



'The flag wasn't put up [on the Statehouse] by the Confederates. It was put up by a bunch of rednecks ... who think they own this state.' **Laurie Weston**, Confederate flag opponent

### The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

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## Bush dodges lottery, flag issues in debate

Many South Carolinians looked forward to the Republican presidential candidates' debate held Friday night in Columbia as a means of differentiating the candidates before the state's primary Feb. 19.

We were disappointed in the low proportion of straight answers relative to the number of questions asked. The slickest of the six candidates was Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who slithered out of answering two questions on subjects close to home: the Confederate flag and the state lottery. When asked his opinion on issues, both times Bush said that South Carolinians were capable of figuring out what to do and that he would not presume to involve himself, as a candidate for national office, in the affairs of one state.

Politically, this was a wise move; as Southerners, we do not want to be told by outsiders how to conduct our business. As a matter of character; however, Bush's answer is disappointing. His answer was designed not to edify the voters on his position regarding race relations but to win the South Carolina primary. Were Bush actually to take a stand on some issue, he might lose a vote. He apparently intends to win his elections on the platform of charisma rather than on opinions. We do not want another president incapable of answering simple questions.

Perhaps it's not important what outsiders think of us (try to convince the hotel and convention center owners of this notion), but it is important to know what a potential president thinks on a rather hot subject for race relations right now.

We propose a New Year's resolution for Bush and any other fence-sitting candidates who place votes over convictions: Have enough respect for the citizens whose support you seek to state your positions clearly and unambiguously. If all candidates are forthright with their ideas, we might be able to make an informed decision come November.

## Keeping Coliseum is much too costly

USC's Board of Trustees say they want to keep the Carolina Coliseum standing when the school's new 19,000-seat arena opens in 2002. Despite the fact that it would cost millions of dollars to bring the coliseum up to city codes and several hundred thousands of dollars a year for utilities, trustees want to save the building, if possible.

Trustees point out that the Carolina Coliseum could still be used, even after the new arena is built, for smaller concerts and for office and classroom space. But every academic unit currently inside the coliseum has already made plans to move out, and there are other venues in Columbia such as the Township Auditorium and the Koger Center that can support smaller concerts.

The basketball court in the Carolina Coliseum is named for former coach Frank McGuire, and many fans and trustees alike view the building as a monument to him. But Athletics Director Mike McGee has already said that the former coach would be suitably honored in the new building if the coliseum was razed.

The bottom line is that the cost of keeping the Coliseum after the new arena is built is simply too high. A city Columbia's size doesn't need two arenas, particularly when they're right next door to each other. We think the space where the Coliseum stands would be much better suited for something more practical, like parking.

#### 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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#### NATIONAL ISSUES

## Bush untested on serious issues

With the New Year already reached, the climate in presidential politics will begin to heat up. The nomination process commences in late January with the Iowa caucuses and the initial primaries in New Hampshire, Arizona, and South Carolina.



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For political pundits and party regulars, this process is the critical debate to which direction the party - Democrat or Republican - wants to take in the general election.

Despite the insurgent, underdog campaigns of Sen. John McCain and former Sen. Bill Bradley, Gov. George W. Bush and Vice-President Al Gore hold sizable leads in national polls. In each race, the candidates are in a statistical dead heat in New Hampshire - the first primary in the nation. After this primary, Bradley hopes to overtake Gore in New York and California in order to secure the Democratic nomination. On the other hand, McCain - who holds a lead in his home state

of Arizona - has to win the South Carolina primary on Feb. 19. Bush, however, designated our state, the first in the South, as his "firewall" because of his huge lead here (53%-21%) and his support from the Republican establishment.

Other polls have placed the four candidates in hypothetical match ups for the general election with the Republicans winning each race except with the Bradley-McCain match up. A large number of journalists believe that Bush with his huge advantage in fundraising will be the next president.

