



'I have a Contract for Carolina and I'm just asking all the students to sign on.'

Jotaka Eaddy, student government presidential candidate

The Gamecock

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Voters should examine SG platforms closely

Candidates running for executive Student Government offices have made their campaign speeches and promises, but many of them are full of holes.

Presidential candidate Mark Hartney has great visions of improving parking if he's elected president. However, no SG president has the power or the means to improve parking on campus. No matter how many committees are formed, or studies are done, SG can't improve parking. Hartney also has USC joining the Association of American Universities as part of his platform. Once again, SG cannot do anything to meet this goal. Admission into the AAU is based on graduate school research, not SG activity. Another part of his platform is extending the drop/add date, something the administration will never go for.

Another candidate running on extending the drop/add date is Katie Taylor. While her slogan is "Realistic Change," expecting the add date to be extended is completely unrealistic. Taylor also wants to start a safety task force. SG already has a safety committee, and nothing she can do will make it any-more useful. The only thing she can accomplish by creating another committee is wasting time and money that can be better spent elsewhere.

Presidential hopeful Mike Scott has no platform because he's waiting on students to tell him what they want. If Scott has no ideas of his own to make USC better, he can't possibly implement them. We all know how apathetic this campus is, and if he expects students to tell him what they want, then nothing will ever be accomplished. A president must demonstrate leadership capabilities, not passive listening skills.

While presidential candidate Jotaka Eaddy has a "Contract for Carolina," one of her four points might be difficult to get signed by campus officials. Eaddy wants the Shuttlecock's hours extended to pick up students who have night classes. This will be a difficult task to accomplish, but one that is feasible. Eaddy must overcome some of the same hurdles that have made the Safe Ride program impractical, including liability, cost and staffing concerns.

Four students are running in this year's vice presidential race — sophomores Dan Dixon, Corey Ford, Tom Winslow and graduate student Elliot Smith. The candidates have announced platforms focusing on campus safety and student activism. But the main requirement for the job is to successfully run student senate. The student body vice president has influence in the grand scheme of things, but he can't accomplish anything without the consent from the student body president. The most qualified candidate to run senate is the most qualified candidate to be the next vice president.

Ricky Shah and Tony Holcak, both current senators, are running for the office of student body treasurer. According to the SG Constitution the treasurer's job is to "record all receipts, expenditures, and appropriations of monies from Student Government," and to serve as a nonvoting member of the senate Finance Committee. Treasurers have little to no control over the appropriation of student activity fees and only a slight influence on how much money is appropriated to student organizations.

And finally, executive candidates, let's try to get through at least one year without an impeachment scandal. If it wasn't former president Jamel Franklin trying to fire the Elections Commission in the spring of '98, it was ex-treasurer Susanne Newman breaking into a towing lot to free her car in the fall of the same year. 1999 proved to be no exception, either, as current treasurer Elizabeth Fordham flirted with impeachment for failing to keep a paltry requirement of 10 office hours per week.

Their mistakes (misuse of power, ignorance of SG regulations, disrespect for the law, mismanagement of time) were simple offenses that could have been avoided with more discretion and foresight. As interesting as these proceedings are for us to cover, they bog down normal SG activity, which already crawls along at a painfully slow pace.

Learn from your predecessors so that this university won't have to suffer from the same old mistakes.

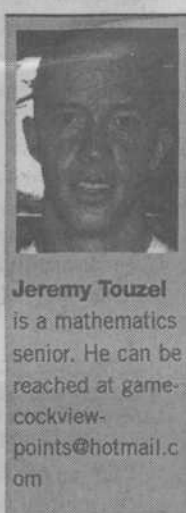
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NATIONAL ISSUES

MTV favors Satan in 2000

The following transcript is the second installment of a quasi-fictional account of what might happen if Satan and Jesus both ran for the presidency of the United States of America:



Jeremy Touzel is a mathematics senior. He can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

DALY: What's up, everyone?

I'm Carson Daly, and I'd like to welcome you to MTV's "Choose or Lose 2000." We're here in Times Square with Satan and Jesus, and we're going to let members of our studio audience ask the candidates some questions. Let's get started.

GIRL 1: Hello, my name is Pamela Smith and, like, omigod, I love 'N Sync — Whooooo!

