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# VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL

Should sexual orientation be added to USC's nondiscrimination policy? [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com). Results published on Fridays.

IN OUR OPINION

## Lynch story still unclear

What a mess. No one knows exactly what happened in Iraq with Pfc. Jessica Lynch. Conflicting reports have been released since her company's convoy was attacked March 23.

The media and U.S. military have disregarded other members of Lynch's unit, many of whom also were taken prisoners. In the name of ratings, news media throughout the United States have created an image of a one-woman army.

**It is evident that Lynch's "story" played a part in bolstering support for the war in Iraq.**

Possibly swayed by the media's treatment of Lynch, the military awarded her a

Bronze Star essentially for blacking out, being a young woman with a jammed M-16 rifle and surviving nine days as an injured prisoner of war.

The Pentagon initially reported that Lynch had been wounded by Iraqi gunfire but had kept fighting until her ammunition ran out. Though corrected later, retractions in papers and on television were largely played down.

Whether the military or the media is to blame for the confusion, it is evident that Lynch's "story" played a part in bolstering support for the war in Iraq.

Lynch's biography hit shelves Tuesday. In this book, even Lynch, who shared the \$1 million book deal with writer Rick Bragg, admits she has no recollection of at least three hours of the ordeal, which leaves the nation in debate over what happened those nine days in March.

## Winners and Sinners

**FCC** Allows cell phone owners to transfer their home numbers to their cells. Thanks, Big Bro!  
**GARRY KASPAROV** The man versus the machine plays to a tie in virtual chess match.  
**LARRY FLYNT** Pornographer with a heart of gold says he has pictures of Jessica Lynch posing nude, but won't print them because she's "a good kid."

**GOOSE CREEK POLICE** Storm into high school, guns drawn, looking for drugs, only to find nothing.

**GREEN RIVER KILLER** Admits to killing 48 women, mostly prostitutes.

**ROBERT DURST** Millionaire found innocent for chopping up a neighbor in self-defense.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

## Bush places Bremer at fault



WES WOLFE

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### In Iraq, there's always someone else to blame.

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator for Iraq and de facto chief executive of that nation, was called back to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. What this means for us is that Bremer got a proper "call back to Moscow."

You see, when Soviet spies would screw up, they'd get a message to return to Moscow. What this meant for the agents was that they'd face execution or some other terrible punishment so that the blame could be lain.

Bremer's call to Washington wasn't so much life-and-death, but included meetings with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, all the while getting the public-relations shaft from the Bush administration for the ongoing Iraq mess.

Going into the 2004 election year, it now looks like President George W. Bush is using Bremer as a scapegoat for the mistakes he and his henchmen, namely ol' Rummy and Condi Rice, made in planning for the peace in Iraq.

After all, who wouldn't be looking for a back door with what has been happening in Iraq lately? Just yesterday, there was a rocket attack against the headquarters of the provisional authority, a bomb exploded in Baghdad, a bomb exploded in Basra and killed six people, and Iraqis set fire to a police station and the mayor's office in Haditha.

This doesn't count the attack on the al-Rashid hotel on Oct. 25 that resulted in the death of a U.S. colonel and the fiasco surrounding former Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch, who is angry at the way the military portrayed her rescue in Iraq. Certainly the American public won't take too well to the exploitation of a 20-year-old war veteran.

These failures have forced the administration to look around for someone to blame, so the Bushies are blaming Bremer for not setting up the Iraqi government fast enough and allowing more American troops to return home.

It's gotten so bad that the Bush administration is suggesting Bremer set up a plan for turning power over to an Iraqi governmental structure before a constitution is written. The Bushies previously held that a constitution was essential to the passage of authority from the U.S. civil authority to an Iraqi government.

And to think, this wouldn't even be a problem if the Bushies hadn't been so nationalistic and tried to actually cooperate with the other nations in the world. Maybe a multinational peace-keeping force wouldn't be so prone to attacks, since the attacks against U.S. forces seem to be driven by a psychotic anti-Americanism.

But it will not be. We're stuck in Iraq with a president that would rather assign blame than fix the problems he's gotten us into. After all, when you look at a guy that has banned the media from covering the ceremonial return of deceased soldiers to the military morgue in Delaware and an administration that has exploited a 20-year-old prisoner of war, you can't expect true leadership in a mess like Iraq.

So, let's all watch the slow-motion train wreck for the next year and pray that someone with better ideas and actual leadership is elected president next November.

Wolfe is a fourth-year public relations student.

## Autumn and its dirty tricks



DAVID STAGG

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### Whatever happened to the days of fall?

Columbia generally has a prime climate to live in. Before this weekend, it was mid-70s with a calm breeze in the air, trees dancing gaily in the wind, children roasting marshmallows over an open fire before one gets too close and sets their hair aflame forcing a panicked scream from all within a five-mile radius as said child flees to the nearest body of water, which, due to the nice climate, provides a dousing — but more importantly, soothing — effect on the flame and charred skin.

Well, unbeknownst to me, no one uses the word unbeknownst anymore. Also unbeknownst to me, was that now, somewhere amid the hustle and bustle of ONE DAY, autumn has already passed us by. What happened to the days of yore when the weather was docile, the temperature was enjoyable and people used

more than one Old English word in a single paragraph?

