



'Simply put, the effects of such budget cuts would be felt by this institution and our state for decades.'

John Palms, University President

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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Education budget cut bad for USC, future

Little more than two years ago, Gov. Jim Hodges was swept into office, and he proclaimed he would be the "education governor."

Now, Hodges has proposed a 15-percent cut in the budget for the colleges and universities of South Carolina, which could cause USC to raise its tuition by 30 to 40 percent. The plan could also leave South Carolina without the business, education and social leaders it will need to advance in the coming decades, as well as limiting the higher education choices for lower-class South Carolinians.

Not all of the blame lies with Hodges. Some falls on Republicans, who believe that if 24 hours go by without a tax cut, it's been too long. But tax cuts are essentially revenue cuts, which is one cause of the state's possible \$500 million budget shortfall.

Hodges' proposed cuts will devastate higher education in South Carolina and badly damage the state's ability to compete with its neighbors, both economically and educationally. If the two parties want to put action behind their words about education, they should reject the budget cut plan instead of backing politically expedient education policies that gain votes in the present, but surrender the future.

Bicentennial celebration not prepared for students

USC began celebrating its 200th year as a chartered institute of higher education this past Wednesday. However, poor event planning kept most students from taking part in the celebration.

Students were encouraged to attend the bicentennial kickoff ceremony, but they were asked not to move in on the day of the celebration because traffic would be heavy. Dining halls weren't opened to accommodate students who came back to campus early to take part in the celebration.

And the fact that there is a separate pep-rallyesque "kickoff" celebration planned for students shows the first kickoff celebration wasn't intended for the average student.

Universities often favor alumni over students, and in this case, USC is no different. The administration should remember that the students who attend USC in 2001 are just as important as alumni who were graduated years before.

The administration should have remembered to plan for students by opening dining halls and residence halls when preparing for big celebrations like the bicentennial. The students are as much a part of the Carolina community as the alumni.

STARTS ABOVE



INAUGURAL BALL

CRIMES OF THE MIND

Television: the real democracy

So there I was, clicking the remote through 999 channels of rubbish.

I started from channel two, and went higher and higher in the channels. We have them all. I bypassed the five home shopping channels and moved into the animal documentary channels, where I stopped briefly to learn about the mating habits of pygmy marmosets before I continued looking for something that would hold my attention for more than two minutes.

I stopped clicking somewhere between channel 468 and channel 503 because of a thumb cramp.

See, last semester while I was away, my parents decided to get digital cable (because we all know that digital is better) so my dad could watch the Little Sisters of Mercy benefit bowling league on ESPN6, and my mom could watch A&E Biography whenever she chooses on the 24-hour-a-day Biography Channel.

Over the course of this past semester, I had gotten used to the idea of broadcast television, where you have three, maybe four, fuzzy-but-free channels with all the essentials: Conan O'Brien, 60 Minutes and mindless but comparatively whole-



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'Now the trend is to get a bunch of twenty-somethings ... on camera to watch them stab each other in the back for greed.'

some programming like the Drew Carey Show (for recreational use only, I swear!).

I say "comparatively wholesome" because on the specialty channels like Comedy Central and the once-great Cartoon Network, there are programs so deplorable that, if I were my father, I wouldn't let me watch them.

Theater critic Clive A. Barnes made a funny and fair observation when he said, "Television is the first truly democratic culture — the first culture available to everybody and entirely governed by what people want. The most terrifying thing is what people do want."

This is indeed true. One of the best ways to keep viewers coming back for more is to continually push the envelope, keep them asking, "What are they going to do next?" The best way to find out what they're going to do next is, of course, see for yourself. Pushing the envelope is the way to get by in the TV biz, it seems.

First we had *The Simpsons*, which seems mild compared with *Beavis and Butthead*, which seems mild compared with *South Park*, which will seem mild compared with the next in line of "adult" cartoons.

Now the trend is to get a bunch of twenty-somethings (adding the token crotchety old man) and put them on camera to watch them stab each other in the back for greed.

Survivor was bad (and boring) enough, but last week, the idiot box went a step further — seeing how long a few long-term couples can make it on an island filled with people whose sole purpose is to tempt one or both of the partners into cheating on their significant other.

The couple that remains devoted wins — get this — a bunch of money, while the losers walk away nursing broken hearts. The consolation prize is a memory of making it with some hot chick or stud (who only showed interest in them because — get this — they were paid too).

Ah, but like a drop of blood in a feeding frenzy, complaining about it does little more than increase the hype. Television gets worse and worse every year, and barring censorship — which is worse than MTV — there is no way to clean it up. But I'll do my part. In the spirit of Milton's Marketplace of Ideas, I'll not watch until it goes away.

LETTERS

Brewer's town rallies around USC victory

To the Editor:

Let me start by saying that I am a big Ohio State fan. I was born and raised a Buckeye. On New Year's Day, I found myself doing the unthinkable.

Not only did I not cheer for Ohio State, but I was totally against them. Before the game, I wanted badly for Ryan Brewer to run all over the Buckeye defense. Watching Ryan Brewer play while he attended Troy High School was a delight.

I knew as a freshman that Ryan Brewer was going to be a reckoning force at the collegiate level. I had just hoped it would be at Ohio State. Reading all the articles in our local newspaper regarding the recruiting of Ryan Brewer, I was surprised that Ohio State didn't want him.

After all, he was the best football player in Ohio. Why let a player with that kind of skill, determination and heart go out of state? Answer: So he can come back and rub it in your nose!

The whole town of Troy and, quite frankly, this whole area was cheering for South Carolina. I'm sure I speak for most in our town when I say thanks. Thank you, Lou Holtz, for recruiting Ryan Brewer.

