

► That kooky Kiki will give you some of that "God stuff" with her column.

# VIEWPOINTS

"It's like I get goose bumps just thinking about the Olympics."

Michelle Davison  
USC Diver

## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Adam Snyder, Editor in Chief  
Amy Shannon, Viewpoints Editor  
Kurt Johnson, Assistant Viewpoints Editor

### TAKE OUR WORD

## Video poker ban is not democratic

What a great democracy in which we live.

It has gotten so great that we don't even have to worry about making decisions for ourselves or determining what is right and wrong. We are being told what we can and cannot do. That seems to be South Carolina democracy.

And what political system wouldn't be complete without the name calling and finger pointing by opposing parties.

The video-poker controversy has definitely brought South Carolina into a stir. While other states are worrying about what to do with raises in unemployment or trying to figure out ways to solve their over-immigration problem, we are here deciding on what to do over video poker.

"Well, it's the person's choice whether or not they want to play the machines," you might say. But thanks to Gov. David Beasley, such a decision has graciously been made for us. Plain and simple, he wants video poker out.

Video poker, according to Beasley, is a cancer that will "suck the soul and the hearts out of the people of this state."

His main reason for eliminating the industry is because it violates South Carolina's constitutional ban on lotteries. He believes lotteries are negative.

Yet Georgia's lottery sends the state's students to college with the money it earns. Worst of all, about \$60 million comes from South Carolinians who play Georgia's lottery.

And now the political ruckus has begun. Three video-poker operators accused Beasley of threatening to close down the industry if they and others didn't contribute campaign money to the Republican cause in 1994.

Beasley denies requesting funds from the industry, though he has admitted he was in contact with the

#### PROBLEM

Gov. David Beasley wants the video poker industry banned.

#### SOLUTION

There are more important things to deal with than poker.

accusing party. Now, he feels this industry is harmful and dangerous in some way, and he wants to shut it down. Coincidence? Hardly.

When money was donated to the governor by video-poker operators, and he "found out" gambling money was taken, Beasley promptly returned it. However, video-poker operators claim he didn't return any other money donated by video-poker vendors that were "disguised" so no one would know the origins of the money.

And in a show of how "great" and "upstanding" he was, Beasley immediately chastised Democratic nominee Jim Hodges for not returning campaign money he obviously received from video-poker vendors. It's too bad every man cannot live up to Beasley's "morality."

It's a ludicrous idea to ban video poker. Gov. Beasley and the rest of South Carolina need to loosen up. There is such a thing as being too conservative.

It's almost sickening. Despite what Beasley and the rest of those fuddy-duddy conservatives think, people have a mind of their own, and a vast majority of us know how to use it.

Beasley and others opposed to video poker need to stop blaming the industry and start blaming individuals. If people spend their money on poker, that's their problem.

They obviously have no idea of responsibility or proper spending. Getting rid of video poker isn't going to get rid of people's irresponsibility.

Instead of throwing the money away that can be accumulated from a lottery and heavy taxation on video poker, take that and use it to help these people. Help them by establishing better educational programs and strengthening the ones already in place.

This way, we are ensured of a more intelligent and more responsible population.

## School of business lucky to get money

Today is a day that USC will not soon forget. Darla Moore, a 1975 political science graduate of USC, is giving the business school \$25 million.

Her gift will enable USC to further improve its already nationally ranked undergraduate and graduate international business specialties as well as build upon other areas of business study.

The money will also help USC gain more national recognition as a quality institution of higher learn-

ing and greater respect from other universities.

To Ms. Moore, we extend our thanks. Although her donation is targeted towards USC's school of business, it will create a ripple effect that will benefit the entire university.

A monetary gift of this size has never been heard of before at USC. Hopefully, Moore's gift will inspire others to donate, if not to USC, then to other institutions. A better educated populace leads to a better society for all of us.



college press EXCHANGE

## Teachers deserve more money

I'm going into the wrong line of work. I'm in grad school now, working on my M.A.T. in social studies so I can teach history in a secondary school. I think I might change based on what I have learned from a friend.



fred LEACH  
Columnist

One of my friends works at JWB which is a daycare center. One of her coworkers, a janitor, is making a whopping \$30,000 a year. In addition, her friend, let's call him Jack, never graduated from college. In fact, he is a month or two away from earning his associates degree. I was stupefied by this, but my friend just told me I was jealous. I suppose I am a bit envious of someone who doesn't go to college, yet is earning \$10,000 a year more than I will be when I get done with my six-plus years of school.

