

THE GAMECOCK

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IN OUR OPINION

PETA's insensitivity butchers own cause

You animal-loving morons.

In a bold — and decisively stupid — move, the People for the Ethical Treatment of the Animals have resumed an advertising campaign comparing animal cruelty to slavery. One oft-cited panel illustration juxtaposes pictures of a lynched black man with pictures of a butchered cow hanging on a meat hook.

Look.

We realize you folks at PETA might have trouble recognizing the subtle differences between humans and farm animals. You did the right thing when you decided to pull the racially charged advertisements, along with ads comparing meat and poultry processing centers to the Holocaust.

But now you've brought those ads back. Why? What's wrong with you?

We're not going to run out of cows or chickens any time soon.

This campaign only highlights your showmanship and callous insensitivity.

If you were earnest about actually accomplishing anything in the arena of national politics, you

wouldn't undertake such crude publicity stunts.

Even attacking our school's feathered mascot again would be a far nobler endeavor.

Oh, and one more thing: Cooked animals taste delicious. Get over it.

The problem is, none of this is funny. Likening a disgraceful chapter of American history — during which an entire people were demeaned and ruthlessly oppressed — only further demeans those people. Animal-rights activists shouldn't rob black Americans of their dignity just to push their wacky agendas.

PETA, go do something substantive with your time, energy and money. Throw your support behind some legitimate organization such as the World Wildlife Fund, the Sierra Club or other conservationist efforts.

We're not going to run out of cows or chickens any time soon.

In the meantime, shut up, put your clothes on, shelve the offensive advertising and go save some condors.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Exercise your right to voice your opinion. Create message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor to gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu



CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu.

ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Office on third floor of the Russell House.
The Editor's office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 1-3 p.m.
Editor: gamecockeditor@gwm.sc.edu
News: gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu
Viewpoints: gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu
The Mix: gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu
Sports: gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu
Public Affairs: gamecockPR@yahoo.com
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Newsroom: 777-7726; Sports: 777-7182
Editor's Office: 777-3914

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Cartoon courtesy of KRT Campus

Sheehan's tour has no effect on war in Iraq

Bring Them Home Now rallies for local support for anti-war agenda

On Wednesday, Cindy Sheehan was in town for an anti-war rally. The words of John Lennon's "Imagine" drifted through the air, while long-haired men mouthed the words and women in tie-dyed skirts held American flags. The "Bring Them Home Now" tour originated in Crawford, Texas, and will end in Washington, D.C. The ultimate goal is to convince President Bush that American troops in Iraq must come home.

While the tour obviously won't succeed, it is important to talk about the three reasons why it won't.

1) Sheehan and her supporters idealistically call for the immediate withdrawal of troops but neglect the Iraqi people. Honestly, who wouldn't want our troops home? It would keep American sons and daughters from losing their lives.

But America cannot only worry about herself and her children anymore. She now has to worry about millions of Iraqis.

"The war was wrong and it still is," said Matthew Trew, a second-year religious studies and anthropology student.

Maybe the war was wrong, but America went to war; right or wrong doesn't matter anymore. America has made a commitment to the Iraqi people, and she must stay in



ANDREW BENTZ

Third-year international studies and music student

Iraq until independence is achieved. I asked multiple people for a way that America could leave without endangering the Iraqis, but no one seemed to have thought that far ahead. Going to war might have been wrong, but two wrongs don't make a right.

2) Jacob Levin, a first-year undecided student, said the movement "supports the troops but not the war."

But Amy Proctor, the wife of a soldier in Iraq, said "you can't say you support the troops but not the war." While holding a sign that said "Cindy doesn't speak for me," she told me she was there "to make sure that the troops don't just see the anti-war people, that they see they do have support."

How can you possibly support the troops yet actively oppose everything they do? You're right, Mrs. Proctor; it simply is not possible.

3) Last and certainly not least is Sheehan's position. I can't imagine her grief and won't pretend to. Only parents who have lost a child can begin to understand the anguish and bitterness that runs through her heart.

But, being a son, I understand Casey Sheehan. I understand why he wanted to

fight for his country. I understand why he reenlisted in the Army, bravely asking for a fighting position. I understand why he was willing to die for the freedom of other people.

Why is Sheehan using the honorable death of her son to further an anti-war agenda? When I asked her if she thought she is being used by interest groups each proselytizing on her behalf, she became noticeably indignant. She said she made the decision for herself and to think she is being used is "simply sexist." She said that those who think she is being used only think so because she is a woman.

Is she angry because people accuse her of being used or because she is being used?

