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Editorial Board

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

Include everybody under blanket of creed

Once again, we of the university community is granted the chance to turn our collective eye upon ourselves and find out if whether or not we practice what we preach.

Today is National Coming Out Day. This day is designed to promote awareness and acceptance by providing homosexuals and bisexuals a gateway for expressing their sexual orientation.

The Carolinian Creed advocates promoting and accepting diversity. According to the Creed, we should all try to learn from the differences among us. One would like to think that homosexuals and bisexuals, two groups that are severe minorities, would be included in these ideals.

Unfortunately, little has been said or done on the university's part to help promote awareness of this event. In fact, most students have probably not heard of NCOD.

Couple this with President John Palms' refusal to add a sexual orientation clause to the university's equal opportunity statement, and one might get the impression that a certain group is being forgotten.

Are we only supposed to accept a certain amount of diversity? Can we only learn from a few different groups? Why have homosexuals and bisexuals not been included under what seems to be a blanket statement?

If we can't include everybody due to some political controversy, aren't the ideals that the Carolina community is promoting rather empty?

Verdict marks national divisions on race line

America's pastime culminated last week, and now it's over. The 15 month season has come to an end. The Braves didn't win this one. Neither did the Indians or the Yankees. Nope, not the Reds either. In fact, there were no winners; only losers.

Hopefully, you have figured out that I am not writing about baseball. I am writing about the pastime that replaced baseball. It started two months before 1994's strike.

A fallen American sports hero was riding in his white Ford Bronco down the highways of Los Angeles as the whole country watched. This hero, who played football for Southern Cal and the Buffalo Bills, stood accused of the gruesome murder of both his ex-wife and her friend.

Now, I am not going to tell you that my judgement as to Mr. Simpson's guilt or innocence is superior to the twelve jurors who watched every detail of the trial. Maybe O.J. really is innocent. If he is truly innocent, then I am thankful an innocent man's life has been spared.

What troubles me is not necessarily the jury's decision. I will give them the benefit of the doubt and hold respect for their decision. It is the reaction of a significant segment of our population which deeply troubles me.

ABC news has conducted several polls which finds that an overwhelming percentage of white Americans believe O.J. is guilty of murder. On the other hand, these polls find that an overwhelming percentage of black Americans believe O.J. is not guilty. This same division between white and black Americans exist on many if not most other issues of the day.

If each person who believes O.J. is not guilty also believes someone else committed the murders, then I would have no problem with their belief. But, it is painfully obvious that most of O.J.'s supporters believe that he should have been acquitted as a means to make up for past discrimination in America's judicial system. This is the same line of thinking which affirmative action supporters usually invoke.

Let me say I do believe many black Americans have been discriminated against by the judicial system in the

TOMMY TOUCHBERRY
Columnist

past. This is a fact beyond dispute. Before title VII was passed in the 1960's, black Americans did not have proper protection under the law. Unfortunately, the original intent of title VII has been diluted with massive liberalism.

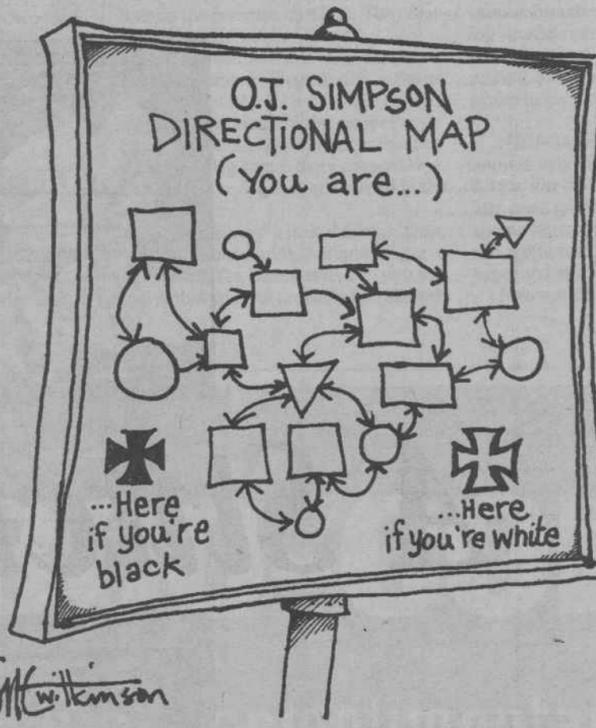
Any individual who believes that a possible murderer should be acquitted to make up for past racial discrimination is dead wrong. Also, any individual who celebrates Mr. Simpson's acquittal is basically celebrating the crime of wife-battering. There is absolute proof that O.J. physically and mentally abuse his ex-wife. A person with this type of character should never be respected or celebrated. He should be considered what he is at the very least: a wife-beater.

