



# Viewpoints

## QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"The reason why you haven't seen a Klansman is because they don't burn crosses in your yard."  
S.C. State Sen. Darrell Jackson

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2000

The Gamecock

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## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## Cuban boy should be returned to father

The international tug of war between Cuba and the United States over the plight of Elian Gonzales highlights most nightly news hours and has been discussed from the kitchen tables across America to the Columbia GOP debate. What is right for the child seems to have been overshadowed in many instances by protest and in the case of the Republicans, a chance to show aging dictator Fidel Castro who has the upper hand in regards to freedom.

Though it is true that the boy's mother died trying to illegally gain entrance into the United States from Cuba, where the boy's father still lives, leaving this 6-year-old to have to decide between living with his only surviving immediate family member and having a taste of freedom is ridiculous and unfair. The boy belongs with his father regardless of the political situation in his homeland.

The situation needs to be addressed immediately with someone taking a stand for what is right for the child. If anything, the role of Gonzales' mother should be questioned. Though she wanted to leave Cuba and knew the only way was illegally, she endangered her son's life to do so.

While the United States has offered a visa to Gonzales' father, if he does not wish to raise his son in the United States, he has every right not to do so. After all, he is a parent, and the responsibility for the child is his.

## Career Center needs to offer better services

The USC Career Center should be the first place students turn to in their job and internship searches. However, the primary research tool students use in conducting job and internship searches today is the Internet, and the Career Center's Web site leaves much to be desired.

Students won't find any job or internship postings on USC's Web site. What they will find are links to other schools' Web sites, such as the University of Virginia, that do have postings.

Students also won't find any help on how to make a resume on the Web site, but they will find directions on how to schedule an appointment with the Career Center for help or how to register with the fee-based resume expert computer program that is necessary for students to participate in on-campus interviewing.

Students will also be told that they must schedule an appointment to take a test that will help them choose a major. This also comes at a price.

We believe the Career Center needs a more user-friendly Web site that all students can access. The Career Center needs to post job and internship listings to all students for free. Not all students can afford to pay the fees associated with Resume Expert or the strong interest inventory. Nor do all students have time to go to the Career Center or schedule an appointment with one of their advisers.

As students at this university, we must demand better service from those who will supposedly help us find jobs upon graduation. Until USC can provide decent services to its students and stop referring us to more prestigious institutions for job and internship searches, we will never get the respect we so desperately seek.

### ABOUT US

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 nine 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. The Gamecock is supported in part by student activities fees.

