



'Who wants to deal with the chaotic, back-stabbing political game before they have to?'

Malik Husser, SG President

## The Gamecock

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## Geddings' move should benefit S.C.

Kevin Geddings' recent decision to run the campaign to create a state-run lottery will serve South Carolina well. Geddings, chief of staff for Gov. Jim Hodges, will resign later this month. Replacing Geddings is Republican Billy Boan, Hodges' top legislative operative, whom both Republicans and Democrats admire.

Boan brings essential qualities to the Hodges administration. A former Democratic representative, Boan holds the respect of many legislators simply because of his warm, charming charisma.

He also has in-depth knowledge of the inner workings of state government, knowledge he gained from his days in the House.

Geddings' departure raises some questions, however.

Republicans and other Hodges opponents charge that Geddings pandered to the video poker industry because of the assumption that he corresponded through e-mail with one video poker operative.

Yet this partisan charge does not match Geddings' character. By leaving to produce a lottery, the fundamental issue of the governor's 1998 campaign, Geddings totally dissolves any appearance of corruption in the already super-clean Hodges administration.

Geddings, better suited for directing political campaigns, served as a key player in Hodges' upset of incumbent Republican David Beasley.

Head of Geddings Communications, he masterminded the television spots for Hodges by inventing the classic political character "Bubba."

Geddings will undoubtedly labor to win the lottery referendum in 2000 so that South Carolina can continue revamping public education.

## Darlington part of state heritage

Darlington International Speedway celebrates its 50th anniversary this weekend as it began: as the only "major league" sporting venue in South Carolina.

While NASCAR has gained popularity recently outside Darlington and the former "Southern circuit," other major league sports have been slow to expand to traditionally Southern markets.

When sports expansionists research a city to see whether the demographics are friendly for a team, South Carolina is almost always skipped.

Sure, we have minor league teams, but in no place other than Darlington does a major league-caliber venue exist.

Every Labor Day, South Carolinians are reminded that Darlington is as much a part of our sporting heritage as the Yankees are to New York.

Some fans watch as baseballs race past the hitter at 90 mph.

We watch superior, high-quality automobiles race by at 190 mph. NASCAR is the only sport that can claim South Carolina as its home.

So, as we celebrate Labor Day with a day off from work, let's just watch for one minute as the Darlington International Speedway celebrates its 50th anniversary. Maybe one of our own will take the race and make this golden anniversary complete.

### COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

## G.W. BUSH DRUG POLICY



### NATIONAL ISSUES

## Iraq: the war that never ends

This is the war that never ends." On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi forces stormed across the Kuwait border. In less than 24 hours, Iraq had seized control of the country.

Mark Piras is a regular columnist. He can be reached via The Gamecock at gckviews@sc.edu

"It just goes on and on, my friends." In the late-night hours of Jan. 16, 1991, the United States, along with a U.N. coalition, launched the initial attacks against Iraq, just hours after a deadline imposed by the United Nations for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait had passed. The objective of the attack was to force Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

"Our country started fighting it, not knowing where it'd go." On Feb. 27, 1991, Allied forces freed Kuwait City, expelling Iraqi troops. Less than a week later, Iraq accepted all terms in an agreement for a cease-fire. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf said: "We have made a major step forward in the cause of peace."

"We'll continue fighting it forever, don't you know?" More than two years after the invasion of Kuwait, President Bush ordered a "no-fly" zone south of the 32nd parallel, claiming that Hussein had been using helicopters and planes to cause "harsh repression" against Shiite Muslims. Critics claimed that Bush was attempting

to re-escalate tensions to offset his declining popularity. Elections were just more than one month away.

"Cuz it's the war that never ends." On June 26, 1993, U.S. ships launched 23 Tomahawk missiles against the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service. President Clinton claimed the attack was in retaliation for an alleged plot to assassinate Bush during a visit to Kuwait. Bush, reached for comment, responded tersely: "I'm not in the interview business, but thank you very much for calling."

