



'It wasn't like somebody came up out of the stands and did it to us. It's just mental weakness - we can't do it.'

Lou Holtz, USC head football coach, on USC's mistakes against Kentucky

## The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## Pro-poker campaign sinks to new low

Video poker allies have hit a new low with their latest stunt, a hotline that was purportedly set up to give South Carolinians a say in how video poker taxes should be spent.

Notice that they only ask our opinion when the point in question is in danger of being rendered moot. Obviously, the hotline was started in an attempt to get good press. As usual, though, their efforts are transparent. This is another play to convince us that poker is here to stay when we hope, it will be voted out of existence November 2.

The message on the hotline implicitly asserts that the industry will win the referendum. The first sentence says: "Thank you for calling to register your vote on how to spend the \$200 million the state will collect taxing the video poker industry."

This sentence alone contains two falsehoods. First, by calling it a "vote," it suggests that it's some sort of official referendum, when in reality, it's only a very unscientific survey. Second, by saying the state "will" collect \$200 million, it's saying it's sure the industry will win. By this statement, the industry is thumbing its nose at us, the voters of South Carolina, by saying the outcome of the vote is an inevitability we can do nothing about.

The hotline asks us to choose whether the money will be spent on road and bridge repairs, education or car-tax reduction. At least this last isn't as mendacious as promises the industry's campaign makes elsewhere, such as the bumper stickers stating that a "yes" vote will result in no car taxes at all.

But there are better ways to fund all of these needs. For instance, roads can be paid for by building toll roads for the people, including people from other states just passing through. Let's fund our needs in an honest way that doesn't amount to stealing from the poor and desperate among us.

## Taking cautious steps evades crime

An 18-year-old USC student was abducted near the corner of Blossom and Pickens streets on USC's campus late Thursday night. Richland County police officers say the student was driven to Hopkins, raped then left to find her own way back to campus. A man has been charged in the rape, and authorities say he's been on a one-man crime spree at USC for the past few weeks. If that's the case, we can be glad he's no longer harming the campus, and the rape victim can rest easier. The assault, while tragic, can also serve as a teacher for the rest of us.

On an urban campus like USC's, crime is an unfortunate fact of life's while abductions might be isolated, muggings and other robberies certainly aren't as infrequent. The university police department does what it can by disseminating timely and valuable tips for students to stay safe. As isolated an incident as this is, it could obviously happen to any one of us. As students, we must ask ourselves whether we're doing everything we can to prevent ourselves from becoming victims. People will say police need to do a better job patrolling campus, but no police force can be everywhere in its patrol area at all times. With that in mind, we urge all students to take any precautionary steps necessary to keep themselves safe on campus at night. As inconvenient as it might be to call an escort service or a police officer to accompany us at night, it's the best way to keep Thursday's incident from repeating itself.

