



# VIEWPOINTS

IN OUR OPINION

## Cathedrals aren't sacred

By now, USC's drive to enter the Association of American Universities — the group of more than 60 institutions of higher education that many consider to be among the best in the world — is no secret. The university talks endlessly about the goal, using it to obtain funds from the Legislature, explain tuition increases and justify the way it spends its budget.

But there is a portion of USC's drive for prestige that many students probably haven't heard about: the "Cathedrals of Excellence."

The cathedrals are the four colleges and schools — the College of Engineering and Information Technology, the Moore School of Business, the College of Science and Math and the College of

Liberal Arts — that the administration says will vault USC into the AAU if they perform strongly. What about the other colleges and schools around campus? The recent department cuts have made the administration's regard for other colleges clear. The university could have distributed the cuts at the same level across the board, sharing the pain among all of USC's students and faculty. Instead, it cut most departments by 1.5 percent while cutting the cathedrals by only 0.5 percent, taking a dangerous step toward creating campus "haves" and "have-nots."

That's a shame. The university should try to achieve AAU status by raising the standards of all its colleges, not by raising the standards of some while accepting mediocrity in others.

That shortcut might work to win USC the label of an AAU school, but it will never make the university a world-class institution. For that to happen, USC must make all of its programs first-class — instead of treating some of them like second-class citizens in the campus's academic society.

## GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

The student-created comic on Monday should have been credited to James Mullen. The title of Mullen's comic is "A Day in the Life ..."

Charles Prashaw's column in Monday's edition should have said there were two women and two nonwhites on the board of trustees.

An article on Habitat for Humanity should have said the house being built by the USC chapter will be completed by Nov. 16.

In an article on the Interfaith Celebration, a woman's name should have been spelled Rachel Rosansky. *The Gamecock* regrets the errors.

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know. Write us at [gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com).

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CARTOON COURTESY KRT CAMPUS

## Misadventures in Gatorland



PHIL WATSON  
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### Don't envy Florida fans — they probably got carjacked going home.

How 'bout those fairgrounds on Saturday?! Some are calling it a hideous display of USC students at their worst. It was an orgy of fights, obscene name-calling and substance abuse. Many complained about it, saying the way USC fans treated Florida fans was disgraceful.

If you ask me, those Florida fans had it coming to them. There they were, invading Columbia in their fancy motor homes, with their expensive beer and stupid-looking alligator arm-clap thing. If I had a dime for every time I saw some moron Gator fan do that arm-clap thing, I could afford to get my car out of the impound.

Those Florida fans came into town acting like they were God's gift to football. They all appeared rich with their fancy orange shirts and their expensive drug habits. All the girls from Florida looked good, too. My friend told me that based on the Florida girls at the game, all girls from Florida must be hot.

Au contraire monorail, I told him. I'm originally from Florida. I know a little bit about Florida, and let me tell you, they might have won the football game, but they've lost the "who is less likely to get shot to death in a random, gang-related drive-by," war.

Those Gator fans looked pretty happy on their way out of the stadium. They had taken their Prozac and martinis and were in good spirits. But don't envy them too much. Chances are, while those Gator fans were cheering their team on to victory in Williams-Brice, gang members were pillaging their houses back in Florida. Chances are even better that half those fans were carjacked once they crossed the Georgia/Florida line on their way home.

Don't misinterpret me again. I love Florida. I'm from there,

and it's my favorite state, but I hate all its football teams. I also hate the drug-addicted criminals who infest it. I might like the Sunshine State, but every time I cross the border I'm watching my back like Mohamed Atta at a David Allen Coe concert in hell.

Despite the expensive RVs Gator fans drove to the game Saturday, Florida is also a poor state. Some Floridians might look rich, but the state shares a lot of traits with South Carolina.

Being from such a hostile environment as this, Florida fans were prepared for whatever we threw at them Saturday, figuratively and literally. They live in the hottest state in the union and never get caught with their weapons on safety. They came in to Columbia like Israeli stormtroopers, accomplished their mission and left just as quickly. It made me sick and angry.

But this Saturday's Clemson game is going to be a different story. There will be no blackout, and there will be no holds barred before, during or after the game. I'm not

♦ WATSON, SEE PAGE 7

## So I look like an Italian to you?



ANN MARIE MIANI  
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### You think we're all members of the mafia? Why I oughta ...

I've been writing for this newspaper for a few years now, and if you can't tell by the last name or my so-called "Mediterranean" looks, I'm Italian. And no, I am not in the Mafia. Like I would tell you if I was. I know that's what all you people are thinking. She's Italian, so she must be. Well, I'm not. And if I find you bastards that think I am, you'll be wearing cement booties and taking a swim in the Congaree River.

I am taking a journalism class this semester called women and minorities in the mass media. In this class we discuss the role of, you guessed it, women and minorities in the mass media.

So I got to thinking, how do television and the movies portray my heritage? We don't get to discuss Italians in the class because it isn't considered a "minority." Why I oughta ...