"It just goes on and on my friends." On Sept. 3, 1996, the United States fired 27 missiles at Iraqi air defense radars, surface-to-air missile installations and command centers. The next day, the United States fired 14 more missiles at the same targets. The attacks came mere days after an Iraqi offensive in northern Iraq spurred presidential candidate Robert Dole to criticize Clinton's foreign policy as "weak."

Again, elections were just more than one month away.

"Our country started fighting it, not knowing where it'd go." In November 1997, Iraq expelled six U.S. inspectors from a U.N. team. The United States responded with a military buildup in the Persian Gulf. Iraq relented, allowing access to inspection teams. But Iraq continued to obstruct and delay other teams, threatening to escalate the crisis again.

"We'll continue fighting it forever, don't you know?" Richard Butler, executive chairman of the U. N. Special Com-

mission, released a report Dec. 15, 1998, claiming Iraq had failed to comply with U. N. inspectors, delaying inspectors while emptying the buildings intended for inspection. In late Dec. 1998, Iraq changed tactics by opening fire on British jets patrolling the no-fly zones. It was the first such attack since 1996. Since then, and continuing today, any Iraqi military site using radar or weapons on Allied aircraft has been attacked, often drawing widespread retaliation. Officially, the United States is not at war with Iraq, and yet these acts of war, instigated by both sides, continue unabated.

Last Saturday, Iraq was again struck by U.S. missiles, and by the time this column is published, it's likely that it will have happened again. The attacks have become so routine that they've fallen to the back pages of newspapers. In January 1991, there was a clear-cut goal behind the military action — to remove Iraq from Kuwait.

Today, there is no clear-cut goal. One day, the goal is to force Iraq to succumb to the inspections it agreed to after the Gulf War; the next, it is to stop Iraq from oppressing its own people, or in retaliation for attacks against Allied planes.

The long-term goal is unspoken: to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. As long as these ambiguous and undefined missions continue, with no declaration of official war and with no clearly stated goal, you might as well sing along with me.

"Cuz it's the war that never ends."

Christina Durham  
Marine Science Freshman

Editor's note: The RA mentioned, who did not identify herself, and the Viewpoints Editor did not discuss the possibility of a retraction. During the writing of the news article and the editorial, The Gamecock spoke with seven people, six of whom were honors or non-honors Capstone residents.

## Smokers not weak, nation not pathetic

To the Editor: I approve your stand on smoking and can affirm its effects on the human body. I have a grandmother who is on a pacemaker and has smoked for 65 years. She, however, upon the arrival of her aneurism, quit cold turkey.

She is the embodiment of the willpower that you state that smokers lack. I agree with you so far, but I believe that you forgot something when you uttered "...pathetic country."

As a part-time journalist, I hope that you realize that the same principles that allow you to print your opinions without fear of retribution also allow people to smoke cigarettes.

Derogatory comments concerning the government get people killed in other "pathetic countries."

John Gowan  
Biology Freshman

### LETTERS

#### Editorial angers honors students

To the Editor: I am writing in response to the article "Dorm rules should apply to all students." I am a freshman honors student in Capstone, and I have my window restrictors on, and, as all other residents in my building, I have to do community service to get them off. Not only do I have to perform community service, but my roommate must agree to do community service, as well.

The article says that wide resentment has been created because I supposedly have my window restrictors off and other residents in the building do not. I did not see any of this resentment until the article was published with these false rumors. As a matter of fact, I thought that the upperclassmen were treating the honors freshmen extremely well when I first moved in. Now I am experiencing that resentment you mentioned from other non-honors members of my dorm because they read your article, which falsely told them that my window restrictors were off. This really angers me, as well as the rest of my hall, and I wish you would do something to clear our name because of the mistake you made.

I know that the article was composed to lash out at the Housing administration, but it has, in turn, made others lash out at us, and that is not fair. And isn't that what your article was trying to accomplish — fairness? The last line of your article even states, "for fairness' sake."

Joe Liedhegner  
Chemical Engineering Freshman

As a freshman honors student, I believe I am speaking for the majority of my floor in Capstone when I say, "Stop the insanity." In a recent editorial written by the staff entitled "Dorm rules should apply to all students [Aug. 27]," I was offended by the authors' unprofessional attitudes and inability to take responsibility for an editorial that was in no way based on fact.