Now Jack isn't just a janitor, she tells me, he is the "Head of Maintenance." Well, that may be his politically correct title, but if something has webbed feet, lots of feathers and sits around in the lake saying, "Quack Quack," then it's a duck. Donald may prefer to be called water fowl, but he's still a duck."

Recently, Jack was courted by a major hospital who desired his services. A bitter holdout ensued because JWB wanted to keep him. JWB eventually resigned the all-star janitor to his present contract. He is, I am told, competent (but not spectacular) at what he does. So what if he's the Mark McGuire of sheet folding? For \$30,000 a year, I could be the John Elway of sheet folding, the Michael Jordan of sweeping and the Ken Griffey, Jr. of window cleaning.

I point this out only to say that teachers are grossly underpaid. I am told that teachers choose their career for idealistic principles, not for the money. That may be true, but looking at that another way, think of how many people choose more prosperous lines of work (like being a janitor) who would make wonderful teachers.

"We all wonder why the public education system is failing in America. There are many reasons for this, but one is that the paltry salary a teacher receives is very discouraging."

We all wonder why the public education system is failing in America. There are many reasons for this, but one is that the paltry salary a teacher receives is very discouraging, especially when one could make a lot more at other jobs which require less education. When I think of the inquiry projects and the textbook inventories that I have had to do so far in grad school, I wonder what in the heck I am doing here. The answer is not always easily found.

If one's desire is to help people and to try and have a positive impact on lives, then there is no better profession than teaching. However, the pay is horrible, barely enough to get by sometimes. The same is true of other important professions like law en-

forcement. Why is it that we pay the most for entertainers like movie stars and athletes? The most important jobs, however, are neglected.

When the baseball players wanted more money, they went on strike. When a talented athlete wants more money on his contract, he holds out. Let's imagine for a moment a teacher's hold-out. Mr. Walker, an excellent teacher, wants a bigger paycheck, and he becomes a free agent when this year is up. So he tests the market and lands a new deal worth an eye-popping \$125,000 over five years. Why can't teachers strike or hold out? Because it is too important of a job. But, if it is so important of a job, then why does the cry of, "show me the money" fall on deaf ears?

## 'Big and tall' can't go to the mall

kevin LANGSTON  
Columnist

Okay, there is no way of getting around it (or me for that matter). I am Big and Tall. I was the smallest of the three children in the family, but I've sprouted. You can blame it on genetics or the good cooking of my mom and dad. I just live with it. I don't really have much choice, do I?

So I live as a large person. It isn't all that bad. Usually people are mature about it. I have great friends who accept me for who I am. If people are prompted to laugh and make fun of me, I simply shrug it off. After all, they probably aren't worth the thought.

I have been a fairly large person for the majority of my life. I have faced many inadequacies in the accommodations of big and tall people. When I go into department stores, I find that the Big & Tall section is the smallest department in the men's section.

Wouldn't common sense provide people with the idea that people shopping in the Big & Tall section are perhaps Big and Tall themselves? Wouldn't this lead the people to make this section of the store a bit larger than the other sections?

Usually when I approach the Big & Tall section, I find the walls adorned with hideous articles of clothing. Just because we are larger does not mean we have no sense of fashion. However, most people think this way.

It is rare that I will even go into a store such as The Gap or Structure. I know they won't carry anything over an XL shirt and a 42 waist. I was in Structure the other day, and I saw a

pamphlet that boasted "We guarantee to have your size!" I eagerly picked it up, and found that the highest size they carried was a 42 waist. Some guarantee.

I wouldn't buy clothes from stores of such reputation anyway. Reputation is what you're paying for. Their reputation is worth \$60 alone. Clothes for big and tall customers are already more expensive than any other article of clothing. Why?

Is there some tax that larger people have to pay? I am unaware of this tax. Most "smaller" people will counter this argument with the fact we are paying for more material. Well, do petites pay less for their clothes? I doubt it.

I don't even try the "one size fits all" crap anymore. With a hat size of 7 3/4 and a shoe size of 15 or 16 (depends on the brand), I know I don't apply. They should rephrase the saying to "one size fits most."

I have dealt with being a large person throughout my life. I deal with it in middle school, high school, and now college. When I came to college, I figured things would be different. I always thought the college way of life was one that accepted diversity with open arms. Boy was I slapped in the face with a cold dose of reality.