I asked her why she thought she deserved a second meeting with the president when other families had not received one at all. Sheehan told me her first meeting "wasn't a meeting." George Bush offered condolences "but wasn't sincere." She said that "so much has changed in 14 months."

You're right — a lot has changed. Instead of being remembered as a hero who fought for what he believed, Casey will now be remembered as a kid whose mother used his death to attack the very ideals for which he fought.

Whatever happened to rest in peace?

Despite Katrina, we sweat the small stuff

Politicians' bad habits of burying controversy wear off on students

Here's a rhetorical question for you: What do you do if you're being accused of having slept with an intern? The answer is, obviously, bomb parts of Kosovo. Likewise, what happens if you're being hounded for a tremendously unsuccessful establishment of a constitution in, say, an occupied Middle Eastern state? Politicize a natural disaster.

This is the new not-bothering-to-deal-with-current-problems, a vogue established in modern political states.

But the problem is that it's sinking down into universities. Every problem is countered with a bigger problem. Every issue is countered with a "resolution" of another issue. The politicizing of the modern problems of Katrina and the Gulf of Mexico, strangely, are now being hurled into the media to ignore other issues. From politicians to college students, we're asked to forget everything around us.

But you know what?



AARON BRAZIER

Third-year philosophy student

Getting to classes on time still sucks.

Parking is still a big issue. The food problems haven't disappeared into thin air. Katrina is horrific, and

USC has been encouraged to help — and so we should — but that's not the end of it. Christ, if you want to be pedantic, the problems of those getting aid and rescued in New Orleans are quite irrelevant compared to the enslaved, tortured and butchered in the Sudan.

Wow! Thanks, Sudan! Katrina has disappeared now!

Students need to stay aware that real-life problems exist and affect us all. Parking is a bigger issue for the vast majority of USC students than Katrina. That doesn't devalue the problems in New Orleans whatsoever. I've yet to meet somebody who denies people in the Gulf are suffering, but having snarky people worry

that our "issues" are not relevant is, quite frankly, absurd.

Keep giving your money to help with Katrina, I implore you. The massive failures of state and federal governments in the richest country of the world upset me, but the people of America, if not the world, have not.

However, don't be deceived into imagining everything else is just perfect. It's a trick by the weak-minded to keep you off the issues they don't care about.

You should care about it. We are USC students, and the campus and faculty are answerable to us, as we pay our fees. If the food sucks, stand up and say it. If you're an upperclassman from off campus and can't find parking, imagine owning a hovercraft that can be used to crush a freshman's car. Don't think problems are irrelevant because others suffer. Otherwise, we'd all be donating money and aid to the Sudan and ignoring the millions who suffer within our borders.

USC library rejects dollar, puts this guy in tight spot

Thomas Cooper denies all but Carolina Card, creates inconvenience

At the beginning of the semester, I found myself an alien in a strange new land, an exotic place that sent my mind reeling at its paradoxical nature.



STEVE RUZUM

Fifth-year education student

After all, I heard the sounds of my native tongue all around me, and sights that were eerily familiar. I didn't know how to proceed — I needed to trade, but how should I go about it? Was this some kind of market? Did I need something to barter? Should I haggle?

I approached a kind of stall, again eerily familiar. I pointed to what I wanted and held out some cash to the man behind the table. But the stranger simply shook his head and would not accept my currency, so I shuffled my crinkled and sunburnt American dollars back into my pockets sheepishly, backing out of the place and wondering if I would ever return, wondering how I would survive with only my accustomed currency in such an unknown and lonely place.

I backed through the electric doors, the doorman giving me a strange look, and I recall reflecting on how similar our cultures were — the technology, the speech down even to the dialect — and yet how infinite the gap was between us.

Imagine my surprise when I studied the worn and hopelessly retro facade of the building I had just entered, and found it to be none other than the Thomas Cooper Library! Surely that was impossible, because the Thomas Cooper Library, like every other even remotely upstanding commercial or public institution in this country, accepts our national currency. Good old Thomas Cooper doesn't operate under the barter system or the serf system, isn't some kind of socialist commune, and doesn't — heaven forbid — operate solely on the basis of nebulous, electronic "funds" flitting around in cyberspace in ones and zeroes.

I reached the only conclusion that a rational being can: Thomas Cooper Library has been stolen. Aliens or extremists or union workers must have crept in during the night and disassembled it brick by brick, replacing it with this evil clone library and carting our beloved Thomas Cooper off to some South American jungle, or the castle of a deposed Scottish king.

Scratching my head, I went off in search of a place to make copies and print off spam e-mails, some place that would take my dollar — someplace that still thought the United States of America meant something.

I found it down the street, at patriotic FedEX/Kinko's. God bless America.

Submission Policy

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