



'[Partnership Among Lutherans and Methodists] can be thought of as an oasis from the world.'

Tom Wall, United Methodist campus minister

### The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

- Sara Ladenheim • Editor in Chief
- Kenley Young • Managing Editor
- Emily Streyer • Viewpoints Editor
- Corey Ford • Assistant Viewpoints Editor
- Brad Walters • Editorial Contributor
- Kiki McCormick • Editorial Contributor

## Lottery vote bodes ill for Alabama schools

Last week's lottery vote in Alabama is a direct slap in the face for educational improvement in a state that certainly needs reform. In a huge defeat, the lottery went down, with 54 percent of Alabama voters rejecting the proposal. The odd thing about this referendum is that Democrat Gov. Don Siegelman defeated longtime Republican incumbent Fob James in 1998 primarily because he proposed a plan to implement the lottery as his key issue.

Alabama schools and universities will certainly suffer because of this vote. Alabama's educational systems consistently rank low in comparison with those of other southern states like South Carolina and Mississippi. The lottery, while not a fix-all for education, might generate sufficient money to fund newer schools and collegiate scholarships. A large number of Alabama residents undoubtedly cross the border to Georgia to buy lottery tickets, thus giving money to Georgia's educational system. Imagine the revenue that could be created by keeping Alabamans home to participate in their own state lottery.

The same is true for South Carolina: Dollars that could be redirected toward the improvement of our educational system (and increasing the amount of the LIFE scholarship) are instead flowing into Georgia to pay for Georgia's students to go to college on the Hope scholarship.

Fortunately, for South Carolina, our lottery vote is nearly 12 months away. Enough time, we hope, will pass to allow the anti-lottery's (and anti-video poker's) momentum to subside. The lottery would certainly be means of improving our own lacking educational system. South Carolinian voters should disregard Alabama's vote and embrace the lottery in the 2000 general election.

## Students should take advantage of flu shot

Term paper season is upon us, and that means flu season isn't far behind. In response to mounting coursework and extracurricular obligations, our hours of sleep dwindle and the attention we pay to our diets shrivels, the combination of which leaves us vulnerable to the many contagions flying about the campus.

Most of us don't have the time to spend two days in bed to sleep off a cold or the flu. The Thompson Student Health Center, however, offers us a chance to arm ourselves against the flu virus. For \$5 (a bargain compared with the prices of many doctors' offices), we can get a vaccine against the season's anticipated type of flu.

Those in dorms with hall bathrooms should especially take advantage of this opportunity, for, in the cramped living space of most first-year housing, they are particularly susceptible to germs.

We not only take care of ourselves when we get a flu shot, but we help to protect others, as well. The fewer flu carriers in our daily contact, the less likely we are to get sick.

Take advantage of what your health center has to offer, and take care of yourself and your classmates; get a flu shot while they're still available.

### 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.

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. The Gamecock is supported in part by student activities fees.

**ADDRESS**  
The Gamecock  
1400 Greene Street  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Offices on third floor of the Russell House.

**STUDENT MEDIA** Area code 803  
Advertising 777-3888  
Classified 777-1184  
Fax 777-6482  
Office 777-3888

**GAMECOCK** Area code 803  
Editor gcked@sc.edu 777-3914  
News gcknews@sc.edu 777-7726  
Viewpoints gckviews@sc.edu 777-7181  
Etc. gcketc@sc.edu 777-3913  
Sports gcksports@sc.edu 777-7182  
Online www.gamecock.sc.edu 777-2833

**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.

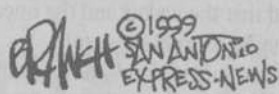
**THE GAMECOCK**  
Sara Ladenheim  
Editor in Chief  
Kenley Young  
Managing Editor  
Emily Streyer  
Viewpoints Editor  
Kevin Langston  
Brock Vergakis  
News Editors  
Clayton Kale  
Associate News Editor  
Rachel Helwig  
E/Cetera Editor  
Todd Money  
Jared Kelowitz  
Sports Editor  
Kristin Freestate  
Copy Desk Chief  
Sean Rayford  
Photo Editor  
Rob Lindsey  
Encore Editor

