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See Features, page 5

Hype doesn't bother Todd Ellis

See Sports, pages 10

Viewpoint.....page 4
Features.....page 6
Comics.....page 9
Sports.....page 10
Classifieds.....page 12

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Monday

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Damaged books face freeze-drying

By LYNN GIBSON
Staff writer

Thomas Cooper Library has put about 1,500 of its books on ice — literally.

The books, water-damaged during a thunderstorm this summer, were shipped Thursday to Cargo-Care Moisture Central Co. in Atlanta to be freeze-dried in an effort to save the books.

C. J. Cambre, the library's director of operations, said freeze-drying is used to avoid problems caused by heat-drying.

"If water-damaged books can't be dried in a short period of time, there will be problems with mold and mildew," Cambre said. "Freezing stabilizes these and quickly dries the books within a carefully regulated range of temperature and humidity."

He said the books will be returned to the library in about 10 or 12 days, and that while some will have to be rebound or replaced, most should be salvageable.

George Terry, associate vice president for libraries and collections, said the July 27 squall, which unleashed two inches of rain in half an hour, appears to have proved too much for the drainage system, causing water to seep into the library's first underground level.

By the time the storm ended, nearly 2,000 science books, mostly physics texts, were soaked.

Terry praised the quick reaction of the library staff and estimated that if all 2,000 books had been beyond repair, the cost would have exceeded \$300,000.

"Many of them worked from ten o'clock that evening to six o'clock the next afternoon," Terry said.

Terry said the total cost of damage

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C. J. Cambre
Director of Operations
Thomas Cooper Library

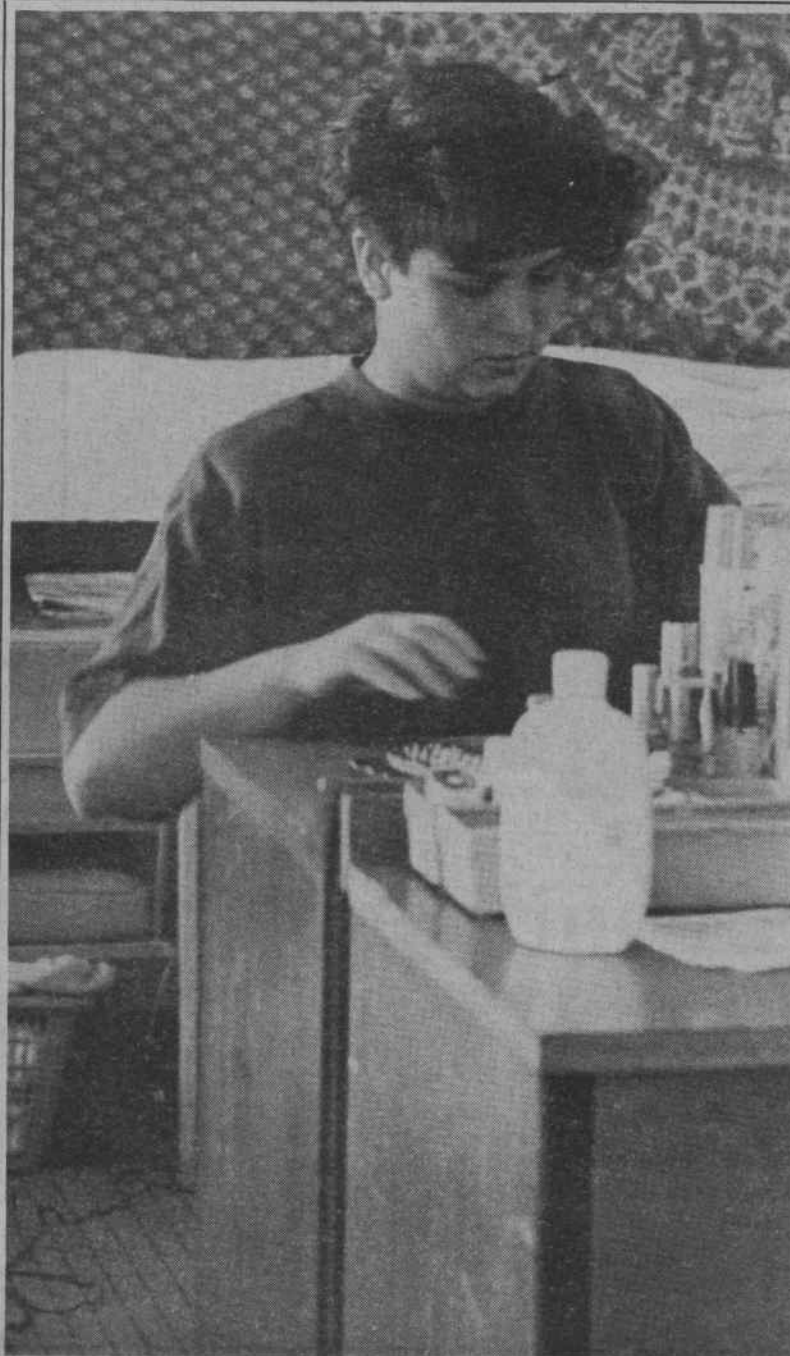
won't be known until the freeze-drying is completed. But he did say Cargo-Care's bid for the freeze-drying project was less than \$10,000, the lowest of three sealed bids received by the university.

