

►The wonderfully terrific columns of Erin Shaw are back this semester, at their usual Friday slot.

VIEWPOINTS

"Debate is one of the few activities where students can really apply and test the validity of what they learned in the classroom."
Corey Rose, varsity debate team

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TAKE OUR WORD

Apathetic student body disgraceful

An annual survey of over 250,000 freshmen at 464 colleges and universities will be released Monday by the University of California at Los Angeles. For 30 years, the study has been accepted as a valuable tool in assessing the perspectives of college freshmen.

This year's survey reveals that a dangerous epidemic of political, social and environmental apathy is sweeping the nation's university freshmen.

Apathy is unacceptable. Not only freshmen, but also the entire student body should be concerned and involved with prominent social issues presently facing our country.

At USC, the survey's results are right on target. Political indifference rears its ugly head in the form of voter apathy during student government elections. How pathetic that so few students take the time to exercise a right for which people fought and died.

Additionally, more and more of the freshmen surveyed don't feel play-

PROBLEM

Freshmen apathy is at an all-time high, annual survey says.

SOLUTION

Every student should become involved and concerned about issues facing society.

ing a part in social activism is important. According to the study, student interest in preserving the environment and fostering racial harmony have both been steadily declining since 1992. Again, the findings can be evidenced at USC as environmental clubs founder and racial hatred continues among us. Is our student body simply

insensitive to these monumental issues or just too lazy to care?

Of course it's up to each student if he or she wants to spend his or her college days in a drunken haze and addicted to nicotine (smoking is at an all-time high, the survey said).

But there's more to college than that. At some point, students need to take responsibility for the world around them which includes being aware and involved with political, racial, environmental and other social issues.

Without sufficient interest from the younger generations, our country as a whole will suffer.

Make these four or five years at this university count. It's high time every student's voice should be heard.

KKK leader lives in school name

Hitler High School. Lucifer Elementary School. General Forrest Middle School. One of these is a real name for a real school.

Let's discuss each name really quick. Hitler was the insane buffoon who had millions of people killed, mostly Jews, during World War II. Lucifer is another name for Satan, the devil. Civil War General Nathan Bedford Forrest was the organizer and first Grand Wizard of the racist hate group the Ku Klux Klan.

Now, are any of these figures worthy enough to have a public school named after them? Well, some seem to feel that "Mr. Hey Let's Put Sheets Over Our Heads And Burn Some Crosses" is the lucky name winner.

General Forrest Middle School is located in Gadsden, Alabama and is the middle school for some 500 hundred students, with 35 percent being black.

The school is currently under a campaign to be renamed something less offensive to current school board members and parents. The campaign

PROBLEM

School's name is that of a KKK creator, Nathan Bedford Forrest.

SOLUTION

Take it off! The school should be renamed for a positive history role model.

is led by a black school board member and a local white couple, who are sending letters to civic leaders to have the name changed.

The school district's superintendent, who is white, feels that the campaign is all for show. He feels that since Mr. Forrest was a "great war hero," his name deserves to remain on

the school. Those people campaigning are doing so for a worthy cause and they deserve all the support that they can get. That school is a representation of the students who go there and for them to be represented by the creator of the stupidest organization imaginable is ridiculous.

Though he didn't remain in the organization full time, the fact that he was at the root of the white supremacy craze in this country is fact enough to have his name removed from the school.

This is not only a stand against the organization itself, but it is a stand against all the idiotic and immature feeling of hatred that proliferates through our society.



college press EXCHANGE

Attending class best for MLK

When my family gets together to celebrate, there is always a classic Motown jam in the background, and old-fashioned soul food on the table. We love to sit around to talk and just have a good time. I would enjoy getting together with my family on Martin Luther King Jr. day just to reflect on our social progress and to listen to my grandma tell us about how far we real-



Felicia BROWN
Columnist

ly have come. Undoubtedly, Martin Luther King was an influential and popular man during his time. His ideas still ring throughout our nation. A man that accomplished so much deserves to be honored. But, what do we do as a na-

tion to celebrate his contributions? Usually there are a few social programs held in the evening, but there aren't any real traditions or practices concerning King that we as Americans hold in high esteem.

