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**IN OUR  
OPINION**

## USC Alumni deserve respect for accomplishments in life

Homecoming weekend has come and gone. A lot of people got drunk, our football team was once again not the team we saw two weeks ago against

Georgia (but basketball practice starts in 15 days), and many of Carolina's Alumni returned to Columbia for the weekend.

In a certain sense, that's what Homecoming is for. Alumni and current students can come together to remember the past, celebrate the present and look towards the future.

These folks are our connection to this University's history. It's great they can come back and show they are still part of the University community.

Many of our alumni have left Carolina and gone on to do great things, and they still give back to the school. Leeza Gibbons is a national celebrity, but she gladly came back to participate in the Homecoming ceremonies and to accept an award for her other work in giving back to her alma mater. But Gibbons was part of a group of alumni who received awards for the work they have done after graduating.

## Politicians wrongly attack movies for political gain

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole was featured in an ad in L.A. Weekly for the soundtrack of the film "Trainspotting,"

which Dole accused, along with "Pulp Fiction," of promoting drug use.

In the ad, Dole is shown wearing a button that says, "Iggly Pop For President." Pop's song, "Last For Life," is included on the "Trainspotting" soundtrack.

After accusing "Trainspotting" and "Pulp Fiction" of promoting drug use, Dole admitted never seeing either movie.

As a presidential candidate, Dole has a responsibility to use his influence to speak out against drug use. He should, however, do research to make sure what he says is factually correct.

Anyone who has seen "Trainspotting" knows the film is anti-drug use because it exposes

**USC Alumni**

Homecoming weekend brought USC's alumni back to campus.

These alumni are part of many who have gone on to be innovators and leaders in their fields. They have shown us what can be done with an education

from this university. We are a major university that produces top notch graduates. We can and should be proud of these graduates. We can say, yes, they went to Carolina, the school where we go now. Much of the pride a school has comes from its alumni.

Whether that graduate went on to win a Nobel Prize or become president, there is a tremendous feeling that his or her experience at that particular school helped them achieve success.

Whether it is true or not, it still means a lot to students and alumni of that certain school. And it should because you and that successful person got the same education, so maybe there is some of that greatness in you.

So let's always remember and honor our alumni, especially those who have been successful because we'll be one of them some day, and maybe some of that greatness will be in us.

**Drug Use In Movies**

Bob Dole should see movies before he attacks them for promoting drug use.

the realities of heroin's insidious effects.

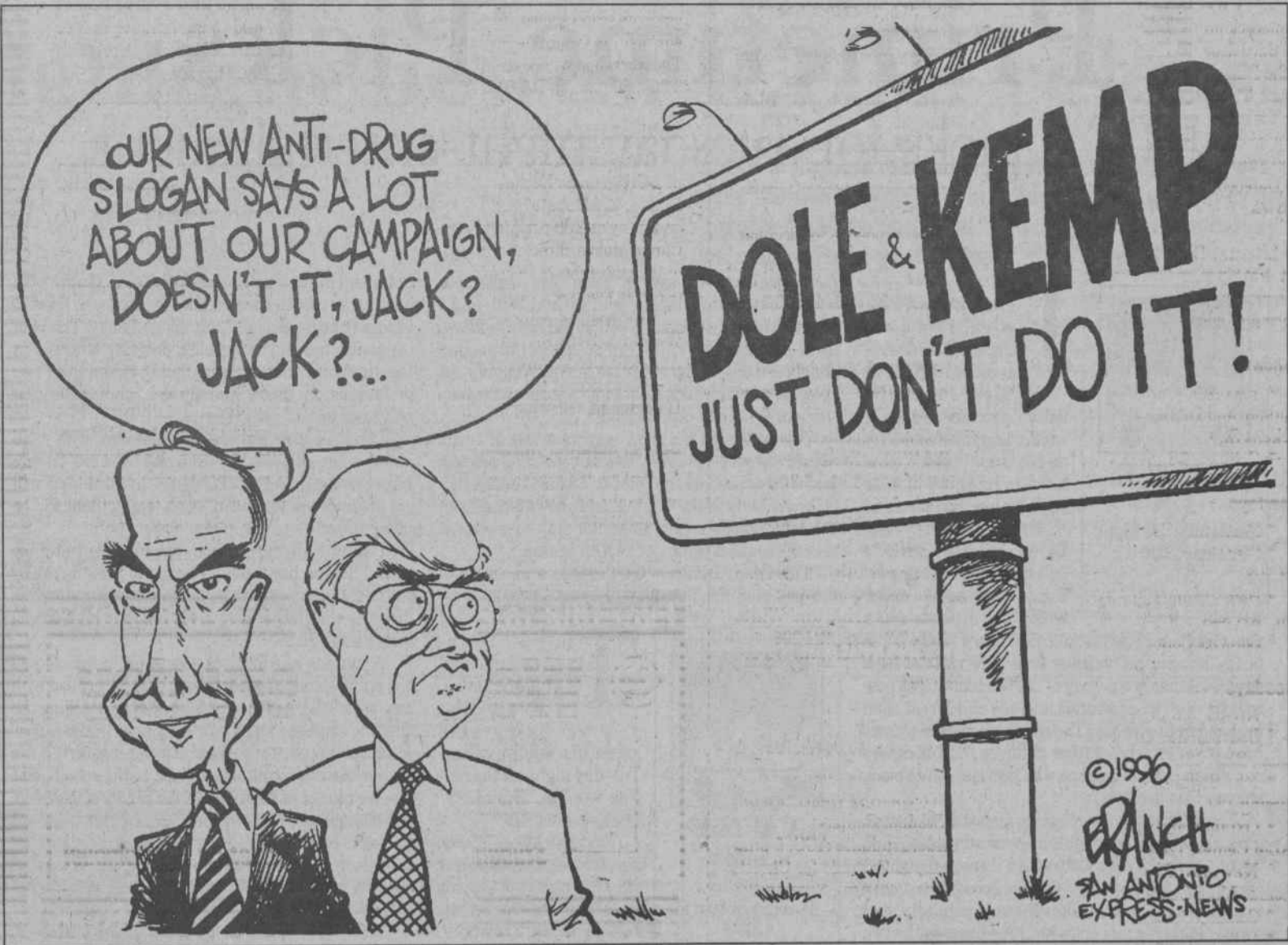
If the entertainment industry was actually producing films promoting drug