The fact is, honors students living in Capstone have window restrictors just like everyone else in the dorm, and believe me, I have to do the mandatory community service just like any other resident before I can enjoy fresh air in my room. The rules do apply to all.

However, even more upsetting than The Gamecock's complete misrepresentation of the facts was the behavior displayed when the Honors students living in Capstone simply asked that a retraction be printed. When a non-honors resident adviser called The Gamecock, Viewpoints Editor Emily Streyer refused to consider printing the truth concerning the restrictions. The last time I checked, you can't print a lie, even if it is an editorial.

I would also be curious to find out exactly who was questioned about these supposed "honors privileges" for Capstone residents. We were told by The Gamecock that six whole people were asked about the window restrictors. Were they people from the Honors College? Were they even people who live in Capstone? They were obviously not residents on my floor.

I hope, as the authors of this article finish their time here at USC, that they are able to acquire the basic journalistic skills that they apparently missed out on thus far.

### NATIONAL ISSUES

## Stubborn beliefs make ineffectual politicians

Frankly, I do not mind when people attack my political beliefs.

In a democratic society like ours, the common citizen holds this right, guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, to disclaim my esteemed convictions.

I do, however, have a problem when people assert that my convictions flip-flop.

I recently met someone who felt impelled to interrogate me on why I adhered to Democratic ideals.

Despite the confidence I had in my answers, they did not satisfy her.

She thinks that I have no beliefs at all and that I hold a promising future in the political arena.

She, like most of the American public, sees a difference between one who has a firm set of beliefs and one who follows a more practical route.

The public often views practical, mainstream candidates as lacking mettle on the issues.

This view, however, supports a misconception.

Compromising beliefs in order to benefit society as a whole certainly does not mean that you do not maintain a strong opinion on that subject.

In "The Social Contract," Jean Jacques Rousseau boldly states, "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains."

He contends that the people themselves must make an agreement or sign a contract with the governing body in order to ensure political freedom.

Failing to construct this contract will result in a government administered by tyrannous leaders aiming to fulfill their own self-interests.

The U.S. model of government, a representative democracy, serves as the most effective — albeit many times inefficient — form in this world.

Standing for the beliefs of the people, a representative democracy holds the people in higher esteem than the politicians who represent them.

If the leaders promote only their own convictions, the idealism of extremist groups could allow near-anarchism to flourish or a theocracy to evolve.

Furthermore, uninformed citizens tend to display an alarming degree of emotion rather than logic in defending selective causes.

Using normative judgment reduces politics and government to uneducated demagoguery; thus, many candidates today dig up dirt on their opponents instead of promoting a positive platform.

Both sides of the aisle are guilty of this act of arguing with emotion rather than logic; the far right stirs up a fervor among Christians, while the far left panders to increase government dependence.

Having our policies guided by individual values and individual views on morality rather than practicality leads to futile decision-making conducted by irrational passions.

However courageous it might be for politicians to take a stand on a controversial issue, idealistic charades, undoubtedly, can cause critical repercussions for them.

Political leaders who promote their own personal agendas end up losing because of an angry outburst from voters who feel that their voices have been neglected.

David Beasley, no longer a state employee, and Bob Inglis, no longer in Washington, learned this harsh lesson last November.

The last line of Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address, which describes the government "of the people, by the people, for the people," certainly provides the proper setup for people to govern themselves.

So, to my new freshman friend, I say that stubbornness does not yield productivity in government.

Only through a pragmatic consensus do we alleviate the ills of our society.



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### ABOUT US

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 nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods.

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### SUBMISSION POLICY

Letters to the editor or guest columns are welcome from all members of the Carolina community. Letters should be 250-300 words. Guest columns should be an opinion piece of about 600-700 words.

Both must include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. Handwritten submissions must be personally delivered to Russell House room 333. E-mail submissions must include telephone number for confirmation.

The Gamecock reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space. Anonymous letters will not be published. Photos are required for guest columnist and can be provided by the submitter.

Call 777-7276 for more information.

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