

Come on, everybody's doing it. See your name in bold print. Demand your 15 minutes. Write us. GCKVIEWS@SC.EDU.

Viewpoints

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"Because of all the conflict and problems, my mother hasn't seen her parents in 20 years."
Misbaal Awwad, HRTA junior,
Jordanian citizen

Friday, February 12, 1999

The Gamecock

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The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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TAKE OUR WORD

Senators might try to define morality

The Senate can't agree on whether to censure President Clinton, nor can it even agree to what degree it cannot agree on whether to censure him.

Depending on which senator gets to the press first each morning, a censure agreement is "a rose that is beginning to wilt" (Larry Craig, R-Idaho) or "picking up support" (John Chafee, R-R.I.). And certainly no one agrees on what to actually put in the thing if they can get that far.

But a recurring theme in Beltway chatter is the "immorality" of his crimes. The president has been befriended, by people who have no stake in the matter, because he's being persecuted for a "victimless" crime, and every time senators try to make the president's crimes "immoral," they dilute the gravity of Clinton's actions and fuel the fire that victimizes the man who's supposed to have left no victims.

The articles of impeachment don't list crimes that have no victims. Student parking tickets are evidence of victimless crimes; Clinton, on the other hand, has hurt his employees, disgraced the of-

TOPIC

Talk of a Senate censure includes addressing morality.

OUR OPINION

The Senate should be concerned with ethical violations, not moral judgments.

office and cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

The articles of impeachment don't list crimes that are immoral; they list crimes that violate the ethical code of the most important job in the world.

One senator has even said that a censure resolution is an opportunity to define the morality of America.

Politicians defining the morality of America? Every time senators make a statement like that, they undermine the fact that the trial is not about sex.

This impeachment trial is about lying, it's about arrogance, it's about the abuse of power (even though that article didn't make it), it's about a president disgracing the office.

It has nothing to do with morals, and every time a senator tries to make a Sunday school lesson out of this trial, he twists the government's structure further out of the shape the founding fathers built for this country.

Our Constitution was designed so that this country's chief executive may be held accountable by the voters for "immorality" if so they choose; the legislators may punish acts and acts alone.

Journalism class rights old wrong

It's nice to see our generation doing good.

Journalism students in an investigative journalism class at Northwestern have researched and ultimately freed a man on death row. The inmate, who had been wrongly convicted, was on death row for more than 15 years.

Writers, psychologists and educators have found terms for the younger generations: Generation X, Generation Y. They might as well call us the "failed generation" or the "generation of complaints."

Our generation is immersed in an epidemic of AIDS, drug-addicted babies, child murderers and other negative issues that characterize us to the rest of the world. And when we arise from our notorious apathy to complain, we

TOPIC

Journalism students' research freed a man on death row.

OUR OPINION

This act should give everyone hope that our generation will change the world for the better.

rarely take action to fix the problems that plague our society. We are more reactive than proactive.

So it's wonderful to see some students, members of our generation, working to improve another individual's life for the sake of justice and convictions.

This man owes his life not to lawyers, activists or a guilty man who decided to confess.

He was freed by members of Generation X and their professor who decided to take action against something they viewed as unjust.

These students went beyond the present-day stereotypes to prove the skeptics wrong. With more people like them, our generation might be able to turn its reputation around - and the world along with it.



SEAN DELUNA, Staff Cartoonist

Hangovers make the night last all day

Thanks to all the drug education programs we had in high school, most of us are aware of all the long-term dangers of abusing alcohol. Alcoholism, depression and liver damage are just a few of the health problems strong drink can bring about.



ROB GIOIELLI
columnist

But there is one problem they didn't seem to mention in my sophomore health class: hangovers. I guess they think you will learn for yourself what it feels like to wake up with your head in a vice grip and your mouth as dry as the Sahara.

Like every other sane person in the world, I originally dreaded this morning torture session. I would make attempts to control my drinking and then consume lots of water before I went to bed. But over the past few years, I've come to an agreement with those weekly bouts of the "I'm never going to drink again" syndrome. I don't necessarily enjoy my hangovers now, but I can

endure them. And I've learned they can actually have some good points.

Throughout my college career, some of my best times have been sitting around with some good friends and just drinking a couple dozen beers. I enjoy these times as much as ever, but in certain situations, the next morning can be just as good a time.

I love waking up on a Saturday morning after a night of drunken depravity. My roommates and I sit around, all woozy and disoriented, blindly reaching for the juice and cigarettes. But soon enough, our brains try to start functioning, and we try to recall what happened the night before. Soon we start laughing as we remind each other of what we actually did, then we laugh even more trying to figure out why we did it. The bonding that occurs was just like the night before, except this time we actually remember what happens.

Earlier this year, my friend's little sister was telling me how she hated hangovers. I disagreed, trying to point out their good points. Her boyfriend backed me up with an excellent point. This freshman, obviously wise beyond his years, argued how a hangover was the best excuse to do nothing all day.

"This freshman, obviously wise beyond his years, argued how a hangover was the best excuse to do nothing all day."

As many know, even after you've drunk 23 glasses of water and the headache is gone, that monkey is still with you for most of the day. As a friend once so accurately described it, it's like you're a radio, but with a hangover: You've been tuned just a little bit off perfect reception.

Usually, the only thing I'm able to do is loaf around. I have no energy to leave the house except to maybe grab some food. I know cable television was invented for people like me. With 80 channels, I can sit around in my underwear all day without a care in the world. I used to give myself a guilty trip about these days I would completely waste. But most attempts to study or be productive are futile. The most I can pull together is throwing away the empty beer cans at about 5 in the afternoon.

