

## Columnist answers key USC questions

**MATT HANLEY**  
COLUMNIST

Due to the lack of a single issue to attack, this columnist will use this space to answer his mail.

The questions have flooded to my mailbox like freshmen to Pizza Hut breadsticks. Many of the questions concerned the recent cold spell Columbia suffered, so let us begin with those.

Q: Yo, if I wanted to freeze to death I would've stayed in Jersey. What's the deal?

—Peter Canoli, sophomore  
A: The cold weather is God's way of reminding us to be nicer to people. You see, it seems Taneyhill has been acting up again. While it may seem unfair to punish us all for one quarterback's crimes, remember that the snow was pretty cool, and He did win us the Carquest Bowl.

Q: Like, how can we know ahead of time when it's gonna get cold again, so we can be like, warned?

—Betsy Daddysgirl, freshman  
A: A fairly accurate way to predict the weather is the Marriott Index. This forecasting system monitors the price of hot chocolate at on-campus dining facilities. Whenever the price rises above \$3, a cold front should be moving in. Do not get your weather from the television. TVs should be tuned to Talk Soup 24 hours a day.

Q: Everything's going great for me. I live in Columbia Hall, and almost all my classes are in the BA building. My life would be perfect if it wasn't for the stupid Horseshoe, and if I had some friends. How can I meet people?

—Harris Administration, senior  
A: An increasingly popular way to meet people is "elevator roulette." Stand very impatiently directly in front of the elevator door. Convince yourself you have the most important business to attend to. When the lift arrives at your floor, rush inside the elevator before the door fully opens. If you have properly inflated your worth, you should be shocked to find people inside trying to get off. Among the tide of angry departing passengers may be one or two people sympathetic to your condition.

Q: In an inspiring column about profanity last week, Tommy Touchberry remarked, "Fortunately, there is an unwritten rule in the South that makes using the Lord's name in vain socially unacceptable." Unfortunately, I am from the North. What should I use as a guide?

—Gary Indiana, junior  
A: Fortunately for rude Northerners, there are written rules about etiquette. They're called the Ten Commandments. I believe the deuce covers the Lord in vain problem. But don't feel excluded, Gary. Yankees have plenty of unwritten rules. It's what makes them better drivers.

Q: With all the fine women's organizations on campus, why wasn't there the usual uproar about the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue?

—Dave Humes, senior  
A: One reason is that SI toned down the issue considerably, meaning you're really going to have to find a real date. And secondly, SI is owned by Time Warner, which will soon be the largest private sector employer (the company is negotiating to take WUSC off our hands). Do not anger Time Warner.

Q: Which is thrown out more — The Gamecock or ZipSheet?

—Melissa Bong, junior  
A: This question has intrigued us media gurus since the Zip pushers were dropped on our planet three years ago. Since most people are fatter than they were then, it's a safe bet the Zipper, with its pizza coupons, is kept more than The Gamecock, which keeps pestering us about the P.E. Center. However, the yellow reign of terror may soon be over; four coeds have filed a lawsuit in which they claim they were drunk and pressured into taking the ZipSheet.

Q: Lately I've noticed my professors have been writing a lot of what appears to be notes on the board. Should I be copying these?

—Joe Mullane, sophomore  
A: Absolutely not. Professors put notes on the board every now and then to relieve the guilt of doing too much research. All you need to know is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which looks like the Food Pyramid, but self-esteem replaces the dairy products. And remember to call them "doctors" every chance you get.

# 1996 TREASURER CANDIDATES

## Clubs should co-program events

**Experience:**  
Emerging Leader Program  
One of three undergraduate students to speak at the Student Leadership Conference. I spoke on Goals and Goal setting.

Rallied with Student Government against Higher Education cuts at the Statehouse.

Organized the first outdoor SG debate last year on Greene Street that forced students who normally don't care about SG to stop and listen.

Participated in several One Shot Community Service Projects.

### My Platform:

**Greek Housing:**  
My plan for Greek housing is an alternative to the housing plan already in the works. My plan is to take over the lease or buy the existing houses. These houses have to be within a one-mile radius of campus and have at least four bedrooms with a large living room. Some of the houses I've looked at range from \$200-250,000. This is a small amount compared to the \$1 million each house is expected to cost with the existing plan.

The houses could be used for meetings as well as other functions. Details are still sketchy; it is just an idea right now. Another thing I'd like to look into is where the housing fund is currently kept and possibly reinvest that money into a CD so it is receiving

**DAVID FRANKEL**  
SG CANDIDATE

maximum interest. Obviously, this idea won't work for all fraternities and sororities, but it is something I am willing to work for and find out more about if the interest is there.

