

SOUND OFF

Create message boards at
www.dailygamecock.com or
send letters to the editor to
gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com



VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL

Should Annika Sorenstam be
allowed to play on the PGA Tour?
www.dailygamecock.com.
Results published on Fridays.

IN OUR OPINION

Stars aren't
war experts

As tension has grown between the United States and Iraq, many musicians and actors have used their high profiles to influence politicians and citizens. But Americans need to evaluate the artists' anti-war rhetoric with some skepticism.

In December, Mike Farrell, famous for his role on the TV series "MASH," was one of 104 people — most of them celebrities — who signed a letter to Washington to protest the war. Other signers included David

**Americans need
to evaluate
celebrities'
anti-war rhetoric
with some
skepticism.**

Duchovny, Susan Sarandon and comedienne Janeane Garofalo. Farrell is a longtime political activist, but Garofalo is famous for telling jokes, not for her involvement in politics.

It's a constitutional right to petition the government, but some in show business use their publicity to blow smoke.

Before the Iraq conflict, many celebrities suggested they would leave the country if Bush were elected. Pierre Salinger, a TV journalist and former press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, said he'd move to France — and he was the only one to make good on his promise. Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder also said he would leave, but only made it as far as Hawaii.

Rock musician Dave Matthews argues against the war in a letter on his band's Web site. Even British artists such as Massive Attack and Thom Yorke of Radiohead have offered their two cents.

Most of these artists are short of any solutions other than letting the U.N. inspectors do their jobs. While war might not be the solution, Americans need to determine their own stances on the war and take the celebrities' rhetoric only at face value.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

When Iraq came a-rapping



DAVID STAGG

GAMECOCKVIEWPOINTS@HOTMAIL.COM

Bush and Saddam are
friends nevermore.

Once upon a middy dreary, while Powell argued strong and clearly,

For the evidence of an Iraq state that was breaking rules,

While we watched CNN, surprisingly shut out again,

He explained his stance to us when the U.N. was played for fools.

"I promise this is true," he muttered, "you're being played for fools —

"Wholly this, and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in a past September, When each separate dying ember fell from the Two Towers.

It was here the war had started; Iraq and al-Qaida parted;

Afghanistan bombed wholehearted to start the show of U.S. power —

For the protection of the civilians living domestically by the

hour —

To be picked on, nevermore.

But now the war's focus has changed to the country who's already maimed

From the economic sanctions placed after the Gulf War;

So that now, to still the beating of our hearts, we are constantly repeating

"We don't need to be entreating at the edge of Iraq's shores —

"We don't belong there, entreating, we don't belong there anymore —

"Anymore, nevermore."

But recently, our souls grow stronger; Bush is hesitating now no longer;

Willing to go without the United Nations, he implores.

But the fact is that Iraq isn't napping; hiding weapons, quickly trapping

Weapons inspectors while they're tapping, tapping at their heads so sore —

"Where are the weapons they aren't scrapping? Are they behind some door?"

"We want this, and nothing more."

And we have a weird situation, not only do we have a rogue nation,

But half the U.S. army's stationed, stationed in the Persian Gulf —

A standoff of large proportions, wond'ring if it's a distor-

tion,

Some hoping that it leads to abortion, abortion of the U.S. in the Gulf —

"Are we already fighting? We already seem so engulfed —

Is it this, or is there more?"

But I have come to tell you clearly, the truth of why we fight so dearly,

Fighting for what seems to be yearly, yearly conflict in the area;

Yes, I was there on that night, that Bush and Saddam had the fight,

The fight over what started this anxiety hysteria —

It was what you'd not expect to cause mass hysteria —

Unexpected, evermore.

Yes, it has ended relations before, and left people with bitter sores,

To only remind them of why they fought, which ends with feelings new;

Bush and Saddam were once good friends, now fighting to the bitter end,

Fighting until the friendship bends, now helpless, snapped in two —

"If only Saddam had let me have control of the remote,"

Bush said,

"It was only this — nothing more."

Stagg is a second-year media-arts student.

College Quote Board

UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN
CHRISTINE ROBINSON, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

"Consensual oral and anal sex between members of the same sex is included in Kansas' definition of 'criminal sodomy,' and the penalty is a prison term of as much as six months and possibly a fine of as much as \$1,000....

