



'The flag symbolizes tremendous pain and suffering and invokes deep pride and determination.'

John Palms, USC president

The Gamecock

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End of registration not a dead end

The first round of registration ended Friday, but some students have found themselves shut out of required classes because there aren't enough spaces.

In some cases, colleges are facing a lack of faculty, an increase in the number of students taking classes, or a combination of both. For example, according to USC's Institutional Planning and Research Web page, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications has grown from about 700 students in 1993 to more than 1,000, but in the same time span, the school has lost eight faculty members.

Not only does this present a problem for students and faculty during advisement periods, but it also stretches the faculty thin and leads to a shortage of classes available for students to take. The College of Journalism is not alone in facing this problem.

As if that weren't enough, some students who register early take advantage of upper-class status and exacerbate problems for students who must register later. These students "pack" their schedules with the maximum number of credit hours, planning to drop disappointing classes at the beginning of the semester.

Fortunately, students who are shut out from classes they want or need can fight back, thanks in large part to the ease of online registration. Keep trying to register online for the class you want — through the end of this semester, during winter break, and even during the first days of class next semester. Chances are, someone will drop the class and leave an open space. Also, people who don't make their tuition payments are automatically dropped from classes, and especially in larger classes, there's bound to be someone who doesn't pay his bill on time.

An alternative is to go straight to the professor teaching the class or to the undergraduate student services office for your major and explain your situation to them. Particularly if you require the class to graduate, professors will typically understand and at least try to work with you.

Don't give up hope. No registration system is perfect; the best thing students who need certain courses can do is to understand the system. Most students who really need certain courses can take them if they persevere.

Football fans need to stay for long haul

Although Saturday's face-off against Clemson ended as most feared — despite a good fight, we finished the season with no wins — all is not lost for the USC football program.

We urge people to remember that improvement takes time. As pleased as we are to have Lou Holtz as a Gamecock, football miracles don't happen overnight. Just as some of our academic prizes, such as the Darla Moore School of Business, grew during years of careful planning and hard work, our football program needs time to blossom.

Being a dedicated fan to a football team is somewhat like investing in the stock market; you have to be in it for the long haul. That Williams-Brice Stadium remained packed during the darkest moments of our losing streak is a credit to the fortitude and fidelity of Gamecock football fans. Our football team's record will improve; we have to be patient.

ABOUT US

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 nine 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. The Gamecock is supported in part by student activities fees.

ADDRESS
The Gamecock
1400 Greene Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Offices on third floor of the Russell House.

STUDENT MEDIA Area code 803

Advertising	777-3888
Classified	777-1184
Fax	777-6482
Office	777-3888

GAMECOCK Area code 803

Editor	gcked@sc.edu	777-3914
News	gcknews@sc.edu	777-7726
Viewpoints	gckviews@sc.edu	777-7181
Etc.	gcketc@sc.edu	777-3913
Sports	gcksports@sc.edu	777-7182
Online	www.gamecock.sc.edu	777-2833

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Letters to the editor or guest columns are welcome from all members of the Carolina community. Letters should be 250-300 words. Guest columns should be an opinion piece of about 600-700 words.

Both must include name, phone number, professional title or year and major. If a student. Handwritten submissions must be personally delivered to Russell House room 333. E-mail submissions must include telephone number for confirmation.

The Gamecock reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space. Anonymous letters will not be published. Photos are required for guest columnist and can be provided by the submitter.

Call 777-7726 for more information.

