

Gambling

South Carolina finally changes old-fashioned ban on gambling

The South Carolina Supreme Court has unanimously decided that video poker games are a legal form of gambling in the state. This means players of these games can receive money for good scores. This is South Carolina's first small step towards an intelligent gambling policy.

Gambling has long been illegal in this state. Whether or not one feels it is moral, it is rather strange for the state government to make it a crime for a person to put his/her money at risk. By that logic, South Carolina might as well ban stock brokers.

Legalizing gambling in any form is a monumental achievement for S.C. Hopefully, this will open the door to casinos and a state lottery. The Bible thumpers will protest video poker games for awhile, but it will pass. The state is finally moving forward on an issue it has long avoided.

Taxes on video poker machines should go into state education, just like lottery earnings in other states. Legal gambling will give the state another source of revenue besides raising our taxes. People can choose not to gamble; they cannot choose not to pay their taxes without legal trouble.

Perhaps the day is not too far off when slot machines sit in the Russell House arcade. They will be a good way to make extra money for the university. As a result of the extra money, USC students might not have tuition raised every year.

Gambling will benefit South Carolina as a whole. It will only hurt those who waste their money gambling, and that should be everyone's free choice.



Boots and Coots

Dorm association serves the students

The meaning of a student organization is to be run by and for students. There are many of these organizations on campus, and they cater to the needs of a good many facets of the USC community. The Residence Hall Association serves the resident student community. The RHA's job is to voice the opinions of students on campus.

If you live within the residence hall, you are a member of the RHA. The halls may send as many students as they feel necessary or wish to, but as a governing body, each of the 19 halls on campus have two votes in the RHA Senate. Senators and representatives are to report back and discuss issues with their hall governments.

Regional and state conferences, including the South Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (SAACURH) and the Residence Hall Association of South Carolina (RHASC), help the RHAs, RAs and student leaders in the South to create a network. This network allows us to see how others handle situations and deal with issues in resident student life.

We attend seminars on campus and residence

RHA EXECUTIVE BOARD
Guest Column

hall programming, financial planning, fundraising, motivation, residence hall issues, counseling and leadership goals. As some may remember, a November '90 issue of *The Gamecock* did an article on the RHA sponsoring the SAACURH '90 Conference here at the USC on October 26-28. Approximately 1,000 students from seven states attended this leadership conference.

This year's End of the Year Banquet recognizes the outstanding group of volunteers and residence hall staff we have in Resident Student Development here on campus. This year's entrée is chicken and seafood fettuccini, and this contract has been set for two and a half weeks. At no time was a steak and shrimp dinner

planned or even considered. The price of this meal is \$13.15 per person. If you multiply this number by the 300 expected to attend, you will see this leaves little for decorations, printing and awards for leaders and miscellaneous charges such as posters and a sound system. We do not feel this is an outrageous or even unusual cost for a banquet of this size. The budget was brought in front of the Senate and voted upon unanimously according to responses from hall governments. Each senator and any person attending RHA meetings sit on one or more banquet committees — either programming, RSVP or decorations.

The Residence Hall Association meetings are open to all resident students. All are invited to voice their opinions on issues brought up in front of the council. The meetings this semester are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Russell House room 203. The meetings for next semester will be posted in both the Mortar Board and *The Gamecock* in the fall. If you are interested in being a senator in your hall, call your RHD or the RHA office (Baker lobby) at 777-0088.

"HE'S RIGHT ABOUT MORE DEATH PENALTIES TOO - OUR CUSTOMERS CAN HAND OUT LOTS OF THEM"



President full of it in domestic policy

I'm back. The last time I wrote a column, I set a record for hate mail, just beating out that guest column by Adolf Hitler.

Well that's OK and I am still around even though I've been labeled everything from an atheist to a "tool of satan." Thanks for the letters and keep them coming in. They're being put to good use wallpapering Universal Studios in Florida.

On to this column's point, though. Let's face it, George Bush has diarrhea of the mouth when it comes to domestic issues.

I share a common belief among my colleagues when it is said Bush could beat God in the 1992 presidential election. Right now, Bush is coming off one of the most decisive war victories ever.

Well, war's fine and dandy when it comes to international topics. But what about when we talk domestic issues.

Well, Bush talks and talks and talks . . . and talks about domestic issues. Is there any action, though? NO!

I was reading *U.S. News and World Report* on the great throne and I saw an article on how Chief of Staff John Sununu plans to run the Bush campaign. In the article, he listed "the big four" domestic issues. Let's examine these four a little closer.

■ Education. Bush launched an "excellence" agenda this week based on testing. Sometimes I wonder what the vice president does when he is in office. Wasn't it back in 1983 or 1984 when



TIGÉ WATTS

"A Nation at Risk" was released? In that report, they found it was not necessarily the student's fault for the low standard of education. Instead, it was the faulty teachers we had.

George, we know what the problem is. We don't need to do anymore testing. Testing is supposed to be a vehicle to find our problems, not to solve them. How about putting more emphasis on teacher recruitment. Instead of spending \$30 zillion on making tests, we should spend the money on improving teacher salaries.

