



Serving USC Since 1908
Wendy Hudson, Editor in Chief • Ryan Wilson, Managing Editor,
Tina Morgan, Brent Seeliger, Viewpoints Editors

Editorial Board

Chris Dixon, Martha Hotop, Karen Layne, Robbie Meek, Tyson Pettigrew, Matt Pruitt
Ryan Sims, Stephanie Sonnenfeld, Cece von Kolnitz, Robert Walton, Allison Williams

**IN OUR OWN
OPINION**

Arrest, SG elections should be noticed

In case you've been asleep for a few days, here are a few things you might like to know.

First, one of USC's finest talents, starting tailback Duce Staley, was arrested early Sunday morning and charged with disregarding a traffic signal, driving without a license and resisting arrest. What does this mean? Well, it can mean that one individual made a mistake. Or, in light of Warren Moon's recent trial, it could be a sign that football players are trained to be too aggressive. If you want to, you could even remember some of the other USC football players that had run-ins with the law, such as Steve Taneyhill and Matt Campbell, and make a general statement about the USC football program.

Another interesting tidbit of news is that Phil Gramm, former Republican hopeful, has withdrawn from the presidential race. You might be asking yourself, "Who cares?" besides Bob Dole, who probably did a cartwheel when he heard the news.

THE TOPIC

There are a lot of things happening in the world around you.

OUR OPINION

Hope you are paying attention.

You might want to give that some thought because this man could have been your president.

Yesterday was Valentine's Day. In case you missed it, your local drug store will have cheap candy for at least a week. Take advantage of the bargain-priced sugar. It is the beginning of midterms, and you just might need it.

In case you need something to do on a lonely Thursday night, the Russell House Union is showing "Get Shorty" at 9 p.m. Where else can you get John Travolta and Gene Hackman together for only \$2?

For all of you living on campus, the housing sign-up sheets are due to your area office today. Don't forget, or you'll get stuck camping out on the Horseshoe next year.

And, oh, by the way, in case you see some guys all dressed up in ties and nice slacks running around handing out stickers and shaking hands, SG elections are today. Why don't you get out of bed and go vote?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Commissioner reminds voters

To those of you who may be fed up with the endless flyers, speeches, handshakes or other tactics the SG candidates have used to solicit your vote, I encourage you to put an end to this campaigning and cast your vote today! To those of you who claim SG has no power, I encourage you to also cast your vote today. To those of you who are either running for an office yourself or know someone who is, I urge you to vote today, as well. Finally, if there are any of you who have somehow not noticed bulletin boards covered with campaign fliers, I just want to tell you that today is the day of the 1996 SG elections.

Why should you vote if you're fed up with campaigning? Cheer up! Candidates are required to remove their flyers after the campaign ends, which is today for most candidates! At least you've noticed the fliers, which obligates you to vote. Since you know that there is an election, I am sure you are a concerned student who believes that the right to vote is also a responsibility. So, stop reading this and go vote!

Why should you vote if you believe SG has no power? I can't think of a better reason to vote! SG will never have as much power as the students desire until more students actually vote. The lack of a mandate creates a lack of power. If you believe SG has no power, then today is your lucky day. It is the day to put the power back in our hands by voting.

Why should you vote if you are running yourself or know someone who is? Well, having met so many of you over the past three weeks, I am confident that you will be the first in line at the polls.

The election is today from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. everywhere except at the Medical School, which will run from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Julie Johns
Elections Commissioner

