

THE GAMECOCK

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor
MICHAEL LaFORGIA

News Editor
STEPHEN FASTENAU

Asst. News Editor
JUSTIN CHAPURA

The Mix Editor
ALEXIS ARNONE

Sports Editor
JONATHAN HILLYARD

Viewpoints Editor
BRINDY McNAIR

Copy Desk Chief
STEVEN VAN HAREN

Design Director
CHAS MCCARTHY

IN OUR OPINION

Housing should ease visitation restrictions

We like Terrill Wilkins' idea to overhaul the resident visitation policies for freshmen in dorm rooms on campus.

Under some policies in place now, men and women aren't allowed to spend the night in the same room in campus residence halls. Meanwhile, men and men, or women and women, can stay with one another for as many as three days.

Wilkins, president of USC's Residence Hall Association, has said even freshmen should be free to draw up their own contracts outlining individual visitation policies. He's absolutely right.

This is college. The lessons students learn here are as much about responsibility and good judgment as they are about business administration and the classics.

All dorms should allow other students to visit residents 24 hours

All dorms should allow other students to visit residents 24 hours a day, regardless of gender.

a day, regardless of gender. But, opponents might argue, allowing men and women to stay the night with one other might result in dirty things.

To these people, we say quit trying to enforce morality on campus. There's nothing students can do from 2 a.m. to 10 a.m. that they can't do during the rest of the day.

(Our motto's always been when it's right it's right — why wait until the middle of the cold, dark night?)

This is not to say that other policies that accompany on-campus living should be done away with. The security guards who check keys in dorms such as the Towers and Columbia Hall play an integral role in keeping students safe.

Another good idea already in place is the three-day limit placed on visitors to dorm rooms, which prevents students from shacking up together or housing buddies who might be down on their luck. Both of these are examples of Housing provisions that work to students' benefit.

Wilkins has a good idea: We encourage him to put this skyrocket in flight as soon as possible. And we hope RHA will listen when he does.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Exercise your right to voice your opinion. Create message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at 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.

ABOUT THE GAMECOCK

Editor
MICHAEL LaFORGIA

Design Director
CHAS MCCARTHY

Copy Desk Chief
STEVEN VAN HAREN

News Editor
STEPHEN FASTENAU

Asst. News Editor
JUSTIN CHAPURA

Viewpoints Editor
BRINDY McNAIR

The Mix Editor
ALEXIS ARNONE

Sports Editor
JONATHAN HILLYARD

Asst. Sports Editor
ALEX RILEY

Photo Editor
NICK ESARES

Sports Photo Editor
KATIE KIRKLAND

Page Designers
MIKE CONWAY, JESSICA ANN NIELSEN, MEGAN SINCLAIR

Graphic Designer
LAURA-JOYCE GOUGH

Copy Editors
CHELSEA HADAWAY, KRISTY LAUBE, MELISSA MAULDIN, KATIE THOMPSON, JAMISON TINSLEY, LIZ WHITE

Online Editor
RYAN SIMMONS

Creative Services
JOSEPH DANNELLY, LAURA-JOYCE GOUGH, MARGARET LAW, MEGHAN WHITMAN

CONTACT INFORMATION

Offices on third floor of the Russell House. The Editor's office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 1-3 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