■ Energy. Bush must be as stupid as the fish he caught in Florida is. Didn't the gulf war teach us anything else other than that we can kick anybody's ass because we have great technology? Bush says we should be less reliable on Middle East oil and look for new sources. Oh, that's good! Let's start to really mess up nature and start drilling in Alaska. Whatever force made this world made it such an organized way. I'm sorry George, but I do like the outdoors without seeing baby seals slicked up with oil.

Let's also not conserve, OK? If we want to use all the oil or gas in the world, let's do so. After all, we're ass-kicking Americans. Come on, develop into a sensible primate. I also ad-

mire the lack of encouragement of a simple fask of recycling. It's remotely connected but it still has the same implications. We can look for more landfill space, but let's be sensible and take the most feasible approach.

■ Transportation. It strikes me how Republicans have no idea just how big some numbers are. Reagan said 3 trillion wasn't big. Now it seems, 250 million isn't big to George. Bush has focused on roads and bridges and not mass transit. Real good, George. After all, I guess it's better to serve the individual than the community.

■ Crime. I tell you, if we had a smarter president I would mistake him for Einstein. Bush is leaning to tougher punishments and longer sentences. Isn't prison for rehabilitation? Then why is there no emphasis on rehab programs instead of punishment? Also, is it my imagination or aren't they letting prisoners out because of overcrowding? And Bush wants longer sentences, you've got to be kidding me.

I imagine 99 percent of the voters are going to vote for Bush. But I just can't bring myself to support someone who doesn't know squat about domestic affairs. It's all right to know and focus on international issues, but in this world we all have to watch out for numero uno. And I would rather have a president who was more concerned about programs affecting us than programs affecting Israelis, Iraqi Kurds or Mozambiquis.

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News: 777-7726 Advertising: 777-4249

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Letters Policy: The *Gamecock* will try to print all letters received. Letters should be, at maximum, 250 to 300 words long. The writer must include full name, professional title if a USC employee or South Carolina resident, or year and major if a student. An address and phone number are required with all letters sent. The *Gamecock* reserves the right to edit letters for style, possible libel or in case of space limitations. The newspaper will not withhold names under any circumstance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RH spending misunderstood

To the editor:

I am responding to Gordon Mantler's article that criticizes RHA spending. During my interview with Gordon, I repeated throughout that the RHA budgets were unanimously approved by the Senate, including the RHA official who criticized the spending in the article.

However, Gordon did not report this because it would have discredited his article; thus he would not have a story. In addition, Gordon failed to mention why the \$900 was cut from the housing and campus concerns budget.

Since Gordon did not listen to my explanation in the interview, I will repeat what was said. We cut \$600 from campus safety programs because they had budgeted in the cost of special guests who do not charge for their services since they were university employees. Second, the remaining \$400 was

cut from the Earth Day program and cable surveys because of the fact that the Earth Day program was scheduled too close to the end of the year, and the RHA senate unanimously felt this program would have little support because of final exams. Also, the cable surveys were previous completed so why would we budget more money to this effort, Gordon?

In closing, I would like to say RHA is and has always been open to student concerns about how their money should be spent, and I encourage more people to get involved in RHA if they are concerned about how RHA should spend its resources. Thank you.

Jody Wallace
RHA Treasurer

USC dorms have problems

To the editor:

This letter should be a refreshing change. It is not about homosexuality, Biblical quotes or re-

ferences, the gulf war or James Holderman. It addresses something that affects a large portion of USC students — On-campus housing.

The thread of USC bureaucracy has ensnared us once again. I ask the age old question: Why are housing fees constantly going up when the quality of living conditions are going down?

If you are fortunate enough to get to live NEAR the dorm of your choice, your troubles may not be over. What happens when something in your room breaks or does not work? You report it to the desk and it gets fixed, right? T'ain't necessarily so!

This semester alone, my roommate and I have placed over 14 calls for repairs. It took approximately 4 weeks for the bathroom lock to be repaired. Almost 3 weeks for the closet door to be placed on track. Only 5 short weeks for the window latch; the jet stream is blowing over our heads each night.

As a result 6 trips to the health center ensued. As of today, April 11, the thermostat control that reg-

ulates our air conditioning and heat is still broken. Mind you, this was reported in early October. What's a resident to do?

Now, if you're one of the fortunate few who reside in problem-free rooms, you may run into a difference of opinion with your room or suitemate. We found ourselves in this situation also. It began when we were verbally abused by our RHD for something we had no control over.

Then we attended a rap session, against our better judgement, with our suitemates, the RA and the RHD. It accomplished nothing. The situation has since escalated. I've tried to reach the appropriate people, but my calls have not been returned.

Where do you turn for help when the people in charge are nowhere to be found? Where do you go when those in charge cannot help?

Finally, why don't we have classes in woodworking and simple repairs? I'm sure I can fix that thermostat before they will!

Sara DuLynn Gerald
English junior