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The Gamecock

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My beautiful balloon

Students in fundamental art class 104 blow up their multi-colored, helium balloon Monday on Gibbs Greene. The project, made of milar, is titled "Sky Sculpture."

TIM CURRY/The Gamecock

Students won't get break from fall blues

By BRIAN MURPHY
Staff writer

USC probably won't ever have a fall break, although other major universities have adopted them, the registrar said.

Scheduling conflicts would prevent such a break, said Registrar Thornton Gunter.

Gunter said many schools with fall breaks have less extensive summer activities than USC.

The University of Virginia recently decided to schedule a fall break, joining schools such as Clemson.

These universities must "begin their school

year a week earlier," than USC, said Gunter.

Gunter said Thanksgiving Break leaves little time in the fall semester for an additional vacation.

USC's rigid scheduling results from a university policy requiring a minimum number of academic days. The policy provides for 70 class days, seven exam days and one reading day each semester.

Thanksgiving break exhausts the remaining time in the fall semester, Gunter said. This break was originally scheduled earlier in the fall session, but because of its yearly "floating" across the calendar, Thanksgiving

has moved closer to Christmas vacation.

The apparent solution — to begin fall classes earlier — is impossible because of USC's two summer sessions, which last five weeks, he said. The first session begins after spring commencement and the second ends Aug. 15.

These sessions are scheduled to begin after public schools close for the summer in order to provide for a large number of students and teachers.

The week after summer school ends belongs to the maintenance department for repairs and renovations for the fall semester.

USC foundation will not divest in South Africa

By RONI BEA KAYNE

Spotlight editor

USC's Educational Foundation agreed unanimously Monday to not divest university funds in South Africa.

The foundation, a private corporation that promotes USC interests, decided to buy stock only in those companies doing business in South Africa that agree to a set of prescribed principles.

The Sullivan Principles, established by the Rev. Leon Sullivan of Philadelphia in 1977, promote racial equality in employment practices and improve the living conditions of South Africa's black population.

"We believe it was the right thing to do," said Chris Vlahoplus, executive director of the foundation and executive vice president of USC's administration, referring to the decision as a contributing factor toward ending apartheid, South Africa's racial segregation policy that keeps 25 million voteless blacks under the control of five million whites.

The 27 foundation directors, including USC President James Holderman, approved a "partial" divestment because total divestment of securities from American firms doing business in South Africa would not serve the interests of the people of that nation or the United States.

Vlahoplus said present records show all companies in which the foundation holds stock adhere to the Sullivan Principles.

Therefore, he said, the foundation board saw no reason to divest its securities.

"Some people believe if you get rid of stocks, you will speed the end of apartheid, and others believe you will hurt the people and the economy," Vlahoplus said.

Enforcement of the new decision remains an issue. "Those who have signed the (Sullivan) agreement will be monitored by national investment firms," Vlahoplus said, adding university investment counselors will report their findings to the foundation, meeting quarterly to evaluate their securities.

But Ken Menkhaus, organizer of a newly established student alliance group, said any "U.S. corporations in South Africa are a part of the problem and not the solution."

Menkhaus' group, the Free South Africa Alliance, first brought the divestment issue to the attention of USC's board of trustees and Holderman in the early fall in response to growing racial tension in South Africa.

The alliance mailed a letter to the board in October regarding apartheid and USC's approximately \$2.4 million investment in South Africa.

USC, with the highest percentage of black students of any traditionally white university in the South, has a commitment to speak out against injustice, board of trustees Chairman Othniel Wienges said in response to the student alliance letter.

University asks state to finance asbestos cleanup

By BRIAN NEWTON
Staff writer

USC is seeking \$7.5 million from the state Legislature to begin asbestos removal from eight buildings designated as being large asbestos removal projects.

Future asbestos removal from buildings on USC campuses is in the hands of the Legislature, according to David Rinker, systems vice president for facilities planning.

"If we would have received funding last year, we would have been able this fiscal year to eliminate asbestos in five of the eight large project buildings," Rinker said.

The five buildings to have asbestos removed from them were Columbia Hall and the Williams-Brice nursing building, one building at USC-Aiken and two buildings at USC-Spartanburg.

Although no asbestos is being removed currently, Rinker said USC has already spent about \$112,000 removing asbestos from buildings designated as small removal projects on the Columbia campus. The money used to remove the asbestos from these buildings came from the operating budget.

Rinker said removing asbestos from buildings in the Towers area on the Columbia campus will be the next small asbestos removal project. Work on those buildings began Nov. 8, he said, and will cost about \$13,350.

More asbestos samples are being taken from buildings where asbestos was originally found. This new sample-taking is the second stage of the data collection plan and one of several started when asbestos was discovered in USC buildings.

