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VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL

Should USC charge students
tuition by the credit hour?
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IN OUR OPINION

Run a shuttle
to Five Points

USC once considered running a shuttle to and from Five Points. For a marginal fee, the shuttle would conveniently and safely cart students back to campus after a night on the town.

Former USC President John Palms kiboshed the plan because he said it would encourage underage drinking and because of potential problems between the Five Points Merchants Association and USC's Board of Trustees. The project was dropped.

With a new president in charge of USC, the plan for a shuttle to Five Points should be proposed again in the midst of reports that crime there is on the rise. Now, with a new president in charge of USC, the shuttle plan should be proposed again in the midst of reports that crime — hold-ups and muggings — is rising in Five Points. Jessica Black, a second-year graduate business student, was fired at twice by a robber in Five Points last month. Lesha Utsey, spokeswoman for the Columbia

Police Department, said robberies have been on the rise lately, possibly because of economic downturns.

A shuttle might or might not encourage underage drinking; either way, enforcement of the law is the responsibility of the police and individual bars. But without the shuttle, USC students could find themselves at the end of a gunpoint.

The shuttle would also help prevent drunken driving. Both underage and legal drinkers sometimes drive under the influence; regardless of the legality, both cases could end in tragedy. And a new president might give the program another chance.

College Quote Board

MICHIGAN DAILY
JOSEPH LITMAN, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"My man G-Dub is an embarrassment. ... Whether he's inventing language, pausing every six seconds to remember what he's been told to say next or simply bungling a common aphorism, G-Dub constantly makes himself seem stupid, and that reflects poorly on the public that both voted for him and has allowed him to remain a bumbling fool. We should feel ashamed of him, and mostly, ourselves."

OKLAHOMA DAILY
AMINTA OSSOM, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

"American entertainment is a disgrace, and it is unfortunate that the rest of the world interprets the entertainment industry's images and messages as representations of this society."

"Although large corporations and studios are the makers of most entertainment, it is equally true that viewers share in the responsibility to for what the entertainment industry produces. Viewers get what they ask for."

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

An article about Islam in last Wednesday's paper should have stated that Muslims profess their faith by saying, "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet."

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

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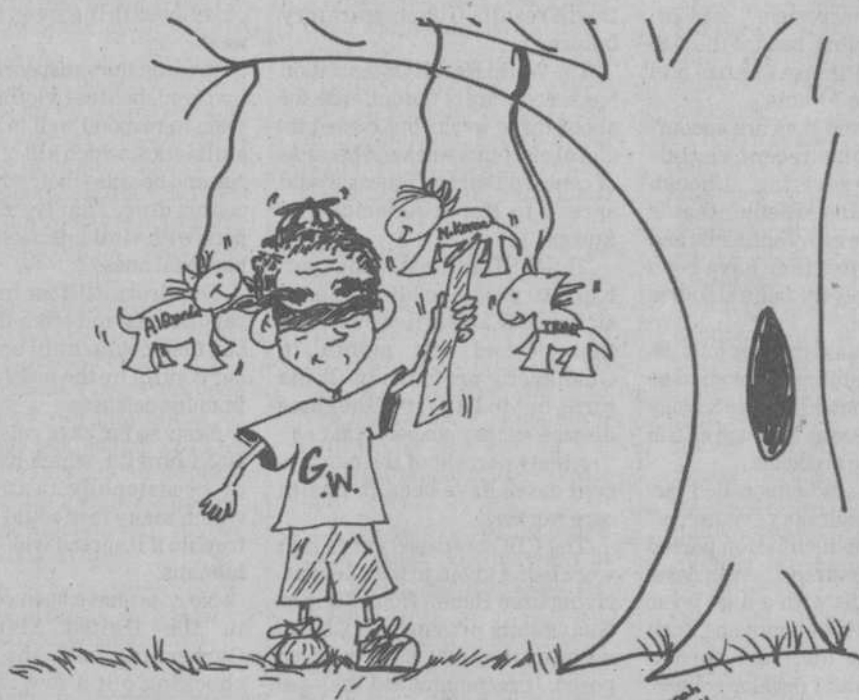
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China could sway N. Korea



PATRICK AUGUSTINE
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U.S. needs help from
evolving Asian nation.