Classes aren't cancelled to give us time to acknowledge this national holiday, and everybody in my family is expected to be at work. The mailman doesn't run and the banks close. So many of my classmates gripe about having to attend class on MLK Day, but what would you do if you got the day off? I would sleep in, hang out with some friends, maybe do some laundry. Aside from the inconvenience of having to use the ATM machine instead of the friendly teller at Wachovia, Jan. 19 will be just like any other day.

I think King would be happy to know that we have to be in school. We don't need another excuse to skip class, instead we should remember King's message and try to apply it in our lives everyday.

I don't think it's too late to try to change the way we celebrate MLK Day. If, after the Civil Rights Movement,

"I think King would be happy to know that we have to be in school. We don't need another excuse to skip class, instead we should remember his message..."

work and school were cancelled in honor of King, and friends and family were encouraged to get together to revive racial harmony, this tradition may have been continued today. We could fry up some chicken and talk about the days when we were restricted to stay in the back and couldn't do things like demand a table in restaurants. Now, as a people, we can do as we please, when we please to do such. We have come too far not to look back and remember to appreciate the struggles of those before us. What King gave to us is invaluable. We should not treat any day with apathy and mere content.

In spite of continuing with our educational responsibilities, we should wake up on Monday and thank King for his efforts. He helped us dissolve some of the racial and social discrimination that once choked our nation. After class, we should get dressed up and join some of the organized celebrations over at the Koger Center. We should talk to the children around us about loving each other. We should set an example for them to follow. We should discuss race relations with our peers and elders, putting aside all stereotypes and obstacles. We should make use of this day and remember it during conflicts.

TV and movie lingo immortalized

Dude, it's so money. And it's so on, man, so on. Dude, man, you're like a bear, with these big freakin' fangs, and these big freakin' fangs, and that other person is just a little rabbit, and you're thinking to yourself, "how do I kill the rabbit with these big claws and



Kurt JOHNSON
asst. viewpoints.ed.

these big freakin' fangs?"

I'll tell you what, it's so money. It's amazing how TV shows and movies are enacted through our daily lives. I'm a movie hound, I love to watch movies and get the best one-liners and use them in my daily life. The same applies for television. I don't think a day goes by that I don't use some phrase, no matter how obscure, that I didn't hear off of television or a movie.

Well, la di freakin' 'da, you say. I just think it's cool how movies and TV are immortalized through our dialogue. Some sayings, such as "Show me the morons who are willing to fight on national TV over a broken fingernail"

from the movie Jerry McSpringer, are three and half (give or take a day) month fads that will eventually make a person look like a total baboon's patoot if that person ever says it in a sobered atmosphere.

Others, like "You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me?" (said by Bobby DeNiro) from the early '80s movie Taxi, are words that will be enshrined in the "Best One-Liners" Hall-of-the-Best-One-Liners.

Anywho, here's a run down of some of the classics that I try to use in everyday conversations, as well as the movie or show from which they came, and if possible, who says them:

"Dude, you're so money"—the cool thing here is the use of the word money to mean cool, amazing, and synonyms like that. If a person is "money," then they are cool or looking good or whatever. Anything can be "money." This came from the movie Swingers, which is a great film about a bunch of guys trying to pick up women. All the characters used it in the movie. Great film.

"Dude, it's on. It's so on"—from the same movie. Means, in the case of the movie, a "beautiful baby (see next one down)" is possibly interested in one of the guys. They would say this before going up to a girl to let the other guys know they had a possible hook up. Great line.

"Beautiful babies"—from Swingers, means very attractive women. Used mostly in connection with a party: "We're going to this party, there are going to be beautiful babies there."

"He or she plays for the other team" or "he or she can't switch teams; they like their team"—classic from Seinfeld, which refers to trying to get a lesbian or gay person to go straight or vice-versa.

