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# Viewpoints

"It is often said that the test of true leadership is how one responds under adversity."

William Hubbard, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Friday, February 26, 1999

The Gamecock

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## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## TAKE OUR WORD

## USC should provide 24-hr. dining option

College students have many unorthodox habits. Going to bed at unusual hours is one of them, and eating late at night is another. Whatever activities USC students participate in until the early hours of the morning are shadowed, however, by the lack of an on-campus 24-hour food venue.

USC students express an interest in this on a daily basis. Ask any of the local takeout services to name their busiest hours during exam time, weekends or special events, and undoubtedly those hours fall beyond the traditional 9 p.m. closing of the Grand Marketplace and midnight closing of Chick-Fil-A.

Many other universities that the USC administration often compares us with have 24-hour food places with availability for their students to pay with their university meal plans or cash cards. UNC-Chapel Hill, Emory University and the University of Vir-

## TOPIC

An all-night dining facility that can be used with meal plans.

## OUR OPINION

There's a demand for it, so the university or Marriott should provide the service.

ginia and schools around the region all provide their students with such opportunity.

Many schools allow their student meal plans to apply to off-campus eateries. If a 24 hour venue is not what USC has in mind, another solution is to invite off-campus eateries that have a lot of their business based on USC students to allow those students to use their cash cards to order food in the aforementioned after-hours.

By limiting the hours of on-campus establishments to before the midnight hour, USC is losing out on an opportunity to make money and keep students safe inside their dorm rooms.

Satisfied students perform better in the classroom. Having a 24-hour eating establishment at USC is something our student body wants. Looking at the quality of the other universities that offer 24-hour services to their students proves this point.

## Weather befuddles USC administration

The Great Blizzard of 1999 has come and gone. And although it wasn't with us long, it showed yet another weakness at this university.

While many schools in the area closed and others, like Midlands Tech and Benedict College, delayed classes, USC chose to hold classes. We applaud the administration for not canceling all classes, but we also question its dedication to off-campus students by not delaying the early-morning classes.

USC spokesman Russ McKinney said getting to class should be easy for about 9,000 students — the 6,000 who live on campus and the 3,000 off-campus students who can walk to school easily. Considering about 26,000 students attend USC, that leaves more than 50 percent of them who might have trouble getting to class.

By 7 a.m. Wednesday, there were about 30 accidents in the Columbia area. By Wednesday evening, there were 250 throughout the upstate and Columbia, and one was fatal.

## TOPIC

Wednesday's freak snowfall.

## OUR OPINION

The administration was inconsiderate to students by not delaying classes.

USC placed commuting students in danger by forcing them to drive on the interstate to school. We imagine many students were late to class because of traffic, icy roads and accidents.

When commuters did get to USC, they found the Shuttlecock to be delayed until at least two hours after the first students arrived on campus. It's ironic that USC deemed the roads too dangerous, or maybe just too much of a liability, to run the shuttle, yet saw no problem with putting commuting students on the roads.

We hope the administration will encourage professors to give students who were late to class the benefit of the doubt by letting them make up exams or not be counted absent or tardy.

And, although we appreciate the administration remaining rational while the rest of Columbia went into crisis mode, we hope next time it will consider the danger of putting students on the roads with the rest of snow-crazed Columbia.



## 'Senator Clinton' not best for country

"Our Congress comprises men and women who are supposed to represent the concerns of the states that elected them."

The mockery that politics has become is no more evident than in the rumors that Hillary Clinton,



EMILY STREYER  
columnist

(or Hillary Rodham Clinton, as she became known after her husband was safely elected with some of the "traditional" vote) will run for Senate. If this possibility is merely a rumor, it has managed to sustain itself in the press for an impressive amount of time. Few rumors with no real substantiation manage this feat. And sometimes, when a rumor is repeated enough, it becomes true. (Remember how many couples were created in high school as a result of gossipy whispers and nosy glances? Sometimes cause and effect are interchangeable.)

