

Do you support the Board of Trustees' tuition increase?

Let us know at
www.dailygamecock.com.

THE GAMECOCK

CONTACT INFORMATION

Offices on third floor of the Russell House.
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
Editor's Office: 777-3914

STAFF

EDITOR
Steven Van Haren

NEWS EDITOR
Taylor Smith

VIEWPOINTS EDITOR
Patrick Augustine

THE MIX EDITOR
Shana Till

SPORTS EDITOR
Alex Riley

COPY EDITORS
Laura-Joyce Gough
Brindy McNair

PAGE DESIGNERS
Jessica Ann Nielsen
Megan Sinclair
Mary Pinckney Waters

ONLINE EDITOR
Ryan Simmons

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

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 Office 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 Office of Student Media.

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

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

TO PLACE AN AD

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



VIEWPOINTS

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR
Steven Van Haren

SPORTS EDITOR
Alex Riley

NEWS EDITOR
Taylor Smith

THE MIX EDITOR
Shana Till

VIEWPOINTS EDITOR
Patrick Augustine

IN OUR OPINION

Trustees' tuition hike secures USC's future

When the Board of Trustees preliminarily approved tuition hikes for the fall, it meant that many students would receive a nasty surprise when they return to campus in August. The increased burden of \$379 per semester for in-state students and \$1,016 for out-of-state students might make some reconsider pursuing a degree at USC, but in the long run the nearly \$17.8 million extra can only be a benefit for the university's fledgling research effort.

Along with funding USC President Andrew Sorensen's research initiatives, the new money will be used to make a tangible impact on students now and in the future through the hiring of new faculty and retention of current top employees. Also, the board has taken students' safety concerns to heart by earmarking some of the new money for safety upgrades on USC's largely urban campus.

The trend of reduced public funding for higher education, coupled with USC's push to increase its status among public institutions, means that students must take advantage of every opportunity to pay for college, like South Carolina's LIFE scholarship, which provides tuition from the state's lottery proceeds for any in-state student with a B average in high school.

Despite wacko Jacko, I still like to 'Beat It'

I have a confession: "Beat It" still gives me music's glorious goosebumps.

Michael Jackson was found not guilty Monday. Did he do it? I don't know. I can't ignore the truckload of fishy crap going on at Neverland, but I also can't ignore the truckload of fishy crap with the accuser, his family and those disgruntled employees.



STEVEN VAN HAREN

Third-year mechanical engineering student

Something? It reeks. I'm just glad it's over. No more suggesting the harmless phrase "Jacko goes Wacko" for Page 2 headlines and being rejected by my peers.

But again, my confession: As much as the guy defines "eccentric lunatic," and whether he's guilty or not, I still love his music. I can't help it. So sue me. Dangle me from a balcony.

When I drop a Jacko album onto the phonograph, the thought flashes through my head: "Hey,

this guy's a bleached albino child molester if I've ever seen one." But then I hear that sweet, spare "Billie Jean" drum intro, and then that grooving, moving bass line, and then those 1980s synth violins that should sound dated but don't, and ... oh dear.

I'm confused. God's judgment might be a little shaky here. His conduit for some of the catchiest pop songs in the world is Mr. Potato Nose. Is this a test? Do I have to choose between my conscience and what my pelvis finds impossible not to thrust to?

Damn you, "Thriller."

I remember waking up early in the morning as a kid and playing that album on my cassette player. I lapped up the ghoulish cheese of the title track, even though Vincent Price's narration scared me.

I still have appreciation for that album. Whenever a get-together needs livening up, I put on the vinyl and speed it up. Jacko sounds like a chipmunk, and Eddie Van Halen's "Beat It" solo is even more insane.

Just as people steamrolled Sinead O'Connor albums after her Pope-ripping on live TV, I'm sure Jackson's catalog is about to get similar treatment. I understand; the man could've done everything he was accused of. But I challenge those who burn him in effigy to ignore the twitch his music creates. If it moves you, move.

I'm sorry. I know I'm weak. I usually bring my conscience to my wallet (i.e. not buying Maurice's Lynch-Lovin' Hick Sauce), but this time, I can't help it.

Will my kids ever go to Neverland? You bet your sweet ass they will — if they pick the padlocks on their bedroom doors. Either way, I reluctantly raise a glass of Jesus juice and toast that disgusting freak.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARY PINCKNEY WATERS