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Housing solution focuses on freshmen

As you may know, USC is facing a bit of a problem with its housing situation. Maxcy is scheduled for renovation, and both Baker and Burney will be demolished.

All of these changes translate into a loss of 600 on-campus living spaces. This loss comes in conjunction with a freshman class that's as big as the university has seen in years.

Apparently, housing officials believe they have the problem solved. LaBorde will no longer be used for guest housing and single-person housing, tripling its capacity. The possibility of housing more undergraduates in Bates West exists as well.

If the university can actually find spots for all of those students who want to live on campus, that's all the better. They deserve applause.

However, the question remains as to whether or not inexpensive housing will be available (Maxcy is the most inexpensive residence hall on campus). When supply decreases, and demand stays the same, a price increase ensues (although the university hasn't indicated an increase yet). Expensive housing may cut back on the number of people who can live on campus.

Also, freshmen will take priority with the housing department. All freshmen will be guaranteed spaces on campus, while upperclassmen will have to battle for the spaces they want. Each class should have the same representation next year, but upperclassmen will probably have a more difficult time getting the type of housing they want.

Of course, giving freshman priority draws students and sets a good academic foundation, but what about those who have paid their dues?

Perhaps the logistics of the housing situation could have been thought through a bit more before three dorms were shut down. Happy hunting!



Baseball will always be heart of America

BRAVES WIN! BRAVES WIN! Those were the famous words uttered by Skip Carey after the Braves won the 1992 NLCS.

That night it took a miracle comeback in the bottom of the ninth to deliver the Braves on to the World Series. This time the Braves left the late inning heroics behind and proceeded to dominate the postseason.

The Braves have been the best baseball team of the 1990s. No question about it. They played in the World Series in 1991, 1992, and this season. They also advanced to the LCS in 1993. They have the best pitching staff in baseball, one of the best in baseball history.

And now they have taken the final step. Oct. 28th, 1995; a date which will live in infamy for all Braves fans. Last Saturday will remain in my memory for a long, long time.

The Braves were back in the friendly confines of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium for game six of the World Series. Tom Glavine, my favorite player, was on the mound for this crucial game. Overshadowed by his teammate Greg Maddux, Glavine has remained the second best pitcher in baseball. Saturday night he proved his standing.

Glavine pitched a masterful game. He shut down the high-powered offense of the Cleveland Indians for eight shutout innings. David Justice provided the lone home run which gave the Braves their 1-0 lead.

Mark Wohlers closed the deal in the ninth. His final pitch was a high fly to deep left-center field. Marquis Grissom glided over to make the catch which made the Atlanta Braves the 1995 World Champions of baseball.

I, like many Atlanta fans, have suffered through years of losing seasons. The Falcons have never been to a Super Bowl, the Hawks have never won an NBA Championship, and, until Saturday night, the Braves had not won the World Series since moving to Atlanta in 1966.

In addition, my college has never won a championship in any sport either. USC, like the Braves, had made it to the brink of a championship in several sports including football (1984), basketball (1969), base-

TOMMY TOUCHBERRY

Columnist

ball (1977), and soccer (1993).

Although I am a huge fan of Gamecock football and a fairly big fan of Gamecock basketball, my favorite sport has always been baseball. While others criticize baseball for its problems with the recent strike and the arrogance of some players, I continue to believe baseball is America's national past time. It is definitely my national past time.

I can't think of anything more American than a young boy playing baseball. If I were to send a foreign visitor to one event which represents America the best, it would be a baseball game.

As a kid, I played baseball myself. I was a pitcher through most of my childhood. At age 13, I was the star pitcher for my senior league team. Our team won the league championship and I was the main force behind our success. Using a style very similar to Tom Glavine, I pitched three shutouts and had a 10-1 record that season.

I pitched two complete games during the playoffs and recorded the final out of the championship game. That season was one of the most fun times in my entire life. I loved baseball, it was as simple as that.

Unfortunately, when I was 15 I messed up my rotator cuff in my pitching arm and was never again a successful pitcher. But, I look back on those years with great fondness. Baseball allowed me the opportunity to make some great friends.