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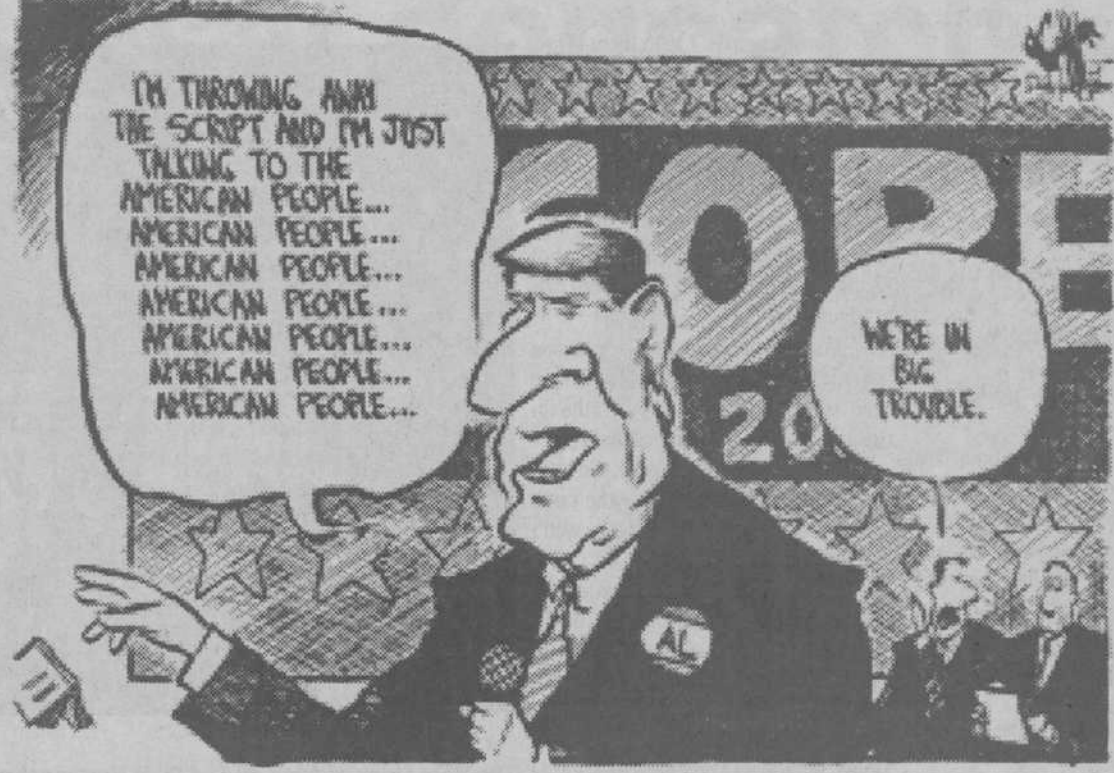
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SOCIAL ISSUES

'Good' acts should be examined

There are many things we do here at the university in order to take up the time between class, sleep, and studying. Some people go out and join clubs, whether those be sports, greek, residence hall, etc. Others just love to party. Some people like to explore the intellectual opportunities available to them. Then there are the people who feel that they're going to save the world.



Michael DiPresso writes each Monday. He can be reached via The Gamecock at gckviews@sc.edu

fooled; others (like me) learned their lesson. There is no greater an assembly of the naive and blind than Amnesty International. Some of its members have a perception and value system that is truly noble, and my respect for them is great, but I still say they're naive. These people, however, are not blind. They know what they are doing and know themselves. They are not the people I will be describing with great pejorative intention.

Violence is always an alternative. It is often inappropriate and/or ineffective, but it is always an alternative. Sometimes it is the best alternative. I'm just stating a fundamental difference of opinion, and this isn't enough to flame others. This is ...

One person I knew from Amnesty International went on (and on, and on ...) about work with migrant farm workers. This person criticized me for having opposing views.

I'm not sorry that we enjoy low produce prices. If we have to maintain the current system to do it, I'm all for it. A half-hour later, this person and a couple other AI members were discussing how much Hispanics disgusted them. They didn't realize that they were saying it, but they were. Not implying or insinuating, but plainly saying it. If I was a migrant worker, and I knew of their characters, I'd spit at their help.

