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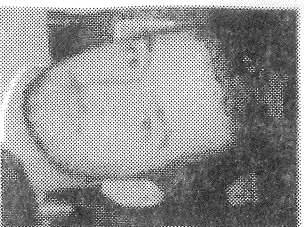
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Issue 5

USC stops smoking

ERIC OSGUTHORPE
webmaster



Eric is a former CIS major

Across the border from where this article is typed, in Germany (a veritable smoke-fest), French Parliament is planning a gradual ban come 2008. Scotland & Ireland restricted smoking, even banning it in restaurants and bars. With the Surgeon General's recent report of the 'no risk free' level of second-hand smoke exposure, why is Clenson and the rest of the nation lagging behind?

A cigarette contains hundreds of chemicals that cause heart disease, pulmonary disorders, and cancer. Nearly every human is aware of the dangers of smoking. They drill it into our heads during elementary school, place skull & crossbones on packaging, show ads stating that smoking can kill you and, naturally, Hollywood makes bank. There is some breaking news.

Awareness already more than prevalent, this past summer, the surgeon general published a report stating the new/found increase in danger from any level of secondhand smoke. Among its findings:

- 1) Involuntary smoking causes premature death in children and adults.
- 2) Exposure to smoke has immediate effects on the cardiovascular system and causes heart disease and lung cancer.
- 3) Though eighty percent of Americans do not smoke, millions of citizens are exposed to secondhand smoke at home, at work and elsewhere.
- 4) As separation and filtering only reduce

secondhand smoke exposure, the only manner to eliminate contact is a complete indoor ban.

- 5) No level of involuntary smoking is safe.
- 6) Children and teenagers exposure to secondhand smoke are subjected to higher rates of respiratory infections, slow lung growth, ear problems and sudden infant death syndrome.

Such results are not surprising, though the finding of a Cal/Environment Protection Agency study from 2005 is. It states that approximately 50,000 excess deaths occur each year as a result of involuntary smoking. The majority of such deaths are due to pulmonary disease, the remainder from cancer and sudden infant death syndrome. Tack on the CDC numbers that state 1 in 6 deaths in the United States are due to smoking. That's surprising.

Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany. All countries that relish their freedoms; countries in which bars outnumber restaurants, cigarette vending machines can be found on most corners and a stereotype invariably holds a cigarette and sports a beret; all countries in which smoking is limited in scope or such action is in dialogue. Americans, with the norm now being overweight,

are not world-renowned for their wellbeing, rather for their ingenuity and progressiveness (for better AND worse). The liberal pansies in New York caved in to rationality and joined California, Washington and many other states in banning smoking in restaurant and bars. Even Georgia joined the fray, enacting a ban in public places, excluding bars and restaurants not serving minors. If one peruses a list of smoking laws, most every state, or major city within, falls under some type of restriction. South Carolina



remains notably absent.

Why are South Carolina and Clemson slow on the uptake? Proximity to Tobacco Road? Bullheadedness? Not for long. On August 1st, the University of South Carolina enacted a partial smoking ban, the first of its kind among major colleges in the state. Perhaps emboldened, Columbia City Council now debates lessening the prevalence of smoke in our state's capitol. While the bans are in place, enforcement and support is not one-hundred percent.

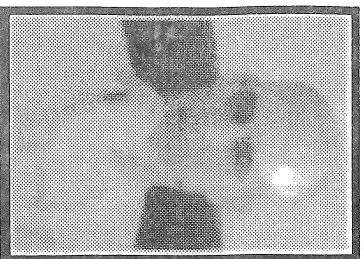
Enforcing such a ban without further inconveniencing smokers is a logistical issue. At USC, there are not enough trashcans outside the twenty-five foot barrier imposed by the school. As such, smokers must break that barrier or litter; both seem oft chosen. Now faced with a dearth of smoking areas, those that light up find it much harder to protect themselves from the elements on those dreary days. With lax enforcement at USC, why not just smoke under an awning? It is a common occurrence that leaves most unobtrusive folk under a cloud rather than requesting the mobile smokestacks to follow the rules.

Imagine a world where there are no smokers in TT's, Overtime or Nick's. Imagine how much business they would lose. No need to imagine, they won't. Such happened in New York City, among other cities across the nation, where the restaurant and bar industry gained sales after the citywide ban. Despite that many bars may lose customers, they will not lose patrons and may gain those who prefer their pillow not to reek of smoke the following morning. Prohibiting smoking is an infringement upon

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Hell, Fire and Brimstone? You Decide.

TODD MAY
contributing
writer



Todd is a Philosophy professor

There is a simple bedrock principle that defines a democracy: every citizen shall be treated equally

by the governing institutions unless there is a good reason to treat him or her otherwise. Without this principle, there is no democracy. Societies are democratic only to the extent that they endorse this principle. Democracies are not defined solely by majority will. If they were, then the majority could enact laws prescribing slavery for the

minority. I suspect no reader of this paper would be tempted to call that a democratic arrangement.

The defining democratic principle is a pretty minimal one: There are many good reasons that a person might be treated unequally. For instance, someone who commits a crime offers a good reason to be treated less equally than others. Alternatively, one has reason to treat a minor, who has not yet achieved full mental development, less equally than others. However, barring a good reason, every citizen should receive equal treatment.

South Carolina is poised to pass a referendum that is an egregious violation of that principle. The anti-gay marriage referendum, which will be voted on in the upcoming election as a proposed amendment to the state constitution, would not only deny gays the right to marry, it would deny recognition of marriage in other states,

deny the creation of domestic union arrangements, and eliminate common law marriage. In other words, it would treat gays, lesbians, and bisexuals unequally. If the referendum is passed, it will constitute a significant step away from democracy for the state. South Carolina has not always been known as a beacon of democracy. It can ill afford to embrace another anti-democratic measure.

Is it true that there are no good reasons to deny an equal right of marriage to gays, lesbians, and bisexuals? Several reasons have been put forward to justify this denial. The three most often appealed to (aside from the canard that God hates gays) are: marriage is traditionally between a man and a woman; gay marriage is a threat to the institution of marriage; it will be bad for the children of such a marriage. Let's look at the merits of each objection.



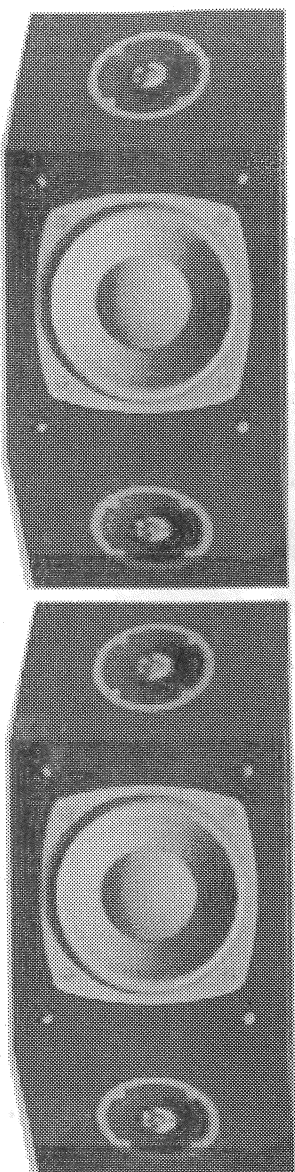
The fact that an arrangement is traditional does not mean that it should continue. Up until the early part of the last century, it was traditional to deny

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Eric comments on journalism and free speech.....

We've updated

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Forum Feedback

Dear Clemson Forum,

I have considered myself a liberal (or "progressive," whatever you'd like to call it) for as long as I can remember. When it comes to social issues, I believe the government has no right to infringe on personal issues. If my gay friends want to get married, let them. If my sister makes a mistake and feels an abortion is the right decision, so be it.

