

# Viewpoints

## Cable

### Who wants the Cable Consumer Protection Act of 1992?

Someone has been promoting an expensive ad campaign on behalf of more regulation for the cable industry. The regulation comes in the form of the Cable Consumer Protection Act, which will attempt to break up what are called local monopolies. The act attempts to reduce cable rates but also seeks to micromanage the industry in ways such as telling companies how many customer complaint lines they should have, something that may have the opposite effect.

Who's behind the bill? Hollywood moviemakers say they're siding with the cable companies, but the moviemakers have the most to gain by new regulations. The bill represents Hollywood's greatest opportunity yet to damage cable and regain king-of-the-hill status in the highly-competitive visual market.

Already, cable is showing signs of wear as it becomes increasingly diffuse in its programming, with entire channels devoted to specific genres (The Cartoon Network, The Sci-Fi Channel).

The quality of the big movie channels is also fading. Channels like Home Box Office are experiencing a drought of big-name titles.

This is because Hollywood has restricted access to its films and has gone straight to the videotape market for its more recent releases. A final blow would be to get legislation that would confuse cable operations on the local level by allowing an influx of competition.

The Cable Consumer Protection Act, if passed, would have the effect of allowing a number of disreputable companies to charge lower rates. These companies would also exhibit even poorer quality and maintenance than present local cable companies.

If consumers were given the choice, there would not be much movement from cable company to cable company much like phone service.

Local cable companies are often the targets of "franchise fees" which take away resources from maintenance, and the companies pass along these fees to consumers. Last week, Rowland County Council raised the fee from 3 percent of company gross receipts to 5 percent. Five percent of gross, not net, and this is before taxes. How can an industry provide quality service and maintenance in a business atmosphere like this?

Some monopolies are better cultivated with government supervision and others by promoting competition. We've seen the adverse effects of busting monopolies with the breakup of Ma Bell. The solution to less expensive and better quality cable service is not more inept cable companies, but government assistance to one company for the entire community and the elimination of franchise fees.

## Terrorists misunderstood: Irish conflict has roots in Celtic past

Looking through the paper over the past week it seems as though Columbia is being invaded by the Irish. Last Thursday, we premiered the film *Leprachaun*, and tonight we host one of Ireland's musical treasures — U2.

With U2 comes something much deeper than their lyrics, or their ultra-hip image. Bob Bono's shoulders ride the pride and spirit of a highly complex people — the Irish.

The Irish, descended from the Celtic conquerors of Ireland, are a strong, fierce, proud, and passionate people. Much of what they are today comes from what they have been.

The ancient Celts were a nomadic race of skilled warriors, renowned for their strength, tenacity, and brutality in combat. The Celts were a volatile mix of anger, passion, and determination.

Over the centuries, the strong Celtic traits have been tempered due to their intermingling with the British, Scottish, and other Anglo-Saxons to produce today's Irishmen. But always in their hearts are the traits of their Celtic ancestors.

Centuries ago the English tried to conquer Ireland only to find the Celts, who had inhabited Ireland for 2,000 years, weren't going to give up the land peacefully.

What has ensued is a series of bloody conflicts between factions of Irish Catholics, Irish Protestants, and British loyalists.

In 1921, Ireland divided into two separate

**C. E. HOLMAN**  
ASST. VIEWPOINTS EDITOR



states. Southern Ireland, populated with Irish Catholics, became known as the Irish Free State. Northern Ireland, populated by Catholics and Protestants, chose to remain with the United Kingdom.

Free State Irishmen were upset by the north's decision, while North Irish Catholics were even more upset.

In true Celtic fashion, Northern Catholic Irishmen believed Ireland should be united, as it had been under the Celts. Seeing no political options, they did what any Celt would have done: fight. Banding together under the name Irish Republican Army, they sought to reunify Ireland and end all British involvement in Ireland.

For four decades, the IRA was fairly dormant, but in 1969 they awoke with a vengeance, using tactics like assassinations, bombings, hunger strikes, and snipers to make their point.

Since 1969, more than 3,000 people have been killed as a result of IRA activities. The death of 3,000 Irish is equivalent to the death of 437,500 Americans. That is almost the population of Columbia!

The governments of the world have called the IRA one of the most ruthless terrorist groups. Is the IRA nothing more than a group of terrorists?

As an American, I am shocked by the IRA's brutality. I could say the U.S. and U.N. should do something about the IRA. I could say the IRA deserves swift, brutal punishment. I could say that we should cut all ties with Ireland.

I could say all this, but I can't. Being half-Irish, I, much like the IRA, feel strong ties to my Celtic heritage, and find myself exhibiting many Celtic traits.

As an Irishman, I can't say I approve of the IRA's method. Neither can I say I disapprove of their cause. I would love to see a reunified Ireland, to again be the sparkling Emerald Isle of the North Sea.

