



# VIEWPOINTS

IN OUR OPINION

## Reagan mourned

Former President Ronald Reagan was considered by many to be the most popular president since John F. Kennedy. The nation acknowledged this fact with nearly 52,000 people paying their respects at Monday's casket viewing and also with the declaration of Friday as a National Day of Mourning for the former president.

USC acknowledged Reagan when he received an honorary doctor of laws degree Sept. 20, 1983. Around 9,000 people turned out on the Horseshoe for the event.

Reagan's passing brings accolades for his service to the nation, even transcending the election year's partisan lines. Former President Jimmy Carter commended Reagan for being very worthy of the nickname "The Great Communicator."

On the local level, Attorney General Henry McMaster feels that Reagan "made us all better Americans." Gov. Mark Sanford stated that Reagan shaped and will continue to shape generations of American leaders.

The Gipper may be gone, but he is not forgotten.

## Gamecock Corrections

In Wednesday's News, Chuck Sanders should have been identified as the vice president and chief operating officer at South Carolina's Student Loan Corporation.

In Wednesday's Mix, Alison Martlew's name was misspelled.

The Gamecock regrets the errors.

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know. E-mail [gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu).

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STAR TRIBUNE  
SCK

I'LL MISS George.  
He WAS A SUPERB  
FALL-GUY...UH, I MEAN  
**CIA DIRECTOR.**  
ESPECIALLY SINCE HE  
FINALLY LEARNED HOW  
TO CONNECT THE DOTS.



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

## Choose your level of interest



PAIGE HAGGARD

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As an instructor of English 101 and 102 at USC, I naturally get a lot of students who aren't exactly excited by taking yet another English course. Some of those students believe there isn't anything new to learn about English; others think that I, personally, as a teacher, have nothing to teach them. The most quotable of those students, posted at [TeacherReview.com](http://TeacherReview.com), says, "Not only is she ugly, but she's also a bitch."

Granted, ranting about that sort of student might be cathartic for me, but it wouldn't be productive overall. Why? In a twisted sense, these malcontents are content — they enjoy being grouches.

Or I could spend this column talking about a second group I've encountered. I'll dub them "sliders" since they've modified the "Fight Club" motto: Instead of, "To let that which truly doesn't matter slide," they believe, "To let that which doesn't interest them slide." When asked a question, they like to rely on, "I don't know." When given a chance to select an essay topic, they choose something "easy" rather than interesting. Consequently, they find it hard to muster the energy to work on the topic.

I've pretty much become Zen about them. I figure it's their right as Americans to waste their time and tuition on being bored.

There is a third group, those that rise to the top. I guess that makes them the "cream." They take up my challenges in class, not just to write better but also to have fun with the class — life's too short to be bored or to be average. This doesn't mean they all write masterpieces, nor do their sides hurt from laughing.

However, they do try to write their best, and they can find things that intrigue them. Upon reflection, I think I've had more cream than sliders or grouches.

Quite frankly, I don't think these groups are just for English classes; they hold true for all classes. Since I am an English teacher, I'll remind you of two famous quotes that are quite apropos. Hamlet affirms, "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so," and in "Paradise Lost," Satan eloquently echoes those thoughts: "The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven."

Grouch, slider or cream — the choice is yours.

*Haggard is a third-year MFA student.*

## Online.Poll

Did you vote in Tuesday's Senate elections?

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