**STUDENT MEDIA**  
Ellen Parsons  
Director of Student Media  
Susan King  
Creative Director  
Kris Black  
Julia Burnett  
Betsy Martin  
Kathy Van Nostrand  
Creative Services

Will Gillaspay  
Online Editor  
Corey Ford  
Asst. Viewpoints Editor  
John Huieit  
Ann Marie Miani  
Asst. E/Cetera Editor  
David Cloninger  
Asst. Sports Editor  
Greg Farley  
Asst. Photo Editor  
Casey Williams  
Asst. Online Editor  
Brad Walters  
Graphics Editor,  
Copy Editor,  
Editorial Contributor  
MacKenzie Craven  
Charlie Wallace  
Phillip Burt  
Senior Writers

Lee Phipps  
Advertising Manager  
Sherry Holmes  
Classified Manager  
Carolyn Griffin  
Business Manager  
Erik Collins  
Faculty Adviser  
Jonathan Dunagin  
Graduate Assistant

### COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE



### NATIONAL ISSUES

## Rejection of gays un-Christian

Gay Christians were dealt some harsh blows this summer. I've felt as if I haven't been able to think all semester, so I didn't deal with this topic in a timely fashion. But now that video poker is on the back burner, it's time to talk about another issue that demands attention.



**Kiki McCormick** is a psychology and religious studies senior. She can be reached at kikiw@sc.edu

Incidents this summer involved Methodists, Catholics, Baptists and Presbyterians, which means the vast majority of Christian churches in America are grappling with the subject of homosexuality.

United Methodists have been arguing over same-sex marriage. Since 1996, Methodists have had a rule stating: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers, and shall not be conducted in our churches." A number of dissenting ministers have performed ceremonies for gay couples. Some have been suspended by the ecclesiastical court, or suffered other discipline measures. The number of parishioners and ministers on both sides of this issue — in January, a whopping 68 ministers jointly blessed a lesbian union in front of an approving audience of more than 1,000 — suggests it won't be resolved soon.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) voted this summer not to allow non-celibate gays and lesbians to be ordained. More specifically, it opted to keep a constitutional clause that says ministers of any orientation must be either married or celibate. As homosexuals are not allowed to marry, they are left with no option of having even the meaningful, monogamous relationships that heterosexuals enjoy if they want to share their faith as ministers.

The Catholic Church also forbids gay marriage, as well as any sex outside of marriage. This summer, the Vatican even ordered two well-known gay-rights activists, a priest and a nun, to cease ministering to homosexuals. They were known for advocating compassion toward gays and encouraging them to stay in the Church. According to the Vatican, the two were giving gays the impression that the Church may soften its attitude toward homosexual activity; the Vatican insists it will continue to consider homosexuality an "inherently disordered" condition.

As usual, Southern Baptists take the most extreme position. They actually chided President Clinton for establishing June Gay and Lesbian pride month and for making a gay man ambassador to Luxembourg. Ostensibly, they felt the need to do this because it places people of their faith "in the untenable position of either denying a presidential proclamation or rejecting their own deeply-held religious convictions." As if they would otherwise look to Bill Clinton for spiritual or moral guidance.

Why do churches feel the need to discriminate against gays in these ways? The only logical answer is that such attitudes reflect a tradition that insists gays choose to have sex with members of their own sex against their natural tendencies, and that this is somehow evil. This could be the only reason — aside from old-fashioned prejudices — as the Biblical arguments for their position are weak.

Sure, in the old days of Sodom and Gomorrah, God vented wrath at practitioners of gay sex. But Christians' concept of God is formed by more than the Old Testament. Rather, Christianity holds that there is a new, more accurate revelation of God with Jesus. Therefore, those who call themselves Christians should look to what the New Testament says on the subject.

Unfortunately, Jesus never directly addresses homosexuality. The New Testament only mentions it in three Pauline passages, which cannot be relied upon to accurately report Jesus' sentiments.

