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**IN OUR  
OPINION**

## Black, white interaction needs to gain more ground

Today, the University of South Carolina is looking back on its history of civil rights.

It is good to remember from where we are coming, which is the point of history; to make sure we don't make the same mistakes twice. But we must realize we have a long way to go.

The university and the state, as a whole, have changed drastically in the area of civil rights, but we still have a lot of ground to cover in race relations.

Anyone would be a fool to deny that although our campus is desegregated, we are far from integrated. We see it all the time on campus. At the Russell House or at a football game, many white and black students just do not interact. Some would say it is the way it is; that we cannot change it; and that blacks and whites just were not meant to interact.

At the university, we are seeing a microcosm of our society. When we come here, we gravitate

**Race Relations**

*As a generation, we need to take the next step towards abolishing ignorance.*

towards people we are comfortable with. Most of us are more comfortable with members of our own race. It's just easier when we go away to school.

Society, as a whole, is still segregated. How many of our neighborhoods are truly integrated?

This kind of segregation causes ignorance, which causes hatred and racism. When people spend their entire lives separate from each other, they become ignorant.

As the next generation, we have a duty to take race relations one step further than our parents did. We need to give each other equal respect at all times and never assume anything about anyone because of race.

For students at this university, the color barrier is hard to break down on both sides. Once we take off the dark-colored glasses of hatred and ignorance, it is easy to see the truth.

## U.S. educational standards too low in math, science

According to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, American students lag behind students in Asia and Europe.

**Teaching in America**

*Teachers should have higher standards so American students will be able to compete.*

performance is based on how students are taught.

We can't blame our low test scores on lazy students or excessive television

viewing. This time, low-quality education is to blame.

The United States has often gotten a lot of flack for substandard education, now we have a study to prove it.

Teachers and administrators in the educational system need to raise academic standards in the United States so our students will be able to compete for jobs and be successful in future endeavors.

A solid education in subjects, such as math and science, need to start at an early age so students will be prepared for higher education.

If students are more prepared at an earlier age, they will be less likely to fall flat on their faces when they reach college and when they make their way into the real

The study showed American eighth-grade students ranked 28th in math tests and 17th in science tests given to students in 41 countries.

Singapore ranked first in both math and science, and Japan ranked third in both subjects.

According to the study, America's low test scores aren't based on television viewing habits or lack of homework, but on the way the material is taught.

The study showed students in Japan watch just as much television and spend the same amount of time studying math and science as their American counterparts.

Also, teachers in Japan assign less math and science homework than American teachers.

It's disturbing to know America's lackluster academic



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**Quote, Unquote**

**"Even if they have to roll him out there in a stroller, I want to see him get 1,000 yards."**

Anthony Wright, USC quarterback, on senior running back Duce Staley

## Stupidity prevalent on television, in society

**Lucy Arnold**  
Columnist

"I realized immediately that I had been attacked by a shark."

What do you suppose clued her in? The searing pain? The blood loss? The shark attached to her leg?

I don't know about you, but I feel inundated by the sheer weight of human genius I have encountered recently. People are just so intelligent; I can see why we're called a higher lifeform.

The quote above comes from a little show I've seen advertised called "When Animals Attack! II."

There are a couple of things about this program that bother me. First of all, the II.

That means there was once a I. A part I that people enjoyed enough to warrant a part II. Yikes!

And then there's the commercial itself. The shark woman speaks for herself, but you have to see the footage of the other "Animal Attacks!" to truly realize their meaning.

See, each clip is of some person who

was standing too close to an alligator, a bear, a deer or a really mean little dog.

So it's a show about people being viciously mauled. Now that's entertainment!

If you thought people getting hit in the balls by all kinds of inventive projectiles was a great form of humor, well, you've got quite a treat coming.

Not that I'm putting down "America's Funniest Home Videos" because, like the rest of Americans, I firmly believe in everyone's right to look like an idiot. I just resent the fact that these goofballs are rewarded.

I guess I am putting down "America's Funniest" because, now that I think about it, it's really sad that neither Bob Saget, nor many other Americans, have anything better to do.

The unfortunate thing is that the human genius I have observed has not restricted itself to the television watching habits of Americans. No, I've seen many people act like buffoons - in public.

For example, I went to see "Ransom" this weekend. Now, I'm not going to spoil it for anyone, but there are some interesting plot twists in this movie and

after one of those twists, I had to listen to the woman beside me explain what had just happened to her, apparently, Neanderthal boyfriend/ husband/ pet. And the bad thing was her other neighbors seemed to find her explanation enlightening.

These people propagate at the movies, I think. "Independence Day" was especially thrilling.

