



VIEWPOINTS

"It's important for us to realize that on the 350 or more days a year we aren't competing on the athletic fields that we must find ways to work together for all of South Carolina."

ANDREW SØRENSEN
USC PRESIDENT, IN COOPERATION WITH
CLEMSON FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Online Poll
Should the U.S. have sent troops to Haiti to stabilize the Caribbean nation?
www.dailygamecock.com.
Results published on Fridays.

In our opinion

Terror knows no boundary

The bombings that rocked the subway system in Madrid, Spain last Thursday are a sober reminder that no country is immune from the specter of terrorism.

Evidence is emerging that Spain was targeted by terrorists affiliated with al-Qaida for Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's support of President Bush's war on Iraq. Spain has been afflicted by domestic terror campaigns for decades, but the attack by extremist Islamic groups is being called the Spanish September 11.

The horrors in Madrid are a sober call for a unified global response to the specter of terrorism committed for any cause

While not as severe in terms of casualties as the attacks on New York City and Washington, the violence in Madrid woke Europe to its vulnerability so long as Osama bin Laden and his followers are still

around.

Europe might have largely condemned the war with Saddam Hussein's regime, but the horrors of Madrid underline there must be a unified world response to terrorism in the name of any cause. Our sympathy as Americans must go out to the families of those who lost loved ones in the attacks, because their pain is every bit as real as what we felt when planes slammed into the World Trade Towers in New York.

The countries that opposed the war with Iraq are correct about one simple fact — it will not reduce the threat to all nations posed by a determined organization with resources like al-Qaida. Furthermore, opposition to the war in Iraq does not connote a lack of support for the war on terror.

Our priority as a nation must be to put Afghanistan and Iraq back together in a way that ensures they do not become havens for cowardly terrorists who hide their faces and commit crimes by proxy. The citizens of those nations, and indeed the people of the world, will only be able to rest safely once this is accomplished.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Cable gone wild in Columbia

I know you. I know what you did with your spring break, too. I know you went to Hilton Head Island, or Myrtle Beach, or Charleston, or one of those red-neck sanctuaries in Florida like Daytona or Panama City.



GRAHAM CULBERTSON
Third-year English student

I know you spent the whole week on the beach, sunbathing with your friends who happen to all be foreign exchange students who only wear half a bikini, drinking an endless supply of frozen margaritas and maybe taking some time out of your busy schedule to frolic with sea otters and various other drunken spring breakers of the opposite sex. I know what you did last week, and I don't like it.

I stayed in Columbia for spring break. I know what you're thinking — I'm lame. And yeah, I am pretty lame. But normally, staying behind when 25,000 semi-educated Gamecock Neanderthals exit Columbia to rape and pillage the Southeast coast isn't that bad

of a setup. I can lie around on my couch, lie around on my other couch, and when I get tired of watching reruns of "Brewster's Millions" on Comedy Central and "Behind the Music: Vanilla Ice" on VH1, I have the whole Horseshoe to myself. Not a bad life, even if I am really lame.

But that's a usual spring break. That's a normal spring break. That's what spring break is like when Viacom is being reasonable. I've got news for you guys: this spring break, Viacom refused to be reasonable.

At least, that's what Dish Network said. I know it's confusing, because we have Gamecock Cable, but apparently our cable is actually satellite. And apparently our satellite provider is Dish Network. And apparently they didn't want to pay Viacom for the rights to certain channels. And so last week, spring break week, the week when I should be able to watch MTV, MTV2 and BET air the same Missy Elliott video at the exact same time, I instead just got to watch a screen that said "Viacom refuses to be reasonable." Over and over again.

One time, actually, Dish Network showed me a map with all the cities not receiving

Viacom channels (Columbia wasn't on it — apparently Gamecock cable is actually purchased from Dish Network-Houston), and that was pretty exciting. At least, there was a picture on the screen. Otherwise, MTV, MTV2, BET, VH1, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon just had a black screen reading "Viacom Refuses to be Reasonable."

Oh yeah, besides MTV2, which ran a 30-second video of Dish Network CEO's (Charlie something, he wanted me to e-mail him but I didn't) ad, "Charlie Chat" in which he explains just how reasonable Viacom was refusing to be. Well, watching that over and again might have been better than watching that Missy Elliott video over and over again, but at least MTV2 plays commercials between Missy Elliott videos. Sheesh.

One last word for the USC Housing people, who I'm sure do a great job besides from screwing up everything I've ever seen them do: please, call Time Warner cable and save us from this satellite madness. And while you're at it, look into upgrading some appliances. I hear these newfangled "dishwasher" things are great. Unless they refuse to be reasonable, that is.

Labels reveal little of beliefs

I've always been confused on the labeling of people who are for or against abortion. They don't make sense to me. The labels "pro-choice" and "pro-life" can easily be misinterpreted.



CHRIS FOY
First-year graduate business student

Perhaps if more people said that they were for or against abortion, it would be simple. Unfortunately, both labels are vague. I could warrant either label for my beliefs.

For example, my value system supports the idea of people making choices for themselves. I believe in the right of people to choose. I believe in the right of people to choose to have sex. I believe in the right of people to abstain from sex. I believe in the right to choose to use or not to use protection.

