

# Ammunition in the privacy war

What would you say if I told you that for the past 28 months, the U.S. government was investigating an American who has provided munitions to thousands—perhaps millions—of people around the world?

You might wonder what his motivation has been. Is he an arms dealer? Is he a terrorist? Is he nuts? Actually, he's a software programmer trying to protect your right to privacy. You have probably never heard of him. You were probably too busy watching O.J.

But you should get to know him. The cause he stands for, namely the right to private telecommunication for all, is one of the most important issues of our time.

His name is Philip Zimmerman, and last week he learned the U.S. attorney's office in San Jose, Calif. was dropping its investigation of him after almost two and a half highly publicized years. Zimmerman, 41, was investigated because a sophisticated software encryption scheme he created, called Pretty Good Privacy (PGP), had been exported outside of the United States.

U.S. law regards cryptography software and devices as munitions, and it prohibits advanced cryptography created in this country from being

exported elsewhere.

Federal law enforcement agencies are concerned foreign terrorists, drug dealers and other criminals will encrypt files and communications, thus eluding U.S. surveillance. That's why you see software programs that use encryption, such as Netscape Navigator, come in separate U.S. and worldwide versions. The worldwide releases feature crippled or paired down encryption capabilities.

After its creation in 1990, the high-caliber, U.S. version of PGP somehow appeared on the Internet, and it can now be found on computers around the globe. This was viewed rather melodramatically by the Justice Department as the dissemination of a "munition" and led to the investigation of Zimmerman.

The law against cryptography export and the investigation of Zimmerman have both been ill-conceived exercises in futility.

The federal government has been naive (surprise!) in the belief it can regulate the spread of software. It doesn't

seem to realize the Internet is a high-speed network, operating 24 hours a day and answerable to no one. To think the government can keep software from moving over a network it doesn't control is lunacy.

Even worse, the law against encryption export demonstrates the arrogance of the government. Is the American ego really so bloated we think people of other nations can't develop their own cryptography of equal or better caliber than PGP?

Law enforcement agencies should be attempting to combat the encryption methods of other countries instead of trying to stifle our own.

Although they won't admit it, I believe the higher ups at the Justice Department might finally be starting to see the light. Maybe the conclusion of the Zimmerman case means they have learned something. I certainly hope so.

Personally, I believe Phil Zimmerman deserves a pat on the back, not an indictment. By creating free and powerful encryption for the masses, he has single-

handedly ensured that no one can read your information if you don't want them to.

If you would like more information on PGP, or would like a copy of it, point your web browser to the International PGP Page at <http://www.ifi.uio.no/pgp/>. PGP is available free of charge for almost all major computing platforms.

Interestingly, Zimmerman hasn't stopped his privacy crusade with PGP. He has just released PGPfone, software that encrypts phone calls made through a computer modem using a complex algorithm called Blowfish. (Think he's a Hootie fan?)

The digital version of your voice conversation is encrypted at one end and then decrypted at the other. The technical quality isn't great, but the guaranteed privacy certainly is. For more information, point your web browser to <http://web.mit.edu/network/pgpfone/>.

Marc LaFountain, a journalism senior, can be e-mailed at [lafountain-mar@usc.edu](mailto:lafountain-mar@usc.edu). To subscribe to an electronic version of this column, send email to [listen@univscvm.csd.sc.edu](mailto:listen@univscvm.csd.sc.edu) with "SUB T-BABBLE YourFirstName YourLastName" in the body of the message.



TECHNOBABBLE  
Marc LaFountain



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock

New Clear Days is located on 919 Sumter Street, across from the Horseshoe. The store, which is owned by Dan Cook and Chris Bickel, sells new and used cd's, records and tapes.

## Recycled Tunes

ERICKA ANN WILSON Staff Writer

Most students only hope to get a good job after graduation; others make it happen by opening their own businesses.

That is exactly what USC graduates Dan Cook and Chris Bickel did when they opened their compact disc store, New Clear Days, in June of 1994.

New Clear Days specializes in hard-to-find alternative, punk and independent labels, Bickel said. They mainly buy and sell used CDs, but they also carry new CDs by local independent artists. CDs range in price from \$5 to \$8.50.

In addition to CDs, they have a selection of vinyl records and cassettes.

Opening New Clear Days was basically a spur of the moment idea that Bickel and Cook had a week to act on.

"I don't think it ever entered either of our minds as students," Cook said.

Both Bickel and Cook took out loans

and read business law books before opening their business.

"Basically, we were buying the stock from an existing CD business," Cook said. "Then we changed the name, did some repair work and got business licenses."

Cook's feelings about owning a business were twofold. "It's pretty scary and extremely gratifying," he said.

"It is always changing, and there are lots of record stores in the Columbia area," Cook said.

Lower prices, convenient location and their stock of hard-to-find selections set New Clear Days apart from other music stores, Bickel said.

"We would love to expand, but it's not a possibility in the foreseeable future," Cook said.

New Clear Days is located at 919 Sumter St. Their phone number is 254-4818.

### SOUND ADVICE

ROB BERNSTEN Staff Writer

SPACESUIT Shift  
★★★★ (out of four stars)

One of the most unnoticed music scenes in the country resides in the Big Apple.

For years New York was supposed to be the next big thing, but because of grunge, punk or the Snoop Doggy Clones, NY never garnered attention like Seattle or California.

If they didn't open it, CIV at least got NY's foot in the door last fall, bringing hardcore into the living rooms of the MTV generation.

Shift recently released their first full-length album, "Spacesuit," on Equal

Vision Records, the follow-up to last year's "Pathos" EP.

