

HOOTIE DAY ON THE HORSESHOE



— I GUESS \$1418 A SEMESTER DOESN'T INCLUDE PRIVACY, THAT MUST BE EXTRA —

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"The Department of Housing needs to be an open book. (Housing is) a partnership with students."

Dr. Gene Luna, Director of Housing

Hootie concert brings fame, money, stars to USC

People. Shut up. Ever since Hootie and the Blowfish and MTV announced they were coming to film an "Unplugged" show, students have been complaining. The show is the weekend before exams. Residents would have to be out of their Horseshoe apartments for a few minutes Friday afternoon. They couldn't have visitors for eight hours one night. Rumors have been flying.

Of course, there are those excited about the concert. Granted, most of them are huge Hootie fans. But the vocal students seem to be the complainers. The negative aspects of the concert are being heard more often than the positive aspects.

These complainers are forgetting about the great publicity USC and Columbia are getting. We couldn't pay for the wonderful advertising MTV is giving through the promotional spots about the concert. Next Tuesday night, hundreds of papers will carry reviews of the concert, all mentioning USC. Our campus, which is at its most beautiful



DAN CHESNEY The Gamecock

The Horseshoe before the Hootie and the Blowfish concert Friday.

right now, will be seen for months after the concert is taped. (We all know how often MTV repeats programs.)

In addition to taking our campus to the world, MTV has brought celebrities to us. Producers and MTV show hosts have been in Columbia all week. They have hired locals to set up this week and students to dismantle the stage and equipment Saturday.

The concert is really not causing

very many problems for us residents on the Horseshoe. Leaving our apartments for 30 minutes Friday afternoon will not kill any of us. Go to the grocery store. Check your mail. Take a walk. For the magnitude of the event and the safety concerns of the band, 30 minutes is not too much time.

True, most of us are sick of Hootie-mania. But the band has been good to Columbia. The members have started

a record label. They own homes here. They still come back and play in clubs in Five Points. They also have been good to the university. One band member almost always wears some USC paraphernalia. They, or at least someone they know, suggested the Horseshoe as the place to film a two-hour special that will be shown nationwide.

On a basic economic level, they are pumping thousands of dollars into the area by holding two free concerts. Radio stations from New York are even busing people down. The T-shirts USC is selling benefit scholarships.

You see, this concert is not all that bad. We are being inconvenienced for a few hours for something that is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It will change the band members' lives. It gives us a chance to be on TV, and it gives both the USC and Columbia communities positive exposure.

So, let's stop complaining at least for a day and enjoy what we've been given. If we don't appreciate it, it may never come back.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Actions of College Republicans during Board election defended; Comer replies to criticism

I am writing in regards to the coverage of the recent race for the USC Board of Trustees. I wish to offer thanks to the authors of the story covering the race for their clear, concise and fair reporting, and to the writer of the opinion piece, I offer my thoughts in response. I write today to set the record straight and explain the Trustee system.

The first criticism leveled at the outcome of the race suggested USC had lost a voice for the students when Brian Comer lost the seat. As a citizen of Anderson County, I would remind the editors that the purpose of that seat is to represent a district including Anderson and Oconee counties. There is no obligation for the citizens and legislators of these counties to be disenfranchised in order for the USC Student Government to have an improved pulpit from which to voice its partisan, whiny, special interest.

Next, the editors saw fit to lament that this race became somehow less pure by the influence of the USC College Republicans. If there was indeed "impurity" brought into this race, it was introduced by Mr. Comer's efforts to take advantage of unclear filing deadlines that almost allowed him to slip into that seat unopposed. This type of dealing has lead even a Comer supporter to consider legislation changing this process.

Finally, I wish to respond specifically to the complaints of Brian Comer. To the concern that he was not consulted before the College Republicans took a clear stand, I ask why Mr. Comer should be consulted. What does Mr. Comer think he could say that could speak more loudly and clearly than his record of liberal activism and associations.

To the accusation that his record was somehow distorted, if this is true, I suggest Mr. Comer redirect his fire toward The Gamecock and The State because these are the sources that were brought to the attention of Republican legislators and exposed the truth about the Comer record. A record that, I might add, was carefully concealed from the Republican legislators who were misled into premature support.

Mr. Comer also expressed the belief that the action taken by the USC College Republicans had no effect on the results. I am personally aware of more than 30 legislators who had offered support to Brian's election before being made aware of his history of liberalism. When the USC College Republicans initiated the campaign to show the Comer record, they were joined by unanimous support from the College Republican Confederation of South Carolina, the Third Congressional District Republican party and the South Carolina Republican Party. Such a

statement would certainly have no effect on an election.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge that the editorial opinion piece was on target with one claim that this election was a big opportunity. It was. Notice has now been served to those who believe they can indulge in the sappy politics of campus liberalism and still find a place in the mainstream of South Carolina. An elephant never forgets.