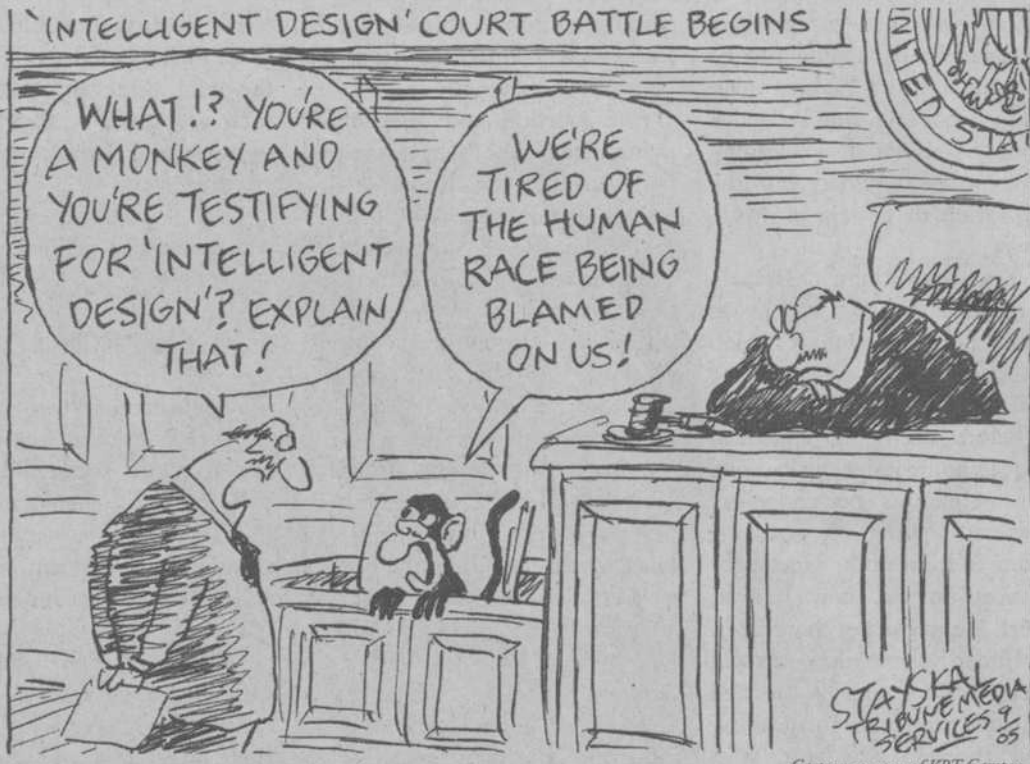
Advertising Manager
SARAH SCARBOROUGH

Classified Manager
SHERRY F. HOLMES

Production Manager
GAREN CONNER

Advertising Staff
BREANNA EVANS, RYAN GORMAN, KATIE CUPPIA, APRYL ALEXANDER, MARY RACHEL FREEMAN, MCKENZIE WELSH, DEIDRE MERRICK

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.



Cartoon courtesy of KRT Campus

Professor-student debate enriches learning

We deserve stimulating discussion, not sermon on instructor's opinions

I had a big argument the other night. Not a ferocious one, but a big one nonetheless. The kind of argument I enjoy having.

The topic was something that features constantly in the national news and affects every single one of us. It is that of the politically minded professor — the man or woman unafraid to share their views to the class.

And the argument was about why that's a bad thing.

It is a serious offense to me, as a studious person, to have new information interpreted by professors shared with the class. Professors, whose job it is to learn and teach, threaten my beliefs and make me cry when they ask questions. I want to commit ritualistic suicide because professors arrogantly and disdainfully want to engage their students, as equals, on current events.

We need to stop this overt pandering to education and reason now.

The enriching part of my education has been beyond the traditional academic formula of book + lecture + exam = GPA.

Some of the most challenging and enjoyable times in a classroom have been spent defending my view and hearing someone else



AARON BRAZIER

Third-year philosophy student

defend theirs — those battles of wits and reason between students and professors who care about the world that encourage one another to think outside the box. I love it.

It's happening now, people, and we're part of it.

Students of the past have been creators of societies. From French to Chinese students, those at universities have had their finger on the pulse of new ideas and thoughts. They've taken them into classrooms and shared the new theories with others to make a hotbed of brilliant minds clashing.

But not so much today. Not in this country. America has been kidnapped by the politicians and mass media and has been replaced by its bizarre twin — American't. Professors have to tiptoe around students' belief systems, no matter how ignorant or backwards they are. Some professors, however, go too far and abandon reasonable debate for an outright lecture on their own ideology to encourage others to think like them.

The happy medium is just blatantly rejected for an absence. No, I don't think any

professor should spend half an hour of your Greek mythology class on stem-cell research, but five minutes on any hot topic that burns so brightly in the modern world can really thrust a person into a dazzling new way of thought.