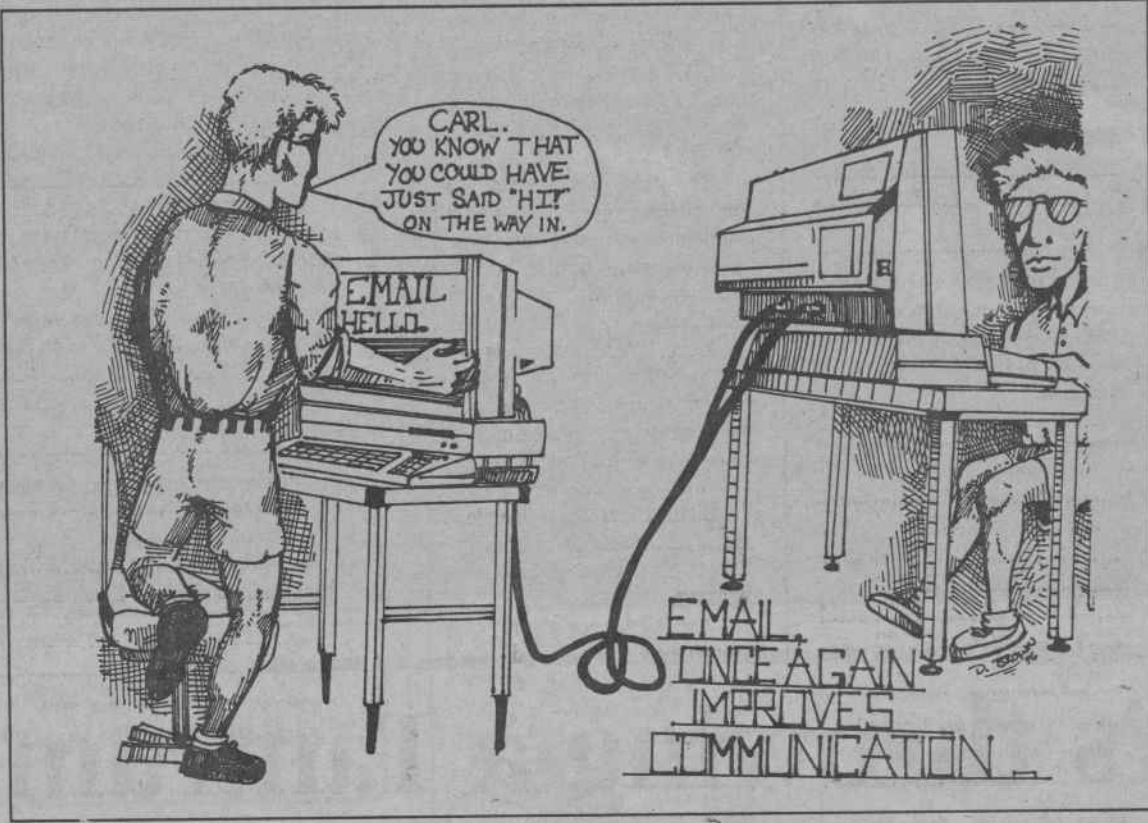
Generation has many defining moments

In response to the article "Future lacks defining moment for generation" (Feb. 13), I have a few questions. Why does a generation have to be "defined"? What is so terrifying about the possibility that our generation may be made up of individuals rather than clones? Do we have to have the devastation of something like Vietnam to make us legitimate?

Our generation has experienced many memorable events. I pity you and your friends if all you can remember is "90210" and MTV. As you mentioned, we had the Challenger and the fall of the Berlin Wall. We also had the Gulf War (although short, it was a victory), the fall of Communism and the break-up of the world's largest country, recession, the tripling of the national debt, the efforts to form a unified Europe, Kresh's Cult, Exxon Valdez, AIDS, the Greenhouse Effect, gay rights and abortion protests, hurricanes, floods, fires and the hostage crisis.

Yes, television and radio (pop culture in general) unite us and reflect who we are as a generation, but we are also influenced by global events and the economy. Don't our elders say we are slackers and that we won't be able to do as well as our parents economically? Doesn't the hopeless view of our future as depicted by the media affect all of our attitudes? Don't let us prove them right! We have a history, and we have a future. We have to discover it and make the most of it.

Kim Stogner
Psychology sophomore



QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"If you lay down and shut up about it, it (crime) is going to get worse."

SG President Amy Bigham

Republicans have a chance in '96 election

Ah, yes. It is political campaign season, and treason is in the air! What a glorious time to be a political watcher! I have been a campaign junkie for a large portion of my life, and I believe the '96 elections will be the most interesting in the latter half of this century.

