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

IN OUR OPINION

Bulldog-free student seats

USC's student section has long been a source of pride for Carolina students as well as a noisy atmosphere for opposing teams. While students don't mind standing for the duration of the game, or simply being in a packed crowd, certain adjustments need to be made.

Security caught 27 students trying to enter the stadium using false IDs, but no one was there to stop countless Georgia fans from making it to the student section from other sections. Students expect rowdy fans to fill those seats, but not fans of the opposing teams.

Students expect rowdy fans to fill those seats, but not fans of the opposing teams.

Some USC students were denied tickets to the game because student seats were sold out. If security is going to make sure unwanted guests don't get into the stadium, it

should also make sure that those already permitted inside aren't wandering where they shouldn't.

It's good to see security is playing a vital role outside the stadium, but what about inside? Students typically can't wander anywhere they choose, so why is it that anyone can wander into the designated student section?

Packing fans into the stadium is not an issue. But because there were USC students who did not receive tickets to the game, it was disheartening to see that several Georgia fans were able to occupy seats that some USC students were denied.

Gamecock Quotables

"You throw a chicken leg in that parking lot out there and expect ants not to run to it, you're sadly mistaken."

ERNIE ELLIS
DIRECTOR OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SAFETY, ON SECURITY AT THE ROOST

"I don't think there's any doubt the football team's shaky. If this football team ever needed support from the fans, it's now."

LOU HOLTZ
USC HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, ON THE LOSS TO GEORGIA

"A lot of Georgia fans were talking a lot of junk, but I didn't see any more fights, although I felt like fighting."

TONY GOODING
A SECOND-YEAR SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT STUDENT, ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR AT THE GEORGIA FOOTBALL GAME

"They don't have Mom and Dad cooking for them anymore; they have more freedom to eat what they want. ... And beer — beer is just empty calories."

MICHELLE MURPHY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS, ON AVOIDING THE FRESHMAN 15

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In an article on Wednesday about upcoming USC School of Music events, the opening for the Center for Southern African-American Music was listed incorrectly. The opening will be held Oct. 25. The Gullah Singers will not be performing.

The Gamecock regrets the errors.

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

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Who will save your soul?



ROB SEAL

[GAMECOCKVIEWPOINTS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com)

Jesus needs a better way of communicating.

Jesus sent me a postcard the other day. I guess it wasn't really a postcard, because it looked more like one of those subscription cards you tear out of a magazine. The return address definitely read Jesus, though.

On closer inspection, it was Jesus — in all caps — and video project of America — in very small letters, a video featuring the New York City Fire Department accompanied this little letter.

I also received notification of the impending apocalypse in the mail. It's a nice flier, complete with a fold-out picture of a dragon, a bear chewing on bones, a lion with wings, a three-headed tiger (also with wings) and a pissed-off-looking buffalo. On the front of the flier, there is another

drawing of a dragon. He is flanked on either side by pictures of Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. The title of the flier is "The Time of the Beast."

The back of this flier is the best part, though. It shows a drawing of the earth, shrouded in black clouds. Nuke-looking missiles are flying through the stratosphere toward the United States. The rest of the world seemed to be doing OK, but the continent we live on has several measles-looking red marks. I guess those are the bombs that already landed. The slogan at the bottom of the picture reads, "Is the end of the world near... or here?" That rhymes.

I work at a bookstore. I was walking out the door to go on my lunch break one day, when a man walked up to me in the parking lot and handed me a flier. It was much smaller than the "Time of the Beast" flier, and it didn't even include a video. It did have magic words on the cover, though. The title of this flier, as near as I can tell, is "Absolutely Free." That's what was printed on the top, anyway. There are no pictures of a nine-horned dragon, intimidating Arabs, nukes or three-headed flying tigers on this flier.

I work with an elderly gentleman named Bob at the bookstore. He's lived in three different con-

tinents, served in the military, earned two degrees, worked at more trades than I can count and been a devout Christian all his life. He is possibly one of the nicest people I know.

He has belonged to seven denominations of the Christian faith during the course of his life. When I asked him why, he told me that the only constant he's found in all the different churches is that his relationship with God is a private one. Bob took his break the same time I did that day, and he did not like the guy in the parking lot.

"Jesus loves you, brother," said the guy, extending the "Absolutely Free" flier.

"I know," said Bob. He didn't take the flier.

I had never seen Bob be so short with anyone before. The guy circled once, and came in for another pass. Bob wasn't having it.

"Look, guy, I know what you're trying to do. I assure you, my soul is safe."

The guy looked angry. I think he was used to being ignored or accosted, but not politely told that somebody else's soul is nobody else's business.

Way to go, Bob.

Seal is a fourth-year print journalism student.

