



VIEWPOINTS

ONLINE POLL

Did you watch the State of the Union speech? Let us know at www.dailygamecock.com. Results posted Friday.

THE GAMECOCK EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR Michael LaForgia	ASST. VIEWPOINTS EDITOR Patrick Augustine
NEWS EDITOR Jon Turner	SPORTS EDITOR Jonathan Hillyard
VIEWPOINTS EDITOR Wes Wolfe	DESIGN DIRECTOR Chas McCarthy
THE MIX EDITOR Jennifer Freeman	COPY DESK CHIEF Steven Van Haren

IN OUR OPINION

If you want coverage, send us a news release

We are used to angry readers peppering us with insults and attacks on our journalistic integrity; letters tell us we are not worth the paper we are printed on or that we contribute to a new low in journalistic standards. We admit it: We make mistakes, and we correct them readily. The "Gamecock Corrections" section in Viewpoints is a daily exercise in contrition and self-reproach.

However, there seems to be grumbling that The Gamecock has agendas against certain on-campus groups. This view is baseless.

However, it reflects a misconception that begs dispelling.

Many of the complaints we receive revolve around our failure to report on an organization's event or around reporting that makes organizations "look bad." Simple solutions exist for these students:

Let us know about your events, and don't get into trouble. Since our staff comprises less than 30 full-time students, we lack the manpower to report on every newsworthy on-campus event. If your organization is holding an event you think the rest of the university should read about, send us a news release and call to remind us about it well in advance.

In addition, assign public relations responsibilities to a member of your club or organization, and let them write and e-mail releases regularly. Importantly, as an editorially independent newspaper, we are not obligated to report on any group or on-campus event. We choose to.

The Gamecock's staff members have neither the time nor the energy nor the desire to mount a smear campaign against anyone. Further, failure to speak to us about news that could potentially tarnish your group's reputation is the quickest way to make your organization look guilty. Refusing interviews also effectively denies your opportunity to set the record straight.

Finally, we would never print reports casting clubs and organizations in a negative light if groups' members never did anything wrong. We have made it, however, our responsibility to report on all newsworthy aspects of the USC campus and its student organizations - including the good, the bad and the ugly.

As an editorially independent newspaper, we are not obligated to report on any group. We choose to.

report on an organization's event or around reporting that makes organizations "look bad." Simple solutions exist for these students: Let us know about your events, and don't get into trouble. Since our staff comprises less than 30 full-time students, we lack the manpower to report on every newsworthy on-campus event. If your organization is holding an event you think the rest of the university should read about, send us a news release and call to remind us about it well in advance.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Exercise your right to voice your opinion. 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.

ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

EDITOR
Michael LaForgia

DESIGN DIRECTOR
Chas McCarthy

COPY DESK CHIEF
Steven Van Haren

NEWS EDITOR
Jon Turner

ASST. NEWS EDITOR
Kelly Cavanaugh

VIEWPOINTS EDITOR
Wes Wolfe

THE MIX EDITOR
Jennifer Freeman

ASST. THE MIX EDITOR
Carrie Givens

SPORTS EDITOR
Jonathan Hillyard

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR
Stephen Fastenau

SENIOR WRITER
Kevin Fellner

PHOTO EDITOR
Jason Steelman

SPORTS PHOTO EDITOR
Katie Kirkland

PAGE DESIGNERS
Jillian Garis, Staci Jordan, Jessica Ann Nielsen, Megan Sinclair

COPY EDITORS
Jessica Foster, Brindy McNair, Daniel Regenscheid, Jason Reynolds, Katie Thompson, Shana Till

ONLINE EDITOR
Ryan Simmons

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Jane Fielden, Katie Miles

CONTACT INFORMATION
Offices on third floor of the Russell House. The Editor's office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m.
Editor: 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; Sports: 777-7182
Editor's Office: 777-3914

STUDENT MEDIA

DIRECTOR
Scott Lindenberg

FACULTY ADVISER
Erik Collins

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Susan King

BUSINESS MANAGER
Carolyn Griffin

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Sarah Scarborough

CLASSIFIED MANAGER
Sherry F. Holmes

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Garen Cansler

CREATIVE SERVICES
Burke Lauderdale, Chelsea Felder, Laura Gough, Joseph Dannelly

ADVERTISING STAFF
Robert Carl, Breanna Evans, Ryan Gorman, Caroline Love, Katie Stephens, McKenzie Welsh

The Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It 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-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

TO PLACE AN AD
The Gamecock
1400 Greene St.
Columbia, S.C. 29208
Advertising: 777-3888
Classified: 777-1184
Fax: 777-6482

