



Viewpoints

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

'I think it [music] kind of ran its course from 1967 - '79. That was the golden age of rock.'

Robert Pollard, lead singer, Guided by Voices

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

EDITORIAL BOARD

- Kenley Young** • Editor in Chief
- Brad Walters** • Managing Editor
- Brock Vergakis** • Viewpoints Editor
- Peter Johnson** • Assistant Viewpoints Editor
- Sara Ladenheim** • Editorial Contributor
- Emily Streyer** • Editorial Contributor

Late cancellation endangers students

The "Blizzard of 2000" brought more than 4 inches of snow to the Columbia area, but some might not remember the beauty of the weather as much as they'll remember the inconsiderateness of the university in its late cancellation of classes Tuesday.

Unlike other local schools, which gave their students plenty of notice by canceling Tuesday classes early Monday evening, USC decided it would go along with whatever Gov. Jim Hodges announced concerning state offices. So, following Hodges' lead, administrators announced Monday night that classes wouldn't begin until 11 a.m. Tuesday. And it wasn't until between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesday morning that local media outlets announced that classes were off for the day.

By then, many commuting students and professors were already making the dangerous trip to campus, only to find classroom buildings locked because they'd left home before the announcement was made.

Winter weather seems to have befuddled the administration again this year, just as it did last year when campus saw an inch of snow. Sadly, even though the roads were bad enough to warrant the cancellation of classes, many students made the dangerous commute just the same because of the late announcement.

We applaud the administration for making a prompt announcement concerning Wednesday's classes, but it doesn't reverse Tuesday's problems. Next time, we suggest that the administration give students and faculty more notice to prevent its 15,000 off-campus students from having to make a needless commute.

Legalizing tattooing right thing to do

A House subcommittee has passed a bill to legalize tattooing in South Carolina in an effort to maintain public health safety and regulate the practice.

According to officials, tattooing has long been illegal in South Carolina mainly because of a conservative attitude, which goes so far as to make illegal the selling of ferrets.

Avid tattoo aficionados who live in South Carolina might no longer have to worry about making the long drive to Atlanta or Charlotte to get a tattoo. Those who didn't have the resources to take an out-of-state trip usually visited one of several illegal tattoo parlors in Myrtle Beach.

With the passing of this legislation, there's now hope for a guarantee that tattooing in South Carolina will be licensed and sanitary. The Department of Health and Environmental Control supports the measure because illegal tattooing isn't regulated and could spread diseases when dirty needles are used.

This is a big step in the right direction toward the advancement of free expression in the state of South Carolina. It's about time state legislation stops being stubborn about letting people express themselves through body art. Maybe next we can all own ferrets, as well.

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@usc.edu 777-3914
News gcknews@usc.edu 777-7726
Viewpoints gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com
777-7181
Etc. gcketc@usc.edu 777-3913
Encore gamecockencore@hotmail.com 777-3913
Sports gcksports@usc.edu 777-7182
Online www.gamecock.sc.edu 777-2833

SUBMISSION POLICY
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.