It was also something that involved my whole family. My dad managed most of my little league and senior league teams. My mom and my sister were at almost every game. And my grandparents came to as many games as they could. Watching me play baseball was one of my grandfather's very favorite times.

Baseball is, in essence, what America is all about. It's about people coming together for a common purpose. It's about fans pulling for their favorite team. And it is about dads and sons throwing the ball in the yard.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"The university's first priority is to provide housing for freshmen. It is proven that freshmen excel better academically when they live on campus."

Susan Simpson, Preston Residence Hall Director, on the changes in next year's housing

Where do we look to find hope for the future?

TRAV ROBERTSON

Columnist

Ethnic cleansing between the Serbs and the Bosnians. A youth in Columbia shoots another youth and gets off. AIDS. Gangs killing gangs from New York to New Orleans to California.

Kids killing kids and babies having baby's. Republicans bicker with the Democrats. The post graduation job search. These are the issues that are facing not only our country but our world.

Where did these problems come from and where do they stop. We in this country are constantly focused on blaming individuals or certain groups for each of these problems.

For example, heterosexuals blame homosexuals for aids. Whites blame blacks for the crime and blacks blame society for not giving them a chance to compete, therefore damning them to a life below the poverty level and stuck on welfare. When will there be an end to the bickering and a concentration on instilling Hope in the psyche of the people of this world?

Is this hopeless? I believe it was on "60 minutes" which I heard a young gang member assert that the main reason that certain lower income youths joined gangs and resorted to drive by shootings was because, "this is the best our life is going to be. What do we have to look forward to? We have no reason to hope."

I wish I could become the same hap-

py go lucky person I was when I first entered this university four years ago. Back then I had hope. I am a white middle class male who is 22 years old who can relate to that gang member. The cynicism that has encroached my mind and soul has left me yearning for some type of hope.

Quite frankly, I don't see any hope for the future of our country. Could this bleakness that is encompassing our world be the final means to our final ends or is this a stage of history inscribing itself on the chest of humanity?

Some ask why should you hope for anything better, we already have more than most individuals have, or will have, in their lifetimes. This is true, however, these material items that we obtain still leave something to be desired. My search for this one little tidbit of idealistic hope has led me to an inquiry of several areas which people seem to gather hope.

First, there is religion. People all over the world, including our governor, use religion and faith as a source of hope. I would dare to say that faith and the hope of which I speak are intertwined. However, it seems very hard for me to

put hope or faith into a religion which would allow the massacre of thousands of innocent people in the Balkan Islands.

Why would God allow an individual to sink so low that he would take his own life or the life of another individual? Why would God allow our society to sink so low that we as a people have lost Hope not just for tomorrow, but for the future period?

I fully comprehend that the purpose of religion is to have undulatory faith, but what if several thousand years ago someone who could read and write decided to add the story about the creation of man and the entire story snowballed from there? I don't want anyone to get the impression that I disrespect people's religion. On the contrary, I have a deep found respect for many religions. I am just trying to find some Hope for the future of our world.

The search for hope then lead to academics. Through Knowledge there is truth, we are taught. We are all affected by individuals who suggest that Hope is part of Knowledge. Our teachers tell us that it is of the utmost importance that we acquire a knowledge, and through this knowledge we can know and find ourselves.

As a result, happiness, truth, and possibly Hope will follow? Knowledge has helped save many lives; however,

was it a good thing to invent the semi-automatic rifle which kids use to kill one another. I may still be ignorant and not know how to think, but the amount of knowledge which has come across my mind has not given me any hope, despite the fact that it has made life easier in some ways.

Knowledge may have given me some form of truth, yet I still wish I had maintained some of the innocence that goes along with youthful idealism that knowledge and truth have taken from me. The intention of my inquiries are not to allow ignorance to take over, but to merely remember that possibly the ignorant are the true bearers of hope for this world.

Because of space I must cut short my inquiry and search for this thing called hope, which gives people a reason a chance to get out of bed.

We, as individuals, must start taking responsibility for our actions. We, as individuals, must remember that when one is called to actions he must be aware that his consequences can put out the small flame of hope or turn that flame into a brush fire. When we do these things we will come to realize the possibility that hope rises from within ourselves and others.