The potential in the American electorate for three (and maybe four) major political parties is astonishing. I remember getting in flame fights on the Internet that there will never be a significant third party in the United States, but we stand on the brink of seeing that come to pass.

What has changed in the American electorate? I believe there are several factors that lead to this massive change. The first reason is that I believe a significant voter realignment/dealignment has taken place. These two words, realignment and dealignment, are fancy political science words that mean a massive number of voters either went to another party or have become independent. Many political observers have been predicting such a realignment (they occur about every 30 to 50 years), and I think the '94 election might fit the bill.

I can hear the collective jaws of the liberally minded dropping, but let's take a look at the election results. Many liberal political observers want to tag the '94 election as an "anti-incumbent" election, but that simply is not the case. Of all the elections for Congress, only one (count 'em ONE) Republican incumbent lost, whereas upwards of 20 Democrat incumbents lost. For the first time, a sitting Speaker of the House, Tom Foley, was ousted from office. Also, the Republicans won two-thirds of the

open seats. I believe if the mood in the country had been anti-incumbent, then that number would have been more balanced, not obviously slanted in one direction.

By the same token, I don't believe the American people have changed their party loyalty. There has been a huge increase in people not identifying with any party. In my humble opinion, I think a part of the electorate (primarily in the South) has undergone a party realignment from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. There is also a part of the electorate that underwent a party dealignment, and in this election these people identified with the Republican Party.

What has this got to do with anything, you ask? This is an election year, and this mass movement of political loyalty will have an impact on the presidential election. The largest impact will be in a) who the Republicans nominate as their presidential candidate, b) who is Perot's stooge in the "Reform Party" and c) whether or not Jesse Jackson goes through with his long-threatened independent run for the White House.

A lot of people, especially in this newspaper, have been thrashing Bob Dole recently. I will admit the fact he does not inspire a great deal of enthusiasm within the electorate, but his campaign really hasn't started yet. I think he would provide firm, experienced leadership, but I don't think he is what the surly American voters want. Steve Forbes is a paradox. He is an extremely wealthy populist who is

BRIAN GAMBRELL
COLUMNIST

financing his own run for the White House. (Sounds familiar, doesn't it?)

Forbes has a good set of campaign advisors, lots of money and no political strings, which make him a good candidate. But, he has no political experience, and I think the American voters will hold that against him. The reason Carter lost in 1980 and Perot never gained wide popular support is that people recognize that political outsiders are largely ineffective in the presidency.

I think the American voters see that Clinton is not the reformer he said he was. Also, I believe Clinton is not the reformer he said he was. I also believe Clinton and his advisors will fall into a classic election strategy trap. Because of his weak record, he will have to run "against Congress." While the polls (and I love polls, but that is for another day) say the country is scared of Newt and ready to thrash Congress again, look at the approval ratings of the individual Congressmen in their districts. One constant of politics in the U.S. is that the Congress as a whole has a poor approval rating, but the individual ratings are sky high. Most of the sitting Republicans have approval ratings in the 80 percent range.

I don't think the Republicans are going to lose the Congress. In fact, I boldly predict they will actually gain seats in both the House and Senate (and maybe become veto-proof). I think if the Republican contender runs an effective campaign the Republicans will take the White House. And then, the real fun begins.

Bad words are not an ignorant speaker's last resort

Fart. It's not exactly a curse word, but what vulgarity! Is there any human experience more base, more uncouth, more universal and more equalizing than an intestinal gas? I bring this discomfiting word to the forefront of my discourse, for I intend to explode the myth of vulgarity as being the ignorant speaker's last resort. Vulgarisms cause uneasiness because they are such powerful words; they speak about things society tells us are not acceptable, and yet these things are fundamental to our lives. In our inability to deal with these unsettling ideas, we then resort to euphemism and outright denial. This is not meant to be a defense of four-letter words slung for the sake of insult, nor the crude anatomical slang intended to degrade. Vulgarity refers to common language, as opposed to ornate, stylized language. Sometimes this means the use of four-letter words. And why not? They are short, to the point, and almost always sound like what they mean.

