



'When people take your dreams, they kill you that way.'

Reanae McNeal, Clothesline Project keynote speaker

### The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## March to Columbia lacks spirit of '60s

Thousands of people will begin marching from Charleston to Columbia on Sunday morning to protest the Confederate flag on top of the Statehouse.

Although they are marching for a noble cause, and it would appear to be a very enduring and important march, in reality, it is lacking in effort and spirit.

The marchers will walk all day, and rather than camp out or stay at a hotel at night, buses will come to pick them up and drive them back to Charleston. Then, the next morning they will drive out to where they left off the day before and start up from that point.

It is understandable that marchers do not want to support the South Carolina tourism industry by staying at hotels along the way. But the cost of this decision is too high. They are not making any kind of statement by allowing themselves to be bused back to their homes. Basically, they are taking a day hike and then going back home to sleep in their warm, soft beds at night.

Would it be too terribly hard to camp at a campground overnight? Even if the marchers were to stay in a hotel, they would be making a much stronger statement than driving home when the sun goes down.

At the heart of the '60s race movement, similar marches took place fairly often, and with much greater numbers and success. The spirit of the movement led the people to perform extraordinary tasks.

If Martin Luther King Jr. were leading this march to the Capital, he wouldn't stand for such a weak display of dedication.

## Clemson beats us in parking availability

While everyone knows the parking situation at USC is terrible, we now have another reason to complain. Clemson University has 300 more parking spaces per 1,000 students than we do.

It's just one more way Clemson has found to frustrate us. Of the five schools we compared ourselves to in parking availability, Clemson is the only one that had more. While we can take comfort in the fact that students at at least four other schools having parking situations worse than our own, it's highly disappointing to know the group from the hills is living the high life with three parking spaces for every four students.

We know the administration doesn't concern itself too much with how frustrating our parking situation is, but there is one thing they do seem to care about - our rivalry with Clemson.

Maybe this is the motivation our school needs to recognize we need more parking. When Clemson beats us in athletics in a bad season, it can mean a coach's job is lost, and anytime Clemson gets a higher academic rating than a Carolina academic department, there's added pressure to raise our standards. So if USC won't increase the number of parking spaces to make our lives easier, maybe they'll do it for the sake of the rivalry. Go 'Cocks.

### ABOUT US

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**ADDRESS**  
The Gamecock  
1400 Greene Street  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Offices on third floor of the Russell House.

**STUDENT MEDIA** Area code 803  
Advertising 777-3888  
Classified 777-1184  
Fax 777-6482  
Office 777-3888

**GAMECOCK** Area code 803  
Editor gcked@sc.edu 777-3914  
News gcknews@sc.edu 777-7726  
Viewpoints gckviews@sc.edu 777-7181  
Etc. gcketc@sc.edu 777-3913  
Encore! gamecockencore@hotmail.com 777-3913  
Sports gcksports@sc.edu 777-7182  
Online www.gamecock.sc.edu 777-2833

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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 and 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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### COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



### SOCIAL ISSUES

## I'll take my taxes medium-rare

"No taxation without representation."

"Read my lips. No new taxes."

"Tax meat."

That's right, dear reader, I said "tax meat." Now, don't get me wrong, I am not the one who wants to tax meat. I mean, look at me (insert joke here). But there is a movement to tax meat. I was coming back from Charleston and saw a billboard along I-26 pushing this agenda. It read:

"If you eat meat, why should I pay for your hospital bills? Tax meat!"

Is this what we're coming to? Are things going so well for us that we are now pushing our concerns toward such trivial and trite matters? Is this state not under an economic boycott from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People right now? We could try to smooth things out with that before moving on. Is our country not in a custody battle for a Cuban boy? We might want to see where this is going. Has Bill Clinton not been meeting with the National Rifle Association recently? I don't know about you, but this seems pretty important. You see, there are plenty of other matters you could concentrate on right now. This might be important to you, but let's think about more important issues. Once we solve all the important problems, then we can move on to these lesser affairs.