I was surprised, in fact, to learn of her running for a New York seat. "What?" I thought. "She doesn't live there!" Our Congress comprises men

and women who are supposed to represent the concerns of the states that elected them. Hillary Clinton would be using the state as a means to a title. That's not the way it's supposed to work.

There's no legal barrier to her running, of course; she maintains a residence in Manhattan and apparently spends the requisite amount of time per year (if there is one) in the state. And, as voters go, the fact that she doesn't know anything about what New Yorkers need from Congress today will serve as no barrier — charisma, brand loyalty and sound bite have long been the primary criteria for the election of politicians on all levels. Statesmen no longer exist.

I have not seated myself at my computer for the purpose of Hillary-bashing. That arena is quite full. I respect her achievements, such as they are. She came from an era where women having ambitions was a new idea, and she was one of many trailblazers for today's women, who now graduate from college to find at least as many choices as men. Women my age owe a lot to women Hillary's age. I don't consider her the heroine of Modern Woman, however. She rode to power on her husband's coattails. There's a point to be made, of course, for breadwinning and a strong

woman behind every successful man, etc., but arguing cases in front of judges whom one's husband had the power to fire is not making it on one's own. It's not even playing fair.

The most intriguing Shakespearean character for me is Lady Macbeth. I can't condone her actions, but I can't dismiss her, either. On the one hand, I see a woman who protects those close to her at all costs, who has no uncertainty about her code of ethics (however unique), who justifies herself to no one. On the other hand, I see someone whose goals are so focused that it little matters what is destroyed in her efforts — and she's not a stand-by-your-man type of woman. A woman like Hillary — educated feminist, accomplished professional, self-reliant individual, opinionated spokeswoman — doesn't put up with a man like Bill — pathological liar, incorrigible adulterer, poll-worshipper — without quite a few good reasons, and only the most naive of Clin-

ton supporters would imagine that the main one could be love or duty.

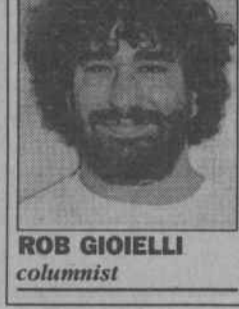
I began to have more respect for her when she quit trying to please everybody. As much as I never thought I would say it, I think she can help this country. Her formidable intellect and drive can do great things for this country, if they are well-directed.

Senate is not the place for her to do them, however. It is not so much that she isn't qualified to hold a Senate seat — she's no worse than others who do, I suppose — but our legislative and executive branches are at a point of breakdown. Respect for our battered Constitution is the only thing that lends the presidency and Congress credibility, and new blood is desperately needed. If it were up to me (and it's lucky for most, probably, that it isn't), I'd fire everyone and start over.

We need a break from the Clinton name in politics. Our country needs time to heal.

## Stereotypes come in all shapes, sizes

A couple of weeks ago, I was watching an MTV program that examined the murder of Matthew Shepard. Occasionally, the voice of our generation airs programs that examine social issues that affect young people, and that's what was done here.



ROB GIOIELLI  
columnist

The program covered the facts of the Shepard killing and its aftermath. A discussion on homosexuality, prejudice, hate crimes and hate-crime legislation followed. To explore these issues, MTV brought together groups of students from four different universities, one of which was the College of Charleston.

From C of C, it focused on two members of the group: a black ex-Marine who was openly gay and a white male, who can best be classified as a

traditional conservative. The black guy explained what it was like to be black and gay in South Carolina, and the conservative male expressed his disapproval of homosexuality on moral grounds.

In addition to the depiction of the classic stereotypes of the conservative Southern white and liberal black, what struck me most about this part of the program was the camera work during the interview. The white male was wearing a denim shirt with a Confederate flag embroidered on the breast pocket. While he was talking, the camera zoomed in on this small Confederate flag.

