

The Gamecock

Serving USC Since 1908

Editorial Board

Adam Snyder, Interim Editor in Chief
Nikki LaRocque, Viewpoints Editor
Stephanie Sonnenfeld, Assistant Viewpoints Editor

IN OUR OPINION

Dialects important, standard necessary

There seems to be a certain amount of heated debate surrounding ebonics.

What some people may see as due process of recognition of a fairly young and new dialect, others believe it's glorifying slang.

There's a need to have a language everybody who speaks English can understand in order to communicate effectively, smoothly and efficiently.

Although everyone is taught standard English in their respective school systems, it's important for all English dialects and foreign languages to be celebrated as part of their respective cultures.

Children should be taught the language of their past generations to preserve all the cultures that have richly helped to create modern America.

There's a need for poetry written in jive, for oral history and folklore to be passed down in Gullah.

THE TOPIC

Ebonics

OUR OPINION

In order to share our diversity, we must be able to communicate.

Jewish children must learn Hebrew, and grandfathers should teach their third-generation American grandchildren the family prayers in Polish.

But the standard, central language should be taught and promoted in schools.

Dialects can be learned and understood once the core, recognized languages are taught.

Dialects such as ebonics should be respected and understood, as well.

It's important that even in the rigid rules of a language, a new way of thinking and speaking can grow.

English is not a dead language. It can accommodate different ideas.

As long as the core principles and rules of the language are respected, then all English speakers can communicate and effectively share our different cultures.

State must protect abused women

Thirty-six names were read aloud last Wednesday morning in Columbia's Memorial Park.

Once they might have been ordinary names of everyday women — mothers, daughters, sisters and friends. But Wednesday, they were the names of victims and statistics.

They were the names of South Carolina women who died in 1996 as a result of domestic violence.

Attorney General Charlie Condon read the names at a ceremony held in remembrance of the toll domestic violence is taking in the homes of our own state. The event, sponsored by Condon and Gov. David Beasley, drew a crowd of family members and friends of those who died from domestic violence.

So many times, the statistics associated with domestic violence seem cold, distant and almost unbelievable. But, by taking these statistics and giving them a name, life and story, it showed Columbia

THE TOPIC

Domestic violence

OUR OPINION

It's an atrocity women are dying because of their male relatives.

just how real the problem is.

What right is given to a man to hit, slap, shove, kick or otherwise abuse a woman simply because she is his wife, his daughter or sister? The days of ownership and property are long dead. Domestic abusers ought

to be punished even more severely than acts of assault and battery by a stranger, simply because the domestic abuser not only harms the woman physically, but he also takes away the safety of the one place everyone ought to feel safe and secure in — the home.

Identifying and addressing the problem is just one of the many steps women and men can take when combating domestic violence. Addressing the issue publicly is a nice public relations move on the part of the governor, but it doesn't stop the violence.

Women must be protected. They must be believed. If a woman is defenseless against an abuser, the state must step in.

THE TROUBLES OF CLIFF APARTMENT PARENTS...



Quote, Unquote

"The way you learn in life is from experience, and being somewhere where you experience other's experiences and they share yours is the best way to learn."

Berkeley junior Tamara Keith, on Berkeley's diverse student population and its importance

Greed destroys pleasure of sports

FRED LEACH
Columnist

What has happened to integrity in sports?

Just last week, the Florida Marlins won the World Series in their park called Pro Player Stadium. Everyone who keeps up with sports knows it used to be called Joe Robbie Stadium. Why the name change? Because some firm paid the Marlins and Dolphins to change the name of the stadium in some sort of grandiose advertisement. Apparently, it is no longer enough to put their name on the outfield wall.

The same has occurred in San Francisco, where Candlestick Park has been renamed 3-COM Park. Even our very own Carolina Panthers play in a renamed stadium. The original name, Carolina's Stadium, penned to signify the team belonging to both the Carolinas, was changed to Ericsson Stadium. Now our Panthers play in a stadium named after a company that makes cellular phones.

I was dismayed to learn the Braves' new stadium, which opened up this year, would be called Turner Field. I was hoping they would name it Aaron Field. However, Ted Turner has proven with his charitable donations that he is worthy of having his own park named after him.

Another thing that bothers me about sports is the outrageous salaries athletes demand and get. Kevin Garnett, a South Carolina native, recently signed with my favorite NBA team, the Minnesota Timberwolves, for a whopping \$123 million over six years. That is just ridiculous.

