



Viewpoints

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The Gamecock

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The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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N.C. shouldn't exact Interstate 95 tolls

Most people associate tolls with the North. In states like Delaware and Maryland, drivers pay up to \$5 for the privilege of using U.S. roadways.

But the South might soon put those Northern tolls to shame. A couple of weeks ago, a subcommittee of the N.C. Legislature passed a bill that would put tolls costing up to \$10 on I-95 at the S.C. and Virginia borders.

Of course, the bill still needs approval from the full Senate and House before it can become law. But a \$10 toll on I-95, if implemented, would have a huge impact on many of USC's out-of-state students.

Driving home and back could potentially cost at least \$40 for students who live above the N.C. border, after they pay \$10 at each border. Dealing with I-95 is bad enough now — adding the tolls will make it horrendous.

After adding gas and food costs, road trips could potentially cost as much as a plane or train ticket. With the rising costs of gas, people just aren't going to want to take I-95 at all, which could also hurt tourism in North and South Carolina.

But besides the expense for students, the N.C. Legislature is being ignorant by putting tolls on I-95 to raise money for construction. Drivers could simply take I-85 and I-77 to completely bypass the tolls. It's a losing situation either way, not only for USC's out-of-state students, but for everyone who takes I-95 through North Carolina.

Events need publicizing

Last week, Carolina Productions did a great thing in bringing Jimmie's Chicken Shack to the Russell House along with local bands Fling and Love Apple for the Spring Music Jam. Unfortunately, attendance for the free concert was low.

USC students are lucky that the university has the capabilities to bring in excellent entertainment. It's too bad these events are poorly attended simply because students don't know about them.

Carolina Productions needs to put more effort into publicizing its events. There were no posters or ads up for the music jam sooner than two days before the concert. If Carolina Productions can manage to bring these bands in, they can inform students of them. If students don't know about the events in time to make plans to attend them, they won't attend. If this is the way Carolina Productions is going to plan for future events, they're wasting university funds.

ABOUT US

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SUBMISSIONS 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 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 and should be e-mailed to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

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

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Guest columns and letters may be submitted by e-mail to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com. Call 777-7726 for more information.

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



POLITICAL ISSUE

USC presidency is a woman's job

Why have a man do a woman's job? I mean, do we need yet another white man running this university?



Ann Marie Miani is a third-year student in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Send responses to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

Two of my colleagues, Nathan White and Phil Watson, have announced candidacies for the USC presidency. White men have screwed up this "fine institution" over the past 196 years. So I offer the *only* alternative to another white man running this university: Me.

Yes, I'm officially throwing my hat into the ring to be the next president of USC. My opponents, Mr. White and Mr. Watson, have spouted off some plans that have no way of ever coming to pass. Really, Mr. Watson, flying garages? And you're no better, Mr. White; public executions?

My plan is a simple one that can actually work at USC. Following is my two-pronged attack to make USC a

"university of the students, by the students and for the students."

Issue One: Classes

No class at USC will begin before 12:20 p.m. or run later than 8:15 p.m. This will allow students to sleep off their hangovers from the night before, thus boosting class attendance.

Class credits will increase from three to five hours to get students the hell out of Dodge that much quicker. All faculty will be required to give take-home or open-book tests. And students will have all semester to take these tests. All minimum class-attendance policies will be eliminated. Students will be able to attend classes when they feel necessary. I, as president, will just be taking their money. What do I care if they learn a damn thing?

And students will take more classes in their major. For example, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications now requires 36 hours of Journalism classes and 90 hours of liberal arts classes. This will be reversed so students can actually learn more about the field they want to enter.

Issue Two: Parking

I know my opponents have addressed

the parking issue. Neither an underground nor a flying garage is the answer. The solution is simple: Make the parking garages taller and get rid of all this green space.

As I have stated in previous columns, I have no idea why USC can have a 17-story residence hall, but the tallest garage is only 10 stories high. I propose that additions be made to all existing garages to make them at least 20 stories high and to turn the parking lot behind the Coliseum into a 20-story parking garage. This will virtually eliminate parking problems at USC.

As for the green space issue, I think you all can remember that I am anti-green space. All plans to make more green space will be burned, and all new green spaces that have already been created will be turned back into parking lots. Having a place for students to park their cars is more important than grass that isn't being used.

If I am chosen as the next president of USC, I have no lofty goals. All my goals can be easily achieved. So Dr. Palms, make a decision already so I can begin my crusade.

LETTERS

Viewpoints columns waste space, trees

To the Editor:

I think that Viewpoints is an important section of *The Gamecock*. I believe it should be used to help raise issues and encourage the achievement of some goal. For example, the articles on Otukile Lekote and construction noise are important and relevant. I've been a student here for four years, and I've suffered through the Advocacy Center construction, McMaster renovations, Sloan renovations and Hamilton construction among constant lawn mowers, leaf blowers and utility vehicles on sidewalks, running over students. But I know it's impossible to limit work to weekends and breaks. I deal with it.

But that's not why I'm writing. Normally, I pay no attention to anything that I immediately identify as stupid bullshit, but after reading Friday's issue of *The Gamecock*, I couldn't resist writing. Viewpoints is important; its space should be reserved for important issues.