Two important factors exist in presidential general elections: personality of the candidates and their control and portrayal of the issues. President Clinton had both the personality and control of the issues - especially economic issues - in his campaign to knock off President Bush in 1992. Now President Bush's son is beginning to mirror his father's '92 foe with his personable, retail campaigning skills. Bush's ability to remember names and shake hands resembles the man who now resides in the White House.

Yet, despite all his positive personality traits with the primary voters and his name recognition, Bush certainly lacks the depth of understanding on the issues that Clinton has had throughout his career.

And, even with his lead in all hypothetical polls for the general election, his stance (or lack of) on the issues could hurt him come this fall.

When polled, moderate or independent voters (the large chunk of the vote), believe the most critical issues facing America in this new century are not the issues Bush has been yelping about in Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina.

To the average middle class voter, health care reform, the preservation of Medicare and Social Security, maintaining the economy and education are the issues that have the largest impact on the nation. Both Gore and Bradley always discuss these issues in debates; Republicans, in contrast, have only harped on their stale traditional issues: tax cuts and morality.

Gov. Bush proclaims he has a remarkable record on education in his state of Texas. What the governor does not proclaim is that the Texas governorship is the weakest in the nation; in Texas, the legislature owns the power, so most of the credit lies with legislative branch instead of the governor.

And while Bush undoubtedly is the front runner to win in November, the Democrats' control of the issues could be the difference in the election.

With Bush not having a serious test yet concerning these issues, it could be enough for Gore or hopefully Bradley to upset this governor who seems more preoccupied with salvaging his family name instead of helping the lives of middle class Americans.

#### SOCIAL ISSUES

## Choosing survivors tests values

My daughter pulled out a bunch of my old school papers yesterday and proceeded to scribble on them (blast that cousin who gave her an art set for Christmas). In the process of assessing the damage, I came across an old problem I got from a high school psychology teacher. I had written my answers on it and tallies of the students' answers. I find that I now disagree with my former self a little. Anyway, I thought my readers might find it interesting. Answer the problem yourself, and you might find yourself challenging your own values. Give it to friends, and you might open up little windows into their heads as well.



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The Fall-out Shelter Problem:  
You work for a department in Washington, D.C. that is in charge of experimental stations in the far outposts of civilization. Suddenly the Third World War breaks out and bombs begin dropping. Places all across the globe are being destroyed. People are heading for whatever fall-out shelters are available. You receive a desperate call from one of your experimental stations, asking for help.

It seems there are 20 people but there is only enough space, air, food and water in their fall-out shelter for 10 people for a period of three months - which is how long they estimate they can safely stay down there. They realize that if they have to decide among themselves which 10 people should go to the shelter, they are likely to become irrational and being fighting. So they have decided to call your department, their superiors, and leave the decision to you. They will abide by your decision.

But you need to quickly head down to your own fall-out shelter. So, all you have time for is to get a superficial description of the twenty people. You have a half-hour to make your decision. Then you will have to go to your own shelter.

You now have to decide which 10 of the 20 will have to be eliminated from the shelter. Before you begin, I want to impress upon you two important considerations. It is entirely possible that the 10 people you choose to stay in the shelter might be the only 10 people left to start the human race over again. Try to make the best choice possible. On the other hand, if you do not make the choice in a half-hour, then you are in fact choosing to let the 20 people fight it out among themselves, with the possibility that more than ten might perish. You have exactly one half-hour. Descriptions of the 20 people follow:

- 1) a college physical education professor, male, 37 years old;
- 2) a female college student, majoring in nursing, 19;
- 3) a male farmer, 42;
- 4) a Hollywood starlette, 33;

- 5) a male Olympic athlete, unable to father children, 21;
- 6) a female physician, unable to have children, 36;
- 7) a famous male historian, 63;
- 8) a policeman with a gun (they cannot be separated), 35;
- 9) a female chemist, 47;
- 10) a high school student, male, 15;
- 11) a female junior high student, 13;
- 12) a minister, 50;
- 13) a retired female teacher, 67;
- 14) a law student, 25;
- 15) the law student's pregnant wife, 23 (they refuse to separate);
- 16) a male millionaire, 64;
- 17) a female secretary, 26;
- 18) a female high school teacher, 30;
- 19) a male carpenter, 29;
- 20) a female journalist, 23.

