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## VIEWPOINTS

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Should the United States try to force out Saddam Hussein?  
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## IN OUR OPINION

# USC needs to act on safety

With the latest news of a rape occurring on USC's campus, student safety is yet again a pressing concern. And the criminal activity at the Roost last week alone raises many questions.

This year brings special considerations as, more than ever, freshmen are living on the outskirts of campus. In addition to the first-year students in Bates House as well as the Roost, many first-year

students are living in hotels far from the center of campus. If this university is going to dish out the funds to house students all around the city, it should be prepared to pay extra money for security as well. And while the rape that is bringing all the attention did not occur near any of the

hotels that first-year students are housed in, it did occur in an area that might as well be off the main campus.

USC needs to act quickly to ensure the safety of its students. USC director of law enforcement and safety Ernest Ellis's comment that the natural lighting at the Roost is sufficient is a joke. More lamps and safety boxes in the south part of campus would be a start.

But security should have more of a presence in these areas as well. Lighting only goes so far. The constant sight of a USC patrolman could help crime prevention by leaps and bounds. With more patrolmen, as well as more alert security guards, crime on this campus could well see a significant drop-off.

But until actions such as these are apparent, it is up to you to act responsibly. Never walk by yourself at night. If you need to, call the escort service or the USC Police Department for a ride. And even if you have someone to walk with, make sure to take the most well lit paths. Just take the time to ensure your own safety; it is clear that security has become an issue that can't be overlooked.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

## Thank God for Interstate 95



CATHERINE BAAB  
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**No matter how much it takes me in circles, at least it's always there.**

I gave my apartment a thorough overhaul last night. This is a ritual I perform every week or so, when the idea occurs to me that all the objects I own, i.e. the junk piled on my desk — the books, the unwashed coffee mugs, the overflowing ashtrays, the scrawled illegible notes, the albums, the ancient newspapers, the ticket stubs, the books — will magically begin to calcify and become a hard entrapping shell unless given a firm dusting. The re-ordering soothes me.

In some circles, particularly those I don't care to travel in, this habit might serve as evidence of a certain if minor commitment phobia on my part. And those people might have a certain, if minor, point. Mine's a divided life. I was born here in Columbia,

fled when I was 4. I lived in Richmond, Va., until I graduated from high school. Then I came back, to attend USC. Now, six or seven times a year, I trolley up and down I-95, dodge trucks and indulge in far too much McDonald's fare. With half affection, half irritation, I consider I-95 to be the dividing line of my life — what Yeats called "the old high way of love."

It sends me home. It sends me away from home. It subjects me to South of the Border, with its bizarrely accepted brand of racism. It subjects me to those God-awful billboards, with messages presented as from the old deity himself: "Will the Road You're On Get You to My Place?" Even better: "Keep Using My Name In Vain. I'll Make Rush Hour Longer."

You know, if His signature is up for grabs, I might not be able to resist using it to serve my own ends. Note to my biology professor: "Cat couldn't make lab today. Excuse her, or I'll smite you. Yours, God." Which is not even to mention the fortune the FCC might make if it decided to regulate the practice, and sell licenses. Who's in charge of this racket, anyway? I'm pretty sure it isn't God himself. Heaven hath no such press agents.

In a way, I guess I have committed to I-95. It is as permanent

an address as I'm likely to have in the next several years. Sometimes, trapped in traffic at the I-295 Florence exit, or at the I-295 interchange just south of Richmond, I begin to feel as if the jam sheds a kind of light on my own mental map. I'm stuck, literally, in a little metal box. I'm stuck, figuratively; I can't pick a city to stay in. I'm standing still, all while traveling in circles.

Last year, my second at USC, a friend said to me: "You have an abnormally slow emotional metabolism. You slug about with all these rosy ideas simmering upstairs, and the big ones never seem to burn up." I had to agree with her.

And that reminds me of how, actually, I'm thankful for all the fixed points of the world: I-95, McDonald's, government, South of the Border, exam dates, nearly universal inanity of Southern billboards, etc. These are things on which we might all depend. No matter how our emotions might pendulum between extremes, or how difficult it might be to figure out just how and where to live, there exists in certain ideas and objects a permanence. They comprise our cultural northern star.

Thank God for that.

Baab is a third-year English and advertising student.

## It's time for the U.N. to step up



CHRISTOPHER FOY  
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**Iraq's defiance is more than enough reason to finally take action.**

This past weekend, President Bush said the United Nations has no backbone if it doesn't support us in our war with Iraq. And he couldn't have been closer to the truth.

The U.N. was formed many years ago with the optimistic view that it could serve as an international police force of sorts. That it would be able to regulate and make decisions on matters of international significance. With this said, it seems only logical that it would back us without hesitation when a nation's leader (who also happens to be a lunatic) poses a global threat with his weapons of mass destruction.