Jan Watson, assistant science librarian, said the water fell primarily on the physics materials, but current periodicals and books on biochemistry and microbiology were affected as well.

"Luckily, the reference materials were not affected because of their location on the center of the level," Watson said.

Terry said the damage should cause only a "minor inconvenience" for students because most of the books can be obtained through the interlibrary loan program. "Within a month, it'll be hard to tell that there was ever a problem," he said.

To prevent water damage in the future, the library plans to replace the building's water seal and install an auxiliary drain. Terry said a Disaster Preparedness Committee, which was already being organized when the accident happened, is also working on plans for future emergencies and has compiled a list of volunteers to help save materials if the need arises.



Psychology freshman Renata Thomas is temporarily housed in the fifth-floor study room of Patterson Hall.

Overflow hits USC housing

By KELLY THOMAS
Staff writer

Student housing is literally filled to the rim and overflowing as the 1988-89 school year gets underway at USC.

Students are temporarily being housed in study rooms and in resident advisers' rooms in Patterson Hall and McClintock. In addition, students have been assigned to rooms on the bottom floors of the Towers, which are usually kept vacant for housing students during school holidays.

University Housing Services' director of administration James Smart said despite the large number of residents accepted, "It has been a smooth opening for us."

About the propriety of the temporary assignments he said, "It's certainly not ideal, but then you have to compare it to the alternative, which is no housing."

Students were informed during the summer that they would be in temporary room assignments and were required to sign an agreement before arriving on campus acknowledging that they understood their placement status.

He added that students are receiving room assignments as vacancies arise with priority going to those students living with RAs. Second priority is given to students still on the waiting list and finally to those residing in study rooms.

"The main goal is to get as many people off the waiting list and housed as possible," he said.

He said the acceptance of applicants was not based on the amount of housing available. "We

accepted as many people as possible so we didn't deny people the opportunity of living on campus," he said.

Smart said there were more women applicants than there were men. He said the main reason for this is that — for security reasons — parents are more willing to let their sons accept off-campus housing than they are for their daughters.

He said there are always between 200 and 250 vacancies each spring. "All residents should be in permanent assignments for the spring semester," he said.

Students living in temporary housing situations, however, are not totally displeased with their situation. With the exception of the fact that they do not know from one day to the next when they are likely to be removed from their temporary situations and assigned to rooms, they are content to live where they are.

Psychology freshman Felecia Gethers and engineering freshman Monica Brooks, who share the sixth floor study in Patterson Hall with one other student, say they like their room and the only problem is not knowing how far to unpack.

Gethers said, "It's so indefinite, but the room is pretty good."

Smart said there are no plans to renovate studies into new rooms or to build any new undergraduate residence halls. He added that the university does not expect sufficient increases in the number of residents to warrant the construction of new housing.

Fund surplus surprises Student Government

By PHIL POWELL
Staff writer

Student Government has found an extra \$100,000 in its treasury, four times the amount of this past year's surplus.

This increase in the S.G. budget is not connected to the increase in tuition and fees approved by the Board of Trustees this past summer. S.G. funds come directly from student activity fees. When tuition was raised this fall, the \$25 per semester activity fee each student pays remained the same.

It is simply a better-than-normal year, said Woody Caruthers, S.G. adviser. A combination of high student enrollment, idle money not spent by campus organizations and a contingency fund put back in savings by S.G.

this past year all contributed to the fund surplus.

Caruthers said a normal year's surplus is \$50,000, and an increase was unexpected. At the beginning of this past year's fall semester, there was \$25,000 in the treasury.

"This jump in funds is going to be a direct help to the student organizations on campus, who will be able to pay for more activities and hopefully increase the involvement of USC students in campus life," Caruthers said.

Campus organizations are being notified of the available money and are being encouraged to ask for additional funding. A real emphasis has been put on getting new organizations to request funds, Caruthers said.

Law graduate Alton Hyatt, senate finance chairman, said that though there would be no tremendous increases in any organization's budget all requests would be con-

sidered as fairly as possible.

