

Society debates 'racial tension'

By JOHN MILLS III
Staff writer

A USC organization will debate racial tensions on the USC campus because racism is a serious problem, a leader of the group said.

The Athenian Literary and Debating Society will hold a debate and discussion on racial tensions at USC tonight, said chemistry graduate Leroy Peterson.

"There is tension," Patterson said. "I personally feel the tension myself. It has affected me."

The group will debate the topic: "Resolved: Recent black on white crimes have increased racial tensions," according to psychology graduate Stanley Davis. Davis will moderate the debate.

Janice Kraft will debate pro the resolution, and Donald Wood will debate against the resolution, he

said. The debate will be Lincoln-Douglas style.

The debate is necessary to provide an open forum for students to discuss the problems with campus racism intelligently, said Peterson. Students who are normally reluctant to talk about racial difficulties will be given a chance to speak Wednesday, Peterson said.

"My indication is that there are some problems. Not only are there problems with crime, but we have some racial problems within the university itself in academic departments," Davis said.

Davis said he sees racial problems in the graduate programs and in the recruiting of minority faculty. Other racism on campus is not always noticed, he added.

"It's always difficult to put your finger on concrete examples. It's almost like a feeling that you

get when you know when people are not as receptive and accepting of you," Davis said.

"We will probably argue along the lines that racial tension already exists on campus, and there has been no manifestation on racial tensions," Peterson said. "We are going to vote on that. The audience and the members of our society will vote at the conclusion of that debate . . . for or against the resolution."

"What we had actually planned was to talk about the presidential debate," Davis said, "but because of recent coverage, we thought it would be more timely."

"We think it's urgent," Peterson said. "We just want to get it out in the open, but we don't think it's going to blow over soon."

He expects between 30 and 50 people to attend.

Hundreds of locals seek spot in film

By PRABHAKAR KHOLE
Senior reporter

They were out at Carolina Coliseum since morning, hundreds eagerly awaiting a chance for bit parts in a movie.

Men, women and children of all ages were there. Many were USC students from departments like media arts and journalism, and some were from other schools, but all wanted to have a real-life experience in filming.

"I feel quite excited about it," media arts sophomore Phillip Cater said. "I am 21, but I can act young too."

All came hoping to be recruited in the film *Chattahoochie* initially as extras, but some hoped to land a sizeable role later in this or another film.

The producers were at the coliseum to recruit extras for the film being produced by Hemdale Productions, the company responsible for *The Last Emperor* and *Sunday* was the day for filling out applications and holding photography sessions and initial screenings.

Chattahoochie, a movie set in the 1950s, is based on a true-life story. It depicts the philosophies and beliefs of a hospital patient and his attempts for reform.

The film, to be produced by Faye Schwab and co-produced by Sue Baden-Powell, will be shot predominantly in South Carolina. Most of the filming will take place in Columbia with the main sequences shot in the South Carolina State Hospital on Bull Street. Filming will

also take place in West Columbia and Newberry.

"We are going to need hundreds of extras," said Charlie Peterson, who is in charge of casting extras. "We are going to need extras as hospital inmates, police personnel, guards, nurses and for many more roles."

Peterson said that 300 positions are available and that the company would make a roster of at least 1,000 extras.

"We're very much pleased by the response today," he said. "In fact, we had a overwhelming response from women, and we have stopped their recruitment for the time being. But we still need many more men. We need men who are 30 and above."

"Our film has a story that has the Southern milieu, and we definitely need people from here for it."

Film recruitment will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. next Friday and Saturday at Columbia Mall. Recruitment will move to Woodhill Mall the following week.

Columbians did meet his expectations, he said. Sunday, when the temporary recruitment center at the coliseum opened at 10 a.m., hundreds of enthusiastic people were waiting on him. Young students aspiring to be actors and actresses were there and a few professionals as well.

There were some old men, too, who intended to come out of retirement temporarily for this event. One older man from Orangeburg came in a wheelchair.

The shooting in Columbia is scheduled to begin Oct. 17 and to continue until the first week of December.



On cue

TRACY MIXSON/The Gamecock

Senior journalism major Mark Kirk prepares his record for airplay on radio station WUSC-FM. Kirk's show is heard every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon.

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students to feel more vulnerable than they really are. "Our crime has decreased 200 to 300 incidents since 1980," Stokes said. "In my opinion, we don't have a dangerous campus. We have crimes on campus, but they're crimes against property."

The campus hasn't had more than about 50 crimes against per-

sons in each of the past seven years, he said.

And he chastised students who put themselves in a position where they are forced to walk to campus alone and at night, especially from the Five Points area.

"Any time after midnight, I wouldn't walk that myself, and I carry a gun," he said.

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The Fraternity and Sorority councils will pay for this weekend's shuttle service and will seek S.G. funds and support from Five Points merchants later this week for the taxi service, Ramsdale said.

She defended the shuttle service despite doubts expressed by USC officials over the futility of such a program.

Dennis Pruitt, dean of student affairs, questioned the haste with which the shuttle service was put

together. He said the service may be taking responsibility for personal safety away from students.

"We just keep patching and patching and patching," Pruitt said. "We keep rescuing students. What happens their first year out?"

"We're not being overprotective," Ramsdale said. "We're trying to limit our liability. If we walk her (a student) inside her dorm, we're trying to cover our bases."

Man kills child in school shooting

By The Associated Press

Police are still trying to determine why a local man went on a fatal shooting spree in an elementary school, killing one person and injuring 10.

Greenwood Police Chief James Coursey said James William Wilson, 19, of Greenwood has been arrested and charged with murder in the Monday incident. Wilson was being held in the Greenwood Law Enforcement Center.

Coursey said Wilson, with no apparent motive, entered Oakdale Elementary School shortly after 11 a.m. Monday and opened fire on students and teachers in a classroom and the school cafeteria.