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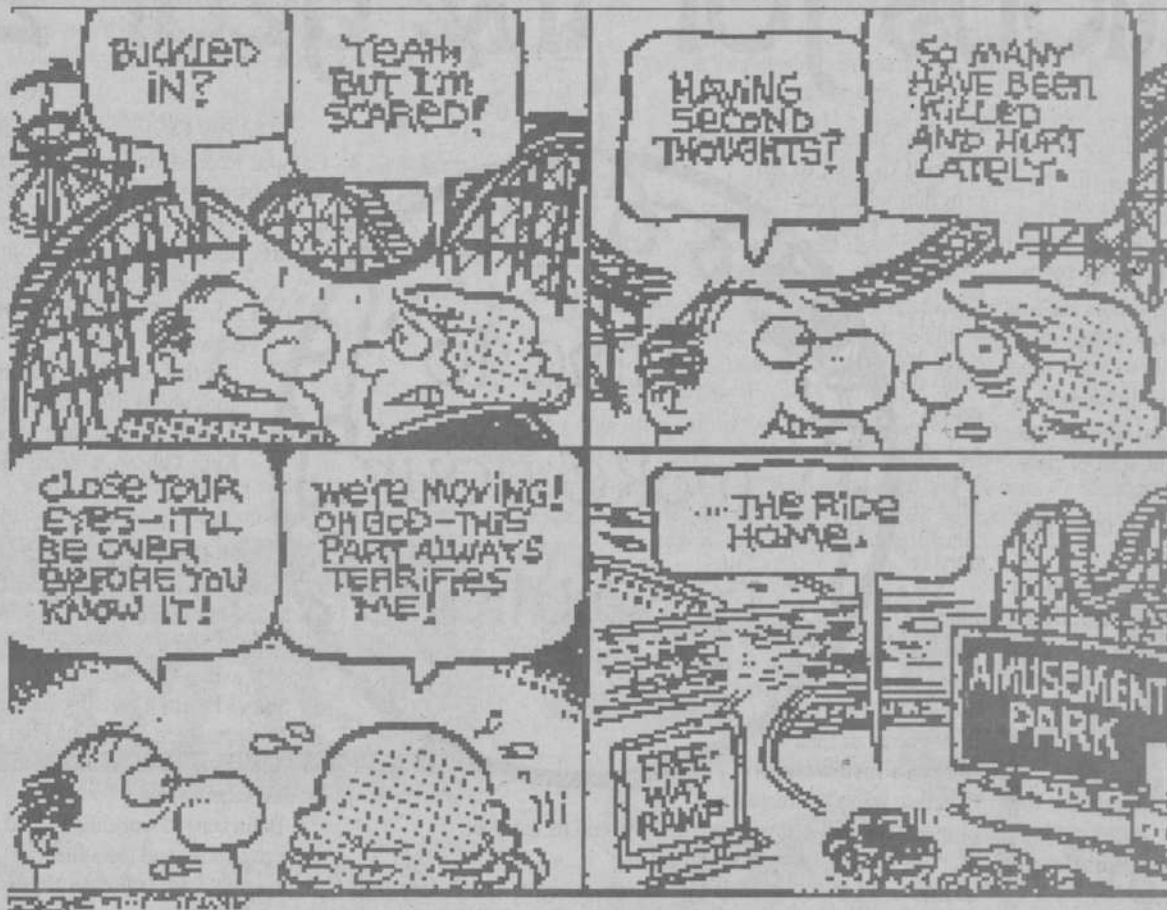
### MISSION POLICY

Letters to the editor or guest columns are welcome from all members of the Carolina community. Letters should be 250-300 words. Guest columns should be an opinion piece of about 600-700 words.

Both must include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. Handwritten submissions must be personally delivered to Russell House room 333. E-mail submissions to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com must include telephone number for confirmation.

The Gamecock reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space. Anonymous letters will not be published. Photos are required for guest columnist and can be provided by the submitter.

### COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



### SOCIAL ISSUES

## Eating disorders aren't diseases

During winter break, I found out that a close friend of mine used to have an eating disorder. During this conversation, somebody made a remark that those who have an eating disorder have a "disease."

I was completely offended at this statement, just as everyone else should be. It's a complete insult to any and every one who has either suffered from or died from a real disease. Cancer, AIDS, leukemia, heart disease and Parkinson's Disease are all real diseases.

Try to tell someone who's suffering from one of these diseases that an eating disorder fits in the same category. Try to tell someone who's lost a loved one to leukemia that a girl who refuses to eat is suffering from a disease.

An eating disorder is not a disease, but rather a pathetic attempt at gaining attention. This friend of mine is not the first I've had that's had an eating disorder, or the first I've had to show tendencies toward one. In all cases, one thing has re-

mained constant: They've all been seeking approval and attention.

The two most common types of eating disorders are anorexia and bulimia. Anorexia is the "disease" where people simply choose not to eat, and if they do, it's usually very little. In bulimia a person eats, but then chooses to vomit it all up. In both instances a decision is made. It is the choice of the individual to partake in these activities. This no more qualifies as a disease than a person who habitually skips a class.

At any point in time, the people who've decided they're too fat and need to lose weight can come to their senses and quit what they're doing. All it takes is will power. A person with AIDS can't will their imminent death away. The person with AIDS has a disease. The person with AIDS would do anything in the world to gain weight. The person with AIDS isn't selfish.

People who have been through eating disorders, or those who have terrible self images and show tendencies toward them constantly try to explain that it's more difficult to stop than anyone can imagine. To this I say, at least you can stop. At least you have the option.

