

"I recommended to President Palms that we seek new leadership for our football program."

Mike McGee, USC Athletic Director

# VIEWPOINTS

We say hello to you! Also, we say for you to e-mail us your complaints, praise, or desire for Rob G. at GCK-VIEWS@SC.EDU.

**The Gamecock**  
Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## TAKE OUR WORD

### SG needs to evaluate its worth to USC

It's been an interesting semester for Student Government and *The Gamecock*. Various issues and incidents have created what we would consider a "healthy" relationship between the media and government. We're the watchdogs, so they don't like us that much.

**TOPIC**  
SG fails to get the job done due to internal problems.

**OUR OPINION**  
Stop the bickering and try to come to a consensus on issues.

And from what we saw last Monday, it seems like they were actively trying to keep *The Gamecock*, and thus students, out of important proceedings. The constant complaint we get from members of SG is that we are

out to get them, that we have a vendetta. This could not be any further from the truth. It's just that when they refuse us access to meetings the press has a right to attend, we have a duty to assert those rights. That's what the media does in a democracy.

It wouldn't be so serious if this were just an isolated incident where a few people made some mistakes interpreting the law. But it follows a string of episodes involving SG, where the only time there is controversy or anything newsworthy, it involves some kind of internal problem.

The only bills Senate passes of any significance are ones related to internal matters. And even with those, they can never actually agree to anything. Certain student body presidents and their cabinets have been able to get some good programs passed, but the mockery of representative democracy that is Senate seems to hold them back.

Now, we are not ones to complain without solutions, so here are our ideas for SG. First, they could forget about internal debates and unite on some issues. If they quit all the fighting and agreed on something, maybe they could actually get something done.

Now, numerous past and present members of SG have said this is close to impossible. No matter how hard they try, it's too tough for a student organization to affect change on this campus.

If this is really the case, then SG as we know it should be disbanded. If the only real purpose of Student Senate is to bicker among themselves, then get rid of them all.

Second, change the office of the president to director of student services or official student advocate. They could continue the positive programs Kim Dickerson and other presidents have implemented in the past.

Student activity fees would be distributed by an elected committee of two representatives from each college, because that's all Student Senate does anyway.

This would give USC the student government it deserves—one that recognizes its limited powers and has no bloated sense of self-importance.



## Finding an internship a job in itself

I hail all of you, the survivors of the first day of the Christmas shopping spree. Well, there's no doubt now that we're reaching the "best time of the year," it's irreversible. However, it's probably a good idea not to hold your breath, even though Christmas is just four weeks away.

Exams are in only a week. How come they always arrive so unexpectedly? And I mean completely off-guard! This is so tough. However, for career-oriented and ambitious students with a vision, exams aren't all to think about as the end of the semester approaches. Since many deadlines are set at the end of 1998 and the beginning of 1999, now is a good time to look for an internship.

I have done a lot of research already and, let me tell you, it's never enough. I browsed the Internet, but in most cases I got confusing and very, very incomplete information. Then I got hold of one of the many books on internships.

The title is no other than "The Internship Bible, 1999 Edition" by Mark Oldman and Samer Hamadeh. The book is mostly for entertainment value, but has some useful information. Here are some cool positions I dug out of it...

It's no surprise most showbiz internships are unpaid and have a huge number of applicants. Interesting internships are offered at the controversial but mighty popular "Howard Stern Show" in New York. There, interns are allowed to work in news and production departments. In production, interns can also "serve as gofers," which doesn't sound like big fun to me. Anyway, the show receives about 300 applications a year and only accepts about 18 people. And remember, there's no compensation.

"The Late Show with David Letterman," clearly one of the best of its kind on the air, also offers unpaid internships. This New York-centered show makes only 15 of 750 applicants happy to be a part of it, for no pay at all. Even though positions range from research to tickets, I bet all interns there have to master the skill of pencil-throwing first.

Knocking on heaven's door can mean interning at places like Playboy or the set of "Baywatch" (Can you believe they offer these?). You can work at Playboy's editorial, art, marketing or public re-

"However, for career-oriented and ambitious students with a vision, exams aren't all to think about as the end of the semester approaches."

lations departments. "Baywatch" offers positions in production, post-production and casting. Neither of them offer any compensation. However, there are rumors that the next season will be the final one for "Baywatch," so this is probably your last chance before they call it quits. Playboy offers free T-shirts and mugs, which you can use later to scare away unprogressive colleagues once you get a job at one of the boring Fortune 500 companies.

Internships with Coors Brewing Company can be paradise found for a beer lover. At Coors, compensation can go as high as \$580 a week. Positions there vary from chemistry to public relations. The bad news is that only about 20 to 40 interns out of 900 applicants are accepted. Man, those 20 people must really love beer. Miller Brewing Co., another big name in the beer industry, also offers very attractive internship opportunities. And the company is very honest about what kind of fun those in-

ternships are all about, plainly stating that all applicants must be at least 21 years old. So if you're lucky to get an internship at Miller, next fall, I'd be able to say: "I know what you did last summer!"