Economically, I tend to take the Democratic side and vote for higher taxes. I don't listen to the Republicans who falsely tell me that taxes are bad and only go to help the "lazy, dumb people". I understand that my money (in the future, as I'm a student now and quite poor) will go to pay for my kids' teachers' salaries, and for programs so that some of their less fortunate friends can stay after school instead of going home to empty houses.

There's a lot more that I believe and this doesn't even begin to scrape the surface. I'll save you from my complicated theories on what I think the tax system should be and what I *really* think about South Carolina education. I'm not writing this to spout my ideas, rather to complain...as every good liberal should.

As stated, I call myself a liberal, and for most of the whole four years that I've understood the term, I've been proud of my label. Unfortunately, I entered college a few years ago and realized that the Republican party wasn't the only political party with an idiot sect.

In response to my horrifying realization that not *all* liberals were the trumpeters of truth, I have recently been forced to put "liberal" in quotes when I write, and even use the nice hand signals when I'm speaking to others about my political affiliations to differentiate between the types.

There are liberals, and then there are "liberals". I don't call the noble, intelligent side of our race the "liberals". I only refer to the failures as "liberals"

Why? I'll tell you.

"Liberals" have given me a bad name. From their campaigns to legalize marijuana, to their endless hacky-sack playing and dreams of sitting around all day "contemplating" existence, "liberals" have made me look bad.

I'll agree that a lot of stereotypes are based on some kind of truth; however, I refuse to accept the liberal stereotype and demand that people begin referring to it as the "liberal" stereotype (using the appropriate hand gestures in social settings).

I refuse to participate in protests anymore for fear that I won't be taken seriously. I've seen it around campus. A conservative group spreads their anti-abortion message in the form of gross pictures and uninformed rhetoric, and suddenly it's a big deal that everyone's talking about. People who agree with the message as well as those that don't are all over the street arguing and adding to the hoopla.

On the other hand, I attend a peaceful anti-war rally and suddenly I see everyone chuckling at me as they walk to class, giving me the obligatory "you would do that" head cock.

And what about all this "anti-Bush" talk? I don't want to be associated with uneducated hippies complaining how they hate Bush. I don't *hate* Bush. I *dislike* some (alright a lot) of the decisions that he and his administration have made. I will never *hate* the President of the United States because I believe in our system and the rights of the people (although, lately, the people have been letting me down a lot).

As for hating soldiers, I don't do that either. I have the upmost respect for any individual who will risk their life for the good of their nation. I couldn't, (and probably wouldn't) do that myself. Protesting a decision made by the government is not mutually exclusive with hating those people who are forced to carry out that decision. I didn't hate my highschool math teacher because she was forced to teach me derivatives. Why would I hate the soldiers?

Case in point, today's "liberals" have disappointed me. I congratulate conservatives on their ability to simultaneously have an idiot sect and to not be identified by that sect. And to all those "liberals", I ask you to learn what it means to be a true liberal and to educate yourself on the actions and ideals of what you so proudly *believe* you represent.

Sincerely misunderstood,

Amanda Stetler

Student

Letter From the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of The Clemson Forum for the 2006-2007 school year. You may be wondering why it's October and we've just not gotten around to putting out an issue. Well...that's not important.

What is important is that the Forum is here once again to provide the student body with an outlet for thought, and a catalyst for conversation and debate.

Again, we at the Forum make a promise to the Clemson campus to continue offering a paper which is a canvas for new ideas and informed opinions. I encourage everyone (whichever way you lean) to view this publication as a reflection of the kind of intellect and thought expected at Clemson University.



Lindsay is a Political Science major.

Lindsay Stewart
Editor-in-chief

Meet the Guilty Parties:

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Oil And Terrorism



MICHAEL SANDERS
contributing writer

Oil has been on America's mind for the last year. There has been much angst at the pump, but, there is something far more sinister about oil than high prices. In fact, petroleum has fuelled radical Islamic terrorism worldwide. It is time to include a search for alternative energy in the war on terrorism.

Al-Qaeda itself has derived a significant portion of its wealth indirectly from petroleum. The 9-11 Commission Report states that the majority of Al-Qaeda's wealth is from private donors in the Gulf States and in particular, Saudi Arabia. The money is primarily from the petroleum business. This indirect connection is not enough to warrant a full-strength push for alternative energy, but there are more pressing reasons.

While Al-Qaeda gains much of its strength indirectly from oil money, the generally repressive governments of the Middle East rely on oil to survive. The tyrannical governments in the Middle East both directly and indirectly cause terrorism. States such as Syria, Iran, and Yemen are able to sponsor various terrorist organizations. Without oil wealth, it is doubtful whether such regimes could survive. For example, since the oil wealth props up the government of Saudi Arabia, the leaders do not have to tax their citizens. As Fareed Zakaria cleverly notes, instead of "No taxation without representation," the Saudi public is forced to live with no representation without taxation. Furthermore, repressive regimes tend to drive

their populations to commit terrorism. Fifteen of the nineteen 9-11 hijackers are from the repressive state of Saudi Arabia. Angered by our presence in Saudi Arabia (dictated by oil) and infuriated with their tyrannical government (proped up by oil), Saudis comprise the highest percentage of global terrorists. Dependent on oil, we unwittingly force the choice between the undemocratic, tyrannical rulers and the religious fanatics.

There is nothing worse than being forced to do business with such tyrants. Our addiction to oil has caused us to deal with unsavory characters. Breaking this addiction will weaken our enemies and will strengthen our hand. No longer will we be forced to compromise our ideals in foreign policy. No longer will we fuel our enemies, and no longer will we rely on tyrants to fuel our economy.

I know some of you are probably thinking that the easiest solution would be opening the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). I would support the idea if I thought it would work. Unfortunately, it would be both a temporary and incomplete solution. We are not the only consumers of oil, and so we will not be able to end the flow of money to the wrong people. The only reasonable solution is to immediately pursue alternative energy with vigor.

Two viable solutions that have been debated are biodiesel and ethanol. Ethanol is a viable source of energy that can be derived from agricultural corn or sugar. While it has a smaller fuel content than petroleum, it is already widely used in fuel today. In Brazil, all fuel contains at least twenty percent ethanol, and in the United States, most fuel contains at least ten percent ethanol. Biodiesel has comparable fuel content to petroleum and can be made from agricultural products as well. Unfortunately, the yield from the conversion to fuel leaves biodiesel currently not viable for large-scale implementation.

There are clear avenues for research into alter-



native energy. The quickest way to reach a viable solution is to involve the US government. Our government can have a leadership role in research for alternative energy. While some conservatives often blast the government for being inefficient and wasteful, our government has proven its worth when it comes to large-scale scientific projects. The mission to the moon not only landed Neil Armstrong where "no man has gone before," it also proved to be an economic boon. NASA was ironically the only government agency that made a profit; its scientific discoveries were worth more than Congress allocated in the first place. We have the chance for a similar burst of scientific activity. This project can only be good for our country.

Write your representatives in Congress. Support companies that are searching for alternative energy. This can be the only long-term solution to our long-term problem of terrorism.

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Plan B Over-the-Counter: What You Should Know

LINDSAY STEWART
editor-in-chief



Lindsay is a Political Science major.

According to the Guttmacher Institute in New York, almost 3.5 million pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended. In an attempt to change this, the Food and Drug Administration has put forth a plan to offer Plan B (also known as "the morning after pill" or "second chance") over the counter, claiming it could cut this number in half by 2008.

So what took so long to for a plan to be accepted which would drastically decrease the number of unwanted pregnancies each year?