These people say they can't help the way they are. They say they'll always be that way, much the same way an alcoholic is always an alcoholic no matter how long he or she's been without a drink. They say things that are meant to get them sympathy. They say things that will get them compliments. They say or do things they know we'll react to.



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### THE WASHINGTON POST

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR SOCKS ARE, AND IF YOU KEEP COMING IN HERE WITH THAT CIGAR I'M GOING TO CALL OSHA"



### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### Who is the Russell House named for?

The building is named for U.S. Circuit Court Judge Donald S. Russell (Class of 1925, Law 1928). Russell was president of USC from 1952 to 1957.

He was instrumental during that time in the passage of legislation allowing state institutions of higher learning to issue tuition and dormitory-revenue bonds to finance permanent improvements.

Judge Russell, who was appointed to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court in 1971, is a former U.S. assistant secretary of state, governor of South Carolina and U.S. senator.

He has served as a trustee of Emory University, Spartanburg Junior College, Converse College, Christ School and Benedict College.

Do you have questions about anything on campus? Email us at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com or bring a letter up to Russell House 333, and we'll answer your questions.

## Do you think your opinion matters? Then send a letter to the editor.

### CAMPUS ISSUES

## Resolve not to resolve

Well, here we are at the start of a new semester. A new year filled with new hopes and expectations for ourselves. And me a new columnist, here to fill your pretty little heads with my ideas and beliefs. I hope they'll be new and different from the ideas you've read in columns past. But all in all, I'm just another face you might see around campus. And you'll probably say to yourself,



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"Hey, there's that jackass they got writing columns up there at The Gamecock. What a freak." And maybe you've made a resolution to stop judging people in this new year. Well, I hate to break it to you, but you just failed in record time, and even before I've made the main point on which this column is to be based.

The point is that New Year's resolutions are destined to fail. Hey, don't argue with me; you're the one who proved me right by judging me in our first paragraph. Ignore the propaganda that those people in EtCetera are feeding you in today's edition. You're not going to keep that promise to yourself to quit smoking or lose that extra weight, so why even bother making it?

If you really want to drop that bad habit of yours, the best way is to follow the words of Nike and "Just Do It." No pressure, no promises, no problem. This may be a challenge for many of you, but if you have any desire to change, you will find the strength to prevail.

The key in that paragraph is "will power," and in that lies the entire problem. We, as Americans and more so as humans, are based in failure. Our lives are filled with empty promises to ourselves and others, and we are too easily satisfied with small personal victories.

How many people do you know who have attempted to do something healthy for themselves and failed? Just about everyone I know (myself included) has attempted strides at health-conscious behavior. It may be totally hypocritical to be writing this column, but I don't care.

Take this scenario. You want to lose weight, so you go on a three-day diet. After a few days, you can't wait any longer and step on the scale to find that you've lost 5 pounds. Granted, this is good news for you, but is it reason to celebrate with a big, greasy pizza? Doesn't that defeat the entire purpose?

We are a society too in love with our vices to change our ways. For most of us, our main concern in life is making money. Health and happiness always seem to take a back seat. We are too stubborn and lazy to change our ways, but we blame it on our hectic schedules and promise ourselves that we'll do it tomorrow. Fast forward to tomorrow and we repeat this same procedure until we are fat, sickly and balding and it's too late.

Do we propose these unrealistic resolutions in our collective drunken New Year's Eve haze? How could we possibly be so naive to think that what we're setting out to do could possibly last beyond a week or two?

New Year's resolutions seem to usually turn out quite disastrous for those who dare make them.

One friend resolved to quit smoking, but ended up increasing his daily nicotine fix after a few measly weeks of cutting back to ultralight cigarettes.

Another friend resolved to lose his virginity and did so hastily at the end of the year with the wrong person, and now regrets the decision.

My point is, if you are overweight, you will remain overweight. If you are immature and lazy, you will remain immature and lazy.

If you smoke, you will continue to smoke. It is almost impossible to circle a day on a calendar and change yourself from that day forth.

The only way you can change who or how you are is to be fed up with who or how you are.

And no time table can be placed on when you will decide that you're fed up with yourself and your bad habits.