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VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL

Should the United States try to force out Saddam Hussein?
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Results published on Fridays.

IN OUR OPINION

A new idea for parking

Complaints about campus parking are so numerous, they've started to fall on deaf ears. But creative solutions have been few and far between — until now. One group of students is actually doing something about it.

Members of Students Allied for a Greener Earth are proposing bike lanes on streets that run through campus, and they've made plans to talk to President Andrew Sorensen about their idea. Sorensen is a cyclist, and the idea might actually become reality with his support.

While SAGE's ideas are underdeveloped, they have serious potential. While SAGE's ideas are underdeveloped, they have serious potential. SAGE

members should continue to press for a more bike-friendly campus — but it's going to take a lot of work and time. The organization will need the support of the administration and the city. Most of all, it will need the support of students: Bike lanes will never work if students still insist on driving everywhere.

SAGE must make a solid proposal that addresses such questions as how to get support, what to do about streets with side parking, how to fund the project and whether the school or the city will be responsible for it. Members must outline specific streets and prove they've done their research to garner support.

Because parking is continually being removed from the center of campus, and more changes are in store, students are being forced to ride shuttles from perimeter lots and garages. Cycling can be a solution — SAGE members just have their work cut out for them.

Winners and Sinners



GAMECOCK DEFENSE Gave up only six points to UGA. Unfortunately, the offense gave up the other seven.

BUSINESS SCHOOL Once again ranked No. 1. Darla remains bitter.

SAUDI ARABIA Allows U.S. to use military bases to attack Iraq. Starbucks and AOL Time Warner to follow suit.

FLORIDA ELECTIONS Two elections, nearly two years apart, and you're still counting. Next election, voters are urged to write in "Chad."

SEC REFEREES Could prevent arm strains if they just started to leave flags on ground.

LUDACRIS Getting no joy from Pepsi. Rapper going on a venting tour to "hit" up girls in every area code instead of Bill O'Reilly.

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

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

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Offices on third floor of the Russell House.
Editor in Chief: gamecockeditor@hotmail.com
News Desk: gamecockdesk@hotmail.com
Viewpoints: gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com
The Mix: gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com
Sports: gamecocksports@hotmail.com
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Public Affairs: gokpublicaffairs@hotmail.com
Newsroom: 777-7726
Editor's Office: 777-7214

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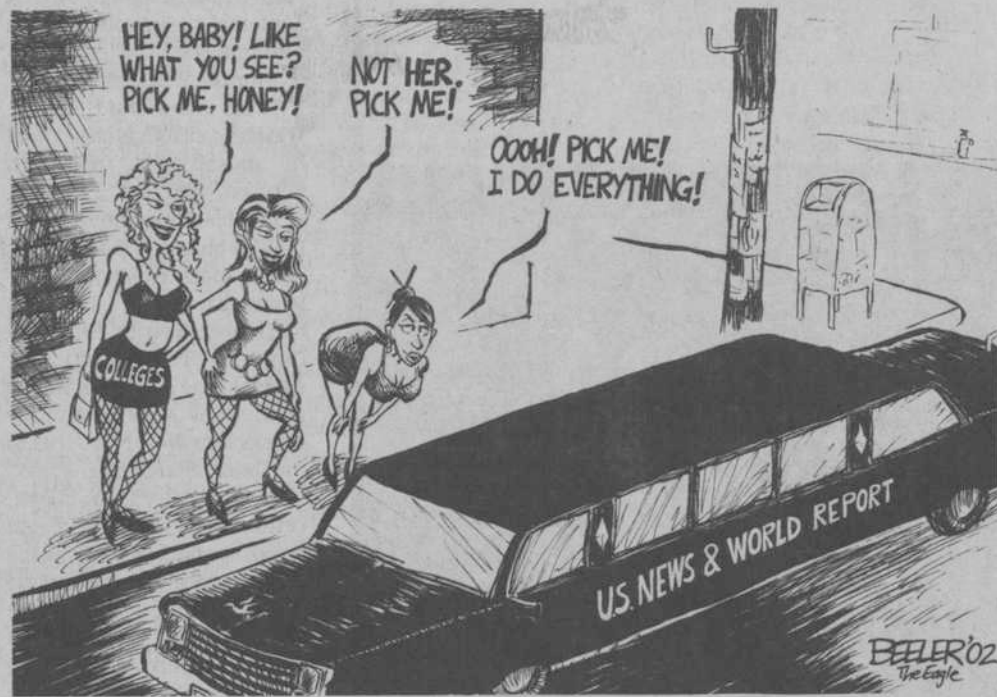
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The Gamecock
1400 Greene St.
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Fax: 777-6482



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Dark days for football, politics



TYLER JONES

GAMECOCKVIEWPOINTS@HOTMAIL.COM

Florida fans are as odd as the rest of the state.

