

Monday will kick off our regular tri-weekly (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) editions of *The Gamecock*. Be sure to look for it.

# VIEWPOINTS

"Students should be better educated about where their money goes."

Leigh-Ann Travers,  
Student Services Chairman

## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Jennifer Stanley, Editor in Chief  
Kurt Johnson, Viewpoints Editor  
Rob Gioelli, Assistant Viewpoints Editor  
Kathleen McCormick, Editorial Writer

### TAKE OUR WORD

## President's speech divides staff, public

In light of President Clinton's speech given to the American people telling the world that he had a sexual relationship with intern Monica Lewinsky, the editorial board of *The Gamecock* though this an appropriate issue to give our attention.

#### TOPIC

*The Presidential scandal has divided the public from the very beginning.*

#### OUR OPINION

*We are just as divided as the public, so we put it in your hands.*

time did I ask anyone to lie, to hide or destroy evidence, or to take any other unlawful action.

I know that my public comments and my silence about this matter gave a false impression. I misled people, including even my own wife. I deeply regret that.

I can only tell you that I was motivated by many factors. First, by a desire to protect myself from the embarrassment of my own conduct.

I was also very concerned about protecting my family. The fact that these questions were being asked in a politically inspired lawsuit, which has since been dismissed, was a consideration, too.

In addition, I had real and serious concerns about an independent council investigation that began with private business dealings 20 years ago. Dealings, I might add, about which an independent federal agency found no evidence of any wrongdoing by me or my wife over two years ago.

The independent council investigation moved on to my staff and friends, then into my private life. And now the investigation itself is under investigation.

This has gone on too long, cost too much and hurt too many innocent people.

Now, this matter is between me, the two people I love most -- my wife and our daughter -- and our God. I must put it right, and I am prepared to do whatever it takes to do so.

Nothing is more important to me personally. But it is private, and I intend to reclaim my family life for my family. It's nobody's business but ours.

Even presidents have private lives. It is time to stop the pursuit of personal destruction and the prying into private lives and get on with our national life.

Our country has been distracted by this matter for too long, and I take responsibility for my part in all of this. That is all I can do.

Now it is time -- in fact, it is past time -- to move on.

We have important work to do -- real opportunities to seize, real problems to solve, real security matters to face.

And so tonight, I ask you to turn away from the spectacle of the past seven months, to repair the fabric of our national discourse and to return our attention to all the challenges and all the promise of the next American century.

Thank you for watching, and good night.

With all the media hype for the past seven months, President Clinton finally admitting to the scandal has taken the matter to greater proportions.

And with that, when we as a staff came together to decide on what kind of stand to take on this issue, we found ourselves divided, with contrasting feelings on what to write about.

Some of us felt that his private life was his, while others felt that a man in such a high position does not have a private life and his every action should be reported to those who have hired him.

And so, we throw it out to you, the students. We are sure that you guys are as equally divided over this issue.

Provided below is the text of the speech President Clinton gave, which aired on national television Monday evening.

We hope that you will be inclined to offer us your opinions and insights via letters to the editor. We are going to let the words speak for themselves. The following is President Clinton's speech:

Good evening.

This afternoon in this room, from this chair, I testified before the Office of Independent Council and the grand jury.

I answered their questions truthfully, including questions about my private life -- questions no American citizen would ever want to answer.

Still, I must take complete responsibility for all my actions, both public and private. And that is why I am speaking to you tonight.

As you know, in a deposition in January, I was asked questions about my relationship with Monica Lewinsky. While my answers were legally accurate, I did not volunteer information.

Indeed, I did have a relationship with Ms. Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong. It constituted a critical lapse of judgment and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible.

But I told the grand jury today, and I say to you now, that at no



college press EXCHANGE

## Media hype because of Watergate

Having just returned from a brief sojourn overseas, I have encountered the barrage of media hype that is "Staingate." To be sure, the President's affair with Ms. Lewinsky is an important current event that should be covered confidently by the national press.



ROB GIOELLI  
columnist

But there is a subtle difference between press coverage and the Super Bowl-caliber circus running twenty-four hours a day on CNN, MSNBC, etc., and all over every newspaper large enough to cover more than the local softball league.

Obviously the American public must be greatly interested in this matter, or they wouldn't be reading the newspapers and watching the news programs. The media organizations know this, but

they want to make sure that if you are going to watch coverage of this whole fiasco, you are watching their coverage.

At the end of the day, the national press remain commercial organizations whose bottom line is making money. By having top-notch anchors and reporters, comprehensive coverage of all events, big name guests, and slick production, they hope you will watch them instead of the other stations. But on the national level, all the networks and the twenty-four hour news channels are pretty much equal in these areas. So, to lure the viewer over to their station they are forced to out scoop each other, even if there is nothing to scoop.

The birth of this phenomenon can probably be traced back to Watergate. *The Washington Post*, with two lowly reporters from the metro desk leading the charge, out scooped every major press organization in the country. *The Post* grabbed onto a story that everyone else thought was old news and ran with it, fighting the U.S. Government and the rest of the media the whole way.

Ever since then, no journalist, in the print or broadcast arenas, has wanted to be outdone on a story, especially some kind of political conspiracy, be-

"Ever since then, no journalist, in print or broadcast arenas, has wanted to be outdone on a story, especially some kind of political conspiracy, because it could be the next Watergate."

cause it could be the next Watergate. If there is some snippet of gossip, some anonymous quote or insider source that another paper or station doesn't have access to, then it will be exploited to the fullest. The public then believes that they have access to information that no other station or paper does, and they will keep watching and reading.