As the aliens demolished the White House, my next-seat neighbor said, "I guess they gone blow it up."

It certainly appeared that way. And then when Brent Spiner appeared as a mad scientist in Area 51, I heard a gasp of "It's Data!" behind me.

I would hate to hear those people at "The Crying Game."

Another public bastion of intelligence: the video store. I once heard a pair of movie connoisseurs debate whether to rent "Homeward Bound II" (yet another case of the part II following an entirely unnecessary part I).

"Isn't five dollars for two nights a little expensive, Steve?" Steve's babe said.

"No, it's cheap! Cause see, we'll watch

it MORE THAN TWICE! We'll pull one over on them! (Devious laughter.)"

Yeah, I think the Refreshments had it right when they started talking about how "the world is full of stupid people."

And the good thing about that band is they have a positive outlook on stupidity. That is, smart people have the advantage over stupid people.

I guess that's something. You almost feel bad to have an advantage though, don't you?

Like standing in line at McDonald's. I don't want to take advantage of the poor guy who supersedes his combo because it only costs 35 cents. (Then leaves half of the fries and drink when he leaves.)

And I always give change back to the cashier at Russell House who thinks that five quarters equal a dollar.

But on the other hand, there are the stupid people who are trying to get things up on me. Sending me fliers in the mail saying Free Vacation in the Bahamas (for the low, low price of \$2,074 per week). Letters telling me to mail \$50 immediately to make thousands.

Thank you, but I'll keep the pesos.

## Forgiveness therapeutic, necessary to move on with life

**Nikki La Rocque**  
Columnist

I know of no one who can hold a grudge like a Southerner can.

Holding a grudge can go beyond the obvious, like those ignorant people who sport "The South Will Rise Again" bumper stickers. (Have they checked our economy lately? Just wondering.)

It includes little, tiny disasters involving a school lunch and the bully in fifth grade only you remember, but remember with a vengeance, and, finally, find yourself glowing with the thought of revenge when the bully becomes your senior lab partner, and hydrochloric acid somehow manages to spill itself all over his books.

I myself am included in those later year-long-hold-a-grudge-marathons. And yes, they usually do have something to do with middle school and obnoxious boys.

I think I still hold my grudges because the obnoxious little boys grew up into really obnoxious men.

At any rate, I will admit, those little, tiny pinpricks sometimes just stick in my mind, like the theme song to "Star Wars."

Unfortunately, I can't fly into the middle of my mind, pull a Luke Skywalker and just blow my Death Star-sized grudge into oblivion.

However, even in my warped, Southern mind, I still know the difference between nursing the hurt of a 12-year-old and knowing when to quit. You have to quit the hate, sometime, before it tears you up.

Some wounds are grievous. They are not the humiliation of school days, but the hurt inflicted on you by loved ones. Those are the worse kind.

They fester to a point where you might find yourself wallowing in self-pity, almost enjoying how miserable you are. Almost.

But if you let that gnawing hurt just sit there, in that empty, hollow part of your chest that hurts when you cry, it tends to get to you.

This is where forgiveness comes in. I've learned to forgive people not so much

for their sake or because someone tells me the Bible says it's the right thing to do, but for an utterly selfish reason.

It makes me feel better. I release negative karma when I forgive. It takes the heavy distraction away.

It's a hard thing to do. You cannot decide whether to forgive someone. It just happens.

Sometimes, all it takes is a good fight. I've yelled and screamed at someone and let him know exactly where I stood and what a pisser he was.

As soon as my tirade was over, he was forgiven. I didn't exactly mean to (I actually wouldn't have minded a little more energetic emotion), but something in me just cooled.

It was one of those grievous wounds, and though it had not healed by the end of the fight, my nemesis was forgiven.

Sometimes, in order to forgive, you have to go away. It's only time, time, and more time away from the one who hurt you that will allow you to forgive.

This is the least efficient way to forgive because it just takes so damned long, and you're really not doing anything,

just waiting.

But it's such a relief when it happens. Forgiving is giving up a hate that controlled you, consciously or not.

Forgiving is not so much about making the other person feel better as about giving yourself peace.

Be selfish: forgive someone. Forgive your parents, your ex, the person who assaulted you, God, your friend who died and left you behind, that racist next door anyone who hurt you, intentionally or not.

Remove the blinders of hatred and help give your life clarity. Our lives are so complicated; simplifying any little thing helps to ease it.

I'm not suggesting in any way that as a collective whole we should give up anger and become members of Barney's Backyard Gang. That is unreasonable and scary as hell.

Anger is a human emotion not likely to suddenly vanish. Getting angry because someone hurt you is healthy and normal.

But, hating that person for the rest of your life is self-destructive.