



IN OUR OPINION

Anti-spam list lacking support

The Federal Trade Commission declined to create an anti-spam registry Tuesday; rather it will defer to the private sector in its efforts to produce authentication systems. A federal advisory committee will be established if an authentication standard fails to appear.

While the National Do Not Call Registry was a blessing in the fight against telemarketers, such a list for spam will simply provide an easy list of addresses. The fact that so many spammers use false e-dresses will delay punitive action against the spammers, thereby making the list less effective. Even most major Internet companies agree that a "do not e-mail" list isn't the solution to the problem.

Until authentication's universal, the best things to do are to utilize your provider's anti-spam programs and just hit delete.

In Your Opinion

With all the hero hype of Ronald Reagan, I think it is also time to remind people of some of his less "heroic" accomplishments. Reagan presided over and aided the rise to power of both Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. He allowed the poor people and AIDS victims of this country to suffer while his tax cuts allowed the rich to become richer. Furthermore, let us not forget his most notable accomplishment — the illegal sale of weapons to Iran through Israel and Saudi Arabia, all in an effort to send profits to terrorists in Central America. Hopefully, when the dust blows away, we will all remember Reagan's true legacy and drop the silly talk of memorializing him on U.S. currency, Mount Rushmore or even in our hearts.

Ben Angstadt, 2004 USC graduate

ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

STAFF

Editor in Chief
Steven Van Haren

News Editor
Michael LaForgia

Viewpoints Editor
Paige Haggard

The Mix Editor
Megan Treacy

Sports Editor
Brad Senkiw

Photo Editor
Melissa Wallace

Page Designers
Erin Cline,
Chaz McCarthy

Copy Editors
Tracy Bealer,
Joel Wallace

STUDENT MEDIA

Director
Scott Lindenber
Faculty Advisor
Erik Collins
Advertising Manager
Sarah Scarborough
Creative Director
Susan King
Business Manager
Carolyn Griffin
Classified Manager
Sherry F. Holmes
Ad Rep
Jessica Johnson
Production Manager
Patrick Bergen

TO PLACE AN AD

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

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

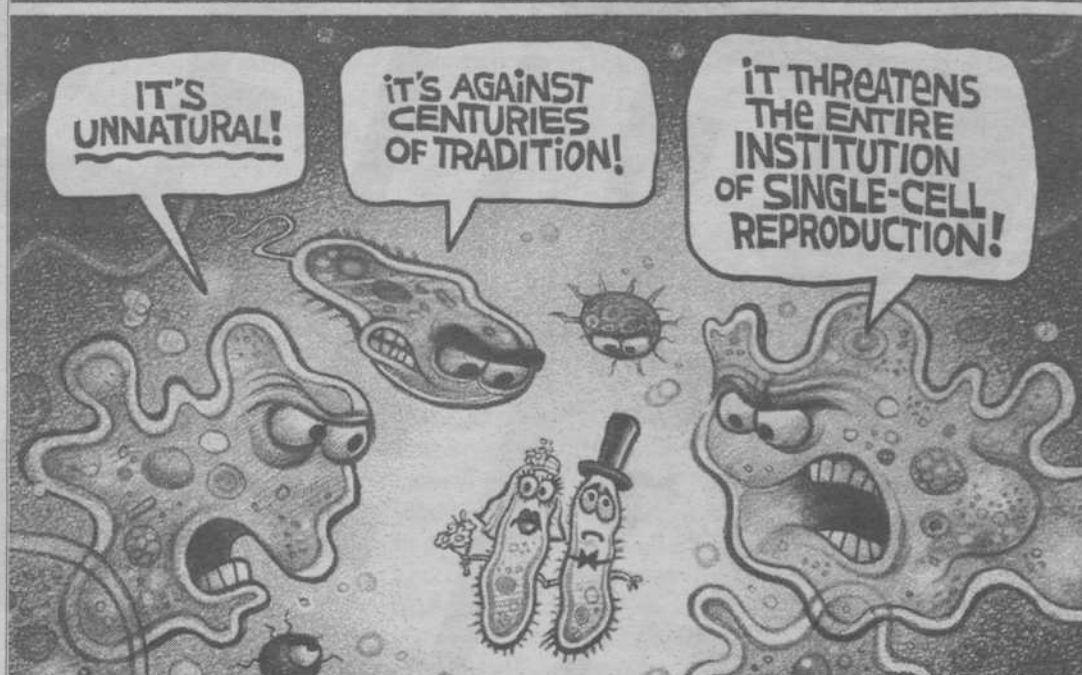
CONTACT INFORMATION

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
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Newsroom: 777-7726

The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and 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 activities fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for one dollar each from the Department of Student Media.

50 BAZILLION YEARS AGO:

THE WORLD'S FIRST HETEROSEXUALS...



CARTOON COURTESY OF KRY CAMPUS

Bad taste is an ageless error



ALLYSON BIRD

GAMECOCKOPINIONS@GWM.SC.EDU

The first time I saw this phenomenon, I was interning at the State House, where they descended like locusts in their purple-vest suits and bright red hats, looking frightening but aged.

The next sighting was more iconic than in the flesh, as I came upon a display window in downtown Charleston showcasing those bold colors with unmanned headwear. I was again bewildered, realizing they weren't exclusive to Columbia and wondering just who these red-hat ladies were. I turned next to the universal online pal, Google, who revealed all.

This Red Hat Society was inspired by Jenny Joseph's "Warning," a poem about greeting old age with

"verve, humor and elan." I didn't understand two of those three nouns, and even spell check was befuddled by one. So I probed further.

The group was begun by Sue Ellen Cooper, self-dubbed the Exalted Queen Mother of the most extremist cult fashion. And where do the EQM and her worker bees dwell? California, of course.

But the scary thing about the Red Hat Ladies is that they've got chapters in 20 countries — 400,000 members including 8 chapters in Charleston, 19 in Columbia and even a chapter in Cowpens called the "Mighty Moo Red Hatters."

There are no official rules, only to pay \$35 to become an official chapter. So it seems "official" is a relative term.

According to its Web site, the members scoff at charity in their theme song. It proclaims, "All my life, I've done for you. Now it's my turn to do for me."

And they do for themselves with outlandish clothing for no real reason. The group has its own card, the Purple Perks Card,

with similarly ambiguous functions. Under-aged hatters are encouraged to wear pink and lavender until they hit 50, at which point they wear a bruise-colored ensemble and a bloody cap, plus red gloves to match.

Good for them for embracing the inevitable and cherishing the tacky while they're at it. But I'm not going to pretend the idea doesn't depress me.

College students are crossing the threshold into adulthood when their parents are cresting that middle-age hill. That's enough emotional confusion without seeing year-round Mardi Gras outfits on a sagging bunch that nervously mocks the aging process.

Perhaps once I've moved to middle age, I'll throw in the gloves, put on some red ones, and embrace old age with verve, humor and elan. But until then, pink is a below-the-shoulders color only, and I'll simply associate 50 with Cent and the cost of a payphone call.

Bird is a second-year print journalism student.