### Cost effectiveness:

When it comes to being cost effective, that is exactly what I am. For example, my fliers cost 2 cents a piece. This is 300 percent cheaper than both Kinko's and Universal copies offered. This is important for a few reasons. One, if I'm not going to waste my money, I'm definitely not going to waste yours. Second, it shows I'm willing to go the extra mile, even if it is less convenient, to save money. I think it is very important for a treasurer to be cost effective and to look for corners to cut when it means saving students money, even if it does mean driving five minutes out of your way.

### Student Organizations:

I have two proposals — first, to get student organizations to work together. If organizations co-sponsor activities, it saves both organizations money. It also promotes the Carolina Community and allows students of other organizations to work together. Now, they can split the bill one, two and maybe even three ways. This would give each student organization more

money to work with and money to do other things they normally couldn't afford.

The second proposal is to institute a treasurer's luncheon once a month to discuss student issues and concerns with presidents of student organizations. This will keep the treasurer informed of student issues so he can better represent them. Also, these issues will be passed on to other Student Government officers as well as Student Senate.

### Employer:

Establish a better relationship between students and SG by establishing an employee, employer relationship. This means making sure the students feel comfortable enough to sit down and share concerns with me.

As a treasurer I am your employee and would like as much input as possible so I can better serve you. Again, these comments will be brought up in weekly senate meetings to keep senate in touch with the student concerns.

### Character:

Strong work ethic, Action not promises, Dedication and Fairness are all things I represent and stand for. Given the chance, I will prove every single one of these qualities to be true. Vote DAVE for treasurer Feb. 15.

## Activity fees misspent on administration

My name is Peter Siachos, and I am a political science/Spanish major. My freshman year at Carolina I served on Freshman Council, last year I served as a student senator and this past year I have served as Director of Student Services on the cabinet. I currently serve as co-chairman of Freshman Council, and I now want to serve you as treasurer.

My leadership experiences have shown me what a good feeling it is to serve and help others, and how important it is to make a difference.

My campaign for Student Government treasurer is based on one simple slogan: It's YOUR Money.

The University of South Carolina is taking your money to provide you with education and service, but it's not giving you back your change.

For far too long, students have been paying the student activity fees and not having them all used for student activities. Each and every student pays the student activity fee on their tuition for the funding of student organizations. Last year alone, this amounted to about \$1 million, which should have all been distributed to the student organizations. When the fee was raised this year, even more could have been distributed.

**PETER SIACHOS**  
SG CANDIDATE

Before your representation in the student senate could even touch your money, the administration took almost \$300,000 away for bureaucratic expenditures, which should come out of their budget, not yours.

This year, they are charging you more, and they are taking more. To do this, they are cutting every organization's budget. Where is all of this extra money going?

I believe the students should have all of this money. I have even gone as far as to create a new budget based on this idea. I call it the "Siachos Budget," and I'll be glad to show it to anyone who wants to see it. In my budget, every organization gets almost double what it gets now.

If the university were providing us with more service, we might not mind them taking our money so much. The fact is, though, we pay more and more tuition each year, and we get less and less for our money. If we were at McDonald's and the hamburgers got smaller and smaller and the price went up, we'd probably leave. I know I would go to Burger King.

The difference is, I don't want to

leave Carolina. We are not obligated to be at Carolina — we chose to come here. I chose to come here because I love Carolina. When you love something, you don't abandon it. You choose to fix it and to make it better.

As SG treasurer, I want to make Carolina better by actively protecting the students' interests and making sure the student activity fees are used by the students and by the students only.

I want to be your "watchdog" to ensure the money you give, you spend. If student activity fees are spent, as treasurer, Peter Siachos will know about it.

Anyone can fill out a budget, anyone can do the paperwork and ANYONE can be a puppet to the administration just to make them happy. Peter Siachos will not be a puppet to the administration.

The misuse of student activity fees is the greatest abuse of students and will be my first and foremost concern as treasurer. I feel my position is right and just, and I am the only candidate who believes "It's YOUR Money." I hope you will consider me when you vote Feb. 15.

## Groundhog doesn't cast shadow on rat

Well, it's been done once again, folks. The Sage of the Northeast, in the form of robust rodent, has once again warned us that Ol' Man Winter is gonna be freeloading around here for six more weeks.

That's right, folks. Groundhog Day came and went without much hope for this Yankee-imported weather leaving us before the middle of March. And I'd really be concerned too...if I believed in the Groundhog.

