

# Viewpoints



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**Editorial Board**

Wendy Hudson, Carson Henderson, Gordon Mantler, Nancy Salomonsky, Tony Santori

## Playboy Magazine celebrates 'girl-next-door,' will not destroy USC's image

The past few days, some strangers have been in town, and some of the locals aren't too happy about it. Unless you've been hiding under a rock for the past week, you've probably already heard that representatives from Playboy magazine are in town looking for some local talent to pose in the buff for their annual college issue.

The magazine picks a different athletic conference each year for its October issue, and 1994 is the year for the Southeastern Conference.

About 85 USC women tried out for a spot in the legendary pictorial; most of them having never posed nude before.

As to be expected, there is a contingent in the community who doesn't exactly like the presence of the classic men's magazine — this is the South, after all.

Many students don't seem to mind Playboy's presence on campus. In fact, response from the student body has been surprisingly quiet.

The furor over Playboy is typical — controversy seems to follow the magazine's college issues with some groups claiming that the nudity exploits young women.

Wrong. The competition for this pictorial is incredibly tight, and the women who succeed in getting into the magazine's pages are usually treated as campus heroes. This is exploitation?

The Playboy campus issue has a lot in common with Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue. People claim that it will be the destruction of morality and society and convert men into rapists and woman-haters.

Wrong again. Exposure to erotic materials, particularly those of such a mild nature of Playboy, have never been proven to lead to violence or sexual perversion. Most people, at some point in their lives, have been exposed to erotic materials; if they were inherently dangerous, mental instability would spread throughout the entire population of the United States.

The fact of the matter is, Playboy has always backed a wholesome, educated, "girl-next-door" image. True, the girl next door was probably clothed, but the Playboy image is hardly that of the submissive harlot that some moral crusaders would like to think.

The women posing are having fun — they wouldn't do it otherwise. When the October issue of Playboy is released this September, you have two choices. If you don't like the magazine, you don't have to buy it. Or, you can buy a copy and be proud to see the Gamecocks represented by an adventurous young woman having a good time. Not a harlot. Not a slut. Just a person who could well be the girl next door.

## Electronics can never take place of books

The once seemingly impossible has come true: Computers are to replace books. Reading a book, a sacred institution, is becoming a computer screen instead of a collection of pages. Technology triumphs again! Or does it?

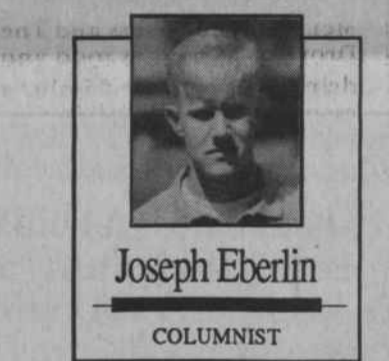
Call me old-fashioned or just plain old, but I don't like the idea of experiencing the horror of Bram Stoker's "Dracula" on a bright, well-lit screen of glass. After all, the gothicism of a dark tale is not easily perceived when a passage of a lonely, gloom-filled castle lurks from the blue or white field of a computer monitor.

There are a few advantages of reading from plastic, such as the ease of portability and the added effects of computer graphics. OK, hooray for being able to carry six books on a three-and-a-half-inch square.

However, as for computer graphics, I ask, "Whatever happened to imagination?" Some people actually like to create the author's scene in their mind. Willa Cather's flaming-red fields of Nebraska's prairies lose their open expanse and depth as a digital image.

Computer images of the fantastic seem like a great idea, but those images are someone else's interpretations. If I wanted to see the movie, then I would have gone to the theater. Reading Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" convinced me that no movie could depict the hideous face of the monster better than the face that I had imagined. Books give the mind a healthy workout.

Though I do not like the idea of computerized literature, I must give credit to its positive benefits. To those who have impaired vision, the computer offers the aid of enlargement so the words are easily read.



Also, the programs can track a character's appearances throughout the novel. By doing this, the reader enables himself to realize the importance of a character without having to flip through several pages to find critical information.

