

Hey kids, be on the look out for new columnist Ryan Vescio, as well as another thought-provoking editorial.

VIEWPOINTS

"Kim is the kind of person that no matter what you throw at her, she stays strong."

Susanne Newman, Student Government Treasurer

The Gamecock

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TAKE OUR WORD

Post-tenure review could use a review

Job security is important to all people. We all like to know that, some how, some way, that paycheck will keep rolling in to finance our personal needs. However, in order to keep our job, we have to keep doing our jobs and doing them in a productive manner.

TOPIC
Professors with tenure have to have a post-tenure review every six months.

OUR OPINION
Stricter punishments and student say-so need to be added.

thing that has to be kept up with. Once given tenure, a professor should not then slack off just because he or she knows that nothing will be done if they continue to slack off.

Tenure is something that continually needs to be earned. And to be earned, the professor in question has

to go through a departmental committee. Their decision has to be approved by the chair of the department. They base their decision on the professor's teaching, scholarship and research, and service.

But another rising inquiry comes within this procedure. Only faculty members at or above the rank of the professor who seeks tenure are allowed to make the decision to grant tenure. Shouldn't student voices also be heard in this matter?

The same should be true with the post-tenure review process. Students should have some say.

"The faculty has always been evaluated by department chairs and deans and administrators," Wedlock said in the same article. "What this does is add an element of peer review into that process."

That's great and all, but the addition of student review would make it an all-around, all-voices-heard, kind of process. The student voice would add a unique stance and viewpoint in the review process.

We are the ones who are learning from the professor. If that professor is too caught up in the other aspects of his or her work (the research, writing books or papers, etc.) and neglects their teaching, then it is the students who are suffering. And then we have no say in changing the professors performance.

Yes, the post-tenure review is a worthy program to have, but if some simple changes could be made, the program would be a lot stronger and more precise.

Tenure for a professor here at the university means just that, they have a job as long as that professor wants one. It also gives the professor some "hand" in the university. It is a rather prestigious thing.

Last May, at the General Faculty Meeting, the group implemented post-tenure review for the professors at the university who have received the honor of tenure. This review will be conducted every six months and will determine if a tenured professor needs to improve performance.

However, those professors who are not be "up to par," may not suffer any extreme punishments, such as having their tenure revoked.

"The process is ultimately divorced from any question of whether or not a professor will have his tenure revoked," Eldon Wedlock, faculty senate chair, said in an article printed Monday in *The Gamecock*.

Here is an interesting point. Even though the professor may not be doing the job expected from a professor with tenure, it does not actually mean that privilege will be taken away from the professor.

This is quite strange. If you do not drive a car properly, or "up to par," you are considered a very dangerous threat, and your privilege of driving can easily be taken from you. It is the same for students, if we do not keep up with our studies or do what the professors expect of us, our privilege of coming to university can just as easily be revoked.

The idea of tenure is commendable. It is something for a professor to strive for and hope to achieve. Yet, it should be some-



Wasting time too easy with computers

"Good-bye." I hate it, that soft, friendly, Hal-evoking "good-bye" from AOL. I heard it just now, as I stepped into the room to see how some printing was going, and I am livid.



KIKI MCCORMICK columnist

So will you do me a favor? Just to make me feel better? Will you count up the hours of your life

that have been wasted by computers so you can empathize with me? We can have a remote support group of sorts. I'll give you some starting points to jog your memory.

Think of the last time you went to the grocery, and the cashier scratched her head waiting for one of those key-master people to come do their thing so she can ring up your (by then melted) food.

Or, even worse, recall your last trip to Wal-mart, which is never complete without three calls to customer service.

My last experience was so ridiculous I still can't believe it happened. I was happily writing my check (time required: twenty seconds) when the cashier jumped in: "Oh! You don't have to do that! I'll print it for you!" I don't know what possessed me, but I handed it over.

Fifteen minutes later, I was still standing in line, my check was stuck in some machine, and the other customers were looking at me like I'd shat on their shoes. All to avoid twenty seconds of writing. Only after the requisite three visits from customer service did I escape.

Now, recall with me the last time you called "information" to get a phone number. Did you get the number you needed? Of course not. Then you wouldn't have had to call them back thrice, paying each time.

Two of the last three times I've used the service, I've gotten the wrong number. The computer I spoke to gave me numbers for either the wrong people or the right people at the wrong locale. I've figured out how to get the correct number out of them, however (just in case you were hoping to get something useful out of this column).

Simply keep mum when it asks for name and city, and a human will

"Will you count up the hours of your life that have been wasted by computers so you can empathize with me? We can have a remote support group of sorts."

eventually answer. Even then, however, they'll switch you back to the automated system. So demand that they stay on the line until you're sure it's the right number, and you'll likely get what you're after.

Okay, are we counting time wasted as we go along? I'd say so far we've got a good hour over the course of a month of occasional visits to retail establishments, and forty extra minutes waiting for a human voice on the phone. And these are pretty conservative estimates.

Another time waster is the use of a computer, by your physician, to record your symptoms and get suggestions for diagnoses. My doctor has been using one of these programs for several years now, and every time I go in, he says, "As soon as I get the hang of this program, it's going to save me a lot of time."