In America, we tend to see "terrorism" as an act of violence, and not as an action taken to either highlight a problem, or achieve a goal.

Freedom and self-rule are truly noble things to fight for, even if "terrorism" is needed. After all, isn't that what our "terrorist" Founding Fathers fought for?

As you listen to U2's music, keep in mind the pain and anguish that has produced some of their most profound music.

I don't advocate terrorism. I do believe it is wrong. But if your homeland was wrongly taken from you and broken in two, what would you do about it?

## Disposable heroes for the '90s: Search for saviors bleak

We need heroes.

When I was a kid, my biggest hero was Spider-Man. I'd collect all the comic books, (and still do, on occasion) and plop down in front of the tube, hoping he would make a guest cameo on the Electric Blue.

It was so much easier to find a hero when I was a kid. Life was so simple. All I had to worry about was where my next set of toys was coming from, and when the next Spider-Man comic book was coming out. He was a wholesome American lad, who fought for truth, justice and the whole bit. It didn't matter to me if Spidey was real or imaginary. He was a hero.

It's a little tougher to dig up heroes these days. Somewhere along the line, somebody told me to get real. Spider-Man wasn't a real person, therefore, Spider-Man wasn't a real hero.

I feel ripped off as far as reality goes. Here in the '90s, idealism and creative leadership have been buried in commercialism and greed. The social movement in our nation today is lathered in desperate environmentalism and human rights

**GREG PEREZ**  
COLUMNIST

activism, neither of which has spawned a forceful leader to celebrate.

Back in our parents' days, heroes were everywhere. Where are the John Lennons and JFKs of our time? Who could replace Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X? The era of indispensable heroes and righteousness has blown away with the '60s.

I guess the answer to finding a hero now lies in not having heroes at all. The anti-hero seems to be the demigod of choice in the '90s.

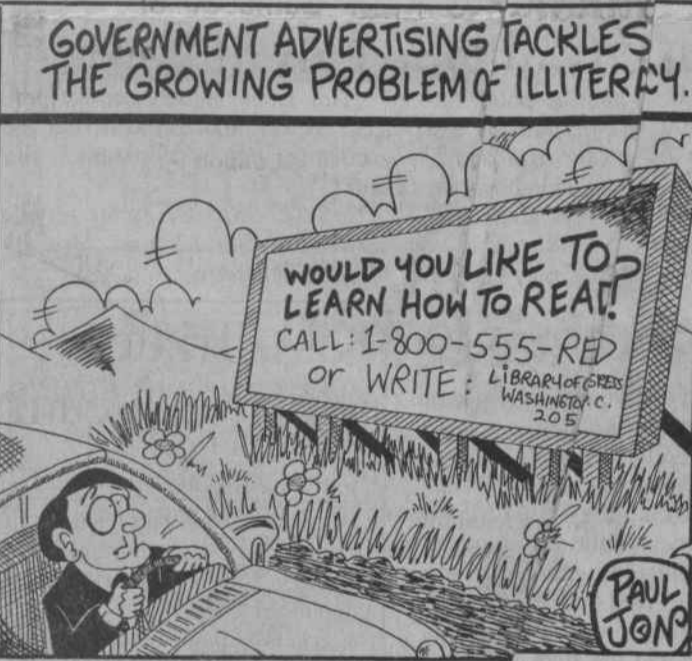
Take Batman, for example. Although he is fictional, millions of fans forked over their money to see the movie in 1989. A simple obsession with flying rats, perhaps? To me, it was indicative of how this nation is rattling its swords for a new kind of hero. A darker, more violent one.

Vigilantism is the way to go, says the Dark Knight; a far cry from our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. And the paying public loves it.

I think that's why fellows like Ice-T are making their mark on our nation. His attitude on the system and the gaping holes in American justice is not a new one. But with "Cop Killer" he gained an audience and our attention. People agreed with him, and made a lot of big wigs very nervous. Ice T: an Anti-hero for the '90s.

Politicians are trying too hard to be heroes. George Bush and Bill Clinton are battling it out to be America's Number One Guy, when neither one of them has what it takes to keep our attention. It's no wonder 18-25 year-olds aren't voting. When faced with a choice between the lesser of two lessers, apathy among the young is bound to run rampant. Something is missing in our country. (The Password is: Integrity.) We need heroes.

While the election creeps our way this November, keep in mind Ross Perot is out. Vote Spider-Man for President.



## Letters to the Editor

### Students respond to criticism of Greek advertising

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the letter written by Brett Mosley that appeared in the Sept. 21 issue of *The Gamecock*. Mr. Mosley feels he was forced to take part in "a celebration of mediocrity," however the only mediocrity I can see is his total lack of understanding of the Greek community.