Vulgarisms resist euphemism. If a person means to take the name of the Lord in vain, he should do it without resorting to watered-down versions like "Goldam." The intention is still there, but for the sake of propriety, the phonemes have been altered. But back to the F-word. In a 1991 workshop, a poet spoke about powerful words. Words have the power to turn heads in crowded rooms, he told us, and some words are more potent than others. He told us the third most powerful word in the English language was AIDS, the second cancer. What, then, could the most powerful word in the English language be? What concept could surpass the greatest killers of our time; what word could turn more heads in a crowded room than cancer or AIDS?

Fart. On a more serious note, ignoring vulgarisms does have detrimental effects on society. It is

important to understand that "bad words" are not bad. They may make us uncomfortable and cause friction in social circles, but they are only a collection of phonemes. The sign is arbitrary; it is only a matter of chance a particular collection of phonemes will come to signify a thing we frown upon. If a word signifies something taboo, like sex, bodily functions or blasphemy, it becomes "bad," like its referent, and we try to ignore it. We can't stand to hear the truth in all its flagrant ugliness. This is when euphemisms, a little linguistic lacquer, come in handy.

Euphemisms prevaricate; they avoid the heart of the matter by being less descriptive than the words for which they are substituted. Who would have the need to facilitate such an adjustment? Well, the first thing to remember is that we humans are a symbolic species: our distinguishing feature is that we function almost exclusively by manipulating symbols. Whoever controls words controls ideas.

Consider the AIDS epidemic. This disease (one) can be transmitted sexually (two) and causes a drawn-out, painful death (three distasteful aspects of life). AIDS discourse faces considerable obstacles, one of which is the resistance to any discourse about AIDS at all. Precedent has shown that ignoring AIDS will not make the dying stop; silence promotes ignorance, which promotes the spread of AIDS, a topic bound up with fundamental aspects of life: sexuality, death and drug abuse. Behind the steadfast silence of apathetic government officials, fearful school administrators and embarrassed parents are millions of terrified, furious, dying people. The AIDS issue became clouded by a linguistic smokescreen, and writers who grappled with AIDS violently

AMY HARRIS
COLUMNIST

resisted this whitewashing trend. "Decorum," wrote Paul Monette in 1988, "is the contemptible pose of the politicians and preachers, the hypocrite slime whose grinning hatred slicks the dying land like morning dew." A weapon against decorum is the rawest language we can muster, language that refuses to conceal. Common words that are terse, blunt and invariably sound like what they mean need not necessarily be dismissed as ignorance. These words have the power to unequivocally, efficiently communicate strong ideas, meriting a rightful place in our vocabularies. They strip away the veneer of civility that would deny the pain and beauty of truth. "[The poetry of AIDS] is about dying and fucking," writes Rafael Campo in a statement resisting ornamental language in favor of vulgarity and, in its ugliness, assumes power.

Sometimes it is more important for language to be beautiful rather than honest—maybe even flattering—when the propriety of the situation is understood by all involved. Think about eulogies, commencement speeches, flirting. Shakespeare's Lear was infuriated when his daughter Cordelia broke the formality of courtly language and failed to "draw a third more opulent than [her] sisters."

But in other cases, vulgarisms serve as the most honest, direct means of conveying an idea. We use language to impose sense and order onto the nebulous chaos of the objective, unspeakable universe. By denying the kind of language that is crass, raw and grating, we acquiesce to propriety—that damnably, lying decorum of so-called civilized society that wishes to gloss over fundamental truths about sex and death and suffering.

Return of old TV show brings a smile

DREW STEWART
COLUMNIST

Folks, I have spent this past week in grand exultation. My greatest desire has come to pass.

No, folks, Ronnie Milsap is not coming to Carolina. The reason I feel like a new man is because "The Dukes of Hazzard" has returned to television.

Yes, Bo and Luke once again grace the television of this resident of Summerton (pop. 975). And not a moment too soon.

However, the Duke boys were not, and never will be, what many non-Southerners presume them to be: Southern Gentlemen.