I doubt he asked them to focus in on it. It was quite obvious MTV was trying to make a not-so-subtle point: "Hey, America, look at this homophobic, prejudiced Southerner. He's so backward, he still wears the Confederate flag!"

This is the image many Americans outside the South hold about the white Southerners: They're backward and bigoted, speak with a country twang, and spout religious moralism.

I don't consider myself conservative or religious, so I didn't agree with what this man was saying. But what I noticed more than his religious proselytizing and homophobia was how a supposedly informed and professional media outlet like MTV was engaged in cultural stereotyping.

In just 30 seconds, MTV had formed a definite link between the Confederate flag and this person's outwardly conservative views. Was it trying to do this, or was it simply playing on widely held stereotypes of the South?

I'd have to agree with the latter; anything else would give MTV more credit than it deserves.

This just goes to show that stereotyping occurs in all arenas of popular culture and that all groups can be subject to it. We tend to think of historically oppressed groups, such as African Americans, women and homosexuals, as the only ones that are subject to these kinds of gross generalizations.

Even though these groups are the ones that stereotyping does the most harm to, it's ironic that, in a program attempting to educate people about homosexuality and hate crimes, something meant to help break down the

barriers of oppression tries to accomplish its goal by constructing more negative stereotypes.

As a member of the media, it's hard for me to openly condemn MTV for this portrayal. Its program had great intentions, just like a lot of stuff on television. But the limitations of the medium make it hard to accurately portray all groups and opinions.

Television programs have to fit a topic into an hour or half-hour show. And they have to make it interesting. These are the same limitations placed on us in the print media, except we are short on space rather than time.

But it's still our responsibility to be as truthful as possible in the portrayals we make. To me, MTV was not fulfilling this duty when it focused in on the Confederate flag on that guy's shirt.

And not only the media need to be conscious of stereotyping — we all do. Stereotyping happens every day to different types of groups. Only by realizing when generalizations occur, and then fighting against them, can we ever hope of becoming an open and honest society where all are treated with respect.

## SUBMISSIONS

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## Editorial board fails on Univ. 101

## To the Editor:

Last week's "Our Opinion" regarding the University 101 program was atrocious. As a former student in one of the classes — and as a Peer Leader last semester — I can attest to the sound theory and practices behind this innovative program.

The grade I earned in University 101 was not an easy A. As part of the course, I performed serious research, helped out with an ambitious service project and wrote numerous reflective papers on the myriad topics our class discussed. The class I helped teach was similarly rigorous; indeed, my frequent

concern was that we were being too hard on our students.

In the course, many topics are addressed that students simply don't have the chance to discuss in other courses. We spent more than one class last semester heatedly debating the case of David Cash. Students held forth on issues ranging from drug legalization to the Confederate flag above the Statehouse. And numerous speakers helped us start conversations on sexuality, the appreciation of diversity and the value of community service.

According to *The Gamecock*, the program "looks good in theory," but "in practice... leaves much to be desired." If the editorial board had bothered to research the program it chose to bash,

it would learn that students who take University 101 are much more likely to graduate in four years. Other statistics testifying to the success of this program abound. Perhaps the most impressive fact about the program here is that it serves as a worldwide model for first-year student education. The National Resource Center for the Freshman Year Experience and Students in Transition is one of the university's best-known programs. It was obnoxious to run such a boneheaded editorial on the first day of the center's 18th annual national conference.

*The Gamecock* has managed to run several pathetic pieces that disparage feminists this year. Student Government began an admirable service

program, Second Serving, and our paper had only complaints. And in my favorite example of editorial arrogance, *The State* newspaper was taken to task for — brace yourself, here's a major journalistic offense — using large type in its major headlines.

To this illustrious list, we can now add a salvo against the highly prestigious, nationally recognized University 101 program. I shudder in sympathy for the next victim. If Pepperdine is still interested in hiring sadistic doctors of spin, it should dispatch a recruiter to the third floor of the Russell House.

Jenny Malizia  
Political Science Senior

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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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