Basically, Plan B is a mega-dose of the same drugs in birth control that, when taken within 72 hours of intercourse, can lower your chances of getting pregnant by almost 89%. The drug was introduced by Barr Laboratories and first approved by the FDA in the early nineties strictly for prescription use. The initial proposal from Barr did allow Plan B to be distributed over the counter; however, only in 2001 did that actually become a possibility. Under pressure from Democratic senators like Hillary Clinton to push aside politics for the sake of their own scientific integrity, the FDA finally accepted the proposal this past July.

Andrew von Eschenbach, nominee for head of the FDA, backed the idea. He, along with Barr Laboratories and the FDA are working together so that, by the end of this year, Plan B will be available without a prescription to anyone over the age of 18 in drug stores

all over the United States.

In September, our own President Bush showed a more liberal face as he backed the Eschenbach plan to offer the drug over-the-counter, with the exception that a prescription was needed for underage individuals. Although Bush is adamant that "Plan B ought to have a prescription for minors", anti-choice groups all over the country are in an uproar over the decision. Members of the FDA claim that the drug does not

abort, but pro-lifers tell a very different story.

According to Judge Brown, president of the American League of Life, "based on his apparent willingness to see the Food and Drug Administration authorize the potentially lethal Plan B drug regimen for

women over 18, the President is apparently doing anything but protecting innocent human life. It is unfortunate and sad that politics have once again trumped the innocent babies".

However, the pill, when taken properly, prevents the ovaries from releasing an egg at all. Where the idea of abortion comes is in the chance that the egg has already been released, fertilized, and implanted. In this case, the pill prevents the egg from being implanted at all. Basically, one must subscribe to the idea that life begins before the egg is even rooted in the lining of the uterus – an idea which very few scientists, if any, agree with.

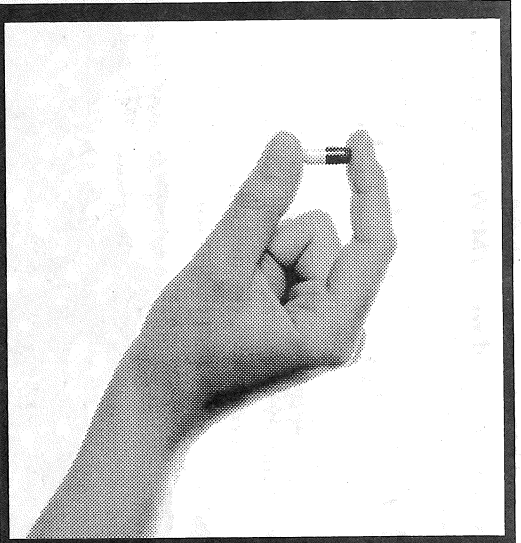
Not only does a chunk of Bush's

political base have a problem with the decision, advocates of the plan claim that the legislation is unfair to those under the age of 18. Annie Tummino, women's rights activist and lead plaintiff in the suit filed against the FDA to force the organization to issue a decision, maintains that the age restriction is completely arbitrary, pointing out that studies show Plan B has no varying effects on those under the age of 18.

As of now, a doctor visit and prescription are still required for anyone under 18 to have access to the pill. Although this appears to be a way to, initially, put some restrictions on the drug, advocates of the plan assert that it should be available to all ages, citing that open access to birth control has never produced an increase in teenage pregnancy.

While this is a major step for women's rights, Tummino and others are asking for more, demanding that the FDA separate themselves from any political affiliation and focus on science. To them, Bush's decision, like the FDA's appears based in politics rather than any real, scientific evidence that age matters.

On the other hand, groups like Concerned Women for America have a major problem with offering Plan B over the counter to any age group. If doctors acknowledge the health risks that accompany birth control and re-



quire a prescription for its use, CWA is asking why they would offer Plan B (basically a large dose of the same drugs) without a prescription as well. Many point out the possibility that the drug could become another method of birth control, like condoms or the pill. Proponents also draw attention to the increase in sexually transmitted diseases amongst the current population of 18 to 25-year-olds in the past decade, and warn the dangers of offering another solution which may prevent pregnancy but doesn't protect against AIDS.

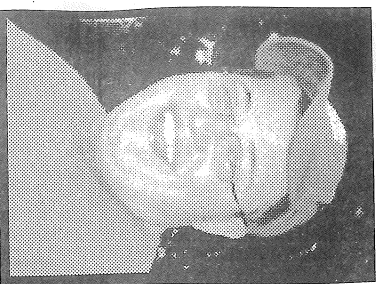
Is this a case of simple ignorance? Numerous studies have shown that teenagers did not change their sexual behavior when given access to the drug, even without the knowledge of how easily they could get it. Increased access to methods of birth control have, typically, never given rise to increased promiscuity in sexually active women let alone those who practice abstinence.

For many, the advantages of offering Plan B over-the-counter drastically outweigh the disadvantages, if they see any at all. Many women understand the importance of birth control as a way to prevent abortions. Making this drug easier to obtain does not offer a second chance for women to continue practicing unsafe sex, rather a way to decrease the number of children born each year into reluctant homes.

With this information, consider this: out of almost 6 million pregnancies each year, 1.3 million of those end up in abortion. Since the early nineties, a pill has been available which would greatly reduce the number of abortions in the United States. Can't pro-lifers and pro-choicers alike both agree on something?

Tommy Moore

On education, taxes, and the upcoming November election



Daniel is a Political Science major

DANIEL BJORK contributor and writer

When I first called Senator Tommy Moore about doing an interview with The Clemson Forum I left him a voice-mail asking him to call me back. I forgot, however, that the song Ms. New Booty was set as my answer tone and after he called me back I was certain the interview would never happen; but it did. We tried to ask Senator Moore questions that were relevant and fair when the Governor - cops, excuse me - Senator called us last month.

Clemson Forum: In June your wife was endorsed by Lt. Governor Andre Bauer to be the first lady of south Carolina, did you take that as an endorsement for you and how has that affected your campaign?

Tommy Moore: I think anyone who knows my wife would endorse her to be first lady, she is sincere, very compassionate about children and people who cannot help themselves. We've been married for thirty-five years and before that were high school sweet hearts. Anyone who knows her would tell you she is kind and gentle and compassionate, and that endorsement has been a resounding positive for our campaign.

CF: Over the summer, the governor made two controversial moves, vetoing a bill which would have made it illegal to protest at funerals, and signing a bill which makes twice offending child molesters eligible for the death penalty. How do you feel about each of these bills and do you feel the Governor acted appropriately?

TM: Vetoing the funeral bill I thought was stunning. Of course we all believe in the right to free speech, but I don't think it's too much to ask someone to give 1,000 feet to a family whose loved

one was killed in Iraq. All we were saying was yes, you can protest but you can't come within 1,000 feet of a grieving family who rightfully deserves privacy and peace. I don't think you'll find anyone who would agree with the governor on that issue; it was a very unpatriotic thing of the governor to do to say the least, and it does not represent mine or thousands of South Carolinians views.

As for the other bill, if someone has abused a child for the second time it has to carry a severe penalty. If it comes under the category of violent crimes eligible for death penalty, I have supported that and do support that. I think the fact that he vetoed one of those bills but signed the other shows a lack of consistency, leadership, and vision in our governor.

CF: Education has no doubt become one of the biggest issues of this election. The Governor strongly believes in private school vouchers, and I'm sure you don't see eye to eye with him on that issue. What do you think we need to do to fix education?

TM: I'm not afraid of reforming education. We need flexibility, we need to have better curriculum, we need to give teachers and principals flexibility. Counties in south Carolina are different, there are different ideas and I have no problem allowing different regions flexibility. The key to all that is funding. 3 out of 4 years the governor has called for less funding in public schools, that's not what South Carolina is about. This effort to gut public education and turn your back on it, there's no leadership or vision from our governor there.

