



'The rumors of the school losing its accreditation are just that — rumors.'

Rodney Roenfeldt, Darla Moore School of Business interim dean

## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## Admissions process must be changed

For USC to become one of the leading institutions of higher learning in the nation, many steps must be taken. The first one is a simple one. The application for admission to USC must be changed.

The admissions application primarily relies on only two things — SAT score and GPA. The best universities have far more detailed applications that include letters of recommendation, essays, number of advanced placement classes at high school attended, extracurricular activities, awards received and leadership positions.

All of these things are included in other schools' applications to determine the potential for success of a particular applicant. At USC, none of this is taken into consideration. This leaves our admissions office to perform a decision process that relies on numbers and geography. This is something a computer could do.

Even with a University 101 program designed to achieve higher freshman retention rates, Carolina only retains four out of five students who come here their first year. More prestigious institutions who use a more rigorous application have retention rates reaching upward of 95 percent. This is because they pick more qualified applicants and can do so because they know more about them than we do. Numbers rarely tell the whole story about a student, and we rely much too heavily on them.

By changing the application for admission, USC will find better-qualified students with a greater chance of succeeding. Classes are crowded enough as it is without having to waste space on students who can't make it in college and who will only damage USC's already less-than-stellar academic reputation.

The best students want to go to the best schools. When students compare our application with those of the universities of Virginia, North Carolina or Michigan, it's crystal clear whose admission standards are more rigorous and whose degrees are more valuable.

## PETA right to pull beer/milk comparison

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on Thursday pulled an ad campaign that champions beer over milk, after critics claimed that it promoted underage drinking.

According to The Associated Press, the "Got Beer?" campaign alleges that factory farms mistreat milk cows and their calves "and that the fat and cholesterol in milk make drinking beer look good by comparison." Mothers Against Drunk Driving opposed the campaign, apparently concerned that the campaign unwittingly promotes underage drinking.

We applaud PETA for dropping the ads, not only because it appears to glorify alcohol consumption, but also because its statistics are misleading. Whole milk, while fattening, contains all kinds of essential nutrients. And nonfat milk is always an option for consumers who watch their weight.

While a campaign called "Got Beer?" certainly is an eye-grabber and directs attention to PETA's cause, it also tends to misrepresent the facts about alcohol and to gloss over the dangers inherent in irresponsible consumption.

### ABOUT US

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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 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.  
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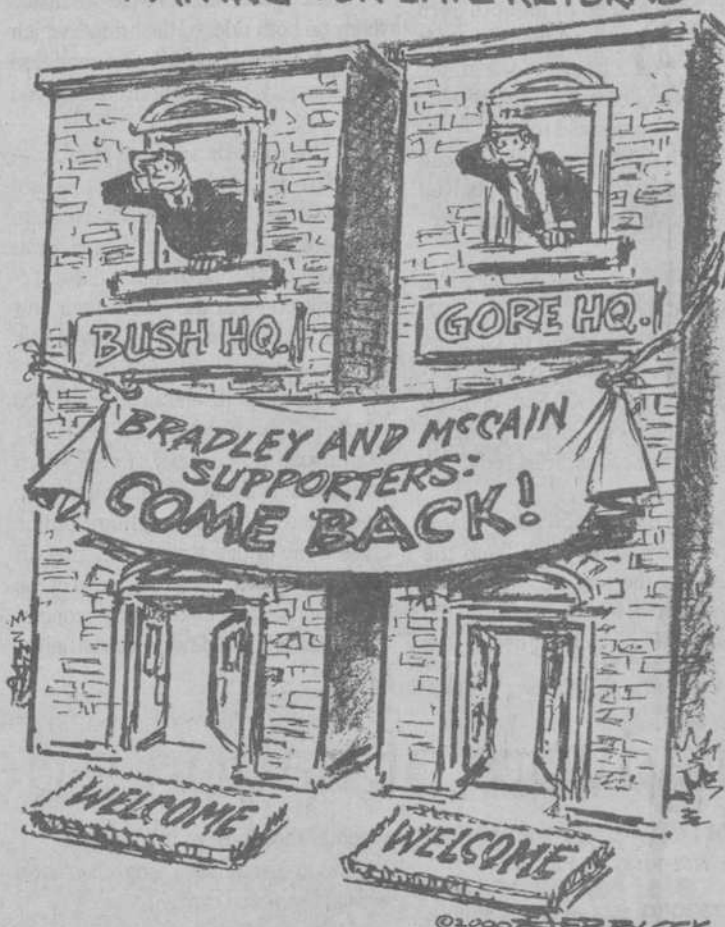
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### THE WASHINGTON POST

