

**USC VOICES**

Question: If you had one wish, what would it be?



**Deshawn Whitaker**  
Business major

"I would wish that there were no diseases that kill people in the world. I wish everyone would be of sound mind and body. Just love each other with our whole hearts."



**Corey Denis**  
Theatre and Speech major

"I'd wish that bigotry would go away and people would appreciate people as they are. There are too many people that judge others by their disabilities and the color of their skin. If I had a wish, that would stop."



**Tom Ferguson**  
Political Science major

"World peace. We could lower defense spending and spend more money to alleviate poverty and make the world economically and socially better."



**Will Christman**  
History Graduate Student

"That all my other wishes would be answered."

# VIEWPOINT

## Responsibility

*Newspaper staff must realize it is in the public's eye*

In the public eye. It's a scary place to be. Public people carry a lot of responsibility on their shoulders and have to act professionally. But, every now and then, public people make mistakes, as everyone does. There are times when emotions run high and tempers begin to boil. A public person has to make sure his or her emotions don't interfere with their responsibility when they're in that scary, public eye. Members of The Gamecock are no different. We have a disadvantage because we're students and public people at the same time. We can't do things most students can, and we understand that. However, there are times when we do mess up. Our emotions and feelings boil so much, we lose it. And we're wrong. We react first and think later. And that's wrong. This has happened recently and in the past. Intolerance and unprofessionalism have been displayed by staff members, and that contradicts all that we stand for and editorialize about. And for any unprofessional incidents, we apologize and will make every effort to practice what we preach in the future. We will control our emotions and act in a professional and responsible manner. It's a difficult task, but it will be accomplished. The Gamecock advocates the right for every person to express his or her opinions. We respect that right and try to stay open-minded. However, it is wrong to not understand a person's opinion and call it wrong. If we do that, we build walls around ourselves, which is wrong. This newspaper has been accused of being too left-wing. Think about that accusation. Now look to the right of this editorial. See that box called "Cross Fire." That's there for a reason. It's there to show both sides of an issue, not just one side, which is presented in columns. A column is the writer's own, personal opinion. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the entire staff. We try to stay open-minded to ideas, liberal or conservative. Everyone has the right to write a letter to the editor expressing views, liberal or conservative. This is an open forum, and it should stay that way. If we were to change it, this would not be the student newspaper. It would be the editorial staff's newspaper. We will be responsible for our actions on this page and in the public's eye.

## Cross Fire

### "Buy American" not racist

**Buy American.** This is a common phrase we have heard for the past few years in commercials, political speeches and the media, as America's international competitiveness has declined steadily against such economic powerhouses as Japan and Germany. South Carolina's own Ernest Hollings has been a large advocate of buying American-made merchandise, especially clothing. Of course, he has a personal interest: the state's powerful textiles industry. Recently, there has been tremendous criticism by Japanese-American organizations contending this snappy slogan is based on racism. The whole purpose of this slogan and the meaning behind it is patriotism and support for struggling American industries, especially in cars and electronics. America's poor level of international competitiveness is an integral part of the failing economy. Without American products being bought by Americans, U.S. industries lose millions of dollars, leading to unemployment and low productivity levels. If American consumers do not put their money back into our economy through buying American products and services, the economy will remain weak, and more people will suffer. Buying American products and declaring the slogan in public is not racist in the least. It represents an attempt to improve our economy and to create jobs in a period of low morale and hope. Anyhow, European products, in addition to Japanese-made products, could suffer from a successful Buy American program. But does that make it racist, or practical? The latter is the obvious answer.

—**Gordon Mantler**  
Gordon Mantler is a News Editor for The Gamecock.

### Foreign success result of hard work

Why is it that every time there is a problem, it is never our own fault? That seems to be a popular disease many people have. Maybe it's just human nature. If something we do is not good enough, then does that make it a crime for someone else to do it better? Competition. That's what makes life interesting and challenging. I'm talking about the trend of "Buy American." This country is far behind in the race of quality. Why would you choose a Toyota car over a Ford? Maybe because it looks better. It might be more comfortable. Or is the real reason because of the way it performs, you know, its track record? If Japan makes a better product, then it will sell better. Sorry, but that's just competition, folks. People hate countries because they take business from our own. We obviously need to get motivated here in the United States and put up a good challenge to the other countries. We shouldn't hate them because they make a better product. It should be an inspiration to compete. They are no smarter than we are; they just try harder. Their level of expectation is higher than ours. We must raise our standards, not our tempers. Fight back in a more constructive manner. Compete harder! Sitting around and talking about how they come to our country, get an education and leave is not going to solve anything. It might make you feel a little better, but it won't solve our problem. Be angry at yourself for being so apathetic and lazy. Don't self — get out there and make some changes. You can take the same classes as they do. Compete and work your butt off. How do think they do so well? Work! We are the new generation, and from the looks of things, our mentality has not evolved with the times. Hate is a stupid thing, and in this situation it is especially not necessary. Focus your energy and make a better product. No one can force a person to buy American. The only way to bring the business back home is to make people want to buy American, not because of guilt or sympathy, but because of preference.

