

Online Poll

Should the S.C. Legislature pass a law to legalize tattooing?
www.dailygamecock.com.
Results published on Friday.



VIEWPOINTS

"I was concerned about things like security and parking. I was relieved to find out that the university is like a well-oiled machine."

STEPHANIE SEJEWSKI
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR FROM AIKEN, ON HER IMPRESSIONS FROM THE USC SHOWCASE

In our opinion

New arena boon to USC

Even more than a home for our reinvigorated basketball team, the Colonial Center has been a huge success as a concert venue, drawing attention to USC and Columbia.

The Colonial Center ranks 22nd in the world for number of tickets sold in 2003, according to Pollstar Magazine, proving that it is drawing more than just basketball crowds responding to the stellar run the men's basketball had this year. Also, the Colonial Center will be busy this month, with seven national shows coming, beginning Wednesday with

Aerosmith and Cheap Trick.

Part of the Colonial Center's success can be attributed to the diversity of concerts that have been scheduled for the venue, with acts ranging from

Ticket sales for the Colonial Center allayed pre-construction fears that a new arena would not be a good investment for USC.

pop princess Britney Spears to folk legend Bob Dylan April 10. Columbians are eager for mainstream music shows in an arena setting.

Since the Colonial Center has more seats than the Coliseum, there were initial fears that it would be difficult to fill them. But as it turns out, the construction was a good investment for USC from several perspectives.

Clearly, the Colonial Center has been a success from an entertainment viewpoint, and it will also aid the efforts of basketball to recruit top prospects. New facilities that include amenities for athletes help the athletic department, and the arena is also superb for viewing games. Despite the additional seating, the Colonial Center feels smaller, with better views of the court from all around. This helps the teams as they play, since fans who are happy with their seats will be more attuned to the game and thus likely to be more vocal in their support.

USC students should be happy about the practicality of the Colonial Center, which contributes to the entertainment options for all Columbians.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

A matter of poor public relations

Those kooky College Republicans. They just can't seem to quit making themselves look like complete fools. Take last week's incident with the S.C. Confederation of College



WES WOLFE
Fourth-year public relations student

Republicans. While it's a bit of a he-said, she-said affair, the facts seem to bear out that former USC College Republican chairwoman Kendall Robinson tried to screw over a guy from her own organization who was

running for state chairman.

Let me repeat that. She tried to screw over a guy from her own organization. A fellow Republican. A comrade-in-arms. Are you kidding?

Through Robinson's actions, which included sending a pack of erroneous credentials to the confederation, she made herself and her organization look bad.

In a conversation with The Gamecock, Robinson said she wouldn't give a quote and that, "There's no story here."

That's smart. She could have gotten her story out there and maybe made someone else look bad instead of herself, but no. It was just easier to dip into that well of hatred Republicans harbor for the free press.

Of course, Robinson isn't the only College Republican to do something idiotic in recent memory. There were the other knuckle-scraping Neanderthals in her organization who decided to heckle everyone who stepped on stage when U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., came to formally announce his presidential campaign in front of the Russell House.

You guys were stellar. I especially enjoyed the one who screamed the words "communism" and "socialism" in my ear when former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt took the stage. The yelling during the prayer was nice, too, and occurred in practically every single pause a speaker took until Edwards' wife admonished the College Republicans for their actions and asked for some courtesy.

It's one thing to protest, but it's another thing to intentionally disrupt an event, especially when you're giving the USC student body a bad reputation with your actions. All in all, I was almost moved to forego my usual pacifism and buy myself a ticket to jail by jumping onto the sidewalk and throwing punches. According to the MSNBC campaign embed, Dugald McConnell, another member of the working press looked like she was going to walk down from the press riser and strangle one of the kids herself. If she had, though, Robinson would've had one less name to duplicate on the credentials application.

And then there's the group of College Republicans who tried to ambush Al Franken during the question-and-answer period of his appearance at the Koger Center. One fellow asked a question that implied that Republican student groups were being repressed. Right. Republicans control the presidency, Congress and many state governments. But, apparently, they're being repressed. Well, Franken cracked a joke at the kid's expense and sent him out crying. If you're going to ambush someone, be prepared to have it thrown back at you.

So, here's to the USC College Republicans. If you guys weren't such petulant, mean-spirited crybabies, I would've had to write about something important.

Who decided skinny was hot?

Is it just me, or is Kate Beckinsale not hot? At all.

Seriously, I'm really tired of saying she's hot all the time just because everyone around me is, and if I didn't, they'd think I was gay.

It would probably be kind of fun if they thought I was gay, but that might be a problem somewhere down the road.

Anyway, I watched "Underworld" the other day, the movie that supposedly she was really hot in, and the whole time she was running around in skin-tight leather pants and I figured something out: Kate Beckinsale has the exact same figure as Mick Jagger. Except I think Mick Jagger has more curves.

This is the primary problem we face in society today, in my opinion; people think Kate Beckinsale is hot. Kate Beckinsale is 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighs approximately 17 lbs and was the female lead in "Pearl Harbor."

What's there to like here?

The problem with Kate Beckinsale, and our society, is that fashion magazines and awfully-scripted movies about vampires fighting werewolves are constantly telling us that women who make Robert Plant look like Aretha Franklin are attractive. And they're not.

So what are we going to do about it?

For starters, don't watch "Pearl Harbor," but that's more like the 11th Commandment than a new development in the quest to de-hot Kate Beckinsale. (I'm only picking on Kate Beckinsale because she's also a really, really bad actress. I could just as easily be picking on Claire Danes or Cameron Diaz. Oh wait, they're also really bad actresses. Sorry, never mind.)