Thank you, Lou Holtz, for giving our fellow Trojan his time to shine. Thanks to those on offense who blocked for him.

Thanks to the defense who made more time for the offense to have the ball. Thanks to the special teams that gave USC the good field position. And, most of all, thank you, Ryan Brewer. Thank you for making Troy, Ohio proud, for doing what everyone knew you could do in the first place. Congratulations on the Player of the Game award. University of South Carolina: Con-

gratulations on being the Outback Bowl champions!

Matt Jennings
Troy, Ohio

Injured student's family seeks University support

To the Editor:

My name is Chris Duke, the brother of Dan Duke, the USC student who was found [unconscious] on the 600 block of Pickens Street. Our family is very eager to obtain any information regarding this situation. We are trying very diligently to find the person or persons who did this to my brother. Alumni, students and faculty support the University of South Carolina through sports and education, and my brother was no exception. I went to a football game and the support was immense. Now my brother needs help, and I hope the support will be as immense. We spent Christmas in a hospital looking at a hopeless kid who was left for dead in the middle of the road. My brother has now been in a coma for four weeks.

I am pleading for help to find who did this to my brother. I hope through your publication of your paper and people talking about this tragic incident we will find the culprits. Thank you for your support.

Chris Duke
Victim's brother

Plan for the financial future

To the Editor:

Welcome back to campus. It has been a pleasant holiday break, and I look for-

ward to renewed enthusiasm in our bicentennial year. Now is the time for student organizations to plan programs and events for the remainder of 2001, and it's imperative that students include financial considerations in their planning. Over the next two weeks, Student Government will be holding the Spring Treasurer's Workshops. These workshops are designed to help student organizations learn who is eligible for university funds, how to apply for these funds and how to spend funds that they are allocated. Student Government representatives will be available at these workshops to explain the spring budget allocation process and to help your organization determine its best strategy in the competition for limited university funds.

Every semester, there is a \$2.15 charge added to each student's bill. This revenue is pooled and distributed by the Student Senate Finance Committee to help support student organizations on campus. Student Government urges you to get involved in the process and to voice your concerns over how your money is spent.

Make sure the treasurer of every organization to which you belong attends a Treasurer's Workshop so that your group is eligible for funding. Set aside time in your meetings to make reasonable estimates as to the cost of expected programs and to develop a thorough budget for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

For the majority of student organizations, university funding is vital to their success and continuity. Don't make your successors reinvent the wheel. Set the foundation now.

Hydrick Harden
Chairman, Student Senate Finance Committee

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Resolve to stop resolving

A new year is upon us, which means a few things are certain. First of all, it means the Gamecocks are the Outback Bowl champions. Secondly, it means there is a good chance you woke up on someone else's floor, in someone else's bed or, in a worst-case



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scenario, in someone else's jail cell after a night filled with noisemakers, fireworks and Dick Clark jokes. Lastly, it means you might have made some sort of resolution for the brand new year of 2001 that you swear you'll stick to, although everyone knows you won't.

New Year's Resolutions are one of the stupidest traditions to plague our society. Considering most are thought up around 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1 while the room is spinning after two or 12 shots of Cuervo Gold, it's no wonder most are all but forgotten when the party ends and the hangover begins.

On another note, did you ever notice that it's always the people who aren't getting kissed at midnight who are the first to shout out their resolutions for all to hear? You never hear a guy getting kissed saying, "I really have to get in shape this year," when the clock strikes midnight. You know why? Because he's good enough for some girl to kiss him!

It's always the guy in the corner who hasn't kissed anyone besides his mom in 10 years who's telling anyone who'll listen how he's going to start going to the gym this year. Well, guess what, he isn't going to start going to the gym, he's not going to have anyone kiss him next year and he's going to make the same resolution for 2002.

Now that I've got the basics out of the way, let me tell you what's wrong with the rest of your resolutions. A common resolution is "I'm going to quit smoking this year." Hey, buddy — no, you're not. You're not going to quit smoking this year or next year or any year just because you resolve to at midnight. It's a drug, and you're addicted. The start of a new year isn't going to change that. You want to quit smoking? I'll give you a tip: Find a beautiful girl who hates cigarette smoke more than lima beans and date her. You'll be an ex-smoker in two weeks, tops.

Then there's the guy who says he's "going to lose that extra 10 pounds." Chances are, this is the same guy that's been stuffing his face with cocktail weenies all night and just did his sixth keg stand. Let me tell you something, you're not going to lose that extra 10 pounds. You'll probably put on 10 by the time bathing suit weather rolls around. It's January, and it's cold. You need the extra insulation anyway, you'll tell yourself. Best-case scenario for this guy: he switches to light beer for a week and then switches back because he starts to feel weak and lightheaded.

Believe it or not, I was one of the fortunate ones getting kissed this year when the ball dropped in Times Square. Maybe that's why I noticed all this senseless resolving going on around me. As I'm trying to kiss my girlfriend, I had some moron chugging a bottle of cheap champagne telling me he was going to stop drinking and try to find his wife again. "No, you're not, buddy," I said in disgust. "You're gonna be the same drunken idiot next year as you are right now." He thought about it for a moment and agreed before launching into a loud and painful rendition of "Auld Lang Syne."

The whole thing actually gave me an idea for my own New Year's resolution, to start drinking much more heavily. It might be the only way to get through another year with these people and the promises they'll never keep. If I were drunk enough all the time, I just might find them endearing. It seemed to work for the guy whose wife left him for the pizza delivery boy. So it's official. I resolve to drink more heavily on a daily basis. But I'm sure I won't stick to it.

Let us hear from you!

Bring letters to the editor to The Gamecock, Russell House 333, or e-mail gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

Please include your name, major, year (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th) and phone number.

ABOUT US

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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.

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