CF: As a Clemson student, I'm aware of a lot of budget cuts that have come our way from the state government over the last few years, would you reverse this trend?

TM: What has happened to higher education in South Carolina is an absolute shame. In the 1980s the state would fund over eighty percent of the university budget, but Clemson and other public universities are lucky now to get twenty percent of their budget covered by the state, and have to resort to higher tuition, so we have to and we

will reverse that trend.

CF: Would you ever consider raising taxes?

TM: Nobody is in favor of raising taxes. What we need is a comprehensive review of our tax structure in South Carolina, we need to just review what resources we have. As a small business man I know I have to use the revenue I have coming in, but if I'm not bringing in enough money then I have to raise service rates. We need to make sure we're as efficient as we can be, I will not support a bill that does not fully fund education, and if we absolutely have to increase our revenue and put our faith in the people of South Carolina, then we will.

CF: Money often decides elections, regardless of who has the better ideas. How is fundraising going for you?

TM: Going very well, we had a great August. We cannot out raise the current governor because he has fifty percent of his money coming from out of state interest groups, but we will utilize what we have and we will be competitive. Money is important but campaigns are about people, if we can be smart in how we utilize the resources that we have, we can win. I will remind you in Georgia 4 years ago the incumbent governor had 28 million, and the challenger only had 4 million and won, so that's a good example of that.

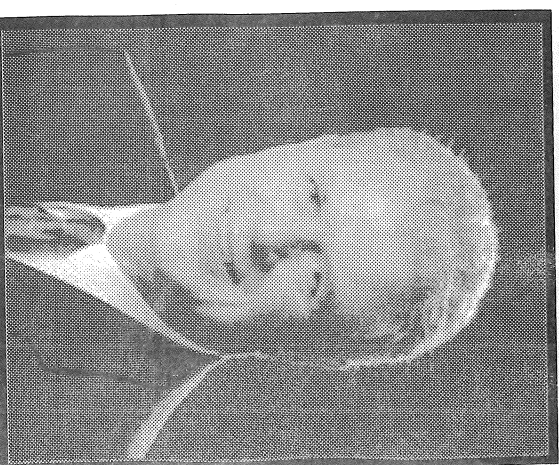
CF: Latest polls show you within 10 points of Sanford, Will the national party kick in more money?

TM: The National Democratic Governor's Association was in Charleston a couple weeks ago, and saw the Rasmussen poll that you're referring to, and some private polls that have us even closer. Yes, they have gotten interested and they have committed to help, but people must understand this race is to be run by our people here in South Carolina. No one from outside of South Carolina is going to run our campaign.

CF: Along with improving education, health care has been a key issue in your campaign, what do you think needs to happen to fix health care in South Carolina?

TM: We've got to take a look at Medic-

ation. Congress alone could establish such a system of tribunals and that the President was overstepping his bounds and abusing the power granted him in the



Perhaps we should all know a little more about Moore

aid. We've got a lot of people in South Carolina on Medicaid, and we've got to invest in healthcare for children from the prenatal stage to 4 and 5 years old so we can change what's going on. It's crazy to throw money at diseases later in life when it could have been recognized and stopped early on in life. We've got to look at tax structure and resources, we must consider a cigarette tax increase. We charge 7 cents a pack, the lowest in the nation, we could take that money and invest in treating and preventing disease and save the taxpayer a lot of money later on by preventing or treating a disease early on.

CF: Do you have plans to ever run for a higher political office?

TM: No I do not at this point, I've got to give everything I've got to the Governorship of South Carolina. The greatest resource we have is people, we're not afraid of reform and better ideas. I can't predict the future, but right now I'm dedicated to making South Carolina a better place, and have no plans for higher political office.

CF: Finally, Senator Moore, would you ever walk through the state house with pigs in your arms?

TM: No sir, the governor was extremely disrespectful of his office and the State House when he did that. There's a law on the books in South Carolina which says it's illegal to bring livestock into the State House, so not only did he disrespect the institution of his office, he also broke the law. *(If you'd like to know more about the campaign, visit his official website at www.tommymoore2006.com)*

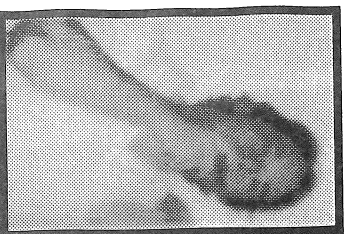
cedure used for trying American soldiers believed of misconduct, whereas the Bush administration and other supporters believe that drastic measures must be taken against a brutal, non-conventional enemy in order to protect the American people and maintain the American way of life.

Graham illustrated his concern and the concerns of many other Americans worried about the blow-back that will certainly be associated with torturing our enemies, saying, "For me, it's a simple test. If it's a trial, would I be OK with our guys being tried in that way? If it's an interrogation setting, would I be OK with our guys being interrogated?"

Senator Graham brings up an interesting point. Any clear headed American is disgusted by the idea of our brave men and women being tortured by the enemy. To that same end, are we willing to say publicly to the world that the decency of an American is worth more than that of an individual of a different nationality while we attempt to spread out ideals to regions that are not open to them? It seems counterproductive to say the least during a time when we

Interrogation and the GOP Split

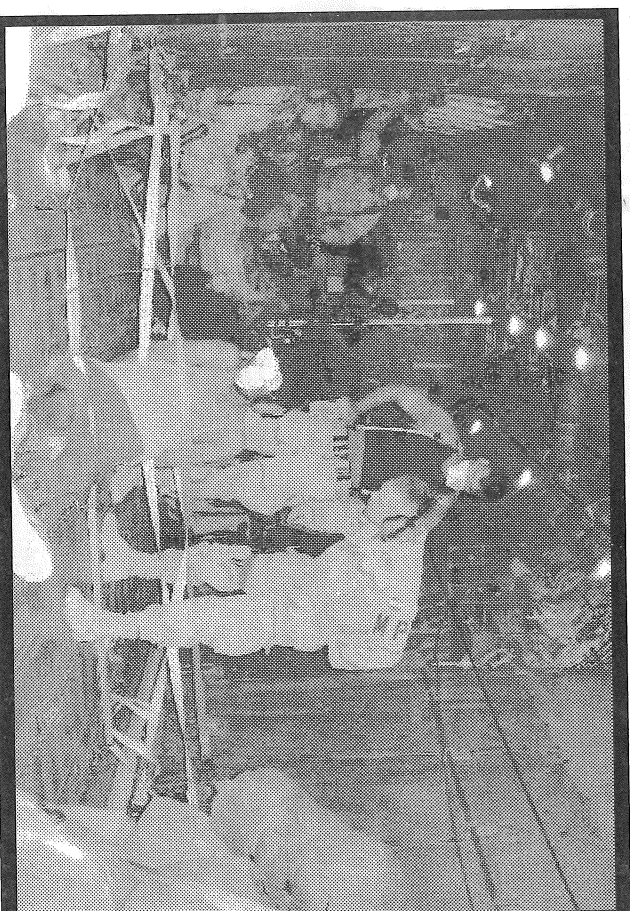
KEAN WITZEMAN contributing writer



Kean is a Political Science major

As the War on Terror slowly grinds on and the casualties increase by the thousands, the issue of what degree the United States is willing to incorporate inhumane treatments against the "enemies of freedom" has become a hot topic in Congress. Interestingly, the argument is not so much between the Republicans and Democrats, but rather from different factions of the Republican Party.

