

## THE GAMECOCK

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### IN OUR OPINION

## USC must continue hurricane relief effort

USC should be proud of all it's done so far to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast.

Business school professor Stacy Wood sent her marketing class out onto the streets of Columbia clad in Mardi Gras beads and raised \$1,600 while practicing sales-pitch techniques. Student Government, led by President Justin Williams, is partnering with the Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross for a telethon on WIS tonight to raise money.

On Wednesday students donated blood on Greene Street in front of the Russell House.

SG has called a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Russell House Ballroom for students and organizations interested in aiding relief efforts. Students are organizing a bottled water drive next Wednesday. During the national college season-opener game

against Central Florida on Thursday night, messages on the scoreboard encouraged donations to the Red Cross. And President Andrew Sorensen has issued a statement inviting all college students displaced by the Category-4 monster to come attend classes at Carolina.

### Conditions in New Orleans are worsening by the hour.

Don't let up.

Conditions in New Orleans are worsening by the hour. CNN reported that sniper fire halted a hospital evacuation in the devastated city. Looters are capitalizing on the chaos, looting bedlam on the streets of the Big Easy. City and state officials say it will take months before the city is clean enough to live in again. Smaller towns such as Biloxi, Miss., were all but destroyed.

The need is tremendous, and it spans a staggering distance.

Everyone should turn out for the meeting Tuesday in the Russell House Ballroom. If you have an idea for a way to help, take initiative and speak out. Skip Five Points this weekend and donate that money to the Red Cross.

Before relief efforts abate, Katrina might prove the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. It demands an outpouring of equal magnitude.

### IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Exercise your right to voice your opinion. Create message boards at [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com) or send letters to the editor to [gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu)



### CORRECTIONS

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

### ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

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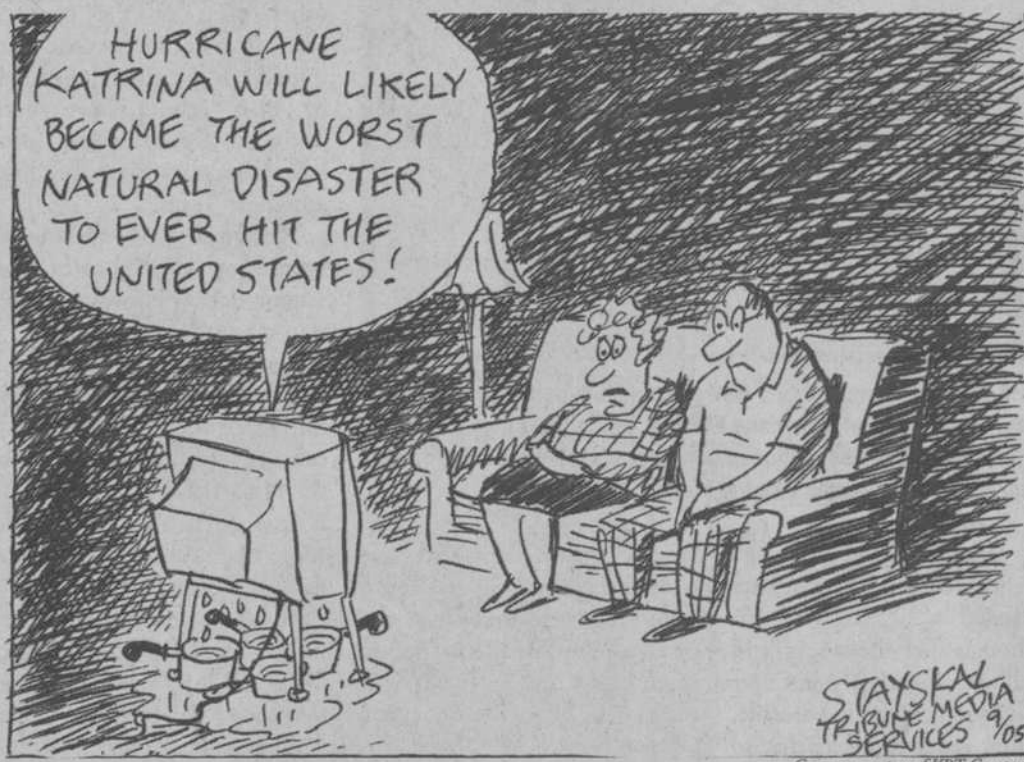
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THE GAMECOCK is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer, with the exception of university 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



## It's not that hard to be prepared for class

### Reading syllabi, asking questions shows desire for knowledge, learning

Why are we here? This isn't the deep, thought-provoking conundrum designed for Philosophy 102 but a question of purpose for students. Every day we shift ourselves wearily out of our beds or floor or whatever it is one collapsed on the previous night or morning and stagger to class. Fun is definitely part of the subject matter required to graduate, and though I am struggling with Fun 330 (fun with attractive female neighbors), I often feel the true meaning of university is lost on us.

We are at USC to learn. Post-reconstruction, the state of South Carolina was pondering between university and overgrown bar, but university happened to win out. After these "classes" we are meant to attend, students voice their comments to the professor with some of the best questions they can muster — questions of sheer gusto and bravado, stunning in clarity and vicious in perception, such as when the next test is (check the syllabus) or whether we really have to read the readings (you know, we actually do). It's good to speak to a professor as a person rather than as a walking speaker box with your course information loaded into it. Picking at the professor's mind demonstrates that you care and



**AARON BRAZIER**  
Fourth-year philosophy student

that you are trying to learn and that perhaps when it comes to this whole learning and education malarkey, you're not trapped in some beer-saturated nightmare, perhaps like the one I had last week involving the color orange and raising cows for the next 50 years.

