

The Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

Advisement too important for students to take lightly

Twice a year, students are asked to go see one of the professors in their department and get advised.

These are the only mandatory times that a student must go see their advisor, or any advisor at all for that matter.

Some students blow it off, saying that it's actually pretty pointless, and their advisor doesn't help them anyway.

First, advisement is very important. It's a time where a student can sit down and get advice on their courses for next semester, on their major and their college career in general.

They have this opportunity to sit down and put some focus into their life here at Carolina.

The key to advisement that many students here at USC don't realize is you can't just go in and sit down with your advisor and say "tell me what to take."

We go to a big state university with a wealth of opportunities, but because we are so big, the average student can't wait for someone to lead them through their four years here, to show them what to take every semester, to tell them what career to have.

If you do that, you'll be one of those statistics, someone with a college degree, but no job.

A student has to show

Advisement

Students need to take advisement seriously and ask plenty of questions.

initiative here. They have to be informed about their major and their interests, and know what their options are.

Most professors have a lot of students to

advise, and they don't have time to lead a student around.

When you go into advisement, have questions ready to ask your professor. Have a rough idea of what you want to take.

Ask your advisor about certain professors and their teaching styles.

Ask them what value a certain class might have for you in the long run.

They have a wealth of information, but they cannot be expected to read your mind.

And sometimes they may not know the answers to all your questions. But chances are they know the person that can.

This University has one of the best career centers in the country. You pay for it, use it.

We have an office just for pre-professional students to get advised. Use that.

There are just too many opportunities here at Carolina. If you have a problem or need advice, there is probably someone here that is paid to help you.

Go out and find them. You are paying to be here, you might as well get your money's worth.



Quote, Unquote

"There's lots of confusion that could be avoided if students did their homework."

Virginia Funk, senior and peer advisor, on advisement

Education key to ending teen smoking, drinking

Cece von Kolnitz Special Projects

Our President must think he's leading a nation full of zombies.

He thinks advertisements control us, that young people start smoking and drinking because they see people do it on TV commercials.

It's time for President Clinton to turn off his television set and come back to reality.

The banning of cigarette and alcohol ads isn't going to stop kids from drinking until they're left shaking on a cold bathroom floor.

The ban isn't going to stop 13-year-olds from filling their lungs with cancer-causing smoke. It won't stop high school

drink fests, drunk drivers or teen-age smokers who light up in the bathroom at lunch time.

Older brothers and sisters will still buy their underage siblings beer for the next party and middle school kids will still buy and smoke several packs a day.

But I guess as long as it looks like he's trying to solve a problem, the effectiveness of a proposed solution doesn't concern Clinton.

And maybe there are no 100 percent effective solutions. It could be that smoking and drinking are two parts of American life which kids must face at some point during their childhood and teen-age years.

When it comes down to real life situations, it's always going to be an

individual's decision. The only way to influence that decision is through education, and even that may not work.

I remember having to attend assemblies in high school where a police officer toting a projector-o-horrors would give a one-hour presentation of full color, alcohol-related accident slides. Some kids snickered. Others got real serious.

The shows may have been effective for a few hours, maybe even days. But you couldn't ever imagine anyone saying, "That slide show really got to me. I don't think I'll ever drink again."

I propose taking kids on educational field trips. First, we'd visit an Oncology floor at a local hospital and talk to patients dying of lung cancer.

Then we'd stop by the School of

Medicine and look at the plasticized livers of alcoholics. That evening, to top off the tour, we'd visit a college party where the vomit abounds (Watch your step kids!).

I don't mean to make fun of a serious problem. But I am making fun of a silly solution.

Kids and teen-agers aren't zombies. They're real people. Instead of attacking a pointless area, Clinton needs to spend more time worrying about education.

He has the power to help teach kids how to protect themselves, to know what unhealthy behavior is.

But short of traveling around the country slapping cigarettes and bottles out of kids' mouths, lending more support to education is all he can do.

Confederate flag a symbol of racism in South Carolina

Shawn Singleton Columnist

The effects of last week's shooting at a local nightclub in Pelion have been felt all across the state.

When I later found out that the assailants were members of the Ku Klux Klan, and they had attended a pro-Confederate flag rally a day before the shooting, I was infuriated.

It's not surprising that the S.C. Council of Conservative Citizens (the group that staged the rally) disavows the shootings. Isn't it rather obvious, however, what the message is? Conservatism at its very best.

South Carolina has had more negative

negative press over the last two years than Newt Gingrich, and almost all of it has had to do with race.

The Susan Smith tragedy, the incident involving the state trooper on I-95 and the ongoing Confederate flag dilemma have all made national headlines, and no forums that Gov. Beasley can hold will take away from the fact that this state has major problems.

As an African-American, the Confederate flag really disheartens me.

Every time I drive or walk by the Statehouse, I, along with many others of my race, feel a sense of disgust because it is sending us the message that no matter what advances we have made second-class citizens.

Many white people have told me the flag symbolizes their heritage, a remembrance of a war to defend states' rights.

News flash: the war has been over for 131 years. Germany doesn't fly their swastika anymore, so why does this state have to fly their "swastika?"

