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## VIEWPOINTS

## ONLINE POLL

Should the Visitor Center move  
to McKissick Museum?  
**YES 68%**  
**NO 32%**

## IN OUR OPINION

## Allegations hurt Greeks

As the Greek-run USC blood drive draws to a close, news has surfaced of the suspension of USC's chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon on drug use charges, underage drinking and fake IDs. This group's actions aren't going to do anything to help the already deeply rooted stereotype of Greek life on campus.

Such activities go against everything fraternities should stand for. Underage drinking and drug use is a problem throughout campus, and the Office of Greek Life works to make sure USC fraternities and sororities hold themselves responsible for their members. The Gamecock runs stories throughout the year about the many positive activities

fraternities and sororities take part in for USC and the community, whether it's organizing the blood drive or fund raising for charities. Students shouldn't jump to negative conclusions about Greeks because of the allegations surrounding Sigma Phi Epsilon.

We are not advocating what the chapter did, however, and if they are found to be guilty, the members should be held accountable.

It is this kind of story that tends to stick with people when it comes to Greek life, especially fraternities, and that serves to perpetuate the stereotypes Greeks have been working to combat.

## Gamecock Quotables

"In the past, we've gotten carried away with the lighter fluid."

**BRANDON SZMIDT**  
TIGERBURN CONSTRUCTOR ON THE SPEED OF THE TIGERBURN

"... I think the Greek community here at USC really has a negative stereotype associated with it, and this event helps to show that there are good things that come out of the Greek system."

**RAY COMER**  
CO-CHAIR OF THE 19TH ANNUAL USC BLOOD DRIVE EVENT COMMITTEE, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BLOOD.

"I feel I need to lead by example. If I don't park there, I guarantee you no one else in the building will."

**ANDREW SORENSEN**  
USC PRESIDENT, ON CHOOSING TO ABANDON HIS RESERVED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF THE OSBORNE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

"War photography exposes a necessary truth that the public deserves to see, that will continue for years to come."

**SETH PETERSON**  
FIRST-YEAR BUSINESS STUDENT, ON THE WORK OF PETER HOWE, WHO LECTURED AT THE RUSSELL HOUSE THEATER MONDAY

## GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

In her column Wednesday, Julie Cook should have been listed as an art history and political science 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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The Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer, with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

### TO PLACE AN AD

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1400 Greene St.  
Columbia, S.C. 29208

Advertising: 777-3888  
Classified: 777-1184  
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## Burse is political prisoner



**JOEY OPPERMAN**  
GAMECOCKOPINIONS@HOTMAIL.COM

### A case of 'security' versus free speech.

A fight is brewing in our country these days, and believe it or not, Columbia has become one of the key battlegrounds.

Last October, President Bush visited South Carolina to rally support for Republican candidates in the upcoming election. As sign-waving party faithful waited to greet Air Force One at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, Brett Bursey and a group of protesters brandished signs decrying Bush's Iraq policy. They were approached by airport police and later a Secret Service agent who informed them they'd have to relocate to the designated "free-speech zone." Bursey replied, "I'm in it. The United States of America is a free-speech zone."

He was not without legal justification. In 1969, the South Carolina Supreme Court ruled that the Columbia Metropolitan

Airport was public property when they threw out a trespassing charge levied on Bursey — while he attended a Nixon event under nearly identical circumstances. Court precedent notwithstanding, Bursey was arrested for the audacious act of asserting his constitutional rights by refusing to leave public property. He watched Air Force One land from the back of a Lexington County paddy wagon and spent the night in jail.

Now, brought to you by U.S. Attorney J. Strom Thurmond Jr. (whose dad pressured Tricky Dick into issuing deportation orders on political rocker and ex-Beatle John Lennon), the Justice Department has charged Bursey with violating the president's restricted security zone. I guess they're worried he could have taken out Air Force One with a surface-to-air poster stick. Bursey could spend six months in prison.

America is venturing into dangerous territory when citizens expressing one political view are left unmolested while others are shuffled away like lepers or, worse than that, tossed in the clinker. For all the Justice Department's sound and fury about presidential security, when a horde of frenzied Republicans are permitted in His Majesty's presence but a few unarmed peaceniks are intimidated out of

the way or into jail, it's fairly obvious what's going on. Bursey posed a political, not physical, threat to President Bush, and during last week's trial, he was prosecuted for a political crime.

Prosecutors argued Bursey knowingly violated a restricted zone after being told to leave. Bursey and his lawyers contended he was unconstitutionally arrested on public property supported by his own tax dollars. Institutional order vs. individual liberty. Unlimited "security" vs. free speech. Didn't we fight and win a war about this in South Carolina 220 years ago?

If Bursey's case were an isolated incident, it would be less sinister. Unfortunately, the forces of Tory order are stabbing their bayonets into the backs of outspoken Patriots of all political stripes these days, silencing critical voices in the name of security, and an often tepid, ratings-driven press ignores or marginalizes them.

Burse now awaits the judge's decision, expected in two weeks. I'll be lighting a candle for this underdog soldier in the night, and I hope when the decision comes down, as Bob Dylan sang when Brett was a kid, we'll gaze upon the chimes of freedom flashing.

Oppermann is a fourth-year history student.

