

▶ Kurt and Felicia will do a duet together for a special column on race relations.

VIEWPOINTS

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"The first half was a non-eventful offensive performance."
Football Coach Brad Scott

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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TAKE OUR WORD

Harpootlian must recognize students

On March 4, USC student Justin Porter died from a group A streptococcus bacteria. Now, the coroner is investigating whether he contracted the infection from a fight with another USC student, Caldwell Johnston.

PROBLEM

Dick Harpootlian and others have ignored The Gamecock's requests for information.

SOLUTION

Public officials must recognize students.

In fact, it is of great surprise that Mr. Harpootlian would not speak to this paper on a matter that is explicitly of interest to the Carolina Community. Mr. Harpootlian must remember that he has not only one job but two in this state — attorney and head of the South Carolina

Democratic Party.

Subpoenas were issued last week calling for testimony from witnesses of the incident. As this story broke, Johnston's attorney, Dick Harpootlian, spoke to *The State* but refused to comment to *The Gamecock*.

Even though *The Gamecock* staff is comprised of students who are trying to learn the ins and outs of journalism, this paper still has the capability of writing and running professional stories that are of importance to the USC and surrounding communities.

The Gamecock would greatly appreciate that those with information on any newsworthy story would come forward so that all sides can be fairly represented.

In attempting to rebuild the Democratic Party, Mr. Harpootlian should not be alienating a large cross-section of society such as the Carolina student body.

But we hope that Mr. Harpootlian, as well as other members of this community, will be more helpful in the future in assisting *The Gamecock* to report the news more accurately and more fully. This newspaper and, more importantly, the students of this university, deserve some respect. And we expect that community leaders give us that respect, especially a leader such as Mr. Harpootlian who relies partially on the votes of students for his job.

No trial for Jones a horrible decision

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright threw out Paula Jones' sexual-misconduct lawsuit against President Clinton.

Wright decided that Clinton's conduct could not be considered illegal sexual harassment for three main reasons: Clinton only behaved that way one time, Jones was not fired from her job, and she did not need psychiatric help after it happened.

Wright's decision is an outrage. Any incident involving sexual harassment is illegal. There are no exceptions. For Wright to distinguish between a legal form of sexual harassment and its illegal counterpart is absolutely shameful and intolerable.

Wright believes that since the encounter only happened once, it's really no big deal and it justifies a dismissal of the trial. What is she thinking? She is setting a precedent which will permit a superior to sexually proposition his or her employee without fear of any legal recourse from the employee. As long as it happens only one time, it's okay by the law.

Furthermore, whether Jones kept her job or sought psychiatric counsel after the event does not qualify as reasonable grounds to throw

PROBLEM

Judge Wright's reasons for throwing out Jones' case against Clinton are absolutely outrageous.

SOLUTION

Wright's ruling should be overturned.

out this case. These two factors have nothing to do with the underlying question whether Clinton committed the crime of sexual harassment. The essence of this case centers around the validity of Jones' sexual harassment claim, not her job performance or if she was allowed to continue working.

"This is not one of those exceptional cases in which a single incident of sexual harassment" was "severe or physically threatening," Wright wrote in her 39-page conclusion. Wright is out of her mind. Does sexual harassment have to be "severe or physically threatening" to be acknowledged and punishable under the law? Does a person have to physically and mentally suffer before his or her employer can be stopped? The implications are horrible and disgusting.

Wright's finding is a sad statement of her view of the relationship between a boss with his or her employee. Wright's decision also seriously compromises what the sexual harassment laws were meant to do.

Wright should be relieved of her duties as a U.S. District Judge. Her ruling must be appealed and overturned. Any other alternative is unacceptable.



college press EXCHANGE

Book describes past, future

steven YATES
Guest Columnist

I am going to discuss 1997's most important book, "The Fourth Turning," by William Strauss and Neil Howe—especially since it offers a potential frame of reference for future columns. Strauss and Howe are known for previous writings on Generation X. According to "The Fourth Turning," U.S. history has gone through a progression of cycles, each cycle having four stages called turnings. A cycle lasts roughly the length of a long human life span. Turnings last from 15 to 20 years (sometimes less). Divisions are generational, and depend on the differences in how generations grow up. Some were overprotected. Others were left to flounder. Transitions from one turning to the next are sometimes gradual and other times marked by nasty jolts.

