

Look for Guerman Abaev as he discusses the improprieties of American businessmen in Moscow.

VIEWPOINTS

"I don't think they're necessary. They do the job students did last year."
 Joey Schrage,
 electronic journalism sophomore
 on security guards

The Gamecock

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TAKE OUR WORD

Campus parking needs overhaul

Anyone who has ever had a car, thought about having a car or borrowed someone else's car knows what a headache parking on this campus can be.

There are not enough spaces, the garages cost too much and too many of the lots are on the edge of campus. These are just a few of the complaints students have about parking at USC.

With new buildings going up all the time and the university taking away many of the central campus lots to increase green space, it looks as if things are only going to get worse.

This is something USC is going to have to deal with in the very near future, and all signs indicate that they are addressing the problem.

The question is whether their solutions will be enough and whether they will come soon enough to help those of us who are at Carolina right now.

It's not really a question of building more lots or more parking garages. Most of this school's extra space is devoted to parking, especially on the outskirts of campus.

We could create more spaces in the center of campus, but then we would be stuck in a sea of asphalt. So practically and aesthetically, more lots are not the answer.

New parking garages are expensive, and that's something we just don't have the money for. The federal government had to pay for the Bull Street Garage, our newest.

Although USC will probably have to add another garage and more commuter spaces in the future, more parking is not the answer to our problems. What we need is better use of the parking we have.

First, there are the commuter spots. They are all on the outside of campus, and it takes up to half an hour to walk from one of those lots to many classroom buildings.

There is the Gamecock Shuttle, but it is quite possibly the worst excuse for a mass transit system known to man.

The buses are chronically late, overcrowded and unprofessionally run. Many people have simply learned not to depend on the shuttle because of all these problems.

What we need is a new comprehensive bus system on this campus. The network should not just run from the parking lots to class-

TOPIC

Campus parking is inadequate and poorly distributed.

OUR OPINION

A better shuttle system and seniority in garage spaces need to be instituted.

room buildings, but all over campus.

Students with a class in the Coliseum after a class in Gambrell shouldn't have to worry about sprinting down Greene Street. Our campus is big and is only going to get bigger.

Services should be timed so a student leaving her house at 10:30 a.m. can catch the bus at 10:45 p.m. to make her 11 a.m. class.

Buses need to be air-conditioned and able to hold as many people as need be. Right now the "ShuttleCock" runs on antiquated school buses that are easily overcrowded and feel like sweat-boxes on hot, fall days.

Similar sized schools already have systems in place that efficiently transport their students around campus and beyond to local hangouts. We need a service that people can use and depend on.

The other way to improve current parking problems on campus is to reassess how we allocate garage spaces and parking passes.

Right now any student of any year can get a space in either a garage or other kind of lot. This has got to stop. At universities around the country there is a severe limit on where freshmen are allowed to park.

At many schools, freshman have to park on the outskirts of campus, if they are allowed to have cars at all.

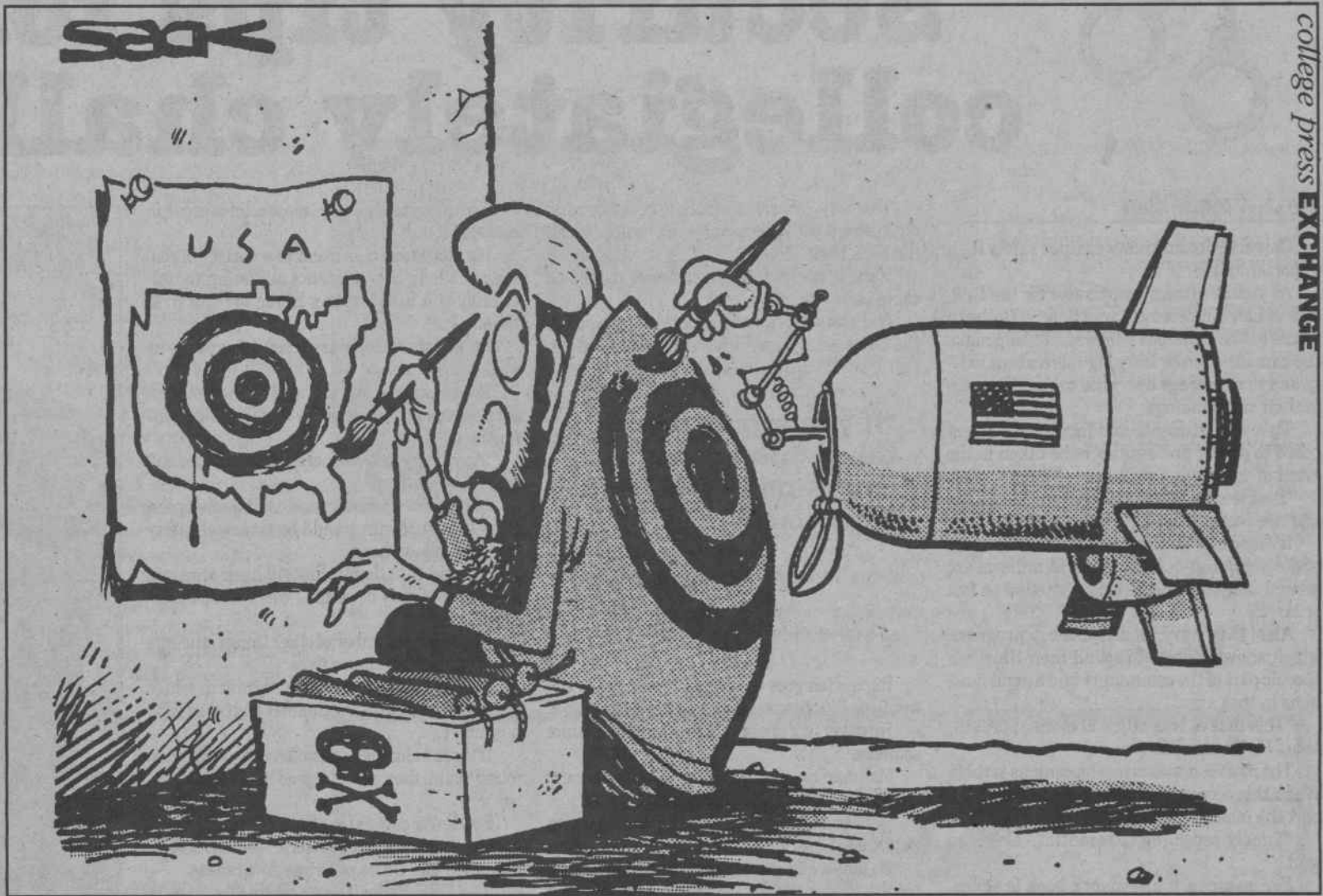
Because of the nature of our university, freshmen should be able to have cars, especially if they live far away from school. But a first-semester freshman should not be on equal footing with a senior when it comes to who gets the space in a garage.