I suppose I'll divulge my choices; the people I would allow to enter the shelter are #2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20. I could explain forever, but space is limited, so I'll just say that I tried to choose based on who was most likely to produce the most offspring. The female doctor is an obvious exception; I figured it would do no good to populate the planet without someone who knows how to keep them alive.

It was hard, because I couldn't choose some of the people who bring valuable things to the table. Without the minister, for instance, we may lose a spiritual element -- but he or she would be less able to produce offspring to enjoy their knowledge. I hated to cut out the historian; I just hoped books survive the war. Anyway, enjoy the exercise.

#### SOCIAL ISSUES

## Sexism on the job must stop

This was a letter I found in the dead hand of a good friend. He was beaten to death by a mob of angry women. I am publishing it here so that we may all learn from this tragedy.



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Outside my house are a crowd of about 46 women... at least it was 46 the last I checked. When I got home there were only 12! They're armed - mostly stones and slings made from bras. They're getting brazen and it's only a matter of time before they stop pelting the house and come in here to get me.

It all started with paying my taxes. This isn't a fiscal matter, but one of sexism in our society. You see, behind the counter where I gave the check was a very attractive woman. She couldn't have been older than 22.

This was a shock. I had never seen never saw such a person working as a civil servant. I wanted to ask her why she was working there, but the check - statement - stamp - here's - your statement - go atmosphere kept me from doing so.

After this I went to the supermarket. In the condiments aisle, across from the deli counter, I met Mr. McGrady. As a former paratrooper and veteran of all WWII campaigns in the European theater from D-day onwards, he has a lot of interesting stories to tell. This time, however, he told of something that happened to him that day.

He, too, had given his taxes to the woman I had. This story turned into a dialogue, but it only lasted about a minute. Mr. McGrady was hit in the side of the head with a hard salami hurled at him from the burly lady behind the deli counter. People, all women and old men, gathered to see what it was all about. There was whispering amongst the women and shaking heads from the elderly men. I did not know what was being said, for I was helping Mr. McGrady back to his feet after taking that blow from the deli lady's hard salami.

Then they turned on us. Grabbing anything they could, they rushed us with a fury that women who are tired of having to prove they are just as good as men can possess. Being 75 and stunned by the hard salami, Mr. McGrady quickly fell to the mob. I, however, was able to climb to the top shelf and jump over the 10 or so women and make it to the exit and to my car. But I wasn't safe yet.

Led by the burly deli lady, they packed themselves into a pick-up truck and followed me home. The deli lady drove and my second grade teacher (now retired) used the truck's CB to call for reinforcements.

I ran into my house and went for the phone. I wanted to call the police... maybe even get in touch with the dispatcher. I could've told her to send over the boys in blue to save the day. This didn't happen, though, for the deli lady had already cut my phone line and had about 20 women laying siege to the house. I was going to call out the window to my next door neighbor, who is the principal of the elementary school, but it was noon, and he was at work.

I thought the situation would be handled when everyone on the street came home from work, but with the rate that they were gaining in numbers, the street would be covered with irate women seeking my blood by one o'clock.

Maybe I could sort this out. I've learned my lesson. I understand that the way sexism affects the jobs people get in our country is usually wrong. I also realize and object to using sex appeal to secure a better job. An attractive person, man or woman, doesn't have more of a right to most jobs than a less attractive but equally capable person does. I wish I could go out there and tell them that I'm sorry and that I've changed, but they're too blood-thirsty! The only reason why they haven't gotten a real weapon yet is that they're afraid that they'll miss the lynching.

I make this plea to my fellow citizens: stop these senseless sexist practices and try to change the way you think. Do it now while it will only cost us an old man and a hapless college boy! Do it before it's too late!