

The Gamecock

Serving USC Since 1908

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IN OUR OPINION

Diversity now official motto of USC Senate

There's a good idea brewing in the USC student senate, and if it works, it will be even better.

At this week's meeting, the student senate passed a resolution calling for the senators to support multicultural events.

According to the bill, each senator will have to attend one event sponsored by or recognized by a multicultural event, one time each semester.

So sounds like another meaningless bill? It's not. Its purpose is actually well thought out.

THE TOPIC

Multicultural Bill

OUR OPINION

A good idea to promote multicultural awareness.

Basically, the senate wants its members to interact with other students and create cultural awareness.

Senator Kathy Von Nostrand of the Journalism school has the right idea about this program. It is part of a senator's responsibility to make an effort to understand the people they are representing.

Hopefully, this program will gain the support necessary to grow into a successful endeavor. After all, how can this program not thrive on a campus as diverse as USC?

McDonalds covets Vista corner

Mickey-D's, the good-old Golden Arches of our 5-year-old birthday parties. Ronald and company, represented by the Greenville Regional Office, wants to become a new neighbor and rub elbows with other establishments in the Vista.

THE TOPIC

The Vista

OUR OPINION

Mainstream chains should not open in this historic area

be a shame to so soon destroy the growing, struggling historic ambience of the area with a mainstream fast food restaurant like McDonald's, no matter how non-traditionally they build their restaurant.

The company is looking to build, according to The State, "an understated brick building" sans the arches and playground on the traffic-heavy corner of Gervais and Huger Street.

The Vista renovation has been promising, but there's still many an open lot and deteriorated building that could be renovated and opened for business. There's still undeveloped economic profit laying in wait. That a national chain like McDonald's is interested in the Vista shows businesses believe in and trust this economic potential.

However, Columbia has so few historic areas, it would

The city of Columbia should hold out for a better, more unique business to take over the corner.

There are enough restaurants and bistros, but what about a drive-through/eat-in coffee shop? Those needing a quick bite to eat could drive through and grab their coffee and bagel, while those needing time to sit and relax and enjoy the historic atmosphere of The Vista could eat inside. To make the coffee shop even more unique, it could perhaps combine itself with another service, such as a newspaper and magazine shop, much as Goatfeathers and Intermezzo have successfully done.

KNOWN IN BASKETBALL ARENAS
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY... A
FEARSOME SEXUAL PREDATOR...
MEET THE NBA'S NEWEST
BAD BOY...



...MARV ALBERT!

Quote, Unquote

"I looked for his birthday in their press guide, and it said Jan. 5, 6 and 7."

USC Head Coach Brad Scott on the size of MI State offensive starter 6'8" 351 pound Robert Hicks

Take complete freedom to discover self

DR. KEVIN LEWIS
Faculty Viewpoint

I hear complaints that college students aren't consistent. Faculty and staff colleagues observe, good-naturedly, that students are unpredictable and worse, too often unreliable.

So the criticism goes, and maybe it sticks. For young people, under relentless pressure to establish maturity sufficient to deal successfully with a complicated world, often do appear inconsistent or frivolous.

But there's another angle. This is western civilization, and this is America, where we prize the opportunity to realize a unique, unrepeatable self.

In our creed, the self is not exactly given. It is to be forged, to be earned, and to be negotiated over time. We have the luxury of means and leisure to pursue this all-absorbing task.

As a teacher, I do not expect young people to be consistent in how they present themselves to me or to their peers. Young people I have known as students over the years have grown in expected ways while they were here at USC. Others have done surprising turns and

reverses of personality. Some seem to have re-invented themselves astonishingly overnight.

A stable identity is not that easy to acquire. We may want to try several different identities in succession in order to find the one that fits. And we do. We dream, we fantasize, we role play.

True, we have to take care of business as we go. But, the personal drama of our travel from provisional self to provisional self during these years is preemptive. It keeps our attention. As an educator farther along the path, I expect to give support to this experimentation when I see it in my students.

When I see teaching as play-acting and the classroom as a sleeping hive ready to come awake with the buzz of cross-communicating improvisations, I see learning and teaching in terms of varying, constructed roles. The profession actually encourages experimentation. So does learning itself, whether formal or informal, as a vehicle for human development.

What is the age at which we need to consolidate the gains and decide to be the person we've become? It will differ from individual to individual.

Of course young people have license to imitate, to impersonate and to plagiarize selves. They need this license. They need it in order to become the personality and gain the character they will eventually need to live with. Society rewards those who know who they are, but it takes work to get it right.

In the work of becoming ourselves, we cannot worry overmuch about the appearance of dishonesty. Change may startle friends or teachers or parents. But we should remember that, at least in youth, the person is a fluid concept, a chameleon entity, and to appear sometimes as [an] unpredictable unit.

The self is not fixed until we fix it for the duration. And even then it remains at risk of at least subtle change.