"HOW MUCH OF THIS FREE SPEECH CAN WE RAISE FOR THE REST OF THE CAMPAIGN?"



### WAITING FOR LATE RETURNS



## POINT/COUNTERPOINT

### Living on campus vs. living off campus

## Living on campus simple, convenient

Keep life simple. Live on campus.

Why do I mention this, the oft-used catch phrase for the USC Department of Housing? As cheesy as the motto might sound, it's also a very simple and practical way of making the same exact point I'll be making in this 800-word column.

I've lived on campus for three of the best years of my life, and I'll be back next year to finish my college career on campus, as well.

At the risk of sounding too much like a brochure, I give you just a few of the reasons why you should consider living on campus:

• Despite opinion to the contrary, living on campus doesn't necessarily cost more than living off campus. In fact, unless you live in a dump off campus with three or more roommates, you'll probably end up paying more when you throw in the power bill, cable bill, water bill and other bills many off-campus units make you pay. Even if living on campus does end up costing you a little bit more, the other benefits make it well worth the extra cost.

• On-campus dorms provide all the furniture you need, and most of it's relatively new. Moving day is enough of a hassle without having to worry about lugging a desk, a bed, a couch, a dresser and everything else. If you're like me, you won't have enough money on hand to be able to buy decent furniture until after you're graduated, anyway. Sure, you could drive around Rosewood and see if anyone's thrown away any good furniture, but who really wants a couch they picked up off someone's curb?

• If you're on campus, you're probably safer—at least compared to some of the other places you could be living. Despite the flack our campus sometimes gets for not being as safe as it could be, I guarantee you it's safer than living in Five Points, North Main or Olympia. And where else are you going to find security guards manning the entrances to your building at night, even if they are only awake half the time?

• Even the safer, student-laden off-campus dwellings have their problems. Clay, our esteemed news editor, was the victim of an unwelcome pipe break in his Whaley's Mill apartment. Now, his loft and everything he had stored in it is a murky

brown color. Ironically enough, he hasn't had any hot water in the shower for months. Sara, our "editor Emeritus," told me she had to move from Whaley's because of the smell. And some residents of University Commons have complained about too-stringent rules limiting the number of people allowed in your apartment during a party. Of course, these things happen on campus, too, but my point is that moving off campus won't necessarily end all your maintenance problems or grant you complete freedom.

• Living on campus is part of the whole "college experience." You'll have the rest of your life to live off campus, and people who live off campus are typically less involved than those who stay on campus. Sure, on-campus housing isn't the most spacious in the world (unless, of course, you live in one of those huge three-bedroom behemoths in Woodrow, like the one in which Kenley, our editor, resides)—but that's all part of the experience, too. The only people who really have a right to complain about space are those who live in the Freshman Centers—but if you're reading this, you probably won't live in one of those next year.

• Students who live on campus don't have to worry about the morning or evening commute and the hell that goes along with it. At first, I didn't believe you could literally roll out of bed and into class by living on campus, as the housing brochures say, but I actually almost did that one semester when my morning class was right across the hall from my dorm room. Living within walking distance of your classes has other benefits. If it ever snows again and USC lacks the presence of mind to cancel classes until 30 minutes before they're supposed to start, you won't have to make a long drive only to get to class and find out it's been canceled when your professor doesn't show.

• Living on campus builds character. You'll never see roaches that size again. (Just kidding. As many of you know, the roaches go away once the pest people come in and spray.) Living in the same building or on the same hall with others will teach you to be more accepting of differences in people. I've had three different roommates in my three years on campus, and living with each of them has taught me to be more tolerant in some way, shape or form.

