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# VIEWPOINTS

“It’s scary to think that just one minor incident could put us out of business forever.”

**STEPHEN WALDON**  
FIRST-YEAR ELECTRONIC JOURNALISM STUDENT AND WUSC DISC JOCKEY ON THE IMPACT NEW FCC REGULATIONS COULD HAVE ON SMALL INDEPENDENT STATIONS

In our opinion

## Race still an issue at USC

The reaction of Zeta Tau Alpha to the actions of Tim Tice at the March 2 Big Man on Campus fundraiser shows a desire by the sorority to make things right, but also underlines the work that yet remains to be done on race relations at USC.

ZTA was in many ways blindsided by Tice’s performance, and it was impressive that it issued an apology within hours of the event. The sorority is correct to suspend the fund-raiser until it decides how to modify the event in a way that ensures it has control over the content.

**If we want real systemic change there must be far more specifics on cooperation between whites and blacks.**

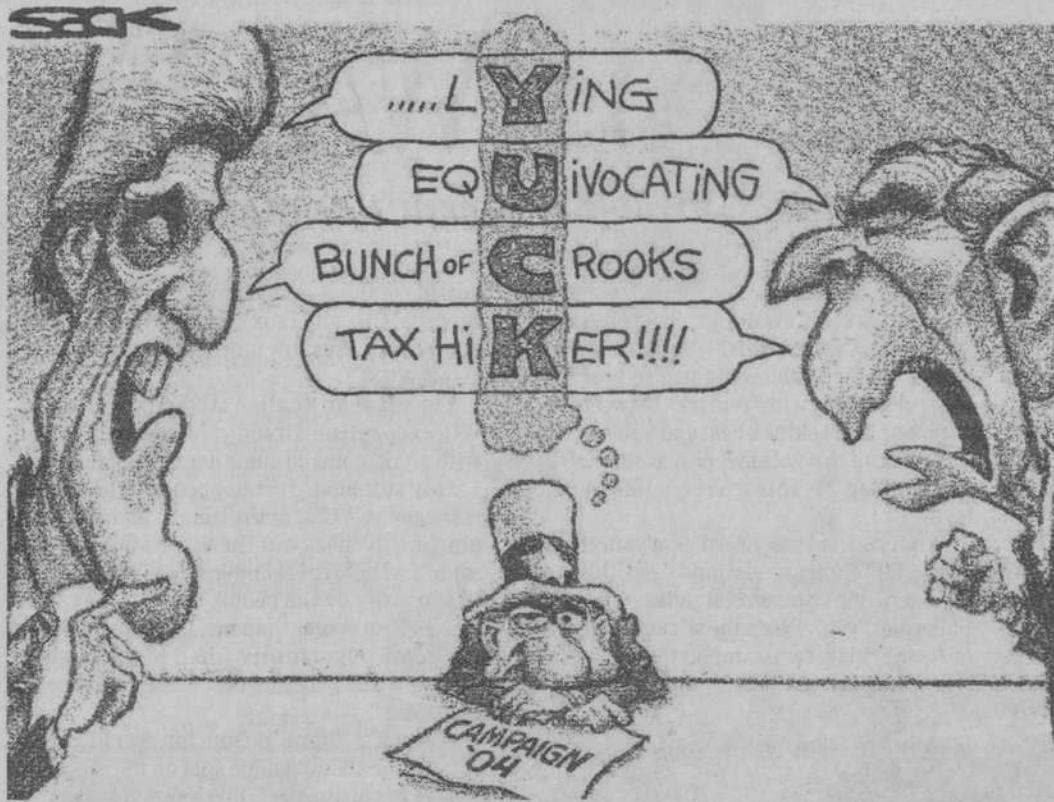
Ironically, Tice’s actions are similar to the Jackson debacle in that the organizations left picking up the pieces never saw the catastrophe coming, but nonetheless should have had measures in place to guard against “free speech.”

The university has also acted in a timely manner in appointing Michael Goodwin to the Office of Greek Life, but the move cannot be viewed as anything other than a stopgap measure that was belated at best. If the administration is serious about improving relations between black and white Greeks, they will make it a goal to name a permanent minority staff member by fall rush.