Not only is this movement a little pointless, but it's a bit extreme in principle. I consider myself a liberal, and I am even taken aback by this. Taxing meat is an attempt at controlling and limiting behav-



**Kevin Langston** is a journalism junior and Encore! editor. The Viewpoints editor can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

ior. You are implying and (if allowed) enforcing a tax that would probably affect a person's choice to buy meat. It isn't the same as taxing the hell out of gas. We all need this, and we all seem willing to pay outrageous prices for it. You might argue for the taxation of pornography, but that is a luxury. This is taxed because we all are perverts and we don't really care how much money you stack on those magazines. We'll still pay for them. You're also trying to control the diet of everyone who eats meat. Am I the only one who sees a problem with this? By taxing meat, you're also making an issue out of whether or not meat is essential. Is meat a luxury? I don't think so. Is it necessary? To an extent. I think some meat, but not meat as a whole, is a luxury. Come to me arguing about lobster and filet mignon and I'll agree to the luxury aspect, but not the entire food group. Meat is essential in providing certain nutrients that we need to stay healthy. In any case, you're still asking me to change my behavior, and that isn't cool. You know milk and dairy products cause flatulence, so should we start taxing it on the basis of clean air?

Sure there are plenty of you out there who choose not to eat meat. For whatever reason you do this, it's perfectly fine with me. I have several friends and family members who choose not to eat meat. All of them do it for different reasons, but I respect their privacy, and they respect mine. They don't try to push their beliefs and ideals on me, and I extend them the same courtesy. Some of them take vitamin supplements to counteract the lack of nutrients they get from meat, and some of them just do without. Either way, you are opening yourself up to just as many health risks as meat-eaters. One of my friends never ate meat, but she would eat cheese with every meal. Only recently has she stopped eating and drinking dairy products, but for a long time, she was dependent on cheese and dairy products in lieu of meat. This can't be all that healthy, and

I think she realized this. So though you might not eat meat, your chosen diet might be just as harmful. But I'm not asking for a tax on what you eat.

I have always heard that you can tell just how well off we are economically by the number of people choosing to not eat meat. As much as we'd like to think otherwise, it is arguably a luxury to abstain from meat-eating. I am not saying it's an economic luxury, because we all know you can save money at the grocery store by not buying meat. I am saying that not eating meat could be considered a social luxury. You have more options for what you eat, where you eat and how you eat. I'll bet the farm that if we were in recession (personal or national), you'd buy a Big Mac before you buy a plate of portobello.

I am certain all of us see more wrong with this country and world other than the popularity and consequences of eating meat. The Surgeon General doesn't even put a warning on it. Can you imagine the "stop eating meat" commercials? Let's take a gander at the possibilities, and let's see just how absurd this sounds.

- "Hey."
- "Yeah?"
- "Got a second?"
- "Sure."
- "Ever tried meat?"
- "I did when I was younger."
- "So you don't do it anymore?"
- "Nope."
- "Why not?"
- "Because I realized I didn't need it. I found people who liked me for me, not because I ate meat."
- "So you're saying you did it to be cool at first."
- "Yeah, I guess."
- "And now?"
- "Now what? I stopped. Let's be honest, here. We don't need meat to fit in or be cool. We only need to be ourselves. That is better than any Big Mac."

### COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



### LETTERS

#### Girl talk form of expression

You are correct, Mr. Vergakis. The spoken word is a beautiful thing. The English language could very well be described as a living, breathing, constantly changing work of art. You, however, have harshly abused this masterpiece in your column, "Females love to talk - and talk" [March 29], by even allowing it to reach the presses.

Aside from the fact that it's stereotypical and sexist, your article is blatantly wrong. According to our own esteemed sociology professor Dr. Lala Steelman, numerous studies have found that men do in fact talk more than women do over the course of a lifetime. If you'd like any proof of this, ask anyone who was enrolled in Soci-

ology 101 last semester.