DALY: That's great. Do you have a question for either of the candidates?

GIRL 1: Um, whatever. I just think JC should run for president — he's so cute! I LOVE YOU, JC!!!!

DALY: Me, too. [Pause] Did I say that out loud? Damn. Next question.

BOY 1: Everybody knows you're a fruit, Carson. Anyway, my name is Michael Foley and I wanna know how the candidates feel about abortion.

JESUS: That is a wonderful question, Michael. I don't know if you've ever heard of this book I wrote, the Bible, but

in the book, I mention quite a few times that thou shalt not kill, so I'm going to break party lines and side with the Republicans on this issue.

SATAN: I would like to clarify something, Carson. Everybody knows that Jesus did not author the Bible, so I think he needs to stop claiming that. Sure, it's the "word of God," but it's from the "pen of Man." For starters, look at the Old Testament. Embellishment, one of my greatest creations, was instrumental in what we now know as the Old Testament. Plus, people like my version of the Old Testament better than Jesus' dad's version. And the New Testament? I mean, come on, Jesus. My right-hand man, Paul, was a big part of that. By the way, I'd like to thank Paul for those revisions we talked about [winks at camera].

DALY: OK, next question.
BOY 2: My name is Mark Calloway, and I'd like the candidates to tell me their opinions about physician-assisted suicide.

SATAN: Well, Kevorkian has really been bringing in a lot of people recently, so I don't see any reason to stop it.

JESUS: I'm going to have to agree with Satan on this one. I think people should be able to choose how they die. I mean, I chose to die on the cross.

SATAN: Good point, Jesus.

JESUS: Thanks, Satan.
GIRL 2: Hello, my name is Emily Ruiz, and want to know what Jesus thinks about the "Sensation" exhibit.

JESUS: Actually, I've been to the exhibit quite a few times — it's really amazing. I went home last weekend and asked Mom how she felt about the painting, and she said she was quite pleased with the way it turned out. I think it's beautiful.

DALY: That's great. Now I have a question for you Jesus. There's no way you're going to get elected unless you pick up more votes in the Southern states. How do you, as an African-American, intend to do that?

JESUS: Well, I think my biggest obstacle in the South is convincing voters to vote for a Jewish candidate. I don't think being black has anything to do with it. I think Southerners would vote for an African-American.

[Crowd erupts in unmitigated laughter]

JESUS: What are you guys laughing at?

[Laughter continues for a few minutes before dying down somewhat]

SATAN: It's obvious you haven't been there in the past 50 years.

JESUS: You mean some people wouldn't vote for me just because I'm black? But I'm Jesus!!

DALY: [still laughing] Sorry, Jesus, I don't think it matters. OK, we have time for one more question.

GIRL 3: My name is Laretta Sypolt, and I wanna know the candidates' favorite bands.

SATAN: Well, they sold their souls to me, so right now I'm going to have to go with the Backstreet Boys.

JESUS: Personally, I think it's hard to choose between Michael Bolton and Boyz 2 Men.

CROWD: Boooooo!!!!

JESUS: C'mon, give me a break.

CROWD: Boooooo!!!!

JESUS: [starts singing "End of the Road"] Although we've come [starts dancing] to the end of the road ...

STATE ISSUES

Flag not a symbol of hatred

The Confederate battle flag is a symbol of southern heritage. It is what separates the North from the South. The flag is not a symbol of hate and slavery, but a symbol of Southern hospitality, sweet tea, and good country home cooking.



Desmond Jenkins is a journalism sophomore. He can be reached at gamecockviewpoints@hotmail.com

That's one view I've heard on the subject. Another is that the flag is a symbol of how far behind South Carolina is from the rest of the country, and how much hate and racism still exists in our state heading into the 21st century.

These are two very strong opinions and I'm sure their supporters can debate on the subject all night, but over the past couple of months, I've formed my own opinion over the whole flag issue.

If the flag offends the majority of the population in South Carolina both black and white, why should it still be on top of the Statehouse dome for everyone to see? Shouldn't it be removed if the majority wants it down, since we live in a majority-rules type of society?

Outsiders visit our state and think South Carolina is a redneck, racist state, and that is far from the truth.