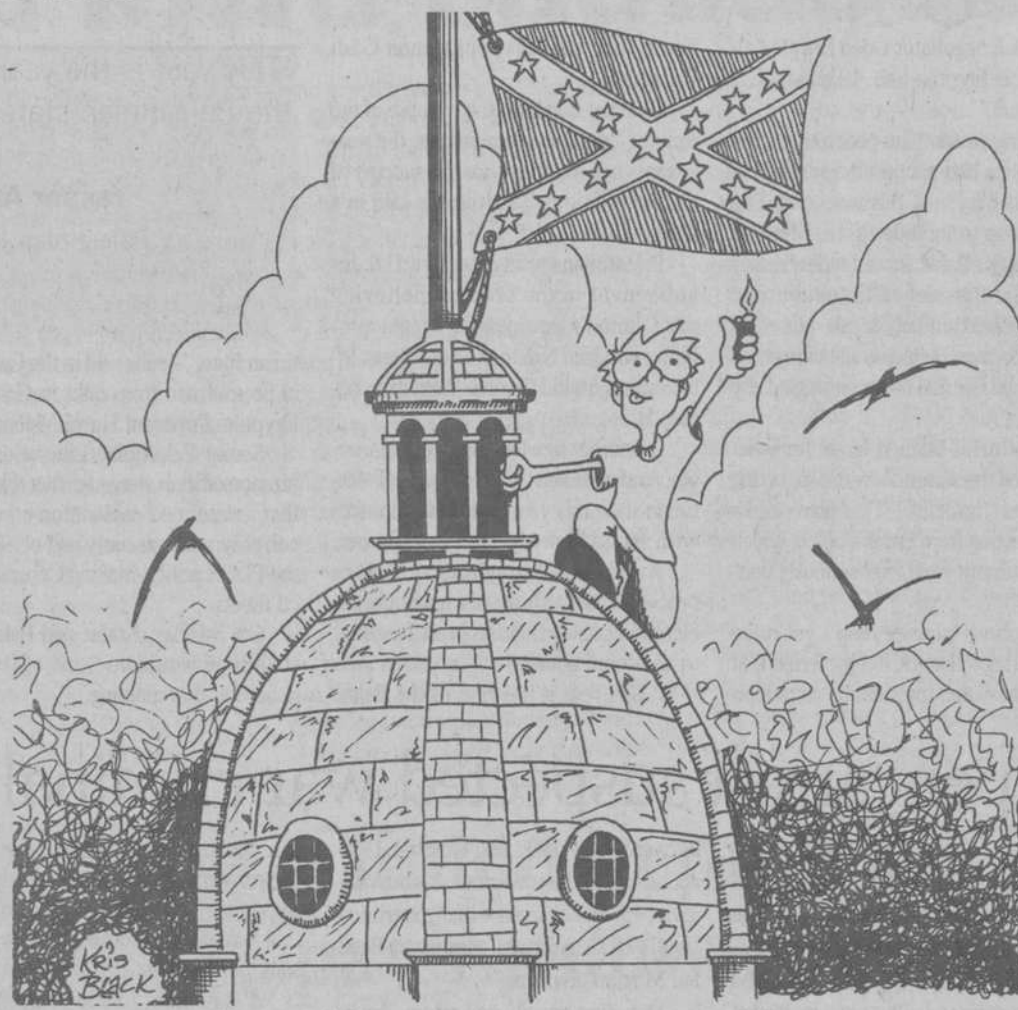
THE GAMECOCK
Kenley Young
Editor in Chief
Brad Walters
Managing Editor
Brock Vergakis
Viewpoints Editor
Peter Johnson
Assistant Viewpoints Editor
Clayton Kale
News Editor
Brandon Larrabee
Associate News Editor
Rebecca Cronican
Ann Marie Miani
Etcetera Editors
David Cloninger
Jeff Romig
Sports Editors
Kirstin Freestate
Copy Desk Chief
Renee Oligny
Copy Editor
Kevin Langston
Encore Editor

STUDENT MEDIA
Ellen Parsons
Director
Susan King
Creative Director
Kris Black
Julie Burnett
Tedd Hooks
Dotsy Martin
Kathy Van Nostrand
Creative Services
Kenton Watt
Advertising Manager
Carolyn Griffin

Amy Goulding
Travis Lynn
Photo Editors
Will Gillaspay
Online Editor
Peter Johnson
Asst. Viewpoints Editor
Kelly Haggerty
Patrick Rathbun
Asst. News Editors
MacKenzie Craven
Asst. Etcetera Editor
Shannon Rooke
Asst. Sports Editor
Robert Fleming
Asst. Encore Editor
Charles Prashaw
Shawn Singleton
Charlie Wallace
Senior Writers
Emily Streyer
Editorial Contributor

Business Manager
Sherry Holmes
Classified Manager
Erik Collins
Faculty Adviser
Jonathan Dunagin
Graduate Assistant
Robin Gombart
Gina McKelvey
Melissa Miller
Bramley Roper
Nicole Russell
Advertising Staff

THE GAMECOCK



Hey, General Sherman, you forgot something.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Respect yourself, or others won't

She stood alone with tears falling from her eyes, wondering what she could have done differently. He stood alone at the corner of the bar, wondering what was taking the bartender so long to get his drink.

Moments later, one of her friends approached her with a simple question: "Why do you constantly take all his shit?" Then came her answer, so brief, yet so complex in understanding. "Because he loves me," she said.

What caused her to start crying only moments earlier was that the one who "loved" her violently grabbed her arm and told her to shut the hell up and get her fat ass out of the bar. This from the one she says "loves" her.

I stood alone, watching in amazement as all of this transpired, wondering how someone could allow herself to be treated this way. But then I remembered the answer; he loves her.

While I patiently waited for a beverage, I heard him explain to anyone who would listen why he took the action that



Brock Vergakis is a journalism junior and Viewpoints editor. He can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

he did. Apparently, the "disagreement" took place because she ran into an ex-boyfriend earlier that night whom she still wanted to be friends with.