I want to address Mr. Mosley with plain and simple facts. I will not try to impress anyone with the use of dressed up rhetoric. Mr. Mosley, you were quick to pass judgment on the Greek system of USC, however I find it odd that you failed to mention most of the facts that were printed on the full page ad that appeared in last Friday's edition of *The Gamecock*.

During the most recent semester, the USC sorority system achieved a combined GPA of 3.005. This is quite an impressive accomplishment, considering the all-women's GPA was a 2.935. In fact, eight of the 14 sororities exceeded the all-women's GPAs.

The purpose of the ad purchased by the Sorority and Fraternity councils was to recognize outstanding individual achievement. I will never see how recognizing individuals for achieving a GPA of a 3.5 or higher is giving undue praise.

Finally, I don't think you should have associated your attack on the Greek community with the South Carolina Honors College. I am also a member of the South Carolina Honors College, along with many other individuals who belong to a Greek organization who do not hold your same opinion of the Greek community. I suggest you do your homework, not just consult a dictionary, next time you make statements about organizations with which you are grossly misinformed.

**Lauren LaCoste**  
President, USC Sorority Council  
Honors College senior

To the editor:

This being our sixth year at our university, we find ourselves being disgusted by an academic elitist whose narcissism has blinded him to the facts. We are, of course, referring to the article written by Brett Mosley, a.k.a. Master of Lexicon.

Master Mosley, in his letter to the editor on Sept. 21, was quite irritated that *The Gamecock* forced him "unwillingly to take part in a celebration of" Greeks who made the Dean's List. He, himself, being part of the all Men's average GPA of 2.733 failed to mention that the majority of fraternities scored above this and that the sorority average GPA of 3.005 supercedes the all-women's GPA of 2.935. We, having both served for over two years as Scholarship Chairmen in our respective fraternities realize some people have to work very hard for their grades — unlike Master Mosley, we're sure. We feel these people are well deserving of academic accolades.

While we are sure Master Mosley's mom is very proud of the fact he can use all of the vocabulary in a SAT preparation book, we are also aware that not everyone is dealt the DNA codes for the genetic hand of aces which only Master Mosley has. A GPA of 3.5 made by any USC student, including Master Mosley, is not indicative of "base learning" but is deserving of praise. If Master Mosley is so jealous of these individuals with their names in *The Gamecock*, we will be happy to support him in an

advertisement which states his grades and further inflates his ego.

Being graduates of USC and South Carolina College, we refuse to agree with Master Mosley's view that these grades can be considered "banal marks" and fear his remarks may suggest a stereotype of Honors College students as book-nosed myopic egotists. In actuality, Honors College students and Greeks are among the most involved students on campus. Master Mosley, your holier-than-thou opinions suggest you have had too much of your fine "academic liquor" and sniffed too many "Pierian roses!"

**Eric Beckner**  
Phi Delta Theta Scholarship Chairman 1989-90

**Paul Aitchison**  
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Scholarship Chairman 1989-90

To the editor:

Despite the fact that this has been rehashed several times, we would like to clear the air concerning the "controversy" over the Greek system. In *The Gamecock* on Sept. 21, Mr. Brett Mosley lashed out against *The Gamecock* for publishing what he considered to be a "celebration of the mediocrity" in our fraternities and sororities. Mr. Mosley makes a point that Greeks do not all have 3.5 and above. Well, Mr. Mosley, surprise, neither do a large number of students who attend the University of South Carolina and many other schools. Are you proposing that because we are a group we should be of equal intelligence? Please step down from the "Golden Gilded Pedestal" from which you condescend upon us all and take hold of reality.

Truly we do not all possess your gifted use of a thesaurus nor do we all attend the Honors College. The greek system as a whole is a fairly accurate "slice" of college life and that too is reflected in our grades. If everyone was to continue reading about the "Greek's Grades," they would have found that the USC Greeks ranked above our national counterparts. We have recently become pledges at one of the fraternities on campus and have found that we look forward to our strict study halls, which help us maintain a high academic standard. In conclusion, Mr. Mosley, we do not need you to be the policeman of our grades, just like the rest of the campus. If it worries you that much, put down that thesaurus and Wall Street Journal, because a Type-A personality like yourself is in line for a serious heart attack!

**David A. Brown**  
Advertising/public relations sophomore

**Peyton Thomas**  
Pre-medicine freshman

**Geoffrey Richardson**  
Advertising/public relations sophomore

To the editor:

What the heck is Brett Mosley talking about? To quote from the infamous Dennis Leary, "I got two words for you Brett: Roger's Thesaurus. I think you hear me knockin' Brett, and I'm bringing the Beverly Hillbillies and an entire remedial English class with me." I think I'm going to renew my subscription to Hot Rod Magazine.

**Spencer Lueders**  
Engineering senior

# The Gamecock

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