These tendencies are then magnified by our existence in the information age. Twenty-four hour news stations and Internet sites sell themselves as being able to provide coverage that is as up-to-date as possible. To keep us interested in their station or program, they do everything every other station is doing and more. Political scandals move fast, but in many ways not fast enough for our information age. Thus to fill time, we are barraged with

minutiae about stains and dresses. Rarely during the course of this whole fiasco have there been days as important as Monday, so there has been plenty of time to fill.

Hopefully this will all come to a head very soon. The fact of the matter is Bill Clinton is the leader of our country, and he has what many would say is the toughest and most important job in the world. If we have no respect for his ability to do this job, then we should impeach him right now. If we are not going to do that, then we should let the man go back to doing his job, which is what we are paying him for. Then the media, this paper included, can go back to covering things that are a little more relevant than presidential blow jobs.

## TV leads to a useless two weeks

Some people explored exotic locales, while some visited family. Others padded their resumes with summer jobs and internships.

But I, I took the road most traveled. I bought a TV. And I watched it. A lot.

Well, for two weeks anyway, after which I had my husband take it back to Wal-Mart.

Of course, they asked what was wrong with it. I don't know what he said, but I would've said this: "Well, ma'am I just liked it too much."

Really, I did like it. I watched those talk shows -- you know, the ones with really generic names like "tonight" and "late" -- and I was fascinated (not by the conversations, but by the fact that people would watch such insipid things. I felt like an anthropologist studying human entertainment rituals).

I also caught up on "Days of Our Lives," which I hadn't seen since eighth grade. I hadn't missed anything; the characters were played by different actors, but the same old story lines were in place. And I got to watch my fill of "Seinfeld," "Frasier," and "Mad About You" reruns.

I didn't read a book, or work on my own novel-in-progress, for two weeks. I was just too fascinated by what popular TV (excepting the three sitcoms mentioned above) says about us as a culture. Which is, of course, that we waaaaay too easily entertained.

Once the TV was gone, I became (after my brain recovered from hibernation) moderately productive again, which makes me wonder: imagine if all those hours spent watching TV were used for other purposes, like reading and writing. Imagine how much more thoughtful we'd become as a people.

So, reason number one for banning television: to smarten everyone up.

Reason number two: TV reprograms us, giving us expectations for our lives that are unrealistic, keeping us in a constant state of dissatisfaction. We'd be happier without it, and our lives and families would be in better states.

For an exploration of how this dissatisfaction sets in, read "The Little

"Don't worry if your TV is old or you bought it elsewhere, Wal-Mart will take anything back for some reason. Like we all learned on 'Seinfeld,' they just 'write it off.'"

Cloud," in *Dubliners* by James Joyce. No, there is no TV in the story, but what happens is this: A Dublin man, apparently happy with his wife and rather quiet life, meets up with an old friend who has seen the world, wine and dined -- all those things that are supposed to be glamorous and inspire envy. The friend is obviously shallow, but the man envies his freedom and experience.

So when the man goes home, he regards his wife with contempt and loses patience with his son.

What if our social ills were caused by virtually the same phenomenon? What if, whenever we watch "Melrose Place" or some such trash, we become jealous of these glamorous people with their sexier problems? We must be getting something from these shows.

To some extent, we are seeking escape from our experiences. Maybe on

some level we want to experience our lives more fully, and those commitments that hold us back -- our loved ones -- have to suffer our frustration.

Television could be responsible for the divorce rate. And I'm not even getting into the violence it inspires.

So here's a proposition: everyone take your TVs to Wal-Mart and get your money back, and let's see how much smarter and happier we become as a nation. Don't worry if your TV is old or you bought it elsewhere, Wal-Mart will take anything back for some reason. Like we all learned on "Seinfeld," they just "write it off."

I would love it if we really could have a TV blackout, just to see what would happen; I doubt many people would voluntarily go along with such an experiment. Any electronics experts who want to tell me how to get them all to stop working for a while, give me a call.

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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.

STUDENT MEDIA  
RUSSELL HOUSE  
USC  
COLUMBIA, SC 29208

WHO WE ARE		HOW TO REACH US	
<b>The Gamecock</b>			
Jennifer Stanley	Editor in Chief	Rob Lindsey	Copy Editors
Sara Ladsheim	Managing Editor	Jessica Barfield	
Kurt Johnson	Viewpoints Editor	Jackie Poston	
Josh Lonon	News Editors	Todd Money	
Erin Reed		Rosalind Harvey	Public Relations Director
Kristin Prestate	Features Editor	Rob Gioelli	Asst. Viewpoints Editor
Bryan Brown	Editorial Assistant	Brad Walters	Asst. News Editor
Nathan Johnson	Sports Editors	Kenley Young	
Nikki Thorpe	Photo Editors	Ruth Nettles	Encore Editor
Sean Rayford		Denisha Graham	Asst. Features Editor
Brian Rish	Online Editor		
<b>Student Media</b>			
Ellen Parsons	Director of Student Media	Erik Collins	Faculty Advisor
Lee Phipps	Advertising Manager	Jeff Shepfield	Graduate Assistant
Sherry F. Holmes	Classified Ad Manager		
Carolyn Griffin	Business Manager		
Jim Green	Creative Director		
		<b>Student Media</b>	
		Advertising 777-3888	
		Classifieds 777-1184	
		Fax 777-6482	
		Office 777-3888	

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 355. E-mail letters must include the author's telephone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letter for style, possible libel or space limitations. Names will be withheld for any circumstance.