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Should the creationism theory be added to college biology textbooks? [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com). Results published on Fridays.

## IN OUR OPINION

# Religion isn't part of science

The Discovery Institute Center for Science & Culture, a Seattle-based Christian group, is pushing to place creation theory alongside evolution in college biology textbooks.

In courses meant to be empirical and objective, religion — especially just one religious group's worldview — is inappropriate.

Evolution is a scientific theory, based on more than a century of research following Charles Darwin's voyage on the H.M.S. Beagle, whereas creation theory, despite research, is based on a

**Evolution isn't taught as fact — it's not a law, just a theory. But a hypothesis still must go through rigorous testing to reach even theory status.** religious belief system. Evolution isn't taught as fact — it's not a law, just a theory. But a hypothesis still must go through rigorous testing to reach even theory status.

Integrating the creation theory into biology textbooks would prompt an even greater backlash against Christianity. The American Civil Liberties Union has already threatened, if the proposal becomes a reality, to sue the organizations that pushed for the proposal's passage.

But that's not to say that merging the ideas wouldn't be good in some ways. An interdisciplinary course could spend a semester on creation theories, evolution and history, such as the Scopes "Monkey" Trial.

## College Quote Board

### THE VISTA

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO  
"Altar serving is a cornerstone for all the ministries. It is foundational for Catholics becoming ministers of the word and the Eucharist. Women cannot be priests, and Rome should not further limit their participation. If the Church bans female altar servers, there is no telling when they will ban women from all forms of ministry."

### MINNESOTA DAILY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
"It is to the advantage of Islamic terrorist organizations to portray the United States as anti-Islamic because it justifies their argument for jihad and continues to affirm their belief that the United States is the "Great Satan." The United States cannot possibly "win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people" by consistently offending religious sensitivities and depicting Christianity as Islam's enemy."

## GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In a brief in Monday's paper, anthropologist Leith Mullings name was misspelled.

In Wednesday's Winners and Sinners, Mother Teresa's name was misspelled.

A story about Critical Mass in Friday's paper should have stated the program would celebrate its first anniversary this Friday.

In Friday's "Everyday Joe," cartoonist Steven Olexa's name was misspelled.

The Gamecock regrets the errors.

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know. E-mail us at [gamecockopinions@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockopinions@hotmail.com).

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## RUMSFELD QUESTIONS PENTAGON'S PROGRESS IN WAR ON TERROR



## What does coffee mean to you?



KRISTEN GILMORE  
GAMECOCKOPINIONS@HOTMAIL.COM

### A cup of joe isn't always just an excuse to date.

In America, when you ask someone of the opposite sex to join you for coffee, chances are your motivation for doing so is to get a date. But believe it or not, this is not the way of doing things elsewhere.

Consider, for example, the classic situation of meeting a stranger in a club. You look at them, you look away — this game goes on for several minutes until one person or the other walks over to introduce him or herself.

Everything is fine as you discuss names, Zodiac signs, the weather — until somebody says, "Would you like to meet me for coffee?"

At this point the other person will do one of two things — either accept the invitation or give an excuse not to. Be it "I have a boyfriend" or "I've made other plans," there's always a

reason for the rejection. If the invitation is accepted, both people usually get the first-date jitters and dress to impress.

Alternately, in many cultures across the pond, club-dancing isn't about finding as many sweaty, half-naked strangers as humanly possible with whom to booty dance and feel no regrets — in general, you go to clubs and dance exclusively with your friends.

Someone might meet a friend of a friend or someone by him or herself, and chat with them a little. When this happens, more often than not, someone will propose coffee. Most of the time, whether the asker or askee is taken, single, straight, gay or what have you, the invitation is accepted.

The purpose of meeting outside of the club, bar or grocery store is expressly to have a cup of joe and discuss common interests.

In other words, coffee is not a date. It is instead a method of building and establishing interpersonal relations, or evaluating the other person to see if you would make decent friends.

On occasion, sexual attraction is the primary reason behind suggesting coffee, but the number of people trying to make friends far outweighs the

number of people trying to score. Frequently, the only reason two people will meet up outside of the club setting is to introduce themselves without having to shout.

Thus, when an unsuspecting person steps off the boat from France, Italy or a similarly gregarious nation, almost entirely friendless, they're apt to meet people and, out of their cultural penchant, ask them for coffee.

Imagine the confusion when girl after girl shakes her head, saying, "I'm taken," and when every guy looks appalled and stammers that they don't "swing that way" whenever Pierre or Antonio tries to simply earn some buddies.

There is no point in trying to decide who is right or wrong in their use of coffee as a social tool — just as all cultures are different, so are their uses of food products and restaurants.

In the United States, the stereotypical person who will ask you for coffee is, in fact, a slimeball Italian or Frenchman who wants nothing more than to get in your pants. However, it would appear that this stereotype might be, or at least started out as, terribly misleading.

Gilmore is a second-year theater student.

## Humans need a day full of chaos



ALLYSON BIRD  
GAMECOCKOPINIONS@HOTMAIL.COM

### Halloween is the time to let loose, forget life.

It's scary out there. You might have noticed that the FBI is investigating poison in our state's mail. You might have gotten one — or 18 — listserv messages about the dangerous man on campus. You might have relatives in California who voted for Arnold. And you just might believe that USC is really going to build a parking garage within the time any of us are still around here.

And yet it's this time of year when we ask to be scared more. When people chase us in real life, it's not so fun. But we welcome the guy wielding the chainsaw if we paid for him to harass us. I love it.