Perhaps the main time waster for us college students is the Internetophile professor. When I came into the room just now, I was checking on some printing for a class. I've got this professor who has decided to run his class (complete with all readings, dates for assignments, and overhead pictures) from a web site. With pages that take twenty minutes to load. And of course they're very colorful, so they take as long to print. And of course one must sit and wait for all of this to take place, or one will be kicked off AOL, with that stomach-turning "Good-bye."

So long, now, I've got to go check my e-mail for the sixth time today. As a parting thought, consider the time wasted there. We'd never trot out to our snail-mail boxes every half-hour, would we?

Americans need to brush up on hospitality

This column marks the first of a series which will explore my observations of Americans abroad.

Upon leaving the United States for the first time in September of 1996, to



EMILY STREYER columnist

study in England for two semesters, I also embarked upon a personal mini-crusade to change the way a handful of people viewed Americans. My reasoning was that, through positive interaction with me, people from other countries might think, Emily's a neat person; maybe there are more Americans like her, and thus revise their opinions of Americans in general.

It meant being pleasant even when I didn't feel like it, honing my conversational skills, making more of an effort to see things someone else's way, and growing a longer fuse, because I

knew any confrontation would not be seen as being between me and another person, but between an American and another person.

No matter how personal the circumstances may be, while abroad one always has the additional baggage of representing his or her country. I realized that no matter how a ball is thrown, there's more than one way to catch it and more than one thing to do with it after it's caught. It permanently changed the way I deal with people.

After six months, however, I spent a day with other American exchange students and was shocked to learn that they found the British to be cold, inhospitable, and American-hating. This view directly opposed my impression of my hosts. I then realized that these students had made no effort, after living in Britain for two trimesters, to integrate themselves into this culture. As a result, their hosts didn't think much of them either—a reflection on all of us.

While discussing my distress at this discovery, an English friend finally broke the truth to me: other Europeans saw me as exceptional. Emily's a neat person—if it weren't for the accent you'd never guess she's American.

"I noted that Americans in general are loud, stupid, obnoxious, and, additionally, badly-dressed and over-weight."

Now, everyone knows you shouldn't judge a nation by one citizen, but, this summer, I had a prime seat for viewing countless Americans as the world sees us: I worked in a Hard Rock Cafe. Immediately, one can draw a telling conclusion from the fact that hundreds of thousands of American tourists come to Paris to eat American food.

Unfortunately, it gets worse. Precious few asked if the staff spoke English, and less than one a day had bothered to learn the question in French. Daily I dealt with countless customers who were irritated that we stated our prices in francs instead of dollars; who uttered not so much as "hello," "please" or "thank-you," (the height of rudeness in France), but instead, "I want that" and "Give me that"; and who complained about how difficult it was to find someone who spoke good English.

Once, and thankfully only once, I was asked if we took "regular money." She referred to US currency.

In fairness I note that as a staff we formed unpleasant views of Italians, Brazilians, and Germans as well, but I state, and more emphatically due to my own sensitivity to the issue, that these nationalities are nowhere resented the way Americans are.

I finally came to disassociate myself from those who held the same passport as I, and I noted that Americans in general are loud, stupid, obnoxious, and, additionally, badly-dressed and over-weight.

Americans are not good guests, and it shouldn't be that way.

Comments welcome at estreyer@mindspring.com

The Gamecock

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Make your mama proud.

The Gamecock.

Take our word.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sorority rush trashes Horseshoe

To the editor:
It has come to my attention that some of the very same people who advocate school spirit and philanthropy here at USC do not apply these convictions to their own actions on school property.

Sunday afternoon I walked onto the Horseshoe and was sickened at the sight of one of this school's most beloved landmarks. Drink containers, half-eaten lunches in Styrofoam containers, and other such trash littered the

brick walkways, the grass and the Maxcy monument. Who is responsible for this mess? The sorority sisters celebrating the end of rush week.

Don't get me wrong, these girls deserve every commendation for their dedication to the various causes they support throughout the year. In addition, I think the historic Horseshoe is a great place to hold one of their end of rush events. What bothers me is that they could leave it in such a state of disorder.

To top it all off, the newly installed larger-sized trash cans on the 'shoe had enough capacity to contain the trash they left scattered everywhere.

There is no excuse; it's wrong and it's embarrassing.

It is important to realize that the community uses the Horseshoe just as much as the students. What impression does the trashed appearance of the center of the historic campus give to visitors from the community or to prospective students?

The school has worked too hard and spent too much money on beautification plans for our bicentennial celebration to have it's own students ruin USC's reputation as one of the prettier state universities in the South.

What example does this behavior set for the freshman and the other newcomers to the school? Surely we don't

want these people to think they can get away with trashing this and other parts of this campus. The USC grounds-keepers are not your personal cleaning service!

The problem is not just the Greeks. All organizations should be more conscientious of what they're doing to school property when they use the campus for their events.

Show pride in your school... or at least keep it nice for the rest of us who will be here for a few years!

Karen Cochran
International Studies Senior