Bush's desire to use any means necessary in obtaining information from terror suspects, as well as his disregard for the Geneva Convention, brought about the ire of certain prominent Republican figures. Senator John McCain of Arizona, a POW for more than five years during Vietnam, led the charge against the Bush Administration's



on the heels of the Supreme Court's decision that the military commissions devised by President Bush violated U.S. law, ruling ultimately that

United States' Constitution. McCain, Graham and Warren were pushing for the administration to initiate systems similar to the court-martial pro-

Mark Sanford: What South Carolina's current governor has to say about the death penalty, education, and if he'll run for president in 2008

DANIEL BJORK
contributing writer

Clemson Forum: In June Lt. Governor Andre Bauer endorsed Senator Tommy Moore's wife to be First Lady of South Carolina. Has that affected your campaign at all and how do you and Lt. Governor Bauer get along?

MS: Well I would say that as to the child molesters, I think there are just certain lines in any civilized society you don't cross, and this is not just once but this is for the second offense, going after some young girl under the age of 12 is a line you don't cross. There are dramatic consequences if you cross that line, I think it's completely consistent with what I hear from a lot of folks; that that's a line you don't cross.

The funeral protest bill, I think that the easy and conventional political thing to do would be to sign a bill like that, who would be for a fallen soldier in Iraq? I've never taken the political track, and I know it would have been the wise political move but that isn't the way I try to make decisions. We should only be creating laws about things that are affecting us. There has been not one protest of a funeral in South Carolina, so why enforce a law that doesn't address a problem that actually exists? Should that become a problem I'd gladly reconsider.

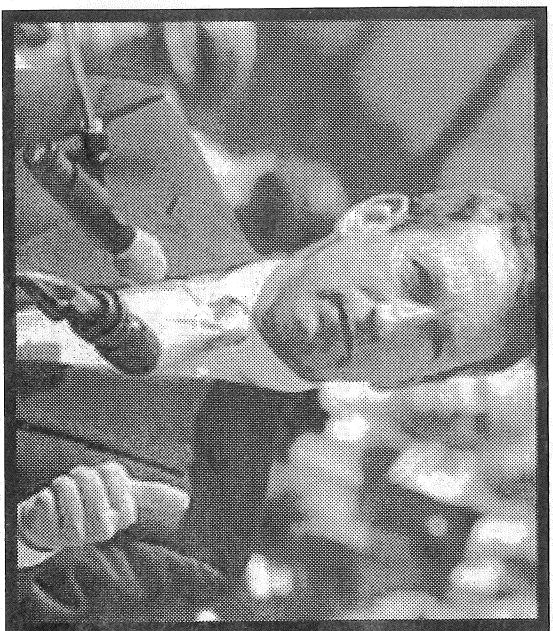
CF: On the death penalty issue, the Supreme Court ruled in the case Coker vs. Georgia in 1977 that the death penalty was only applicable for murder. Are you concerned about the constitutionality of our law if it is ever challenged?

MS: The attorney general of South Carolina says the Coker case is not relevant in this instance, given the way the bill was put together. If you have an attorney general who says it will pass constitutionally you pass it.

CF: Education has become a major issue in this election, in the past you have pushed for private school vouchers unsuccessfully. If you are re-elected, will you push this issue even harder?

MS: What we push is better education in South Carolina. We push for a variety of things, we don't think money is the only answer to improving education, and most folks we talk to in South Carolina agree

with that: You've got an inadequacy issue and we've thrown 600 million at it the last 5 years, we've fully funded it, we've done a number of things tied to ad publicity. If you look at the statistics since 1988, we've had the largest percentage increase in funding education in the country. But what we've said is that that's not the only cure to education. If you buy into funding being the only thing that will improve education, you've tied your success to the average per capita income in the state. A place like Connecticut has come from a higher starting point than us per capita income wise. Choice is something we embrace



Will South Carolina give Sanford a thumbs up this November?

in every other facet of education except 1-12th grade, if you want to go to Clemson or USC the state will fully subsidize your tuition to those schools, even if you want to go to a smaller school the state will take a smaller portion of the subsidy, we also do that in early childhood education and we think we should do it in 1-12th grade.

CF: As a Clemson student, I'm aware of a lot of budget cuts that have come our way in the last few years, is this a trend that we will see continue if you are re-elected?

MS: The budget hasn't been cut for state universities, if you look at our numbers against the rest of the world, our numbers rank second in the southeast behind Kentucky as to what we allot to state funded universities, we're top ten in the country in what we allocate to the student in tuition and fees. We believe in giving a return to families who work hard to pay for their kids to go to college.

CF: Senator Moore has made reforming healthcare a major issue in his campaign. What do you feel needs

to be done to improve health care in South Carolina?

MS: We've dedicated an equally important portion of our campaign to healthcare. We're second in the nation in healthcare discounts to retirees. We push hard for legal reform, respectfully this is something my opponent and I feel differently on. We feel legal reform is a key in healthcare.

CF: What are your plans for cutting down on the amount of publicly elected offices in SC if you are re-elected? Do you plan to push for offices like State Treasurer and State Superintendent to be appointed officers rather than elected offices?

MS: Yeah that's been our big push. You'd have to be under a rock to not know that we have pushed for restructuring, we have a very unusual government structure in South Carolina. No other state has as many elected offices as we do and no other state has a budget control board.

CF: It looks like Republicans are going to be able to win every elected state-wide office, Republicans will keep the majority in the State legislature. Do you feel like if you're re-elected you'll be able to accomplish virtually anything you wish to accomplish in your second term?

MS: No, that's not the way politics works. You'll only get a portion of what you push for, but I'd stress again how important it is we restructure in South Carolina. We're the only state that has a budget structure board, we should run the state the way the founding fathers of the country wanted it. We don't have three separate branches, we're literally the only state that has a budget control board. There have been examples in the past how restructuring can be beneficial.

CF: Rumor has it that if you are re-elected you will run for President in 2008, is there any truth to that?

MS: No.

CF: Finally, Governor Sanford, you've got tens of millions more in money than Senator Moore, you've got a comfortable lead in the polls 3 weeks out of an election, and you're in a heavily Republican state, perhaps the most conservative in the Country. Is there any way you can lose this election?

MS: Certainly, the election comes down to what voters decide in November and what the Lord wills. I hate to be philosophic about it, but there's a lot that can happen in 3 weeks and there's a lot that can happen in politics. If the Lord wants me to win I'll win, if He wants me to lose I'll lose.

(More information about Sanford and his campaign can be found on his website www.sanfordforgovernor.com)

Midterms

BRYAN COCKFIELD
contributing
writer



Bryan is an Electrical Engineering major

The upcoming

midterm elections are proving to be a hotbed of political battling all over the United

States. This election year, the Republicans stand a fair chance of losing control of Congress since they took both houses in 1994. The midterm elections indeed could show a swing in the Senate or the House to the Democratic party mainly because of the American people's dissent with the Republican party over the handling of the various conflicts in the Middle East. However, gaining a majority in either house will still be a challenge.

One of the more interesting stories in the midterm races so far has

They're not over yet

been Ned Lamont's defeat of Joseph Lieberman in the Democratic primary for Connecticut's Senate seat. While Lamont's 51.8% - 48.2% victory over Lieberman may not seem like much of a victory, it is considered highly unlikely that a three-term incumbent would lose a Senate race for any reason, let alone lose his own primary.

This primary shows that most Democrats are not supporting the United States' current involvement in the Middle East, as Lieberman was a key supporter of President Bush's foreign policy even after most of the party reconsidered their stance on Iraq. Whether or not Lamont will be able to defeat Alan Schlesinger, the Republican candidate who has lost the support of his party, and Lieberman, who is now running as an independent and has most of the Republican support, remains to be seen.

New England is not the only political arena in these midterm elections.

South Carolina is looking like one of the swing states for the House, with six congressional districts that could go either way.