I really don't trust people who don't like Halloween.

It's the annual excuse to dress to the whims of our wildest fantasies and act like pagans. Guys can wear pantyhose without the guilt, and girls can be prostitutes for a night without all the work.

But there's something bigger to Halloween that makes me ask why on this night we like stepping away from our own personalities that we've worked our whole lives to build and why we like being scared, an emotion we don't appreciate much on any of the other 364 days.

Halloween is annual proof that human nature craves turmoil. Our own little disasters keep us interested, even entertained, in our unraveling life stories.

We want the drama of our favorite book and movie characters, though perhaps not so long term, and therein Halloween becomes golden. When our lives aren't fruitful enough on the chaos front, we're inclined to help them out and create our own angst: Some people choose skydiving, and others get married, but the smart ones get their dose of disaster by simply walking a haunted trail.

Halloween helps the crazy side of human nature, the one that compels people to jump out of planes for the sheer "fun" of it or to approach the altar and commit to someone who will inevitably get old and ugly, by letting us dress funny and then pee all over ourselves in fright without looking out-of-the-ordinary.

Friday is your annual shot to do just that and not risk being put in the social bin with the lady with 37 cats for the rest of your life.

So have a good scare this week as long as you pay for it, but bear in mind the simple rules. For one, do not get a haircut on Halloween. The stylist will inevitably inquire about your costume for the night.

Even if you make it abundantly clear that the style is for your life outside of your evening as an '80s prom queen or as a redneck, you should anticipate coming out with Farrah Fawcett hair or something mullet-esque, so beware. And two, make sure that whatever you do is for you.

When I was a little kid and in trouble with my parents for misbehaving, I wrote a Halloween carol (yes, just like the Christmas songs but creepy — in more ways than one) to appease my father, who is a musician. What seemed like a good idea at the time turned out that for the next four years, I had to sing to all the neighbors to get my candy while my dad accompanied me on guitar.

Oh, and watch for falling parking garages. Trick or treat, y'all.

Bird is a second-year print journalism student.

## IN YOUR OPINION

### Adams column is full of biting satire

With a HotorNot.com rating of 7.9, I believe that I am a pretty person. My response to Lauren's article ("The ugly need to face up to reality," Friday) will be a bit biased because of this.

Lauren's article was satire. It wasn't supposed to be taken at face value. Lauren was merely poking fun at the standards set in place by our culture. Throughout her article, you should clearly see the humor. By the end, she even places herself in the "ugly" category with "... attractive people make 15 percent more money than unattractive ones. (I am so broke)."

It's been brought to my attention that Lauren has received some complaints about this article. If you complained about this article, you should really examine your life.

It was a satirical piece. It was supposed to make you laugh, not complain. Stop trying to be politically correct and laugh at life once in awhile.

#### NICK WILSON

SECOND-YEAR GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENT

### USC students lack a sense of humor

A long, long time ago, Johnathan Swift wrote the piece "A Modest Proposal." After reading it, many thought he actually believed that societies should eat babies in order to keep the population down. Fortunately for our enlightened American society, we can have a sense of humor about his piece and other works of

sarcasm and farce, right?

Lauren Adams wrote an opinion piece ("The ugly need to face up to reality," Friday) in which she jokes about ugly people dating attractive people. Anyone who knows Lauren knows what a kind, thoughtful, sweet and sincere person she is, and knows that she has a wicked, hilarious sense of humor. Her previous articles in The Gamecock have proved that point, and if you haven't read them, you should.

Her article Friday was nothing less than hysterical, and part of what made it so funny was that it was so obviously meant in jest. Since reading it, several people have commented to me how awful they think she is or her article is, but I wonder whether they've considered their previous experiences or lack thereof in dealing with her before condemning her attempt at an obviously ridiculous subject.

My point is, it seems that far too many folks here have become so closed-minded or unwilling to take things with a grain of salt that they are not willing to see satire at work by smart, funny people. Does anyone actually think Lauren believes that less attractive people will muddle the gene pool?

On a college campus where open discussion and unobstructed speech and thought are supposed to be fostered and encouraged, are we so willing to take things at surface level and unwilling to question what we read and see that we would believe Lauren's opinion that there is "a disturbing trend in advertising today: ugly people?"

I hope people will be more willing to question and analyze

things for their true meaning. If not, you should be taken out and shot.

#### REBECCA MORRELL

THIRD-YEAR FILM STUDIES STUDENT

### USC, LSU both lend a hand to Tiger fans

After planning the trip for a year, driving across five states and finally beating the traffic to make it to Williams-Brice Stadium, we were thrilled to see the purple and gold invasion of Columbia. Shortly after arriving at the stadium we discovered that both our keys and game tickets were locked in the trunk of our car. We were a little surprised and very grateful to all of the Tiger and Gamecock fans who offered us assistance. While walking around the parking lot in an attempt to find a "slim jim," we were offered everything from coat hangers and beer to food and a brick.

Fortunately, a locksmith from the area was able to come out and unlock the car door. Even though we went through a few stressful hours, it is wonderful to know that in the midst of the craze of college football, fans are willing to help other fans in need. A big thank you goes out to everyone from USC and LSU who helped us out. It really is true that SEC fans are the best!

#### EMILY SCHULT, LEANNA BECNEL, MELISSA BROWN AND SARAH HAMMETT

SECOND-YEAR LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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