IN YOUR OPINION

Professor memorial was appreciated

I want to thank The Gamecock for its coverage of Mr. Talmage Fauntleroy's memorial service. It meant a lot to us to have the chance to sing and talk about him and share our grief together.

When we got there, all of us still expected him to walk through the door and say what a great party it was. He meant so much to all of us, and we miss him. I was among three of his last stage-directing students, and I am honored that I had the chance to come to Carolina to study with him.

We had good times and bad. He got angry with us if we did not live up to our full potential. Those of us in opera spent anywhere from four to 25 hours a week with him between classes and rehearsals — perhaps a little bit more time than most people are used to spending with a professor!

He invited us to his apartment; he invested in us. He went to the Salsa Cabana with us once. Within opera, he found ways of celebrating his race and culture, and I am inspired to do the same.

I learned so much from him. Mainly, I learned that I still have a lot to learn.

DIANA DIAZ
GRADUATE OPERA THEATRE STUDENT

Columnist's opinion on U.S. is skewed

Edrin, you are misled, and I feel it's my duty as a fellow student and a fellow American to enlighten you. I will attempt to do this in a more coherent manner than you displayed by avoid-

ing nonsensical analogies.

Let's start with criticizing the president for not knowing you personally. Don't feel too bad; he doesn't know me either, and I worked for his administration this summer for free.

We are in a war, and our homeland is vulnerable to future attacks. So, if it takes detaining men of Middle Eastern descent who were publicly making verbal threats against our country while making light of 9/11, then detain them for questioning.

The president didn't just flip through his book of world leaders, find a picture of Saddam, and say, "Hey this guy looks good." Saddam has continually broken promises by throwing U.N. weapons inspectors out and is a clear threat to this country, his neighbors and his own people. So, in the future, when you refer to him as "Ole Saddam," you might want to take these matters into consideration.

On the issue of lack of support, we have more than enough support to get the job done. The president has exhausted many avenues of diplomacy in front of the U.N., and if it doesn't want to intervene, then step aside and let us take care of this problem.

Finally, on the issue of life, liberty and justice for all, we won't have these freedoms unless we oust dangerous leaders, such as Saddam, and take necessary measures to stamp out terrorism around the world.

BLAKE CARL
FOURTH-YEAR HISTORY STUDENT

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Maybe 'equal' isn't the word



TERRANCE BEEKS
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Political offices in S.C. are lacking in diversity.

I recall my grandmother constantly saying, "Terrance, you can be anything that you want to be." I believed every word of it when I was younger. I thought I could both become and do anything I wanted. The only stipulation was that I had to "put my mind to it."

The bitter truth is I can neither become nor do anything I want. There are restrictions on how far I can reach in this great game we call life. I learned as a child that everyone is equal, but not everyone will treat everyone else as an equal.

I recall explaining to a friend that South Carolina has never elected an African-American to serve as a statewide elected official — someone who must be elected by the entire state — outside of the Reconstruction Era. He was shocked and disappointed. At the time, I did not think it was that alarming. I did not fully realize the significance.

South Carolina has never had a black statewide official, though one-third of its population is African-American. According to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the number of black elected officials nationally grew by 104 positions between January 1999 and January 2000.

New York, Colorado, Georgia and North Carolina all have black statewide elected officials. Virginia elected Douglas Wilder, the lone African-American governor in U.S. history. Edward R. Brooke of Massachusetts and Carol Mosely-Braun of Illinois were the only black senators elected since Reconstruction.

African-Americans have sought South Carolina statewide positions in the past. Rep. James Clyburn (D) ran twice for statewide office. He now represents South Carolina's sixth congressional district. Former state Sen. Theo Mitchell won the Democratic nomination for governor in 1990. He was defeated.

Some African-American leaders think black politicians run into a "glass ceiling" in South Carolina politics. Many African-Americans think representing South Carolina's 6th Congressional (majority black) District is the highest office an African-American can hope to achieve, while white politicians have endless opportunities to attain high offices.

White voters are less likely to support black candidates than they are white candidates. While the standards white voters use for deciding whether to vote for a black candidate are not certain, some think blacks are perceived as being too liberal and need to appeal to broader constituencies in order to attract white votes. Black candidates must receive 20 percent to 30 percent of the white vote to win a statewide election.

South Carolina voters have the chance to make history this November. Steve Benjamin is a Democrat running for attorney general. Rick Wade, also a Democrat, is running for secretary of state. We can prove to the nation that racism is not a factor in South Carolina elections.

I do not endorse South Carolina citizens' voting for someone simply because of their race. I think it is wrong, however, to choose not to vote for certain candidate simply because of their race even when one's political beliefs most closely match theirs. We want to show all children that they can be anything they want to be.

Beeks is a fourth-year political science student.