



'I'm 58 years old. By the time I was really to the place where I could do something, I'd be too old'

William Norton on pulling his name out of the Dean candidacy for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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Student newspaper should stand firm

The student newspaper at the University of Minnesota ran a sports column advocating the suspension of the men's basketball team for their involvement with an academic fraud scandal.

Subsequently, the men's basketball coach told the paper's sports editor that if a more "supportive" piece wasn't written, *The Minnesota Daily* would be denied press credentials, thus essentially preventing any coverage of the men's basketball team.

In what he considered the best interest of the paper, its readers and the university, the sport's editor abided with the coach's demand.

As a student newspaper on a very large campus, we are often charged with the task of trying to please as many people as possible. While our priority doesn't lie with keeping as many people happy for as long as possible, we do value the importance of keeping contacts and presenting timely and objective news.

We understand that for the student body to get the news we think is most important to them, we have to rely on certain people at this university to work with us in gathering and presenting this news.

We understand the decision made at *The Minnesota Daily*, but we do not necessarily advocate their actions. As an opinion piece, the column had every right to run, and there should not have been any retraction or apologetic follow-up column.

Yes, the paper has a responsibility to cover men's basketball, but they also have a responsibility to their students to report the news concerning an athletic program that appears to be corrupt. In the long run, the men's basketball program runs a potential risk in shooting itself in the foot by denying coverage from the university's press. *The Minnesota Daily* should have stood by their opinion piece.

Grant provides good opportunity for USC

The National Institute of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded University of South Carolina researchers \$8.3 million in grants last week. The funding will serve to address three public health problems including domestic violence, diabetes and obesity.

The grants provide opportunities for the USC School of Public Health's researchers to combat health disorders pertinent to the state of South Carolina and supplement the \$4.3 million the school has received since July 1. South Carolina ranks at the top of the nation in incidences of domestic violence, diabetes and obesity.

We encourage USC researchers to appreciate their unique opportunity and realize the ramifications the research might carry. We hope that USC and its School of Public Health will continue the exemplary work and uphold its reputation by remaining on the cutting edge.

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.

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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 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 and should be sent to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

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

Call 777-7726 for more information.

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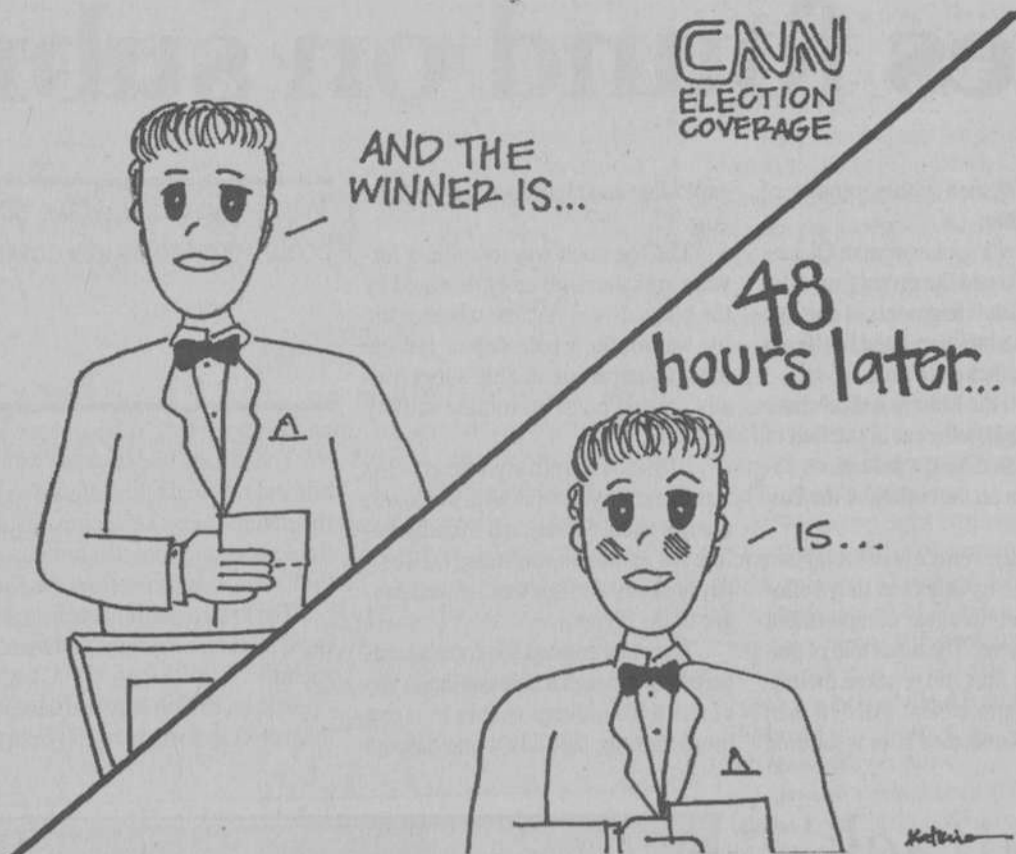
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ELECTION 2000

Canada ain't lookin' so bad to me

Florida, Florida, the red-neck riviera. Florida, Florida, there's no more pathetic place in America.