Sports lovers can enjoy their summers working for a big name, like football's Dallas Cowboys. Positions range from public relations and marketing to the ticket office. Even though there's no serious pay there, the positions are highly competitive. Only 16 people get selected out of 450. The question is whether the interns really do get to talk to stars like Troy Aikman or Leon Lett. The NBA also offers internships, but you guessed it: there are just way too many applicants.

In any case, unless you're going to attend school or dream of spending your summer watching TV, get active to get your dream summer internship now.

## Summer job shows dirtier side of USC

**ELIZABETH ALLEN**  
guest columnist

When all acquaintances had their high-power internships and co-ops this summer, I worked for seemingly less-noble rewards with the USC grounds department.

My job was to keep campus plants alive and not to kill myself in the process. The heat was so unbearable, nobody talked about it, and gradually it faded in importance as the days blurred into one another. The labor aligned into routine, and I whistled as I walked to work at seven in the morning. I sang because I had no tests, no term-papers, no academic duty pulling at my shoulders.

When I traded my bookbag for a shovel, I received a new perspective of this university. After four years here, one would think I knew this campus, but new places were given to me almost daily, as if I had the magic code. The grounds became my handiwork, and eventually my responsibility. Suddenly, I was the one who picked up your trash. And it wasn't just me. I met

the people who I thought were imaginary. You know, the unknown face who picks the cigarette butts off the Horseshoe, the somebodies who will take care of the trash on the Russell House Patio. Well, they're real lives. Friends with families and dignity. People with last names.

As my callouses thickened, my pride softened. And I realized that no matter how much the students think otherwise, this university is run for them. From the Marriott dining halls, to the housing department, to the President's House, there are people who come here day after day and work to make sure the students are comfortable and have their needs met.

Don't get so jaded, my fellow students, as to think this administrative assistant or that bureaucrat doesn't care about your existence. The majority of them have been at the university longer than we have, and trust me, most these folks really do care about your well-being—an amazing fact, considering that many of my peers and former professors looked right through me as I worked to keep our campus envi-

"As my callouses thickened, my pride softened. And I realized that no matter how much the students think otherwise, this university is run for them."

ronment beautiful. I felt like machinery when that happened. My intention is not to make you smile at the next groundskeeper, or even to say hey to the lady at the cash register. That can be blisteringly superficial, not to mention rude when provoked from a sense of forced duty. No. That's not how you treat real people. Just be considerate. You wouldn't want someone dumping an ashtray or littering in your front yard. You certainly wouldn't want someone 20 years your junior huffing impatiently over a negligible detail. Oh, and, has anyone with a Ph.D. ever offered you inferiority because of your humble education?

One day this summer, I had the task of planting new flowers at Osbourne. It was solitary work, so I was making

up a song to keep me company. But then I thought I heard someone calling my name. I looked up to see my old high school friend Mr. Resume leaning out of the air-conditioned window. "Hey Allen," he laughed, "what are you doing?"

Oh, great. We came from the same place, with the same opportunities, and after four years in college, he was interning at the president's office, while I swept dirt outside. I paused, and a golden understanding broke my discomfort. Though I had not been a college superstar, and I didn't have the internship that raised eyebrows and respect, I was learning that people are people, not roles, and that to live in peace is priceless.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Reader frets over Iraq's hungry people**

To the editor:  
As we remain poised to strike Iraq, it is crucial to see the real cruelty and injustice here.

The issue is not Saddam Hussein; it is the unilateral economic sanctions, imposed since 1990 by the United Nations against the Iraqi people, the tough-

est by far in modern times. Who have they affected? Not Hussein. Rather they have hurt the children, the weak, the sick and the old. UNICEF states (November 1997) that almost a million children under the age of five are chronically malnourished.

At least 1.4 million Iraqis have died as a result of food and medicine shortages (Reuters 8-10-98). Every day 250 Iraqis die, 150 of which are infants and toddlers. That is the issue. How will a

military strike help? By killing at least 10,000 civilians (a "moderate" estimate — The Washington Post, Nov. 16) and further devastating the infrastructure. This means more unclean water and more disease.

What can we do? We can call on President Clinton and his advisers to not use our tax dollars on bombing Iraq. We can tell our senators and representatives that we oppose the "weapon

of mass destruction" used so cruelly for eight years — the sanctions.

We cannot let these deaths and suffering continue.

(More information at <http://leb.net/IAC/>.)

Brian Carnes  
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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. Opinions expressed in The Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of The University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization.

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