The point is none of us are incapable of learning, so we should all learn as much as we can for future lectures and beyond, i.e. just about long enough to get a question right at a trivia night and win a \$50 bar tab. Some of my fellow students doze through these lessons, sporadically taking notes and, if one listens carefully, you can hear heartbeats beginning to pump harder with five minutes left on the clock. During all the activity (or lack of), the better students are trying to understand the reasoning of the professor, and attempt an educated guess at where they're going on any given subject.

I've switched off repeatedly in classes that bore me, but after a certain point or at a certain level, people should thirst for every drop of knowledge that can be absorbed or critiqued from a professor. Classes at the 300 level and above should be packed

with eager young minds ready to be molded and shaped like putty — you know, the kind of stuff that smells funny and comes in various shapes and colors, not exactly a big request from a body of students as varied as the one here at USC. From there, we have the combined duty to develop encouraging classrooms where learning is fostered.

Of course, even the most vibrant and exciting subjects can be made dull very quickly by a professor who doesn't appeal to you, but trying is a vast step above the dark, bottomless pit of apathy. Nobody expects the engineering student to jump for joy at a Cartesian paper, but shouldn't one imagine that the physics in regards to coil tension for a suspension bridge across a large, natural landscape can be fascinating? You know, I'm surprising myself at how interesting I've made engineering sound.

So, fellow students, are you going to try and read for your next class, establish questions in your mind, guess what your professors re thinking and, the most dangerous suggestion of all, treat them like humans who have something to teach you? Naturally, the doubts are there, but I'll be happy if one shy kid in class tomorrow decides to pluck up the courage and ask a question that turns out to be a well-thought-out comment. Let's all hope that kid is in our class.

### IN YOUR OPINION

George W. Bush. They died for their country. Remember that." This seems to indicate that patriotism should somehow prevent Americans from questioning why countless young men and women are now in Iraq and simply find comfort in the fact that they are their in our name. That reasoning automatically precludes any substantive discussion about not only the war, but U.S. policy in general. Even more disturbing, however, is that this sort of logic has received official sanction from a White House that isolates itself from dissent, manufactures news reports, rewards blind loyalty and pre-selects favorable crowds for its rallies.

On a more personal level, though, I also would like to take issue with the suggestion that Cindy Sheehan is somehow not "genuinely

crippled by grief." Whether you agree with her actions, this statement struck me as extremely crass and, quite frankly, ignorant. Casting doubt upon the pain felt by someone who has lost a son or daughter is an area where you should tread with extreme care. If you disagree with Sheehan's political stance, which clearly you do despite obscuring your position behind the mask of patriotic feeling, fine. Do not, however, suggest to know how much hurt she — and every other family who has lost someone in Iraq — is feeling.

**EHREN K. FOLEY**

Graduate student in history

### 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](mailto:gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu). Letters will be edited. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

## Winners & Sinners

USC and the SEC unite to aid victims of Katrina.

1987 Montreal Protocol effectively hauls global ozone depletion.

More than 900 Shiites trampled to death in bomb-scare stampede in Iraq.

Muhammad Yusef Al-Mlaifi declares Hurricane Katrina a "soldier of Allah."

*I just saved a ton of money by riding the bus, trolley*

### Alternative options for transportation help us avoid high gas prices

Nine years ago, Dad decided we would drive to California and visit my grandmother. On



**SHAWN CALLIHAN**

Graduate student in geography

our fourth day, we entered the Mojave Desert. Deserts are really, really hot — in fact, no one wants to live in the desert except for the 914 people who inhabit Baker, Calif.

Baker's unique geographic location makes it the source of extremely high-priced gas and the world's largest thermometer (134 feet tall, mostly to remind everyone that it is really, really, really hot). The little gas station we went to charged \$2.59 a gallon, more than twice what gas cost anywhere else at the time. Never in my pubertal life had I imagined that gas could be so expensive.

All this came back to me in a rush Wednesday as I filled up my car for \$3.09 a gallon. I can only imagine how much gas costs nowadays in Baker, Calif. In this age of painfully high pump prices, what does a penniless college student do? Well, I have an answer, but you might not like it.

For a moment, try to forget about the four or five levels of parking garage being constructed on Blossom Street by our university. Instead, picture in your mind a bike rack on campus. The first thing you'll notice is that your mental image consists of an empty or nearly empty bike rack.

Now imagine you're walking up the hill on Sumter Street toward the library. You'll notice that little shelter on your right with the benches and the newspapers. Maybe there's even a red bus pulling up to the stop in your mind's eye. Watch the imaginary cars zooming along. Wait a moment. A little longer. Now — here it comes! Along chugs one of those delightful little blue trolleys that abound in Columbia.

Alright, everybody wake up. What we can glean from all this? First, we can ride bikes. We get to park close to our classes, we get to exercise and we spend no money on gas. Second, the university has a free shuttle system that runs all over campus from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. This especially benefits students living on campus and, once again, we spend exactly nothing on gas. Finally, Columbia also has a bus system (which includes the trolleys). Although this option is not free like the others, a 31-day pass with unlimited rides costs only \$32 a month. I paid \$37 for gas Wednesday. So, with this option you can also save money, and you can get some homework done as someone else drives you around town (go to [www.gocmrta.com](http://www.gocmrta.com) for route maps and fee information).

What are you waiting for? Try one or all of these alternative transportation methods. I did, using only buses and my bike for four months and literally saved hundreds of dollars on gas (sorry if I sound like a Geico car insurance ad, but it's true, darn it!)