Spots in the Bull Street Garage are the most coveted on campus. But many of these are taken up by freshmen whose parents sign them up for it during the summer.

By the time fall rolls around, the senior who has to pay for his or her own space is stuck in Blossom Street or down in the "Pit" because Bull Street is full of cars that will be used only on the weekends.

Yes, there are freshman who have jobs and need a car everyday. But more upperclassmen need this convenience. We should simply go to a seniority system to make things fair.

Parking is a big problem, and it will not be fixed easily. But with some better work utilizing the resources we have now and making the system more efficient, much of the headache can be alleviated.



U.S. greatness does not carry over seas

EMILY STREYER

columnist

This column concludes a series that has explored some of my observations of Americans abroad.

Many Europeans felt at liberty to criticize the United States or Americans to me while I was abroad. This openness may or may not have been a backward compliment, but except when talking with close friends, my reaction tended toward a "little brother" defensiveness: I can pick on my little brother as much as I want, but everyone else had better leave him alone. The result was that, despite the criticisms I have presented previously, I spent much time abroad defending the United States. I love this country; it frustrates me when I see Americans behaving badly abroad.

I began to wonder how I could be simultaneously proud of my country and embarrassed by my fellow citizens. One key to Americans' behavior is their affluence. Americans are largely perceived as being wealthy. While the "Beverly Hills 90210" concept of the average American teenager is a gross distortion resulting from the voracious worldwide consumption of our entertainment, the idea that Americans are wealthy is well-founded. We have the richest "poor" in the world, and our standard of living—the middle-class nice-two-cars-three-televisions-and-maybe-a-boat—is enjoyed by very few other countries.

We have freedoms in this country that others don't. They range from economic freedoms, which result in free local phone calls and lower CD prices, to legal guarantees such as the State's burden of proof, to liberties such as a completely free press. This may be a scary statement, but comparatively, our government owns very little of our lives.

The ease with which Americans may travel abroad is frequently an incentive to make our hosts cater to our needs and desires in terms of language, food and custom—when it should be the other way around; the visitor should be doing the adapting.

Plainly put, we're spoiled. That term, however, implies that we don't deserve it. And perhaps the present generations have not personally earned it, but the men who founded this country believed,

"As much as I lament our countries flaws, I must say our greatest gift as Americans is the choice we are constitutionally guaranteed."

as I do, that all humans deserve the economic and personal liberties we have in this country. It is in fact the greatness of this country which leads its citizens to behave in a manner which disgusts the rest of the world.

We have everything here. This country is so big, so providing and so insulating that we don't know how to behave when we leave. We have not grown up learning how to live in close quarters with other cultures. A valid comparison between our states and Europe's countries ends with geography.

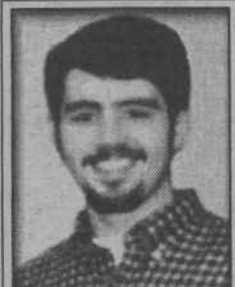
Recently, however, I have touched only briefly the importance of individuality and choice, important themes when visiting foreign lands. One has a choice whether to be a traveler or a tourist. It has nothing to do with how

long you stay or how many cities you visit or how much money you have to spend. Being a traveler begins before you leave home and means showing a true interest in other cultures by attempting to integrate yourself into them to the best of your circumstances. One always has a choice in dealing with a host who seems inhospitable, which itself may be merely a matter of custom—you can catch a ball as you wish.

