

## The Gamecock

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### IN OUR OPINION

## Writer in residence: hard position to fill

We had a teacher. He put words together, married them and divorced them. His job was setting one word against another, or with it. Somehow his words became lines of poetry or sentences that read as a book.

James Dickey taught at USC, stretching his students' minds taut. When he passed away last January, an entire community of learners, professors and friends mourned with his family.

And though we all recognize the loss of a husband, a father, a writer, a lord of words, we must also recognize the practical side of Dickey's absence.

Who will teach students as Dickey did?

What writer, what person of literature, what lover of words will share his or her knowledge with students? Who will continue to stretch minds as Dickey had?

There are many wild and not-so-wild rumors traveling around campus that it may be Pat Conroy.

Officially, there is a search committee, composed of some of the best faculty members at USC, including leading F. Scott Fitzgerald scholar Dr. Matthew Bruccoli.

We trust these people are doing a dedicated, detailed job. We know they have sound and knowledgeable judgment. This job will not be rushed, but carried out with great care and attention.

### THE TOPIC

USC

Writer in Residence

### OUR OPINION

Search committee should listen to student opinion

We are the students this unknown professor will be teaching.

As such, we hope much of the attention will be placed on Pat Conroy. Some may criticize this statement, for he has done no

prominent research. He did not graduate from an Ivy League, internationally prestigious school (sorry Citadel fans, but that's true).

But we want Pat Conroy for less tangible reasons. He is a Southerner of the best kind. He knows the culture and the traditions of the South from personal experience.

He has helped to immortalize a modern South through his works. Tara and Scarlet O'Hara may be gone with the wind, but the great Santini lives on with Jack McCall and other Conroy characters in his oyster-filled Southern words.

Conroy has a way with description that doesn't forget there are other senses besides sight. One can almost taste a book written by Conroy.

We can't all be Conroys, but perhaps this man can help show students how to become their own writer.

If he could find such a distinct style for himself, surely he can teach us the way to do the same. This could be the best gift of all.

We want Pat Conroy as our writer in residence. We hope the search committee will take into consideration the wishes of students while conducting their search.



WINDOWS '97

### Quote, Unquote

**"Without this tuition increase, we could not continue the remarkable momentum and recent quality strides we have made at Carolina under the leadership of President John Palms."**

William Hubbard, chairman of USC's Board of Trustees

## There's more to Greeks than parties

### CHRISTOPHER REEVES

Guest Columnist

Noted for parties, Greek organizations also offer a wealth of experiences, opportunities and friends.

Compounded with the network of connections you form as an active member, Greek organizations can provide you with all the tools needed to be successful.

Unfortunately, Greek organizations in today's society are portrayed as being anything from "Animal House" frat boys to drunks. The public image of Greeks through television has gone as far as to mark us as harboring rapists.

In light of such views, it's not surprising that Rush numbers in recent years have decreased. Thus, I believe it's only fair to take a real life view at the Greek community here at USC.

We're not drunks, rapists or idiots. We don't live to fight one another. We're not the spoiled rich boys or girls who are here just to party.

We're distinct individuals who come together from diverse backgrounds to advance not only our own lives, but the common ideas and goals of our groups. Being a part of these groups mean we have common bonds between our fellow

brothers and sisters and other members of the Greek community.

We enjoy a good party, but not at the expense of our education, well-being or image.

We're productive members of the student body that are active in everything from Student Government to this paper. In fact, Greeks hold a majority of the leadership positions on campus even though we make up only about 15 percent of the student population. We actively participate in community service events such as sponsoring the Carolina-Clemson Blood Drive and helping at local children's homes.

Being a member of our organizations offers many benefits. Most cite connections, but whether you want to hang out, need someone to listen to, or just talk to, you always have company. You also have access to tutors, advice and even personal comedians.

Being Greek gives you leadership experience that can't be found readily in other organizations. You can be President, Treasurer, or work with alumni relations. You'll learn how to work with a group for the betterment of all, while still retaining your own distinction.

More than anything, though, the Greek system offers you friends.

Even though you may be from

**"If you're thinking about going Greek, or even if it hasn't crossed your mind, take all of this into consideration."**

different schools or different fraternities or sororities, you'll all immediately become friends because of your common experiences.