This law is blatantly discriminatory and unjustifiable from any reasonable standpoint."

THE DAILY COUGAR
ALEX WUKMAN, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

"If we show children the outcome of warfare and weapons, then they may not be so eager to settle their disputes with violence. If we show them an HIV/AIDS survivor group, then they may not be so willing to engage in unprotected sex.

We mustn't sugarcoat these ideas; often the most shocking and mind-blowing lessons are the ones best remembered."

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In a news brief on Friday, Jessica Tzerman's name was misspelled. 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.

ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

Editor in Chief
Jill Martin

Managing Editor
Charles Tomlinson

News Editor
Adam Beam

Asst. News Editor
Wendy Jeffcoat

Viewpoints Editor
Erin O'Neal

The Mix Editor
Corey Garriott

Asst. The Mix Editor
Meg Moore

Sports Editor
Matt Rothenberg

Asst. Sports Editor
Brad Senkiw

Photo Editor
Johnny Haynes

Asst. Photo Editor
Morgan Ford

Head Page Designers
Sarah McLaulin, Katie Smith, David Stagg

Page Designers
Justin Bajan, Samantha Hall, Staci Jordan, Julia Knetzer, Shawn Rourk

Slot Copy Editors
Crystal Boyles, Tricia Ridgway, Emma Ritch

Copy Editors
Jessica Foster, Alyson Goff, Mary Waters

Online Editor
Bessam Khadraoui

Community Affairs
Kiran Shah

CONTACT INFORMATION

Offices on third floor of the Russell House.
Editor in Chief: gamecockeditor@hotmail.com
News: gamecockdesk@hotmail.com
Viewpoints: gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com
The Mix: gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com
Sports: gamecocksports@hotmail.com
Public Affairs: gckpublicaffairs@hotmail.com
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Newsroom: 777-7726
Editor's Office: 777-3914

STUDENT MEDIA

Faculty Adviser
Erik Collins

Director of Student Media
Ellen Parsons

Creative Director
Susan King

Business Manager
Carolyn Griffin

Advertising Manager
Sarah Scarborough

Classified Manager
Sherry F. Holmes

Production Manager
Patrick Bergen

Creative Services
Derek Goode, Earl Jones, Sean O'Meara, Anastasia Oppert

Advertising Staff
John Blackshire, Adam Bourgoine, Bianca Knowles, Denise Leveaux, Jacqueline Rice, Stacey Todd

TO PLACE AN AD

The Gamecock
1400 Greene St.
Columbia, S.C. 29208

Advertising: 777-3888
Classified: 777-1184
Fax: 777-6482

Discrimination in
all forms is wrong

In his letter to the editor, ("Affirmative action isn't un-American," Feb. 12) Professor Robert Stokes asks the question: "Do you see any social policy as being more important than the parochial rights of the individual in society?" My answer is an emphatic, yes!

Affirmative action was a beneficial program that served a much-needed cause. At its conception, affirmative action helped this country take great strides toward equality and justice. Notice my use of the past tense. Our society is now much more diverse and multi-cultural. Anyone with the right motivation can earn a college degree, and more people from every walk of life are going to college now than ever before.

Stokes has a valid argument; President Bush was given preferential treatment from various colleges and other institutions. But in trying to raise an example of unfairness in our society, Stokes proved my point. Of course it is not fair that Bush or any other person should be accepted to college not because they meet admissions requirements, but because of an external factor which has no effect on their scholastic aptitude.

It is also unfair to admit any student with sub-par qualifications on the sole basis of their ethnicity. It is unfair to other more qualified candidates, and it is unfair to the underqualified applicants themselves. Academic regulations are set up for a reason, they provide a standard that a person must

meet in order to have a good chance of succeeding.

Stokes also makes a comment regarding our responsibility to "personal sacrifice." He thinks it is my duty to embrace being denied admission to a university for which I am qualified so that less qualified applicants can take my place. I challenge someone to explain how a person who is being unjustly kept from something they deserve is doing "their part in helping to forge a better society."

CHRIS SPEAKS

SECOND-YEAR RELIGIOUS-STUDIES STUDENT

SG needs Donehue
to make a change

I was really excited to hear that Wesley Donehue is considering a possible run for student body president.