### 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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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.  
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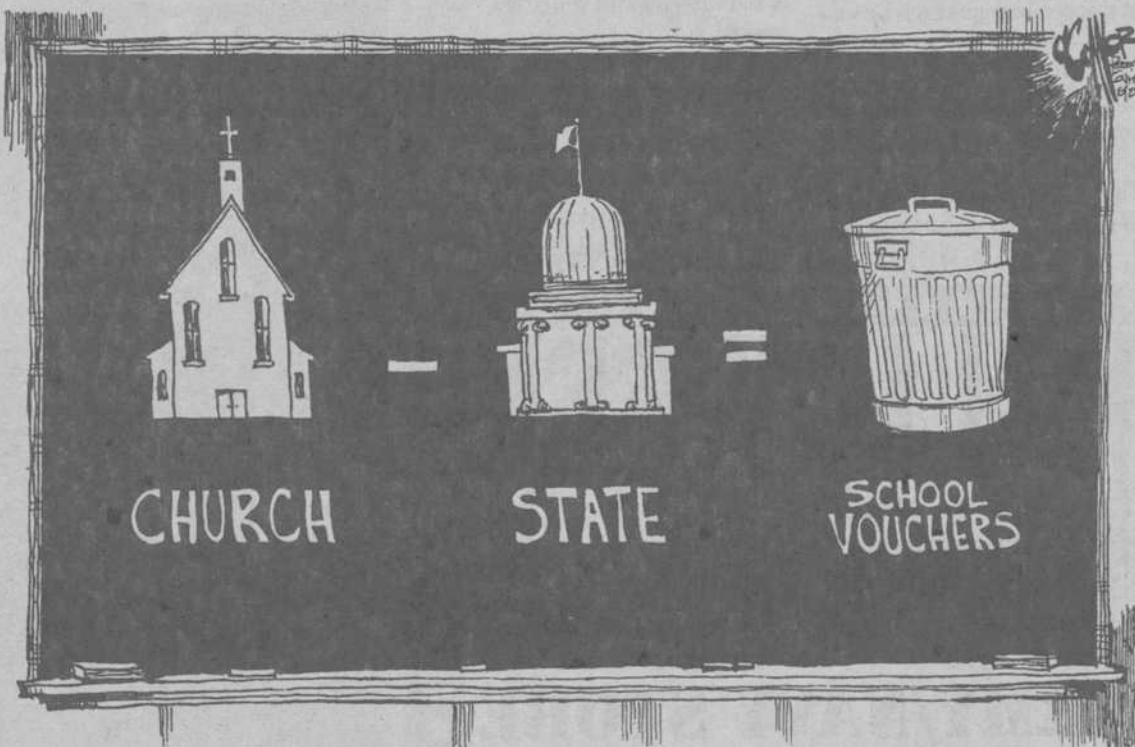
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### NATIONAL ISSUES

## McCain leader for a new America

For the first time in more than a decade, we Americans will be able to participate in a presidential election in which the incumbent president is not a candidate. This means that all Americans must choose a new leader from a list of candidates that they might or might not be familiar with.

The 2000 election has already shown signs of importance. Americans are beginning to hear strangely familiar words such as "straw poll" and "primary." They are beginning to hear about men and women with titles like "governor" or "senator". And never before with such rapidity and volume have individuals and organizations contributed money to the candidate they favored the most (or whom they assume will favor them the most).

I would like to tell you about a candidate for president, regardless of your beliefs. I want to introduce him not as an "alternative," but rather as a man I believe can and will lead America into the 21st century.

That man is Sen. John McCain, (R-Ariz). During the summer, I began hear-

ing about a Sen. McCain often in the newspapers and on television. I take a great interest in politics, so I did a little research on McCain. His story earned him my vote instantly. I would like to share his story with you.

McCain is the son and grandson of prominent Navy admirals. He was accepted into the Naval Academy and graduated in 1958, beginning a 22-year career as a naval aviator.

In 1967, McCain was shot down over North Vietnam and held as a POW in Hanoi for five-and-a-half years. He retired from the Navy in 1981 as a captain after earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

McCain was elected to the House in 1982 and served two terms before being elected to the Senate in 1986. He was re-elected to his third term in 1998 after receiving 70 percent of the vote.

McCain has become recognized as not only a leader in Washington (he was voted one of the "25 Most Influential People in America" by Time magazine in 1997), but also as a champion of honesty, character and reform.

McCain has been a major advocate against special interests and their financing of presidential campaigns. He supports using government subsidies for education vouchers for needy families and reforming the tax code by getting rid of nonsen-

sical taxes like the "marriage penalty" tax. He believes in a strong military that is used to its potential to protect only American interest and vows not to have any U.S. soldier serve under the United Nations' command.

I am McCain's USC campaign director. I volunteered for this position because I believe in Sen. McCain. I honestly believe McCain is the best candidate for the job. I believe in him because the biggest issues he stands for are America's freedom and success.

As students of a rising generation, I encourage you to make a responsible choice in choosing our nation's next leader. Do not choose the man with the most money (it could come from wealthy special interest groups), but the man with the most character and, most importantly of all, the most integrity.

As Americans in a democratic republic, the one thing we should not expect, but rather demand from our leaders is basic trust, faith and hope. McCain offers all three selflessly. He has proven this through his life's service to a cause greater than himself, America, and because he asks for nothing in return.

