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Editorial Board

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Faculty should be included in decisions

Not too long ago, we told you about the effort to shut down the USC research facility known as the Wedge.

As you may know, the Wedge is a center used by the School of Public Health to research various diseases and provide students with an excellent opportunity for training. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

The decision to close the Wedge is an economic one. According to university officials, the Wedge's hefty budget is pulling money away from other worthy causes.

The debate over how university money should be spent could go on forever. Some feel that the university should seek other sources, such as grants or endowments, to fund other projects and retain the current budget for the Wedge. Others think the lowcountry research facility has received too much money for too long.

This debate over economic priority is not really the issue, though. The most disconcerting aspect of this decision is that it was made without consulting the faculty. The closing of the Wedge stems from the decision of the Provost, not from a vote from the faculty.

Furthermore, some administrators seem to be confused about the status of the Wedge. One administrator told a reporter from The Gamecock that the facility was not for sale. However, USA Today wrote that the Wedge was in fact on the market for \$15 million. Is this a case of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing? Perhaps it's a function of the large bureaucracy at USC. One would hate to think that anyone is being purposefully elusive.

Keep the "Save the Wedge" effort alive. Force somebody to hear you. Then maybe they won't make dictatorial decisions the next time.

Student government needs adjustments

As a Student Government senator, I've had first-hand experience in dealing with the problem of lack of involvement between Student Government and the rest of the student body.

With only 9 to 10% voting participation in annual Student Government elections, and most students don't know who the senators are who are elected to represent them. It is obvious that if student government to improve at this university, adjustments in both student government and in the rest of the student body need to be made. Pointing fingers and attributing blame for this problem is unnecessary and, basically, counterproductive.

First, in regards to the student body, I, of course, would like to encourage increased involvement with student government. In the most recent student government elections, voting percentages indicate that the students elected to make important decisions that could affect most, or all, of the students at USC are only representative of one in 10 students at this university.

It is my understanding that many students feel that student government doesn't do anything and, therefore, there is no use getting involved. On the contrary, if you do feel that way about student government, that makes it even more important to get involved because student government's purpose should be to serve the student body. If you feel that student government isn't effectively serving the student body, the best way to CHANGE student government is through increased student involvement, not less involvement.

You may ask, "How does one go about changing student government?" Well, there are several ways. First, you should find out who your elected representatives are (in the student government office) and frequently contact them to express your concerns in order to make student government more accountable and responsible to the rest of the student body.

