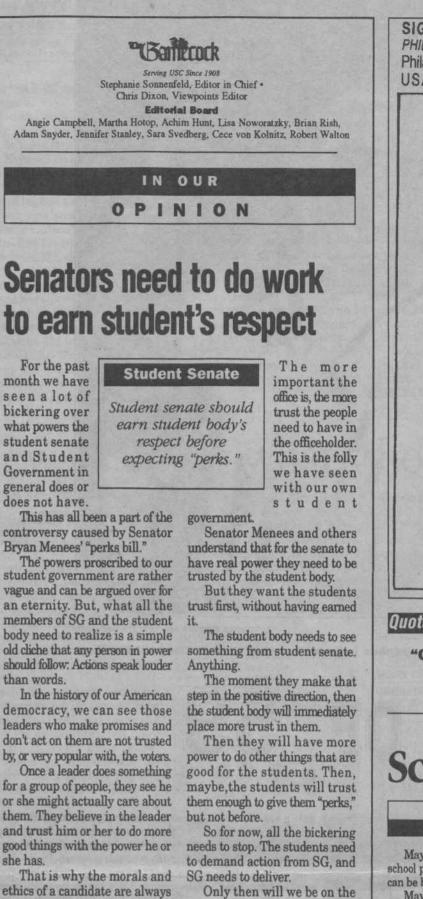
VIEWPOINTS

Monday, October 28, 1996

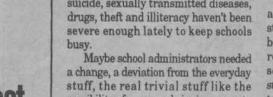
The Gamecock



more closely examined the higher road to establishing trust between the two.

Media now paying the price for convicting bombing suspect

Thism		viewers of what
aturday, it was	Richard Jewell	is going on in the
nnounced		world. Our job



possibility of someone bringing a gun to school or the fact that more and more of their students are using drugs.

The administrators at one middle school decided to find and solve a real old girls with devious plans of trying to cut baked chicken.

By now the whole country probably knows the story of 11-year-old Charlotte Kirk and her arrest and expulsion from Hopkins Middle School after packing a steak knife with her school lunch.

Kirk was arrested and expelled after asking a teacher if she could use her steak knife to eat her lunch. She's going back to school Tuesday after being reinstated by the Richland District 1 school board, but she will still have a suspension on her school record, according to an article in The State newspaper.

No matter what else she remembers, the one thing that will stand out in Charlotte Kirk's mind when she thinks about her middle school days will be the

problem: steak-knife wielding 11-year- time she was almost expelled for trying to make eating her lunch easier. She'll remember not to trust teachers or administrators, not to expect any leniency or forgiveness for making a simple mistake.

> The fact that the board has so graciously decided to let her go back to school doesn't change the silliness of the situation.

> Administrators say they're in a bind. They say they're damned if they do enforce the rules and damned if they don't.

> The superintendent of Richland 1 told The State newspaper that where weapons are concerned principals "cannot exercise discretion or prerogative."

The truth is they can and could have exercised their discretion. In this case, they just didn't.

What I want to know is what's wrong with considering each situation, especially in a situation as obviously harmless as Charlotte Kirk's? What happened to sense and reason in her case

3

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE

Weapons aren't allowed in schools, and no one would say that's a bad policy. If a student brings a knife to school, it should be taken away. But a policy that makes such obvious sense shouldn't be taken to absurd ends.

I've read stories about high school students charged with murder of a classmate who were acquitted because juries believed them when they said they brought guns to school for self-protection.

Why couldn't administrators at Hopkins Middle School believe Charlotte Kirk only wanted to cut her baked chicken?



"One day we'll be the people who make a difference; we'll be the leaders and teachers. Without a strong commitment to service, we'll fall backwards."

Amanda Colton, junior, on the importance of participating in programs such as City Year.

School officials should use common sense

Cece von Kolnitz

Special Projects

Maybe the recent rash of ridiculous school punishments leveled at children can be blamed on boredom.

Maybe the problems of child abuse, drop-outs, teen-age pregnancies, shootings, suicide, sexually transmitted diseases,

former security guard Richard Jewellisno longer considered a suspect in the July 27 bombing at Atlanta's

the political office.

Centennial Park.

The acquittal was no doubt welcome news to Jewell, who for months lived in a world surrounded by suspicion, accusation and humiliation.

Who knows if Jewell planted the bomb or not. And actually, who really cares. The mass media has once again run Jewell's story into the ground.

But, wearing out the bombing escapade wasn't the only thing the media can be found guilty for; it's also responsible for accusing a man and almost convicting him of a crime he had not been found guilty of committing.

As members of the media, our job is to inform readers and

Media unfairly convicted Jewell of bombing before he was even accused.

is not to accuse or convict. Yet, on a grand scale, we do it every day.

Essentially, the 96 election is a joke because the media has made Dole too old to beat Clinton. The media convicted O.J. Simpson of

killing Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman even before he got out of his Bronco.

We, as the media, need to understand how important it is to inform what is going without inadvertently deciding the outcome of the situation.

As Americans, we're guaranteed a jury of our peers to determine if we're guilty or not of a crime

Today, it seems the media has become our jury and they are so powerful they can make or break you before you even enter the court room -- just ask Richard Jewell.