You see, us Summerton (pop. 970) — the vacationers were having such a good time, they decided to stay another week) folks don't put much stock in Punxsatawney Phil.

We don't have to. That's because we have the Rimini Rat.

The Rimini Rat is by far the most accurate weather-telling tool in the Southeast. He makes Doppler Radar look like a weathervane.

Although Phil can only predict the weather accurately to six weeks, the Rimini Rat can tell it to the day.

"Well, how does he do it?" you may ask, ladies and gentleman. Well, I'm gonna tell you.

Every Feb. 2 in Rimini, everyone in Clarendon and Sumter counties gathers in downtown Rimini at the ditch near the Rat's residence.

**DREW STEWART**  
COLUMNIST

in the Clarendon County area. But then, at 8 o'clock, the focus changes to the hole of the Rimini Rat as the populous waits for him to get off his behind and on his feet. But oftentimes, he doesn't wake up on the right side of the bed.

For instance, in 1977, the Rat decided to sleep in until noon. The mayor of Rimini was getting quite impatient, so he decided to wake him up by sticking his right hand in the Rat's hole. At that very moment, Rimini gained its first left-handed mayor.

But still, the Rat tries to get out of bed around 8 a.m. He exits his hole, listening to the luminous applause of a crowd that has left its places of work to be here.

He then commences the forecasting process. However, it is not the Rimini Rat himself that is of interest but the contents of the Rat's plumbing that gives us the season-long outlook.

Have you ever heard of cow-chip poker? This is sort of the same thing, except the place where the Rimini Rat makes his deposit is the indicator of when winter will end in Clarendon and Sumter counties.

The closer he makes it to the road from the ditch, the shorter winter will

the road shoulder, winter will end in two weeks.

And he is very accurate, almost to the day. However, this does not mean the results are always favorable.

For instance, a couple years ago, the Rat had a Maalox moment right around the time he was supposed to come out of his hole. We had to keep our coats handy until about Father's Day.

And the next year, the Rat forgot his Ex-Lax. It got so hot so fast in Clarendon County even AC/DC could have found religion.

And so ends the tail of the Rimini Rat, the most accurate weather forecaster in the Southeast. But before I end this week's delve into the habits of Summerton, I must tell you about some of the inferior tourist trap duplications in the Clarendon County area so those of you who go next year for the festivities won't be lied to.

Watch for the Panola Pig, the Paxville Possum, the Pinewood Peacock, the Davis Station Dog, the Manning Mongoose, the Santee Snake, the Sumter Sow, the Holly Hill Hamster, the Wedgefield Walrus and last, but not least, the Summerton Seal.

And I suppose you're wondering the Rimini Rat's prediction for this year's

**The Gamecock**  
Serving USC Since 1908  
Wendy Hudson, Editor in Chief • Ryan Wilson, Managing Editor,  
Tina Morgan, Brent Seeliger, Viewpoints Editors

**Editorial Board**  
Chris Dixon, Martha Hotop, Karen Layne, Robbie Meek, Tyson Pettigrew, Matt Pruitt, Ryan Sims, Stephanie Sonnenfeld, Cece von Kolnitz, Robert Walton, Allison Williams

## IN OUR OWN OPINION

# Gamecock election predictions finally in

We've finished deliberating. The Gamecock is ready to predict the winners in the upcoming Student Government elections. Surprisingly enough, it's a tie!

Not a tie between candidates — a tie between offices. It seems one candidate for office will sweep all three executive positions!

We couldn't be more excited. The news department will be covering this story for months. Think of the headlines: "Candidate runs for office, wins three," or "Commissioner blamed in election mix-up," or "Schizophrenia in Student Government."

It'll be more fun than trying to get a photo of the Horseshoe gunman. We know you're curious, so we'll let you in on our little secret.

Who won this year's elections? Why, it's the candidate who took the daring stance on parking. You know, the guy who said we needed more spots.

You still don't know who we're talking about?

To clarify, the new SG president of the vice treasury will be the candidate who shocked the student body when he suggested this campus

is unsafe. Come on, you remember, the one who disdained convention and argued that students shouldn't be shot when walking home drunk from Five Points.

Then surely you'll recall the person with the scheme to put a voting student member on the Board of Trustees? The plan to spend our student activity fees correctly?

What do you mean, "All the candidates stand on those issues?"

Well, this should narrow it down for you. The elected candidate will be the one who has included as a pivotal part of his platform — stand back — the restructuring of the Marriott food system!

No they aren't "all the same," this guy has real vision. He is the guy for Greek life.

For cripes sake, the one who said he'd take student concerns to heart! The one who said he'd represent us.