I tried to think of all the movies I could with an Italian as one of the main characters. And do you know what I realized? Italians are usually portrayed in a negative light. I was in complete shock. We were either depicted as being in the Mafia, eating pasta all the time, drinking wine, having something to do with bootlegging and drugs or being involved in some sort of illegal activities.

Here are five of the movies/TV shows I thought of:

1. *The Sopranos*
2. All three of *The Godfather* movies
3. *Goodfellas*
4. *Scarface*
5. *The Untouchables*

And to further my irritation, every one of the movies I listed above has either a wife who has no idea what her Mafia-boss husband does for a living, a daughter who is equally clueless and a mistress who is more of a "wise guy" groupie than anything else.

Now I know why people ask me if I'm in the Mafia. It's Hollywood's fault. Movies with an Italian as the lead character usually give them a tendency to order the deaths of people or run some kind of illegal bootlegging operation. Thank God, I guess they didn't see the clip on the news of Cousin Angelo gettin' busted for rum running.

So let me take the liberty to dispel some common misconceptions that these movies have put in the minds of the public.

I can't remember the last time the family sat around the table and plotted the deaths of our enemies. That's what Pop's office was for. We don't do that kind of thing out in the open. Do you really think a people who enjoy food as much as we do could possibly discuss murder over a plate of pasta and a glass of red wine?

Pop and my uncles don't walk around the house in three-piece suits, black shirts and white ties. Come on, that's only for special occasions. We dress and act just like every other group of Americans. Just because most of us kill for a living doesn't make us any different from you.

I don't know anyone who speaks in a thick New York accent and says things like

♦ MIANI, SEE PAGE 7

## IN YOUR OPINION

### Game day is time for fans to have fun

I would like to respond to Andy Frassetto's letter concerning the behavior of USC fans at the football game. As a senior, I have seen the football program at this school turn around in the past two years. With the turnaround, the atmosphere of the games has changed because anticipation of victory is now present at every game. I enjoy not only the actual games, but also the entire game day. Game day is the perfect opportunity to spend time with friends, have some drinks and food while tailgating, and to watch the Gamecocks win. I feel proud when I see people express their love for Gamecock football by dressing up, yelling when we score or however else they might express their interest in our football program. I, too, realize that some people get a little out of control at some games, but whenever you assemble more than 80,000 fans at an event, some minor problems should be expected. Increasing security would not curb drinking but would increase the time it takes to get into the game. If you want to go to a school that doesn't party for football, go to Wofford. As long as I'm a Gamecock, I hope the stands stay packed with rowdy and enthusiastic fans.

DANIEL PERLMUTTER

FOURTH YEAR STUDENT,  
INTERDISCIPLINARY

### Complaints by 'fan' are just ridiculous

This is a response to the "Fan's behavior is embarrassing" letter.

First of all, where does any second-year student come off criticizing any fourth-year student at a USC game? They weren't there when we lost to Vanderbilt, they weren't there when we were 0-21, they weren't at Lou Holtz's coaching debut at N.C. State. They are just here now, and they don't know all the hardships the TRUE fans had to go through. It's also evident that the writer hasn't been to ANY sporting events at all. The law says you have to be 21 years or older to drink, so what is wrong with drinking and going to the game? Look around the nation and tell me how many football tailgates carry no alcohol. Yeah, I didn't think you could think of any, either. In any level of the game, there is going to be taunting. If you can't handle the taunting of other players, maybe this might not be the right place for you and your friends. Your solution is not to allow ANYONE in the stadium who has alcohol. My friend, if that is the case, the stadium would have exactly you and your friends, and that's about all.

I have noticed that you brought out our student body president, Corey Ford. I have been friends with Mr. Ford for four years now, and I was proud to be standing by that man at the Florida game. Yeah, I was that guy who was

yelling "Corso Sucks" at halftime; I take FULL credit on that. Mr. Corso did not treat the USC fans with respect since he got here. I am also that guy who was yelling at Coach Spurrier, too; that guy is just a plain ass. Corey Ford is one of the most die-hard USC fans you will ever meet in your life. This man bleeds garnet, so don't question his loyalty to USC.

I am just hoping that you don't go to the Clemson game, because that's when it really gets ugly.

NIRMESH SHAH  
FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT

### Powers that be don't care about students

I was going to wait until I graduated in May to make these remarks in order to avoid any retaliatory effects, but Charles Prashaw's most recent column ("Taking Away 112 Soup Cans," Nov. 12) compelled me to speak out.

It is my belief that the most recent tuition increase is merely the latest symptom of an ongoing problem: the administration's unmitigated and unabashed scorn for the concerns and needs of the student body. The board of trustees does whatever it wants to whomever it wants, and complaining to or about them is akin to screaming at a brick wall. They want to raise tuition at whim? It is raised. They want to close down NADA? It is closed. They want more green space instead of parking? Green space they get.

And do not repeat to me the

♦ LETTERS, SEE PAGE 7