The Gamecock

Southerners should keep traditions

Just the other day, I went to the Grand Marketplace

STEWART COLUMNIST

eat breakfast. Upon entering the serving line, I set my eyes on an aberration I never, ever have seen or ever thought

I would see in the South - cheese grits. This had to be a Yankee invention. Just like you don't put a hole in the bagel up North, you don't put cheese

in grits in the South. Putting cheese in grits is kind of like wearing navy blue socks with

Birkenstocks to a semiformal. It just

I've put home fries, bacon and eggs in them. I've seen people put hog brains and liver in them. But never cheese.

And that's not the only Southern taboo I see people breaking around

For instance, you just don't wear shorts on a cold day. It just doesn't look right. It could be cold enough to freeze the fires of Hell outside, and still, there is always somebody walking around in shorts.

Another thing you just don't do down here is wear a hat inside a building. In Summerton (pop. 970 five people went on vacation this week; they'll return for next week's column), wearing a hat inside a building is about as bad as belching at the table in front of your grandmother.

And the thing is, I see just as many Southern Gentlemen perpetrating this act as anyone else. Don't you fellas know it ain't polite?

Also, men are always to address ladies as "ma'am." Violating this rule is as serious as not calling your girlfriend on her birthday. Break this one, and you'll be in more trouble than a CIA agent at a militia gathering.

But what is even worse than that is women who cuss. The greatest form of birth control down here is a woman with a filthy mouth. Well, that and a

This one is perhaps the most serious taboo I have mentioned so far. Women who cuss have about as much a chance of finding a Southern husband as Madonna does. To Southern men, hearing a young lady, no matter how smart, bright and pretty she is, say even the slightest of ugly words is as attractive as Roseanne in a thong bikini.

Men aren't supposed to cuss either. But when you just miss that trophy buck, or the Braves lose by one run or even if the poker machine at the gas station don't pay off, it can be kind of hard to remember this rule.

Even though I am a stickler for tradition, there are a few Southern traditions I'd like to see go the way of

For instance, why is it the boys always have to call the girls?

Women don't know this agony. And it's this kind of punishment that men have had to endure since the invention of dating. And I guess it will continue to be our punishment forever.

But then again, I guess it ain't so bad. Try listening to a woman tell you about natural childbirth. It will make you thank God for your masculinity until the day you die.

FIRE

Students debate living on and off campus at USC

Walk out your door, cross the street and in less than five minutes, you're in

Or need to do laundry? Just walk down the stairs, drop your clothes in a washer and run back up to catch a favorite television show.

Remember an assignment that's due tomorrow at 8 a.m. and it's 10:30 p.m.? No problem, run over to Thomas Cooper Library.

Living on campus provides excellent location to classroom buildings, constant entertainment from other residents, hassle-free parking and easy payment. I have lived on campus for four years and never regretted the decision or the opportunities it has provided.

Financially, living on campus is easy. Once a semester, students pay a flat fee that covers electricity, rent, water and cable. The expanded cable system that is now included in the semesterly price costs less than any outside cable systems. No worrying about where your roommate put the electricity bill or if the check for the cable cleared the bank. Best of all, toilet paper is free!

Imagine never having to worry about getting to campus 30 minutes early before class to find a parking space. Live here! If you wake up late for class, you can just dash there. Meetings are easy to get to, the library is always near and food locations aren't far away, either. It's just convenient to live on

Living on campus is also easy because I could pick my own roommate. We've lived together for three years, and enjoy the same relationship other roommates who live off campus do. And if you need to get away for a little bit, it's simple to find somewhere to go nearby. You can walk down to another room two doors down, step out onto the Horseshoe or quickly get a study room in the library. On-campus living also give you the chance to meet more people. In a traditional residence hall, friendships can be made in the halls, the lounges and the bathrooms.

A by-product of living on campus is physical fitness. Walking everywhere builds endurance and leg muscles. The Blatt P.E. Center is also a short walk away, where you can swim, take aerobics, lift weights or play basketball. And if you didn't get enough walking, use the Stairclimber.

The beauty of campus is another reason to live here. Measures by the USC Police Department give us a place to walk or run during the day and evening without worrying about safety.

Residence hall living also gives greater leadership opportunities. Residence Hall Government and Residence Hall Association give students the chance to commune with other students, work to change what they do not like about the halls and meet other residents from across the country.

Sure, living on campus means giving up some freedoms, but what you can gain

more than makes up for anything that is taken away.