But this technology spoils the exercise of retaining details. I want a story with all of its components from the introduction up to the climax and down to the resolution. A summary is just a summary. It lacks all sense of artwork, mastery and creativity that the writer strives to perfect.

Where does the computerized novel leave us? In a state of laziness where our mind no longer has to work to construct a story's complicated network. The work becomes a skeleton and lacks all of its flesh and blood — the parts that give a book life. Give us the story; we want all the details.

Of course, the programs cost a mere \$19.95, along with a computer that costs a couple of thousand dollars. On the other hand, spend about four or five dollars and get an afternoon of self-made adventure.

Another thought: The computer is heavier than the book, and to quote one avid reader, "I can't imagine taking one (a computer) into the bathroom."



**Quote, Unquote**

"A lot of women at the University of Florida would pose nude because they're in bathing suits all the time. Showing everything is nothing to them."

**David Chan**  
Playboy photographer

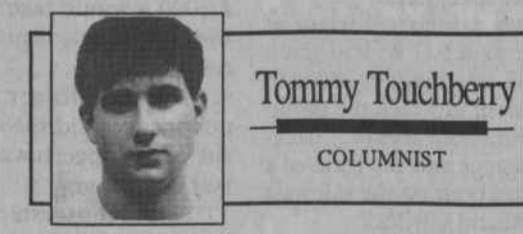
## Kennedy shining light for conservatives

When I began writing for The Gamecock a few months ago, I started with one purpose in mind: to get the conservative viewpoint expressed without any censorship. My feeling was that if I did my part, then I would be contributing to the most important cause in America today. The cause, put simply, is to pull American governmental policy back to the traditional base on which it was conceived.

I believe that if enough Americans are presented each important issue and the true positions on each issue, then there will be a real "revolution" in this country. The American public is not going to continue to be manipulated by liberal special interest advocates who are continually conducting their new-age socialist experiments on the American people.

I have spent most of my column space in exposing issues, positions and ideas. This week, I want to dedicate my column to the status of America today and the efforts of the thousands of people who are making a difference.

There is no doubt in my mind that we are at a crucial point in modern history. The cold war is over, and around the world democracy has defeated communism and socialism. But, here in the world's greatest democracy, discontent is widespread. Polls continue to show the American people are greatly dissatisfied with our elected officials.



The polls also show the economy, crime and an overall decline in moral and ethical standards are the most severe problems facing our nation.

While these problems persist, there are many groups across this country that are trying to bring about change. For example, Empower America is fighting for economic freedom for all Americans and for putting values back into America's classrooms.

Project 21, a group of young black conservatives, is attempting to educate other minorities on issues that are important to them and their families. They are showing young black Americans that education, hard work and traditional family values will give each of them a real opportunity to succeed.

And, of course, there are many other groups — political, religious and social — that are making a real difference in America today.

One congressman stands out as a shining light for conservatives everywhere. He stands out be-

cause of who he is. His name is Joseph P. Kennedy II. He is the son of the late Robert F. Kennedy, and his name bears this nation's most powerful liberal legacy.

But Rep. Kennedy, D-Mass., is no liberal. He is a Democrat who has supported the death penalty for violent criminals, the Balanced Budget Agreement, NAFTA, school-prayer legislation, legislation halting federal aid to schools that do not continuously teach abstinence in their sex-ed programs and legislation that negatively portrays homosexuality.

Kennedy described his votes as a result of common sense and constructive leadership. He said his votes were influenced by "God, country and family." Kennedy also said, "It's about time the Democratic party stood up for some of the basic values and be proud of it."

Kennedy is a shining light for the conservative cause and the American cause. Conservatives everywhere should take heed of Rep. Kennedy. He is proof positive that America can return to its traditional base.

Remember, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, Christian or Jew, white or black, keep fighting for what is right. America is too important, and the truth will prevail.

**Letters**

### Pro-gay posters embarrassing to USC

To the editor:

As a student at this university, I am appalled by the direction this institution is going. I was walking through Coker Life Science today, and I noticed these pro-gay fliers put up by the BGLA with messages like "2,4,6,8, do you know if your RA is straight?" This is outrageous!