When I met McCain on Sept. 28th, he did ask one thing of this university, though, and that was to win a football game.

### WASHINGTON POST

#### HERBLOCK'S CARTOON

"WOULDN'T TOUCH IT"



### LETTERS

#### Evolution theory not definite despite facts

To the Editor:  
Dr. Habing, in a recent letter, states that "...72 Nobel laureates... noted there is indeed much evidence backing evolution." Scientists depend on authority for an overwhelming majority of their scientific knowledge. Published work and not the thoughts of individuals are the basis of scientific authority. We cannot base evolution as being true just because 72 Nobel laureates said

so, therefore we must look to published work.

The Journal of Molecular Evolution was set up in 1971 in order to explain how at the molecular level life came to exist. In the JME, origin-of-life papers pose interesting questions but do not address how irreducibly complex systems came into existence. Mathematical models deal with models for evolution but assume that evolution is piecemeal and haphazard in the real world, but it cannot show it. The majority of the journal deals with sequence comparisons but still no answers. It's like

two different models of computers by the same company.

Their instruction manuals may contain many of the same words and sentences, but comparing the sequences would not tell us if the computer could have been created wise step from a typewriter.

Unfortunately, JME has never published a detailed model of how a complex biological system could arise through step-by-step changes as proposed by Darwinism.

We find this even if we look to the other journals, like the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. In books, the

### ECONOMIC ISSUES

## Capitalist States of America

As someone who loathes the capitalist mindset that has taken over this country like a parasitic disease, I am appalled by the way American people have embraced capitalism. People all over the world are selling out to greedy corporations, and who showed them how? We did - we the people of the United States of America.



Jeremy Touzel writes a bi-weekly column. He can be reached via The Gamecock at gckviews@sc.edu

Now, before you label me a communist, know that I feel very much like Mahatma Gandhi when he said: "Capitalism as such is not evil; it is its wrong use that is evil."

Every time I go out to get the mail from my mailbox, I walk back to my apartment in disgust. Nearly every piece of mail that ends up in my mailbox is some sort of advertisement from a business that shouldn't have my address. As I curse the capitalist demons that haunt me, I somehow find solace in knowing that I can use the mail when I run out of toilet paper.

During one of my trips to the mailbox, I was just giddy with excitement in finding an application for a credit card. The last time I had gotten one of these was ... hmmm, let's see... oh yeah, the day before! But this was no ordinary credit card: this was a "premium" credit card. Unless I'm low on toilet paper, I usually throw away the application without reading it. Occasionally, when I'm bored, I'll fill one out for my cat, Lucifer, who has been approved for three cards so far.

This card, however, truly was different. It was a Golden Key National Honor Society Platinum Plus MasterCard issued by MBNA America Bank. At that point I spouted off the most obscenity-filled tirade ever delivered to a mailbox.

I was furious. In good conscience, how could a so-called "honor" society sell the names of its members to MasterCard?

As I continued to read the application, I discovered that for every sucker approved for a Golden Key National Honor Society Platinum Plus MasterCard, a "donation" is made to the "honor" society.

Now, I knew there was no way in hell that I would ever see a penny of that "donation," but being the benevolent philanthropist that I am, I asked myself, "Jeremy, what harm could possibly come from getting a Golden Key National Honor Society Platinum Plus MasterCard, other than being in debt to the MasterCard Corporation FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY!"

A couple of hours later, as I used the application to wipe some real crap from my bottom, I finally realized how susceptible we all are to the evils of capitalism. Inevitably, we will hear, "That story and more on the 6 o'clock news brought to you by Tylenol." Not long afterward, the post office itself and other governmental institutions will be sponsored. In a couple of years, if we are very lucky, we will all watch the Depends Ultra-Absorbent Fiesta Bowl on the first day of January.

However, no matter how long we live, we will never see a Honda American Diabetes Association or a Merrill Lynch National Cancer Society. We will never see one of those trendy GAP commercials promoting breast cancer awareness or the popular Budweiser frogs croaking for multiple sclerosis.

Why will these things never happen? Is it because they're not good causes? No - it's because they're not profitable.

Donnie Pritchett  
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