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 333. The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333. The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 310. The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 310. The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 310. The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 310.



The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring senesters, with the exception of university holidays and ram periods.

exam periods. Opinious 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 Studes. Media is its parent organization.

Letters To The Editor

Same-sex marriage infringes on rights of the majority

To the editor,

The language used by liberals (most recently Cece von Kolnitz) to describe those who supported the Defense of Marriage Act is quite revealing.

The highly emotional and harsh rhetoric recently used shows what liberals so often mean by "tolerance" and "acceptance," values so espoused by liberalism.

What is really meant is tolerance for who believe as they do, but critical attacks against, and very intolerant rhetoric toward, those who don't.

Where is the tolerance for those who believe that marriage is ordained of God and find it degrading to their beliefs to define marriage as a union between same sex couples?

What about respecting their beliefs? What about their rights? Who is screaming about the injustices, offensiveness, prejudices they must endure as they watch what they hold sacred destroyed or mocked? Where is the "tolerance" and "acceptance" for their views?

To use von Kolnitz's own words, I find the name calling and attacks against those who believe homosexuality is wrong as "offensive, prejudiced, bigoted, and reminds me of why I got a voter registration card."

Another issue I have with liberals is the belief that somehow rights are being taken away by defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman, which is how it has always been defined.

If a few people suddenly decide to say red is green, this may be their "right," but it doesn't change the fact that the color is still red.

They may run around and say they are being prosecuted by intolerant bigots or extremists who continue to say red is red, but it still doesn't change the fact that the olor is red.

Even if others agree and want to

redefine red as green, what about the rights of the majority who want to continue to say red is red. More than 70 percent of Americans believe marriage should be defined as a union between a man and a woman.

Liberals make it sound like we live in a land of unlimited freedom or unbounded rights, but this is naive and impossible. No society could survive in such chaos.

My rights have limits because others have rights, and their rights have limits because I have rights. When issues exist that we can't agree upon, that is why we have a democracy.

A basic principle of democracy is that the majority has certain rights. If this was not the case then we would have the tyranny of the minority, which some believe we have today.

The Defense of Marriage Act was needed because one state's action would have taken away the rights of all the other states by forcing them to recognize same-sex marriages, regardless of what each state thought was right or had voted

The act was democracy and common sense, not "homophobia" as liberals would have us believe.

Chris Herrod Graduate Student

SG attacks unwarranted

To the editor,

First of all, I would like to respond directly to the comments that were made in a letter to the editor attacking SG. I am a freshman at USC, and I am a member of Freshmen Council, a part of SG that represents all the freshmen at USC. As a member of SG, Computer Science senior Dev Brown's attacks concern me, but knowing senators like

Bryan Menees and the reasoning behind his proposals, Brown's conclusions about SG are cowardly and intolerant.

As I read Brown's opinion about SG, it is apparent that Brown has never run for any SG office and has probably never even visited SG in the Russell House.

If you haven't attempted to run for office, participated in SG elections or voiced your concerns to your SG senator, then shut up.

Every leader in SG volunteers their time and efforts to make this university a better place for their fellow peers.

They work hard without thanks to represent the ideas and opinions they believe are important to the student body. This was made clear to me after I had the chance to speak to senators and other SG leaders.

In responding to the letter, let me teach Brown about the principles of respect and power, because it is ignorance that hinders the advancement of ideas and concerns that real students have on campus.

Any idea, program or legislation that comes out of SG must have the full support of the student body in order for that policy to be implemented into the university system.

For example, an academic forgiveness policy that comes out of SG, combined with petitions, phone calls and marches in front of the faculty senate, will command power and respect and give way to changes we would like to see at the university.

On the other hand, an academic forgiveness policy that comes out of SG that only has the support of nine to 10 percent of the students who voted in the last SG election will not get any attention from the administration.

Power and respect is a two-way street. The senate does not receive power or gain respect from having "perks." Rather, it is the student body support that yields respect and power for SG officers.

Additional power and perks for SG offices will certainly create greater interest in those positions held within SG, leading to a greater number of students running and voting during SG elections, hence a greater ability to command changes from the administration.

I have known Bryan Menees for several years and have had the opportunity to speak with him about the proposed changes within the student senate

The proposals offered are more about controlling all of our student activity fees and making the student senate more visible. The changes will only benefit future SG officers, not current officers. The changes will also increase the overall participation in SG elections.

With this effect taking place, that opens the door for more responsibility within SG, and that will help to carry out the concerns of the students on a more consistent basis.

By allowing more responsibility within the senate, the student body will have motivation and direction in which to lead the charge for the policies that the administration is reluctant to implement for the students.

To Dev Brown: Do not criticize a plan that you have not read, and you don't understand.

Furthermore, do not ever again criticize SG and the senators elected to volunteer their time and efforts for the betterment of their peers and this great university.

The next time you feel the urge to attack fellow students who have done 10 times the service to USC that you have, and you feel SG does not have any "real" power, I would remind you that the Computer Science Department's budget is up for review next semester.

Timothy Clardy Business Marketing Freshman