

Good day. Hi, yeah, we just want you to know our e-mail address. It's **GCK-VIEWS@SC.EDU**. We appreciate your readership.

VIEWPOINTS

"I'm their football coach tonight. I certainly hope and expect to be back next year."

Brad Scott, USC football coach

Monday, November 23, 1998

The Gamecock

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The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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TAKE OUR WORD

Holidays not only time to be charitable

The holidays are rapidly approaching and suddenly USC has come alive with philanthropy. Bins for donations are all over campus with one goal in mind: to get people motivated to serve and give to others.

TOPIC

This time of the year offers many charitable events.

OUR OPINION

Charitable contributions could be given any time of the year.

Every year, most people forget the "me" attitude and bah-humbug, to show support for various charities. This is a good move on the part of humanity, but it seems to only shine during this time of the year.

Children, grandparents, wives, husbands and virtually all people from all walks of life need help and support during this time of the year. But what happens to them when the bins are collected and the fruitcake is gone?

While efforts to ease the struggles of the poor are commendable, there is no reason why the solicitation and food boxes shouldn't appear after this time of the year is over. The holidays are the hard-

est time of the year, but for those less fortunate, any time of the year is difficult.

The Gamecock and other predominant organizations on campus are all guilty of using the holidays to spur participation.

We need to recognize that the holidays are not the only time to take action, but a time to begin the habit of giving.

Instead of promising to lose that "freshman 15" or call home more often as the new year begins, we should all promise to continue the service we started during the holiday season.

If everyone in the USC community volunteered one hour once a month, USC would contribute nearly 30,000 hours a month to Columbia.

As for those who really have nothing, they probably would appreciate the attention and charity if it were consistent throughout the year.

Parking problem stems from inequality

Parking is a continual problem on USC's campus. Numerous articles, columns and editorials in this paper have discussed the issue, and almost every student has an opinion on it.

TOPIC

Garage inequality basis of problem.

OUR OPINION

University should charge different amounts for different garages.

We've commented before on how parking is so bad the system needs a complete overhaul. Of course, any significant improvements will take a few years.

That's unfortunate for those of us who hope to be out of here in a few years, but there are some things that could be done to improve the parking system right now.

One of these would be to install a certain degree of fairness in the current system.

Last week, the Division of Parking and Vehicle Services asked students who had garage spaces whether they wanted to renew their parking permits.

Prices didn't change for garage spaces. It's still \$160 a semester for a spot in the Pendleton, Senate, Blossom or Bull Street garages.

Students who have ever used any of these garages know the degree of security is not equal among them. The Bull Street and Blossom Street garages are the most obvious examples of this.

They are roughly equal in size, and only about 100 yards away from each other. Yet, Blossom Street is known as the "Blossom Street Ghetto," while spots in Bull Street are the most coveted on campus.

Pendleton and Senate garages fall somewhere in the middle of these two as far as safety, yet aren't as convenient for most students.

But all of them cost the same.

Parking and Vehicle Services needs to evaluate this system and rate the garages according to their pluses and minuses. Then, charges should be made different for each garage.

This would simply be a sign of good faith to the students — an understanding that all the garages at USC are not equal.



Russian nervous about Thanksgiving

Cocky is normally known to be a happy bird. The surprising predictability of Carolina's losing game after game this football season doesn't seem to wipe the smile off his face. Well, he's probably not going to be ecstatic this week. Millions of his very close relatives are going to make a special "hot and spicy" appearance on dining room tables this Thursday.

Honestly, I'm a little nervous about Thanksgiving. First of all, the holiday seems to be especially designed to hit a male's weakest spot: his stomach. Boy, women are exceptional at cooking for this holiday. They spare no man.

By Thursday evening, endless couches across the country are going to be covered by food-stuffed, moaning and breathless husbands, sons and relatives. Having too much good food in one sitting can be so cruel!

Secondly, I am going to meet the parents of my class' most beautiful and

very popular girl. We're just friends, but I still feel uneasy and very much excited. Her parents are going to judge me as being representative of the classmates she hangs out with. So I guess showing up in a rented pilgrim's costume or demonstrating bouts of obsessive eating is not an option.

More importantly, I should keep quiet about the fact that many students here, although not her, traditionally shift to bars and clubs after one of our night classes in the middle of the week, where we stay until 2 a.m.

In short, I was chosen out of a big pool to represent our diverse and "nothing-human-is-repulsive-to-me" class. It might be a little difficult, but this kind of a thrill makes this holiday a genuine one, not just another day off to watch TV.

But Thanksgiving is not just a mechanical consumption of a turkey. It's a good time to think about thankfulness.

Even though you may be pissed off at your life and the rest of the human population at times, I'm sure there are a bunch of things you should have gratitude for.

You probably drive a car and eat hamburgers, which do contain some amount of real meat. People in rural Africa and Latin America who live on a few bucks a month can't even think

"Even though you may be pissed off at your life and the rest of the human population at times, I am sure there a bunch of things you should feel gratitude for."

of that. And it's not like they chose to live there.

