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VIEWPOINTS

"The cost is not significant in a budget of four-and-a-half billion dollars."

Jim Hodges, gubernatorial candidate, on his student loan repayment plan

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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TAKE OUR WORD

Penalty against Davis ludicrous

Poor Zola Davis. He was simply giving thanks to God after thinking he scored his second touchdown...

TOPIC: Zola Davis' penalty for "excessive celebration."

OUR OPINION: This rule is asinine and needs to be reconsidered.

but "there are going to be parameters." Well, that's great, but the damage has already been done.

But what is with this rule anyway? First of all, there should not be a penalty for "excessive celebration."

It should fall under the "delay of game" category, which is a mere 5-yard penalty compared to the 15-yarder for "excessive celebration."

Still, why have this rule? Collegiate football should drop this rule and institute a restricted celebration time.

After someone scores a touchdown, allot five to ten seconds for celebration. Most celebrations don't even take that long.

The NFL has no sort of crazy rule like this. So why should college football players, who aren't getting a dime for playing ball and who play for the love and the fun of the game, not be able to express their emotions when they do something good for their team.

Millionaire professional players are allowed to strut their stuff all over the field.

Bag the rule. Just let the boys play the game.

USC should proceed with Greek housing

Within the next year, USC will finally begin the much-lauded Greek Housing Project.

And all of a sudden we are seeing major opposition to the project.

The presidents of four of USC's sororities have written letters to the university asking that they stop or delay the project because they cannot afford to build houses.

Some sororities have been able to raise the funds, but the national chapters of other groups have decided, for one reason or another, that their priority is not houses for these sororities.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, the group that oversees most of the sororities on this campus, seem to prioritize is equity in housing between groups on each campus.

But in contrast to this opposition, the university is going

TOPIC: Opposition to the University's Greek housing project.

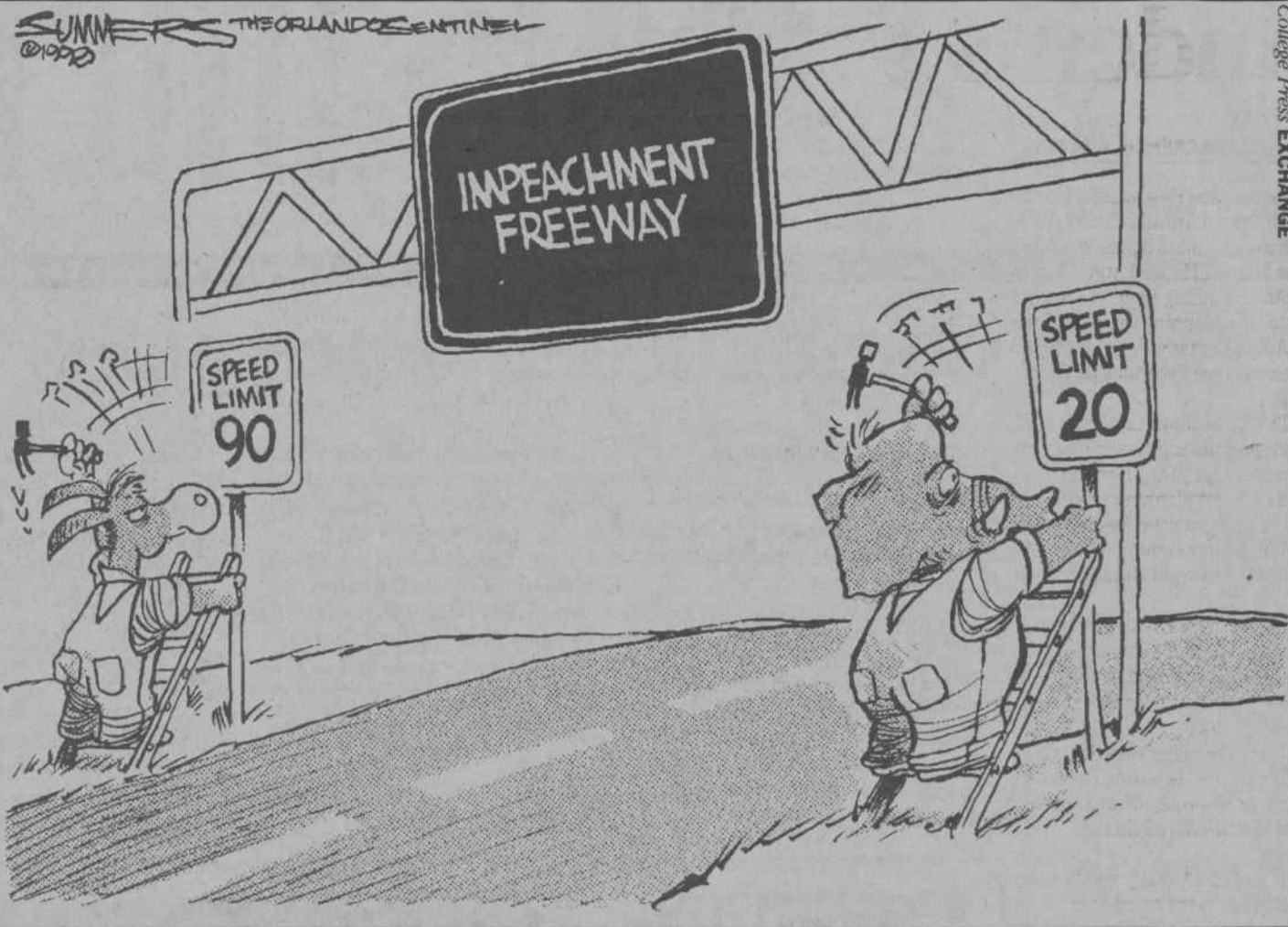
OUR OPINION: The time for debate is over and we need to start building.