G. Miles Gordon
Economics Senior

Though I did not originally intend to respond to the controversy surrounding my candidacy for the USC Board of Trustees, I would like to address the attack on my character made by Kevin Cannon on behalf of the College Republicans. I take such an attack, especially an unfounded one, very seriously.

I find it interesting that Mr. Cannon can categorize my opinions since neither he, nor any member of his organization, has ever actually asked me about my political views. I was particularly surprised by Mr. Cannon's remarks considering that (to my knowledge) he does not even know me and that he was still in high school while I was Student Body president at this institution. I am therefore assuming his remarks are derived from what he has been told about me through secondhand, biased information within his organization.

At no time during my campaign did I ever claim to be a campus conservative or Republican to ANY legislator. Nor did I espouse my affiliation with the Democratic Party because my focus was on higher education, not politics. If asked directly about my party affiliation, I responded that I was a Democrat. If asked what I stood for as a potential member of the board, I responded, "fiscal responsibility, keeping tuition low and prioritizing student needs as any new construction is planned." If asked about my political philosophies, I stated I was conservative economically and moderate socially. Any claim by any legislator to the contrary, quite frankly, is false.

People who actually KNOW me know my views. I find it interesting that Mr. Cannon and the College Republicans know me so well that they can base their opinions on two political endorsements. (Nevermind the fact that I supported numerous Republican candidates in the last statewide elections.) Furthermore, Mr. Cannon is manipulating the facts by stating that

their actions were based on my "honesty" and not politics. Having a copy of the resolution myself, I can assure you that the motivation behind it was not based on a perceived lack of honesty on my part. Rather, it focuses on their hatred of the "liberal agenda" and "campus leftism." It was motivated by politics, not concern for higher education or "honesty." I have never requested this dialogue in The Gamecock and did not intend to be a part of it. However, I will not tolerate an attack on my character by individuals who have, to date, not even asked my side of the story. I would appreciate that courtesy in the future.

Brian Comer
Former USC SG president

Faith not dependent on scientific principles

I have heard enough. Mr. Salmon's articles finally pushed me to write this letter. I will never be able to "prove" my faith to you, Mr. Salmon. Faith is believing what I think to be true.

In all of your discussions about the Bible, you left out the most important part: the heart. I could never prove to you what God has done in my heart since I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Only those close to me have seen the changes in my life. I accepted Jesus on the basis of what I have seen him do in other people's lives and on what the Holy Spirit was doing in my heart. My mother's death is what drove me to look for answers, and I have found the Truth in Jesus.

God does not have to submit himself to our scientific methods. He created us, not the other way around. He owes us nothing! For those of us who have accepted his son, we owe him our very lives. Mr. Salmon, I will never be able to make you believe in Jesus and his awesome power. I don't want to. It is something every person comes to terms with on their own. However, God has left his thumb print on everyone's heart, and if you will be honest with yourself and examine your heart, I believe he will reveal your need for him.

John Ballentine
Political Science Sophomore



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IN OUR OWN OPINION

Earth Day festivities signify environmental concern

Earth Day festivities have started. Have you hugged your tree yet?

And yes, of course, we are going to mention that you might not want to try any trees on the Horseshoe (if there are any left). Okay, we're not gonna harp about a few limbs since they said the pruning was already planned pre-Hootie.

What we will harp on is an Earth Day summit going on this weekend. Not too long ago, Earth Day festivities and the like were considered part of some intangible "green machine" effort. Basically, anyone advocating the preservation of wildlife, the ocean or air was considered a liberal nut who donated their grocery money to whale-saving charities. Today, thankfully, with the addition of several "green" parties across Europe and highly visible advocates such as Al Gore, the environmental movement has taken on a more socially accepted role.

Now, as a more mainstream effort, it has a niche in our national economy and has weeded out the "groupies" and left those truly dedicated to

THE TOPIC

Earth Day festivities

OUR OPINION

The environmental effort has moved beyond the initial hype

maintaining a livable environment for our children.

USC has moved in the right direction with the addition of recycling routes and waste management. Our own folks have made every effort to involve students in the SAGE program, the university

environmentally-conscious organization. Earth Day is receiving a warm welcome at USC, and that's something we should all be proud of.

What does being environmentally conscious mean? It means putting all of that glass from the beer bottles into recycling bins. It means washing a full load of clothes instead of just that pair of jeans before your night out. With all of the paper being used, we need to buy recycled paper to create a market for recyclable material.

Concern about trees being cut down on the Horseshoe (and, yes, we got a few phone calls letting us know how you feel) is a good sign that we're heading in the right direction. Why? Because people are finally realizing the real movement beyond the hype.

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