I would like to close with some comments directed toward the majority of (not all) black students. As a white American, it is very hard for me to understand your problems and to want to help you when you say some of the things you say and do some of the things you do.

For instance, the very idea that we should sacrifice a color-blind society for affirmative action is appalling to me. Also, the idea that the government owes you something because of discrimination against your ancestors is equally as appalling.

Furthermore, the reaction of many black Americans to recent court rulings is truly offensive. The mobs of celebration following the O.J. verdict (as if you had just won the World Series) is sickening. The reaction to the Rodney King verdict (in disagreement by rioting is inexcusable.

I hope in the future, a greater number of black Americans will turn away from the hatred expressed by these actions. I hope many black Americans will tell Jesse Jackson to stop his racist attacks, and stand behind black political leaders who are trying to change America for the good. Leaders like Alan Keyes, Colin Powell, Armstrong Williams and Clarence Thomas are black Americans we can all rally behind.



Stiff Wilkinson



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"The biggest step was coming out to myself after many, many years of denial."
USC student Jonathan O'Conner, on disclosing his homosexuality

Let's be civil: settle differences without hostility

TRAV ROBERTSON
Columnist

The ties that bind us as people may sometimes seem few and far between. However, I suggest that there is one thing, one bond, one capability that binds us all together.

This characteristic or flaw of human nature is that we are able to formulate opinions. As a result, we as individuals are apt to argue with one another quite frequently.

Individuals will argue in order to allow opinions to prevail or merely to protect pride. We as people are capable of arguing over the most minute things which in turn lead to larger conflicts or ramifications, such as war.

Examples of this are, the crisis in Bosnia, the bombing in Oklahoma, or the shouting matches that occurred in the halls of our national Congress over the Medicare and Medicaid debate.

Now, I do not suggest that a conflict of opinions is a bad thing. On the contrary, many of our countries greatest achievements have come from this free flow of ideas. I am suggesting that we as a people need to focus more on discussing these differences of opinions rather than arguing. This will be evident through an analysis of conflict on two levels. First, one must look at this

conflict or arguing on an individual level. Second, we as a collective whole must analyze the conflict on a global level.

Despite what many of you think I too am guilty of arguing and not listening and discussing differences of opinions. Last week several friends and I had a disagreement over something that I thought was very important.

Personally, I feel that no matter what the situation, every person should be allowed to speak. The three of us are very opinionated and as stubborn as a pack of jackasses, so naturally this difference of opinions lead to the argument and conflict that was mentioned earlier.

While I still believe that I was right, I was wrong to get us involved in a conflict. This conflict led somewhat to a rift between my self and two people that are great friends of mine.

The point is that when we are led to conflict instead of discussion many parties end up worse than when they started. Individuals never realize the effect an argument or conflict can have on the

circle of friends which one surrounds himself with. If we had, if I had, merely discussed the problem there would have been no problem at all.

There is another aspect to this argument. In some parts of our city, state, and country individuals would have settled this ridiculous conflict with violence.

We are lucky, in that we live in an environment, unlike others, which does not answer problems with guns. We live in a time and age where this type of argument is sometimes settled with the death of one or more of the individuals involved. I assert that our inability to discuss and our readiness to argue has plunged us head first into a society with the same mendacity.

If we are not able to discuss differences of ideas between one another as individuals how can we possibly discuss differences as collective wholes between countries, nations, and other entities? I would dare argue that there is some type of link between individuals not being able to discuss and the act of conflict between and in countries.

Why did it take so long and so many deaths before the warring factions in Bosnia decided to call a temporary cease

fire? I would argue that the ramifications of this conflict or argument will be felt for years. Is there something new to be discussed that could not have been discussed months ago? Or did the factions decide that enough had been killed.

Our own country is seeing a new wave of horrific events. Mondays train bombing was terrible. Are these groups afraid to discuss rather than kill people? What could be so bad that a group of the "Gestapo Band" could not have simply asked to discuss the problems with the country?

Our government even has the ability to argue and enter into conflict. However, it much more responsive to the discussion of differences of ideas rather than to enter into conflict. However, there are times when the government does go astray from these principles, we the people have to set them on the right course again.