I am an active member of College Republicans and I know Wesley Donehue personally. Wes has been a strong leader in our organization for many years. He is one of those people who will go out of his way to listen to you and to make you feel welcome.

I know Wes will be a great student-body president, and I give him my full support in whatever he should decide to do. Wes is a leader in the truest sense of the word and he will get things done. Wes has a great desire to make a difference on the Carolina campus.

He's willing to take advice and to take the much-needed steps to make the USC community better and safer for all students. Wes sees the ways he can help and wants to act on his

ideas. He can and will speak for every student's need on this campus.

I'm ready for real leadership in Student Government. Are you?

ALLISON HICKS

FIRST-YEAR POLITICAL-SCIENCE STUDENT

Situation in Iraq
cannot be ignored

Detractors of the proposed war on Iraq have really come out of the woodwork over the past few months. These anti-war activists have said that such a conflict is unnecessary because war solves nothing. My question to them is what has diplomacy accomplished over the past 12 years?

Saddam Hussein has repeatedly ignored U.N. resolutions imposed on his regime since the conclusion of the Gulf War, which he started by invading Kuwait. Even if he had complied with U.N. demands, it would have taken well over a decade to do so.

If no punishment is levied against this dictator, the message will be sent that adherence to U.N. resolutions is optional. This is a message that must not be sent, and continued diplomatic failures will only hamper such a goal.

ALBERT ARD

FOURTH-YEAR HISTORY AND POLITICAL-SCIENCE STUDENT

Submission Policy

Letters to the editor should be less than 300 words and include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. E-mail letters to gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com. Letters will be edited. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

Senate
race is
already
exciting

BEN EDWARDS

GAMECOCKVIEWPOINTS@HOTMAIL.COM

Fritz Hollings needs to
watch his competition.

A field of Republican candidates is shaping up to challenge Sen. Fritz Hollings in 2004 if he decides to run again. A good deal of speculation has emerged that Hollings might decide to forgo another race for multiple reasons. The senator is not only 81 years old now, but also faces the daunting prospect of having to struggle against President Bush's sizeable coattails in the 2004 Presidential election.

In typical Southern fashion, South Carolina has voted increasingly Republican in the past thirty years. From 1970 to 1996, Democrats lost strength in the South Carolina General Election every year. Some speculation has emerged that Hollings might decide not to run again in a political climate that seems to be stacking the odds against Democrats. On the other hand, Hollings will not be easily unseated with the seniority he has amassed in his 35-plus years in the U.S. Senate.

So far, four Republican candidates have announced they will run for his seat. Congressman Jim DeMint from Greenville looks most likely to win the nomination after a merely formal primary. His opponents all lack either the ability to win or the experience necessary to be credible.

Thomas Ravenel, the son of state Sen. Arthur Ravenel, to the best of my knowledge, has never been elected to a public office before. His success in real estate does not qualify him for the U.S. Senate.

Former Congressman Tommy Hartnett lost to Hollings in 1992 by three percentage points. Having the same candidates face each other again would invite the same result as last time — a Republican loss in a conservative state.

Mayor Mark McBride of Myrtle Beach does not have the name recognition or the legislative experience of DeMint. At this point, all signs point toward DeMint winning the Republican nomination after an easy primary.

His odds of beating Hollings look better and better as the senator continues to grow older and the state becomes more Republican. Americans for Tax Reform awarded DeMint the "hero of the taxpayer" award for his legislative record. His Social Security plan would protect benefits for seniors and offer younger workers personal savings accounts.

South Carolina is a conservative state and DeMint has the highest lifetime conservative rating in the South Carolina delegation. He will not be the type of candidate that Hollings can take lightly.

The 2004 election seems even more likely to generate an upset because of the different political landscape. President Bush will be on the ballot; his approval ratings are higher than the national average throughout the South. The young Sen. Lindsey Graham, who will not be facing an election until 2008, will be much more effective in stumping statewide for Republican candidates than Sen. Strom Thurmond was in his later years.

Gov. Mark Sanford, coming up for re-election in 2006, will also be able to travel the state and rally support for the Republican nominee. All these factors combined will make it very difficult for Hollings to retain his seat. In my opinion, DeMint can go ahead and order senatorial stationery.

Edwards is a fourth-year philosophy student.