South Carolina's fifth congressional district is perhaps the most hotly contested. John Spratt is a twelve-term Democrat running against Ralph Norman, a Republican state representative. The district, which takes up much of South Carolina's North-central region from Gaffney to Dillon county and as far south as just outside of Columbia's city limits, has been slightly Democratic since Spratt's election. However, the Republicans have been gaining ground on the district since George Bush's reelection in which he increased his margin of victory by two percent.

As for South Carolina's third congressional district, which takes up most of the state's western counties and contains Clemson, Anderson, and Aiken, incumbent James Barrett (R) is running against Franklin Ballinger (D). Barrett's most recent bill, H.R. 41, which proposes a commission on tax reform, should be a favorite of the conservative constituency in the district and the election is anticipated to swing in favor of the incumbent.

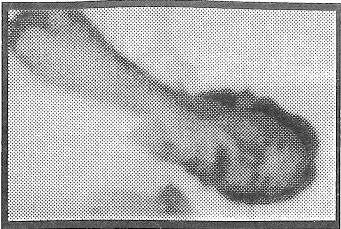
Also up for election this year in South Carolina is the Governor's seat.

State Senator Tommy Moore (D) is running against incumbent Mark Sanford. Sanford appears to have a commanding lead over the challenger after defeating Oscar Lovelace in the primary this summer, and since South Carolina is traditionally Republican, the results of the election are expected to reflect the polls.

According to Wachovia Corp., South Carolina has had a 6.6% annual increase in goods and services exported while under the leadership of Sanford. However, Sanford's handling of public education in South Carolina has let both public college students and parents of children in the public education system down. Moore looks to capitalize on this point by promising to stop the budget cuts to education. He would also like to expand ports in Jasper county to help take some of the load off of Charleston, thus improving the state's economy. His other plank includes a major reform of the health care system.

Questions in Russian "Democracy!"

KEAN WITZEMAN
contributing writer



Kean is a Political Science major

Democracy suffered a crushing blow on October 7th of this year when an award winning journalist was assassinated in broad daylight in Russia. The entire story of her tragically blatant murder begs the question of many debatable "democracies" the world over. Anna Politkovskaya was one of the most recognized and revered journalist in Russia who built a solid career reporting on Russian affairs such as the controversial civil war in Chechnya and the intrinsic political corruption that grips the Russian Federation.

Mrs. Politkovskaya was critical of the brutal tactics and extreme leadership of the Chechen rebels, while at the same time known to bring focus on the horrors committed by the Russian military. The attention she received for her writings critical of Moscow's action in the war, though award winning, often found her in hot water. Over her illustrious career, she was often threatened, arrested and even suffered an attempted poisoning by those who opposed her investigative journalism. Mrs. Politkovskaya had a knack for exposing the dirt on the otherwise glistening facade of the Kremlin making her an enemy of some of the most powerful people in the country.

On Saturday, Mrs. Politkovskaya's body was found in typical Russian assassination fashion. She was DOA in the elevator of her apartment building, with the murder weapon left beside her body as a calling card of the arrogant Russian assassins that knew they would never be caught thanks to the Russian culture of corruption. Politkovskaya joins a

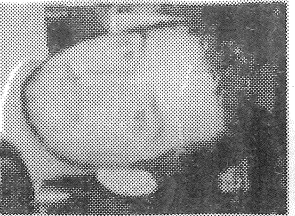
handful of other journalist who have been murdered since President Vladimir Putin took office in 2000, without yielding a single criminal conviction. The well timed assassination is believed by many experts to be enough to discourage similar journalists from similar activities that may incriminate the powers that be.

When asked, Clemson's contemporary Russian political authority, Dr. Matthew Crosston described his expert opinion, saying: "While it will be truly impossible to ever pin down the actual perpetrators and initiators of this crime, it does unfortunately signal another turn in Russian civil society where it seems law is a relative term that is applied arbitrarily. What I find most disturbing is the recent trend of actual activists being killed. Those few citizens of Russia who were not numbed into apathy or scared into cowering ultimately seem to be losing their lives in a dirty and meaningless way, discarded to the side like trash. Her death does indeed have grave consequences for all other journalists who may wish to pioneer investigative stories but will now no doubt hesitate and most likely err on the side of caution and inaction. Will Russia ever truly have a vibrant and passionate civil society? The murder of Politkovskaya says to all that if you want it, you will have to earn it through blood and sacrifice. That is a hard price to ask of people already struggling on an average of \$120 a month and long since convinced of their own political impotence." The prospective offered by Dr. Crosston shows a grim look at the reality that is, sadly, the state of Russian "democracy."

Russia has supposedly been democratic since the Soviet Union fell in 1991. However, the country has received international attention for its widespread business and political corruption. Corruption in Russia unlike other countries, as preached by many Russian experts is the rule, not the exception. It's a tragic reminder of the fragile nature of labeling politics in

Drip, Drip, Drip: Another

ERIC
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writer



Eric is a former CIS major

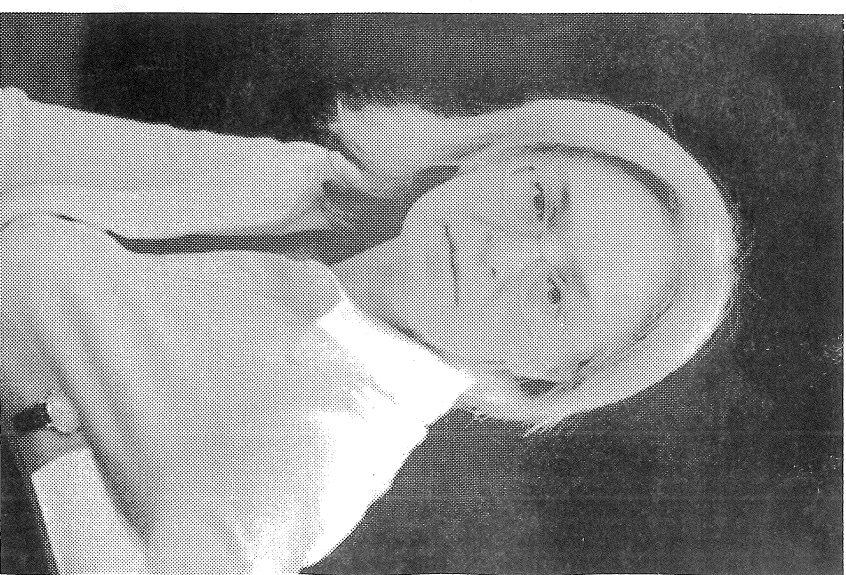
Every corner we turn, there is a leak to find. From its media-fueled beginnings with the Pentagon Papers to the block-

buster court case stemming from Jeffrey Wigand's tell-all on the tobacco industry, corporate, legal and government data leaks drop more and more. Alleged steroids and Barry Bonds, the sexual innuendo of Representative Mark Foley's emails to pages - the media and leakers serve once private information to the public domain. At what point does private information deserve to remain so; when are sources held legally responsible; where does freedom of the press meet the shack-

les? San Francisco Chronicle writers Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams obtained grand jury transcripts from the BALCO steroid investigation. Documents are leaked by a local or federal authorities for some purpose. Whether it is for financial gain or dis-

dain for Barry Bonds, no one knows. Take Wada, Williams and their source for example. There's little mistaking the motives of the writers. They are sports writers by trade, not investigative journalists - more Jerry Springer than Anderson Cooper - and both milked this story dry. They received a book deal, unending press coverage, and higher public perception all in the name of their higher calling: journalism...or some other printed-paper product.

Beyond sports, immigration and gay marriage are issues of greater importance to our nation (at least come every election year). Yet a fair chunk of resources and Congressional PR was dedicated to the issue that fooled a nation. No matter that baseball is no longer our favorite pastime, and forget the proverbial wool over our eyes in Iraq. The government launched a full-scale hunt for the source of the transcripts. With no results to speak of, down came threats of jail time to Wada and Williams. Both journalists gave no ground and received an eighteen-month sentence. While leaking certain government data such as troop positions and classified intelligence has fallen under criminality for quite some time, the private sector is catching up: non-disclosure agreements (NDAs),



regards to "us" versus "them." In other words, simply giving a nation the label of democracy tends to add an element of legitimacy, as we attempt to bring democracy to the Middle East. The truth, however, is that real democracies must be transparent, open to dissent and able to handle criticism when they are at fault. A democracy must not control the news; the public receives in an effort to carry out their agenda and must protect it's people from those who wish to silence any and all opposition.

We can only hope and pray that those responsible for the murder of Anna Politkovskaya are brought to justice, but under the current climate of Russia, few people are holding out hope that the crime will ever receive closure.



consumption at the expense of a grand jury investigation? It is evident that appointing a position, or committee, to determine such questions would be a move fraught with the opportunity for heavy, political undertow. Though much the same, Congress has taken these issues upon itself.

With numerous bills concerning stiffening penalties for leaking classified information and a shield law designed to protect journalists from revealing their sources, these disparate ideals, though seemingly at odds, must slowly equal the scales. Coming to that point is undoubtedly subject to see-saw. Let us start with freedom of the press, and then begin adding to the contrary.

Republicans vs. Democrats

See the two sides fight it out over the results of the Midterm Elections

Tuesday, November 14th

*Audience is invited to participate

*Hosted by Pi Sigma Alpha

Horoscopes:

Trevor tries his hand at astrology

TREVOR SEIGLER
contributing writer



Aries: The stars say this month should be good for your love life. Of course, the stars also said you'd finally kick that crystal meth habit, so they've been wrong before.

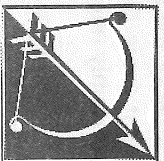


Trevor is an English major



July 24 - Aug. 23

Leo - Go outdoors more, live with the woodland creatures and adapt to their simple, rustic lifestyle. Then serve them with some barbecue sauce to your hot next-door neighbor and talk about how thrilling it was to "hunt" them down.



Sagittarius - Did you know that "Sagittarius" spelled backwards is "Sauratigas"? Brought to you by the government's Department of Useless Information.

Nov. 23 - Dec. 22



April 21 - May 21

Taurus - Strong enough for a man, made for a woman. So why are you all alone on Friday night, big stud?



Capricorn - Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. Which is ironic, as you're allergic to chocolate.

Dec. 23 - Jan. 19



May 22 - June 22

Gemini - Who can turn the world on with their smile? Obviously not you.



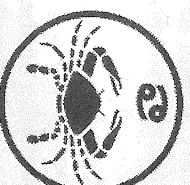
Libra - You are truly the wisest and most generous of the astrological signs, and women tear off their clothes at the mere mention of your presence because they know once they've had Libra, there's no going back (disclaimer: the author is a Libra).

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23



Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

Aquarius - When you were little, that "Age of Aquarius" song always made you happy. Now a red ball dangled from a string on your ceiling has the same effect.



Cancer - Eat more vegetables, your mother would be disappointed otherwise.

June 23 - July 23



Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Scorpio - Maybe now would be a good time to look into some "disasterous meteoroid from space" insurance. I'm just saying...



Pisces - You don't floss, do you? Now would be a good time to start.

Feb. 20 - March 20

Have a Cow and Eat it, Too

Civil liberties of all kinds have been under fire from one side of the wing or the other lately. Whether it's our right to marry who we choose, burn down a building or two over a cartoon, or simply our right to go to a fast-food restaurant to eat a super-jumbo triple cheeseburger and sue the corporation for unfairly imposing an obese lifestyle upon us, we Americans must constantly fight for our rights.

As a loyal and patriotic American, I am always shocked to find one of our basic civil liberties under fire, be it on the news, on the internet, or in our every day lives, such as when a few activists were demonstrating a few months ago on the Cooper Library Bridge. Yes, our very right to eat meat was being infringed upon.

The pamphlet that was being passed out on the bridge claimed that animals would not suffer so much if everyone would cut their consumption of meat. And if everyone just gave me a quarter, I wouldn't need to open an IRA.

But I read the pamphlet any way, as I always do to humor the animal rights activists. Usually, after looking at pictures of half-slaughtered pigs, turkeys, dogs, and sheep for a while, I feel (as I usually do) that it is my responsibility to make up for the lack of animal products that some people consume.

So I ordered a whole chicken and consumed it for lunch. Then, after a nap on my feather down pillow, I went out to throw the pigskin around with the guys. By then I had worked off the chicken and was a little hungry, so I had a two-pound hamburger with chili and horseradish. Needless to say that after this moderately-sized meal I was a little tired, so I found my wool sweater and walked to my room where I took off my leather loafers and listened to Pink Floyd's album "Animals" while sitting on my bearskin rug.

Well, maybe I embellished a little. The two-pound hamburger would have been a little too much for me if it had chili on it. Especially with the



Bryan is an Electrical Engineering major

glass of milk I had to wash down the salad that I ate.
The salad was for a balanced diet. I put bacon bits on it, though.
Any way, what I find to be as baffling as the story of how I got that bearskin rug, or why anyone would try to convince me to give up all of those wonderful indulgences, is why anyone would want to go through the hassles and complications of removing meat (and other animal products) from his or her diet.

Usually, after a non-meat-eater gets past the deficiencies in vitamin B12 (and the heart disease usually associated with said deficiency) then there is also a chance that this person will have to manage with a lack of protein in his or her diet. Even though these kinds of medical problems can be overcome with dietary supplements, why would anyone want to eat meat substitutes made out of soy and take pills to ward off serious medical side effects when one can just eat a steak and be perfectly healthy?

Let's also not forget that all of these animals



are bred to be used for food and other consumer products, so if we don't manufacture them, chickens and pigs that have been raised to live in virtually no space will have to be let loose on the open plains. There, they will be easily picked off by carnivorous, savage animals like wolves, hawks, and prairie dogs, since that kind of livestock have been bred to stand, defenseless and still, in packs.

And finally, never mind that there are other causes that are much more worthy of attention and activism than animal rights, such as whether or not the American military is involved in a war. But who knows or cares? As long as we are only eating vegetables while we bomb other countries, then we should be safe from an eternity in purgatory.

Disagree with what you see?
Just plain hate what you
read?
Think you could do better?

We can take it.

Tell us what you think.

Email us at theclemsonforum@yahoo.com,
or post it for the public to see at our website
www.clemsonforum.com

Rating the Restrooms on Campus:

TREVOR SEIGLER
contributing writer

If you're like me and you've abused your liver and bladder so much over the past few years that it's all you can do to manage through the day without embarrassing yourself, the locations of restrooms all over campus can only be inviting. But if the urge to go overrides the urge to make sure you're not sitting in someone else's...well, you know..., you're just doing yourself and your fellow students a disfavor.

So, with all the number ones and number twos I've had to do all over campus for the past two semesters, I'd venture to say I know a thing or two when it comes to where best to poo-poo. While I go wash my hands of that last sentence, peruse the list that follows:

THE BEST - Hendrix Center

I can't speak for the ladies' rooms in the Hendrix Center (because I'm a dude), but the men's rooms here are top-of-the-line bowel-movement friendly. You enter into a muted Prussian gray setting, with space-age stalls that allow the finest in privacy and discretion while you practice excretion. The toilet paper is well-stocked, and even if you run out you can always gently tap on the wall of your neighbor, who will oblige with whatever surplus rolls he happens to have.