All right, so here's the plan: First, boycott all Kate Beckinsale, Claire Danes, Cameron Diaz and Kurt Russell movies, unless they have Hugh Jackman in them. However, if they have Hugh Jackman in them, but also feature Kate Beckinsale as a vampire or vampire hunter, then don't see them, unless they have Ian McKellen in them. Who, incidentally, is

way too thin, but I don't think that's related to an unhealthy societal view of the female figure. Oh yeah, and skip "Pearl Harbor." It's really long.

After you have performed the requisite boycotting, the next step is to carry a yummy, king-size Baby Ruth bar with you everywhere you go. Whenever you walk by a super-thin, really ugly girl (usually surrounded by frat guys saying, "Wow, she's almost as hot as Kate Beckinsale, except she could lose some weight."), whip out your Baby Ruth and dangle it under her nose.

She'll immediately become transfixed by the chocolate and nuts, neither of which she will have tasted since 1987, and will follow you home where you can fatten her into a healthy, attractive girl with rosy cheeks, who will immediately fall in love with you for showing her how wonderful a king-size candy bar can be.

Oh yeah, and you'll save society from the Claire Danes's of the world, probably. Oh well, who cares? Once you have a girlfriend, anorexia seems less important anyway. Just stay away from "Pearl Harbor" and you'll be fine.



GRAHAM CULBERTSON
Third-year English student

In our opinion

Ally program plays vital campus role

I have many comments on USC Printing Services employee Archie Crossland's letter ("Ally signs have no place on campus," Wednesday). First of all, I agree that it is a priority of USC's to support all students, faculty and staff. However, that's the only thing Mr. Crossland and I agree on.

The purpose of having visible and distinctive signs on campus signifying allies of the gay community is because it isn't always easy to see who is in fact a member of that community. Homosexuals don't wear signs and neither do their "supporters." The Ally program has been formed to assist those who need help and have nowhere else to go.

Perhaps the program's announcement reading that acts of heterosexism "will not be tolerated" is a bit extreme. Maybe it would be better to say, "Prejudices such as heterosexism should not be tolerated."

Aside from the possibly harsh wording in ads for the program, it's still a great idea for a campus that is still relatively shy toward homosexuality.

Mr. Crossland goes on to mention that he doesn't fear homosexuals but fears for them, along with adulterers, liars, thieves or anyone else who breaks "any of the Ten

Commandments." He says all of these offenders who don't repent to Jesus Christ will perish. As a Christian I find these statements quite interesting. Yes, the Bible does mention homosexuality as a sin, but it doesn't say anything in the Ten Commandments about being gay. And for Mr. Crossland to be such a devout Christian like he claims, it amazes me that he would pass such strong judgment on others.

Christians know there is only one judge in this world, and I can assure everyone who is unaware, that judge does not work at USC Printing Services.

BRIAN BREITENSTEIN
SECOND-YEAR PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT

Mexico must follow international law

Mexico scored a human rights victory Wednesday when the International Court of Justice ordered the United States to review the cases of 51 Mexicans facing the death penalty here. According to Mexican officials, the United States systematically violated its citizens' human rights by denying access to consular staff who could assist in their defense.

It is ironic that the very thing the Mexican government demanded, activists in Mexico's Chihuahua state are now having to struggle for: gov-

ernment intercession in cases involving justice crimes.

In Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City, approximately 370 Mexican women have been brutally murdered since 1993, many after violent sexual assault. The Mexican federal government has been slow to intercede in these crimes.

To coordinate the investigation and prosecution of these murders, the Fox administration recently appointed Federal Prosecutor Maria Lopez Urbina and Special Commissioner Guadalupe Morfin. Amnesty International welcomed this intervention. It had previously found serious deficiencies, including a lack of follow-up on witness statements and evidence, and unjustified delays by police investigators.

The Fox administration must take its own advice if it believes federal law supersedes state law in special circumstances, and aggressively intervene on behalf of the women of Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua who continue to be at great risk of abduction and murder.

ANNE GALANTOWICZ
FIRST-YEAR PH.D. GEOGRAPHY STUDENT

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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

DAILY ORANGE
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

"President George W. Bush has asked the FDA to alter the packaging of condoms so that they include a warning about their ineffectiveness in preventing human papillomavirus, commonly known as HPV or the virus that causes genital herpes. Furthermore, it is appropriate and responsible that Bush, an unmistakably staunch conservative, has acknowledged condoms as a part of the national sexual dialogue through asking the FDA to reword the warning they include."

THE LANTERN
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

"With all of the tanning alternatives out such as Mystic Tan and bottled self tanner lotions, people no longer have an excuse to place themselves amid the UVA radiation in a tanning bed. That is unless they are striving for cancer—but while there at it, they should make sure to take a pack of cigarettes into the tanning bed as well. Even if tanning does boost one's metabolism, it is not worth the risks involved."

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Gamecock Corrections

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Online Editor
James Tolbert

Senior Writer
Kevin Fellner

CONTACT INFORMATION

Offices on third floor of the Russell House.
Editor in Chief: gamecockeditor@gwm.sc.edu
News: gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu
Viewpoints: gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu
The Mix: gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu
Sports: gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu
Public Affairs: gamecockpr@yahoo.com
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Newsroom: 777-7726
Editor's Office: 777-3914

STUDENT MEDIA

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Public Affairs
Kimberly Dressler

TO PLACE AN AD

The Gamecock
1400 Greene St.
Columbia, S.C. 29208

Advertising: 777-3888
Classified: 777-1184
Fax: 777-6482