Yes, Vic Chesnutt said it best. The fate of our country now rests in the hands of Florida - home to retirees, refugees, aspiring young criminals, boy bands and countless other ne'er-do-wellers.

Well, the mood is hardly sunny right now in the Sunshine State. The future of our country "hangs in the balance" and the "whole world is watching" this election that is "too close to call." (I figure I'd throw in all the cliches I've been hearing on the news over the past two days).

If nothing else, there will be two main things we will take away from this election. 1) Your vote really does count, and 2) The electoral college needs to go.

Will we end up in the hands of a competent man who slightly lacks in character what he makes up for in experience or a man who so often has come across as a bumbling, blathering idiot?

Bush knows how to spell "potato," but that is about all I will give him credit for. In the slipstream of my consciousness, there lies something that triggers my common sense nerve. It is this nerve that goes haywire when George W. opens his mouth.

Sorry to all of you Bush supporters, but I just don't trust the man. Actually, I wonder how you do. Isn't anyone turned off by his penchant for sweet talking and that sly smile? It's quite revolting and frightening. Forget Eminem, Bush could very

well be the real Slim Shady.

What are his motivations in wanting to become president anyway? I think he wants it because daddy had it. I'm waiting to see Bush - during his acceptance speech (knock on wood that doesn't happen) - to abruptly scream "O'Doyle rules!" before he leaves the stage.

Bush seems to treat this like a junior high school election where the "too cool to be in politics" candidate promises free Yoo-hoos (the surplus) to everyone when he wins. It seems like most Americans are voting as if they're picking someone to hang out with over the next four years - the guy who will buy you a sandwich and not ask for the money back. The issues are what is important, and many of Bush's ideas are unrealistic and quite morose, to put it straight.

Besides all this, Bush just acts so dumb. I get the distinct impression every time he opens his mouth that there is a cue card close by. It shouldn't matter what his speechwriters tell him to say; the quality of character lies within how a candidate acts under pressure - alone.

For example, when faced with a question he is unprepared for, Bush changes the subject to something he knows the people want to hear. Granted, this happens sometimes when someone is in a jam, but it doesn't even seem like he gives the question a second thought afterwards.

He lacks a healthy intellectual curiosity that a president should possess. Yet Americans still gobble it up. Why? Because he is just so damn charming and nobody wants to clear the smoke to see through to the issues at hand.

The decision should come from the content, not the delivery. Delivery is important; all of the great comedians and magicians have perfected it.

With all the smoke screens he throws up when a tough question arises, he seems like a magician, but then he says some-

thing funny like "many of our most important imports come from overseas." And let's not forget the whole "subliminal" fiasco. This kinda leads me back to the comedian idea.

Clinton, too, has perfected that delivery, and he has used that to charm the pants off many fine (ahem) ladies. So how am I supposed to believe that Mr. Popular is any different in that aspect? After all, everyone wants to be Bush's best friend.

I am not a fan of Clinton's character or moral decisions while in office, but he has been a better-than-expected leader over the past eight years. Gore seems like a more straightforward and honest person than Clinton ever was. I wish so many wouldn't hold him under the same contempt under which they hold Clinton without giving him a chance to shine, and shining is something that Bush doesn't seem capable of doing.

Yes, I guess this is a Gore endorsement, but only because I am one of the many Americans who fall into the "fear of Bush" category in my support for Gore. Gore is by no means a superior leader in comparison to the superior leaders that America has seen in the Oval office - yet. And there is no mistaking the fact that he smarter and better prepared than Bush.

If you want some food for thought, examine Texas under Bush, and then imagine what this man will do to our country. Well, we certainly forget the "sea to shining sea" part when Bush decides to open up the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling and the Florida Everglades for exploration (and eventually, possibly, drilling).

And with a Republican majority in the House and an equal slate in the Senate, George W. will basically get whatever he wants and it will be handed to him, complete with silver spoon in mouth. Having a brat for president will truly be an experience America will never forget.

LETTERS

Generalizations of Greeks by writer are uneducated, unjust

To the Editor:

In last Friday's edition of *The Gamecock*, Pete Johnson kept his streak of ignorant rationalizations about USC's Greek community going with his comments about sorority girls.

More specifically, he described Paula Jones's statement to Larry King as "a ditzzy giggle, worthy of the dumbest sorority girl." You might ask why write a letter about something as trivial as this?