The first turning in any cycle is a High; the second, an Awakening; the third, an Unraveling; and the fourth, a Crisis. Highs are characterized by strong institutions and public optimism; they are also periods of conformity. Awakenings bring about idealism, deep searching and passionate probing of institutions and values, but they retain optimism. Unravelings see weakened institutions, do-your-own-

thing individualism and national drift as the old order decays. Optimism is replaced by pessimism or superficial giddiness. Crises are periods of upheaval when new institutions and values replace the old. The country is transformed in ways no one could have predicted. A new High begins.

History does conform to this thesis to a startling degree. The period from World War II up to the Kennedy assassination was a High. When JFK was shot, it changed the country's mood in a way that was fundamental and irreversible. We sought various forms of enlightenment during the 1960s, and passionately resisted the undeclared war in Vietnam. The Reagan years seemed about to recapture the old conformity, but that train was derailed on a skyrocketing national debt and the coming of the Culture Wars. Our present Unraveling has deepened during the Clinton years, and we are well on our way to the next Crisis which according to Strauss and Howe will begin not long after 2000.

If we compare this decade to the 1920s, the similarities are surprising. During the 1920s there was massive technological change which often put people out of work, just like today. There was the mindless music of the "jazz age"—today we have the Spice Girls. Nihilistic philosophies and lit-

"The point is, we've been this way before. But also, the cycles of history are moving. Maybe we ought to dig our way out of complacency and start preparing for the coming Crisis."

erary movements abounded. This period spawned Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" and Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises." Today we have postmodernist literary theory. Last but not least, the economists behaved like cowboys at a rodeo. Sound familiar?

That Unraveling ended with the Crash of 1929, which the federal government mismanaged into the Great Depression—certainly a Crisis by anyone's standard. One of the outgrowths of this Crisis was the Social Security system, unheard of before.

An earlier Unraveling during the 1850s saw fights between Northerners and Southerners on the floors of Congress. It ended when the Civil War broke out, another Crisis which changed the country.

If we view the 1990s as part of an Unraveling, we have at our disposal a possible explanation of Bill Clinton's dalliance with a woman not much older than his daughter and perjuring himself about it and also the collective yawn of a public now accustomed to scandal in high places and cynical about our fearless leaders. We are torn between conflicting impulses: of feminism, at its best the product of an Awakening mentality, and indifference to matters of principle which is typical of an Unraveling. Thus our ambivalence and confusion. Surely, the man did something wrong, and stupid to boot. But who cares? Isn't the economy booming?

The point is, we've been this way before. But also, the cycles of history are moving. Maybe we ought to dig our way out of our complacency and start preparing for the coming Crisis, something "The Fourth Turning" maintains we can do if we begin now.

If we do nothing, the "millennium bug" will be the least of our worries.

Professor argues on resurrection

amy McCORMICK
Guest Columnist

The notion that God's only son came to this planet to offer his life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that God could not forgive us without that having happened, and that we are saved by believing this story is simply incredible. Taken metaphorically, this story can be very powerful. But taken literally, it is a profound obstacle to accepting the Christian message.

from "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Dr. Marcus J. Borg

As sweet as azaleas come newly in springtime has been Dr. Marcus J. Borg's revisionary commentary on the death and resurrection of Jesus to many contemporary Christians. Dr. Borg, Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, delivered a compelling lecture on the perennially volatile topic to a largely appreciative audience Thursday, April 2 in the Russell House Ballroom.

Dr. Borg's lecture swelled to the climaxing conjecture that the story

of the bodily resurrection of Christ is one of a number of resurrection stories that constitute a developing Christian tradition. As such, belief in the bodily resurrection pales to a shade of irrelevance as participation in an experiential relationship with God brightens the foreground of a mature Christian existence.

A defense of such claims, as with any New Testament scholarship, clearly involves a careful study of the original Greek text. The Greek word anastasis has traditionally been translated by scholars as resurrection and not resuscitation; nevertheless, the mainline Christian understanding of resurrection has included resuscitation.