If you come to USC and expect to be pandered to in every class, to not offend your belief system, I blame you directly for making universities stagnant. There is a world of difference between hate speech and racism and critiquing political ideologies for example. I had to sit through a disclaimer in a geology class to not upset the poor, little creationists. If you reject science that much as part of a solid, all-around education, then what are you doing at my university?

We're here to learn and especially be challenged. If a teacher asks for an opinion and you give one that runs opposite to his or her belief — and is presented in a reasonable manner — you should be respected. Everyone is close-minded in some way — professors, scientists, thespians, engineers and athletes; a university degree is meant to help a person understand others and to be a better person. So why won't we let ourselves and professors make us better people?

IN YOUR OPINION

percent African-American. Therefore, most of those affected by hurricane Katrina were, in fact, black. This is not racism; it's demographics.

The most serious and dangerous statement Kanye West made was that "they" (the white people) have "given them (the military) permission to go down and shoot us." At the height of unrest, Mr. West dangerously and recklessly stroked the fears of gangs in New Orleans by inciting violence against the military. I do not remember Mr. West or Ms. Gregg chastising the gangs who fired upon the Army Corps of Engineers as they repaired the broken levees. Mr. West's statements were false, ignorant and dangerous.

Ms. Gregg's "perception" that white people such as the president disagree with Kanye West because he is a "young black rapper" is absurd. The president, unlike Mr. West and Ms. Gregg, does not promote

racial disharmony by labeling certain groups of people as "us," "them" and "my people." New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin, an African-American, failed to mobilize hundreds of school buses to rescue his citizens. Ms. Gregg accuses the president of "ignoring their plight." I guess he was too busy securing billions of dollars from Congress, organizing a relief effort, and sending the military to protect the innocent and the engineers from gangs.

It saddens me that Ms. Gregg "empathizes" with the race-baiting Kanye West. He furthered the racial divide and incited violence against the military. There will never be racial harmony in this country as long as racists on both sides continue their hate speech — particularly despicable during a time of crisis.

BRAD LEAKE
Second-year political science student

Online Poll

Should Housing's visitation policy be revised to allow opposite-sex visitors after 2 a.m.?

People need heartbreak to help their development

Young people should get over hurt feelings, remember good times

Most people come to college excited about leaving behind all the drama and social turmoil from high school. Fortunately, to a certain degree, it happens.



CHASE STOUDENMIRE

Second-year history student

But not completely. We're only college students. Young, energetic and, for lack of a better term, hormonally potent. Fertile soil for drama.

I'm writing this column because we all get in fights, people let us down and we all have our hearts broken — but that doesn't mean we have to be bitter about it for the rest of our lives. Let's focus on broken hearts.

Typically, guy sees girl, guy talks to girl, guy talks to friends about girl. Perhaps she's "hot" or "pretty" or "cute" — and yes, there is a difference. But what about the times someone catches your eye and you're just completely dumbfounded? You feel an instinctive, completely raw, gut-level attraction that causes you to declare "I just have to meet this person."

These people, my friends, are the reason people write love stories.

Unfortunately, these people are also the ones who can do the most damage.

We all have, or will, come across someone in our lives who manages to turn us into a brooding cesspool of hurt and anger. At first, the slightest glimpse of their face can instantly arouse every ounce of animosity we wish we'd never felt. We've thought the hateful thoughts, we've said the hateful words, we've sung the hateful songs.

But that doesn't mean we should vilify them for the rest of our lives. Sure, they might create a couple of bumps in the road, but I think more than anything, we should thank them.

As time goes on, we'll hopefully stop remembering the things that made us run away at the end and start remembering the things that made us hang around in the first place. Regardless of how many nights have been ruined and how much confidence has been lost, we owe them a ton for reminding us that we're capable of loving and caring for someone else.

Am I a young, liberal, shamelessly idealistic guy? Yeah. Am I looking for the kind of story you see in the movies? Yeah. But I believe in them. No one could write them if no one could feel them. I just can't imagine going through life not believing that one day I'd have a starring role.

We focus too much on how bad things felt when they were being torn apart. Forget about that — nothing feels better than putting it back together. Go find that person who you deflected from your cell phone and buddy list. Say thanks.

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.

TO PLACE AN AD

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

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