The trees don't even change colors anymore. One second they're green, next second they're LIGHT green, and then WHAM! They're on the ground, brown, trampled on and in pieces even though no one has walked near that tree for thirty years. The leaves drop quicker than Ted Kennedy's pants at a college bar.

I spent this past Friday relaxing outside because the weather was so agreeable that I needed a thesaurus to find more than one word for nice to describe it. On Saturday, I left for Atlanta. There, I also relaxed in the somewhat cool weather they were experiencing. On Sunday, I entered my portable climate-controlling device known as my car to drive home.

Naturally, those of us in the car left the windows up because when you go 80 on the freeway and open a window your brain and internal organs are sucked out through your ear. But when we returned home and the car was safely under the 80-mile-an-hour suck zone, we exited its safe confines only to enter an ice-aged abyss where our T-shirts were no longer enough to keep ourselves at a decent temperature.

It's almost like fall is playing hide-and-go-seek with us. Well,

I've got news for you: You're hiding, but you're like that one kid who plays hide-and-go-seek, but unbeknownst (last time, I swear) to you, everyone else has already finished playing and is enjoying marshmallows over a fire (until some kid sets himself ablaze) while you sit with a smug smile on your face in a cramped spot, most likely under the sink, where water has been dripping on you for 45 minutes before you start to realize something is wrong. Yeah, no one olly-olly-oxen-freed you this time.

We don't need you anyway. In fact, that's our motto: Personification is a good literary device. And I'll be darned if I don't personify you as a rejected hide-and-go-seeker. Sucker.

So I say bring on winter! Give me Christmas! Give me snow! Give me puffy jackets with fur so outrageously excessive it looks like a capybara got stuck under the collars with super glue and its babies got wrapped around the top of the matching boots!

And if you feel the same way, we should get together and start a We Don't Need Fall Club. Trouble is, fall won't be around long enough to experience our protests.

Stagg is a third-year media arts student.

IN YOUR OPINION

### Don't impeach Hark for Web site

Shame on those attempting to impeach Residence Hall Association president Adam Hark for the content posted on his personal Web site! Are we completely forgetting both the spirit and the grounds of the impeachment process as well as the value of the freedom of expression in this country? What rule has Adam Hark broken? The impeachment process was included in our Constitution as a deterrent to keep elected officials from committing "high crimes and misdemeanors." Adam Hark has committed no such acts, nor should he be impeached because some expression he made through a personal Web site was deemed offensive and "indecent" by a group of people.

The freedom to make such an expression, so long as it does not present a clear and present danger to others in society, is one that is greatly esteemed in this country. The Gamecock printed an opinion that said, "When Hark took upon himself the responsibilities that come with being a public figure, the option to act like his fellow students was revoked." How is it that as freedom-loving citizens we can say that because someone was elected to an office, they can no longer enjoy the same freedoms as every other citizen can? This to me is shocking.

As students at a university, and especially members of organizations like RHA, we are supposed to be the more progressive people in our society. We are supposed to exact change and pursue the protection of our personal liberties. By impeaching Adam Hark, we are journeying

into regression by attempting to limit a person's right to express themselves and their opinions without harming others.

Sure, these images are of questionable decency, but that does not give us a right to limit Hark's ability to express himself in this manner.

"The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities and officials and to establish them as legal principles to be applied... Only a persistent positive translation of the faith of a free society into the convictions and habits and actions of a community is the ultimate reliance against unabated temptations to fetter the human spirit" (Supreme Court opinion, West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette, 1943).

Forget the fact that this Web site was intended as a "joke among a few friends," the RHA shouldn't waste time on something as trivial as a Web site.

If these sex and drug issues on campus concern you, tackle the actual abuses of sex and safety against assault on students on campus and the blatant use and abuse of drugs in our residence halls and university institutions.

JEFFREY GLEASON

THIRD-YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

### 'Radio' is not insane, homeless

I am responding to "Homeless would be perfect mascots" (Nov. 5) by Gabrielle Sinclair because I do not see how anyone can link homeless, mascot and Radio together.

Radio was not homeless. It

was apparent in numerous scenes of the movie that he lived in a house with his mother. Second, he was not the team mascot. Radio was a defensive coach on the T.L. Hanna football team. The school's mascot is a yellow jacket, and Radio was never used as a mascot.

As the director of Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing one-on-one friendships, I am furious that someone would use Radio as a humorous analogy.

Radio's mental age is 10. Most 10-year-old boys love football and would love to be part of the local football team. Radio had a dream of being part of that team, and that is what he got and still has. People with intellectual disabilities tend to be excluded from society, and just because he was finally socially accepted at T.L. Hanna High School does not mean that he was "misunderstood and ultimately stripped of his personal dignity and his will to live."

I have seen what it's like for a person who is intellectually disabled to be included in society and to be a part of something. It's one of the best things I've ever seen. Obviously, some people still want to make fun and exclude these people from society. Maybe they need to spend a day with someone who is intellectually disabled and then tell me if these people are as insane as you think.

MEGAN INGLE

THIRD-YEAR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING 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 [gamecockopinions@hotmail.com](mailto:gamecockopinions@hotmail.com). Letters will be edited. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

## GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In Monday's paper, information at the beginning of a story about Student Government's promotion of TeacherReviews.com should not have been attributed to Katie Dreiling.

A story in Sports on Monday about the men's soccer team should have read, "Throughout the game, ball control and intensity that lacked in previous matches was present against UNC."

The Gamecock regrets the error.

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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