Here's an analogy. Marriage was once considered a lock. No longer — divorce is a thinkable solution. Wedding oneself too early to an identity too rigid may prove as unhappy as wedding oneself to a spouse before ready for such a commitment. Young people need permission to change the self and to keep changing it, to the extent possible and permissible, until they can achieve a winner.

A sense of theater is saving grace. It saves us from taking ourselves too

seriously. Theater people, actors, love playing roles, on stage and off. Sometimes they do nothing else, but that's an extreme. A philosophical sense of theater enables personal growth and then a healthier, more durable self once established.

W.H. Auden threw off some of the wiser lines in English poetry in verses honoring the birth of a child, John Rettger, to friends of his. In "Many Happy Returns" he offered the newborn child this advice:

"So I wish you first a/Sense of theater, only/Those who love illusion/And know it will go far/Otherwise we spend our/Lives in a confusion/Of what we say and do with/Who we really are."

Before they turn the corner, at whatever age that may be, while the apprenticeship lasts, until, reaching responsible adulthood, young people should be encouraged to try on as many roles or selves as may help.

Editor's Note: Dr. Lewis is the first guest of the new Faculty Viewpoints feature. He is a professor of religious studies and a principal of Preston Residential College.

Include 'nothingness time' in hectic schedule

ERIN SHAW
Columnist

I'm standing at Starbucks waiting for my large Hazelnut cappuccino.

The grayness outside only seems poetic for the way this week has gone. The attempt to outwit my day runner has been in vain. This little black book is the predator, I'm its prey. But for now, during this five minutes of a Thursday morning, I just want to experience peace for just one minute. The afternoon's meeting, trip to the library, meeting again, will just have to wait.

I am drifting in and out of this manic state, in dire need of caffeine. The seats in the GMP are almost all filled. People are laughing and eating their main dish and two sides, their grilled sandwiches and even their burritos. I wonder what they are talking about. I imagine most are younger - there aren't many faces I know well. I wonder what is going through their heads if this is their first semester at Carolina. I think about the new friendships forming over mushy raspberry cobbler right at that second. I wish for a moment I could be them.

A smile forms somewhere beneath the dark circles of perpetualness. Why am I filling every minute of the day, virtually eliminating the time to just "be"? I am a big believer in signs - watching for and acting on clues. And I have been getting the signs that my calendar has become too important on a daily basis. Case in point: Sunday night, I nearly gave up my tickets to see the Indigo Girls, my all time favorites. And this week, I almost passed up a night at Monterey's.

I know I am not alone. Most of my friends are equally, if not more, busy. That still doesn't help when I walk away from them, saying, "I can't, I have to —" "It's weird. I know all that stuff about time management and prioritizing and taking time to do just nothing. As I have written time and time again, I know that the most important lessons I've learned in college have happened outside the classroom, during late night laundry talks and failing miserably. Out of all people, I used to always be the spontaneous one.

Then why do I see myself in 10 years telling my kids that I can't go to their school play because I have a meeting, that I will make it up to them later? My parents came this weekend

and were upset when I told them how I just don't have the time anymore to do simple things (ie: laundry, go to the grocery store). Then, my dad whipped out his computer-printed list of what we would get accomplished during their visit.

I'm not saying it's my parents' "fault" I load myself down too much. I think they are the greatest parents and did the best job anyone could do in raising the three of us. I wouldn't want them to do a thing differently (except take me to a different orthodontist who wouldn't keep those braces on for what seemed like an eternity). One of my professors discusses this frequently - how it's so important to receive attention and stimulation at an early age and how that makes all the difference in determining a person's life. I wonder how to find the balance between encouraging children and pressuring them. I look at the people around me who fill their lives with "musts" and see some frustrated individuals, myself included.

Someone told me once that I "think too much." It would have been hurtful in a strange way if the word "ignorant" did not flash across my mind. The hurtful point came in the fact that there was

something to what he was saying - that I make issues out of non-issues.

I was glad that I decided to go to the Indigo Girls concert Sunday night. I must have been temporarily insane to think anything could come before this show that I can only equate to a religious experience. Although I was stressing about a paper during the opening act, my crammed confusion all went away when I heard the words I know are true.

Two songs did it for me: "Least Complicated" and "Closer To Fine." "How do I expect to start clean-slated/the hardest to learn is the least complicated" and "The less I seek my source for some definitive/ Closer I am To Fine." And that was it - that was the answer. For a moment, I was happy. For a moment I vowed to remind myself not to just throw out the calendar, but to include some nothingness time in there just like work time.

It's amazing that I can't just get a simple cappuccino without analyzing every second of it. Upon that thought I was handed the tall cup.

I drank the coffee, warm and strong. It was good.

VOICES

"Have you been to any USC events besides football games this semester?"



"Yes, soccer games, basketball, swim meets."

Jill Stuerke
Freshmen
Chemical Engineering



"Yes, a leadership conference."

Sandy DeVaux
Senior
Biology



"No, because I've only been here a semester."

Nitin Lalwani
Grad Student
Business Ad.

The Gamecock

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY