Upper Room Concert Hassle

Well, after four days of rain and crummy weather, the sun finally came through. Among the dusty old buildings that received its rays and the sparkling sky, it also shone on a small concert on the Russell House terrace. The concert was attended by about 300 song-singing, Bible-toting Jesus freaks, who were there to praise the Lord and spread the Gospel. But along with the sunshine and good times came the never-ending stream of soul savers, each out to reach salvation, and trying to take as many people along with them. There were missionaries from as far away as Berkeley, Calif. The concert was organized by several people from the Upper Room Coffee Shop as part of the Christian World Liberation Front (CWLF). It was called “A Concert for the King” and featured many groups including the semi-well-known band “Brother” which were by far the best. Brother played some real fine rock and roll and nice country licks including a pedal steel guitar. Most of the groups were from Columbia although there were some from North Carolina. Good music but also something else.

Because I am an inquisitive journalist, I ventured forth into the sea of saved souls in search of information. I should have known better. As soon as I opened my mouth to ask questions I knew it would take more argument to get than I had to get out. I didn’t get out though and had to take the full dose of how I could be saved. I wanted to talk to other people so as to get a not completely biased idea but for the most part all I talked to agreed with me. The concert was fine but the head hassling was unbearable.

What of the hassling? It seemed so pointless and it made people feel uneasy. No one wants to be put through a barrage of questions and have two or three “freaks” stand there and tell them their life is false; that the only way is of the Jesus freaks. The self-righteousness was unbelievable. If you tried to argue back you soon found out how pointless it was. Just set a word in was an astonishing feat.

For the most part, the people involved in the Jesus movement think they are harbingers of a new life, one vastly superior to yours. This is commended in their domain. I beg to disagree, but I think that the worst and greatest sin in the existance of mankind is the incessant desire to shove your views down someone else’s throat. This tends to be the negativism that is emerging towards the Jesus people. For a movement that is supposed to be positive it is failing miserable.

COLUMN BY BOB FISCHL

GAMECOCK

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SGA Elections Held At Bad Time

Column By BOB CRAFT

No matter what happens, it always seems that the Student Government can get up enough energy and agitation for at least one amusing sideshow a year. The major sideshow this year, as in years, before has been the elections. The recent bare-knuckling over the contested second run-off shows two things 1) that there are people who take Student Government seriously and 2) the election process as practiced at USC is just as ridiculous as ever.

The election process itself is one of half or miss at best. The dragging into court of the election results is a sorry state of affairs. It casts a very poor light on an organization that has been traditionally bathed in poor light, the Student Government. The result is the Student Government, for all its mouthings of relevancy and concern for the students, cannot even bring off its major elections without having the results questioned.

Not just the fact that the election run-offs were held at a bad time, but the reports of ballots being opened by poll workers in front of the voters and the voters’ protests makes the average person more suspicious and aware of USC elections.

If anything in the Student Government is above reproach it must be, has to be, the elections. Student cynicism of SGA is high enough without this and the point of diminishing returns with student trust must be in sight if this continues.

Hindsight in other places is 20-20. USC is seems to be, if not catacatic, at least near-sighted. It seems a little silly that the Elections Commission could find no other time to hold elections except for the week preceding Spring Break.

To conclude the new SGA year starts with a blot and it remains to be seen whether anyone can clean up the election system mess.