Yet it doesn't. It never acts, and, by doing so, it allows incidents such as this to occur. Saddam Hussein has defied the U.N. 16 times since the conclusion of the last Gulf War. Sixteen times he has made his intentions of not cooperating with the U.N. known, and 16 times he has suffered no punishment for his actions. A course of action against Iraq has been long overdue.

The ultimate objective isn't even one that pertains only to the United States. The goal in this conflict is to remove a terrorist threat. Right now, the threat is aimed at the United States, but who knows whom it could be aimed at next? If America doesn't act, then it would be clear that we don't have a strong standing in our war against terrorism. This conflict is not to draw attention away from al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden, but to accomplish the entire purpose of the war on terror. The objective is to stop all terrorists, not just a select few?

So the concern is, why aren't we receiving a lot of support? After all, the removal of terrorism is an international goal.

It's not as if we're lacking the support of the real playmakers in a situation such as this. We know Britain will back us no matter what. Italy has stepped up as well. Oh, wow, France and Germany don't approve. There's a shocker. Perhaps this would mean something if France could actually be a reliable ally in the first place. Germany could be a good ally, but, for the time being, it is choosing to stay out of the conflict.

But if the U.N. wishes to be hesitant, that's fine. We should go in anyway. Screw it if they want to be reluctant. As it stands, Iraq poses a threat to our national security and needs to be stopped. Perhaps if the U.N. did its job in the first place and convinced us that Iraq isn't a threat, we wouldn't even be in this situation right now. But when you let a country defy you 16 times, it can be assumed that you really don't have a lot of influence over it.

Hussein is a madman who needs to be removed from power. The time for being cordial is over. Even if the U.N. doesn't feel obligated to intervene, the threat on our nation will still remain. When we fought Iraq 10 years ago, we had no international coalition going into the affair. It was only after the war had begun that we began to receive such support. But with it or not, it won't change the fact that the threat does exist in Iraq. Bush did the right thing by approaching the U.N. Now it is its turn to respond in the interests of international security.

Foy is a fourth-year entrepreneurial management student.

### GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In the article about three teenage arrests, Tyrone Kelley was arrested late Wednesday night. Also, Capt. Steve Conley of the Richland County Police Department was not properly identified. The Gamecock regrets the error.

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

### ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

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### IN YOUR OPINION

#### For safety's sake, don't ignore rape

I have been meaning to write this letter for more than a week now, and while it was certainly tempting to simply forget it, it is precisely this kind of apathy that I intend to bring to your attention. I would direct anyone with a mother, sister, girlfriend or any kind of concern for the safety of students at this university to the police report in the Sept. 5 edition of The Gamecock, in which a violent rape that was committed outside the Roost dormitory was relegated to a single, non-descript paragraph.

Your refusal to print anything other than the most basic facts on the incident (which your writer titled "criminal sexual activity, kidnapping" in a clear effort to avoid the word "rape") represents a journalistic failure that is not only disgusting and appalling, it borders on the criminal. If it is the intention of The Gamecock and others at this university to allow this act to slip into obscurity, then I am here to make sure you do not succeed.

Considering that awareness is the foundation of crime prevention, then ignorance is not only the acceptance of future violence, it is its very encouragement. I beg you to recon-

sider your paper's silence. I would be happy to author the article myself if necessary, but for the sake of the victim and for our USC community, don't let this serious incident pass away quietly. I doubt you want the next rape or violent attack on your conscience any more than I do.

The safety of this campus is an issue that affects every one of the more than 25,000 students and faculty members at this university. If you don't feel that kind of story belongs on your front page, perhaps you shouldn't be in the newspaper business at all.

ADAM HABIB  
THIRD-YEAR ENGLISH STUDENT

#### Papers create more than 'a little trash'

"Every day, a section of rainforest is cut down the size of New York City." At least that's what we have been taught our whole lives. "Save the rainforest; reuse, reduce and recycle." Admirable goals, certainly, but how can we believe the commitment of our country to that goal when we are shoveling tons of yellow paper into the trash every day at USC? We have all seen it. The guys on either side of the Russell House handing out those inane, yellow, pseudo-newspapers with nothing but

ads inside. And that's if one even bothers to open it. Most just accept the useless package and toss it into the nearest trash can.

Maybe it shouldn't be funny, but looking at the trash cans near the Russell House filled with the same sickly yellow-colored paper still elicits a chuckle from me. It is the same laugh people make when they see their best friend shoot up heroin and know that it will kill them, or when they open up the third cigarette package of the day and know that lung cancer is a given. It is a laugh of knowing self-destruction.

We must stop this stupidity now. Some will say this is just an isolated place, and what we do here won't affect the world that much. "It's just a little trash." Well, one day when the world is dying before our eyes, we will all look around and ask one another, "Why didn't you stop it?"

"I didn't do anything wrong. It's just a little trash."

DANIEL LEE  
FIRST-YEAR COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT

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