But assuming you trust Paul, we'll deal with him anyway. One of the passages simply refers to God's Old Testament actions.

The others have more complex problems.

One translation of 1 Corinthians 6:9 says that even the "effeminate" are doomed if they don't change themselves. This may lead some to believe that basic innate qualities can be changed at will; hence, programs to "convert" gays. Another translation of the same verse uses "male prostitute" and "sodomites" in the place of "effeminate." These address controllable behaviors, not innate qualities. People who read this may agree that gay people cannot be made straight, but that to avoid sin, they must remain celibate; after all, they aren't allowed to marry.

But as those who aren't hopeless literalists can conceive of differing, progressing revelations of God, they must consider the "revelations" of a sort that have occurred since Paul wrote.

Jeffrey S. Siker, in an essay in "Biblical Ethics & Homosexuality," edited by Robert L. Brawley, gives us two important ideas to consider about Paul's attitude. First, in first-century Palestine, it was assumed that sexual preference was a choice rather than a natural inclination. Second, there was a fear that if men had sex with other men, humans would become extinct (there was a belief that gay sex could make men sterile).

Now, we know differently. People are gay because — if you'll forgive the simplification — "God made them that way." We also know we're in no danger of extinction. So the reasons upon which Paul's argument was built are gone. It is time for Christians to view gays and lesbians as equal members of the church and society.

They should enjoy the same rights, such as the right to marry, that straight people have. Ironically, the best argument for that comes from 1 Corinthians 7:18: "Flee fornication." If sex outside of marriage is fornication, allow gays to "flee" it by recognizing their unions.

Gays should also, among other things, have the same opportunities to share their gifts, in ministerial capacity and otherwise. Then, Christians will be getting closer to what it really means to be Christian: to love their neighbors, no matter how much they disagree with them.

### LETTERS

#### Treasurer Fordham a worthy student leader

To the Editor:  
Upon reading a headline in a recent issue of *The Gamecock* ["Treasurer might be impeached," Oct. 15], I had to take a second look... How could such a dedicated student servant as Elizabeth Anne Fordham face impeachment in the student senate of USC? It would seem that certain members of Student Government have decided that class-related conflicts are no excuse for missing the occasional finance committee meeting, and Ms. Fordham is paying the price of this odd committee decision to place an extracurricular activity above academics. The distinguished student body treasurer has made every effort to work out a compromise with the finance committee, yet the chairwoman of the committee has failed to move an inch on the meeting time issue. The senate finance committee should realize that Student Government is about compromise, not petty self-aggrandizing, and those who fail to work toward compromise fail the students whom they supposedly serve. Maybe, just maybe, impeachment proceedings are moving against the wrong finance officer.

Adam L. Bourne  
Political Science Sophomore

#### SG treasurer neglects duty to student body

To the Editor:  
I just finished reading the article in Friday's issue of *The Gamecock* about articles of impeachment being brought against Ms. Elizabeth Fordham. It seems perfectly clear that Ms. Fordham places her own interests above those of the Student Government and the student body it represents. According to Ms. Fordham, she has been unable to attend meetings due to a class conflict. She defends herself by saying as a senior undergraduate, she is trying to graduate and the class is necessary for her to do so.

Ms. Fordham should have thought of that before she ran for student body treasurer. Of course, as with all of us, our undergraduate or graduate studies do come first. Our GPAs are an integral part of getting accepted into higher levels of education or higher-paying jobs. But when it comes down to it, good GPAs alone do not look as good with a few extracurricular activities on the side.

It is blatantly and disappointingly apparent that Ms. Fordham ran for student body treasurer to improve her resume, unfortunately, at the expense of the Student Government. Ms. Fordham has been un-

able to properly execute her constitutionally established duties because of a class conflict. Also, she has not kept her assigned 10 office hours per week. That is inexcusable. She has also not attended any treasurer's workshops in their entirety, she has not taken part in the fall budget process prior to Oct. 6, and does not even complete daily tasks consistently such as returned phone calls, work with students or work with the senate finance committee. Those last three things are the three articles Ms. Ladenheim does not report in her well-written article on Friday.