During every Wednesday af-

JAMEL FRANKLIN

Guest Columnist

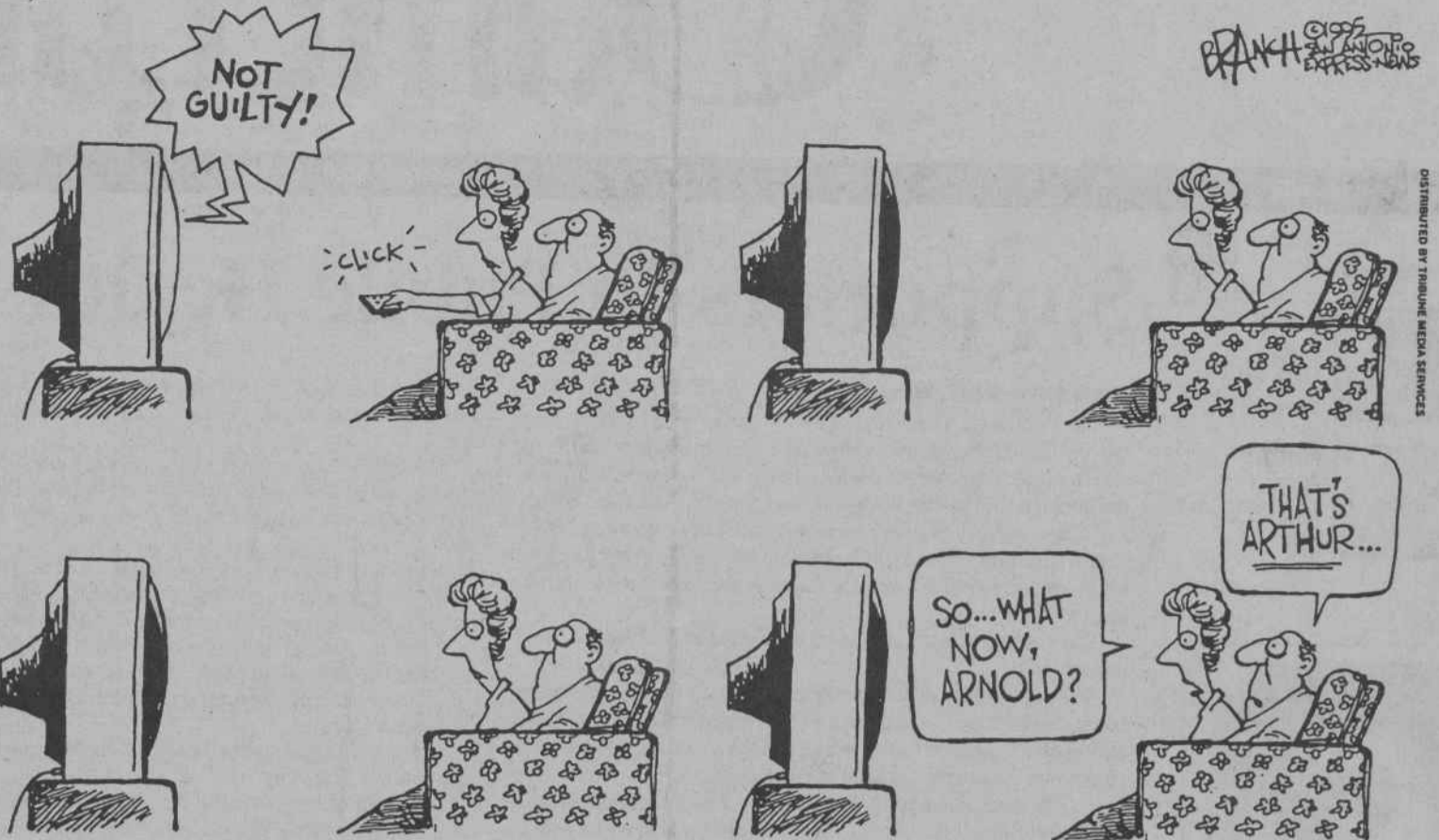
ternoon at 5 p.m. in the Russell House Theater, you can attend senate meetings to see just how your activity fees are being spent. Also, you can simply use your vote to transform student government into the kind of institution you feel it should be. Besides, it is YOUR student government.

In terms of efforts needed to be made by student government, I would recommend a collective effort to become more visible in the student body by communicating in person with organizations more frequently and by a continuous effort to show students that student government can make a difference if enough of the students are involved in voting and in communicating their ideas with student government members.

There are many effective leaders in student government. That leadership should channel its efforts into changing the perception of ineffectiveness that many students feel about student government. Election time should not be the only time that the student body sees student government out in force trying to "change" things around campus. The only way to fight apathy and cynicism is with a constant year-round effort.

The things I've written about are easy to say, but most difficult to execute. Only a collective effort on the part of both student government and the rest of the student body will be effective in ultimately solving this problem of lack of student involvement in student government.

I once again emphasize, if you feel that student government is ineffective, increased student involvement is the best way to improve that situation. An effective student government can be an invaluable tool, not only in representing the opinions and concerns of the student body, but also in improving campus life at USC in general.



QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"If it could happen to the Wedge, it could happen to other programs at USC."

Francisco Sy of the School of Public Health, on the closing of the Wedge

Militant feminists not representative of women

LARRY WILLIAMS

Columnist

Me: "Hello, ma'am. I'm sorry, but I just had to compliment you - you are a very attractive woman." Militant feminist: WHACK! "How dare you, you disgusting, foul mouthed, pig! What about my brain?!"