The legislation pending in the Residence Hall Association senate that encourages fraternities and sororities to cross the racial barrier is good from a purely symbolic view, but if we want real systemic change there must be far more specifics on cooperation between whites and blacks.

This is something Student Government must tackle, keeping in mind that legislation won’t change the hearts of people on campus, but making a statement that ignorance will not be tolerated is the necessary first step.

Carolina must acknowledge the most malevolent cancer is the self-segregation many of us implicitly endorse by our limited associations.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

## Teachers live in own world

There’s something about teaching a class that just makes a professor go insane. I don’t mean insane in the certifiable, Jack Nicholson in “The Shining,” belong down on Bull Street kind of insane.



**GRAHAM CULBERTSON**  
Third-year English student

That would actually be pretty fun (minus the elevators full of blood, but USC elevators get stuck so often, I’m sure that we’d never actually see the blood).

I’m talking about a different kind of crazy. I don’t know quite how it works, but when they stand up there in front of the class, chalk in hand (and on their back, front and sleeves), professors enter some sort of alternate universe which we mere students cannot understand. Not that we want to understand, mind you, but professors seem to think so.

For starters, as soon as a faculty member stands up in front of a group of students, he immediately thinks that they care about what he has to say. All of a

sudden, the years he spent doing crossword puzzles, reading Cosmo, and passing notes that said “Do you like my tweed jacket with elbow patches? Check yes or no.” during class disappear, replaced with fuzzy memories of being an attentive student who stayed after class to help the teacher get the chalk off her dress. This never actually happened, but professors firmly believe that it did, and thus expect us to pay more attention than they ever did.

But it’s not just that they think we care. It’s that they think we’re obligated to care. Professors get mad when we don’t come to class, don’t turn in papers and don’t participate in class discussion.

We’re already paying thousands of dollars every year to earn a second-rate, South Carolina low-level higher education, and our professors think they’ve been insulted when we don’t show up to class?

Shouldn’t I get to choose how much I get out of the federal government’s/my parents/some guy named Pell’s money? If I were a professor, I would take less class discussion as a sign that more students are improving their vocabulary through the New York

Times crossword puzzle or The State’s bridge column, and leave it at that.

But participation, attendance, punctuality and actually doing work aside, the teacher/student disconnect is nowhere more vast than in the area of time management. And I don’t mean because they expect us to do homework in advance (news flash: we don’t), but because they think every last single second of class time is vital.

Seriously, how many times have you had a professor start teaching new material with five minutes left in class? And then they always get confused when, for some reason, they don’t manage to fit 40 minutes of lecture into the 9:50-9:55 block of time.

At this point, even the people doing the crossword puzzle are bored enough to have packed up, but the professor is always desperate to get that last chalk smudge on his face before going back to his office and falling asleep.

Not that I’m saying that the only thing professor’s do in their offices is fall asleep. I’m sure they get the New York Times for free, too. And that crossword puzzle is hard enough that it takes a Ph.D. to finish it.

## Time is now to examine racism

A recent Zeta Tau Alpha fundraiser has sparked heated feelings at USC. There appear to be two camps — one who thinks people are blowing the situation out of proportion and feel that the fundraiser’s cause should be held above all else, and the other camp, which does not debate the goal of the fund-raising cause but the culture here at USC that accepts racial degradation.



**DUSTIN LEE**  
Third-year history student

I have spoken with people on both sides of the issue who were directly involved with the incident in some facet. The minority community is upset primarily about the following: If no minority students had been present at the show, would anyone have even been offended? Unfortunately, the black community is probably correct in their assumption that the answer would be “no.”

Blackface is a degrading thing in black history in the United States — see D.W. Griffith’s “The Birth of a Nation.” This film will explain what minstrel shows were and how blackface has traditionally been used to degrade blacks and promote racial stereotypes.

The imminent white response has been, if black people would have painted their faces white, would it have been a big deal? Probably not, simply because there is not more than a century of degradation and racism associated with blacks painting their faces white.

The black community has had to deal with a dominant culture at USC that is so tied in with racism and stereotypes that it does not even recognize when something is offensive. The majority accepts that they are correct, and feels it absurd that anyone could be offended by such things as blackface, or other symbols traditionally used in a derogatory fashion. Racism exists in every facet of American society. Tim Tice has a constitutional right to do his act, but the scary thing is the general cultural acceptance of his actions.