LIFE ON EARTH The Leading Theories

EVOLUTION SAYS LIVING THINGS DEVELOPED FROM EARLIER FORMS SCIENCE APPROVED!	INTELLIGENT DESIGN SUCH AS THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION VERY POPULAR	INTELLIGENT DESIGN -OF- THE-GODS MANKIND SPANG FROM ZEUS'S MIGHTY SCEPTER AS HE RODE HIS GOLDEN CHARIOT ACROSS THE SUN OR SOME SUCH THING... OR SOME SUCH THING...
INTERPLANETARY INTELLIGENT DESIGN "JOHNNY HUMANOID-SEED" ALIENS PLANTED LIFE ACROSS THE GALAXY STAR TREK NEED APPROVED!	NO EVOLUTION OR DESIGN IN REALITY YOU'RE ONLY A SEA SQUIRT WHO ATE SOME BAD PLANKTON, AND THIS IS ALL JUST A LONG, AWFUL DREAM... URP!	YOUR THEORY HERE: GO CRAZY. THEN MAKE A FUSS AND FORCE SCHOOLS TO TEACH IT!

CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

How to crush this guy in 10 days

I'll spend Valentine's Day at home, thinking about my mom

Those of you who follow my columns — yes, both of you — might have concluded by now that I hate girls. I admit, the thought has crossed my mind. Several times. But while I can understand why you might have that impression, I trust that this column will convince you otherwise. Take, for example, my mother. She is a girl, and I happen to think she is swell. I just have a bad habit of running into evil girls and publishing articles about them.

Valentine's Day used to be great, back in those wonderful years wedged somewhere between potty training and puberty. Yes, elementary school. The entire day was a party. The three R's were temporarily replaced by the three C's — cookies, cake and candy. You could easily tell how popular you were based on how many cards you received in that little red bag on your desk. If you ripped the roses up from your neighbor's garden and gave them to a girl, it was considered cute, not theft.

Nowadays, many people look forward to Valentine's Day about as much as they look forward to dental work and a visit to the proctologist. Singles across campus dread this day, knowing they will just end up feeling alone and wallowing in self-pity. I myself have never had this problem.

In other news, I'm a filthy dirty liar. I'm still several years away from my



CHASE STOUDENMIRE

FIRST-YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

teacher's certification, but I'm only about two girls away from a Ph.D. in rejection. I thought I had seen it all until one lovely creature managed to interpret my explicit request for a "date" to mean something other than "I like you." I don't know about you, but if a boy took me out to dinner, took me to play putt-putt, shared two movie nights with me and got all googly-eyed when I was around, I'd probably be suspicious that he might like me. Just a hunch.

I'm still not quite sure how that one happened. Perhaps I scared her off when I told her she reminded me of my mother. Momma always told me not to use four-letter words around girls, such as s*** and f***. I didn't know "date" — oops, I mean d*** — was also a dirty word.

As a result, I have no d***s scheduled next week. Since I am more likely to accidentally discover the meaning of life than come up with a fulfilling plan for a d***less Valentine's Day, I've decided to dedicate the rest of this column to someone who probably won't ever see it.

You could be my d*** to the prom, a best friend's little sister or perhaps one of the ridiculously pretty girls I pass on the way to class every day. Maybe I haven't even met you. Either way, you are the girl I'm going to marry, and you are absolutely amazing.

You seem to have everything in your life together. You know who you are, where you are, who you want to be and where you want to be. Your life has a purpose. In what some might call a lack of judgment, and what I call a gift from God, you somehow managed to fit me into your plans.

In a sense, you make me feel like that same little boy who ignored all the cookies, cake and candy, desperately searching for a card that you might place in the little red bag on his desk. Old enough to want you, too young to understand why, and scared to death of what you would say if he told you.

You laugh at my jokes when they're funny. You laugh at me when they aren't. You're willing to share me with the other woman in my life — my mom.

You're the type of girl who makes me want to be a better guy. Simply the thought of being in your company makes me work harder to deserve that right. Sometimes I'll envy you, often I'll admire you, but I'll always adore you.

You smell nice. And on top of all that, you are absolutely beautiful. For lack of a better word, I'm just, well, smitten. Can't wait to meet you.

IN YOUR OPINION

Suck-up Culbertson misses game point

What a coincidence Graham: I happened to be one of the 100 fans that you mentioned were at the game against Arkansas ("Sorensen scores big acting like average Joe," Wednesday). I want to start by saying that I know there's not too much complex calculus in the curriculum for an English student, but I believe counting was taught in kindergarten — which, oddly enough, was the only time it was cool to wear a Batman shirt. So, here we are 17 years later attending a basketball game. It was just you, me and 98 other people. My perspective of the game seemed somehow dissimilar to yours. First I noticed that a vast majority of our basketball team is black. This must obviously be because all the good white basketball players were discriminated against, right? Maybe it was a ploy to counteract the devilish shenanigans of the dance team. I'm sure it's not that few black girls try out for the team. All talent aside, could it be they're not interested or they haven't trained for years in a studio practicing choreographed dancing? That wouldn't make any sense at all. Send me the petition of all the black girls that got cut, and good luck with that. In addition, please cite any reasons how the dance

team is an embarrassment. I'm assuming you mean embarrassment, such as what your article is to the English department. Your love of all races didn't seem to stop you from taunting the black players on the other team who made up the majority (it has to be rigged). Your supposed allegiance to our team also didn't stop you from bashing John Chappell. While Chappell might not be our star player, my money would definitely be on him in a fight between the two of you. Even though you are a caped crusader, his "talentless" self would destroy you before you even got your pencil out of your pocket protector. Back to one other thing I noticed at the game. I looked down right behind the north goal, and I saw an unshaven-looking ruffian gazing at Sorensen as if Cupid himself had just struck him. This person yearned for the president of our university to be his valentine.