By Wendy Hudson



Each spring, hundreds of USC students endure the long lines and lotteries associated with on-campus housing sign ups. Others choose to pay the price for nearby apartments. While USC offers a variety of living situations, including the coveted apartment-style residences, space is limited. Students may not get the assignment of their dreams, and they are not guaranteed the privilege of retaining the same assignment year after year, as they might with a standard lease.

Liberated from these assignment regulations and the accompanying visitation guidelines and roommate assignments, students who live off campus enjoy many freedoms unavailable to many dorm dwellers.

But apartments in the USC area can cost as much as \$600 a month. Students who live off campus must also make their own arrangements for furniture, utilities and transportation to campus. Many of these practical problems can be sidestepped. Students find roommates to share costs. Some local apartment complexes, like University Commons, avoid such problems by providing furnished units, short-term leases and a shuttle to campus. Others are located within walking distance to USC.

Practical issues aside, the pivotal factor in many students' decisions to move off campus is the desire for personal freedom. Once the novelty of the "Animal House" revelry wears off, living in a dormitory, especially the freshman-style residence halls like the Towers, can quickly become too close for comfort.

Noisy halls, the temptation of ubiquitous social gatherings and, of course, the archetypal "roommate from Hell" potentially add up to either academic probation or clinical depression for some students. From this perspective, the price of off-campus accommodations seems comparatively small.

"You can work in solitude," said senior Wendy Brown.

Like many students who live off campus, Brown believes the conveniences more than compensate for both the additional responsibilities of maintaining an apartment off campus and the relatively high rental rates in the downtown area.

"You can retreat from campus," she said. "You have your freedom ..., and it gives you a chance to collect

So, for students who value their privacy, their independence or even their grade point average, off-campus life has a lot to offer as an alternative to USC dormitories. These students may spend a little more. They may walk a little farther to

class. They may even learn to appreciate the university dining facilities as soon as they abandon cooking gourmet meals every night (a common yet mercifully short-lived condition occurring in new homeowners who suddenly find themselves in possession of a kitchen). As the commercial goes, "Freedom isn't free."

By Amy Harris

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our generation's defining memorate 10th anniversary of

most defining moment of your generation is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Every generation has one event that lingers in the minds of its youth. For our parents it was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Almost everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news. For us, the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger symbolizes many things.

First, it represented the virtual collapse of the space program. Many of us grew up with the memory of Neil Armstrong's monumental walk on the moon and had expectations

It's amazing how old you can feel when you realize the of seeing the foundation of the space station being built in our time. Since then, we've seen many shuttles takeoff and land, but this tremendous setback has led to budget cuts for NASA and the elimination of some of our generation's dreams.

The mission also represented the pinnacle of linking the classroom and the universe. Christa McAuliffe was the first teacher to have the opportunity to inspire us to learn about more than the microcosm our middle school

THE TOPIC

The Challenger explosion **OUR OPINION**

Use it as a reminder

to bridge the gap between textbook learning and hands on experience.

Perhaps the most symbolic meaning behind the explosion speaks for our generation in itself. Our parents had Woodstock and Vietnam. So far, we've had the Challenger explosion. Does this mean we are lucky or unlucky? We've been spared the embarrassment of a modern day Nixon (if you don't count Whitewater) but perhaps we haven't gelled as a generation. There aren't any protest movements, and it doesn't seem likely we'll encounter any Baby

mind's lived in. She, along with her six crew mates, was going Boomers of our own time. So where are we linked?

If we are not linked, have we really lost anything? Even with all of the bonding our parents did back in the glory days, today they don't seem to get along any better than we do. Medicare and Social Security have become their causes, but they don't speak as one voice.

The Challenger explosion was a tragedy and will remain a memory for most of us forever. But, in light of the anniversary, we should remember it does not make us weak to have not suffered. Perhaps this is the generation of the individual. Maybe we are not fated to have one uniting cause. As the name of the Challenger implies, we are being challenged. This in itself could be its legacy.

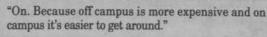
WHAT ARE PEOPLE THINKING?

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



"Off. There's more privacy and more of a feeling of

Nikkie Cannon Graduate student, MAT



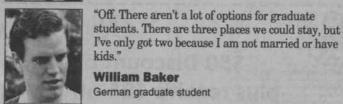
Anusha Patel Chemistry senior

Do you live off or on campus? Why?



"On. Being around all of the activities available on campus and meeting all the people on campus because I am a freshman."

Jason Braymiller Business freshman



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