The pain was low as I felt the gravity of what had happened. I knew I had a long walk through a muddy and depressed fairground with nothing but the vision of that ball bouncing off Andrew Pinnock's hands.

As I passed through the maze of SUV's and discarded barbecue, I saw my reflection in the tint of the windows and thought not of my own disappointment, but of the money that drifted out of Andrew's hands, as everyone from Jerry Jones to Ryan Leaf was sure to see the fumble on national television.

"Tough loss, kid," a gravelly voice echoed from a huge orange Winnebago. "How about some Wild Turkey, soften the blow?"

It was true. My nerves were raw and my esteem was as non-existent as the Democratic Party. Whiskey was just what I needed, so I walked into the stranger's home-with-wheels and saddled up to a bar with alligator skin for a surface top. There were naked pictures of Steve Spurrier and autographed glossies of Danny Wuerffel and Emmitt Smith covering the walls.

My hosts were both decked in the most garish outfits imaginable: electric orange overalls and neon blue shirts with hats that looked like stuffed animal alligators.

"Are you gentlemen Florida fans?"

"Sure are, son," the large one replied. "We hate Georgia so much that we travel up heres to see them Dawgs get beat."

"Actually, we are just trying to get the hell out of Florida. The state is a mess," replied the younger man, who was obviously more intelligent.

Buster, the horizontally imposing one, opened a third bottle of whiskey and I began to think of why running from Florida wasn't such a bad idea.

Politics is a cruel sport — much crueler than football. Jeb Bush is a virtual lock to take the throne in 2008 and no one will stop him — not even his crack-addled daughter Noelle, who celebrated Sept. 11 in jail after her third bust this year. It is fitting in a way that the Governor can't raise his own spoiled princess, especially in a state that has over 750 missing children roaming the retirement communities or riding with Noelle in South Beach.

In fact, the only thing right with Florida is the weather, and much of that is spoiled by the sight of an unemployed and defeated Janet Reno sunbathing on heavily populated beaches.

Yes, Mr. Reno was beaten by Vietnam war hero, Billy McBride, in a disputed election for the Democratic nomination in the race for Governor. Despite a \$30 million upgrade in the voting booth machinery, Florida botched it again and Reno is still sitting by the phone waiting for Al Gore to call and say "I know how ya feel."

As I stumbled out of the "Gator Wagon," the anguish of defeat had subsided and the madness of the world had once again returned to my brain, hot with drink. I began to fear the realization that Florida's incompetency would be coming to a theatre near you.

Jeb Bush and his crack-smoking daughter sitting in the ivory towers of Washington by the decade's end was a menacing image. So I turned around, jumped back in the Gator Wagon and said, "Who's game for Mexico?"

Jones is a graduate student in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

To my good friend, Dubya



EDRIN WILLIAMS

GAMECOCKVIEWPOINTS@HOTMAIL.COM

Having friends in high places has its perks.

Dear GW,

This is your good buddy Ed. I say "good buddy" because your every action affects me, those I care about and my future plans. With all that influence, I figure I have the right to call you buddy.

The truth is, however, you don't even know I exist, and you reflect that shameful truth in many of your actions. I won't waste your time or mine recollecting numerous past inconsiderate actions, like November 2000 in Dade County, Fla. What I will do is offer my advice on an issue that is pressing as we speak.

Last I heard, you were pressing the U.N. and our allies for support to go and finish a fight your father couldn't finish a little over 10 years ago. Honestly, G-dub, I think you should step back and see the bigger picture. My grandmother would say, "you can't see the fores because you are too busy looking at the trees," and in your case, the trees include cementing a more honorable place in history and avoiding the stigma of being the "ben-

eficiary of the presidency."

So, in order to raise your stock, you are running around begging for support in your effort to "take it to Saddam Hussein once and for all." How easy is that? Everyone knows that if you want to make yourself look like a humanitarian and a war mastermind, you can always pick on 'ole Saddam.