The one who said he'd work closely with the Student Senate!

Oh, just forget it. If you still don't know, we aren't going to tell you. Nevermind.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Candidate should tell truth about absences

I've known Mr. Wustrow for almost five years now and have been in many organizations with him over the years. In Thursday's Gamecock Mr. Wustrow points to his "experiences in numerous campus organizations." My experiences as a senator, parliamentarian, Chairman of the USC Student Legislature club... make me uniquely qualified... The fact is Mr. Wustrow, your experiences in these organizations make you uniquely unqualified. As a Senator I saw Mr. Wustrow come and go. Within a few short months in office Mr. Wustrow managed to be expelled from the Senate for having excessive absences in the double digits. His lack of commitment was also shown in the Student Legislature. While "serving" as chairman, Mr. Wustrow failed to show up for three out of the four days at our annual convention held two blocks away from his dorm. At the spring convention he failed to show at all.

Mr. Wustrow, in the age of slick politicians, it would be nice if you would place yourself above such misleading claims. Show some, as you put it, "old-fashioned backbone," and tell students the truth.

Your latest posters say "students first." Does your past lack of commitment really reflect such a statement.

**Zan Dial**  
Student Government Liberal Arts Senator

## CAPCO president insists packets not "a scam"

I'm writing in response to The Gamecock's article, "Professors Question Merits of Packets" in the Jan. 31 issue. First, CAPCO regrets Dr. Dubinsky's

frustration with his coursepack experience. His comments are far different from those expressed by the overwhelming majority of the nearly 2,000 instructors at more than 300 campuses CAPCO worked with this Spring Semester alone.

As for the comment that coursepacks and custom publishing is "a scam," let me say that CAPCO works closely with the Associated Publishers, the Copyright Clearance Center and the National Association of College Stores to deliver the highest quality product available legally and professionally. However, if a rightsholder charges a flat royalty of \$100 for the use of copyrighted material, and then we find out the actual enrollment is not 40 but 25 students, the royalty per book increases from \$2.50 to \$4.00. CAPCO, however, does not make an additional \$1.50 per book. We are paying the rightsholder \$100 whether that's divided over 40 or 25 books.

As for value, coursepacks are clearly less expensive than traditional textbooks on a per-page-used basis. If the average 300-page textbook costs \$50, but only two-thirds of the text is actually used, the average cost-per-page-used is 25 cents. The average 150-page coursepack is \$30 and fully used, making the average cost cost-per-page-used 20 cents — 20 percent less than the traditional text. Considering that the material in a coursepack is hand-picked by the instructor for specific relevance in a particular course, you have a learning tool of immense value. At a savings!

**Kim Bollinger**  
Custom Academic Publishing Company President

**The Gamecock**  
Student Media • Russell House-USC • Columbia, SC 29208

<b>Wendy Hudson</b> Editor in Chief	<b>Robbie Meek</b> Sports Editor	<b>Tyson Pettigrew</b> Photo Editor	<b>Chris Carroll</b> Director of Student Media
<b>Ryan Wilson</b> Managing Editor	<b>Allison Williams</b> Special Projects	<b>Robert Walton</b> Photo Editor	<b>Laura Day</b> Creative Director
<b>Tina Morgan</b> Viewpoints Editor	<b>Ethan Myerson</b> Graphics Editor	<b>Adam Snyder</b> Asst. News	<b>Jeff A. Breax</b> Asst. Director
<b>Brent Seeliger</b> Viewpoints Editor	<b>Karen Layne</b> Deanna	<b>Jennifer Stanley</b> Asst. News	<b>Sue McDonald</b> Graduate Assistant
<b>Martha Hotop</b> News Editor	<b>Stephanie</b> Copy Desk	<b>Lucy Arnold</b> Marketing Director	<b>Jim Speelman</b> Faculty Advisor
<b>Cece von Kolnitz</b> News Editor	<b>Ryan Sims</b> Online Editor	<b>Dipka Bhambhani</b> Asst. Sports	<b>Marilyn Edwards</b> Taylor
<b>Chris Dixon</b> Stephanie		<b>Achim Hunt</b> Circulation Editor	<b>Erik Collins</b> Cartoonist
<b>Sonnenfeld</b> Features Editor		<b>Keith Boudreaux</b> Circulation Editor	<b>Jason Jeffers</b> Cartoonist

The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published Tuesday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters, with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.

**Letters Policy**  
The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be 200-250 words and must include full name, professional title or year and major if a student. Letters must be personally delivered by the author to The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 321.

THE GAMECOCK IS ALL YOU NEED. WRITE FOR US.