America faces an international crisis of epic proportions, and it is not in the Middle East. While the world is focused on the outcome of UN inspections in Iraq, North Korea has reactivated its nuclear weapons program in defiance of a 1994 treaty it signed with the US and the international community. Unlike Iraq, the North Koreans possess the ability to produce weapons-grade nuclear material, and it is estimated that they could enrich enough for several bombs by July. Also, North Korea has ballistic missiles capable of reaching our west coast and implicitly anywhere in Asia, a fact that makes their nuclear ambitions all the more ominous for the world community.

What should frighten Americans is not that North Korea can build a nuke, but that its poverty-stricken, authoritarian regime would go so far as to

sell nuclear material to terrorist groups like al-Qaida.

Furthermore, while Iraq can successfully be contained by the coalition troops who have patrolled its borders since 1991, the threat of military force will only provoke the already unstable leader of North Korea, Kim Jung Il. This is a man who stands 5 feet 3 inches and compensates by wearing platform shoes and Transformer costumes — hardly the man you want at the helm of a nation with nuclear capabilities.

In much the same way that sanctions have impacted the people of Iraq and not its leadership, continuing to isolate North Korea will not achieve world security. Similarly, North Korea distrusts Washington's diplomatic overtures because of the American troops stationed along the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreans, where they have been since the cease-fire that ended the Korean War. We alone cannot bring peace to the region either through military force or negotiation; we need China's help.

China has been a growing force in the region by virtue of its population and economic significance, and therefore it makes sense to include them in negotiations that concern the security of their region. Furthermore, though, is the fact that they provide the preponderance of the aid that Pyongyang receives from the

international community, and thus have significant leverage with the North Koreans.

Don't think, however, that this Sino-Korean closeness stems from the fact that both nations are communist — they are both so in name only. When I was in Beijing in 1996, the joke was that the national bird of China was the construction crane, and one look at the smoggy skyline was enough to confirm the fact that the country was, and still is, modernizing.

The Communist Party understood that to resist modernity and open markets was to ensure a swift end to their power, while opening the state to limited capitalism would allow them to maintain a tenuous hold on power. While corruption is rife, the openness that is allowing China to move into the technological age will eventually undermine communism and lead to the democracy that the student leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising longed for.

2008 will see Beijing lift the veil on an extensive campaign to reconstruct the city for the Summer Olympics, but it is only through engaging China and confirming their fundamental role in Asian affairs that we can hope for peace and democracy in the region, and change in North Korea.

Augustine is a third-year political-science student.

IN YOUR OPINION

Pro-war arguments
don't make sense

This letter is in response to Allyson Bird's column ("Ignoring Iraq is not an option," Feb. 28).

Saddam Hussein is agreeably a bad man, and pretty much everyone wants him out of power. This is not the issue. The issue is how to go about it.

Saddam Hussein is not the cause of everyone dying in Iraq, as Bird insinuates. In fact, it is economic sanctions from the United States and the use of depleted uranium bomb shells that we used in the Gulf War that is killing millions of Iraqi children and other citizens.

Bird mentions things such as "push-button power," and how the protest movement has "forgotten the events of Sept. 11." The latter statement borders on one of the most absurd things I've heard all year but, for the sake of argument, I'll address it.

Sept. 11, which involved mostly Saudi citizens and not Iraqis, is largely unlinked to Iraq and Saddam. It scares me that the United States has this "push-button power" in a world that is supposed to be peaceful. It makes no sense how peace will come from this action, and our European allies see this same fallacy in Bush's argument.

Our country gave every single weapon Saddam has to Iraq in the late '80s, when we wanted him to overthrow Iran. Dick Cheney was getting rich by selling these weapons, and Donald Rumsfeld was visiting Baghdad to befriend Saddam.

As for how Iraq should be dealt with, I think the inspections are working. Saddam made the decision to destroy his Al-Samoud missiles as requested, and Hans Blix has said that further compliance and co-operation is becoming a reality. We should let the inspectors do their jobs and quit warmongering before we are put out of the world community.