## IN YOUR OPINION

### Students should appreciate USC

I feel upset that there are students that have such negative feelings towards this university. I, for one, love this school! So I feel that I have to apologize to these negative students for a couple things. If you're not a freshman, you should know there are parking garages. I'm sorry if you are too lazy to apply or have bad luck getting one. I know it's a pain to park at the Coliseum, but I'm sorry that the university won't let you have your own private parking space right outside your dorm. I'm also sorry that a fourth-year student needs to complain about the university taking away parking spaces that he knows he isn't allowed to park in anyway. I'm sorry that you didn't go to Midlands Tech, where you could park almost anywhere. I haven't noticed many freshmen complaining though; maybe because they are too busy thanking USC for even letting them bring their cars.

I want to apologize that USC isn't a small tech school in the middle of nowhere but is instead a large university trying to grow in a fairly-sized city. I'm sorry that Mr. Boyce feels USC doesn't have quality teachers and that the university doesn't put students first. Yet USC has award-winning professors and oh, that's right, a brand new Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center, Greek village and food courts.

The things I am not going to apologize for are those students like me who love this institution. Students who like a beautiful campus, who don't mind

walking, and who applaud growth so more students can come and take your precious meter spaces. All you anti-USC people can simply get over yourselves! Go Cocks!

**LEVI BOUDREAU**  
THIRD-YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENT

### Criticizing school paper is healthy

As it seems The Gamecock has become a forum for complaining about complainers, I thought I would toss in my two-cents' worth that no one on this campus wants to read, but I will be arrogant enough to waste space to say.

Do not worry. I will not hesitate to be redundant or hypocritical either.

As I read a complaint from a complainer about a complainer, I thought there is nothing I hate more than people who prejudice people. My last encounter with this obnoxious person was while reading Whit Ashley's complaint in reply to Bysshe Easton's critique of The Gamecock.

I felt insulted by Ashley's ignorance of Easton's vocabulary. Really, how dare Easton actually use precise words to convey what he wanted to say? Clearly, "egregious" and "bad" mean the same thing and there exists two words for some arbitrary reason (wait maybe I should have written "meaningless" because "arbitrary" is another one of those words that Ashley probably had to look up in the dictionary, and thus no college student knows).

After assuming Easton is arrogant because he has actually mastered the English language, Ashley judges Easton on his second major when Ashley does

not even have one. We should not listen to people like this because they have no college experience and are unproductive as undeclared first year students.

I propose we solve this problem by putting all undeclared first-year students in boxes so they cannot bother the rest of us with their pointless babble. I will help by duct taping the boxes closed. We do not want them to escape to Virginia and tell the governor, Howard Dean, that USC actually lets people critique the school paper.

So, Ashley and all you other people who have nothing better to do with your time, try to actually think before opening your mouth. (Of course this a sarcastic, satirical piece, if you did not get it).

**ELIZABETH KELLER**  
SECOND-YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?**

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## Living it hip in a square world



**LAUREN ADAMS**  
GAMECOCKOPINIONS@HOTMAIL.COM

### Let this guru of cool be your guide to mass appeal.

On a scale of one to Lauren with Lauren being the coolest you, possibly be, I think it'd be safe to say I'm firmly between a nine and a Lauren. This makes me an expert in bad-assedness, which in turn makes it my obligation to share this knowledge with the campus, nay, the world. Here are some helpful hints in optimizing your own personal mass appeal. Take notes.

Vernacular. Language is crucial when introducing the badass within. When speaking of locations, abbreviate abbreviate "abbr." Take California or San Francisco: "I headed up to Cali to hang out with my bros from Frisco" is the appropriate usage. You're basically going to want to talk like a business man from 1983. Say dated things like gnarly, radical and interface. People are impressed by what you don't understand. Avoid ugly names and settle instead for playful nicknames like "dude," "man" and "guy." This gives you a jolly, whimsical air but reminds people that you don't "do" names. If you can, try to assume an accent. I have settled on a delightful combination of British and Indian that is both musical and functional. Americans dig foreigners or, as we lovingly refer to them, "the needy, the poor and the sick." That's your ticket in, baby. Thank you, Lady Liberty.

Clothing. Good news! Unhip is the new hip, so feel free to pull out the old acid wash. Your clothing makes a strong statement about what you're wearing, so make them pop. Use clothing in unconventional ways — think socks or tassels. Imagine, if you will, that Mister Rogers' and Liberace's closets exploded and you had to dress with the debris. People will applaud your daring and shower you with money and food. Wear clothing from any decade but the present — civil war uniforms, go your boots, and Cosby sweaters are your canvass. The world is your oyster, kids; wear it.

Friends. You don't want friends so much as posesses/entourages/homies. They should all dress alike and applaud every time you say something particularly deep: "President who? I had waffles for breakfast." Clap clap clap. Make sure they don't clash with what you're wearing (see clothing).

Pets. Don't settle for a square pet, i.e. dog or cat. Get yourself something wacky like one of those monkeys with the blue behinds or an inchworm. You should take them with you to class and train them to take notes for you. You'll be mayor of Coolville then — oh yes, mayor of Coolville.

Job. Who needs a job when you're a badass? Being awesome will take up a lot of your time. You should really weigh your priorities; I know you'll make the right decision. However, if you absolutely have to have a job, then make it one where you can frown a lot (security guard, janitor, a guy that gets paid to sit around and frown). Studies have shown that people are thought of as more attractive when they're really pissed off. Make me proud.

Welcome to Badass Town: Population: you. Friends, imagine how fabulous you're going to be with your blue-keistered baboon and puff-painted sweatshirt. People will be torn between wanting to date you and be you. Practice your autograph now because it won't be long before you're running for governor of California. Try to use your powers for good and not evil.

Adams is a third-year anthropology student.