

The Gamecock

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IN OUR
OPINIONCompetent knowledge
of Internet necessary

Full-fledged Internet access was only made available to USC students and teachers a few years ago. Now, virtually every department at USC has its own place on the world-wide web, thanks to the university's home page. Many USC students also have been able to create their own pages.

Students aren't the only ones taking rapid advantage of the web. Many USC professors have begun operating their own websites for classes and students to access. These websites offer professors a chance to post their class syllabuses and other assignments pertinent to a particular class or research interest.

By setting up websites, professors are forcing students to familiarize themselves with the web.

Many students at USC who may not really understand or actually use the Internet. Although this seems almost incomprehensible—

THE TOPIC

The Internet

OUR OPINION

Professors' WEB sites force students to learn about the Internet

judging from the amount of students who use Internet facilities throughout the campus computer labs—it's true.

It's an uncontested fact that the Internet will be an integral part of the modern-day workplace. If students don't know how to use the web, they will lose out.

By the time a student graduates from USC, they should not only be equipped with a strong traditional collegiate education, they should also be armed with a working knowledge of modern computer technology. Professors posting webpages on the Internet is just another way to ensure this process.

The educational benefits of professors having web pages are endless, much like the power and influence of the web itself. Plus, students now can never complain about losing a syllabus. All they have to do is access it on their professor's web page. Benefits, benefits.

Proposition 209
implications ignored

One would think the end of affirmative action would've occurred in the conservative South first, not in free-thinking California.

But as that state likes to be first in everything, they've become the first state to end affirmative action with their Proposition 209. It went into official effect this past week.

No matter what one's stance on affirmative action (special benefits given to minorities and women), all could agree it's a major issue in our country. It seems the Supreme Court disagrees.

According to an article published Friday by The State, the Supreme Court decided not to interfere with the proceedings of Proposition 209. Furthermore, there was no explanation, no reasoning behind the decision.

The lack of communication simply diminishes the importance of

THE TOPIC

Proposition 209

OUR OPINION

The Supreme Court shouldn't have ignored this important issue

the affirmative action issue.

The civil rights issue is not dead, but it seems like the Supreme Court wished it were. Even if the justices believe the civil rights movement has reached its peak and is rather passé, why didn't they make such a statement?

Because they know they'd have the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Organization of Women to answer to. So instead of saying, "We've got more important things to consider than whether or not minorities and women are given a break," they chose to duck the issue and wait out the result before making an official statement.

The Supreme Court sets a precedent, and by avoiding making a statement either for or against affirmative action, they've diminished the importance of civil rights, and the fight for them.



Quote, Unquote

"The first ballgames are tough ballgames. You just try to get through them and find a way to win them."

Coach Brad Scott on the Gamecocks narrow victory over Central Florida

Conroy characters exist in real life

FRID LEACH

Columnist

Charlie Paige was a little down on his luck when I met him this summer.

"Ain't been no decent crabbing or shrimping at all 'round here," he told me as we stood at the end of a rickety old pier that stretched out over a tidal creek near Beaufort.

The saltwater that meandered through the marsh usually brought in a bounty of blue crabs and shrimp coming in the shallows to feed, but just like the tide, Charlie's luck in catching any was ebbing.

He spent the week on a shrimp boat called the Arabella. It was owned by a man, a friend of the Paige family, whose grandfather had once saved Charlie's Grandfather's life. When he was laid off from a local plant, the captain gave Charlie a job working the boat.

Each day, after the nets were hauled in and the catch was sorted, Charlie would take home a small amount of seafood which his wife, Theresa, would cook for him and their three children. On the weekends, Charlie would try his luck hunting, if the season was right, or he would go and fish and crab by himself, not for recreation, but to provide a meal for his family.

The oldest of his three children, Jacob, was 13 years old, and he served as the man of the house when his father was out on the boat. Jacob was very smart, according to his father, and wanted to be a doctor.

Elisha was an 11-year-old girl who helped her mother around the house and was very "grown up" for her age, Charlie told me. Elisha was very interested in literature and was particularly fond of Hemingway. For her 11th birthday in May, they gave her a copy of "To Have and Have Not."

The youngest was named Issac. Issac, his father explained, was the next Ken Griffey Jr.

"I'd be scared to be a baseball when he's at the plate," he said. His children were clearly the center of Charlie's life, and I understood this as he pulled out an empty wallet and showed me their pictures.

Their was still nothing in his nets when he checked them, so he told me more about his life in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. I felt like I was meeting a character from a Conroy novel. He pointed out an egret surreptitiously stalking fish and fiddler crabs, an osprey soaring majestically above us searching for fish and a school of mullet making their way towards the open water.

"I don't think Charlie considered himself poor, and he was not. He didn't have much money to be sure, but what he had is often much harder to come by than money."

I don't think Charlie considered himself poor, and he wasn't. He didn't have much money, to be sure, but what he had is often much harder to come by than money.

Integrity, humility, personality, and love cannot be bought and, I tend to look for these traits in people before I look for virtue in the form of a big bank account.

After a couple of hours, I decided to go to the beach and join my family for a swim. I walked to my truck parked at the end of the boardwalk at least 200 yards from the pier. When I arrived there, I realized I'd left my wallet, keys and watch on the side of the pier. I'd gone swimming off the pier earlier that afternoon and so I left them there so they wouldn't get wet.