I suppose I will have to continue to put my faith in people in order for them to fill me with some type of hope.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lost boys need guidance, leadership from family

This letter is in response to an editorial in the Oct. 17 issue of The State

There is a problem among black males. Crime rate is high among them. Today, 45 percent of black males ages of 20-29 years old find themselves being arrested for murder, robbery, rape, or aggravated assault (according to the statistics in the article). Are they victims of circumstances? Have they fallen by the wayside? Is there hope for them?

The author of the article, "We must act now and repair the lost boys" states facts about the black man that are cause for concern. However, the method the used in stating the statistics was wrong. The article singles out black men, by stating only the statistics of blacks and no other race. It sends out a message that most black men ages of 20-29 are criminals.

According to the statistics in the article, if they are true, the number of black drug offenders imprisoned increased twice as fast than any other race or gender. African-Americans make up 12 percent of the population, 13 percent of drug users, 33 percent of arrests for drug possessions, 55 percent of convictions for drug possession and 74 percent of prison sentences. Three-fourths of the 55 percent convicted for drugs will go to jail.

These statistics show that if you are black and convicted of possession of drugs you are at a higher risk to go to prison than a person of a different race. The article is quick to point the finger at black

males for crime rate on the rise without examining the cause.

Circumstances play a major role in the life of a black male. Often times black males that commit crimes come from an unstable family background. (Either single parent homes, tossed from relative to relative, or no family at all). There is no one by their side encouraging them to go forward in life, giving them hope. Consequently, they look to the streets for answers. The streets become their family and their home.

In some instances, when black males try to mix with society and do the right thing, they are discriminated against because of the color of their skin. Some whites make black males feel like they are inferior and less of a person. An example of racism, that is known world wide, is the speculation that Mark Furman made racial comments, such as "niggers and their dogs," in the O.J. trial. Racism plays a big part in the path black males take. Prejudice is very evident in society which was shown in the O.J. trial. Some black males are discouraged by racism and feel discriminated against because their black. Others overcome the ignorance of racism and discrimination and prosper in life.

There are young black men trying to become successful in life and are not resorting to lives of crime. This past weekend there were 20,000 men marching in Atlanta with Pastor T.D. Jakes

for the Manpower 3 convention. Monday, Minister Louis Farakhan lead a million man march to Washington.

These events were something positive for the black man, inspirational, and gave them hope for the future. It also displayed unity and a common goal among black males. It is hard to get ahead in the world and even harder for some blacks because they feel that our predominantly white society is against them. But, many are overcoming the odds and becoming role models for our youth and living successful and prosperous lives.

Black males are not objects, such as toys, appliances, or cars that need to be repaired. They are not lost things that need to be found. But like all people, black men need guidance and leadership.

In order to help turn black men around we must locate the problem: lack of leadership, guidance, stable family background and racism. I agree with the authors conclusion, "...concentration on preventing problems." Do not wait until their grown men and have already committed the crime and say "repair the lost boys."

Sean Gallman
Engineering freshman

Athletic teams have right to accurate articles

I am writing in response to the Oct. 26 article pertaining to the women's swimming and diving team. While the sport of swimming may not be well-known on campus, that is no justification to allow blatant inaccuracies to occur in the article.

A simple phone call to the Sports Information Office would have informed Mr. Hunt that Kelly Parker resigned last year as head coach and Beth Harell, former interim head coach at N.C. State, now holds the position. Also, I never qualified for the NCAA Championships held in Austin. I was never informed or interviewed for this article, so I am not clear as to where these quotes attributed to me were obtained.

Other inaccuracies include: Our meets (not matches) are in yards, not meters. Our dual meet record is 4-0 and our conference season begins Oct. 27 and Oct. 29 with meets against Tennessee and Kentucky. We swim Clemson in November and they are not a member of the SEC. The College of Charleston meet was a relay meet and no individual swimmer could possibly have won an event.

I am a journalism major and was appalled at the lack of editing and apparent laziness to obtain correct information. All sports, large and small, male or female, deserve the respect of accurate articles.

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