Not the fellow associate or casual meeting type of friend, but rather true friends. The type of friends that would do anything for you, the ones you'll remain in contact with after you graduate.

Here in the Greek system is where you meet those friends your parents told you you'll know for the rest of your life. These friends surround you to offer the family feeling that helps on a campus our size.

So why does the Greek system have such a bad image? I believe it's the ignorance that comes with not being a part of the system. This could be our fault for not publicizing our accomplishments, or perhaps because it's the nature of our organizations to not tell all of our inner activities.

It could be due to others who judge us on our weakest members or construe our silence as an admittance of guilt. Whatever the answer, the truth is we're not the plague of the campus, but instead an efficient system that turns out successful and productive members of society.

If you're thinking about going Greek, or even if it hasn't crossed your mind, take all of this into consideration.

Whether you're a student, faculty member, or president of USC, I challenge all who hold such opinions to participate in Rush, associate with the Greek sitting next to you or just stop by the Office of Greek Affairs.

As long as you hold questions that you refuse to ask, you'll continue to possess false impressions of a system dedicated to the betterment of not only our campus, but the society in which together we belong.

## Save the silence: stop the leaf blowers

### KATHLEEN MCCORMICK

Columnist

It was a perfect day to experience the world, Zen style. Hal French and his Zen and the Art of Anything class were roaming through the trees, soaking up the subtler sensory messages that we sometimes miss.

"Feel," Hal instructed, and we removed our shoes to trace roots with our toes, and swept our arms through the leaf-laden branches above us.

"Look," said our guru. We examined works of architecture that before had just been buildings to our hurried eyes, trying to absorb everything around us in order to do justice to our university's picturesque campus.

You don't need a Zen mentality to appreciate US's beauty. It has brightened the school days of thousands of students, faculty, and anyone else who has come through for a stroll. It even plays a part in helping students to choose USC over

other less aesthetically pleasing schools.

I recently asked Racheal, a rising Honors College Freshman, why she was coming so far from her native Pennsylvania to study psychology. She had a myriad of reasons. But the first reason she listed was our campus.

"Hear," called Hal, and we prepared ourselves to descry chirps and rustles we'd never noticed.

Just then, the leaf blowers arrived.

All sounds pleasant cease (as far as we know. If a tree falls on the Horseshoe, and there is a leaf blower around, will anyone hear it? Of course not.) Our experience was interrupted, like so many picnics, conversations, and even indoor classes have been, like these monsters of the maintenance world.

Every time I've had a class in Harper, the professor has complained about the difficulty of making himself heard over the din.

One professor even developed a degree of paranoia; he insisted that a certain

**"If a tree falls on the Horseshoe, and there is a leaf blower around, will anyone hear it? Of course not."**

leaf blower was stalking him. It created its ruckus outside his office window every morning while he tried to study, then followed him to class, making teaching difficult.

The question here is simple. Why are leaf blowers used, when the noise (not to mention the billows of allergens) destroys the experience of the beauty they are trying to create?

One theory is the university is concerned that someone might slip on a wet leaf, fall and sue. But this doesn't make any sense.

If the university was worried about that, they'd fix the bricks on the Horseshoe that snag our shoes, and our balance, so

frequently. Besides, a rake would do the trick.

A friend of mine once posed our question to the operator of a leaf blower (the machine was off at the time.) The man replied, shaking his head, "I just can't get them all."

My explanation of this nonsensical answer is that the man misheard the question. The leaf blowers had destroyed his ears.

I have a plea for the powers that be. Let us enjoy this fall without the nuisance of leaf blowers. Let those of us who, to some degree, chose this school for its campus, enjoy it. Let them use rakes.

What's missing? Your opinion.  
You do have one, right?  
Show it to us, baby.  
Write a letter to the editor.

## The Gamecock

Student Media • Russell House • USC • Columbia, SC 29208

Chris Dixon

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News Editor

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Graduate Assistant

Sherry F. Holmes

Classified Ad Manager

Erik Collins

Faculty Advisor

### How to reach us

The Gamecock

Editor (803) 777-3914

News 777-7726

ETC. 777-3913

Viewpoints 777-7726

Sports 777-7182

Online 777-3913

Advertising 777-1184

Classifieds 777-1184

Fax 777-6482

Central Office 777-3888

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