Apparently, being big and tall means nothing in the realm of diversity. I always thought diversity applied to everyone. No one can escape diversity, right?

Well it seems that the lowly big and tall have found a way. Want to know our secret? So do we.

None of the bookstores carry anything bigger than an XXL shirt. They justify this with stories of smaller peo-

"It is rare that I will even go into a store such as The Gap or Structure. I know they won't carry anything over an XL shirt and a 42 waist."

ple coming in and buying larger sizes for the use of pajamas. So I guess while smaller people rest comfortably at night in an oversized garment, large folks must deal with what they can get. Sweet dreams.

I don't buy the pajama bit. There is a demand for larger articles of clothing. So why isn't it met? We want to be comfortable in our clothes. Is it too much to ask to have something that will fit us? We buy clothes too. You don't see a bunch of large naked people roaming the campus, do you? I hope not. We do find clothes, but people also find needles in haystacks. Ask my uncle. Our selection is nothing compared to the selection everyone else has.

Clothes are supposed to be a medium for expression. They are supposed to reflect our ideas, interests, places we've been, in short, who we are. So with this current argument, it can be said that we are being censored.

I love R.E.M. I would love to show my love for this band by wearing a shirt with the band on it. Can I do this? Nope. Apparently large people don't listen to music.

To my dismay, no shirts come in any size above XL. Large people must not go to concerts either. Even here at

USC, I have fallen victim to this stereotype. I joined two student organizations last semester. As an incentive, you receive a free T-shirt when you join.

That wasn't the reason I joined, but we all like free stuff, don't we? I must have slipped through, because large people obviously don't join student organizations either. If they only offer XL shirts, it must mean they don't want us to join. There is no room for large people (no pun intended).

So large people have no fashion sense, don't mind paying extra for clothes, don't mind settling for what they can get, don't like music, concerts, student organizations and feeling comfortable in what they wear.

If you can believe that, then I have just wasted my time. Nothing can be further from the truth. We are people, too. We want what everyone else wants. We want the liberties that all are eligible to receive. This is America, damn it. So if you are big and tall, tell the people you aren't going to take it anymore. We want our fair share. Give 'em hell, big and tall!

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

The Gamecock is the student newspaper of The University of South Carolina and is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and five 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.

**STUDENT MEDIA**  
RUSSELL HOUSE  
USC  
COLUMBIA, SC 29208

WHO WE ARE			HOW TO REACH US		
<b>The Gamecock</b>			All numbers area code 803		
Adam Snyder	Editor in Chief	Rosalind Harvey	Public Relations Coordinator	Editor	777-3914
Amy Shannon	Viewpoints Editor	Kurt Johnson	Asst. Viewpoints Editor	Viewpoints	777-7726
Sara Ladenheim	News Editors	Carrie McCullough	Asst. News Editor	News	777-7726
Cara Pellatt	Features Editor	Kristin Freestate	Asst. Features Editor	Etc.	777-3913
Jeanifer Stanley	Sports Editors	Nathan Brown	Asst. Sports Editor	Sports	777-7182
Achim Hunt	Photo Editor	Sean Rayford	Asst. Photo Editor	Online	777-2833
Bryan Johnston	Online Editor	Tori O'Hara	Asst. Online Editor		
Susan Meyers	Copy Desk Chief	Eric Reed	Copy Editors		
Brian Rish		Connie Karickhoff			
Chris Dixon					
<b>Student Media</b>			<b>Student Media</b>		
Julie Baker	Sherry F. Holmes	Classified Ad Manager	Advertising	777-1184	
Susan Barrett	Carolyn Griffin	Business Manager	Classifieds	777-1184	
Alicia Dickson	Jim Green	Creative Director	Fax	777-6482	
Judson Drennon	Michele Dames	Creative Services	Office	777-3888	
Ellen Parsons		Graduate Asst.			
Lee Phipps	Erik Collins	Faculty Advisor			

Hey kids! So, do you have something on your chest and you really, really, really need to get it off? Did something our columnist say just nip you in the bud? Are you scared of the dark? Well, please let us know! Write a letter to the editor and drop it off at the Russell House, room 333.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

The Gamecock will try to print all letters received. Letters should be 250-300 words and must include full name, professional title or year and major if a student. Hand written letters must be personally delivered by the author to The Gamecock newsroom in Russell House room 333. Email letters must include the author's telephone number. The Gamecock reserves the right to edit all letters for style, possible libel or space limitations. Names will not be withheld for any circumstance.