"This guy in college won \$50,000 and a car. I thought, 'I can do that." USC senior Laura Freedman

Friday, March 6, 1998

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The Gamecock

Adam Snyder, Editor in Chief Amy Shannon, Viewpoints Editor Kurt Johnson, Assistant Viewpoints Editor

### **TAKE OUR WORD**

## Puerto Rico might become 51st state

The 100 an-niversary of the Spanish-American war is upon us and with it comes another new territory for the U.S. At that war's end, the United States was given the island of Puerto Rico for winning. Now, the Capital Hill is up and ready to bring the island nation into the Union (well, almost).

The bill is going has left the House and is going to the Senate. The House proposed to simply leave it up to Puerto Rico. The nation has the options of becoming the next star on the flag, becoming an independent country, or retaining its U.S. commonwealth. Right now, Puerto Rico has a pro-state-hood government, as well as governor. But past votes have been close, in favor of remaining a commonwealth.

However, if approved and after all the red tape, Puerto Rico would not become a state until 2008 and one of the big issues now is what to do with the strong Spanish heritage that bequeaths the island?

Some congressmen have suggest forcing the Island's schools to teach English to the younger children.

PROBLEM

Congress will decide whether to admit the Island as a state.

SOLUTION

If done, its rich Spanish heritage needs to remain apart of the Island's culture.

> this would be like the destruction of the American Indian's way of life every since ancestors of Europe landed on the mainland and that is something that does not need to be re-lived. Letting Puerto Rico in the United States offers that much more opportunity for diversity, knowledge, and camaraderie.

But a majority has fa-

vored leaving the cul-

ture in tact, while

strongly encouraging

the Island to learn

English for better op-

And they're right.

It would definitely not

be respectful, especially

these days, to go and

destroy another places

culture. This is what

those people know; this is how they live. Doing

portunities.

If it does become the next state, the English ways will inevitably make gradual changes in the community. But the preservation of their culture is important.

Getting an opportunity to become the next state is quite an honorable one, but nothing should be forced. It should be up to the people and government officials whether or not they want the "perks" of being a state in the United States.

### Reinstatement of Sprewell horrible came an NBA player,

Arbitrator John Feerick decided Wednesday to reinstate the contract of NBA player Latrell Sprewell. Additionally, Sprewell will be paid \$17.3 million in lost salary, and his one year suspension will be reduced to seven months.

Sprewell, a player for the Golden State Warriors, received the suspen-

sion after violently attacking and grabbing the throat of Golden State Warrior head coach P. J. Carlesimo at a practice session December 1.

Feerick's decision is absolutely outrageous. Sprewell choked his coach, and now he is skipping out on his suspension. The intense physicality of the attack shocked the NBA community and sparked controversy as to what should have been done.

Now Sprewell will practically get off free. What does Feerick's ruling say about barbarianism and how our society regards professional athletes?

With this decision, Feerick sends the message that unsportsman-like conduct is acceptable. So now violence is considered an okay way to deal with problems between an angry person and his or her boss? That is simply

Sprewell allowed himself to lose control. As a professional athlete, he cannot let that happen. When he be-

**PROBLEM** 

Arbitrator John Feerick is reinstating the contract of NBA player Latrell Sprewell.

SOLUTION

Feerick's decision should be revoked. His ruling is outrageous.

he became a role model. He is a representative of his team, the NBA, and other professional athletes. As a human being,

he should be ashamed of what he did. To react to a situation with violence is not the way of a logical, reasoning person. We are human because of our ability to be rational and think

things through. Sprewell was not being human when he physically abused Carlesimo.

Are members of our society turning into barbarians? More specifically, are we saying that it's acceptable for professional athletes to act like thugs? Feerick's decision validates the double standard that our society gives to professional athletes.

There is no question that professional athletes are talented and deserve admiration, but they still must be held to basic human ideals such as resolving conflicts without violence, being an upstanding citizen and acting as a professional role mod-

Feerick could have set a precedent by upholding Sprewell's original suspension. He could have made it clear that our society will not tolerate such crass, base behavior from professional athletes. But he did not. So we continue our return to our barbaric



Lee Phipps Advertising Manager

STUDENT MEDIA RUSSELL HOUSE

HOW TO REACH US

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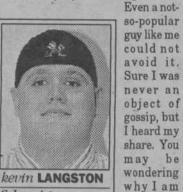
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college press **EXCHANGE** 

# High school lives in college

school? For some of you it wasn't that long ago. Do you remember all the back-stabbing? The betrayal? The gossip? The drama? It was an everyday event at high school. Even a not-



share. You may be wondering why I am Columnist bringing up this subject. Well I am glad you asked, because re-cently I have felt like I am still in high

school A friend of mine told me that she had decided to spring rush a sorority. I asked her which one she was eyeing. When she told me, she braced as if to protect herself from some smart remark. I told her to expect better from me, and to go with her own feelings. After all, if we don't live for ourselves, we are not living at all. She told me

T ey, do you remember high that because of her decision, she would be getting some grief.

Evidently, the sorority she wants to rush is notorious for the people in it. She told me some jack-ass nickname some people had given it. After a long discussion on the subject, I learned that this is an important step for her. She has friends at other colleges that would be her sisters, and she genuinely likes all the girls she has met from the sorority. I told her to go for it, and that she had my sup-

Now I know that this doesn't exactly scream high school, but let's read between the lines here. She is pretentious to rush this sorority because of its reputation. Evidently some other Greek affiliates have been passing word around about this particular sorority. Others pick up on it, and immediately establish an opinion about the organization and the people within it. Guys tell me which sororities are "top notch," and which ones are "dogs." I don't bother asking if they know first hand, because I know they don't. They take the word of someone else, and never bother learning something for themselves. Apparently, there is some kind of scale that categorizes all the fraternities and sororities. This scale tells all who to gun for and who to avoid. Who made this scale? Are the "This is college. We are all adults here (hopefully). When will we learn that labeling people doesn't necessarily mean we know them?"

groups aware of their current rankings on this scale? If so, do the lower ranked groups try to better themselves? I surely hope not. I wouldn't even gratify the people who religiously follow this scale. It is a representation of shallowness and immaturity.

