



# VIEWPOINTS

IN OUR OPINION

## USC should get funding waiver

The state legislature has cut USC's funding again, this time by 2.54 percent. USC now receives 10 percent less from the state than it did four years ago – a difference of almost \$20 million.

Next year, state appropriated funds will comprise only \$127.6 million of the university's \$289 million budget.

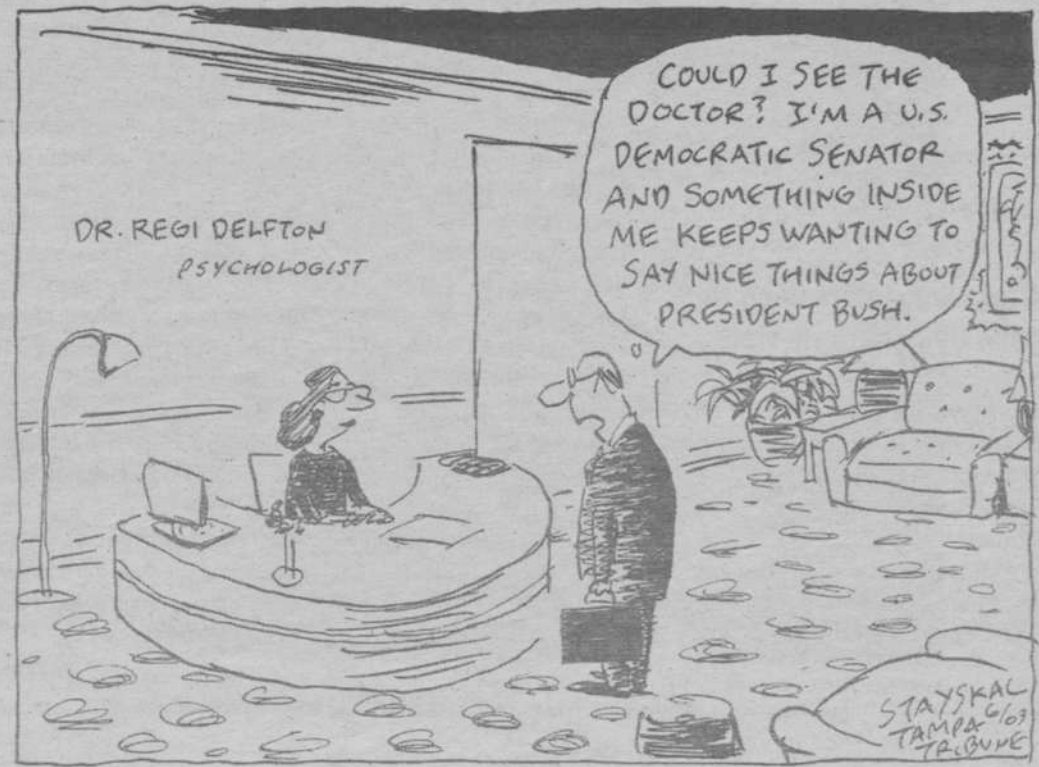
Even though the state provides only 44 percent of USC's budget, it still regulates the university's affairs through the Commission on Higher Education.

Last week, the Senate failed to pass Bill 3899, which would have allowed USC to pursue funding from private businesses and relaxed other regulations.

As USC alumna and benefactor Darla Moore observed, if USC is to be privately funded, it might as well be privately directed.

If the state continues to decrease university funding, the university should be allowed in turn to seek its own funding. The state's level of funding for USC should match the level of regulation it imposes on USC.

President Sorensen has proposed that USC obtain waivers which would let it solicit funds from private businesses. The university needs them if it is to keep its head above water.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

## Our nation has loose morals



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### Some cheaters prosper

A recent rash of unadulterated, in-your-face cheating has sent many journalists and bat-corkers into a panicked rush to cover their tracks now that Jayson Blair and "Smiling" Sammy Sosa are waiting the firing squad that is public opinion. It seems the New York Times' young reporter and the future President of the Dominican Republic both thought they needed a healthy dose of dishonesty to stay on top of their respective fields.

This type of myopic thinking is what makes America such an entertaining carnival. This country was founded on

cheating, from the time our good friends the Native Americans were run off their land to John Hancock cutting Ben Franklin in line to sign the Declaration of Independence – cheating is as American as apple pie.

One of the only good things about this 24-hour news cycle we live in is that there is always room for a new cheater in the headlines, and lately we've seen some big names. These are no small fry; we're talking about The New York Times, the great purveyor of honesty, justice, and All The News That's Fit to Print.

The problem with all this rampant dishonesty is that there seems to be a prevailing philosophy in America today that it is only cheating if you get caught. Which leads me to my ultimate question: what is going on that is not being exposed?

If history has any validity then it shows us that beneath the surface are dark and murky waters. Dark enough to hide the

lies that swim around us everyday, from grade school cheat sheets to insider trading on Wall Street to perjury in the White House. Cheating is the universal enabler, the way to get to the top or stay on top and, despite its stigmatism, most everyone will bend the rules to get ahead. That frightening fact is the "American Way," a result of the hypersensitive free market economy we have embraced in both our financial and emotional world-views

So can someone with hard work and honesty make it on this bizarre planet we live on? Perhaps, but it is becoming less and less likely. But look on the bright side, I'm guilty of being honest, maybe too honest, and so far all it has gotten me is a crummy bimonthly rant in a college newspaper that no one reads. Now that I think about it, maybe I should give The New York Times a call.

Tyler Jones is a graduate student studying journalism

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