Well, this is just one in a long line of derogatory comments Mr. Johnson has made toward Greeks in his weekly column. So I figured as a member of the Greek community, it was time to call Mr. Johnson on his generalizations.

His inane comments led me to believe that he harbors a twinge of jealousy and bitterness towards Greeks, even when he has demonstrated little to no knowledge about fraternities and sororities.

I encourage Mr. Johnson to talk with several of the 2000 Greek students on cam-

pus before he writes any more obligatory remarks, in hopes that he will be able form a better, more educated opinion.

This is all in an effort to help Mr. Johnson become a better journalist because, as we all know, these hasty generalizations make for bad journalism. It would be as if I said that someone was as misinformed as a Gamecock editorial writer. Which for all intensive purposes is false, but I go ahead and label the whole group for the misdeeds of just one or two members.

So Pete, for this Friday's column I implore you to at least get to know the people before you stereotype them.

Edward H. Bender
Fraternity Council President
Political Science Senior

Maurice's Barbecue ad has no place in school paper

To the Editor:

Today I was walking through the Russell House when I happened to see the latest issue of *The Gamecock*.

"Interesting," I thought. "Why don't I see what is going on in the lives of my fellow students at the University of South Carolina." However, little to my surprise, as I turned to the Sports section, I saw an advertisement for Maurice's Barbecue.

Yes, the Maurice's Barbecue that advocated that the confederate flag remain atop the State House. The Maurice's Barbecue who in commemoration flies the confederate flag atop its restaurants. Yes, the Maurice's who is being boycotted by not only the black, but others in-state and out-of-state who supported the removal of this flag.

It is not enough that I have to drive past this blatant representation of discrimination, hatred and servitude on my way home. I now can open up my school's newspaper, this school that stands for equality among all its students and faculty, and see a company that stands for discrimination, hatred and servitude.

It was my belief that the flag was taken down. But as I turned the pages of *The Gamecock* I see that it has once again risen.

Timisha Porcher
Business and Media Arts Junior

CAROLINA VS. CLEMSON

Examining the rivalry of Carolina, Clemson

Just over two years ago I couldn't have cared less about the rivalry between USC and Clemson.

When I moved down to Columbia from New Jersey to start my freshman year, I didn't even realize there was a rivalry. As far as I was concerned, sports rivalries began and ended with the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox.

Things have changed.

Last weekend I traveled to Clemson along with the rest of the Carolina Rugby team to play in a tournament.

After Saturday's matches were over, I found myself in a bar. Surrounded by Clemson faithfuls, we Carolina boys broke out the chanting and tomahawk-chopping of Florida State University, who was, at the time, beating the hell out of Clemson's football team.

This didn't seem strange to any of the South Carolinians there. Most of them had seemingly grown up with the rivalry. They understood it. They lived it.

But for me, it was something new and fun.

I didn't bother going to high school football games. I never got involved in the inter-school and inter-town rivalry at home. I never got in a fight with guys from the rival high school. So talking trash to Clemson fans in a bar was something altogether new for me.

I thought about the rivalry and why I cared about it on the drive home Sunday morning.

How did I go from complete apathy concerning the rivalry to becoming wrapped up in it in two short years?

I'm not sure I can explain it. I'm not sure that I even understand why South Carolinians are so wrapped up in the rivalry.

Is it something that is just ingrained into children from an early age? Last week, I went to Wal-Mart and saw a 3-year-old boy decked out in orange.

He had on a Clemson baseball cap, a Clemson T-shirt and orange shorts with a little tiger paw on one leg. Is this child destined to become a Clemson Tiger? Is this child a victim of abuse?

What happens if this little boy grows up and decides he wants to go to USC because it has a better journalism department, or a more exciting campus, a better football team, prettier girls or any other number of reasons?

Will his parents disown him?

Will he be on his own to finance his education because he decided not to be a Clemson Tiger like his father before him, his grandfather before him and his great-grandpappy before that?

The same can be said for the child whose baby clothes had Gamecock logos embroidered on them.

What if this child decides to major in poultry?

It wouldn't be fair of his parents to keep him from attending Clemson and getting the best education money can buy.

Rivalries like this don't need rhyme or reason. I have been a New York Yankees fan since I was born.

I can't tell you why I hate the Red Sox, but I do. It's just what we do.

Yankee fans hate the Red Sox; Red Sox fans hate the Yankees. Clemson fans hate USC, and USC fans hate Clemson.

It's the nature of the beast. Rivalries like these keep sports interesting.

Last season when the Gamecocks were going 0-11, no one would have cared about the season finale had it been against New Mexico State.

But since the game was against Clemson, USC's record didn't matter.

This season the rivalry is taking on a life all its own. With both teams planted firmly in the top 25, the rivalry is at an all-time high.

The rivalry is what makes the game great.



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