Lots of people live off campus—slightly more than half our students—and many of them are probably quite happy where they are.

But if you're like me and like life to be as convenient as possible for as long as possible, living on campus is the only way to live.

## Off-campus living liberating, beneficial

Allow me to ask you a hypothetical question: Would you ever marry a person without ever having met them? Of course not, unless you're in one of those "made-for-television" scenarios where you fall in love with the accident victim whose body cast conceals their looks. The point is, you want to know what you're getting into. You want to know what the rest of your life will be like.

You don't jump into these things, right? So, with that as a foundational argument, why would you dream of not living off campus until you're graduated. Would you not see the obvious benefits of knowing how life is in the "independent" realm before having to completely go it alone? Now, I don't have exact numbers, but I have always heard that a large percent of college graduates go back home after being graduated. I happen to think this is because they receive an initial shell shock when the load of responsibility is dumped on them all at once. The solution: Run home to mom and dad and get your bearings. How convenient.

You could take the easy and irresponsible way out, or you could take it upon yourself to experience independence and responsibility while being a student. This is perhaps the most hectic and busy time of your life, and to stack on the chores of paying bills and rent is a valuable lesson, and a builder of character. The toughest part about college life is time management. The courses are reasonable, if you're mature about it, but you have to practice self-discipline to get through it successfully. It makes sense to learn the importance of paying bills and rent on time when you're so bent on doing everything in an organized fashion. It also helps to build your credit as long as you bounce no checks and miss no payments. Having established credit is very important when you are out in the "real world" trying to get a car, a place to live and a credit card. If you don't get a credit card while in college (when they are practically begging you to take one), you'll have some difficulty.

If the practical reasons don't work for you, here are some rather shallow benefits to living off campus. These aren't the only reasons, but I am sure you can relate to them.

First of all, you're more likely to get your own room when you live off campus. You might share a room to split rent, but the rooms are usually larger. With hav-

ing your own room comes the convenience of doing whatever you want to the room. The issue of privacy is very important. I cannot tell you how liberating it is to walk into your apartment and shut yourself in your own room. You're free to do whatever you want without having your roommate sitting five feet from you. Now, this obviously doesn't apply to apartment-style residence halls, but there are more reasons to choose off-campus living.

If you're tired of having those pesky resident advisers being your parents away from home, move off campus. I promise you they will not come knocking on your door at 3 a.m. if you're being too loud. The only problem is that it might be the police, but if they show up, you're probably asking for it. So, you also have the liberty and the assurance that if you want to blast your music at 11:30 p.m., your RA won't write you up. You see, the whole residence hall discipline system is thrown out when you move off campus. You won't get referred to the Residence Hall Director. Again, the only people who would come knocking on your door are the police or your landlord, but (again) you'd probably deserve it.

If you've lived in a residence hall, you've had the floor mate (or in some cases the roommate) who was a little freaky. He might practice Kung Fu at 4 a.m., or he might smell a little funny or he might even pee on the floor. Either way, you can easily avoid this problem if you live off campus. You tend to cut down on the "freak factor" when you live off campus. In most cases, you'll move off campus with someone you know and trust, so your roommate problem should be nonexistent.

I haven't met a student who lived in a residence hall that has never been woken up by a late-night fire alarm. Climbing out of bed and walking down the stairs is a perfect way to be pulled from your slumber. You stand there waiting for the fire department to show up, and you curse the idiot who pulled the alarm as a prank. Well, this is not a problem off campus either. If you hear a fire or smoke alarm, you should pay attention to it, because chances are you won't have morons playing any pranks.

There is another aspect to living off campus that is really intangible. I can't really explain it, but there is a feeling you get when you walk into "your" apartment or "your" house. It is yours (or more yours than was a dorm room). The experience is very liberating and beneficial. You can have people guests at "your" apartment or house without having to sign them in. You'll never have to show your key at the door nor have your bags searched. You're as close to the real world as you can be while still in college. So, when the day comes that you finally leave this establishment of higher education behind, you will be as ready as possible for the great beyond.

Send your 200-250 word letters to [gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com).