

## Online Poll

Should USC retire former basketball player B.J. McKie's number?  
www.dailygamecock.com.  
Results published on Fridays.



# VIEWPOINTS

"The people that came out of their rooms, they didn't have much of a chance."

GARY DOWNEY

WADE HAMPTON FIRE CHIEF ON THE GREENVILLE MOTEL FIRE SUNDAY, IN WHICH SIX PEOPLE DIED

## In our opinion

## Values push a poor policy

Recent statements from the White House and from President Bush in the State of the Union address last week indicate that he favors a \$1.5 billion initiative in support of marriage among low-income couples and welfare recipients.

President Bush campaigned in 2000 under the banner of "compassionate conservatism," signaling the beginning of an administration in which the traditional values of his voter base would be continually reinforced by public policy.

Marriage in America is a troubled institution.

### Government's involvement in marriage will unintentionally rob the institution of its sanctity by introducing money to the mix

Statistics show that nearly half of all such unions fail. Yet they are nonetheless integral to the fabric of our society. But federal funding of a marriage initiative will unintentionally cheapen wedded unions by reducing them to another government program.

It is the hope of Bush administration officials (and no doubt conservative think tanks) that giving unmarried couples with children a financial incentive and faith-based counseling will promote marriage and thus undermine the root of other social ills linked to broken homes.

The Bush proposal is strangely un-Republican; it's an example of vast government intrusion into the living rooms of America's working poor who might be coerced into an institution for all the wrong reasons.

The plan confuses the religious and social roles of marriage and ignores changes the American family unit has undergone since the 1950s. Government's involvement in marriage could actually undermine the institution by making it little more than another federal program like welfare for those enrolled in marriage counseling.

Throwing more money at a problem rarely addresses the underlying issues. If President Bush wants to save marriage in America, his best course of action would be to target existing unions instead of creating new ones with tax revenue.



CARTOON BY MARY PINCKNEY WATERS/THE GAMECOCK

## What would Jesus name it?

Greetings fellow Gamecocks! Or, to more accurately assess our readership, greetings homeless people of Columbia who have tired of sleeping on those nasty yellow

Zip sheets and have decided to switch to our very own newspaper. You won't regret it.

Ha ha, only kidding. No self-respecting homeless person would even read *The Gamecock*, let alone sleep on it.

They have too many fat, copy engineering textbooks given to them by students who can't sell edition 1.1.a back to the bookstores because the new edition 1.1.b just came out.

Today is, after all, Monday, and that means yesterday was Sunday. Sunday, as you might know, is traditionally the day when all good Southerners put on their nicest clothes, get in their \$60,000 cars, sleep through a sermon and eat a huge lunch, which they insist on calling, for

tax reasons, "dinner."

Here at USC (motto: We'll Happily Rename Anything on Campus for the Right Price!), we know that God doesn't just have to be celebrated on Sunday (this would mess up our weekend). So we have a variety of different ways, times, and places to do whatever it is people do at church.

The most exciting of these, by virtue of its name, is *The Shack*. I know it sounds like a place where people will be sleeping on old copies of *Garnet and Black*, but it is in fact a vibrant and exciting campus ministry! Probably!

I've never actually been there, and I don't know when they meet, but I'm sure it's great! (Note: If you are, instead, looking for the "Love Shack," it's in Athens, GA. Sorry.)

Not far from *The Shack*, is an even more exciting campus group, PALM (Partnership Among Lutherans and Methodists). I've never actually been there, although I have walked past the building several times.

Although no one knows exactly why the Lutherans (a modern-day cult awaiting the return of

archvillain Lex Luthor) and the Methodists (a group which worships Robert De Niro and other Method Actors) have a partnership, but I'm sure it's working out great for them.

Let's not forget about Thursday night, the night of both FCA and CRU. FCA, which stands for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, offers fun skits, exciting speakers like our very own Andrew Sorensen, and lots of really trendy people who offer tons of chances for quick, completely Christian dating hookups.

They meet at the Blatt PE center, but the one time I tried to attend, their bouncer decided that my American Eagle outfit was a season out of style, and I was not admitted.

But let's not forget about CRU! CRU, or Campus Crusade for Christ, makes up for their lack of a good acronym by meeting in Currell College, home of the Criminal Justice Department, or CRJU.

Although "CRJU" doesn't roll off the tongue as easily as "CRU" (pronounced like "Crew," but not to be confused with those people who row), it is also a valuable part of USC.

## In our opinion

### Attendance policy is anti-education

More now than ever, attendance has become a prerequisite for a passing grade, while knowledge and dominance over material specific to that class has taken secondary importance. How has it come to be that such a vital importance has been placed on attendance at a state university?

