

Should the U.S. send manned flights to Mars in the future?

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VIEWPOINTS

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
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VIEWPOINTS EDITOR
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THE MIX EDITOR
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GAMECOCK CORRECTION

In a July 6 News article, Steve Spurrier was misquoted. The quote should have been attributed to Lisa Merriweather. The Gamecock regrets the error.

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IN OUR OPINION Shuttle launch renews exploration emphasis

Barring foul weather or unforeseen delays, the space shuttle Discovery will launch from Cape Canaveral today at almost 4 p.m., marking NASA's first manned foray into space since the Columbia disaster of nearly two and a half years ago. The delay was inevitable following the death of seven astronauts upon Columbia's re-entry, as the space agency re-assessed the risks and engineering of their aging fleet of orbiters. However, during his re-inaugural speech, President Bush announced an initiative to return to the moon with the goal of eventually sending humans to Mars.

Just as it took the political willpower from President Kennedy to set off the attempt at putting a man on the moon, continued support is needed from the White House if the United States is to be the first to land people on Mars. Central to the Mars mission, though, is the completion of the international space station, which will allow long-term space research and spread the idea that space is the provenance of all mankind, owned by no nation. Space exploration is costly, as is often pointed out by its detractors, but must be pursued for knowledge's sake, and for the many technological advancements that have come as a result of NASA's research.

USC would benefit from women's center

"I went to a party my freshman year with a friend. Somebody slipped something into her drink. Luckily, I got to her before he did; otherwise, who knows what would've happened?"

"He would constantly degrade me, insult me, put me down. I put up with it for years. I didn't know what else to do! When I finally left him, he came to my house in the middle of the night, breaking whatever he could find, threatening me. I had to call the police."

Unfortunately, these are not singular occurrences — they happen quite frequently. According to the annual crime report, compiled by campus police, there were 12 incidences of sexual assault reported on campus and 38 incidences of



CHRISSIE FAUPEL

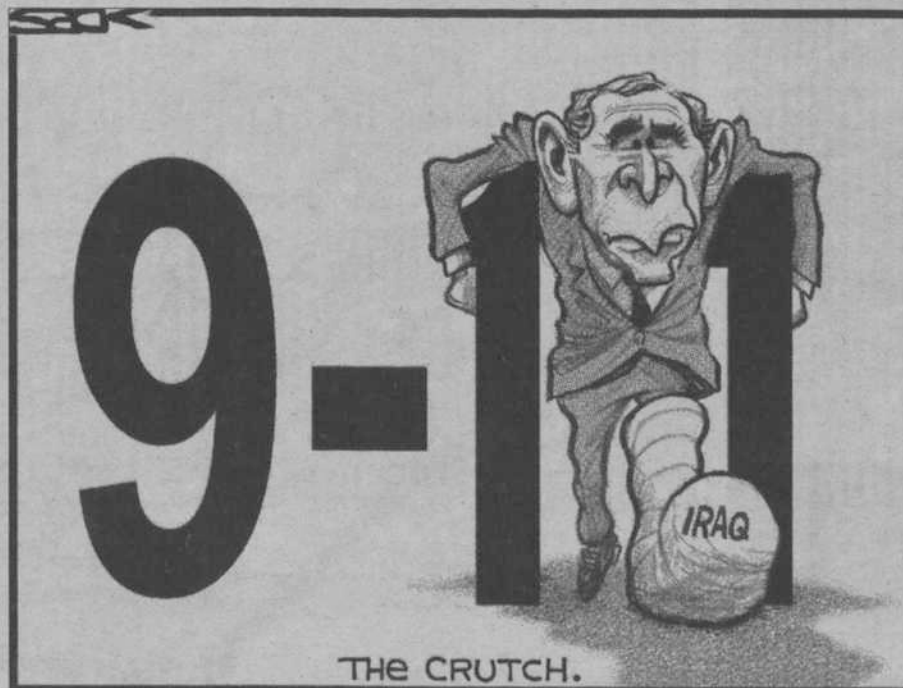
Fourth-year International Studies/French student

refuge where they feel supported, empowered and safe. On campuses all across the country, we are seeing the advantages that such centers offer students and faculty. Yet at USC, no such place exists, despite the fact that S.C. consistently ranks highest in terms of domestic violence cases and incidences of sexual assault (in fact, we are ranked sixth nationally for the number of women killed by abusive partners), where pay inequity remains a huge problem (in our state, women make \$0.76 to every \$1 that men earn) and date-rape drugs are rampant at campus parties.

It is for this reason I propose the creation of a women's center on campus. I believe this is absolutely vital in order for our university to progress. Many campuses in the region — most notably Duke, the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt — have vibrant women's centers well-funded and well-supported by the university. We, too, must show our students that we support them, seek to empower them and will ensure their safety.

The women's center would be a space open to all students to hang out, study, discuss new ideas or find a sympathetic ear. It would provide resources on a variety of issues, as well as hold events and meetings. More importantly, though, the center could be used to advocate for equality, celebrate the contributions of women to our university and empower all students and community members to reach their full potential.

There is a definite need of a women's center at our university. Now is the time to work together on this.



THE CRUTCH.

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