It is unfortunate that students would involve themselves in student organizations such as Student Government for resumes and not for what they are intended for. As a finance student, I am deeply concerned with financial practices, and one thing I have learned at this school is that financial mismanagement is a bad thing. Ms. Fordham should be impeached so that Student Government can find a qualified treasurer (Tim Clardy) and Ms. Fordham can focus on her studies.

Michael A. Iglesias  
Finance Senior

### CAMPUS ISSUES

## Lottery vote faces long fight

Under the current circumstances, last week's South Carolina Supreme Court decision outlawing video poker enhances the quality of life for all the state's citizens. Better known as one of the most addictive forms of gambling, video poker seduces underprivileged, undereducated individuals — those people already in a dire financial situation — to haplessly waste mainly piecemeal income. However salutary this victory might seem, the underlying consequences could result in the lottery's defeat in the 2000 general election.



**Corey Ford** is a sophomore political science major. He writes every Wednesday. His e-mail is prescel@yahoo.com

Accompanying the anti-gambling sentiment in South Carolina was the rejection of a lottery by Alabama voters last week. The statewide referendum, which would have all but created a lottery, was inflicted a devastating loss with 54 percent of the voters against the measure. Gov. Don Siegelman, a Democrat who — like our own Gov. Jim Hodges — won the '98 general election primarily due to his persistent push for a lottery, suffered a demoralizing defeat at the hands of gambling opponents; of the 56 counties Siegelman won in the general election, only 19 supported the lottery.

The lottery's defeat in Alabama, while seemingly irrelevant to our state, will affect the outcome of our own lottery vote in 2000. The game of politics comparably resembles a football or basketball game in that momentum plays a significant role in the final outcome. This re-genesis of the anti-gambling attitude marks a direct shift from the near-embracing of pro-lottery candidates across the South in many gubernatorial elections from last fall. And if opponents build upon the already sturdy coalition — religious conservatives and even social liberals — the Palmetto lottery might be doomed before its time to flourish arrives.

Evangelical churches, an integral factor in defeat of the lottery in Alabama and the imminent video poker loss, once again showed off remarkable solidarity in the Bible Belt. Despite the current disdain, Hodges can learn from Siegelman's legislative loss in Alabama. Hodges and his pro-lottery forces must counter the strong turnout of conservatives with a nullifying turnout from those voters turned off by their intolerant rhetoric. This task will be easier than in Alabama because, thankfully, South Carolina's referendum will occur during a presidential election year — usually a year in which more Democrats turn out to vote.

Politics, however, can get downright complicated. A large majority of South Carolinian voters oppose video poker, while the voters mainly favor a lottery. Go figure, right? Critical to the outcome of the vote, a distinction between video gambling and a lottery has to be drawn in order for Hodges to win. Hodges must explain to the electorate that video poker — more of a temptation to potential players — aggravates the state more by abusing low-income individuals. Instead of alleviating people out of poverty with "monstrous" jackpots, the games only pushed the players deeper into the hole. But a lottery, Hodges must argue, might possibly provide a financial base for increased scholarships and general educational reform, which certainly aids in the fight to uplift the poor.

Hodges is no ignorant politician; he knows he has to defend his cause against the fund-raising and morality plea from the religious conservatives. Put simply, the first-term governor possesses the imperative task of building the same coalition that swung him into the Governor's Mansion in November. Two key factors will determine the fate of the lottery. Will the 20 percent of Republicans who abandoned David Beasley vote for the lottery? And will the enormous, 25 percent turnout from African Americans occur again?

The debate revolving around a state-run lottery for education signifies the magnitude of the issue. In a state that consistently ranks embarrassingly low in any education category, a lottery that funds educational programs could improve the psychological mindsets of South Carolinian parents and citizens. And with the momentum forged by a lottery, who knows, maybe South Carolina will jump in the standings, thus shocking the nation.