

# Viewpoints

## Hospital

*New facility proposal deserves little attention*

The new chairman of the University of South Carolina board of trustees says he'd like to see a new hospital built in Columbia to serve the university's medical school. His proposal doesn't deserve a moment's consideration.

The USC Medical School was created to train primary care physicians whose clinical training was to be received at the Veterans Administration hospital or other community hospitals.

The decision to build a second medical school was questionable at best. To suggest the school ought to be expanded with the construction of a teaching hospital raises questions about the commitment of the board's new chairman, Dr. C. Edward Floyd, to a streamlined university system.

According to a report in The State newspaper, Richland County already has plenty of hospital beds. The lead agency in the permitting process is the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, which doesn't see any need for additional beds in the county for at least five years.

Objections have been raised by hospital officials in Richland County and by the South Carolina Hospital Association.

Fred Sheheen, the state commissioner of higher education, says the state pays \$18 million a year to support the teaching hospital at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and couldn't be expected to bear the burden of another facility.

The Commission for Higher Education, incidentally, would have to endorse the project before it could be built.

USC President John Palms has pledged himself to streamlining the university system he took over last year, and so far has made some notable progress. Meanwhile, the university's resources have diminished with the economic downturn. The new chairman's attention should be directed toward something other than expanding a duplicative program.

— The Charleston Post and Courier



## Cross Fire

### Electoral system undemocratic

"Your people, sir, are a beast!" That is what Alexander Hamilton said at the framing of the Constitution in 1787 when someone suggested the president be elected by a direct vote of the people.

Hamilton and his supporters felt the American people were not equipped to independently decide who should be president. The result of Hamilton's argument was the formation of the electoral college, an oppressive system which even today chooses our nation's leader.

Under the system, each state is given a number of presidential electors with the more populated states getting the most electoral votes. With the exception of Maine, which lets its two congressional districts cast separate votes, the states operate under a "winner take all" elector system. The candidate who wins the most popular votes in a state takes all of its electoral votes. If someone wins at least 270 electoral votes in the nation, they become president.

This method is unfair because if a candidate does not receive the most votes in a state, any popular votes they did win there are treated as nonexistent. If one person receives 51 percent and another 49, all of the state's electors go to the first candidate. In states having huge numbers of electors, such as California, a small difference in percentages can cause a candidate to lose the entire race.

Under the electoral college system, a candidate can win a plurality in the 12 most populated states, get no votes in the remaining 38 and still become president. This means it is possible for the national winner of the popular vote to lose a presidential election. This has happened three times, lastly occurring in the Grover Cleveland/Benjamin Harrison race of 1888. Cleveland received 95,000 more popular votes, but Harrison had a majority in the college and became president.

False results are not the only problem with the electoral college. The Constitution does not bind electors to vote the way their state residents voted. Electors can, if they wish, vote for whomever they want to. The representation of the general population is not guaranteed.

The last time Congress considered doing away with the college was 1979. This proposal was defeated, largely because of Southerners. Seventy-three percent of Southern senators in 1979 voted to keep the electoral college (including Strom Thurmond and Fritz Hollings). This is compared to 58 percent of other senators around the nation.

It is time to let go of the past. The electoral college is a perversion of the democratic process and needs to be removed. It gives electors too much power and has been proven to give false results. The college, not the people, is the real beast in this situation.

— Marc LaFountain, Columnist for The Gamecock

### College serves as unique buffer

The electoral college is a unique institution for the election of our country's leader.

Most of our other institutions are borrowed from Europe's parliamentary ideas balanced with a king-like executive, but the electoral college is decidedly American.

It was the United States which first used a system of checks and balances and we separate our branches of government allocating to them specific powers with opposing powers in the other branches.

In our form of government, another separation is not often mentioned: the separation of the government and the governed. There is an implied separation of those properly elected and the governed, whose passions, emotions and whims constantly need to be checked.

Let's not fool ourselves. The people do not make the decisions. We only elect, supposedly, the best and brightest among us to make decisions for us and for those who do not even choose these representatives.

Aristotle defined democracy as the tyranny of the majority. It is this byproduct of consensus government that the electoral college seeks to prevent.

Minorities which were seen as factions of the electorate in the beginning need to be protected from rule of the majority and this is where representative government comes into play.

For the same reasons we do not make laws by national referendum, we do not choose our commander-in-chief by direct election. The electoral college system is a compromise between a parliamentary system and the proportional system of representation whereby parties come into power based on their national ticket's percentages.

The electoral college also promotes the power of individual and sovereign states in a federal system.

Presidential candidates in our electoral process are forced to campaign in individual states and not just gain a popular majority, which could be done by ignoring a vast majority of smaller states and only campaigning in the larger states.

The electoral college was formulated on the basis of distrust of human nature. It is this same distrust that has created the institutions of the three branches of government. The electoral college has served us well in the last 203 years and so have the three branches.

Tradition may be the main reason we keep the system, but tradition is also the reason we do not change our form of government every twenty years.

— Jack Dunn, Viewpoints Editor for The Gamecock

BUSH	24%
CLINTON	13%
PEROT	7%
SPARKY	56%

(PROJECTED RESULTS)

... AND IN A SURPRISING TURN OF EVENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE GAMECOCKS RECENT SUCCESS, HERE ARE THE PROJECTED RESULTS OF TUESDAY'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

HJ '92

## Student government plays crucial role at USC

As president of the student body, I am responding to the information provided by the managing editor in his Nov. 3 editorial. The managing editor mentioned three of the specific platform goals of my student government administration and wrote that students have not heard "a peep about these goals or their progress."