In conclusion, one can see that on an individual level of analysis discussing the difference of ideas instead of arguing about them will not prevent friendships from being lost but also help us learn that conflicts on a global level should be viewed for discussion, not conflict.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

USC Students need to unify, mingle a little bit more

What is it with all of the disassociation between the multicultural races on campus? I am sure that I'm not the only student to notice this particular issue. From my one-and-a-half month stay here on campus, I have noticed the disassociation of races in the classrooms, social events and in public areas.

In just about all of my classes, the trend I've noticed is whites sitting with whites, blacks sitting with blacks and foreigners sitting with foreigners. I ask myself, "Why does it have to be this way?" I guess the other students think that it is this way.

Well, if they do, I think they are very wrong. The majority of the time a problem may occur, and this causes teamwork, which leads to students of different races coming together to work the problem out. The teamwork method, within the classes, has helped me, and I'm sure will help someone else, too, to create a strong relationship with other races, which could be a great asset.

When it comes to social events, like parties, for example, it seems that one race will have a party of their own, while at the same time, another race will have a party of their own. I truly believe that if we stop having all of these separate parties an just have one huge party, race relations would increase dramatically.

This issue also plays a big part in USC's public areas, such as the restaurants. Every time I go and eat at one of the campus dining areas, Russell House in particular, very rarely do I see a mixture of races dining at one table together. So it is safe to say that the restaurant and classroom scene are very much alike.

Being the well-rounded person that I am, I strongly suggest that we give

each other a chance and explore one another's background. After all, getting to know other people is supposed to be a part of the USC experience. With this important message in mind, I leave you with this thought again: Does it hurt to mingle a little?

Dexter D. Zimmerman
Civil engineering freshman

All conservatives don't fit liberal stereotype

I am writing in response to the letter written by Deanna K. Harrell in Wednesday, October 4 issue of the Gamecock.

I am a white, very conservative Southern male. I would like to inform Ms. Harrell that we are in the United States of America. So "what has happened to free speech," you ask? It's called freedom to print and distribute The Carolina Spectator. Although I do not agree with the tactics Mr. Davenport used (giving addresses and phone numbers), I agree with the contents of the Spectator because it speaks from a conservative point of view. Just as it is your choice to leave this campus, it is also your choice to read the Spectator or trash it! It's that simple!

Let me also inform you, Ms. Harrell, that we do not get into a big uproar here at USC over trivial matters. As a matter of fact, there is no need for a rally or protest. We conservatives have just as much right to publish and distribute our material as you have the right to publish and distribute your left-wing propaganda! That is freedom of speech and press.

Finally, I get tired of liberals like you labeling conservatives like me as fascists, bigots and hate-mongers. I, like many of my conservative colleagues, am none of the above.

Ms. Harrell, let me leave you with a couple of questions. If you are so "open-minded" and "tolerant," then why are you leaving this campus? Why? Because you and your other close-minded, liberal friends can only tolerate liberal beliefs and points of view.

Steve Knight
Political science senior

Universities should follow uniform system

As a transfer student, one has to wonder why USC has such different criteria than other universities.

Why can't we change our college system and have a state-to-state system where every school has set standards? What is important for the future an education, or are we more interested in the money the colleges can make off of the students who want an education?

After five English classes, do I need to take English 101 again, just because my first English class I took did not meet all the requirements? Don't get me wrong, we could all benefit from taking English 101 again, but should we pay for it with every move we make?

Also, I have a year of history but not in the time frames they require here. Is having this different history going to make me a better rounded student? I think not.

As for the cultural awareness classes, I think they would benefit the aver-

age college student who has not see other cultures and lifestyles but for those of us who have been to other culturally diverse areas I don't think it is as important.

All in all I was coming to this university as a senior, but with transferring here, to my surprise I need two more years.

Having a foreign language is a great thing, but do all of us retain our foreign languages? Speaking for the majority, no. But you have to be able to pass the proficiency test to see where you place, and if you were to transfer you might have to take these classes over.

With the system we now have, after you leave the counselors initial counseling session, the appropriate response should be, "Glad to welcome you to USC, and as a student here your pockets will become considerably smaller with every extra English, History and foreign language class you need to get your degree." Buenas dias y buenas suertes!

Chris Bunch
Sociology senior

write now

Reader responses are welcome. Letters should be between 200 and 250 words and should be delivered personally to The Gamecock, Room 333 of the Russell House



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