Last week's shooting is just another reason to lower the flag permanently.

The flag today seems to represent a covert, deep-seated hatred toward African-Americans and other minorities. The citizens of this state say they want to move forward, but their actions have been the opposite.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once everywhere."

justice everywhere." We as a state must not let this injustice go unpunished.

We must start living in the present, not in the past. This is 1996, not 1896, and the days of Plessy v. Ferguson and slave codes are over.

Gov. Beasley and the rest of the Conservatives need to understand that real change has to be made to alleviate this problem.

Face-saving forums and committees aren't going to work.

While lowering the flag isn't going to solve all of our problems, it can act as a catalyst for some actual civil rights advances.

Are you listening, Gov. Beasley? I didn't think so.

Veterans overlooked group, service should be respected

Today we are supposed to celebrate Veterans Day, but in reality, very few people will actually acknowledge this much overlooked holiday.

Aside from the Gulf War, most people in our age group have not been involved in a war.

Even though we may never have to fight in a war, we cannot forget the brave men and women who risked their lives for their country.

It takes an innately brave individual to go to war and fight for a country that does not always show its appreciation. Remember the Vietnam War?

When our troops returned home from Vietnam, they were treated like garbage and outsiders.

Veterans Day

Veterans deserve respect for fighting for an unappreciative country.

The way we treated the troops was unexcusable.

We should show the utmost respect to our veterans.

How many of us would go to an unfamiliar country to fight in a war?

War should certainly be avoided at all costs, but sometimes we have to fight for what is right.

While you may disagree with war, don't take out your anger on the troops.

The president and Congress are the ones responsible for America going to war.

Troops are only following orders to ensure freedom.

Veterans deserve admiration, not disrespect. Let's keep that in mind on Veterans Day.

Letters To The Editor

Multiculturalism opportunity for education about diversity

To the editor,

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs would like to respond to John Frick's column "Multiculturalism serves to separate people," which appeared in the Oct. 23 edition of The Gamecock.

Opposite to what one may think, multiculturalism does not strive to "accentuate every possible difference among people, and use these differences to define them," but the idea emphasizes respect and understanding of those differences that make us unique.

Each individual on our campus is different. No two people are exactly the same.

Multiculturalism is not "breaking people up into neat little groups," but it is respecting the differences between cultures and giving students the opportunity to feel empowered about their heritage.

Multiculturalism does not "demand that everyone accept everything about everybody," but it encourages communication and education about differences that will then lead to a higher level of understanding and respect of our differences.

The goal is not to separate and distinguish, but to understand and respect the differences that make us a unique community.

In 1990, "Population Today" stated

that by the year 2040, the population of African-Americans will increase by 50 percent; Asian and Pacific Islander Americans by 400 percent; Hispanics by 200 percent; and European Americans by less than 13 percent.

These demographic shifts will have a profound effect on the cultural diversity of the United States.

Caucasians will not be the majority, as statistics state, the minority will be the majority population. Unfortunately, many people fear change.

Why would we fear change or difference? Because we are not educated.

Being educated about words such as multiculturalism, stereotyping, diversity, prejudice, discrimination, sexism and classism might decrease fear and increase understanding.

We are fearful because we don't understand, we are scared to ask questions and learn about someone who is different from ourselves. It is easy to go through life without taking the time to walk in someone else's shoes.

It is time to understand that being empowered about culture does not mean that one is stereotyping, but that he or she is appreciating his or her own culture, as well as other cultures.

Tobi Kinsell
Graduate Student

MDA Lock-Up should have been covered in student newspaper

To the editor,

On Oct. 30, Kappa Alpha Order and Chi Omega Sorority held the annual Muscular Dystrophy Jail-A-Thon, and despite numerous phone calls, a press release and major campus-wide publicity, I was amazed and disappointed that The Gamecock failed to cover the event.

The MDA Lock-Up was a huge success as we arrested students, faculty and administrators, raising over \$2,700 for a good cause.

It would have been a great photo opportunity, and I feel the event was worthy of a front-page article.

Of course, I am aware that it does not matter what I feel should be in The Gamecock, but it is the responsibility of the staff and reporters who, by failing to report on our event, ultimately let down Kappa Alpha and Chi Omega, the student body and the MDA.

WIS TV, WLTX TV-19 and even two student T.V. crews reported on the MDA Lock-Up.

For the past seven years, The Gamecock has printed a front-page story covering our project the day before it

was to take place, and then printed a front-page picture of our "jailbirds" the day after the event.

Too many people put too much time into this event for it to simply be ignored by our student newspaper.

Kappa Alpha and Chi Omega raised 10 times the amount of money we raised last year.

We broke our previous fund-raising record set three years ago by more than \$1,000.

It was discouraging and insulting when we failed to receive coverage and commendation for our hard work and dedication to people who suffer from Neuromuscular Disease.

I have heard complaints that there is "no news around this campus." However, a great opportunity to cover good news was missed when our event was ignored.

I know it is not easy to put out an issue of The Gamecock. I am just sorry that no one listened or cared about our efforts for "Jerry's Kids."

Peter Siachos
KA Philanthropy Chair
SG Treasurer

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The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published Monday, Wednesday and 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.