In an effort to illuminate the constraints incurred by such an understanding, Dr. Borg highlighted the difference between the two terms. He defined resurrection as an "assumption of a different kind of existence" and resuscitation as a "resumption of a previous existence."

A resuscitation of Jesus would imply the resumption of the bodily form that characterized him prior to his

death, but Dr. Borg's forceful reasoning asserts that a resurrection does not require a resuscitation. Had the authors of the New Testament wished to stress the literal physical revivification of Christ's body, they could have done so with more certain language.

Moreover, Dr. Borg points to the New Testament writings as evidence of the developing tradition of which the story of the resurrection of Jesus is a developing part. The resurrection story of earliest record, composed circa 51 C.E., is found in I Corinthians, chapter 15. The letter attributed to Paul delineates the resurrection story as a series of visionary experiences—Christ was "seen" by Cephas, by the Eleven and by more than five hundred individuals at one time. Importantly, "Paul" concludes the list with an account of his own legendary resurrection that occurred on the road to Damascus.

Few Christians would dispute that Paul experienced a vision of Christ and did not encounter his physical form. By association, the literal nature of the other accounts in the list can clearly be called into question.

Moreover, the gospel accounts of the resurrection grow increasingly more detailed as time passes between the death of Christ and the authorship of the narrative. Mark, the earliest gospel, composed approximately in 65 C.E., notes the empty tomb but does not detail any appearance stories. John, authored nearly 50 years later, mentions the empty tomb as well as appearance stories in Galilee and Jerusalem.

Dr. Borg noted the increasing physical detail of the New Testament accounts as representative of a basic human tendency, "we metaphorize our history and then we literalize our metaphors." With language heady for its simple honesty, Dr. Borg clarified his statement, "The disciples experienced something powerful when Jesus was around. After he died, the experience continued and they called it Jesus."

To have recorded the experience using the metaphorical terms of a resurrection is a testimony to its power, to perceive the resurrection merely in terms of a literal resuscitation is a testimony to our weakness.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be 250-300 words and must include full name, professional title or year and major if a student. Hand written letters must be personally delivered by the author to The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333. E-mail letters must include the author's telephone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for style, possible lost or space limitations. Names will not be withheld for any circumstance.

Senator defends functions of SG

To the Editor:
Aldous Huxley once said, "Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." It seems that most people lately speaking of Student Government activities have never heard this quote. There are quite a few realities of Student Government either misunderstood or ignored all together. Please allow me, as a second term Senator, to explain a few things.

I know Student Government has very little power. The administration gives a sandbox for elected officials to play in. One cannot expect earth-shattering legislation to come from stu-

dents. That's not our job, either. Our job is to effect the quality of life of the student body for the better.

The administration doesn't really care if you cannot find a parking spot at 9 a.m., really need to use the library after midnight, or if you could really go for a chicken sandwich after ECON 224.

We do have student activism. Granted, guys are not storming the dean's office and girls are not burning their bras, but it's activism nonetheless. I'm not entirely certain what one expects when one cries out for more activism, but if one desires better examples of what SG has done besides bringing Chic-Fil-A here, one does not have to look very far.

Senator Mike Moore has worked diligently over the last year to establish a Safe Ride Program that should be in place next fall. A new project spearheaded by Vice President Chris Dorsel will donate excess food to homeless shelters around Columbia. Let's not forget that for the first time, you will get Martin Luther King Day off to celebrate as you wish, thanks to former President Jamel Franklin. So, we're increasing awareness, helping others, and honoring our historic leaders. That's activism.

By far, our most important function is setting the budget for organizations. Who keeps any one group from grabbing too much of the pie? We do. How did you find out that only \$3.50 of your activity fee actually goes to stu-

dent organizations? We told you. SG is responsible for the ban on political and religious groups getting funding. Granted, a voucher system would be fairer, but our hands are tied on the matter.

I believe if our armchair critics devoted as much energy to activism themselves as to complaints of our ineptitude, things might get done a lot easier and faster. I know there will always be detractors to SG's power and usefulness, and to them I can only quote Thomas Jefferson: "The Government is best which governs least."

Jamie Jeffords
Political Science, Junior

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