

# Rebellions of old were meaner

**Editor's note** — This is the first of a two part series in *The Gamecock* detailing student unrest and rebellion at USC. The second part will continue Wednesday.

**By HAL MILLARD**  
News editor

It was totally unlike the '60s, but USC students in the 1800s could throw a mean little rebellion themselves.

This week, *The State* has run a series of articles on South Carolina protests in the '60s and '70s, most of which center on USC. The most memorable event was the takeover of Russell House and the administration building.

Students were tear-gassed, and some were beaten by police. It wasn't exactly Kent State, but tensions ran high, and one professor, Thomas Connelly, remembers several faculty members fearing people would get killed.

But in the days when USC was South Carolina College there was no Vietnam War to protest, and students sure didn't care about civil rights.

Students then didn't need big social issues to get their dander up. Trifling matters such as bad food and

unpopular professors and administrators were enough to push irate students to full-scale revolt.

In the brief and unsuccessful reign of USC President Charles McKay, the school saw the biggest and most shocking revolt of the antebellum period, according to USC historian Dan Hollis. In his two-volume history of USC, Hollis wrote that in 1856 a beleaguered and unpopular McKay endured noisy incidents outside his house.

Students began an ever-increasing assault of firecrackers. An understaffed faculty unhappy with McKay did little to stop the students, and their discontent grew.

Hollis writes that Professor Robert Henry died, and classes were suspended for students to take part in the funeral. In the ensuing time, student restlessness grew and "only a spark was needed to ignite a great conflagration." An old feud between the students and the town police, or marshals, provided that spark.

The "guard house riot" of February 17-18, 1856 was born.

A drunk student, Edward Niles, a junior from Camden, passed the guard house with a few friends and became involved in fistcuffs with Marshall Burdell. The fight ended, and the culprits were dragged into the

guard house. But Niles' companions raced back to campus to give an exaggerated version of the skirmish.

Students were reportedly incensed and battle cries of "College!" were enough to whip up a nasty crowd. Two students, John McClenaghan of Marion and John Taylor Rhett of Richland, on their own initiative, stormed the jail with clubs to pound Marshal Burdell.

These "hot-heads," as Hollis describes them, were met with resistance and were beaten on the head and body, but only after they had beaten Burdell themselves. Students milled angrily outside as McKay pleaded futilely for the students to leave.

The mayor rang the town bell to call the town militia. "The students then hurried back to the campus to arm themselves with guns from the cadet arsenal, which was housed in the college library."

They were stopped only because Niles had been released. But the students spent an uneasy night sleeping on their weapons awaiting another excuse to unleash themselves.

It could have stopped there, according to Hollis. But during the night the two students who had tried to pummel Burdell decided Burdell's in-

juries were not extensive enough and decided to finish the job and fully avenge Niles.

"They spied him across the street and, hiding their clubs beneath cloaks, approached the marshal. When they were within a few steps of him they cast their cloaks aside and rushed upon him with clubs swinging."

Officers from the guard house sounded the town bell, and the town guard and the students arrived ready to rumble.

"The scene thus presented was such as Columbia never before saw, and which I hope, she never again will see," wrote John Belton O'Neill to B. F. Perry. "Two hundred armed citizens, with guns loaded with ball cartridges, opposed to more than a hundred enraged young men, with rifles in their hands."

Death was averted only when former President James Thornwell arrived from a lecture at the seminary, assuring an investigation for the students and saying if they were right he himself would lead them in the fight. "He then marched toward the campus shouting, 'College! College!' and was followed by the entire assembly of students."

Thus ended the potentially deadly guard house rebellion.

## Funding *Continued from page 1*

problems of liability. If he is advised accordingly, he will veto the bill.

The Sorority and Fraternity councils, which paid for last weekend's shuttle, plan to cover this weekend's costs if the bill is vetoed.

Franklin met Thursday with a task force created to study the shuttle service and to look into the overall problem of campus crime and to consider safety measures that can be taken.

Dean of Student Life Jerry Brewer was present at the Senate meeting to answer questions concerning the ability of Student Government funding the shuttle.

"I could think of a thousand reasons why Student Government should not get involved with this," Brewer said. "But personally, I couldn't live with knowing that the physical assault, rape, shooting or knifing of somebody could be prevented by this shuttle."

Sen. Marie Louise Ramsdale, who introduced the bill, said 98 students used the service last weekend. Ramsdale, also Sorority Council Service chairwoman, spearheaded last weekend's shuttle run.

The shuttle protected a girl who said she was being chased down the street by three males in Five Points, she and other student senators said.

Senators Tim Burke and Phillip Fragassi both opposed the bill, because they said the Senate was approaching the problem with inadequate information.

But Sen. Harry Sharp said, "This is an opportunity for S.G. to finally do something. I rode the shuttle this weekend, and I saw that students were glad we were there."

In other Senate business, Athletics Committee Chairwoman Berkeley Grier reported that no validations will be given for the Florida State game.

## Space *Continued from page 1*

did before."

"I was extremely nervous and tense," said biology and geology senior Michael Stallings. "I was hoping the same thing wouldn't happen again. It looks like everything's OK. But you never know. It can happen so quickly, like it did before."

"It was fast — we got everybody up OK. I was thinking what heroes they really are, our last American heroes," said English junior Kris Banks. "There was a real tension. Very few people could just walk on by. I don't think anyone had a feeling of foreboding about it. There is a lot more hope now — a lot more hope."

