individuals because of the actions of Kris Wustrow and Mr. Davenport. How ironic: the individuals who think they are practicing free press are actually destroying it. And while I am in favor of capitalism, true democracy, and an absolute free press, I will not forsake the character of individuals and human kind as a means to those ends.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## Conservative publication needs objectivity

**Alumni provides missing information**

This past week, our mailboxes were stuffed with copies of The Spectator, a paper glorifying the Republican party. I found this paper to be offensive, narrow-minded and overly critical. This paper consisted of 15 pages of biased articles that demanded that everyone fit into their idea of what a "normal" person is like. They need to realize that everyone is not the same and that they can't expect everyone to be just like them. They used the lowest possible methods to prey on people's prejudices of things different than them. Then, for some reason, they couldn't seem to understand why the Gamecock got student activity fees. Do they not realize that they insult a large segment of the USC population with their shallow, slanted remarks? Ironically, they feel that your publication "insults the intelligence of USC students" by "brainwashing" them while their presentation of just one side of the story does just these things. Not one of their articles is more than an editorial which tells the story like they want the reader to see it. Do they not think we are intelligent enough to hear both sides of a story and create our own opinions? They are an insult to journalists everywhere. They try to convince their readers to be Republicans, but if they represent what Republicans stand for, I want to be a Democrat! Keep up the good work, Gamecock. The Spectator can't see much because it's wearing blinders.

**Homeless series only touches on causes**

I would like to provide you with some additional information that should have been included in the "Chime Time" story printed in the September 1 issue of The Gamecock. The chimes at Rutledge Chapel were donated to the university by the alumni of Chi Omega Sorority. They were presented to the university in honor of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Eta Gamma chapter of Chi Omega here at USC. Alumni collected over \$10,000 to pay for the chimes which the entire university community has enjoyed for 20 years. The sisters of Chi Omega are very proud to have contributed to the Carolina tradition and would like to receive credit for our donation to the university.

dial, support and maintenance positions. These individuals are as interested in the success of our students as anyone on campus and their level of commitment to excellence is unsurpassed. As an administrator, I realize that any success realized by me or members our administrative staff is most likely due to the efforts of the employees cited by Mr. Robertson. Thank you for their recognition and let me add my appreciation to these employees who are the core of USC family. They deserve our utmost respect.

Gene Luna  
Director of Housing

**College Republicans violated Constitution**

When the Gamecock first announced its running of a series on homelessness and panhandling I assumed that the article was going to blame homelessness on the Reagan administration and those evil, uncaring capitalists in Washington. However, I was surprised to see an informative, well written and researched article. However, the article failed to mention some of the known causes of homelessness. According to the Department of Agriculture 1987 report on the subject, homelessness is brought on by a combination of events, such as mental patient "deinstitutionalization," alcohol abuse, non-enforcement of vagrancy laws, and de facto legalization of drug use, among others. In the public policy

sector virtually nobody believes that homelessness can be solved by mass housing and/or cash grants (however, it was rumored that Ted Kennedy and Marion Barry offered to take drugs and alcohol off the streets one gram or shot at a time, but this was politely refused). Donating money to places like Oliver Gospel Mission may make some people feel good, hold hands and sing "Kumbaya." But ultimately what happens is your money is often subsidizing someone's destructive behavior. I am not denying that some positive aspects of shelters exist, but merely to state that homeless people are not helped by a handout from a well-meaning, but naive, student.

S.H. Edwards  
Senior

**Housing director thanks columnist**

Upon reading Trevor Spencer's column of his experience with the "all-loving" college Republicans and their prophet, Pat, I was not surprised. However, I was surprised that the hired help conveniently amended the constitution last week. I'd actually like to know if any action has been taken against the College Republicans by the university for Trevor's unjustifiable treatment and the false advertising?

Deo Bhamhani  
Junior

## write now

Reader responses are welcome. Letters should be between 200 and 250 words in length and should be delivered personally to Student Media in Russell House room 333

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**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.

Debby Hames  
Broadcast Journalism

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 editors 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.