use, we would expect Dole to come out against those movies.

Dole's attack of the entertainment industry is obviously election year politics. Calling the entertainment industry into question is an easy way to get votes.

Dole needs to work on issues like the economy and health care reform because they are the issues that actually have a day to day effect on all of our lives.

People don't start doing illicit drugs because of the entertainment industry. They start doing drugs because they want to. Why would someone destroy his or her life by taking drugs because of a movie? It just doesn't make sense.



**Quote, Unquote**

"I guess that's SEC football, maybe at its best, where you go out and compete for 60 minutes, and the game comes down to the execution of a few plays at the end of a ball game."

Brad Scott, USC head football coach

## Shaw begins adventures in nation's capital

**Erin Shaw  
Columnist**

Dear Carolina,

I'm spending a quiet night at the townhouse, debating international issues with my roommates, listening to Billie Holiday and in between, staring at the Supreme Court from my balcony. In the past few weeks, I've started my internship on Capitol Hill, lingered for hours at the Smithsonian and negotiated the Metro trains during rush hour traffic.

I've stood engulfed in history around countless memorials, but even more exciting, I am standing at the future of the country as well. Okay, in between being inspired by the symbols of our freedom, I will admit to having a great time exploring bookstores, shopping at Georgetown and even getting my palm read.

And just what will my future have in store? It depends on who you ask. The woman who read my palm predicted a long life, a career serving people and two

children. For now, though, the present is overwhelming enough.

My first week I spent touring the city and getting to know the 10 other participants in the program. The group is made up of 11 from USC, Clemson and the Citadel, six of whom I am living with in the Carolina Townhouse.

And, yes, the living arrangements are quite similar to "The Real World," otherwise titled "Nine Republicans and Two Democrats," which provides for continual political dialogue.

I walk every day to the Senate Office Building, where I work for Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina. Things are getting to be crazy in the office since Congress is back in session. That means I get to open up even more letters and answer even more calls from disgruntled constituents.

The hot issues right now are the Partial Birth Abortion Act and DOMA-Defense of Marriage Act. My issues, however, include trying to keep cool in my power suit and asking for any job they will give me. No task to small.

I will confess, though, that there are lulls in the day when I stare at CNN and wonder what my place is in the whole scheme of things. As much as it is exciting to live in the most important nation's capital in the world and to be, in fact, a part of government, it is also humbling to start out on the lowest rung.

As inspiring as it is to stare at the Lincoln Memorial on a clear night over the reflecting pond, I wonder just what a junior English major from the University of South Carolina is doing here. And when lost in the tunnels under the Capitol Building, I confess to longing, if just for a moment, for the safety of the Russell House.

As I have met so many new people here, they seem to ask what I want to be. I honestly don't know, and that's one of the reasons I'm here.

I'm constantly reshaping what I believe in and what passions I will focus on, and I think the best way to do that is to throw myself into the middle of the action. With my interests in literature and the arts, I might just decide to spend

countless weekends mulling over the work at the Museum of Women in the Arts and go home to work on a novel.

Maybe I'll discover I want to make politics and government my career, or I want nothing to do with it. I may decide to go on to law school and work for an agency that truly helps people.

As we speed toward our collective future with the election close at hand, I continue onward toward the answer which not even the palm reader could give me—how will I make an impression on the world?

But the streets of D.C. might help me figure things out.

