

# GAMECOCK

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Protest marchers

— Tony Cheung

## Students protest U.S. offensive

By CHUCK KEEFER  
Staff Writer

More than 130 students, some with signs and candles, moved away from the Russell House along the sidewalk and then into the streets in a Student Mobilization Committee sponsored march yesterday.

The candle light march protesting the recent allied incursion into Laos and continued U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia left the Russell House shortly after 6 p.m. and gained in numbers as it moved toward the State Capitol.

More than 200 students were in the procession when it arrived at the Capitol building. There they joined approximately 100 non-student protestors from the Columbia area.

Rita Fellers, president of SMC, told the group the march was a demonstration that many people want U.S. participation in the Southeast Asian conflict to come to an end.

"We want all the troops to come home now," she said. "After 10 years of bitter conflict, it is time to come home."

The protestors then moved into Gervais St. and marched four blocks to the Draft Board. A parade permit had been obtained Wednesday and motor cycle police directed traffic around the marchers.

The attendants of several stores and restaurants took up positions on the sidewalk in front of the entrances and customers shifted their chairs to watch as the protestors moved almost silently down the street.

SMC marshalls moved the protestors off the street and onto the sidewalk and parking lot when they reached the Romer Building which houses the Draft Board.

A coffin that had been carried at the head of the procession was placed on the steps of the building.

Miss Fellers again addressed the group saying simply that the march was to protest U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. She then asked the group to disperse quietly.

By 7 p.m. the march was over and the crowd whad gone. SMC members picked up signs that had been dropped and carried away the coffin.

In an interview after the march, Miss Fellers said that people are gaining confidence in SMC. She said that this march was twice as large as the last one sponsored by SMC.

"SMC is now more representative of how people on campus feel" she said.

SMC will have another meeting soon but no date has been set as yet.

## New grading to stay

Amid parliamentary confusion the Faculty sustained the new grade system enacted by the Faculty Senate last month.

A motion by Robert B. Patterson professor of history, to abolish the new grading plan was defeated by a vote of 113 to 93. The faculty allowed the change to stand by not passing any motion brought on the floor.

The special meeting was held Thursday night in hopes of either modifying the new system or abolishing it altogether.

Under the new system a grade of C or better is required on all course work. A grade of NC is recorded if a student fails to complete the course satisfactorily.

Suspensions are based on a 12 month period. A student must pass half of the hours attempted to remain in school. All suspensions are for the next calendar year.

Effective this summer all GPR's will be recomputed with F's

## Final exams to be held in December

Exams will be held before Christmas next year.

In a unanimous vote the Faculty Senate changed the University calendar effective this coming fall.

Classes will start around Labor Day and the semester will end with the beginning of Christmas break.

Classes for the second semester will begin the first week in January and end in May. Specific dates have not been set.

dropped. Requirements for graduation will be based on the total number of hours earned and grade point ratio will not be a factor.

Opposition to the grade change was based on the argument that it

would create a backlog of students in survey courses causing an overload on the budgets and staffs in these departments. A student will have to repeat a required course until he attains a C level of proficiency.

## Six USC students cleared takeover

Six South Carolina students who were tried and convicted of trespass in the takeover of the Russell House last spring will be acquitted because of a recent state Supreme Court decision which deems the S.C. trespass law applicable only to private property.

But the case is closed forever for the other defendants in the takeover, more than 30, who pleaded guilty or forfeited bond.

These facts were revealed Wednesday in a joint statement issued by State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Chief J.P. Strom and Assistant Attorney General J.C. Coleman, who prosecuted the case.

The officials said they had "no other choice" but to consent to dismissal of charges against the six - Mrs. Barbara Herbert, Paul Foxworth, G.P. Sammon, Paul Gumm, Miss Lynn Zorak and another unidentified defendant because of a Supreme Court decision which says the state trespass law does not apply to