My friend, the business major, says they should be paid their market worth. Frankly, I don't care what Adam Smith or John Keynes would have to say about it, it's still ridiculous. Let's say the T-Wolves decide to pay Kevin Garnett only \$1 million per year for the next six years. Think of what could be done with the other \$117 million. Just imagine how many mouths that would feed. Garnett should be ashamed of himself, as should any one who would

"The greediness and selfishness that is so prevalent in sports today is truly taking away the enjoyment of it all."

pay a guy that much money to play basketball.

The greediness and selfishness so prevalent in sports today is truly taking away the enjoyment of it all. Just look at what the baseball strike has done to Major League Baseball. I would love to be a player. Shoeless Joe Jackson said in "Field of Dreams" that he would've played for nothing. That's me, as well as countless others who would gladly play for free as long as housing and food was taken care of. Forget the expensive cars and the houses, all I would need is a bat and a glove.

Kevin Greene, the former linebacker for the Panthers, now with the 49ers, is a perfect example of what is wrong in sports. He held out from the Panthers because he believed that he deserved more money. Forget the fact

that he had signed a contract the season before. Anyway, he held out and the Panthers eventually released him. Good for the Panthers for getting rid of him, but why was he not upright enough to honor the commitment he made to Carolina? Then, the man has the nerve to say on Sportscenter that it wasn't about the money.

Athletics is a reflection of our society as a whole. Unfortunately, the greed and lust for power and material goods are not unique to athletics. The fact that we pay people that much money and rename stadiums are just symptoms of a sick society. I am reminded of the fall of the Roman Empire when I think of sports in America. The most honored and revered people in the society near the end, were the gladiators — the athletes.

Letters to the Editor

Greek, Cliff explain differing sides

To the Editor,

The issue of Greek housing is one that has been debated and discussed heavily over the past few years.

Now, Dr. Gene Luna and the Department of Housing have done a wonderful job in constructing a concise plan to remedy this concern through the construction of Greek-sponsored housing facilities. In terms of the dispute over Greek housing and Cliff Apartments, I understand that any student would want to have a positive environment to live and learn in.

However, the views expressed by many of the students in Cliff Apartments were unfair, stereotypical and offensive to all who are Greek here at USC. Every student at Carolina has a right to be treated equally and respectfully. To say that it's factual that Greeks in general will cause crime, deviancy or be a threat to children is insulting and not rooted in statistical fact.

To pre-judge an entire segment of the USC family by sensationalized myth is illogical and irrational. To use a stereotype to classify Greeks and not allow fraternity and sorority students to live at a certain location on campus is also not open-minded, and it's certainly not "striving to learn from differences," as our Carolinian Creed, which we all pledged to honor, outlines.

We need to remember that as students, we are going to encounter others who are different than we are, but we must be mature enough to not judge each other on preconceived notions, stereotypes and prejudices.

Statistically, the overwhelming majority of Greek students do not cause crime, pose a threat to children or threaten the environment of Cliff Apartments, and concerned residents who live in Cliff Apartments should probably meet with the Greek organizations propos-

ing to live near them so a true understanding and dialogue can begin, instead of the senseless stereotypical sensationalism that has been written about USC Greeks.

In conclusion, I believe USC isn't choosing between families and fraternities because the two can peacefully coexist in harmony. Thank you and God bless Carolina.

Jamel R. Franklin
President of the Student Body

Cliff resident responds

To the Editor,

I would like to make clear a few things. Cliff Apartments is different than any other building on campus.

To qualify to live in Cliff, you must be a full-time student who is either married, has children, is a graduate student or an older (23+) undergraduate student. We are also the home for over 40 EPI (English Program for Internationals) students who rent 19 of our 105 apartments. We have residents here who are a few months old to residents with grandchildren.

Our residents represent over 20 countries and may be freshmen or Ph.D. students. With single students, married couples with and without children, single moms, international students, graduate students and undergraduate students, we are a very diverse group, likely the most diverse on campus. We also stay a lot longer than the average Residence Hall student — an average of two to three years. Cliff may also be the quietest building on campus. I have had one call about noise since I became Cliff's resident manager in July. I have had no discipline cases, nor do I anticipate any. This is a 12-month building. We don't go home on breaks or during the summer.

