



# VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL  
Are you going to the spring  
football game?  
www.dailygamecock.com.  
Results published on Fridays.

## IN OUR OPINION

# To our new SG president

Dear Katie,  
You've signed up for a big job.  
You say you have faith that Student Government can become an effective organization with a push in the right direction. This past year, SG has been known more for infighting and self-regulation than for doing much to improve students' lives. Maybe you weren't in a position to change that when you were vice president. You're in the perfect position now.

One of the easiest ways to make students care about SG is to allow them a say of their own. Don't stay closed off in your office, and don't allow SG to close itself off from the rest of the student body. Invite students to speak at Senate meetings; actively seek their ideas.

Another way to help students, especially in such tight financial times, is to take USC's concerns to the state Legislature. Often, the ones who benefit most from new legislation are the ones who speak the loudest. Make our voice heard. Don't just send a liaison to sit in on the occasional House gathering. Sign up to speak at the next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee. Come with facts. Such meetings are open to the public, and the legislators will have to listen to you.

It's your job to make SG matter to students. You've got some good ideas — creating boards to address student concerns and improving communication within SG are a couple of them — but the challenge will be turning those ideas into actions.

## College Quote Board

**THE DAILY FREE PRESS**  
DENNIS REARDON, BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
"I don't particularly care whether hazing goes on — after all, people who join fraternities know what they are getting into.  
What I object to is having our money go toward organizations where you must go through these weird rituals in order to join."

**SWARTHMORE PHOENIX**  
MORGAN HOLT, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE  
"If we sit on our butts stuffing our faces with Big Macs and super-sized fries while watching 'Friends' reruns, we're going to get fat. Big shock. But then we sue McDonald's for making us fat because our portliness alienates and depresses us because, paradoxically, our culture does not like the chubbiness it creates."

## GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

The College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management was incorrectly listed as the College of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management in an informational graphic Wednesday about the results of the Student Senate race.  
Brian Murphy's name was misspelled in an article about Student Government elections on Wednesday.  
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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**TO PLACE AN AD**  
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## Voters determine term limits



**BEN EDWARDS**  
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### Not all offices should have time restrictions.

Concerning term limits, which were considered by the Founding Fathers during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Alexander Hamilton wrote in the Federalist Papers, "Nothing appears more plausible at first sight, nor more ill-founded upon close inspection." His words ring with truth today. I agree wholeheartedly that term limits, in most cases, are a terrible idea.  
The premise behind the movement is that politicians are inherently corrupt and become progressively more corrupt as time goes on. Consequently, the only viable way to ensure purity in government is to prevent politicians from remaining in one position for an extended period of time. Many people distrust elected officials, not out of any properly founded sentiment, but rather out of an uneasiness with having confidence in government that lingers from the

Vietnam era. In some cases, I agree that term limits are appropriate. For instance, limiting the term of the chief executive at both state and federal levels makes perfect sense because it prevents the emergence of a dictatorial figure who so thoroughly consolidates power under his or her control as to become impossible to unseat.  
The same vein of thought when applied to the legislative branch lacks merit because of the distinctions in how power is exercised by representatives. Legislators do not have the same degree of control over implementation of procedural matters as the executive branch does. The power of legislators emerges from their ability to build consensus with other legislators and create coalitions to advance legislation that benefits enough of the populace to ensure popular support and, hence, re-election.  
Enacting strict term limits insults the intelligence of voters by essentially saying they are not qualified to determine who should remain in office and who should be voted out. The best way to limit the term of a corrupt official is to vote that official out of office. No matter how much special-interest money an incumbent spends, he can still be voted out of office if his constituents do not approve of the way he votes. As an example of this, Tom Foley, a Democrat who was serv-

ing as speaker of the House, did not win re-election in 1994. He lost to a political novice who had virtually insignificant name recognition.  
Term limits would emasculate the power of the ballot and make it impossible to retain elected officials who have the necessary experience to do a good job. Contrary to popular belief, many officials spend their time working countless hours to help their constituents. Summarily dumping these hard workers because of the amount of time they have been in office without evaluating what they have done clearly makes for injustice. Rather than forcing qualified and experienced legislators out of office, we should retain the power of the ballot to actively reward legislators who do a good job and to vote out politicians who do not perform.  
The assumption that enacting term limits will somehow improve the competence of elected officials has no merit because there is no demonstrable link between limiting terms and improving the quality of our elected officials. If anything, I fear it will lower the bar and put the decision-making power in the hands of people without the necessary experience to know the intricacies of government.  
Edwards is a second-year philosophy student.

## Express yourself without cursing



**SHAWN ROURK**  
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### Here are alternatives to the five big dirty words.