Sorry, I couldn't hold back any longer from this issue. It's actually quite amusing, in a serious, ho-humorous sort of way, if that makes any sense. But my question to the oh so many radical feminists around the world is: "What's your point? Did you not get enough attention in grade school? Do you feel that, now that you have an education, you have to stand up for something? And, most of all, who, or what, gave you the fundamental belief that men are the downfall of society?"

Let me make this clear. There are feminists, who are pro-woman, and there are femi-Nazis, which are anti-man. It's the latter which I take issue with. The belief amongst militant feminists is that women no longer need men, and that's appalling.

First off, I don't hate women (with a couple of exceptions, of course). A person who questions the doomsday alarmism of some environmentalists does not hate the earth because he or she does so. A columnist who criticizes Governor David Beasley does not nec-

essarily hate him because he or she does so (though many might). A person challenging racial quotas is not racist because he or she does so. And I, because I have differences with militant feminism, do not hate women because of them.

Despite what some may believe, the views of feminist leaders are not that of mainstream America. The feminist leadership does not represent the average woman, and their views are completely out of touch with the plurality of women. "Time" magazine reported that 63 percent of American women reject the feminist label.

When we look at a few feminist leaders and examine what they have to say, we can see that they represent a spiteful, pugnacious, and, of course, militant side of personality. Instead of hoping to equalize the status of women, as many people think, they instead want to see women separated from men. Sheila Cronen, one of the feminist movement's most "respected" leaders, had this to say about marriage.

"Since marriage constitutes slav-

ery for women, it is clear that the women's movement must concentrate on attacking marriage. Freedom for women cannot be attained without the abolition of marriage."

Or, consider the following from the "National Organization for Women Times," from January, 1988: "The simple fact is, every woman must be willing to be recognized as a lesbian to be fully feminine."

To discredit the fact that nature, not society, has defined behavioral roles for men and women (like feminists do) is absurd. Social critic George Golder wrote a book in the 1980's with undue influence entitled "Men and Marriage."

In his work, Gilder introduced the theory that civilization would not have developed unless the natural tendencies of man were subordinated to the natural tendencies of women. He explained that women are, by nature, more nurturing and caring. He also iterated that men, if left to their predisposition, are likely to roam and avoid taking responsibility for anything but their own desires; however, when a man and woman mated and the woman gave birth, the man was forced to assume responsibility and subordinate his natural tendencies.

In feminism's defense, the move-

ment does have traces of some sort of integrity. The women's movement began as a genuine and unaffected effort to improve conditions. Original concerns of feminists were more than legitimate, such as gaining equal pay for equal work, or abolishing sexual harassment. These issues were understandably confronted.

However, nowadays, groups like NOW (National Organization of Women) have leaders that believe that to love and to need men would somehow set women back. They attempt to attack the traditional role of women because they hold convictions that that role is responsible for making them subservient to men.

Feminism isn't its own entity — it affects Americans whether we like it or not. It has had a profound impact in the middle class by convincing women that they don't need men and can do just as well as single mothers.

Because it has become socially acceptable to have an illegitimate child with the government taking the place of the father, the real fathers of these children are free to do away with the responsibility and results of their own actions. And so goes the concept of a family.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have something on your mind, or something you want to get off your chest? Are there issues around campus that you think need to be addressed, but never are? Are you tired of the politics of this university, the state of South Carolina, the Federal Government, or the world in general? Do you have a gripe about the way you've been treated in a class by a professor? Maybe you saw something in The Gamecock that made you steaming mad, or something that made your day. Maybe you think this paper is a waste of student money. Maybe you think it's the best thing in print. Or you might just be aching to be heard.

YOUR LETTER HERE

Whatever your thoughts are, don't let them sit inside you and fester like a sore. Put your thoughts down on a sheet of paper and ship it to The Gamecock before you explode like a runaway gas tanker. Share your thoughts with 26,000 people in one fell swoop. Impress your friends and relieve all that pent-up tension. Take the opportunity to express yourself freely... almost. See the staff box for your limitations on length. Also, keep in mind that The Gamecock reserves the right to take certain liberties with your letter, like editing those nasty four-letter words. We want to hear what you have to say. Write now.

A Closer Look



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The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published Tuesday through 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.