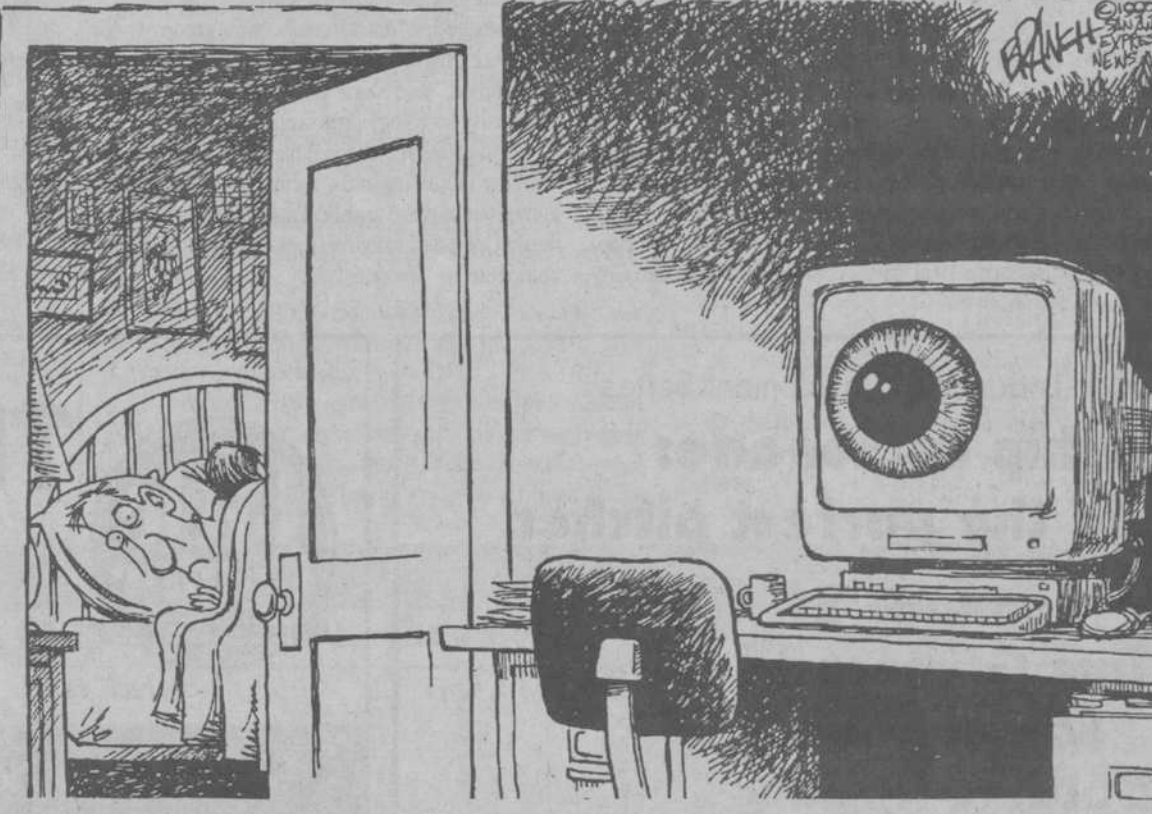
Another example is someone who wanted me to sign a petition denouncing the NYPD because two cops filled a West African immigrant with 40 bullets. He didn't know English, was told to stay

still, and wound up rushing the officers before being perforated. In neighborhoods like the one in which this happened, crack is rampant and a police uniform is a target. A perceived act of aggression is a "shoot first, ask questions later" situation. Too many cops have been killed because they got this order wrong. As for 40 bullets, it may seem excessive, but it really isn't. In neighborhoods like these, the standard issue is two 9mm automatic pistols that hold 13 bullets each. Two cops and two pistols equals 52 bullets that can be fired in no less than eight seconds.

Why did they fire so many times? Well, it was dark, and if the guy is on crack, bullets that hit but do not hit the heart, brain, or a major artery do not count. If your life is on the line and you're not a stalwart pacifist, then you don't take chances. Most of the members of AI aren't even stalwart enough to stick with it once they graduate, let alone find themselves under such tests of character. Know thyself before criticizing others.

Some of us need to realize that we are only animals — animals capable of unrivaled beauty and brutality. People are going to be homeless, tortured, starved, filled with bullets, oppressed by dictators, and generally miserable because of others' desires. I am very thankful that I am not one of these people, and I never forget it. That is why when I sit at the dinner table this Thursday, I can say that I truly realize the significance of that day.