All of his buddies seemed to think he was right, saying things like, "Serves the bitch right" and "What a whore."

She had just been described as a bitch and a whore because she wanted to be friends with someone. But don't worry, it's not a big deal, because he loves her, she says. She tells her friends to leave her alone because they don't know him as she does. They don't know, the way she does, how much he cares about her.

Tired of the frustration, her friends oblige and leave her alone, tears still falling from her eyes.

Tired of seeing how someone could show such little respect for herself, I got my drink and left. This entire "drama" took place in less than 10 minutes. It's absolutely amazing how much people can reveal about themselves in that little time. It's absolutely amazing how completely disgusted I became with two people in less than 10 minutes.

I couldn't believe the nerve he had to treat her in such a horrible manner. The pure arrogance he displayed in his self-righteousness was mind-blowing. Instead of being happy he was the one with his girlfriend, his jealousy consumed him and he showed everyone there what a monster he was able to be. Everyone realized what a complete jerk he was being - everyone, that is, except his girlfriend.

She's obviously been blinded in the name of "love." There's absolutely no reason for any girl to put up with that type of behavior from any guy, but she did so because she says he "loves" her.

She puts up with it and gets frustrated with others because nobody else can understand how much he cares about her. She's absolutely right. I've never been able to understand how that type of behavior can be misconstrued as coming from someone who cares about another. I'm sure her friends can't understand, either, and I take pity on all of those who can.

Maybe the bruise he put on her arm was the first time he had ever done any physical damage to her, maybe it's not. Oftentimes, though, mental abuse is just as bad as physical. Whether it's an insult or an open hand thrown at someone, it's bound to cause suffering.

I would hope that everyone in a situation like this would be able to recognize it and get out as soon as possible, but as this weekend proved to me, this is not always the case. It bothers me to think that next time, it's quite possible it might be one of my friends who gets in a situation like this and doesn't get out.

I hope that this will never happen, and I wish nobody ever has to go through life with someone who "cares" about them the way this guy cares for his girlfriend. Most of all, I hope everyone realizes that to get out of such a situation takes courage and self-respect. Because if you don't show respect for yourself, you can't expect anybody else to.

LETTERS

Capstone crime violates residents

As a resident of Capstone House, I, too, would like to comment on the recent string of thefts that occurred here last week. I have a comment on this issue because like others, I found myself violated by this thief. The fact that this person was able to walk into my room while I lay there sleeping and lift my belongings leaves me with a feeling that words cannot describe.

It is not so much that they stole my jewelry, because those items can be replaced, but that I was there when it happened. Since the robbery, I'm constantly thinking of what I should have done to prevent this or what would have happened if I had woken up and found this person in my room. It pisses me off to realize that this person knows exactly what I look like, when I have no clue as to who they might be. To know that I can be passing them on my way to class or work irritates the hell out of me. To the robber, I'll give it to you, you got me good.

However, though your tactic seems clever and effective at the moment, your luck is sure to run out! I know that I said the items you stole can and, may I add, will be replaced, but I would like to take this opportunity to ask you for my belongings back. I know that it is unrealistic to think that I'll get everything if anything back at all, but can I at least get back my class ring, my mother's cluster and my boyfriend's bracelet with his name on it? I mean, let's be for real, who are you going to sell a class ring to? Finally, to those who did not find yourselves a victim of this person's

crime, I'll leave you with a little advice: Don't let your guard down because you might end up like me and other students who live here at the infamous Capstone House.

Felicia Brown
Business Sophomore

Administration gets F on snow storm

Please pass along my warmest and most sincere appreciation to the administration of the University of South Carolina for the outstanding job they did in reacting to the recent snowstorm. With unparalleled competence and despite all the modern means of quick communication (e-mail, radio and television), somehow they still managed not to inform many of us that classes would be canceled Jan. 25. The mile walk in the snow this morning was nice exercise anyway.

Karl Tyer
Graduate student
Daria Moore School of Business

Heritage is no excuse for hate

After reading what the misinformed and misguided Thomas A. Eybl wrote in his letter Monday, I was aghast. The Statehouse is the governmental institution of everyone in South Carolina. Heritage is no excuse for hate, and it's not justification to alienate an entire population. Not every-

one in South Carolina finds 300 years of oppression, degradation and enslavement worth honoring. Mr. Eybl said that he is disappointed that *The Gamecock* hasn't come fully into the new millennium. Well, I am heartbroken that he encourages this state's stagnation, with its "plantation mentality," and that he has failed to bring himself and those around him into the 21st century, where narrow-mindedness and prejudice aren't accepted.