*This is the first part in a series of columns by Erin Shaw, a participant in the Washington Semester program through the Honors College. She is in D.C. this fall interning on Capitol Hill and will report her many adventures. This column will not always be a political one, but kind of a storytelling through experience.*

**Letters To The Editor**

## Homecoming Showcase a success, despite expectations

To the editor,

Homecoming is a time of fun and celebration. It is a time the Carolina Community can come together in a festive atmosphere. This is exactly what happened on the night of Tuesday, September 24, 1996 at the Student Government sponsored (not the Homecoming Commission or Carolina Productions, against whom I hold no hard feelings) Homecoming King and Queen Showcase. Students laughed, danced and cried tears of joy during the program.

The Showcase also honored and highlighted the accomplishments of some of USC's stellar students. Eileen Grana did not win her crown because she looks like Cindy Crawford, and Ernest Sessoms did not win his title because he looks like Denzel Washington, and neither won because they are the two most popular people on campus. They both earned their titles because they are talented students that have shown excellence in leadership, service and academics, as have all of the semi-finalists.

No fights broke out! No gunshots were fired! No one had to fire teargas into the crowd or call in the National Guard to stop a race riot. The audience clapped and yelled for every contestant.

Yes, this was a Student Government sponsored program, but all the students in attendance took ownership of the program. It was their program, and they made it a success.

If Mr. Wesley Walker (the young man who wrote the column that unfairly criticized this year's Homecoming Showcase because of his ignorance, and lack of research about the process) had done an iota of research about the

process, he would have known it was not an election but a showcase of both males and females and the process was a fair one.

I would also appreciate, Mr. Walker, that any complaints about the job Student Government is doing be brought to me face to face, Russell House room 110.

I'm sure the success of the Showcase has disappointed a few people, such as Wesley Walker, that were looking forward to racial discord and campus division to occur, but it has shown us all that running away from tough issues doesn't solve anything.

We must face the things in which we fear and come up with solutions to the problems and difficult issues that face us. I thought that was why I was elected.

My job is to address the issues that concern students and find solutions to these problems. I think so far this year in Student Government we have been active and done an outstanding job.

So, Mr. Walker, maybe you should go back to doing nothing, and leave journalism to those trained to do it.

I encourage everyone to Pray, Trust God and Grow!

Patrick Wright  
SG President

## Columnist should direct anger over DOMA to U.S. Congress, not Clinton

To the editor,

Although I wholeheartedly agree with Cece von Kolnitz's column (DOMA

legalized homophobia," Sept. 23) regarding Congress' dastardly endorsement of a bill that targets a single identifiable group of Americans and subjects them to discrimination, I must take exception to the writers criticisms of President Bill Clinton.

At first I thought this column signaled a refreshing break from the conservative doldrums from such columnists (should I really use the term so loosely?) like Fred Leach. However, von Kolnitz's otherwise excellent analysis of the Defense of Marriage Act produced an unfair criticism of President Clinton.

The debate over same-sex marriages boils down to a matter of discrimination. And while the US Congress continues to support measures like DOMA and not pass bills like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a measure that would have made it illegal for employers to fire an employee because of his/her sexual orientation, Americans are starting to see the problem in Washington is not the White House, but with the House of Representatives.

For all practical political purposes, Clinton was forced into signing DOMA. In addition to the federal bill, similar bills were steamrolled through 15 state legislatures during the summer months of 1996, primarily because of outside pressures by the Christian Coalition and other conservative groups.

Had Clinton vetoed the measure, he would have subjected himself to way to many nasty political sound bites and negative ads by the Dole Campaign (by the way, Dole was one of the original co-sponsors of DOMA in the Senate before he retired).

President Clinton told gay and lesbian voters that we were part of his vision

back in 1992, and he has kept his word. Not easy for a man who made 159 campaign promises and kept 103 of them.

During the first four years, Clinton has had more openly gay and lesbian members serve in his administration than any other previous president. Clinton was also the first U.S. president to support measures securing equal rights for gays and lesbians.

To say Clinton will be remembered as the one "who started the ball rolling on legalized homophobia" is not fair, and quite frankly, an anachronism, especially given President Reagan's witch hunts for gays and lesbians in the military that cost the US more than \$890 million.

Meanwhile, since 1994, GOP House and Senate members (many of which come from the Southeast) have initiated bills to prevent AIDS research funding, overturn the District of Columbia's domestic partner registry, eliminate gay and lesbian groups for employees of the US government, and ban same-sex marriages.

As a former columnist for The Gamecock, I can sympathize with Von Kolnitz's outrage that such a measure like DOMA was passed. The bill is clearly illegal and even conflicts with the US Constitution's Ninth Amendment, leaving it again to the courts to settle this matter. However, von Kolnitz should redirect her rage towards the real instigators of DOMA, like House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Dole, and co-sponsors Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., and Sen. Don Nickles, R-Neb.

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