—**Lynn Negri**  
Lynn Negri is a graphic design senior.

If you have an issue or question you would like to see addressed in Cross Fire or USC Voices, please drop it in a Suggestion Box or Call The Gamecock Newsroom at 777-7726.

## If a day's bad, it's really bad

—**Shelley Magee**  
You're driving down the back roads of B.F. Egypt. Your car stalls. You get out and look under the hood to find smoke pouring out. You go to get your AAA card out of the glove compartment, only to press your nose against the window and stare longingly at the keys you thoughtfully left in the ignition when you locked the door. Then you hear some unidentifiable creature of intimidating size crashing through the woods (which are, by the way, very dark and the only thing you can see for miles). It begins to rain. Your tuxedo is now soaked, and you're coming to the realization that you're not going to make it to your wedding. As the saying goes, when it rains, it pours. It's a cruel joke, but it's true. Disasters hit you in groups. It must have been designed that way so the forces that be have some form of entertainment. Sometimes I wonder if we're all just part of some great big experiment conducted by superior life forms. Can't you just see them sitting up there, with their legs dangling over the edge of some small planet, brewski in hand, dissolving into hysterical laughter going, "You think the 'F' on the term paper was funny? Check this out. I'm going to make her so upset about it, she yacks on the teacher!" Life can't manage to be so cruel accidentally. It's an emotional roller coaster, really. It seems like the day either goes swimmingly, or we unwittingly stumble onto a new plain of hell to report to Dante. Everyone has had one of those days when all you can do, as you sit back and survey the damages, is laugh like a hyena. It always seems, though, that once we have had ample time to recover, we get up, dust ourselves off and keep on going. We're exceptionally resilient. And more often than not, we have a great story to tell at the next party we go to. Recounting incredibly bad days is a form of entertainment, even for the human race. But, I wonder why it's so up and down? Perhaps because mediocrity is boring. And would we really have it any other way? Probably not. Because none of us want to lead a boring life. At least when you get trampled by the band marching in the parade of disasters, you can figure next time they'll let you ride on the float. Or at least you can get yourself some cotton candy and watch it safely from the sidewalk. Just watch out for the tuba section.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Barnwell people do want dump

To the editor:  
I am concerned about the editorial in your past issue which states, "The people in Barnwell don't want the dump." I am a resident of Barnwell, and this statement is incorrect. The county council hired lobbyists to attempt to keep the site open. Rep. Wilder of Barnwell has authored a bill to keep this site open. He and the lobbyists are working hard to pass this bill through the house. The people in Barnwell vigorously support the clean nuclear site. It provides a tremendous tax base for our county. The site generates more than \$1 million per year for the county and employs about 35 people. I have toured the site recently, and I have no doubt it is safe. I have literature on it that I will be glad to show you. George Hurst, site manager, will

be glad to send you information or speak to you about the site or give you a tour.

**T. O. Sanders**  
Law student

#### South Africa facing long road

To the editor:  
I felt compelled to write and voice my opinion about your editorial on March 20.

I applaud your attempt to point out the fact that Apartheid, as was slavery in America, is wrong, and the vote by South Africans last week to continue to work toward ending apartheid is definitely a move in the right direction. However, your opening statement, "Finally it's over," couldn't be further from the truth. If America's track record on race relations is any indication of what South Africa has to look for-

ward to, then I must conclude that the government and its people have a long hard road ahead.

As evidenced by the sharp rise in racial and ethnic hate crimes that America is currently experiencing, more than 30 years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision which dispelled the "separate, but equal" lie, simply saying that apartheid will no longer exist, or legislating laws to prevent discrimination from occurring is admirable, but doesn't get to the root of the problem. Morality cannot be legislated; it must come as a result of one realizing that there is a fundamental flaw in mankind's nature. Once we acknowledge that fact, we can put forth a genuine effort to correct the flaw and resulting behavior. It's ironic that we can send men to the moon, make monumental advances in medicine and science and technology, but cannot find a way to keep our lips from lying and our hearts from

hating. Lord, help us!

**Pearlie Payne**  
Criminal Justice sophomore

#### The Gamecock can be liberal

To the editor:  
Ten-Hut! Professor Hellwig has spoken ("The Gamecock leans too far left," March 20). "Restore journalistic integrity?" "Provide a more balanced editorial menu?" Come off it. These are students, not old fogey J. J. Kilpatricks. If they don't get to espouse liberal causes now, when will they? When they get out into the cold, cruel, dog-eat-dog world of laissez-faire capitalism and have to scramble for a living, along with everyone else?

**Peter Margolin**  
Research Associate Professor  
Earth Sciences and Resources Institute



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