Some argue that ZTA’s cause should be held above all else. Ignoring a problem does not make a problem go away; it actually breeds more contempt on one side, and acceptance on the other. Though this analogy will receive criticism from many, I feel it is necessary. The Ku Klux Klan had a cause that they believed righteous, and in their minds burnings, beatings and the like were unfortunate side effects of achieving this cause.

In the 1960s, the KKK burned my grandparents’ store in a small South Carolina town because my grandparents felt the need to help black people. The Klan took this as a simple side effect of achieving their mission and goal, while my family felt the obvious implications and damages.

Though ZTA’s cause is not a controversial issue such as the goal of the Klan, saying an incident should be ignored because it helps achieve a larger goal is naive. America is a great country, but the fact is, inequality still exists, and injustices must be corrected. USC is not alone in dealing with these issues of inequality. This goes deeper, into the very socialization of Americans and the values they are taught. It is hard to imagine what a minority student feels like until one has to live in his or her shoes for a day.



### SOUND OFF

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### Gamecock Corrections

A story in Wednesday’s news section should have said that the RHA senate meets in Calcott. The Gamecock regrets the error. If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know. E-mail us at [gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu).

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### In our opinion

#### St. Pat’s festival doesn’t give back

I wanted to write to you to clear up a mistake in your article, “St. Patrick’s festival comes to Five Points,” in Wednesday’s paper.

The charity group that created, organized and ran the event for free for 20 years is not holding an event on April 12 — that was last year. This would be the second, not 22nd year that the Five Points Association has organized a St. Patrick’s festival (using just over a half-million in tax dollars from the city.)

I am confused how they say it is their 22nd annual event when last year they cried that they had no rainy day money, as they just begun. They used that excuse to get \$3,000 in accommodations money, an additional \$50,000 for bail out money and over \$450,000 from the restaurant tax this year.

Of course, they also fleeced over \$200,000 away from the charities from the 2001 and 2002 festivals. Of course they say they will give money to charity (fictions it might be, since they can’t offer even one specific charity), if there is any money left over after expenses and after they establish a rainy day fund (I thought they got \$50,000 from the city for that?).

With all of this money

slushing, I mean sloshing, around, couldn’t they at least guarantee a portion of the proceeds go to charity?

Maybe they can scrape the bottom of the fountain and give that money away.

**JOHN CLAYTON**  
FOURTH-YEAR HISTORY STUDENT

#### Fraternity should protest all racism

While I was at a movie theater Friday night, a preview for a movie titled “White Chicks” came on. It depicted the humorous antics of two black men, played by the Wayans brothers, as they dress up like upper-middle class white women.

As everyone in the theater laughed and enjoyed the comedy on screen, I finally began to gain some perspective on the stance that Kappa Alpha Psi and its president Rodney Hollis has been taking.

If Kappa Alpha Psi is not already up in arms against this movie “White Chicks,” I’m sure they will be as soon as they’re done with their list of demands. They’re taking a noble stand in trying to crush this use of race bending for the sake of humor.

Personally, I expect them to do nothing less than lead a campus-wide boycott of this movie and Columbia Studio

until the callousness of the movie’s subject matter is realized and apologized for.

I’m so thankful that Kappa Alpha Psi has made me realize that race-bending is unacceptable under all circumstances, and I hope to see strides taken by this organization to open the eyes of the rest of the USC student body on the damage done from presentations such as “White Chicks.”

**JONATHAN WOOTEN**  
SECOND-YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENT

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“In the United States, we debate the decision to go to war on a daily basis and it is one year later. When we discuss what has come out of the way, the reason that we were given by our government is lost in the sensationalism of capturing a fallen leader and hidden under a veil of aggressive patriotism akin to the same impulses that drove the Sedition Act.”

**NORTHERN STAR**  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

“Drivers and passengers of DVD-equipped cars no longer are just playing movies to keep children occupied. They’re playing porn for all the surrounding cars to see. It’s distracting to the driver and also for people passing by who can see it through the windows. If car manufacturers are going to continue adding televisions and DVD players to their vehicles, new regulations need to be made so the driver and anyone outside the vehicle cannot see the televisions.”