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



LETTERS

USC police focus too much on parking tickets

To the Editor: The time has come for someone to stand up against the actions and behaviors of the USC "police." For too long, these so-called protectors of campus have been more of a public nuisance than a public help. Save the uniform and gun, one could easily mistake a USC "policeman" for a meter maid. In fact, I find it hard to believe that they do anything else but hand out

parking violations. Doing little more than acting as meter maids with guns, the officers seem to do nothing more than hand out parking tickets and call tow trucks all day long. At a campus with horrible parking already, the last thing stressed out students need is 400 cops trying to have their cars towed. For instance, two Sundays ago, I parked in the School of Law parking lot. Granted, it is reserved for those with special stickers, but no more than three cars were parked. This left about 30 unused spaces on a Sunday afternoon. When I came back to my car, it was gone.

It is utterly unnecessary for a paid "police officer" to scour the empty lots across campus looking for illegally parked cars. I would assume that they might have better things to do. Maybe it's just me, but I believe thefts, rapes, and other more violent crimes should take precedence over the scum of society who park their cars illegally. It is simply time for a change.

Clarence Alston
Computer Science Freshman

STATE ISSUES

Flag does not belong over state

Maybe it's because I wasn't born in South Carolina. Maybe it's because my parents are Yankees. However, I've been raised in South Carolina since I was three years old, and I don't think these have any influence on my opinion concerning the Confederate flag on top of the State House dome.

Chris Ballou is a guest columnist. He can be reached via The Gamecock at gckviews@sc.edu

First of all, I'm a little concerned as to why the NAACP has singled South Carolina out as the most evil and racist state in the South when Georgia and Mississippi both have the Confederate flag incorporated into their state flags. Why aren't these two states facing a boycott from the largest, most powerful minority association in this great land of ours? In my humble opinion, Mississippi and Georgia should be facing a boycott similar, if not more severe than, South Carolina's. These states have taken what some feel is a symbol of hatred and have used it to represent their state wherever their flags are flown. This appears, at least to me, to be a much more unacceptable application of the flag than what our humble state has done by placing the original flag over the Capitol.

However, despite the fact that South Carolina isn't the only state deserving a boycott, Gov. Jim Hodges' "compromise" concerning the flag falls well short of what should be done. One of Hodges' ideas is that the flag will be moved from the Capitol and placed in a monument of some kind on the Statehouse. In exchange for this, Hodges offers the recognition of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as a state holiday. This offer is just silly. Attaching the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to something like the Confederate flag is a disgrace to King's name. King is arguably the most important American of this century. What he did to advance the ideals of racial equality in this country can't be understated. The fact that Hodges wants to offer this "compromise" is almost sickening. King's accomplishments stand alone in their greatness. Why bring the flag into this debate? King's birthday should be a state holiday regardless of what happens to the Confederate flag.

I understand that the flag represents heritage for many Southerners. The history of their ancestors should be remembered. However, the Statehouse dome is not the appropriate venue for these memories. The fact of the matter is that, unfortunately, many racists use the flag as a symbol of their intolerance toward African-Americans. It is for this simple reason that the flag should be taken down. I fully support the placing of the flag in some sort of monument on the Statehouse grounds. The history of this state is interesting and important to remember. Many people gave their lives to the divisive War Between the States, and a memorial to these South Carolinians is necessary.

Finally, I feel that the flag should be removed simply because it is an embarrassment. I love the South and what it has to offer. However, many Yankees watch movies like "A Time to Kill" and think of the South as a land of dirt roads, racist red-necks, pick-ups, and trailers without air conditioning. The South is looked upon as the ignorant brother in the family known as the United States. The fact that the flag flies above the Statehouse only exacerbates this view. Late night comedians often see this issue as a great source of material for their shows. They make light of something that is a very serious issue for many proud Southerners. It is because of this that the South is often frowned upon. The removal of the flag would help remove some of the stigma placed on the South, especially my home state.

However, the best reason for removal of the flag is that, for many, it is a symbol of racism and evil. Despite your own personal view of what the flag means, you should respect this fact and support the efforts to bring it down.

Send letters to the editor to gckviews@sc.edu or Russell House 333.

Include name, phone number, year and major.