The gentle rushing sound of the exhaust when you are done calms you, as does the Brahms concertos piped in through the ducts above thanks to campus radio services. A fresh cleansing of the hands of all detritus follows in the China sinks, where your hands

are then towelled off by Bert, the gracious men's room attendant. He responds well to a five-dollar bill, but will demure from anything of higher coinage. The experience is so pleasant you may just decide to venture a trip to the Chinese food place in the accompanying food court just so you can return once again, and with an even fuller experience to enjoy.

THE ALSO-RANS - Daniel Hall, Cooper Library (Fourth Floor)

If it's quantity you seek, not quality, then let me suggest a voyage to the first floor of Daniel Hall, which offers not one but two stalls, well-proportioned for today's growing overweight population. True, the setting is not ideal (harsh halogen lights pierce the eyeballs as the blandly khaki walls invite not so much contemplation as constipation), but once you get used to the John Cage experimental "wall of sound" background music it really isn't so bad. Sometimes you can stumble across interesting reading material, such as someone's less-than-stellar research paper on "why the Germans lost the War of 1812" or "Dorothy Parker Was a Man-Hating Lesbo Nazi". The first bathroom you encounter on the fourth floor of the Cooper Library, alas, is not as pleasing to the aesthetic (even harsher lights meant to suggest the full rush of nuclear winter blind you to the unpleasant pus-stained mirrors where countless freshmen have endeavored to pop that elusive magma-encased pimple), but for sheer quantity it can't be beat (three stalls and a wall of stand-alone wall fixtures. You would be well advised to steer clear of Bert the bathroom attendant,

Marriage

Continued from page 1

women the vote. Would it have been reasonable to claim that such a denial should remain in place because it had always been that way? More recently, Americans of African descent were denied equal civil rights. Was the tradition of that denial a justification for its continuance? Tradition may justify certain things, but it does not justify unequal treatment.

The charge that gay marriage will destroy the institution of marriage is a puzzling one. After all, with divorce rates in the U.S. clocking around fifty percent, heterosexuals do not seem overly concerned with maintaining the institution, at least in anything like its traditional form. (Whether this is good or bad is another issue.) Moreover, in Massachusetts, where gay marriage is legal, the divorce rate is significantly lower than in places like South Carolina. Studies in other countries have shown that gay marriage has no significant effect in divorce rates. (In fact, they show that they have an insignificant effect of lowering divorce rates.) It is remarkable that legislators in Massachusetts who sponsored a bill to overturn gay marriage in the state wound up voting against their own bill. They stated that between the time of their sponsorship and the vote, they came to realize that gay marriage was not harming the state, and that

A Helpful Guide

however, he's known for his rude graphics and sayings that litter the stalls. If you can cope with the lesser works of Sting's solo career, perhaps you can avoid the dreaded "piss-stain down the front of the jeans" that has befallen less sturdy youths.

THE BAD - Every Other Bathroom on Campus

Whether it's the horror of communal showers in the Shoeboxes, or the rancid smell emanating from an unknown source in Martin Hall, it seems that every other bathroom on campus is strictly "sit, shit, quit". There's no more polite way to put it, as there is also no polite way to describe the catering of Yoko Ono records that assault the senses in each.

And beware the "attendant," Bert. He's more like the restroom degenerate.

THE WORST - The second Floor of Cooper Library

Abandon hope, all ye who enter here. Sickly yellow walls clashing with gun-metal gray stalls, all while Wesley Willis verbally assaults you for simply entering. Even Bert wouldn't venture down there. Most of the stalls are littered with Anais Nin books that some pimple-faced freshman took in for...well, certainly not to further their studies. Nuuff said.

I hope I've been some help...some disgusting, off-putting, and TMI-tinge-worthy help. If you need me, I'll be at my off-campus residence. Why? Because the restrooms on campus are No Man's Land, that's why.

Interrogation

Continued from page 4

have few allies in our current struggle.

A "compromise" was reached recently on this matter that seems laughable, if it were not disgustingly absurd and embarrassing. In essence, the agreement reached was that President Bush would not violate the Geneva Convention by practicing cruel and inhuman treatment, as long as he was allowed to define what "cruel and inhuman treatment" consisted of. Once again, powerful Republican leaders, such as House Majority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, used the bill as political fodder against Democrats saying just prior to the vote, "Will my Democrat friends work with Republicans to give the President the tools he needs to continue to stop terrorist attacks before they happen, or will they vote to force him to fight the terrorists with one arm tied behind his back?" If using cruel treatment is the only way that Mr. Bush can protect our country and citizenry, then perhaps we should seriously examine our strategy as a whole and decide whether it coincides with the ideals of our great country.

The United States can not stand for freedom, liberty and democracy while at the same time torturing our enemies and justifying such actions in the name of national security. In order for the United States to continue the fight we must keep the moral high ground which can only be obtained by rising above the tactics used by our brutal enemies. There is no easy answer to this problem, as America's sons and daughters continue to give their lives while tens of thousands of Iraqi men, women and children civilians have also died. The only easy answer is to have not gotten into this mess to begin with, but since dwelling on the past in 20/20 hindsight will not end the conflict any sooner, most of America is willing to shift our focus towards the future and what must be done now that we are up to our ears in catastrophe. We must realize that the interrogation techniques in question have been used on a significant number of people that were later released without any charge and the information we gather through such interrogation is often unreliable. We can not continue to sacrifice America's principles in an effort to expand them. Mr. Bush, his administration and other republican leaders should know that spreading freedom and protecting human decency are not mutually exclusive and now that we are in this bloody mess, we must finish it the right way, not the easy way.

Smoking

Continued from page 1

the freedoms our nation's forefathers held dear. That is not to say we have never been there - the requirement to buckle-up, whose action is such where the victim is singular, is now commonplace. Of course, one may choose to do otherwise and be subject to penalties, though there is much to say for Darwin at work. Involuntary smoking is a verb that requires no conscious action - breathing is instinctive - and it affects everyone.

Yet unless a fan of building underground bunkers replete with farm & really maximizing the selection of books on Amazon, you place yourself in the line of premature death every day. While we make a conscious choice to subject ourselves to all kinds of dangers the moment we walk out the door, smoking is not a necessary evil. Are the literal tons of exhaust we expel from our automobiles are any less dangerous or offending to those who ride bikes? No. Alternative, environmentally friendly energy sources

gays and lesbians should be offered the same right to marry as heterosexuals.

Finally, the objection that gay marriage would harm the offspring is contradicted by the evidence. Studies have shown that the children of gay and lesbian couples do not fare any worse than those of heterosexual couples. Some studies have shown that the children of such couples are slightly higher achieving and slightly more anxious than those of heterosexual couples, but in neither case are the results significant. In fact, they are easily accounted for when one recognizes that "out" gay and lesbian couples are more often middle and upper middle class and that their children are more likely to endure a little extra anxiety in a culture that is bigoted against their parents.

There is, then, no good reason to violate the principle that, when it comes to marriage, gays and lesbians should be treated equally. There is only a prejudice of long standing. Whether South Carolinians can muster the courage to fight this prejudice between now and election day is uncertain. What is certain is that, sooner or later, the denial of equal rights to gays, lesbians, and bisexuals will be recognized for what it is, and will be a source of shame. Must South Carolina resist, as it has before, the movement of equality? Or can it, this time, rise to the task of democracy?

are of greater importance, but smoking is a far easier starting point & more readily accomplished. Just don't say that to Al.

In 1914, Benjamin Tillman, a familiar name around these parts, led the charge banning smoking in the US Senate Chambers. One hundred years later, smoking remains a constant nuisance on Clemson's otherwise sublime campus. If you walked through Columbia recently, perhaps you realized that the 'campus' is inferior. USC rarely leads Clemson in anything of note, so why is Clemson not on the scoreboard in this contest. Where is the 63-17 of public health?

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