No, this is our home. Not unlike the homes many of you left to come to school here. This is where a lot of us are raising our children, sending them off to school, working hard toward our degree and working a job or holding at least one assistantship.

These are a few of the things that make Cliff different. These and many others make Cliff home in a very personal way. There is at any given time a waiting list of over 100 graduate students and families trying to get into Family and Graduate Housing, and it's not the cost. Our residents pay the highest rent on campus with an average of over \$7,000 a year. Cliff and its quiet community feel are the reason several students even come to USC and why many stay. We thought it to be a perfect fit for so many of us wanting to go back to school who have families depending on us.

Many of our residents were Greek and we all support the Greek system. We simply believe common sense would dictate that fraternity and sorority houses be placed to allow their members the freedom to the lifestyle they want out of their particular fraternity or sorority and that Family and Graduate Housing placement continue to be conducive to studying and raising a family.

I say all of that to say this: If the battle lines are to be drawn over this issue, and that seems inevitable, I want to make sure they are drawn where the real battle is. We in Cliff intend to battle. We are not battling Housing or the Greeks. In fact, we view them both to be on our side of the real battle. What we intend to battle is the decision made by the Board of Trustees mandating a Greek Village now. Not because we are against a new Greek Village. We share the board's view that having this vil-

lage will make our campus more appealing to incoming students.

No, our issue is that this current plan does not benefit Cliff, Housing or the fraternity or sorority housing they place here. So, if this is the best plan that the board and their steering committee can come up with, as we are being told, then it is evident there are no good plans.

I know the board has wanted a Greek Village for quite some time and they are tired of waiting. But to go ahead with this plan will surely destroy more than it will create. The board should not mandate that a poor plan be implemented in the name of impatience.

I know the idea of family housing on campus may be new or somewhat unfamiliar to some. I welcome you to visit us at 1311 Whaley St., across from the soccer field. This invitation is extended to the Board of Trustees members as well. I know the board members are busy. But we think if you see Cliff in person and walk the parking lot that is to become two Greek houses you will surely see that even though it looks acceptable on an architect's rendering, it doesn't make sense in real life terms. When real life terms were used to look at removing the vulture lots, common sense prevailed over what, on paper, I'm sure was a great idea.

To be mandated to choose between several poor options is not sound. No one wins. There is a time and a place for everything. This implies there are many situations when the time and place is not right. If the integrity of Cliff and its family atmosphere is important at all and this is the best option currently available, then this is neither the time nor the place. To be sure, it is not the place.

Fred Von Canon
Graduate student

The Gamecock

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

Adam Snyder
Interim Editor in Chief
Nikki LaRocque
Viewpoints Editor
Rosalind Harvey
News Editor
Sara Ladenheim
News Editor, Design
Marcus Amaker
Amy Shannon
Features Editors
Achim Hunt
Bryan Johnston
Sports Editors
Ben Pillow
Copy Desk Chief
Chris Dixon
Copy Editor

Susan Meyers
Photo Editor
Donnie Baker
Graphics Editor
Stephanie Sonnenfeld
Asst. Viewpoints Editor
Kristin Richardson
Cara Pellatt
Asst. News Editors
Nathan Brown
Asst. Sports Editor
Tori O'Hara
Asst. Photo Editor
Brian Rish
On-line Editor
Julie Baker
Chris Culp
Casey Decker
Jesse Hager
Creative Services

Ellen Parsons
Interim Director
of Student Media
Lee Phipps
Advertising Manager
Sherry F. Holmes
Classified Ad Manager
Carolyn Griffin
Business Manager
Jim Green
Creative Director
Michele Dames
Creative Services
Graduate Assistant
Erik Collins
Faculty Advisor

HOW TO REACH US

The Gamecock
Editor (803) 777-3914
News (803) 777-7726
ETC. (803) 777-3913
Viewpoints (803) 777-7726
Sports (803) 777-7182
Online (803) 777-3913

Student Media

Advertising (803) 777-1184
Classifieds (803) 777-1184
Fax (803) 777-6482
Office (803) 777-3888

WHO WE ARE

The Gamecock is the student newspaper of The University of South Carolina and is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and five times during the summer 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.

The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock.

The Department of Student Media is its parent organization.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 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 333.
The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letter for style, possible libel or space limitations. Names will not be withheld for any circumstance.