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Students discover summer freedom

By **KELLY CAVANAUGH**
FOR THE GAMECOCK

This may be the first time USC students Cecil Buddin and Melissa Norton have been away from home for the summer, but "freedom" is what they both say is the best thing about it.

Last summer, Buddin, a fourth-year public relations student, lived at home in Summerville and worked for the local school district and for his Dad's pest control company.

"I didn't hate them," he said, but "they weren't the greatest jobs."

This summer Buddin is

working at Jake's in Five Points and taking classes to "catch up with switching majors," he said.

"I enjoy it — class wise not so much, but working is not so bad."

Buddin said the best part about living away from home is "not having to hear your parents all the time ... I just have the freedom to do whatever I want, it's pretty much like school. It's the same as the school year, but over the summer," he said.

Melissa Norton, a third-year elementary education student, lives on her own and supports

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PALMETTO BOYS STATE



LAURA-JOYCE GOUGH/THE GAMECOCK

Participants of this year's Palmetto Boys State file off the Blatt P.E. field after an awards ceremony Monday night.



LAURA-JOYCE GOUGH/THE GAMECOCK

Law school adapts after unsafe lead levels

By **TAYLOR SMITH**
STAFF WRITER

Hot water is the beginning of the USC Law Center's problems, as the school comes off a week of providing bottled water after unsafe lead levels were discovered in its drinking fountains.

Faculty ordered the fountains tested in December when students complained of the taste of some units' water. After two rounds of testing, two-dozen fountains were shut down, and faculty asked that new filters be installed on 26 additional fountains.

Although law students have

enjoyed the bottled water, the solution may cost the school up to a \$1,000 a month.

Tom Syfert, director of the USC Environmental Health and Safety Program, told The Associated Press that USC is not new to unusual lead levels with several older buildings on campus that include equally aged plumbing. He said water is imported to 10 buildings around campus because of their age and potential risk to faculty, staff and students.

In adults, overexposure to lead poison can cause brain, kidney and red blood cell damage with more

far-reaching effects in children and pregnant women.

Increased awareness of lead in drinking water created a generation of "lead-free" plumbing in homes built after 1984, but the Environmental Protection Agency warns that even such plumbing can contain as much as 8 percent lead.

Some students wonder if they are at risk.

Adam Bedenbaugh, a fourth-year experimental psychology student, said he feels reasonably safe drinking campus water, but is

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