"Not that there's anything wrong with that"—another classic from Seinfeld, which is said after one says that he or she is not gay.

"Hi there"—great little intro off the '70s smash-hit sitcom, Welcome Back Kotter.

"I'll make him an offer he can't refuse..."—great intimidation line of The Godfather. Dude, it's so freakin' money. It refers to people who are causing problems, and if they don't stop causing problems, then they get a new pair of concrete shoes to showcase at the bottom of the ocean. This, of course, has to be said with the scruffy, mumbled voice of Marlon Brando.

"Are you talking?"—used as an insult when someone else is talking and you don't want to hear them talk anymore or when a person is talking nonsense or stuttering or something. Originated by David Spade from Tommy Boy, I believe.

"Doh!"—famous words of Homer from The Simpsons every time he messes up.

"Hmmm... beeeeerrrr!"—another great one from Homer, though the noun can be replaced with a series of others: goo, chocolate, glue, mayonnaise, etc. I figured that this one could be more relatable. Often followed by "Doh!" when he realizes he can't have what he's "hmmmm"ing about.

"All you need to say is three words, 'I am gay'"—Homer's solution to an unwanted person hitting on you or liking you. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

"Well, la di freakin' da!"—great one from the late Chris Farley. A moment of silence please...sob, sob, sob, snuffle, snuffle...okay, I feel better. This has to be said really loud and really spastically, as to get the full affect of the phrase. Very similar to the meaning of "la di freakin' da."

"We're on a mission from God"—ah yes, the Blues Brothers, words that will carry on through eternity as words that will carry on through eternity. Well, isn't that special, I seem to be finished. They are a few more I use, but either I've forgotten them or I've just forgotten about them. Anyway, in the immortal words of me, IVE GOT TO GO (yell real loud and fast!)

The Gamecock

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STUDENT MEDIA
RUSSELL HOUSE
USC
COLUMBIA, SC 29208

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 the newspaper's parent organization.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tribute to late USC professor bypassed

To the editor:
This is in response to the featured article by Sara Ladenheim entitled, "1997: The Year in Review" which appeared in the Jan. 12 Gamecock. The section briefly noting Professor James Dickey's accomplishments at USC prompted me to write this "essay" letter as a tribute to the passing of another outstanding professor at USC, Dr. Amy B. Millstone.

Although not nationally known like Dr. Dickey, Dr. Millstone meant a great

deal to those of us who had the privilege of knowing her. Reading today's article was like a slap in the face to me. It bothered me that one year ago today marked her death and how quickly USC has seemed to have forgotten.

Dr. Millstone taught French language and culture at the Department of French and Classics for about twenty years. She knew Paris like the back of her hand and had a deep passion for the city. She dedicated her love of Paris by creating a course called "Paris through the Ages," which I took as an undergraduate student a couple of years ago.

The only way to describe Dr. Millstone that would sum up her personality would be to say that she was one-of-a-kind. I suppose what really drew me to her was her genuine concern for her students. To illustrate her uniqueness, she invited our class to her house for a final and very important get-together before our exam. How many professors would do that?

In fact, how many professors would give a student a wake-up call the next morning when they knew the student had stayed up all night putting the finishing touches on a senior thesis?

How many professors would invite a former student out for a cappuccino

to get the student's feedback on a class and how grading structures should be divided? How many professors would take a student out for a meal? How many professors would come forward from a crowd of honorary professors at a student's graduation and give the student a warm hug to congratulate them?

Dr. Millstone did all of these things for me, which is what made her so special to me. She was a "real" person and friend, not just the average professor. Indeed, USC has lost another distinguished professor and "friend."

Adrienne Fallaw
Graduate Student

The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be 250-300 words and must include full name, professional title or year and major if a student. Hand written letters must be personally delivered by the author to The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333. E-mail letters must include the author's telephone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for style, possible libel or space limitations. Names will not be withheld for any circumstance.