For him to be a member of the race that the flag is constantly berating, it is difficult to fathom how he can believe the propaganda spread by the very ones who would have him still in bondage and in "colored-only" sections had the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and many others not fought and died to get it changed. Perhaps they should fly a flag in their honor. Furthermore, the question shouldn't be whether Malik Husser speaks for the entire university, but whether the flag speaks for the entire state. Now Mr. Eybl can proclaim his support and speak of all the other "Southerners" who believe as he does about the flag, but I and 50,000 others were not afraid to let our voices be heard just a week ago.

The NAACP is not the enemy of South Carolina; the foe is the members of the Legislature who refuse to listen to the progressive and common-sensed people of the state. We should not be glorifying or flying the Confederate flag. If we are a university of the next generation, we shouldn't want to carry the sins of our fathers with us into what could be a wonderful future.

Kamille Bostick
Journalism Freshman

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Bellsouth much too greedy

BS: BellSouth or bullsh.t? With BS pushing to increase your monthly bills by as much as \$17 per phone line, the answer is easy. The S.C. Public Service Commission is deciding whether to establish a universal service fund to subsidize service to remote, high-cost areas in the state.

The fund, which would mostly benefit BS, would become one of the most expensive plans in the nation. In 1997, BS, with its near monopoly in providing local service, said the outrageous amount of \$440 million would be needed for the fund. PSC, since then, has computed the data itself and says the fund needs \$330 million. Whoops, a discrepancy of ONLY \$110 million! Where is the seriousness? To put these numbers in perspective, North Carolina, a state twice as large and twice as populated as South Carolina, proposed \$12 million. Our state is asking for more than 36 times that amount! The \$440 million translates to as much as \$17 a month more for everyone.

And we get upset when stamps go up a cent! For some people, that would nearly double their monthly bills. For a small company with several phone lines, costs would increase substantially. For senior citizens with a fixed income, that's more than \$200 a year more - an additional cost many won't be able to afford. And for the majority of nonrural dwellers, it would mean paying something for nothing. These tactics explain how BS recently reported an earnings increase of 9.1 percent from last year. It went from \$23.1 billion to \$25.2 billion. Without any numbers to compare BS's increase in earnings, it's difficult to understand how insulting BS's profits are to its clients. Usually, when a company is as big as BS and its market share is close to 100 percent, simply maintaining its share and revenues is a success. Yet BS, despite already controlling almost the entire market, has the luxury of having increases of 9.1 percent in revenue.

The fund is a good example of how BS operates. They say the fund would be revenue neutral, but given BS's history of doing whatever it takes to make the buck, it's hard to believe that they're doing something without monetary compensation. BS is probably doing what I used to do when I wanted a G.I. Joe. If I wanted one, I'd ask my parents for two. We would bargain, and I'd end up with the one Joe I originally wanted.

But there are differences between BS and me. I was 6 when I resorted to those tactics, and even at that age, I had morals. I wouldn't ask for nine G.I. Joes when I needed only one. BS, however, is asking for 9 G.I. Joes, and if they get 7, they couldn't be happier. Worst of all, you and I will be paying for those Joes. Some say that BS's aim is to have some "cushion money" to ensure that when competition gets too close, BS can afford to drop its prices. With this "cushion money" set aside, BS could afford to drop its rates without losing anything.

To me this sounds very convincing, especially when BS refuses to voice its opinions on the issue. What are they hiding? Why can't they justify why they need so much money? This ends up being a good case study for the flaws of capitalism - when people begin to make money, they get addicted and don't know when to stop. They don't know when enough is enough. The motivation to make money surpasses social responsibility and even humanity. Sure, people have the right to make as much money as they can. But do people or organizations realize that sometimes it is at the expense of others? BS seems to have fallen into this trap. It wants to continue increasing its profits. Considering that BS essentially has a monopoly, the only way to increase profits is to take more money from the people it serves. And because the people don't have a choice, they have to submit to BS's game. Where is the social responsibility? Where are the values of this company? What can we do? You can contact the PSC and voice your opinion. Don't let BS get away with this. Save yourselves \$17 a month. PSC's Web address is www.psc.state.sc.us, and you can call the commission at 737-5230.



Mario Ona is a journalism senior and can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com