So, unlike Carolina's offense on Saturday, you went with the guarantee. It's just like the loser guys who can't get any action from regular or fine girls; they go to the known trick because they know they can get it easy. And like the trick, Saddam has not disappointed. He's given you just enough resistance so that you and your sock puppets in the media can blow this out of proportion. Just too easy!

Well, unlike the guy who gets with the easy girl, G, I need you to act smarter than you really are.

Look at the facts. What is different today than in 1991? First of all, the country was a lot more stable then. In the midst of a war on terrorism, we continue to be an unstable union. Look at the charade that occurred last week where three medical students of middle-eastern descent were detained for 17 hours by federal officers based on the account of one woman at Shoney's. Profiling and prejudice against this group of people is at an all-time high. I empathize with the innocent because, unlike many of my readers, I have been subjected to profiling.

Not to stray to far off subject, I

believe that the economy is another major difference. We are in the midst of a depressing economic downturn. Any war is expensive, but a war using chemical and biological warfare could prove detrimental to financial recovery in the coming months.

Last, but perhaps of most importance, we have little support from other countries. That alone should make you think twice about your actions. If we are as justified as you say, why are so few nations backing us?

GW, as a close friend, I ask you to think about this. This country is seemingly head and shoulders above most other nations. We pride ourselves on the tenets of life, liberty and justice for all. But much of that statement is embellished. The life and liberty we hold so dear are often at the expense of citizens of countries that happen to be under control of bad leaders. The justice we boast about is restricted to those who can afford it or those who look most like the lawmakers and enforcers.

I could write for hours about the wrongs that need to be corrected in this country before we try and clean up another, but it's late and I have to study for my educational psychology exam. You see, I've found a means of civilizing people that does not include air strikes while they sleep.

I want to be a professor.

Please write back.

Edrin

Williams is a fourth-year African-American studies student.

IN YOUR OPINION

U.S. abusing global governing powers

The U.S. has always had somewhat of a moral advantage in world affairs. The U.S. leaned toward democracy and human rights and against aggressors. But that advantage is now being wasted.

The CIA taught torture in Latin America and other places. When Iraq was busy gassing the Iranians, the U.S. was silent. When the U.S. rescued Kuwait, they restored a dictatorship rather than create a democracy.

In the fight against al-Qaida, the U.S. does not treat their prisoners as prisoners of war, nor as criminals. Rather, they keep them blinded in open-air mesh kennels in Cuba. They prevent access by their consular officials or lawyers. This is all contrary to the Geneva Convention and other international law.

The only white American al Qaida caught in Afghanistan was convicted in criminal court in the U.S. But non-white Americans and citizens of Sweden, Canada, Britain, Pakistan, Afghanistan and others are just housed like dogs.

Now, the U.S. is demanding Iraq adhere to U.N. resolutions on threat of invasion. But they don't insist on the same compliance for Israel, that is vio-

lating more U.N. resolutions than Iraq and already has nuclear weapons.

Power has never been so naked.

Isn't it time for the U.S. to follow its own Constitution? Isn't it time for the U.S. to regain the moral high ground as well as the military high ground?

Isn't it time for the only superpower to become a law-abiding member of the world community?

Or will the U.S. continue to make enemies until the whole world is against them?

TOM TROTTER

OTTAWA, CANADA

USC shouldn't be so quick to tow

I'm a part-time transfer student here at USC. The other day my car was towed from the Coliseum parking lot. It cost me \$130.

The USC police said that my car was parked illegally. First of all, there were several other cars that were parked illegally as well. I'm paying \$700 a class here, so I feel that students should receive adequate parking. I also feel that faculty members should receive assigned parking.

I'm going speak my mind as much as possible about the USC police towing my car and about the parking problems at USC.

Why does the college wait until the fall term to start construction at the Coliseum? I'm going to write a letter to the parking services office and complain to them and try to get my money back.

If the students and faculty were not here, no one else here would have jobs. Yet they can't provide students and faculty with fair parking.

I feel that the USC police could have at least have put a parking and towing notice on my car. I did receive help from a graduate assistant in the HRTM office. He let me use the phone and gave me the phone number for the USC police as well.

I don't know what this GA's name was, but thanks for your help. At least you care about students and don't get your kicks from having a student's car towed.

To all USC students and faculty: stand up for yourself and if you get a ticket, at least try to fight it and complain to parking services.

EDWARD BRECHT

SECOND-YEAR HOTEL, RESTAURANT & TOURISM MANAGEMENT STUDENT

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