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VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL

Should sexual preference be included in USC's nondiscrimination policy?
YES 54%
NO 46%

IN OUR OPINION

Rock out for a good cause

For those who love listening to music beyond the mainstream, college radio remains an ever-important medium, a means of introducing innovative artists to the masses. Looking to raise money to keep spreading the good word, WUSC is holding its annual fund-raising drive, "Moolah For Music," during which it will step outside its usual non-Top 40 bounds and play any artist this weekend — from the unheard to the overhyped — in exchange for donations.

Yes, you can request and listen to Justin Timberlake songs until your wallet is empty if you so desire.

Considering students' devotion to their respective favorites, on-campus

This weekend, tune in and show WUSC some love. listeners should be WUSC's most-spirited supporters. Sure, speaking in favor of

independent radio is all well and good, but the bottom line is that every station, regardless of how noncommercial it is, needs funds.

No matter what one's radio-listening principles are, every good music fan should understand the need to support emerging and underappreciated artists — after all, every great band has to start somewhere. That beginning, for many, has been their local college radio station.

So, celebrate your disdain for popular music on another day. This weekend, indulge in that inner urge to hear a smash hit on WUSC, just for once.

As college students, we may be music's biggest pirates, but we should also be its biggest supporters. Tune in and show WUSC some love.

Gamecock Quotables

"We're losing to a nut and a tiger. And we definitely don't like tigers here. We need to show the world how cool a chicken can be."

JUSTIN CHAPURA
 SECOND-YEAR JOURNALISM STUDENT, ON THE CAPITAL ONE MASCOT BOWL

"I wouldn't know half the stuff that's going on right now if it wasn't for this."

ANTHONY CONERLY
 FIRST-YEAR EDUCATION STUDENT, ON THE SUCCESS OF THE READERSHIP PROGRAM

"I hope that this lady regrets her actions."

FAZEL AHMAD MANAWI
 DEPUTY HEAD OF AFGHANISTAN'S SUPREME COURT, ON MISS AFGHANISTAN'S CHOICE TO WEAR A BIKINI IN THE MISS WORLD COMPETITION

"While America has a race problem, South Carolina has an obsession with racial problems."

LONNIE RANDOLPH JR.
 PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE S.C. NAACP, ON THE STATE'S ISSUES WITH SEGREGATION IN EDUCATION

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

A story in Wednesday's paper about the Interfaith Council dinner should have said Bahiyyih Young is a third-year psychology student.

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.

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I'm more exhausted than you



STEVEN VAN HAREN
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Sleep deprivation is the new test of cool.

It's time for another witty observation of student life that all the saccharine-sweet hayseeds love to make. Consider me bitter when I talk about this stuff.

I'm a listener before class, preferring to look at my day's schedule, do a crossword or listen to conversations around me.

Observation: nine out of 10 discussions I hear before, during or after any class concern sleep — or lack thereof. When it comes to sleep, less equals more according to the unwashed masses.

A typical exchange involves two not-fully-baked jocks, two "busy" students or two loose acquaintances who have nothing better to yak about.

It begins with the casting of the gauntlet. Example: "I didn't get to bed last night until 2 a.m." A modest number, like the basic ante in a poker game.

Person No. 2, who feels 2 a.m. is the standard bedtime for a senior citizen, coolly shoots back, "I only got three hours last night, and two of those hours were really light, and the rest of the time went by so quick — it's like I didn't sleep at all. I'm so tired, dude." Person No. 2 proceeds to bask in his one-upmanship with a weary grin.

At this point, not listening to each other whatsoever, people pull out their special plays. They are determined to be the most baggy-eyed, coffee-swiggling insomniac imaginable with a sleepless-night "horror" story. Jocks and frat boys are the worst — "Come on, man, we really did think we could walk to Lansing and get back for Wednesday classes."

There's the overworked student — "Not only did I have to write an international address for the Pope in 50 languages, but I also had to write three term papers, two novels and transcribe the Ten Commandments onto stone tablets. Whew."

But the bread and butter for all insomniacs is a reliance on getting wonderfully piss-faced — "I had to drink that gallon of rubbing alcohol. It said 'alcohol' on the label, and besides, we were out of toilet whiskey and moonshine."

I'm used to hearing all of this in some form or another. However, there are a few I haven't heard yet that I'm sure will pop up someday. As everybody tries to be sleepier than everybody else, this bloody annoying trend will continue into uncharted depths.

The hard-core insomniac will come along and best everyone — "Sleep? I haven't slept in three days. Well, actually, it's been more like a week. Wait, no, hold on — I've never slept in my life. I just stare at the ceiling every night. Nope. Never slept. Sleeping's for idiots. Beat that one."

He'll cackle with wild, drowsy evil, and those in his presence will worship his life of grogginess.

I wish people could keep their lack-of-sleep stories to themselves. If they actually think the person they're gawking to is listening to them, then sleepless nights have given them the IQ of a soiled mattress. Everybody wants the most pity.

I hope the Sandman strangles these people with his fishing line of peaceful dreams. Maybe then they'll talk about something, anything, else.

Van Haren is a second-year mechanical engineering student.

IN YOUR OPINION

Site helps students find easy teachers

After seeing the signs around campus that advertise Student Government's sponsorship of TeacherReviews.com, I instantly recalled the many occasions when I have used one of the Web sites that let students rate their teachers.