I also noticed Sorensen looking at him, thinking to himself, "I've got to get out of here." I could only hope Sorensen didn't think that this was what all his students were like. Students that would like to waste space, paper and everyone's time by writing a completely arrant and pointless article sucking up to him in some skewed, roundabout way. This is the type of student that would dig deep to insert an outrageous and unmerited stir of

race relations out of sheer ignorance. Please do not let this happen again. Oh and Graham, let me put this in a way you can understand: Your article was awfully.

BRANDON KEATLEY
Fourth-year mechanical engineering student



Submission Policy

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. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

Wanted: Mediocre man seeks pretty girl

By settling for less, everyone has a chance to become a superhero

The ladies I talk to are absolutely correct — everywhere you look, women are under pressure to conform to unrealistic expectations. This is evidenced on magazine covers, TV, pop culture and even the toys we give our little girls to play with. But has anyone else ever noticed the more subtle pressure placed on men? When I was growing up, I was expected to be He-Man, then a ninja, then a cyborg. Now that — well, I'm still not quite grown

CURTIS CHOW

FOURTH-YEAR ECONOMICS STUDENT

up — society's expectations of me have drastically changed, I'm not too sure what I'm supposed to be anymore. I'd imagine it's something along the lines of super-metrosexual — a new generation of confident men that is so masculine that its members are unafraid to shave their legs and wear tutus.

I'm not so sure I like this new generation of heroes. Then again, I find my aspirations to be Conan the Barbarian to be slightly untenable. I think the problem is that whether society dictates that I should wear a kilt or a dress, it places unrealistic and unnatural expectations of what a male in my generation should strive to be like.

I've decided to make a new hero for the upcoming generation — one that won't screw with our heads so much. He will be a hero all boys and men alike can realistically aspire to be like. I introduce to you: Mediocre Guy, a hero for the masses. Mediocre Guy will be endowed with certain special powers that most everyone will be able to attain if they put their minds to it.

The power of brisk-walking — If God intended for us to fly, he would have taught us how to properly glue the cardboard to our arms. Besides, in our fast-paced modern world, walking briskly is a necessary virtue. Having a brisk-walking role model will furthermore encourage like behavior. We will reduce automobile emissions and facilitate healthier lifestyles. Thanks for your contribution to our great society, Mediocre Guy!

The power of throwing stuff — Who needs force fields or superpowers when one can simply hurl things? Not only is it useful, practical and realistic, but also it's a heck of a lot of fun. Nine out of 10 doctors agree: Throwing stuff helps kids in all walks of their lives (the 10th is Andrew Sorensen). When a bully is too big for them to handle, Mediocre Guy will help them build confidence by teaching them the art of ranged assault.

The power of heart — Remember Captain Planet and the Planetees? There were five rings, each governing a specific power and wielded by an eco-minded teenager. Four of the five rings were stupid cool: the powers of earth, fire, wind and water. Then there was heart, wielded by Ma-Ti, the eighth grader with a pet monkey. I saw the other Planetees cause earthquakes, fires, tornados and tidal waves. I think I once saw Ma-Ti give a tearful verbal reprimand to a bad guy. While the other powers are admittedly much cooler, heart is the most easily attainable, as I don't think you actually have to back it up with any display of power. Mediocre Guy might not be able to wreak havoc and devastation on the forces of evil, but man, does he ever have strong feelings about it.

Those are just the major powers Mediocre Guy possesses. Others might include the power of funk, and maybe even the power of cheese. The only thing he's really lacking now is a suitable female counterpart — perhaps another role model worth contemplating for another time: "Naturally Pretty But Not Promiscuous Normal Girl."

WINNERS AND SINNERS

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS The Pats win their third Super Bowl in four years.

RHA Two members are elected to help lead the South Carolina Organization for Residence Education.

USC ATHLETICS Today is the first day of the Year of the Rooster, according to the Chinese calendar. This should mean only good times ahead, right?

RIAA Sues a dead California woman for illegally downloading music.

PAUL SHANLEY Defrocked priest found guilty of raping and fondling a Sunday school student in the 1980s.

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN Illegally sells three cases of non-existent Duff beer to Americans over eBay.