The degree of student interest would be an important determining factor, Hyatt said.

In reviewing funding requests, Hyatt said the finance committee is as thorough as it can be; a lot of time is put into the reviewing process.

Hyatt said he wanted to see more money plugged into some of the non-undergraduate programs. This is a perfect opportunity to rekindle the participation of medical, law and graduate students, he said. "Many have felt like they have been neglected."

The availability of additional funds has sparked some positive reaction from many of the organizational student leaders on campus.

Julie Coe, insurance senior and Carolina Program

Union president, said CPU could always use more money. She would like to see more features, lectures and events for campus students. With more money, better entertainment could be brought to the campus, which would subsequently increase student interest in CPU activities, Coe said.

Psychology senior Sharon Thompson of the Association of Afro-American Students said the group will try to take advantage of the extra funds.

She said she recognized that the organizations on campus need to expand, and a bigger budget opens more avenues and adds a little more spark to campus life. More funds will give her organization greater visibility and a chance to break racial stereotypes, both white and black, Thompson said.

Aspiring actors learn business in Benson's cattle call

By MARY PEARSON
Assistant news editor

More than 120 students waited hours Friday for a one-minute chance to get into actor, writer and director Robby Benson's yearlong course on film-making.

Many passed the time reading magazines while others thought about what they might say to get Benson to notice them.

"It is not really like a rehearsal," media arts senior Terri Cobb said. "It's just a matter of waiting because you just got to go in and be yourself. And it's hard sitting and waiting because you can't improve your chances while you sit here and wait."

Many said they came just for the chance to be in the class itself, while others admitted they came for a glimpse at the film star.

One student who didn't want to be identified said, "I don't think I'll get in the class, but all this waiting will be worth it for a chance just to meet Robby Benson."

Because of the unexpectedly large turnout, the size of the class, which began Saturday, was expanded to 30 students from 20.

Sandra Wertz, director of undergraduate studies in media arts, said the class will be divided into two parts. The first part, which will be taught this fall, will concentrate on how a movie is produced, she said. The spring semester class will be devoted to making a \$2 million feature film written by Robby Benson, *Modern Love*.

Benson has starred in several movies, including *Jeremy*, *Ode to Billy Joe*, *The Chosen* and *Running Brave*. He co-wrote the script with his father and played the leading role in *One on One*.

Wertz said event organizers were overwhelmed with the turnout. Ben-

son said he agreed.

"The turnout was pretty exceptional," Benson said. "It made the choices much more difficult than what I thought it would be. So far, everyone who came here for the interviews should be in the class."

Benson was looking for students who had experience in film and theater and will offer that experience to the class, he said.

"I have an open mind," he said. "I am also looking for students who will let me know how they will participate in the class."

"If someone doesn't have that much experience to offer, then I want to know that they can't wait to work," Benson added.

But despite the large number of people competing to get in the class, the interviews — which averaged about 15 to 18 an hour and lasted until about 12:30 a.m. — went smoothly, Wertz said. The list of accepted students was not posted until after 1 a.m.

"Welcome to the real world of theater," said Mitzi Melton-Swisher, a media arts junior who made the cut. "If you are in the theater and film-making businesses, there are always more people than jobs available and long waits."

"People just have to be patient and grab every opportunity they can take," she said.

Patience proved to be the word of the night as many people sat around on the stairs waiting. Wertz said some students gave up and left before they were interviewed.

"Those are the people who aren't going to make it in the business," Melton-Swisher said. "You have to wait in long lines. That is just part of the business. All day today was just like 'Intro to Show Business 101.'"

Music education senior James Smith, who did not make the list, said he felt like it was a wasted night and was disappointed. But he said the people who did get in the class have a lot to look forward to.

"I think the class will be a lot of fun, and they will learn a lot," Smith said.

"I was shocked that I had made the list," said junior Lonnie Reynolds. "Because I am an engineering major who has very little background in theater, I thought my chances were pretty slim."

Those who did make it and waited around to find out had only a few

hours before the first class began at 9 a.m.

Reynolds said students spent the first day of class introducing one another. He said Benson talked about the films he had worked in and what he expected from the class.

"I think the class is going to be real fascinating," Reynolds said. "I have

always been fascinated about movies and what goes on behind the scenes — what works and doesn't work."

But the class isn't going to be all play. Reynolds said Benson has already given the first homework assignment. Students have to write a brief summary of an original movie they'd like to see filmed some day.



Robby Benson, Sandra Wertz, director of media arts undergraduate studies, and media arts film professor Marsha Moore interview media arts junior Tim Sheehy for Benson's class.