Just as the Grand Strand misrepresents the rest of South Carolina, Bo and Luke Duke are as close to Southern Gentlemen as Ford is to Chevrolet.

Although the Dukes were somewhat chivalrous and would have turned the General Lee into a New York taxi cab before speaking rudely to their mother, they still lacked many of the qualities becoming of true Southern Gentlemen.

For instance, Bo and Luke were always dressed like farm workers. Even on days when Uncle Jesse would send them into town to get Daisy a new pair of shorts, they still dressed in clothes that looked like they had come from the dumpster.

Another Southern man often mistaken for a Southern Gentleman is Rhett Butler. Although he had the look, swagger and speech of a gentleman, Butler was as low and dirty as a piece of cotton dropped in the bottom of a latrine.

However, Rhett could act like a gentleman with the best of them. His natural charisma could make a nun lose her religion faster than the weather changes in South Carolina.

But I think the reason these characters were so popular here as well as up North (which includes south Florida and the Grand Strand) is because they served as a form of escape for Southern Gentlemen to live out the Redneck growing inside of them.

Whether he admits it or not, every Southern Gentleman has the ambition to get out on a dirt road in the General Lee and get Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrane in a car chase throughout Hazzard County before finally jumping over an old mill pond to safety as Roscoe falls straight in.

Also, ask any Southern Gentleman his preference in "Gone With the Wind." Most of them would say the old scoundrel Rhett Butler.

And why not? The leading Gentleman of the picture, Ashleigh Wilkes, was a wimp. He was as tough as a wet paper bag. Why, he couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag.

But Rhett Butler was a man for all men. Although he was lowdown and dirty and as much a Southern Gentleman as Joey Buttafuoco, he still had a way with words and could make even the most lady-like lady swoon like a schoolgirl (even though it took him until the end of the movie to get Scarlett into his arms).

However, while most Southern Gentlemen like myself aspire to emulate the Dukes and Rhett in our daydreams, I must point out that these two are not one in the same.

Whereas Rhett Butler tried to portray himself as the type of gentleman fit to eat barbecue with Miss Scarlett at the Wilkes party, Bo and Luke Duke tried to act like Southern Gentlemen with all of the chivalry of Andrew Dice Clay.

So, as you can see, Southern Gentlemen act like Ashleigh Wilkes to impress the ladies, satisfy their mothers and to put on airs for the high society their wives and girlfriends often try to impress.

Buenever Southern Gentleman are alone, with the deer club or out in the middle of Rimini with nobody but the road and a pickup, we all tend to attempt to live out our wild fantasies of behaving like Bo, Luke and Rhett.

VOTE!

Your activity fees are watching you!



News: 777-7726
Advertising: 777-4249
FAX: 777-6482

Student Media • Russell House-USC • Columbia, SC 29208

Wendy Hudson
Editor in Chief
Ryan Wilson
Managing Editor
Tina Morgan
Brent Seeliger
Viewpoints Editors
Martha Hotop
Cece von Kolnitz
News Editors
Chris Dixon
Stephanie Sonnenfeld
Features Editor

Robbie Meek
Matt Pruitt
Sports Editors
Allison Williams
Special Projects
Ethan Myerson
Graphics Editor
Karen Layne
Deanna McLendon
Copy Desk
Ryan Sims
Online Editor

Tyson Pettigrew
Robert Walton
Photo Editors
Adam Snyder
Jennifer Stanley
Asst. News
Dipka Bhambhani
Jennifer Hansen
Asst. Features
Achim Hunt
Asst. Sports
Keith Boudreaux
Circulation Editor

Chris Carroll
Director of Student Media
Laura Day
Creative Director
Jeff A. Breaux
Asst. Director
Sue McDonald
Jim Speelman
Graduate Assistant
Marilyn Edwards
Taylor
Marketing Director
Erik Collins
Faculty Advisor
Jason Jeffers
Cartoonist

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 321. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for style, possible libel or space limitations. Names will not be withheld under any circumstances.

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.