We have some of the nicest and friendliest people you will ever meet, but the Confederate flag gives South Carolina a bad name. How many more millions of dollars will the state have to lose from the NAACP boycott before the flag comes down? If South Carolina is ever going to catch up with the rest of the country, the flag has to come down.

I know the supporters of the flag view it as history, and that is exactly why it belongs in The South Carolina State Museum on Gervais Street. The proposal of putting the flag on the Statehouse grounds is not acceptable, because people can still see it. It doesn't belong in a place where everyone can see it.

The flag is a cruel reminder of the Civil War and how more people were killed in the Civil War than any other war (except Vietnam) in American history. And why was the Civil War fought?

Bottom line, it was fought over slavery and anyone with half a brain knows that slavery was wrong and immoral. So if the flag symbolizes all these things, why does it still fly in the wind?

If flag supporters would just admit to believing in the institution of slavery, and that is what the flag symbolizes when you break everything down, maybe this whole issue could die down.

LETTERS

Business school still financially competent

I read with interest and concern your editorial about the business school in the Feb. 4 issue of *The Gamecock*.

I am puzzled by your conclusion that "The financial debacle ... has scared away prospective students and donors." Consider these counterpoints: Undergraduate enrollment in business increased about 10 percent from 1998 to 1999.

Graduate enrollment increased about 2 percent from 1994 to 1998, but decreased about 14 percent from 1998 to 1999. Graduate admissions for fall 2000 are up, and 180 prospective master's students were on campus, Feb. 11, at their own expense, for a day-long information session. The Capital Campaign goal of \$55 million for the Darla Moore School of Business has not been reduced, and expectations are that the goal will be met or exceeded.

I am not aware of donors being "scared away." Admittedly, for a variety of reasons, we have a financial problem, and let me assure you that we are addressing the issue.

The School of Business provides excellent programs and top-quality research and scholarship with less funding than most of our competition. Also, the School of Business is unique because a portion of the revenues are self-generated from enrichment fees based on graduate enrollments.

In addition, the rapid growth in undergraduate enrollment has resulted in additional budget pressures. All of us in the business school welcome your interest in reporting both our problems and accomplishments. Accurate assessments of our successes and failures is a healthy endeavor. We all need to improve, but I think we

sometimes dwell on the negative rather than the positive.

Rod Roenfeldt
Interim Dean
Darla Moore School of Business

Columnists sentinels of the truth

I'm a freshman here at USC, and I just wanted to say that I thoroughly enjoy reading Pete Johnson and Brock Vergakis' columns every week.

They are funny, entertaining, sometimes filled with the truth, or just something that makes me want to say, "Ohhh my gosh, he's so right." I think I love the attacks on people just because they either (1.) deserve it (2.) other people should know about them and I guess (3.) a little bit of humor never hurts anyone. Good job guys!!!!

Kendra Boehme
Business Freshman

Keyes supporters renew faith in political system

The recent visit by Ambassador Alan Keyes to the University of South Carolina on Feb. 10 failed to reach the status of newsworthy according to *The State News-*

paper (no mention could even be found in Friday's edition), but don't tell that to Will Grimsley.

A senior at Duke University, Will and his father Paul made the trek from Durham, N.C., arriving early to be assured of appropriate seating.

The fact that Keyes was 15 minutes late hardly fazed this young man who was thrilled to be a part of the capacity crowd. Awestruck by his stirring message of morality, an occasional "Amen" rose from Grimsley's wheelchair as Keyes reached both his climax and concluding remarks.

"I wish people would open their eyes and see that he [Keyes] is the only truly qualified and deserving candidate out there," Will said, as he and his dad made their way back to the van in preparation for their return home.

In recent weeks, Keyes' supporters have multiplied, and he continues to attract loyal followers like Will across the country. It is not simply Keyes, but individuals such as Will, who have given this reader a renewed faith in the political system.

My only wish is that voters who turn out in this primary year will vote for a candidate not because of a promise of a platform, but because their candidate offers them the same inspiration and integrity that guided Will Grimsley to Columbia late one Thursday afternoon.

Norm Jones
International Studies Sophomore

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
Encore! gamecockencore@hotmail.com 777-3913
Sports gcksports@sc.edu 777-7182
Online www.gamecock.sc.edu 777-2833

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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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