As much as I lament our country's flaws, I must say that our greatest gift as Americans is the choice we are constitutionally guaranteed. We don't have to be ugly Americans; we each have the opportunity to take off our cloaks of wealth and freedom and trade them for glasses with which to see the world from someone else's perspective.

Strange Yankee sightings on the Horseshoe

The Horseshoe after dark can be a strange place. Avid runners and rabid bikers zipping by, and all manner of humanity slipping in and out of the shadows of the looming oaks and ancient buildings. Some want to get fresh night air, while others just want to get home with their safety and wallets intact.



JONATHAN SHARPE
 guest columnist

So there I am amongst them, jogging around the Horseshoe with some friends last Wednesday evening. None of us is the super-fitness type, and we're looking rough as we make our laps.

Coming down the brick road toward us was a flock of suits. I figure they're faculty-administration types, getting out of a late meeting.

For a brief, devious moment I decided not to move out of their path—just to see if these well-to-do-types would scatter (strenuous exercise brings out my inner caveman). Well, they didn't. I yielded, splat, splat, splat, into the mud.

But I had been in a meeting with the faculty and administration earlier that day, representing the student body, and I recognized none of these faces.

None but one, that is. As they passed on my right, I saw a man standing a couple inches shorter than me, leading the group in a light gray suit with a bright blue tie. He wore round-frame glasses and little hair on top. I knew this face.

Just as I reached the rear flank, I placed a name with that face: none other than Rudolph Giuliani, mayor of the Big Apple!

I sprinted up to my friends, babbling, "Gi-Giu-Giuuuu-Ffirreakin' Giuliani! Rudy Giuliani!—pant, gasp, cough—Rudy Giuliani just walked by! Giuliani on the Horseshoe!?" They looked at me incredulously, like, "sure, whatever."

By the time I turned around Giuliani and company were too far away for me to casually sidle up to. To catch him I would have had to sprint back, and looking as I did at the time, accosting the mayor of the largest city in the nation probably would have landed me at the bottom of a pile of heat-packing security.

So we finished our jog. My buddies still weren't buying it when we went to our respective dorms. I then proceeded to call some less skeptical folks to share my story with, but I got nothing but answering machines.

So I mustered up the courage to call my Neighbor—yes, that's with a capital "N." How surprised was I when the actual president of the university answered his phone directly.

I introduced myself as his next-door neighbor, the one involved with Student Government. He was quite friendly, asking me if I was settling in well.

Then I told him about the sighting. Pause. JP: "Really? Hmmp. I wonder why I didn't know about that?"

JS: "Umm. I dunno. Well, I just thought, er, I'd let you know. Thanks, uh... Good evening."

JP: "Thanks, buh-bye"
 JS: nervous chuckle "hehehe B-bye."

Now I had to tell the folks upstairs. They weren't sure whether to believe me, but they liked the part about calling up The Neighbor.

I needed proof. To confirm the story I called up a local TV station. Indeed, Giuliani was in town doing a GOP fundraiser at Henry McMaster's place.

The 11:00 news footage proved me right. There was Giuliani wearing his light gray suit and blue tie, stumping for Gov. Beasley and friends.

So I called up my doubting-Thomas jogging cohorts. Now it was time to brag. "@#&*!" and the like came out of the receiver. [think: "geegoshgolly—well, I'll be a monkey's uncle."]

I guess you just never know what you'll see on the Horseshoe after dark.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SG's performance has been subpar

To the editor:

I would like to congratulate Student Government for a successful beginning of the school year. Student Government was competent enough to place cardboard boxes in all of the residence halls so that we could place our old and used clothing in them before we left. Then, Student Government began trying to convince local food charities to accept left-over campus food. Now, Student Government has managed to really do something useful. One of the most

important committees of the university was pondering a fundamental change to the USC grading policy. Such a change would affect students of all programs at USC campuses. Instead of being our voice of the university faculty, Student Government couldn't find anyone to make the meeting! The excuse our wonderful student leaders have come up with for missing this meeting is "the faculty meeting time conflicted with the schedules of the representatives we suggested." Another gem of enlightenment was provided by our Student Body Vice President Chris Dorsel. Mr. Dorsel quips "Whether it was our fault or not, Student Govern-

ment will probably get some of the blame for this."

The university allows Student Government to collect over \$1 million dollars of your money in the student activity fee. The student body president, vice president and treasurer all collect stipends of at least \$1,500 a semester. What are we paying for? You couldn't find at least one student to make a meeting? Maybe you haven't noticed, but a meeting with the faculty to discuss grading problems is very important. Maybe the quickest way to "have better relationships with the faculty" is to go to meetings when they ask for student input!

So far, what has Student Government really done to earn its keep? Oh, yeah. The clothes project. Don't get me wrong. Helping the needy is a very worthwhile project. An organization with as many people and as much money as Student Government should or could be doing a lot more to benefit the one group of people who really need their help: the students of USC. Here's a piece of advice: take care of business at home before you worry about your neighbor.

Brian Gambrell
 Law Student

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