

3 Campus Opinion

Lower high-flying flag

The Confederate flag conjures up different images for different people. For many folks in South Carolina, it is a reminder of pride, a memorial to the soldiers and citizens who died in the Civil War.

However, for many others, the flag is a symbol of hate, of slavery, of racism, of a past that should stay there.

And it is quite difficult to say otherwise when the Ku Klux Klan uses the flag as one of its symbols.

From the Editor

Recently, much controversy has stemmed from the third flag flying over the South Carolina Capitol building in Columbia, S.C. Two of the flags belong: the South Carolina state flag and the United States flag. The third flag, on the other hand, the stars and bars, does not.

Placing the flag in a less conspicuous place, like a Confederate war memorial or a museum, is a win-win situation. It still shows a respect for the history of South Carolina and for the soldiers who lost their lives defending their beliefs. At the same time, it shows a respect for the present and future of South Carolina and for the citizens who live in the state or even in this country.

South Carolina seems to have a history of stubbornness. The first to secede from the Union in the 1860s, the state was also one of the last to accept the terms of the surrender agreement between the North and the South.

Now, the citizens of the state refuse to remove the flag. The NAACP, which is boycotting the state and its businesses, protested in front of the state Capitol on Monday, Jan. 17, the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

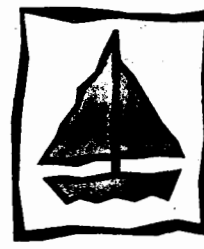
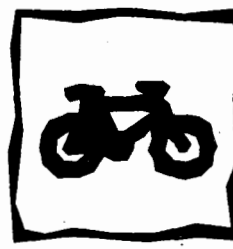
Eventually, South Carolina will take the flag down. But "eventually" is not soon enough for many people.

The flag's supporters, while they most likely realize the offensiveness of the flag, do not want to recognize its effects. They simply ignore the hurt and pain that the flag connotes.

It is imperative that South Carolinians acknowledge the effects of their beloved flag, not only during this week in which we celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great Civil Rights leader, but all year long.

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Wednesday, Jan. 26 in Belk from 11:30-1:30

Thursday, Jan. 27 in Cate from 11:30-1:30

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If you have a article idea for the staff, contact the office at 760-2824. You can also e-mail the paper at <maxwell@meredith.edu>. All ideas will be considered but may not necessarily be used.

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Submissions must be received by 1 p.m on the Monday before Wednesday's publication. Submissions include letters to the editor, press releases and feature articles.