On record, Shift can be put into the



same progressive hardcore boat as Quicksand, but with a bigger paddle. Shift's guitar hooks and drum loops

are more addictive and melodic than the now split-up Quicksand. Shift is also extremely varied. "Pinprick" and "Cooling" are aggressive and fast paced while the opening acoustics of "Dress Up" make it a catch your breath piece.

"Spacesuit," is also the result of great production. Supervised by Into Another's Richie Birkenhead, the album has a larger, more dramatic sound than "Pathos."

Shift's music is a soundtrack to its poetic lyrics. The words flow without terrible forced rhymes like the Rolling Stones' "Sparks will fly/Sharks will cry." Even when Joshua Loucka sings the simple "I just want you to say my name," it is on the opposite side of the

spectrum from the rehearsed angst in any token Bush song.

"Picturesque" is the best of all that is great about this album. "I have the strength of one man" followed by "don't put me on a pedestal." Just like Nirvana songs, Shift makes the listener go in circles and off on tangents.

The songs could mean one thing, but then again they could mean a million others. The lines "I am still life/I am still Life" display Shift's deepness and maturity with the changing of just one letter.

"Spacesuit" is musically, lyrically and emotionally what separates the good from the Weezer, putting Shift on a level that most bands can't even daydream about reaching.

### People in the News (Associated Press)

■ NEW YORK — B.B. King may be the King of the Blues, but when he listens to music, it's country, gospel, rock 'n' roll, rap and classical.

"I'm a big fan of (Luciano) Pavarotti's," King said. And he did mean big, since he is as rotund as the tenor, of whom he joked, "I like his size, too."

"I can't think of anyone I don't listen to," King said at an appearance Tuesday to publicize a six-day engagement at the legendary Blue Note jazz club.

The bluesman has come a long way

from the Mississippi Delta, where he switched from gospel music because the people who requested blues tipped him.

"But I'm like a turtle," he said. "I carry my roots with me."

■ KINGSTON, Jamaica—Police apologized Wednesday for shooting at Jimmy Buffett's seaplane as it landed off the coast.

The pilot was the only one on board and was not hurt by the two shots that struck the aircraft Tuesday.

An anonymous tip led police to believe the plane was involved in drug trafficking, Commissioner Col. Trevor MacMillan said.

"Aircraft come in here regularly on ganja (marijuana) missions," he said. "Thank God no one was hurt. It was an incident we regret most sincerely."

■ LOS ANGELES — Bob Seger plans to make his first tour in nine years a family affair.

"I made the decision to get a tour bus big enough for me and my family this

time," he said. "I felt like I'd see them a lot more that way."

The rocker and his Silver Bullet Band kick off a 23-city tour Friday in Charleston, S.C.

Seger quit touring to spend time with his ill mother and to start a family. He and his wife, Nita, have two children — 3-year-old son Cole and infant daughter Samantha — and live in Michigan.

"I love being a dad. It's the best thing that ever happened to me," Seger said during a recent visit to Los Angeles.

**Read The Gamecock. What else are you going to do?**

**IMPROVE YOUR NIGHT LIFE.**

Many accidents are caused by car drivers who didn't see the cyclists. Wear reflective gear and bright clothing. And keep your evening from being ruined.

**MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION**

**Student Media**  
The University of South Carolina

## Spring 1996 Treasurer's Workshops

### for Activity Fee-Funded Organizations

Thursday	January 18	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Russell House 315
Thursday	January 18	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Russell House 315
Friday	January 19	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Russell House 322/326

All Student Organizations **MUST** send at least one current officer, preferably the treasurer, to a workshop to remain eligible—or become eligible—to apply for Activity Fee funding. This funding will be for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996.

Budget proposals will be due Thursday, January 25, at 5:00 p.m.

Please call Student Government, 777-2654, or stop by Russell House 110 for more information.

## LOSE 20 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS

Famous U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet

During the non-snow off season the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team members used the "Ski Team" diet to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. That's right - 20 pounds in 14 days! The basis of the diet is chemical food action and was devised by a famous Colorado physician especially for the U.S. Ski Team. Normal energy is maintained (very important!) while reducing. You keep "full" - no starvation - because the diet is designed that way. It's a diet that is easy to follow whether you work, travel or stay at home.

This is, honestly, a fantastically successful diet. If it weren't, the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team wouldn't be permitted to use it! Right? So, give yourself the same break the U.S. Ski Team gets. Lose weight the scientific, proven way. Even if you've tried all the other diets, you owe it to yourself to try the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet. That is, if you really do want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Order today! Tear this out as a reminder.

Send only \$8.95 (\$9.60 in Calif.)-add .50 cents RUSH service to: American Institute, 721 E. Main Street, Dept. 254, Santa Maria, CA 93454-4507. Don't order unless you expect to lose 20 pounds in two weeks! Because that's what the Ski Team Diet will do.

©1995

**DID YOU KNOW?**

A first conviction DUI in the state of South Carolina costs an average of \$13,500. Your drivers license is suspended for 6 months.

Just think of what you could do with all of that money!

**You could take yourself and 32 friends to Cancun for Spring Break!**

Drinking & Driving: Is it really worth the price?

**OUR FRONT DOOR IS YOUR DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY!**

## BECOME A UNIVERSITY AMBASSADOR!

Applications are available at the following locations:

- University Visitor Center
- Russell House
- Information Center
- Student Government Office
- Career Center

Applications are due at one of the mandatory information sessions:

- Sunday, January 21 or
- Wednesday, January 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Visitor Center

For more information, please call the Visitor Center at 777-0169.

**Take a Free Test Drive**

**LSAT MCAT**

**GMAT GRE**

Saturday, February 3 on campus at USC

Call 1-800-KAP-TEST to reserve a seat today!

**KAPLAN**