Rinker said this new sample-taking is being done to identify exactly where the asbestos is located.

"We are taking more samples to find out the full extent of the problem," he said. "The samples will tell us what condition the asbestos is in and will help us in making architectural drawings for asbestos removal."

Bob Betterton, environmental control manager for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, said "There are no (state) regulations requiring removal, but there are regulations concerning asbestos removal if it takes place and the protection of workers doing the asbestos removal."

The national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants, an EPA regulation, require written notification that asbestos has been found before removal begins. It also requires wetting during removal, no visible emission to outside air and proper disposal.

Department doesn't foresee computer fee increase

By BRIAN NEWTON
Staff writer

USC's computer services division will spend nearly \$6.2 million this year to maintain computer systems, but the division's vice president does not foresee an increased computer fee in the future.

"We don't see any increase in the computer fee in the near future," said Rob Roberson, systems vice president for computer services. "We don't want students to pay the fee and not see any changes."

Currently, students are charged either a \$50 maximum computer fee or \$20 per computer-related course.

The computer fee generates more than \$1 million a year, according to Roberson. About

\$500,000 a year is spent on new equipment, while more than \$500,000 is spent on maintenance and software costs.

Roberson said out of the \$6.2 million, about \$1.3 million was appropriated for communication use and the remaining \$4.9 million was appropriated to maintain the department.

Roberson said there will probably not be an increase in the fee because eventually there will be an increase in the number of computer-related courses offered to students.

"Additional courses will result in additional revenue, which will result in more equipment," he said.

The computer services division will soon install about 470 color terminals around campus to

replace about 410 terminals installed December 1983.

Although students may think differently, Roberson said, on the average there is available access to computers on campus because of the addition of about 30 terminals at the department two years ago.

He said the terminals at the department were installed to increase accessibility and allow students who needed one to use a terminal at a time when other terminals on campus were either closed or too crowded.

Fred Goebeler, director of operations for computer services, said the department tries to answer the need for increased accessibility.

"If students don't see more access areas on campus, they may

see growth in the existing areas," he said.

Girish Sajja, a computer engineering major, said access at times is harder than at others.

"It's hard to get a terminal during the day," he said. "You can get a terminal at night. It used to be pretty bad, but the addition of terminals has made it much better."

But Jeff Hipp, manager of The Computer Store, said he hears from students that they can't find terminals not in use. Because of this, he said he has seen a substantial increase in the number of college students buying personal computers.

He said college students are buying personal computers because they are easy to carry around and easy to use.

Inspections clear tanks, fire chief says

By JULIET NADER and PAULA WETHINGTON
Staff writers

USC fire extinguishers, which have been unintentionally neglected in the past, are in the process of being inspected now, said Lawrence Beauford, USC environmental department fire chief.

"We try to do things on timely places," said Beauford. He said vandalism problems are more frequent than other complaints and that sometimes academic buildings get put off because other problems are more important at the time.

Beauford said some fire extinguishers were past due for hydrostatic testing, checking the tanks for water, which is required annually by law.

"The pressure vessel of the tanks are inspected in this procedure," he said. "This test is conducted to protect people who are filling these."

The people recharging the extinguishers could be in danger because if the pressure is low, the tank will blow up.

The hydrostatic test is going on at the present time, said Beauford.

Music major John Cell brought the tardiness in inspecting tanks at McMaster music school to the department's attention when he saw maintenance was overdue on the tank across from his music locker.

According to inspection sticker data, the last time the tank was checked was in 1977.

Also included on the sticker was the fact that fire extinguishers must be checked every six years, which meant that it had been in violation for two years.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Clyde Beard said the oldest date that should be on the fire extinguishers is 1979. "If you find some (older) ones, probably someone has checked it on paper."

In accordance with state fire regulations, each extinguisher should have a monthly visual check and an annual maintenance physical examination.

"The only way this works is if someone who is knowledgeable (about fire ex-

tinguishers) does the inspections," Beard said.

Cell said almost all of the fire extinguishers in McMaster had not been inspected in the six-year required time specification.

After Cell's complaint, officials went through McMaster and they updated the inspection tags.

He noticed two of the low-pressure extinguishers in the halls had no tags at all. Cell said without inspected extinguishers, the wood building would burn easily.

"McMaster was already scheduled to be done. One or two (tanks) couldn't be fixed because classes were in session in that area," said Beauford.

"When (a neglected fire extinguisher) is reported we take care of it immediately. Our very top priority is to get the empty ones filled," Beauford.

Eleven buildings are to be inspected today, including the BA building. He said this will be the most they have ever covered in one day.