While this statement represents the view of one person, I would like to provide additional information to give the student body a more informed view of student government's work during the current year. In addition to fulfilling constitutional responsibilities, with regard to my specific platform goals, we have accomplishing the following:

- We have established ties to the mayor's office and the Columbia City Council and have made proposals concerning pedestrian safety and parking which the city is currently studying.
- We have added more students to the Parking Appellate Court, so there are more students serving than ever.
- We have obtained funding from area businesses for student organizations by providing students with the discount cards and books.
- We have established an active minority affairs cabinet committee in student government.
- We are currently implementing an information hotline for campus events in order to better serve and inform commuting students.
- We have voiced student concerns at the General Assembly and formed the South Carolina Coalition of State-Supported Student Body Officers for this purpose.
- We have held two meetings with students to

**TOM YOUNG**  
GUEST COLUMNIST



hear concerns with another Town Meeting scheduled for November 23rd at 7 p.m. in Russell House 303.

- Our door is always open, and we are accessible.
- Furthermore, we have taken a proactive approach in other areas of concern to students. These accomplishments include the following:
- Successfully lobbied for the approval of the draw schedule for the sale of the bonds for the new music building.
- Studied safety on campus and identified locations of seven new call boxes.
- Developed communication between schools in the SEC with the first project being the SEC Presidential Straw Poll.
- Hosted the inaugural SEC Student Body Officers Conference in order to learn ways to further benefit our student body.
- Assisted in securing funds for the proposed Welcome Center on campus.
- Updated and improved the Safety/Lightways Map on campus.
- Located more bicycle racks for areas in need on campus.
- Gained a compromise on the ring issue in the University Bookstore insuring that more than one company is represented.
- Provided more representation for graduate

students by giving them a voice on the student government cabinet and in the university governance process.

It is evident that we have been active in representing and working for the best interest of Carolina.

Also, the managing editor indicated that we have not communicated our accomplishments effectively. To improve our communication, we will provide the Gamecock with a box in the Student Government office, so they know what is happening. We value the Gamecock as a communication tool to the student body, and we hope they will take advantage of the additional information we are providing to them. Furthermore, we hope they will be more effective in reporting this information to the student body.

The managing editor also unjustly criticized members of the student government cabinet and other branches of student government. As an elected officer, I will not stand idly by and condone these attacks on members of student government. These students are the backbone of student government. Without them, we could do virtually nothing to serve our peers. They are the leaders who work hard and maintain a sense of integrity around campus, in the student senate and on university boards and commissions.

Finally, I reiterate that we are here to serve and will continue to pursue ways to improve the student life of all of us here at Carolina. Moreover, we will continue to communicate with students both directly and through the student media.

— Tom Young is student body president.

# The Gamecock

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The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Full name and professional title, or year and major if a student, must be included along with address and phone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit letters. The Gamecock is the student newspaper of the University of South Carolina and is published three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during both summer sessions, with the exception of university holidays and examination 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 Student Media Department is the parent organization of The Gamecock.

Change of address forms, subscriptions, requests and other correspondence should be sent to The Gamecock, P.O. Box 85131, The University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

Subscription rates are \$46 a year. First class postage paid at Columbia, SC. The Gamecock is a registered student organization of the University of South Carolina and is partially funded by student activity fees.

### Student body VP responds to columns

To the editor:  
I would like to briefly address several points in both Monday's column by Rochelle Killingbeck and Wednesday's by Pat Villegas.

First, I would never knowingly lie or misrepresent the facts in order to gain votes. Although I found it too expensive to keep the Thomson Student Health Center open extra hours (about \$75-100 per student per year), I was part of the group securing an automatic \$500 health insurance policy for any fee-paying student. My main concern was the health of the students at USC, and that end is being served. Ms. Killingbeck is correct that enough research may not have been done prior to election; however, I was not privy to much of the

information prior to taking office in March. My main goal was making sure no student suffered through an illness because of lack of care or money, and I achieved that goal.

I was also quite disappointed by Pat Villegas' article. Over the summer, I sent information packets to The Gamecock with no response. In addition, each time I attend a Safety Committee meeting, I contact a member of The Gamecock staff with the results. Finally, all Senate legislation and minutes are given to a reporter in advance.

Our student government officers are very student-oriented. We have held two publicized "Town Meetings" with zero attendance by the students. Communication is a two-way street, and we have been more than willing to do our part. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come by our office.

Kelli A. Lister  
Student Body Vice President

### Conservative newspaper should wake-up

To the editor:  
Just what we needed, another Rush Limbaugh-worshipping WASP to bombard us with conservative rhetoric. Couple that with character assaults on anyone who does not fall into the whitebread, bow tie-wearing, silver-spoon category and you have USC's Carolina Spectator.

By the time this is published, Mr. Locklair and his out-of-touch friends will have to go back into the closet for four years. What is surprising to me is Mr. Locklair was actually able to find five college-age individuals to echo the opinions of the Pat Robertsons and Dan Quayles of the world.

The constant character-bashing

of President-elect Clinton was indicative of how out of touch the party has become. Since opening in New Hampshire, the Republican campaign has been based solely on the issues of character and trust. How ironic to have George Bush, former director of the CIA, question the honesty and integrity of President-elect Clinton. The ex-chief of the most corrupt and covert organization in the world wants to discuss honesty and openness. The desperation of the Bush/Quayle campaign was an insult to our intelligence and a disgrace to the American political system.

Mr. Locklair, his staff and conservative Republicans in general need to wake up, loosen up and, most importantly, pack up!

The days of Alex P. Keaton are finally over!

Frank J. Marchese  
BAIS junior

## Letters to the Editor