This is college. We are all adults here (hopefully). When will we learn that labeling people doesn't necessarily mean we know them? We see that they belong to a certain group, and we pass judgement on them. This isn't restricted to just Greek organizations. It is universal. We don't care about the facts. The facts are boring. We would rather walk around blind to our version of the truth, meanwhile we miss out on our lives. Well not me. I am not going to do it this way.

The other night at the Georgia game, some friends and I were involved in a conversation dealing with sororities. This one guy said that he really

liked some of the girls from a certain sorority. He said that because of the sorority from which they came, he knew that they were nice girls. I responded by saying, "You know what's more fun than grouping people like that? Making them individuals." Behind all the labels we wear, the defenses we hold, and the gossip that is tied to us, there is someone that is worth knowing. We just have to unlearn what has been imbedded in the initial years of our life. We must see with our own eyes, and hear with our own ears. We must think with our own minds, and love with our own hearts. My senior English teacher once told me to believe half of what you read and none of what you hear. We must learn for ourselves. No one can tell us what is and what isn't. That is for us to decide. This ability is what makes us adults. We cannot trap ourselves in this mindless world of ignorance. We are better than that.

## ng Break no break from USC

pring Break is finally here. A week without tests, a week without homework. What am I talking about?

> It's a week without any school stuff. Well, almost any-



The only ideas of school I will entertain while I'm vacationing in Florida will be ... I guess I won't have thoughts of school for the week.

thing.

The thoughts that will be circumventing my brain will include: "Gee, I wonder if the motel we are staying in will let me eat those cockroaches? I have no money for food. It's all going toward beer."

Or how about, "Wow! Did you guys get a good look at that one?" You all know where that idea is headed.

We all know that warm weather is a plus. No rain would definitely make those days more enjoyable.

Yes, Spring Break is going to be a lot of fun. I'll be traveling with friends from home and friends from here.

What more could I ask for? Why would I ever let USC get into my head? There are, however, a few things

that will be on my mind. For starters, being the big sports fan that I am, knowing that the Gamecocks made it past that second round of the NCAAs would be nice. Hey, Melvin and Ryan, why don't you make sure that when I return from Florida, there is no chance of me seeing you on campus or down at Five Points for three more weekends.

The only place I want to see you guys is on CBS's "Road to the Final Four." An SEC championship banner from the tournament would be a nice blanket to use on your way out to the first and second rounds of the NCAAs.

Coming home to an internship offer would really be nice. Wouldn't it be awesome if when I went to my mailbox March 16, there would be an en"Yes, Spring Break is going to be a lot of fun. I'll be traveling with friends from home and friends from here. There are, however, a few things that will be on my mind."

velope from ESPN offering me a position for the summer?

Or if they cannot accommodate me, how about that resume that I sent to Golf Digest? I'm sure it needs another golfer on its staff. That would certainly make my return to Columbia a very enjoyable one.

How could I forget? I really hope the housing department doesn't screw me. I have senior status, which should help, but we all know that there is a lot more luck to getting good housing than there is being a nice guy.

And finally, what about those three tests that I have the week after Spring Break? I think all of my professors got together and decided, "Hey, we'll be

nice, no tests the week before Spring Break. But when they get back ..

Don't they think it's going to be just as tough to take a test on the Wednesday after Spring Break? I do.

There are still six other weeks to the semester. Why do I have two tests in the first eight weeks of class and not another one until finals? Explain

So I lied. School will be preoccupying my thoughts while I'm drinking and partying, I mean resting casually on the beach.

Maybe our paths will cross. Maybe they won't. Here's to an exciting Spring Break wherever you're going.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Finance committee to blame; Gamecock biased, opinionated

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the comments made by Adam Snyder in Monday's (Feb. 23) issue of The Gamecock. Snyder was defending his stance that The Gamecock is a non-racist pub-

Yet, in defending oneself, it is not appropriate to make claims that are unfounded and unfair. The statements

that I am referring to are the ones that suggest that the African-American community of USC was blaming others for their problems.

These problems include the proposed budget cut of AAAS funds by 43 percent, and the lack of equal representation of all candidates in the past election by The Gamecock. My question to Mr. Snyder is, how can the African-American community of USC be the ones to blame for the 43 percent cut in the AAAS budget?

There are no others to blame but the members of the finance commit-

tee. AAAS was not breaking any rules, or causing any problems to the student body for the committee to decide that AAAS does not deserve 43 percent of its budget. If anything, AAAS, and programs like it, draws students to USC by promoting multiculturalism and unity, which can't be found in most universities of this size and diversity.

On the matter that concerns The Gamecock, Mr. Snyder feels that The Gamecock is being looked upon as a scapegoat for the ills of the African-American community of USC.

However, this was not the first time that The Gamecock has been labeled as biased. In the same issue, a student was angered at the sugar-coated, onesided portrayal of Madeline Albright's visit to South Carolina. So maybe Mr. Snyder needs to take these complaints seriously, and make an attempt to have some of the viewpoints in his paper reflect a more diverse, multicultural stance, instead of claiming that everyone else is wrong.

Tevra Johnson Freshman, Psychology

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