

# Housing Violations

## ...Questions Remain Over Method Of Detection

BY SID GRIFFIN

Two recent housing violations have raised some questions over the method in which they were discovered.

The dispute centers around several female residents of a USC dormitory who were recently found in violation of housing regulations. The students claim their violations of the code were discovered only because their right as students were denied.

One student, reported being caught with a refrigerator, which is punishable by a \$15 fine, claims the refrigerator was totally concealed in a closet which had its doors shut. To open these doors without the student being aware is not USC policy, according to Joseph Barnes of the Housing Department. Barnes also said the

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violation must be within "plain sight" to have any action taken.

Another student had a broiler discovered, which is punishable by a \$25 fine. The student said the broiler was hidden in a closed closet.

The student charges that the discovery was made during a Health and Safety check which was made in the room without any notification. Notification of all Health and Safety Checks is also policy of the Housing Department,

Barnes said, and the announcement to this check was posted on the bulletin board of the dormitory.

Rachael Carr, director of Housing Services for the dorm, agrees with Barnes. Carr said she always abided by the regulations of the Health and Safety check.

Carr admitted to looking under blankets to see if refrigerators are there, but she cites the fact that a

refrigerator under a blanket is so obvious she cannot overlook it.

Carr's procedure is to "warn" the student in writing about the violation first, then make another check in a few days to see if it has been removed."

Eileen Berlin, Student Government Secretary for Student Welfare found there was little to be done other than warning students to keep illegal appliances hidden. "It appears that the student's room is no longer his or her's private domain, as it is apparently open for surveillance by the university," Berlin said.

George Mitchell, head of the Maintenance Department, said it was his department's policy to report any violations they find in student's rooms immediately. But, Mitchell added, no one from

maintenance is ever in a student's room unless the student complains something is not working properly.

Mitchell felt the only other time a maintenance man would be in a room is when following a faulty wire or pipe which entered the room. Mitchell also denied maintenance being involved in the recent reports of housing violations.

Workers for the maintenance department said they have never been asked to search a student's room or told to be on special lookout for housing violations.

Several hall advisors and area managers, all employees of the housing department expressed varying views on the violations. However, none had ever been asked to "raid" a student's room in an effort to find housing violations.

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### Camp Offers Practical Experience

There is a push to involve non-professional mental health workers in roles traditionally held by professional psychologists, according to Gayle Miller, an employee of the S.C. Department of Mental Health.

Along with this has come greater interest in field experiences at an undergraduate level, Miller said. While these needs are far from being met, she added, opportunities have begun to spring up.

Several years ago a therapeutic camp program for "emotionally disturbed" children was begun by the S. C. Department of Mental Health. In addition to serving the children seen at the various community mental health clinics in the state, the program attempted to provide undergraduates an opportunity to sample mental health work with an eye to determining its relevance for

career area, Miller said.

Counselors at this camp, Miller said, complete an intensive one week training program at the camp immediately prior to the arrival of the children. During the seven weeks the children are at the camp, counselors also receive daily supervision from the camp's professional staff.

Counselors are being sought for this coming session. The camp will run from late June through early August. The pay is \$700 plus room and board. Application forms can

be obtained from Gayle Miller, Camp Logan, S. C. Department of Mental Health, 2414 Bull Street, Columbia, S.C. 29202.

### We Were Wrong

In the March 28 issue of The Gamecock in the article entitled "Senate Explodes Over Finances", the article is reference to "Student activity fees allocated to the student government executive branch" was incorrect.

The bill attempted to reduce the percentage of student activity fees allocated to the entire student government. The Gamecock

regrets any misrepresentation of fact.

★ ★ ★ ★

In the March 14 issue of The Gamecock a front page headline stated falsely the student insurance plan had been ordered rewritten.

In fact, the insurance policy pamphlet issued by the company has been ordered rewritten. The policy itself will remain unchanged.

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