Just as I turned around, there was Charlie Paige, sprinting across the boardwalk with my wallet, watch and keys in his hand.

"Better not forget these, buddy," he said with a smile. I thanked him and wished him luck crabbing and shrimping.

"Oh, we'll be alright," he said. "The good Lord always takes care of us."

After he was gone, the cynical and suspicious side of me checked to see if my money was still there. I had just withdrawn \$100 to take to Atlanta the next day to see Jimmy Buffett. Not one dollar was missing.

A couple of guys had just driven up in an expensive luxury sedan and witnessed the events.

"Man, you're lucky, I'd have kept the money and ran" one of them said as they walked by me wearing Hilfiger socks.

I knew that I was indeed lucky to have had the privilege of meeting a man like Charlie Paige. A man whom, like me, would never be caught dead in a pair of Hilfiger socks.

Letter to the Editor

Cheating undermines University integrity

To the Editor:

No aspect of the life and purpose of a university is more critical than its adherence to strict standards of academic integrity. As a center of learning and inquiry, a university must expect and demand that its students and faculty will be able to perform their study, research and evaluation in an atmosphere of integrity and honesty.

A front-page article in the Sept. 3 issue of The Gamecock discussed the penalties that may be imposed upon students who cheat or otherwise act dishonestly in any of their academic work while at the university. The cost of being caught is very high, and students certainly should be aware of the very real threat of suspension or expulsion from the university. The incentive for students to act with integrity, however, must come from more than the threat of sanction if caught.

The article quoted a freshman as saying that cheating is a viable, and apparently acceptable, option if the likelihood of getting caught is low. Such an attitude of cavalier disrespect should spark outrage among all of us at the university. I expect, however, that others come to this school with similar views. Even some who would not themselves cheat may ask why it should matter to them if another person chooses to act dishonestly while at the university.

As students and faculty, we are at the university to discover, study, learn and disseminate information and ideas. If we cannot be confident of the reliability of what we are told by others, that educational process becomes a pointless endeavor. Therefore, the institution can be expected to take whatever measures are

needed to protect integrity. If we lose the ability to rely upon the honesty of each other, we can expect that more time will be allocated by the institution to verifying and ensuring the accuracy of information that is conveyed, taking valuable time away from teaching and research.

Moreover, our expectations of each other will be diminished, our discoveries may be flawed, and our learning will be hindered. I trust that none of us really wants to live or work or be associated with a community of people who can muster no greater sense of moral guidance than was indicated by the published comments of this one student.

If the moral incentive to act honestly is not already developed, perhaps we should consider some other obvious costs of tolerating academic misconduct.

First, when grades in a class are calculated on a curve, the grade of an honest student may lower than what's deserved if another student cheats, so as to receive a false high evaluation of his or her relative performance in the class.

Second, a significant part of the value of a diploma from this university is the message of accomplishment that it conveys to others, such as prospective employers. If academic dishonesty is tolerated, others will eventually become aware that not all who receive the diploma have in fact engaged in the study and learning that the award of a degree should reflect.

That knowledge, or lack of confidence in the degree, in turn, will devalue everyone's degree.

Third, the individual reputations developed in this university will follow

many of us throughout our lives as we encounter again and again the people who know us in college. Imagine failing to get a job because someone working in the office of a prospective employer knew you as a person who engaged in or tolerated dishonesty in your academic work.

Finally, we learn at this university to become pharmacists and doctors, lawyers and engineers, business leaders and teachers.

Would any of us want to think that our prescription were filled by people who cheated their way through pharmacy school? Would any of us put our lives or freedom in the hands of doctors or lawyers who may have cheated their way through medical or law school? Would we trust our children to a teacher who lied to get a degree? Would we climb aboard a roller coaster designed by someone who cut corners to get through engineering school?

The freshman quoted in The Gamecock seems to believe that the only mistake would be in getting caught. That attitude is not only arrogant, but selfish. Cheating is not a victimless offense. It defrauds all of us who work here, who study here, and who rely upon the validity of the degree that is awarded here.

Robert M. Wilcox
Associate Professor
School of Law

Students responsible
for own choices

To the Editor:

A recent editorial (Tailgating causes drunk driving, The Gamecock, Sept. 5,

1997) illustrates the abdication of personal responsibility in our society.

First, you assert that tailgating is "almost an invitation to drink and drive," and second, that provision of public transportation is the solution to the problem.

Drunk driving is the direct result of an individual's failure to act as a rational and mature adult. Many of us drink. Some of us even do so prior to college football games. Most of us do not, as a result of such behavior, operate motor vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

Even if your initial assertion were true, provision of public transportation is not the best or only answer. Sooner or later, all of us have to grow up and face the real world. In that world, we can't rely on Mom and Dad or the University of South Carolina or the government, to solve our problems for us.

Designated drivers, ride-share programs, taxis and not drinking to excess in the first place are all answers to drunk driving that we can implement without university assistance.

The key issue here is not tailgating and drunk driving, but whether or not we're willing to take responsibility for ourselves. Our knee-jerk reaction to problems, as evidence in this editorial, is to ask someone to do something for us. The American tradition of rugged individualism is rapidly sinking into a sea of whines to surrogate parents.

Charles H.C. Brown
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The Gamecock

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WHO WE ARE

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The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock.

The Department of Student Media is its parent organization.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 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 au-

thor to The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333.

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

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