My intentions are usually clear when I use the Web site: to look for an easy teacher. Students want to find that one teacher who is really nice, requires as little effort as possible and gives easy tests.

The typical mind set of students is to choose the easiest way out, despite the possibility they might learn more with another teacher.

College is not about finding the easiest teachers. Sometimes, having an easy teacher can actually hurt students later in their professional lives. Being challenged and succeeding despite is one of the most rewarding things that college can offer.

The bottom line is that students only use this Web site to find the easiest teacher available, and that is what SG is telling all USC students and faculty members by sponsoring TeacherReviews.com.

Although it's helpful to know a little bit about the teacher with whom you will be stuck for a whole semester, TeacherReviews.com is not the only place to go. As a business student, I know I can just go to the business school's Web page to find out accurate information about business professors.

The reviews are either harsh complaints from failing students or accounts of how

nice and easy teachers are. They do have some entertainment value, though. SG should not spend its time and our money sponsoring something that all students know about and use anyway. The article in The Gamecock on Monday explained that sponsoring a teacher-ratings site was the No. 1 priority of the SG president.

This is just another publicity ploy to get SG's names in the paper for not doing anything beneficial to the university.

JACK CANINE

SECOND-YEAR BUSINESS STUDENT

Make use of VIP for ticket sign-up

I have a question for Katie Dreiling and the rest of the Student Government: How is it that resources have been used to make sure people can vote for SG elections through VIP, but we are still using the archaic method of standing in a ridiculously long line to sign up for the Clemson lottery?

Personally, it would be much easier for me to sign up for the lottery online through VIP since I am not on campus two of the three days when the sign-up took place.

With technology advancing at a rapid pace, there is no need for students to waste an hour or more of their lives standing in line just to sign up for tickets they might not even receive. I have stood in the line for the last time because I will be graduating in the spring, but for future students' sake, I hope SG or someone can bring USC into the 21st century.

TONY FLOWERS

GRADUATE STUDENT IN EDUCATION

Most-dedicated fans deserve tickets

I have attended every home football game. I enjoy attending the football games, and I would really like to attend the Carolina-Clemson game also. I think students who have attended most of the games should be the first students to receive tickets. The other people who never attend football games should be the last to receive them.

These people do not care about football; all they care about is being able to say they went to the football game. Most of them do not even like football and know nothing about it. Therefore, if there is a way to tell which students have attended most of the games, then I think that these students should receive tickets first.

AMBER SKALICKY

FIRST-YEAR BIOLOGY STUDENT

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?



Drop us a line at gamecockopinions@hotmail.com

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. Letters will be edited. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

Iraq is not as bleak as it seems.



PATRICK AUGUSTINE
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The media is turning war into a sideshow.

I must not have gotten the memo — the cool thing to do in the media is to bash Bush and Co. over the developing situation in Iraq. I think it's a good thing because if it all turns out well, like we hope it will, every newspaper and major network in the United States will be eating a heaping helping of crow's pie.

Granted, not everyone is offering a doom-and-gloom assessment of the situation or saying it looks "eerily like Vietnam," but the only stories from the cradle of civilization seem to be about downed helicopters and dead soldiers. As Americans, we have the right to hear these stories about our military in action. However, we might not be getting the whole story.

I was sitting in the Charlotte airport last weekend and overheard a bit of conversation between a serviceman returning from Iraq and another passenger. The soldier was saying the spite the coverage, the troops had all the support they needed on the ground and that things were relatively calm where he was. No pronouncements that more troops were needed or that we were getting bogged down fighting a broad-based insurgency slipped from his lips — just his honest, private analysis.

There have certainly been problems in areas of Iraq from which Saddam derived support, notably the Sunni Triangle, but Sept. 11, 2001, proved that a small force can make a big impact with relatively little support and resources.

Opposition forces carrying out attacks are driven more by rabid antimodernism than hatred of America, as witnessed by the bombing of an Italian police station two days ago in Nasiriyah. American troops are simply the nearest icon of progress at hand for Baath party loyalists and Islamic fundamentalists who, through their actions, pervert their own great faith.

Our action in Iraq is simultaneously a turning point for democracy in the region, as the president outlined, and for the American media, which for too long have held a sacrosanct position in public life.

Even if the media, like myself, views the Iraq war as suspiciously unjust and declaims the reasons proffered by the Bush administration, they still have a responsibility to show both progress and setbacks in Iraq. News media should not be concerned with interpretation, only with providing the images and allowing the audience to draw its own conclusions.

The Jessica Lynch drama is being played out on TV screens everywhere. By her own accounts, she was unconscious for all of the combat, while one of her comrades killed nine Iraqis who were trying to blow up the vehicles. Instead of highlighting the story of this Silver Star Medal-winner, Lynch was tapped as the hero of the situation and promptly given a \$1 million book deal. I hardly think the Pentagon is the culprit in this game of greater deception.

But the biggest farce to come from Iraq is the legislators who tried to approve action in Iraq and now refuse to vote for the \$87 billion package to rebuild the nation. It has become a political football passed around by the Democratic contenders and the President, all of whom do our troops a disservice. Give our fighting men and women what they need to do the job and find another way to promote or oppose the current policy.

Augustine is a third-year political science student.