MATT SMITH

FIRST-YEAR HISTORY STUDENT

Undergrads aren't
qualified to teach

I can be a witness that USC is not placing its students as a priority. I am a continuing-education student and had the most unpleasant experience of having an undergraduate as my lab instructor.

She was unprofessional in her behavior during lab, flirting with one of the male students, yelling at the class for no apparent reason and becoming annoyed when students asked her to explain material. At one point, she danced around the room with a pineapple on her head! I could not believe USC hired undergraduates to teach their labs.

I placed a call to Clemson University and, to my surprise, found out they do not utilize undergraduates to teach at all. They have graduate students teaching as well as some visiting Ph.D. professors.

If things do not change, there will be no way I send my sons to USC. Budget cuts do not need to be at the expense of a quality education, and having undergraduates serve as lab in-

structors is insulting.

LINDA MALDONADO

1986 USC GRADUATE

Doctors should stop
doing circumcisions

The Aug. 22, 2002 circumcision death of a baby boy in Vancouver, British Columbia should be a wake-up call for parents, physicians and hospitals alike.

No medical group in the world recommends infant circumcision, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Canadian Paediatric Society, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Australian College of Paediatrics, the Australian Medical Association, the British Medical Association, and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Parents, protect your children. Physicians and Hospitals, stop performing unnecessary, painful, mutilating circumcisions upon defenseless children for your financial gain.

PETRINA FADEL

GROTON, N.Y.

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USC to
soon be
awash
in green

TYLER JONES

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Ralph Nader to make a
St. Patrick's Day visit.

When the arsonist St. Patrick lit the Irish countryside on fire in the fifth century, it is quite certain that the inaugural St. Patty's Day bash went something like this: pagans dancing, lots of drinking, bonfires raging, and ol' Patty waving around crosses and converting the godless savages right and left.

But as history writes, the first true St. Patrick's Day celebration kicked off on March 17, 1762, in the Big Apple. Fast-forward to 2003. Our celebrations probably look more like the one in the fifth century, with ale flowing and boozy revelers playing the part of the undisciplined heathen. And so it should be. St. Patrick's Day is a symbolic start of spring, a season where our good friend photosynthesis gives us back the green we have missed all winter long.

And speaking of green, word has it that the monotone prince of consumer rights will be in our back yard tomorrow to give the USC community a stirring speech on something that has to do with either war, recession or seat belts. That's right, Ralph Nader will be packing them in the Russell House tomorrow to spread the gospel of the Green Party to a bunch of political zombies fresh off a week of spring-break brouhaha.

Of course, I'll be there to listen to the third party leader who has no shot of ever winning an election, unless he moves to Sweden where the Green Party might take a third of the vote. Sure, Nader is a good guy, a necessary foil to the greedheads in Washington, but show up Tuesday night and take a good look at the crowd gathered to see the author of "Unsafe at Any Speed," and you are sure to get a glimpse of some of the most well-educated losers that America has to offer.

But if the Nader crowd isn't green enough for you and you like your losers in white, then head on down to Augusta in mid-April, where the green is ubiquitous and so will be the controversy. Word is that Martha Burk and her gals (possible Naderettes) will be in full protest mode along with South Carolina native Rev. Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow/Push Coalition.

And let's not forget the clean linen of the Ku Klux Klan, who plan to throw their hoods in the ring for their own band of 19th-century-style political protest.

The possibility of something truly gruesome and jaw-dropping is not out of the question. With this wonderfully designed quagmire in Iraq festering on the buttocks of society, the potential for some ugly scene that shatters the social sanity of this country is entirely possible. Who knows? Perhaps some vicious race and gender riot could erupt and set us back into the '50s? I doubt Dubya and Ashcroft would mind a quick departure back to the silent conformity of the Eisenhower days.

So when you hoist up a few for St. Patrick and the rest of the shamrocked sycophants running around today, think of the green that will be dominating the landscape in the coming weeks, and remember what that little frog puppet said: "It isn't easy being green." That is, unless you're Tiger Woods, and the only green you worry about is the color of your jackets.

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