ahead with the project. They say South Tower is an inadequate facility, and new houses are what the state and alumni want.

And we agree with them. This project has been in the planning stages for over three years and \$4 million has been allocated to it.

These groups should have voiced their concerns when the project was proposed. But at that time, there wasn't much protest from campus Greek organizations. They've had plenty of time to research how they are going to finance this.

Now that the project is finally going to get under way, they raise a red flag. It's not fair to the groups who have been organized since the beginning. Besides, final decisions do not have to be made now. There will be plenty of spots available in the future.



People aren't really stupid, but act like it

People say you can't legislate morality, but it happens all the time. We should not, in my opinion, be legislating morality at all, because morals are not the government's business...



EMILY STREYER columnist

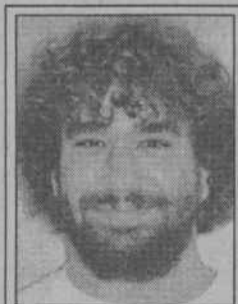
that its governor must believe in God, and outlaws the sale of liquor on Sunday.

If you're reading this paper in a room with eight or more people, see if you can get everyone to raise his or her feet off the floor. You are legally having an orgy, and violating state law.

Most reasonable people believe the government should have no say in who may or may not marry whom; that religious beliefs, or the lack thereof, are a personal issue; and that sexual practices between two or more consenting adults should remain between those people. Reasonable people also understand that Sunday isn't a holy day for everybody, and even if it were, if God minds drinking, that's between Him and the drinker.

Future's uncertainty object of concern

About eight months ago, I reached the day that every degenerate such as myself dreams about for their entire college career: my 21st birthday.



ROB GIOIELLI columnist

Unfortunately I had to spend this momentous occasion in England, where the legal drinking age is 18. I had been there studying since last September, so the novelty of not getting carded had worn off.

When I returned to my native land this August, I was looking forward to experiencing my final entrance into adult society. For three years, I have been considered an adult in every legal definition of the term—eligible to be drafted and to vote. But now, I could finally sit down at a bar without risking jail time.

For more than two months, I've been exercising this new freedom, and I have only one word that can describe it: overrated.

Maybe it's that I got my first fake ID when I was a sophomore, or that when I grow a beard I look like I'm in my late 40s, but buying beer is like getting a quart of milk.