The reason females appear to talk more is because they are more expressive. The mindless chatter you hear is actually our way of expressing our thoughts and emotions, without being overly sober. Our words are the female equivalent of, say, chest bumps and beer farts.

In the end, you will be happy to hear, women are more well-rounded and stable for these "girl-talks." Perhaps the only thing you got right is that most males don't mind this chattering. In fact, as they age, males rely more on females for the companionship they want to find in males, but are unable to find. According to sociology, unmarried men are the most mentally unbalanced of all subgroups of humanity.

For someone who describes himself as quiet, you man-

aged to waste two minutes of my time by writing on and on about how much females blather. It doesn't make any sense. The only thing you managed to prove was that if you can't be expressive, you can down a pitcher of beer and relate to your buddies in silence.

Congratulations. Maybe the problem isn't that females misinterpret you, but that you've fallen into the habit of tripping over your own words. Silence might just be the route for you.

**Michelle Pittman**  
Journalism Freshman

### CAMPUS ISSUES

## Parking the issue in 2001

Yuessie is at a crossroads. It is 2001 - the bicentennial of Carolina - and the Carolina community is celebrating accordingly. But off of this Bourbon Street-esque orgy of bicentennial celebration lurks a dark, obscure alleyway. This alleyway is home to two men, one by the name of Jim Greenspace and the other by the name of Doc Parking.



**Nathan White** is a political science junior. The Viewpoints editor can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

During the festivities, our beloved friend Yuessie (Get it? USC. Come on, people, throw me a frickin' bone here.) has wandered into this alley from the festivities and needs advice on how to get back to the celebration better off than when he left. Now, both Jim Greenspace and Doc Parking want to help Yuessie, but unfortunately, Yuessie only has enough inclination for one, and now he must choose which one will guide him forward.

Jim Greenspace can get Yuessie to where he wants to go with a little time, effort and money. His price is high, but his advice is of high quality. Here is what Jim Greenspace says:

"To get where you want to go, you must build more green space. You must do this at the expense of parking. First, you must remove the parking lots between the Russell House and Longstreet Theatre, and the fountain in front of Thomas Cooper Library. There, landscape a beautiful field for the Carolina community to play and frolic on. You must also take out Greene Street from Main to Pickens and Sumter Street from Blossom to College. Build beautiful canopied walkways.

"Then, take out the parking behind the Horseshoe on the north and south and landscape Horseshoe-like green space there. This green space will make your campus more aesthetically pleasing, improve the spirit and pride of the community, and make your campus a more appealing and prestigious sanctuary of knowledge, attracting the best and the brightest from all across the land.

"This will cost you money, and you will sacrifice revenue from lost parking meters, but they are an eyesore anyway. To compensate, build perimeter-parking garages down by Swearingen and elsewhere and improve the Carolina Shuttle system. With time, money and innovation, you will be better off than before. Think long term."

Doc Parking likes to look only at the bottom line and thinks that the intangibles are irrelevant. Doc Parking's price is low, but so is the quality of his advice. Here is what Doc Parking says:

"Keep doing what you are doing now. Keep raking in the dollars from your cash-cow parking lots on Greene Street. Don't worry about the lots behind the Horseshoe; they're fine. Sumter and Greene are good because of the parking meters on them, so they're keepers, too.

"Don't mess with green space, perimeter parking and the Carolina Shuttle. That's just money out of your bag, baby. Keep milkin' the meters, man. Nothin' I like more than seeing 10 idiots wait for the same spot over at the Russell House.

"Don't waste your money on nothin'. Think in the now and only the now. Long term, shmong shmerm. Thinking long term is about as dumb as taking down the Confederate flag or improving education. Good grief."

As Yuessie stumbles back to the 2001 bicentennial celebration, whose advice does he take?