Is this the image that we want to portray at this university? When high school seniors come to tour our university with their parents, do we actually think that these fliers will influence the "normal" person that this is the university for them?

Personally, if I would have seen these type of fliers when my mother and I visited the campus, I would have been scared to sign up for on-campus housing. It is a little frightening to a young, straight male like myself, to think that the leader on my hall, whose rules I must obey, is a homosexual.

This would dissuade me from living on that hall. If this is a move by the BGLA to pick up new partners, maybe they should think twice before they make another move like this. Things like this could ruin the reputation of

this fine, Southern university.

If the BGLA wonders why so many "normal" people discriminate against them, it is for incidents such as these. Just because you are "out" and not "in," like your fliers say, it doesn't mean you have to let the world know.

I am sorry that I missed the heterosexual fliers. I forgot to put up my "it's great to be normal" fliers. I hope this can be a learning experience for all of us and for the next "gay week."

Maybe fliers will be reviewed before they are allowed to be put up. With the concern of the university about the rise in off-campus living and our housing department losing money for the lack of occupancy, it seems to me that we would try to encourage and not discourage students to live on campus.

Stacey Griffith  
SG senator

### Pooper scooper law needed on Horseshoe

To the editor:

Ah, spring at USC. The birds happily chirp away. The warm sun burns away the cold of winter.

The flowers and azaleas are in full

bloom on the Horseshoe. Their scent is lovely (sniff, sniff). OMIGOD, WHAT IS THAT SMELL?

Check your feet. It's probably dog poop.

Yep, it's that time of year again. The temperature goes up, turning the Horseshoe into a virtual doggie doo casserole dish. This is the third year I've been on the Horseshoe and the third year I've endured this olfactory torture.

For those of you fortunate enough to never suffer the indignities of slipping in a pile, let me set the stage. It's Saturday, and you don't have an exam, paper or project due for two weeks. You're taking it easy. You call up a friend. "Wanna go toss the Frisbee on USC's historic and beautiful Horseshoe?" "Sure, that sounds great!" (Raise your hand if you know where this is going.)

You throw the disk to your friend. Good catch. He throws it back. It arches out to the right. You run to catch it. You put your right foot down. It goes sailing up. You fall smack into the culprit. Once you get over the horrifying shock of lying in feces, you race to your room, burn your clothes and take a scalding hot shower to purify yourself.

If you think this sounds extreme and completely implausible, you should have been out on the Horse-

shoe Saturday, April 17, 1993. You would have seen yours truly on his back in crap. Why have I waited a year to say anything? I've tried to block it, but the truth must be heard.

It wouldn't be so bad if it were just a few dogs every now and then. But I think every dog owner in Columbia feeds their pets laxatives three times a day and then brings their panting manure factories to campus. These aren't even students. They come in, do their business and leave, not thinking of the inconsideration to the students who must traverse this obstacle course in order to get an education.

I have a proposal for the SG. Instead of lofty goals set by every administration that never get accomplished, lower your sights to the dung on the ground. Create a pooper scooper law whereby all dog owners, who are completely welcome to bring their pooches to the Horseshoe, must clean up after their pets. It seems only right.

This is USC's port of entry. Every prospective student and his or her family begin their tour at the very foot of the Horseshoe. Don't let them think we're the city's dumping ground.

Jamie Williams  
Journalism junior

**Voices**

### Will the Playboy shoot hurt USC's image?



"No. It doesn't bother me. I wouldn't do it, but if others want to, that's their business."

**Amy Liston**  
Political science sophomore



"Personally, I'm against it, but if another person wanted to do it, it's their choice."

**Amy Dietz**  
Theater freshman



"It doesn't bother me. It's up to the individual."

**Victoria Mitchell**  
Criminal justice freshman



"It's their bodies, and they can do whatever they want with them. If you don't like it, then don't look at it."

**Cullen Nolan**  
English history senior

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