I may like racquetball and might find it adorable when a pestering homeless person asks me for 35 cents for a pack of cheese crackers (which happened to me yesterday, and I would've given him 35 cents if I had it on me), but it's irrelevant to everyone except me and is painfully stupid to print in a newspaper. Let's save the trees, people. Write something significant. It's not that hard. I promise.

In the meantime, I'll be looking forward to Monday's paper. Maybe I'll read about how much some student likes cheese.

Daniel Shumpert
Fourth-year Student
College of Liberal Arts

Fighting over words isn't worth the effort

To the Editor:

I can't believe a fight happened in the Russell House. Though this kind of behavior is not uncommon, it's truly unnecessary.

The fraternities all know that at coming outs there's going to be some name-calling and the frat that is coming out is going to make fun of the others. I've been to many coming outs, and this has been the case at all of them.

The other fraternities should just take it all in stride. I'm not Greek, so maybe I wouldn't understand, but it seems childish to fight over words. No one is touching anyone, but just because frats are making fun of each other, they want to fight. That's so dumb. Why can't the frats all just get along and come together as a people and stop fighting over the small shit?

Just because he's a Sigma, he's a Kappa, he's an Omega and he's an Alpha, doesn't mean that they can't get along. Come on, guys, please stop this. I hate to see young black men fighting all the time. This is just adding to the stereotype of what people already think about you. Let it go!

Tivona Taylor
Fourth-year Student
College of Criminal Justice

The pot shouldn't call the kettle black

To the Editor:

I was shocked and upset by an extremely unprofessional blunder in the letters section in the April 11 issue of *The Gamecock*. In the letter titled, "Game-

cock mistake offensive to student," Kui Chen gives the opinion that a mistake made by *The Gamecock* should be corrected immediately. Then totally disregarding proper grammar mechanics, Chen begins the next sentence with the conjunction "and." I think an apology is in order from Chen. And James Battle rocks.

Matt Griffin
First-year Student
College of Liberal Arts

Fraternity wasn't involved in brawl

To the Editor:

I am the vice president of the Kappa Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity at the University of South Carolina.

I was truly astonished after I read April 13 article about the "brawl" that broke out at the Russell House. In no way at all was Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity involved. Even mentioning us implies that we had something to do with the altercation.

After the "brawl" that we were not involved in, my brothers and I went outside and started to pass out fliers for our "Blue and White Weekend." We handed out fliers, did a few steps and did some chanting only to promote for next week.

It was a disgrace to my fraternity that we were included in the article. I'm not exactly sure where you get your sources from, but it would be appreciated if you get the entire story before including an innocent party. We plan to further pursue this issue.

Jeremy C. Jenkins
Third-year Student
Darla Moore School of Business

QUICK SUGGESTIONS

A guide to thrifty theme parties

Remember parties in high school. They were so simple, so pure and so innocent. One night we'd rent out a cheap motel room and fill it to capacity with kids and beer. We'd get loud, someone would complain and we'd run from the cops. Another night, someone's parents would be away for the weekend, so we'd fill his or her house to capacity with kids and beer. We'd get loud, the neighbors would complain and we'd run from the cops.



Michael Kerr is a third-year student in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. Send response to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com.

Wherever the party was, one thing was always certain: There was no theme.

Lately, the college parties I've attended have all had some sort of theme. I've been to parties with luau, military, pimps-and-hoes and disco-era themes. Dressing up in a ridiculous outfit is fun, but theme parties are starting to get out of hand.

If you show up to one of these parties without a costume, you're an outsider. People will sneer at you and make snide comments under their breath as you pass by.

"Somebody thinks he's too good to dress up for the party," they might say. They never stop to think that maybe you didn't dress up because your pirate costume is at the dry cleaners. Not everyone has a spare lying around.

Every week, college students are peer-pressured into buying theme clothes they can't afford. It might not seem like much money, but a Hawaiian shirt one week, a blue leisure suit another and that spiked dog collar for the annual S&M party add up.

So, to fend off bankruptcy, here are some suggestions for low-budget themes:

Old T-shirt Party: Everyone has at least one old T-shirt they won't throw away but are too embarrassed to wear in public. Now you can flaunt your former bad taste. So put on your Vanilla Ice, New Kids on the Block and Ren and Stimpy T-shirts and have fun. Hot Topic is selling all kinds of retro shirts like this, but they don't count. They have to be worn-in and faded.

Bandwagon Party: You know you hopped on at least one sports bandwagon, whether it was the Cowboys or Bulls in their heyday or the San Jose Sharks when they entered the NHL. For this party, throw on the sweatshirt, jersey or Starter jacket you got when that team was popular. I'll be dusting off my Magic Johnson Olympic Dream Team jersey for this one.

Gifts from Grandma Party: Remember those terrible shirts your grandmother sent for Christmas and your birthday? You buried them in your closet and prayed your mother wouldn't make you wear them when Grandma came to visit. With the ugliest plaids, pastels and polka dots being shown off at this party, you might consider hard liquor over beer.

The High School Party: Nothing could top a theme party after parties that had no themes. For this party you wear what you wore back in high school, whether you dressed preppy or wore Slayer T-shirts and black jeans every day. Whoever hosts the party gets an older brother or sister to buy the beer and rent out a room in the *Holiday Inn* on Assembly. We'll fill the room to capacity with college students and beer. Then someone will complain, and we can all run from the cops.