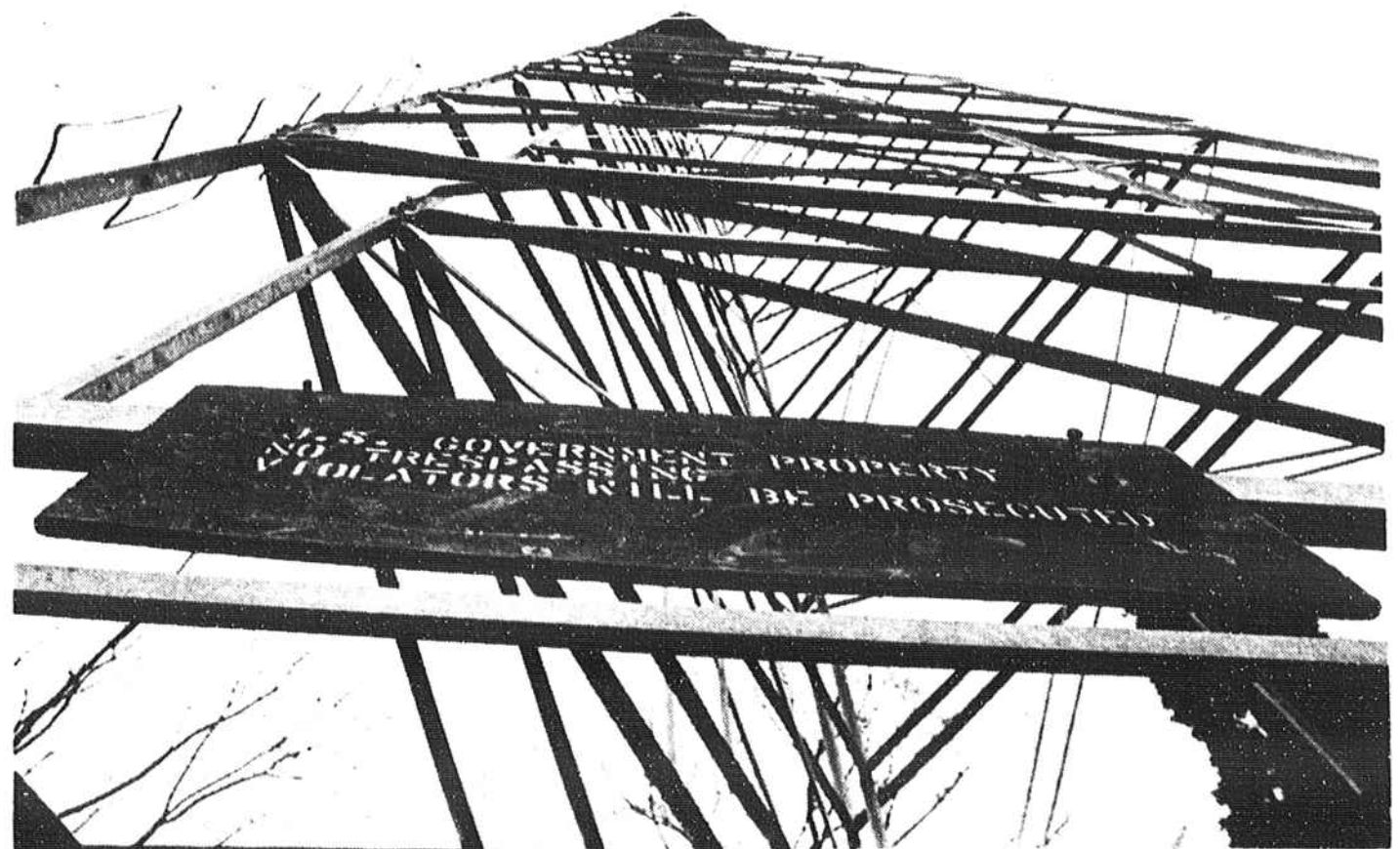
public owned buildings such as the Russell House.

The decision was issued in December in an appeal by demonstrators convicted of trespass at Columbia Metropolitan Airport on May 3, 1969, during a visit by President Nixon. The defendants in that case were also predominately Carolina students.

Coleman said only the six who took their case to trial are eligible for acquittal, because of a longtime ruling that a case is closed forever once a guilty plea is entered and a fine paid.

Strom and Coleman said they plan to discuss with Attorney General Daniel R. McLeod the possibility of legislation assuring that a consenting action such as theirs will not be necessary again.

The move, their statement said, is "due to legal necessity and is not motivated in any degree whatsoever by any feeling that the action of the law enforcement officers in removing the sitters from the Russell House, in the circumstances prevailing, was not necessary and lawful."



Whatsit?

— Parker Renaud