

THE GAMECOCK

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IN OUR OPINION

Cheney's hunting goof no longer newsworthy

Apparently, Cheney is still in season this time of year.

According to CNN, Newsweek and Time magazines are planning to continue the barrage of coverage of the hunting accident involving Dick Cheney, who will forever be known as the vice president who "sprayed" a fellow hunter with shotgun pellets.

We're waiting for the 24-hour media onslaught to explode like a pheasant in mid-flight.

The fact that Cheney shot someone, accidental or otherwise, is certainly news: Cheney was the first

sitting veep to shoot someone in more than two centuries, and with it should come a few days of investigation.

News outlets have skinned and gutted this carcass of a story for a full week.

But news outlets have skinned and gutted this carcass of a story for a full week with no signs of slowing.

Harry Whittington, the unfortunate recipient of Cheney's spray, survived and had nothing negative to say about his hunting partner. There was no massive cover-up — only a questionable decision to wait 18 hours before telling media sources about the incident. If that's the biggest tragedy here, we'll take it, and Whittington surely will, too.

That's not to say Cheney and Whittington's hunting party isn't at fault; indeed, better outdoorsmen could have probably prevented the accident. Maybe Cheney could throw his weight behind some hunting safety PSAs or TV spots, or at least beef up on proper quail hunting protocol.

But an honest — albeit preventable — mistake does not a national tragedy make. Most of the coverage in the past week has taken an amused, lighthearted tone, but you could hear the shoulders slump of a few left-leaning radio personalities and bloggers who almost wished Whittington had died.

That's when political extremists on either side become far more evil than any politician ever could be — hoping for tragedy to make the other side look good by default.



Courtesy KRT Campus

Think about SG like you would your lunch

Don't forget student senators decide how to spend your money

I can hear the grumbling beginning in the back already.

"Student Government, wasn't that election thing last week?"

Yes, it was last week.

In fact in this space last week they canceled our columns to run student government endorsements. Not that I'm bitter or anything.

People have stopped harassing you on Greene Street, and no one's bothering you to vote anymore. Your beloved columnists are back in their rightful places on the pages of The Gamecock, and the world's back to normal.

So, why should you keep caring about those names you did or did not click on in the election last week? In case you didn't know, they have a lot of your money. A lot of it.

As a dedicated employee of The Gamecock I've had the distinct privilege of covering more Student Government proceedings than I care to mention. The first time I heard them



JACOB DAVIS
Third-year print journalism student

discussing the amount of money they have to spend, I almost gagged on my pen.

Now I know what you're saying, "Jacob that's

not really my money. I get it from the state or my parents, or I only work to pay for college."

As someone who is in college because people can't resist adding the Powerball number, I can sympathize.

When you hand over all your money up front every semester and don't pay attention to how the university breaks it up, it's easy to feel disconnected. That said, I'm constantly amazed at how people cough up huge sums of cash and then appear totally uninterested in how it's spent.

You know just last week you got in a fistfight with your roommate at the McDonald's dollar menu.

"Dude, I gave you, like, three dollars for a double cheeseburger when we

were here last night. Just get me a quarter-pounder!"

"That was two weeks ago, and we were at Waffle House, and it was a patty melt."

I assure you the amount of money I'm talking about is more than enough to keep you in quarter-pounders, junior bacons or patty melts for the length of your college career.

Every semester your student government spends tons of your money on various projects and programs. Chances are, you'd probably agree with most of what they decide to do with your money, but maybe you wouldn't. Every school of study at this university has senators in the student government, and you have a representative.

Even if you didn't vote for them, or didn't vote at all, it's their responsibility to listen to what you have to say. That's the beauty of democracy.

So get on the computer and find out who represents you, because even if you didn't vote, it's still your right to complain.

One kind action could bring smiles to others

Being kind does not cost an arm and a leg, brightens dismal days

On Valentine's Day I woke up in a terrible mood. I was tired, I had to go to work and my Valentine was on the other side of the world.

But then, someone handed me a carnation! My day completely turned around. I was so happy. I got a flower!

It's amazing what one small act of kindness can do for another person. I don't think people realize that enough.

For about an hour after that, I watched the representative from Carolina Campus Crusade for Christ pass out more flowers.

He got several responses. Some people were just as happy as me, others stopped to say how great it was and that every girl they saw had a flower. Some people were shocked to find out that the flower was free, while others didn't even want one.

I'm writing about



VALERIE SIMS
Third-year print journalism student

this today

because I think kindness needs a little recognition. And people just don't know how much the world needs it. It's mushy, but bear

with me.

Nothing in life is free. We all know that; that's why so many people were surprised to find out the flower was free. But there actually are some free things. Like holding open the door for someone or letting someone over in traffic and some e-cards are free, too.

Think about how glad you are when you are walking into your dorm, arms full of groceries and other goodies, and someone holds the door open for you.

Or how it feels to freak out in 5 p.m. traffic because you need to be in another lane, but then someone lets you over. Or just how exciting it is to find out that something is

free!

What I'm getting at is this: do a small act of kindness for someone — even if it just means waiting an extra second to hold the door open for someone or getting on the Internet to send a friend, who has been having a rough week, an e-card.

I know, some of us have a reputation to uphold. We can't be nice to someone — it will look bad. But if you let someone over in traffic they will never know it was you.

If someone does something nice for you, even if it was small, let them know how much it meant. I don't think I thanked the Carolina CRU guy enough for my flower.

The sad thing is, they will never get much recognition for it. On the front page of the paper we'll keep reading about the bad stuff. It is important to read about the bad stuff that goes on in the world, but we need to hear about the good stuff, too. It's the good stuff that will bring our morale back up.

Relationships built on being truthful about sexual history

Whether you're a virgin or non-virgin, partners need facts, not fiction

We've all heard from our parents that honesty is the best policy. We learned from Liz White last month that honesty in a relationship is essential. I can attest to that, with a recent personal experience.

When entering into a relationship, I am honest. And, I expect that honesty in return. Relationships are work, but keeping that honesty shouldn't be hard. It's a very simple concept. Don't lie.

The most important thing to be honest about? Your sexual history. Or, as in a certain friend's case, your sexual non-history. If I'm going to be doing the horizontal tango with someone, I want to see your dance card. I don't care how many people you've danced with in the past, I just want to know if they had two-left feet or something equally as frightening.

Let's talk about the issue at hand for my dear friend. Her beau, whom she was quite smitten with, explained to her that he had been with a handful of women before. This part wasn't a problem. This statement was brought up by him, very early on in the relationship and occasionally throughout the last few months.

Poor guy, it's something most do and must be part of their hard-wiring at birth. "Must lie to girlfriend at one point in time."

They never read the fine print, "She will find out." And in the case of my friend, she did.

What was the kernel of truth behind this fabrication? Nothing. He still held his V-card.

People laughed when they heard and told her that it wasn't that big of a deal. At least he hadn't been with 100 girls.

Whether he had been the community bicycle was not what bothered her; it was that he had lied to her and she felt guilty about being with other people before him. She let his sexual non-history affect her own history, something nobody should feel bad about.

My friends could have shared something amazing, but instead the act was discredited because of a lie. Bottom line, whether you're a card-carrying virgin or you've given that away to someone, don't lie about it with the person you're with.

Not only are you risking the entire relationship, you are missing out on a bonding experience with that person.

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

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IT'S YOUR RIGHT

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CORRECTIONS

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