I never noticed the language of college students. Up until now, I never have noticed how much profanity people use in everyday conversation. Frankly, it's a little disturbing.  
Being one who would put a sailor to shame with my mouth, it never did occur to me just to stop using that language and think of other ways to say phrases.  
I'm not saying that cussing is a completely bad thing, but it loses its effectiveness when people use it too much.  
For some people, f—k isn't even a word; it's a comma. It has become such an overused word that, whenever someone says it, it doesn't even faze me. So to clean up this filthy problem, I have compiled a list of five dirty words and some alternatives to wearing out these staple phrases of college life.  
♦ F—k, v., n.: F—k is a hard one. Because of the wonderful, kind of whip-cracking sound at the end of the word, it is a hard-to-beat expletive. However, you could call someone a "shmuck!" And f'ing would become "shmoozing." F'd up could then be "crunked-up." Flark is another good alternative for this, and it rolls off the tongue.  
♦ B—ch, n., v.: Yet another favorite of college students. My favorite alternative to this is dork. Yes, this one jumps off the tongue and can rhyme in time in songs. I hear that it is becoming a new alternative for Will Smith to use in his music. Instead of this degrading word, you could call someone a dunderhead, not only insulting them, but confusing them as well.  
♦ Hell, n.: Hell is about the only word on this list that can be printed in a newspaper because, to most people, it is a proper noun. However, it has worked itself, at least in the past 100 years, into the popular phrase, "How in the ... ." There really aren't any alternatives to this one, except for heck — which can be a good one to use if you are in front of your parents.  
♦ S—t, n.: This is a favorite of people who have recently experienced problems with their computers. I can no longer count the number of times I have said this when my computer freezes and I have an essay due early the next morning. My only alternative if one were going to scream this at the top of one's lungs would be to jumble the word so that it sounds like a line out of some rap-metal song.  
♦ A—s: This one is the easiest. You could simply use the normal alternative to it, butt. There are a few more creative ways to say it, however. One could go with my all-time favorite: fool. Other options include birdbrain, blockhead, bonehead, dimwit, halfwit, idiot, imbecile, jerk, lunkhead, moron, nincompoop, ninny, nitwit, numbskull, stooge and twit.  
Try to make a game out of putting together some of these interesting phrases. Then you can come up with cool catchphrases like "Holy flarking schnit!" Or, if you really want to put someone down, call him a "crunked-up dunderhead who can't spell worth a schnit." Or, if someone is bothering you, use my favorite: "Backupoffmuhgrill, you schmuck."  
Of course, the complete opposite could happen now, if you made it to the end of this. Right about now, some of you might be thinking what my editor was thinking when she finished this: "What the F—K!"  
Rourk is a first-year print-journalism student.

## EVERYBODY HAS HIS OWN TASTE IN MUSIC

Everybody has his own taste in music.  
According to Ray Murray, Ludacris' music isn't music or entertainment ("Ludacris' music isn't real entertainment," Friday). Well first of all, it's haters like Murray who try to bash and degrade anything they dislike or disagree with.  
I am not a Ludacris fan, but I don't bash his music and say that all he is selling is arrogance. In fact, some of his stuff is actually pretty good. Music is art, and art comes in many forms, sometimes pleasurable to the mind, sometimes not. Musicians make some of the best music in the world by writing and singing about the way they feel, how they live and things in their lives, and if it happens to contain some obscenities, it is their right to do so.  
Ludacris may rap about some issues that are looked down upon or are considered rude and degrading. Well you know what, if you hate it that much, just don't listen: the solution to the Ludacris controversy. If you don't like what he's about, don't pay money for his CDs or concerts. It is that simple.  
Do you people think Ludacris is the only rapper to ever talk about money, drugs, hos and being a thug? Do you remember Ice-T and his song "Cop Killer"? What happened when people protested and tried to get his music banned? His popularity increased and he became an even bigger public icon. The same thing is happening with Ludacris: The more you complain and protest, the more you

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fuel his popularity.  
If you don't enjoy or agree with Ludacris' music, don't listen to it. Complaining about it isn't going to make him disappear or stop making music; if you really want to protest him, don't pay any attention to him, his music, or anything he represents.  
To all the Luda fans out there, it's your choice to listen to whatever you want, so don't let these haters try to persuade you from what you like. And to Murray and every other Ludacris hater out there, What gives you the right to decide what is good and bad music? People are entitled to their own opinions, likes and dislikes, and we will listen to whatever we want!  
**JONATHAN BRUCKER**  
FOURTH-YEAR MARINE-SCIENCE STUDENT

**Anti-war protesters aren't unpatriotic**  
The other day I was listening to a morning radio show and one of the DJs made a comment about how there were anti-war protesters gathering at a location outside. The DJ then proceeded to say that all those who support the war should go out and show the anti-war people how to be patriotic.  
Excuse me? Just because someone is against the war does not mean they are not patriotic or don't support the troops. In fact, it's just the opposite. The reason I do not support this war is because of the troops. They are the ones who are out there fighting, dying, and leaving

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their homes and families.  
It is my generation that is paying for this war. Of all the Americans who are dead, captured or missing, 50 of them are under the age of 30. That's more than half. These are people who just started their lives. They have families, husbands, wives and children who will grow up without knowing their parents. The reason my generation is paying for this war is because we are too silent. This age group has the lowest voter turnout in elections, so America thinks that we do not care about what goes on in our country.  
Every day, I walk around and see students my age wearing their uniforms. They could go to fight tomorrow, and it makes me sick to my stomach. It makes me mad to think that my former teacher has been over there since last fall and left behind his wife and two daughters.  
But what really makes me sick to my stomach is to hear my 58-year-old 11th-grade English teacher talk about how she's never gotten married because all the men in her generation got killed in the Vietnam War, which could be reminiscent of a war we know now.  
**JENNI DILLARD**  
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