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# VIEWPOINTS

"I switched majors the last semester of my junior year, and I have a lot to make up."  
Matt Katz, computer science senior, on why he chose to take summer school courses

## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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### TAKE OUR WORD

## City should close Club Mercedes

During the early morning hours of May 9, the USC police department responded to reports of gunshots fired near Club Mercedes on Devine Street.

For many students, particularly those who take classes at the School of Law and the Carolina Coliseum, walking past Club Mercedes is a part of their daily routine.

More than 400 students live in the Towers, less than a block away from the club, and twice that number will be there this fall.

These students, or anyone else for that matter, shouldn't have to feel threatened by a club that has no reason to be open. The university should be a living and learning community, not a place where we should have to sidestep gunshots.

USC President John Palms wrote two letters in a two-week time span to Columbia mayor Bob

#### TOPIC

The recent crime at Club Mercedes

#### OUR OPINION

USC should keep asking the city to close the club until it does so.

Coble, neither of which has received a response.

The university should be applauded for letting the city know in a consistent manner its feelings about the continued operation of the club. As long as the club remains in

business, though, we as a community need to make sure our voices are heard.

We must act now. Students, faculty and staff, not just university officials, should let the mayor know we want this club shut down for good. One person already has died because of gunfire outside the club. No USC students, faculty or staff members have been directly affected yet by the crime there, but it's only a matter of time before someone else gets seriously injured if the club continues operating as it is.



college press exchange

## Three days of profit and gain



KEVIN LANGSTON  
columnist

"It certainly is sad to see the same people who celebrated love and music in 1969 try to exploit it in 1999."

In a summer with acts like Bob Dylan and Paul Simon, Tom Petty, Bruce Springsteen and R.E.M. touring, they all seemingly take a back seat to the third installment of the Woodstock Music Festival. Even three more days of peace and music will be held this summer in New York.

Profit is what has all the promoters' eyes glowing as the festival gets closer. With ticket prices at \$150, this show won't come cheap. Where the first Woodstock was famous for a number of things, one of which was the number of people who sneaked past the gates, this Woodstock will be notorious for the outlandish charge that good music brings with it.

Gracing the stage's presence at Woodstock '99 are acts like Aerosmith, George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars, Willie Nelson, Counting Crows, Fat Boy Slim, Dave Matthews Band, Metallica and Rage

Against the Machine. The question of whether the show will provide entertainment is absurd. Naturally, the festival will be entertaining. However, something terribly important is missing from this year's blatant attempt at cashing in on the Woodstock name: the spirit.

The promoters tried the same stunt five years ago when they held the second Woodstock music festival. Once the hype from this sequel died down, the general consensus was that the first Woodstock could never be duplicated. Sure, the second Woodstock might have brought in more money, but it wasn't the same. The spirit was gone. In fact, the second Woodstock Festival fell far short of the fame and importance of the first.

Money is the only logical reason for having another Woodstock. At its 30th Anniversary, are we to expect this every five years? As long as promoters can keep sinking their teeth

into the value of the Woodstock name, we'll continue to see these lame imitations of the genuine article.

What are we supposed to be celebrating by having a third Woodstock? With noble festivals like The Tibetan Freedom Concert and Farm Aid raising money for their respective causes, the third Woodstock is falling short in purpose. It's hard to hide the true aim of the next phase in Woodstock when it's being held on Griffin Business and Technology Park. It just doesn't have the same ring to it as Yasgur's Farm.

1969 was the last year in a decade that brought radical change to America. Humans were fighting for their civil rights, Americans were walking on the moon, young men and women were fighting a war many opposed, and Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. In light of this, a movement to raise awareness and pro-

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