This is how I prefer to spend my hangovers, but unfortunately, the slacker paradise can only be a reality on the weekends. Most days, I have to do some-

thing, even if it is just making an appearance in class.

On days like these, depending on how early one has to rise, the hangover can be vicious. The same factors that can make it so enjoyable on the weekends make it an abomination on the days when responsibility actually takes precedence over laziness.

I've gone to work at 7 in the morning thinking I would have enough miracles for sainthood if I made it through the day. Early-morning classes have beckoned after some midweek booze ups, and I'll sit in the back with bloodshot eyes, hoping the professor realized I wasn't able to be my normal, opinionated self.

I realize that college life will soon be over and that I won't have the luxury of drinking and being hungover with such frequency. But I'll still revel in those days when my stomach was doing somersaults, there was a bass drum in my head and football was on television all day long.

Term 'moral authority' has no authority

One phrase that has been thrown around like a bad ventriloquist's voice during the past year by commentators both professional and amateur is the buzzword "moral authority."



EMILY STREYER
columnist

Lewinsky scandal.

The president no longer has the "moral authority" to command support for his actions in the Middle East. The president is regaining some of his "moral authority," and from the polls, mind you. I don't know what "moral authority" is supposed to be, but if one gets it from high poll ratings, I don't think I want it. I don't think I want my president to have it, either.

Why are we so concerned about moral authority and whether our leaders have it? I realize, certainly, that our leaders, whether they are statesmen (ha), athletes, clergy, artists or intellectuals, are leaders precisely because we look up to them, and people have a need for leaders not merely to get things done, but for inspiration and guidance. But what exactly does "moral authority" have to do with it?

Because I'm still not sure what, exactly, "moral authority" means, I parse the phrase for its literal meaning. Authority over morals? Authority exercised in a moral manner? Authority on moral issues?

And what morals have to do with a crisis in the Middle East has got me, too. I suppose that because war is not a nice thing and military action involves, to paraphrase Rush Limbaugh, breaking things and hurting people, which are also not nice things, that people need someone who has moral authority, like President Clinton, to say it's okay to do those mean things. For the sake of morals? Or for the global economy, balance of world power (which is pretty good coming from us) or the prevention of a worse war?

"I don't know what 'moral authority' is, but if one gets it from high poll ratings, I don't think I want it."

Authority certainly has its uses, but I'm not sure "moral" authority is a good thing. My radical idea is that people should think for themselves, and that includes creating personal moral codes that do not violate other people's rights. The only moral authority a person should have is over his or her own. And every person should have authority over his or her own morals.

No one talks about "ethical" authority, which I could understand more than "moral" authority. Ethics of office are far easier to defend than morals of office. Ethics pertain to a group and can be dictated. Morals cannot.

Morals don't last. Rights last. Just in the past few decades in this country, the "immorality" of homosexuality, atheism, women in the workplace and black people in the front of the bus has crumbled as the rights of more people have

been increased and continue to strengthen. Americans become more open-minded, and some people, those who probably know what "moral authority" is and have more of it than I do, think we're going to hell for it. Progress is an exchange of morals for rights.

And I think that's a good thing. Morals I can take care of on my own; rights, I need someone to acknowledge or else I expend an awful lot of energy.

So who cares if President Clinton has lost his "moral authority" or gotten it back, or if the Senate doesn't have the "moral authority" to convict him? Let's skip the morals and stick to the facts. I care about more concrete things: President Clinton has lied and obstructed justice. These acts might offend morals, but more importantly, they violate rights and a code of ethics. "Moral authority" is just a buzzword.

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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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SUBMISSIONS

SG candidate treated unfairly

To the Editor:
Despite the triumphs and valiant efforts of *The Gamecock* to publish clear and unbiased news, occasionally the context of a story can be blurred. As a friend and fraternity brother, Norm Jones has always accepted responsibility in his role as philanthropy chair of Delta Tau Delta. His integrity and genuine compassion for others de-

finis his character. In response to the SG violations article of the Feb. 10 edition, senate candidate Norm Jones was unfairly portrayed on two accounts:

1) Preceding his response in his testimony before the Elections Commission, Jones stated, "In all honesty." Honesty - something we haven't seen much of in politics over the last year. Rather than try to be truthful yet misleading, Jones was completely honest in his testimony. Jones admitted an error and took action to correct the incident.

2) In response to postings in the Humanities Building, Jones simply pointed out that others had posted in the same location and should be warned before they, too, were slapped with a violation.

The reasoning for his posting in Humanities was out of respect for a custodian who instructed Jones' staff on areas where it would be acceptable to post and would not require the custodian to remove the posters. Again, Jones accepted full responsibility for these actions without relying on an excuse.

It is obvious that the entire context of a story cannot be printed because of space limitations, but, as in this instance, sometimes stories can unknowingly be portrayed through a critical lens. I commend you on your efforts of elections coverage. It is vital for the student body to be informed of the issues that govern our daily routines. However, the press should always exercise caution when delivering the news.

Graham Newman
English Sophomore

Submissions for columns are welcome from all members of the Carolina Community. They must be between 650 and 750 words in length, and guest columnists can only be printed twice a semester. Please deliver all submissions to Russell House room 353, or call 777-7726.
The Gamecock will try to print all letters. Letters should be 250-300 words and must include full name, phone number, professional title or year and major if a student. Handwritten letters must be personally delivered by the author to the Russell House room 353. E-mail letters must include the author's telephone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for style, length or space. Names will never be withheld.