You see, I actually do believe in abortions. And because I don't believe in abortions, I fall shy a few choices of being a complete backer for free choice.

Even though I believe there should be rights for several choices, I just cannot believe in the choice to ignore responsibility. Women who get abortions have made their choices long before they ever walk into a clinic. And it's sad that they can still make a choice down the road to end a life for no other reason than to alleviate a mistake they have made in their own life.

As far as I'm concerned, women who get abortions fall into that same category as obese kids who try to sue McDonald's.

It's amazing the way these two situations parallel. Both involve persons who have willingly made a choice. Both show extreme consequences of that choice. And both also show that our society has given this foolish notion to people that they are not always accountable for their own actions.

All right, so I can't claim pro-choice as my status. I guess I turn to pro-life. But I'm not really a fan of this classification either. It's quite broad, as it clusters most people. Isn't everyone really pro-life? I'm not about to go out and say I no longer want to live.

Pro-choice advocates would say they believe in life for sure — every breath they use to argue for the place of abortions comes from the lives they are living, lives that wouldn't be here if their parents made that "choice" that they so vehemently fight for.

This label certainly is enticing to encompass, though. I do believe in life. And I believe in every measure necessary to ensure that it happens. Even if it means a woman is pregnant for nine months and then gives up her child for adoption. Even if it means a woman being pressured from her boyfriend to get an abortion has to stand up for the right decision. The pro-life label is as perplexing as it is filled with choices — choices for life.

Well, it appears I've run full circle. Pro-choice doesn't really sell my stance; but pro-life is just too general. If I were to be labeled, I'd prefer it be a title that's fit to my beliefs. I'm anti-abortion, but I still believe in choices. I'm pro-life, but I'm confident practically everyone is.

Perhaps it's just time to start going with a better label. One that is more fitting. Maybe one like pro-responsibility.

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Create message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor to gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

Gamecock Corrections

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu.

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In your opinion

Fire safety ignored on most campuses

The fire that destroyed University Ridge Apartments in Clemson demonstrates the dangers students face in fires, both on- and off-campus. Since January 2000, over 80 percent of the fatalities in student fires have happened in off-campus houses and apartments where two-thirds of the students in this country live. Common threads include no automatic fire sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke alarms, smoking and alcohol.

There are specific actions you can take to help avoid a tragic fire. Look for fire-safe housing with an automatic fire sprinkler system. Fire sprinkler systems have demonstrated their effectiveness time and again in saving lives. Sprinklers react in seconds after a fire breaks out, giving you the chance to escape safely.

Every apartment should be equipped with smoke alarms that provide critical early warning of a fire. Disabling a smoke alarm puts you and all of the people around at a much greater risk from fire. If false alarms are a problem, relocating or cleaning the smoke alarm might solve them. All alarms must be taken seriously, and if there are a series of false alarms occurring, then engineered solutions to the

problem may be available.

Approximately one-fourth of all of the fatal fires in residences are caused by carelessly discarded smoking materials. In 1999, the latest year for which statistics are available, candle fires reached a 20-year peak according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Fire safety is a shared and personal responsibility, and your actions can have a dramatic impact on protecting yourself, your roommates and those living around you. Please take the time to learn and put into practice these actions to save a life — maybe yours.

ED COMEAU
CENTER FOR CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY,
AMHERST, MA

Dance Marathon helps sick children

I would like to thank the 260 USC students who participated in the USC Dance Marathon to benefit Palmetto Health Children's Hospital on Feb. 20 and 21. The event raised more than \$84,000 for Children's Hospital and donations continue to come in.

As South Carolina's first children's hospital, we treat more than 82,000 sick and injured children each year from all 46 counties in the state.

USC's Dance Marathon has

raised more than \$212,000 for Palmetto Health Children's Hospital in its first five years. Donations have helped fund upgrades to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and a children's ambulance.

These funds allow Children's Hospital to provide programs and services that we otherwise could not provide. With contributions such as this, we are able to make being in the hospital more comfortable for families and a less frightening experience for a child.

We have tremendous gratitude for the efforts of the USC students, who each raised a minimum of \$150 to participate in the event. They then gave up their weekend time by dancing for 24 hours straight.

We're fortunate to have these students in our community. On behalf of the physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, Child Life specialists and staff of Children's Hospital, I'd like to thank the USC students for helping us to provide excellent care for our children.

DR. CAUGHMAN TAYLOR
PALMETTO HEALTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, COLUMBIA

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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@gwm.sc.edu. Letters will be edited for space, possible libel and style. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

College Quote Board

TUFTS DAILY

"Thursday's bombings in the heart of Madrid are a tragic reminder of terrorism's global reach. These attacks should serve as a sobering reminder of the turbulent world in which we live but not dissuade those students from studying abroad. Terrorism relies on our succumbing to fear in order to succeed, and the best way we can combat it is go about our lives, undeterred and unafraid."

COLORADO DAILY

"For decades, the Sierra Club has advocated stabilizing the American population for the sake of the environment. (Their) rationale isn't "anti-immigrant," as some claim. Rather, it takes the high road by calling on the nation's oldest conservation group to persuade the federal government to make the United States a model in controlling U.S. population growth, and thus helping protect the environment."