Shequila Tawonn Bradley died in the school's first aid room from a gunshot wound to the neck, said Greenwood County Coroner Odell Duvall.

The teachers who were injured, Kat Finkbeiner and Eleanor Hodge, were in fair condition at Greenwood's Self Memorial Hospital, said hospital spokesman Dan Branyon.

Two students were also admitted to the hospital. Tequila Thomas, 7, was in critical condition after undergoing surgery for wounds about the neck and face, Branyon said. Another child, Greg Brown, 7, was in fair condition.

Six students with superficial wounds were treated and released at Self Memorial.

Wilson entered the school's front door, walked to the cafeteria and opened fire with a .22-caliber, nine-shot revolver, injuring one teacher and three students, Coursey said.

"While we were standing there, I heard gunshots. All of a sudden, teachers were running, children screaming, hollering 'he's shooting, he's shooting,'"

Carolyn Davis
grandparent

Wilson left the cafeteria and entered a girl's restroom to reload his weapon. Finkbeiner followed him and tried to keep him in the restroom, Coursey said.

In the ensuing scuffle, Finkbeiner was shot in the mouth and hand, he said.

Coursey said Wilson evaded Finkbeiner and entered a classroom two doors away, where he opened fire again, injuring five students and killing one.

After again emptying his pistol, Wilson dropped the weapon and Finkbeiner told him to raise his hands and stand until a police officer arrived, he said.

Coursey's chronology of Wilson's actions, given during an evening news conference, differed from that given earlier in the day by school officials.

Coursey would not answer questions after making a prepared statement and did not resolve the conflicting versions.

Officials have yet to question Wilson thoroughly and had not yet

done a psychological evaluation, Coursey said. He did not say when Wilson would be arraigned.

Officials will take a hard look at how the shooting could have occurred as they try to help students and teachers recover from the grade-school nightmare, said School District 50 Superintendent Robert S. Watson.

"We're certainly going to be more alert," Watson said at a news conference Monday afternoon. "We'll certainly be discussing security very much."

Public school doors are generally accessible, he said. "In an open society that's one of the hazards we face."

The district will provide teachers with counseling when they return to school Tuesday, he said, and children will also receive counseling when they return today.

The shooting has left many disturbing questions, said Greenwood City Manager Steve Brown.

"Imagine if your child was one of those," Brown said. "How could someone do something like that, and not be able to imagine themselves in the same situation? How can anyone go through life without any compassion?"

Brown said the town's mood was very solemn.

"Everyone pretty much is saying they have read about these types of things in other areas but never thought it would happen in Greenwood," he said.

"This is certainly a tragic and senseless event that has happened here in this community," said State

Law Enforcement Division Chief Robert Stewart. "There would have been a great deal more injury and loss of life if it had not been for these brave teachers and the way they conducted themselves."

"We have no motive," Coursey said. "The investigation is still ongoing, and we have not completed a background check on the individual."

Wilson had been living with his paternal grandmother in Greenwood, but traveled to the Abbeville home of his maternal grandmother Monday, Coursey said.

Wilson took a gun without his grandmother's knowledge, he said, then stopped at a department store where he bought two boxes of ammunition.

Wilson then returned to Greenwood, parked his car in front of the school and entered the building, Coursey said.

Watson said he knew of no connection between the assailant and the school.

"It appears to be an entirely random incident. The classroom was chosen randomly," Watson said.

"He seemed to be shooting people who were screaming," he said. "The teacher said those who were screaming or making noise, he shot them."

Carolyn Davis was in the school office to pick up her 7-year old granddaughter who was sick with the chicken pox.

"While we were standing there, I heard gunshots. All of a sudden, teachers were running, children screaming, hollering 'he's shooting, he's shooting,'" Davis said.

The Gamecock

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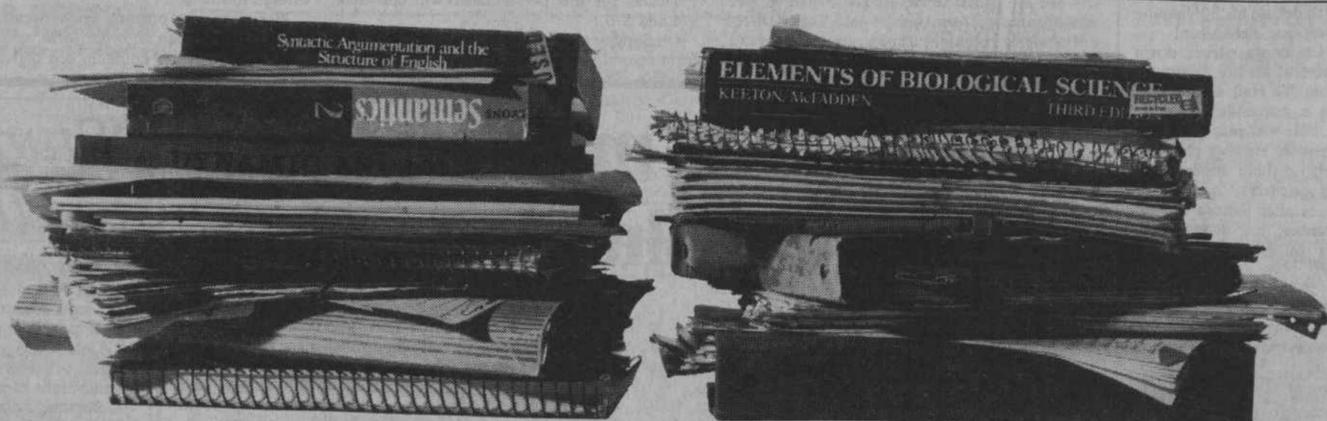
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