In the past, the first day of class, better known to the students as "syllabus day," was a time for each professor to outline the material to be studied over the next four months and state the attendance policy.

Besides the fact that an attendance policy seems silly at a school where you pay to attend, little further attention was paid to it, for by the end of the semester, students skipping classes will have already weeded themselves out.

This year, however, special importance has been placed on the attendance policy. I remember hearing the words "legal necessity" when it came to verbally going over attendance.

Too many absences will directly lower your grade, and one professor even explained in class that he took absences as a personal insult, although I highly doubt that his personal happiness depends on my presence. Another professor of mine has purposefully designated in-class

assignments and lowered the percentage on tests and papers to benefit the avid class-goer and punish the students that are able to gain just as much knowledge in half the time.

Now the challenge is placed on getting to class on time instead of intellectual pursuit. This particular professor even encouraged those special students with unique abilities to drop his course or be frustrated in failure.

Why are our professors pushing the intellectually advanced students out of their door? Instead of putting all their efforts into failing the class-cutter, why don't they spend that same effort in offering different ways of learning the material?

Of my years at USC, only three of my professors have actively taken advantage of Blackboard, posting notes, assignments and extra-curricular activities to compliment and further the understanding of the curriculum.

One professor even had quizzes posted on Blackboard so as not to take up lecture time. Sure, attendance was taken, but little importance was placed on it, because by the end of the semester you either knew the material or you didn't.

I have asked several questions in this article, the answers of which I could only speculate on. Yet if this trend continues, USC stands to suffer in its de-

velopment as a school of higher learning, for any mindless monkeys can come to class and slap their name on an attendance sheet.

It is a pursuit of intellectual excellence and a commitment to challenge even its most advanced students that I would like to see the university undertake, instead of pursuing the strict attendance policies with the likes of Midlands Tech.

JONATHAN BUERKERT

THIRD-YEAR ENGLISH STUDENT

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## Making teachers love you is simple

Have you ever noticed the fact that Johnny Suck-up gets to sit anywhere he wants while you're in the nosebleeds sitting next to some guy with B.O. the likes of which you've never experienced?

Have you ever found yourself sitting in class wondering why Suzie McBrowner is making all the check pluses while you get stuck with the impersonal and emotionally unsatisfying check?



LAUREN ADAMS

Third-year anthropology student

If you've tried and failed to get professors to love you in the past, then this is the article for you, my friends.

In a few quick and easy steps, I will have professors begging you to skip class and turn in assignments late or never.

•Bribery. If I'm going to give a professor an apple, I'm not going halfway. I'm hollering that baby out and stuffing it with money. Not just a little money—I'm talking pimp wad. If you're going to do your homework, why not do it on a five-dollar bill? See what Abraham Lincoln has to say about it.

Everything is a letter grade better if there's money involved, people. Drop a couple of quarters in their coffee. Why not staple some money to a picture of yourself and slide it under their doors?

When those professors see you giving the thumbs-up beneath a one-dollar bill, they will be putty, people. Putty.

•Flattery. If ever in the course of your studies you find yourself addressing a professor, you should try to end all questions and statements with "I love your class." With a little practice, it could sound like you mean it.

Here, try a little role-play: You: I had a question about Thursday's lecture—I love your class—that concerned the issue of me loving your class.

Professor: I love you. Don't worry about your integrity guys, you'll be so far up your professor's butt you won't even notice.

•Sex appeal. I can't stress this enough. Innuendo, innuendo, innuendo. This is a kind of intimidation tactic. Professors are so scared of pulling a Mary K. Laterno that they'll forget all about grading your work and focus instead on keeping you out of their pants.

Ask them if they'd like you to put your assignment in their boxes. Talk about them getting to know the student body. Say penis. Then all you have to do is sit back and watch the A's and law suits roll in.

•Work hard in the course. This is my least favorite category, but I'm told it is just as effective as the other categories. Apparently, if you do the assignments and pay attention in class the professors will not only respect you, they might even grow to love you.

I've never tried it myself, but I'm sure it's right for somebody. This category involves the class syllabus so make sure you hang on to that.

Your professors will be naming their kids after you and riding those adorable two-seater bicycles with you in no time.

So put your brains away, kids. You won't be needing those anymore (unless you plan to work hard in the course).

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### Gamecock Corrections

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Offices on third floor of the Russell House.  
Editor in Chief: [gamecockeditor@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockeditor@gwm.sc.edu)  
News: [gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu)  
Viewpoints: [gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu)  
The Mix: [gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu)  
Sports: [gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu)  
Public Affairs: [gamecockPR@yahoo.com](mailto:gamecockPR@yahoo.com)  
Online: [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com)  
Newsroom: 777-7726  
Editor's Office: 777-3914

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The Gamecock  
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Advertising: 777-3888  
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