Now that I am a full-fledged adult, the privileges seem to be few and far between, and the responsibilities too numerous to mention. Before, I had two major concerns in my daily life: during the week it was where to study, on the weekends it was where to get beer.

Simple, easy and definitely low stress. I still worry about my grades and my social life, but in addition to that, there are my finances, my job and a multitude of other daily chores. Also, somewhere around number 42 on the list, falls the problem of what in the hell I want to do with my life.

When I moved here three years ago, it was probably the most exciting time in my life. At last I was a free man. No curfew, no nagging from my mother, no threats from my father.

"Well, some people are capable of making decisions for themselves—so such laws would be unnecessarily restrictive for that segment of the population."

cause even the stupid people are reproducing.

But perhaps giving people the opportunity and incentive to use their brains will move the species forward again, and those who can't keep up won't hold the rest of us back anymore.

Before this line of logic gets even more dangerously fascist, I must ask whether it is true that most people are basically stupid.

That's what the people in charge seem to think.

Of course, the next question is, who put the people in charge in charge? This, perhaps, should answer the first question, but I still don't think people are basically stupid, contrary to overwhelming evidence.

I think people are basically slack, which is why technology has advanced as far as it has.

People are intelligent when they have to be. People look out for themselves all the time—the first sign of intelligence: what do I have to do to still be alive tomorrow?

Letters to the Editor

"If I succeed, I'll have to thank my parents for all they've given me. If I fail, I have only myself to blame...but soon there will be nothing to fall back on."

I realize now that even though I was technically away from home, I was still very dependent on my parents. They paid all my bills and bailed me out of severe credit card debt. I was always asking them for advice, because I wanted to know what they thought I should do.

But now, seven months away from complete independence, there is a voice of doubt in the back of my mind that grows louder and louder every day. After May 1, I am completely in control of my own destiny. And along with total freedom comes total responsibility.

If I succeed, I'll have to thank my parents for all they've given me. If I fail, I have only myself to blame. Of course it's not that melodramatic, but soon there will be nothing to fall back on.

And, a fact which I find redeems the human species, we come up with ingenious ways to get around rules we don't like.

I believe that people are intelligent, but over the millennia of civilization, the incentive to think has been slowly chipped away—possibly due to thinking's threat to most organized religions.

Our law books are on the verge of collapse from the powerful parasite of morality.

Laws should tell us how far we may go before we begin stepping on others; they should not tell us how to act when we're not even there yet. People in a democracy get whatever government they deserve. Think about it.

Comments welcome at The Gamecock or estreyer@mindspring.com

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908. The Gamecock is the student newspaper of The University of South Carolina and is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and five times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods.

Table with columns: WHO WE ARE, HOW TO REACH US, and contact information for staff members like Jennifer Stanley, Sara Ladehheim, Rob Gioielli, etc.

Beasley just doing the popular thing. To the editor: I felt compelled to write a letter to The Gamecock after reading the piece by Rob Gioielli, "Confederate flag doesn't represent everyone." Governor Beasley was criticized by Mr. Gioielli because he "simply let the issue fade away." Mr. Gioielli felt that Gov. Beasley did this because of an outcry from voters. I agree with that completely. It has been my understanding that our elected officials are supposed to do what we as citizens wish. We, as citizens, are the government. I am no genius, but it doesn't take one to figure out that if the majority of the voters want the flag flying, he should do all in his power to keep it that way. If a majority of the voters didn't want it this way, he wouldn't have backed off the issue in the first place. There has never been a law passed in South Carolina that everyone agreed on. Not everyone will agree if a lottery is brought to our state, and not everybody wants the Confederate [flag] flying over the State House. The point is this: When Gov. Beasley took an "unpopular stance" on the flag issue, it was not unpopular because that is not what the majority of South Carolinians wanted. When Gov. Beasley changed his position on the flag issue, he was not a "spineless, vote-mongering coward," he was doing his job as our elected official. Curtis Hutto Business Freshman