Many of you probably care only to change the TV channel if it gets boring. People of North Korea or Cuba are still brainwashed with same-shit-different-day communist propaganda on their few government-controlled channels, and maybe risk their lives if they dare to watch the "enemy's" cartoon, with Mickey Mouse.

It's not that I'm trying to make you aware of all the problems of the world.

I'm just reminding people that being born in a democratic country with a well-developed economy is a very good start, something that one can be genuinely thankful for.

Generally speaking, there are a lot of people who should be thankful for many things, even though it might not seem so at first glance.

For instance, everybody believes that the recent White House saga is a

really embarrassing matter, so all involved are cross with each other.

On the other hand, the brunette should be thankful to Mr. President for becoming a national star with a 100-percent public awareness in just five minutes or so (I didn't time it).

Mr. President should be thankful to the brunette for reinforcing his "hunk" image, which seemed to play a winning role for his party in this November's elections.

I'm personally thankful for beautiful women and funny comedians, interesting people and cinema, the ability to be creative and a right to hope to be better and make the most of my dreams one day.

I can't remember everything I feel thankful for but I do recall the main thing: I am damn grateful to be living.

Walking best way to avoid headaches

Anyone reading this column who knows me at all is probably already laughing. Too often, my friends say, I bemoan the fact that I don't have a car. The more I think about it, though, the more I realize how lucky I am not to drive. Especially on a campus as large as USC, a



BRAD WALTERS
columnist

car can become little more than a nuisance. According to USC's Parking Services division, only about 4,300 reserved spaces exist on the entire campus, including parking garages and other reserved parking.

Then you have the 1,300 university parking meters, for which students have to compete with everyone else.

Thirty-seven hundred "decal spaces" exist in areas like Bates, the pit and the coliseum for those who don't want to spend \$160 for a reserved space.

Many of these decal spaces are located in BFE (a not-so-nice term for "a long way from the center of campus"), which means you have to either walk or take the ShuttleCock to get to your classes from there.

The shuttle isn't exactly known as the most dependable mode of transportation around. And either way, you have to get to campus 30 minutes early to ensure getting to class on time.

Last I checked, there are about 26,000 students who attend classes on this campus. Do the math — there are nowhere near enough parking spaces to accommodate everyone.

This begs the question: Why even drive at all? Sure, there are some people who have to commute to class or drive to work from campus.

For the rest of us, having a car makes no sense. We can get virtually anywhere we need to go without one.

Take, for example, the need for groceries and other supplies. I'm sure the majority of us careless po'folks on

campus know at least someone with a car, and most of the people I know who have cars go to Wal-Mart at least once a week. It's a simple matter of hitching a ride with a reliable friend.

Don't take this to mean you should mooch off the transportation of others. I have literally lost friends because they got annoyed with me asking them for rides.

Options for off-campus food do exist close by, although you may have to go off the beaten path to find them.

My personal haven is the Food Lion on Harden Street. For a moment, as I walk the streets with my groceries, I almost feel like an inner-city dweller. Why I get gratification from this, I don't know. My point is that a college kid can, in fact, survive without a car.

Grocery stores aren't the only places within walking distance. Main Street, the Vista and Five Points are just a few of the options available. Most of us could use the added exercise.

Yeah, living on campus may have its drawbacks — the main one, in my case, being the constant sounds of construction and leafblowers at 8 a.m. — but I'd rather have that than have to

deal with stop-and-go rush-hour traffic on Huger or Blossom Street each day.

A co-worker of mine has found a way of dealing with traffic problems.

She simply parks at a metered spot in front of her apartment every day, without feeding the meter, and lets the parking tickets fall where they may (even if they fall conveniently on her windshield). That's just fine, if you have time to fight each and every ticket in court — which she actually does.

Since the parking situation on campus isn't going to be improving anytime soon, I think walking is all we can do to beat the system for now. I don't expect everyone out there to abandon their cars tomorrow, but maybe I'll snag a few freshmen or prospective students who are trying to decide whether to bring a car to school next year.

After all, the fewer disgruntled drivers on campus, the less chance I have of getting run down when I cross Greene Street every day.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Singleton's column disturbs readers

To the editor,
We are angered and, frankly, disturbed, by the Nov. 13 column by Shawn Singleton entitled "It's time for Scott to go," in which he states, "By the way, let's make one thing perfectly clear: there is a difference between women and vermin. The difference is not much, but there is one."

It is quite obvious that this statement is inflammatory and inspired by hatred, and the fact that was rather

awkwardly inserted into a column on the sports page further underlines this.

While we are all strong defenders of the First Amendment, we think it is important to realize that this kind of speech has nothing to offer a democratic dialogue — in fact it serves to squelch that dialogue. Instead these kinds of words cause harm and serve to perpetuate the culture of sexism. If other racial or ethnic (African-Americans or Hispanics, for example) and/or religious groups (Jews, for example) were inserted into that quotation in place of women, the outcry would be immediate. The outcry should be no less im-

mediate when the hatred is directed towards women.

Our intent is not to call for Singleton's resignation but simply to make it perfectly clear that such statements do not reflect the University as a whole and will certainly not be silently tolerated by those of us who are associated with it as students, staff and faculty.

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