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**IN OUR OWN
 OPINION**

New fee meets needs

Technology is an important tool and as the leaders of tomorrow, it is important to learn on the best equipment possible. Our university has realized this.

On June 13 the Board of Trustees finished plans to add a \$35 "technology fee" to the general university bill per semester. In a year, the fee will increase to \$50 a semester. Usually, students bitch about rate increases. This time, let's rejoice.

The fee will support increasing the number of e-mail access lines, provide more lines for direct access in the residence halls and and replace worksta-

THE TOPIC

Technology Fee

OUR OPINION

Fee will serve students in the long run

tions on campus. This can only mean better service for everyone.

E-mail is the lifeblood of students who can't afford telephone bills. It is the most direct way of communication when you cannot reach someone on the telephone and, it is a

place to share information and keep up with friends.

Although we will the crunch when it is time to pay our bill, we can benefit from the improvements. We need to keep an eye on how the money is being spent, but the need for improved technology outweighs any complaints.



QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"This has been a very, very difficult budget to face and to put together. We will not lose momentum, but we will not gain it a great deal."

University President John Palms, on the University Budget

Lollapalooza tours for money, not music

LARRY WILLIAMS
COLUMNIST

For music lovers everywhere, it appears

this summer could be quite a treat.

For those lucky enough to escape the wrath of the Business Administration building, Gambrell Hall or the dreaded Coliseum, there is a smorgasbord of music that will be offered throughout the country.

There is the H.O.R.D.E. tour, which is also known as Lollapatchouli. This year's H.O.R.D.E. lineup is probably the best so far.

With powerful acts Blues Traveler, 311 and Dave Matthews Band, the tour should be a blockbuster. Rusted Root and Sun Volt, two less well-known acts, will also be featured.

Competing for attention with the H.O.R.D.E. tour will be Lollapalooza.

This travelling circus is in its sixth year and should be even bigger than ever.

The tour has recently been nicknamed "Metalpalooza," and will be one of the harder tours to date.

The lineup includes Rage Against the Machine, Rancid, the Melvins, the Ramones, Soundgarden, and the torchbearers of metal, Metallica.

The lineup is not for the elderly, and yes, it does resemble those "Monsters of Metal" tours that were popular in the late 80s.

Some alternative "purists" are complaining that Lollapalooza isn't alternative anymore, but they are arguing a lost cause.

It's possible that, in its inaugural year, Lollapalooza might have been alternative. Jane's Addiction, Nine Inch Nails, Butthole Surfers and Body Count, none of whom had achieved Top-40 fame, were featured, and no one was complaining.

Now, people are grumbling. "Where's the alternative?" they say. "I don't want a bunch of metalheads corrupting my Lollapalooza."

For those who weren't aware, here's a little secret: alternative is dead.

What used to be considered cutting edge or alternative is now in heavy rotation on MTV and alternative rock radio stations.

The musical ideas of the grunge movement in Seattle have been milked dry by today's so-called alternative bands like Bush, Stone Temple Pilots, the Offspring and Goo Goo Dolls.

If bands like Soundgarden and Nirvana gave birth to grunge, then "artists" like Bush and Oasis are the afterbirth.

Bush has ripped off the same chord progressions, vocal tones and harmonies of Seattle bands, and yet, they are played incessantly on the radio.

The depressing fact is that bands like this with no originality can actually become very pop-

ular. What a sad reflection on America's musical horizons.

Those who want an alternative Lollapalooza want their kind of alternative: Bush, Green Day and the Offspring.

The fact is that, with a money-making giant like these, the directors who book acts do so with one particular goal in mind: maximizing profits.

This makes it impossible for musical integrity to have anything to do with something so large as Lollapalooza.

Perhaps Soundgarden guitarist Kim Thayil said it best during a recent interview with Rolling Stone magazine.

He said, "Lollapalooza was a big alternative lie to begin with. They had a definite target demographic, and they hit that very well — white suburban people aged 18-24 — which doesn't seem very alternative to me. If you go to a Metallica or Guns n' Roses show, you'll see that the audience is actually more diverse, socially and economically."

Clearly, one could argue this year's Lollapalooza lineup has had its share of pop fame as well.

Metallica, once a cutting edge thrash-metal group, are and have been an extremely popular group. And yes, Soundgarden and Rage Against the Machine aren't doing too poorly on the Billboard charts.

However, on a million-dollar tour like this, these acts are as alternative as they come.



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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 of a student. Letters must be personally delivered by the author to The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333.

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

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