"I thought it was real cool because I think a lot of people on campus and around the country were watching to see if our space shuttle program had really gotten back into gear," said marketing junior Tim Watson. "I think a lot of people were pretty pleased with the result, too."

Finance senior Billy Addison felt much the same way. "I thought it was pretty spectacular. It's been a long time coming. I think it was the best launch yet."

And business freshman Carla Covar said, "I thought it was a good experience to see it. I've never seen one take off before — it kind of gave me chills."

## School vans *Continued from page 1*

the shuttle service all along because he feels there has been insufficient planning.

"We have let our emotions take the best of us," Franklin said. "We don't need to sit here and jump on the first proposal that comes along and throw money at it."

"We need to back rational proposals," he said.

To come up with such proposals, S.G. is forming a task force composed of student organizations and members of the USC administration to consider the viability of an ongoing shuttle service to Five Points.

Patrick Smith, special assistant to the S.G. president, said decisions by the task force will be guided primarily by financial and legal

considerations.

If legal hurdles can be overcome, Smith said, the next step would be to determine the cost of operating a shuttle for the entire school year. Based on the cost of leasing vans this weekend, he estimated an ongoing shuttle service could cost anywhere from \$14,000 to \$20,000 for 1988-89 alone.

"There hasn't been time for opposition to arise because the Sorority Council has paid for it," he said.

But he said the cost could be a political bombshell if the S.G. assumed the cost, an option Smith admitted may be impossible because S.G. funds are considered state funds.



TEDDY LEPP/The Gamecock

History professor Constance Schulz examines a slide from her South Carolina historical collection.

# USC history professor tells state's story in pictures

**By DAC CARVER**  
Staff writer

Imagine how inept a mechanic would feel without his tools, a lecturer without his notes, or a teacher without visual communication.

This is a dilemma that many history teachers in South Carolina face, according to Constance Schulz, a USC history professor. She has decided to do something about it by compiling the state's first comprehensive visual history.

Entitled *A History of South Carolina Slide Collection*, Schulz's project is a catalog of 1,000 slides featuring old maps, paintings and postcards that convey images dating from colonial times to the swearing in last spring of Jean Toal as a S.C. Supreme Court justice.

The collection, covering everything from ordinary life to extraordinary events, is designed to be a resource in which teachers can choose just the slides they need to illustrate a certain topic.

Each slide has a descriptive caption that helps to depict the significance of images which show prominent figures, economic and agricultural development, transportation, geography and Afro-American life and culture.

"People in South Carolina take their history very seriously," Schulz said. "I made a real effort to cover all areas of the state, because I wanted the collection to be a resource everyone could use."

Because the demand for such a resource is so great in the state, the State Department of Education has agreed to buy 100 packages when the project is completed next June. The package will then be available to schools and museums across the state.

Schulz's search for material led her to nearly every county in the state. She has visited museums, libraries and historical societies to try to uncover some of the valuable images.

"It's quite an adventure," she said. "I sat down and visited with people all over the state. Everyone has a story to tell, and the people at these local historical societies are proud of their collections and honored that they will now be a part of a collection that will be used statewide."

Schulz singled out several areas, such as Camden for its colonial war history, and Edgefield for producing such political leaders as James Tillman and Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

One place that particularly intrigued Schulz was Cheraw, along the Pee Dee River. In the late 18th cen-

ture, Cheraw was the last stop for steamboats, because the river was too narrow past the city for any further travel, Schulz said.

After the boats were unloaded, an incline rail system running from the river up the nearby bluff carried goods to and from the town. Schulz said her picture showing this incline trolley transportation system is fascinating.

Schulz has had little trouble finding old photographs and documents. The biggest obstacle is choosing the final 1,000 slides from a collection of almost 5,000, she said. Schulz's enthusiasm over her project does not help much either.

"Every new one I look at is my favorite. The whole state is so full of history it makes finding new pictures wonderful," she said.

"A limit on the slides was imposed to make the collection useful to distribute and less costly to produce. We wanted to try and keep the price down to make it affordable to anyone wanting to use it."

Schulz said one picture stood out to her more than the others. During the Civil War and the Reconstruction period, photographers from such publications as *Harper's Weekly* converged on the South.

Schulz retrieved a picture from 1869 during the post-war years. The picture showed a meeting outside the Chester County Courthouse of the Union League, a group that exercised control in the wake of the fallen Confederacy.

"This was an important political meeting, and knowing that there is history of it makes the picture very valuable," Schulz said.

Schulz's state pictorial history project is not her first endeavor of this kind. As a frustrated University of Maryland history professor who could not find the illustrations she needed for her lessons, she began a similar collection that included 600 slides.

When she came to USC in 1985, Schulz knew she wanted to do the same thing in South Carolina.

"It was my crash course in South Carolina history," she said.

Schulz, a Lexington, Ky., native, spent one year teaching at Georgetown University before coming to USC. She began her project in 1986.

Although laboring over what pictures to include can be tedious at times, Schulz said the end result will prove highly beneficial to education in the state.

"A picture is not just to provide illustration, but you can also learn from it," she said. "And I can write history using it as my evidence."

# USC collects historical film

**By JEFF WILSON**  
Staff writer

USC is trying to preserve a part of America's history through the preservation of some original 20th Century Fox Movietone news film.

Preservation is necessary because the film is composed of cellulose nitrate, a base that decomposes, said Glenn Smith, Media Services division director.

Smith compared the film's deterioration to the physical condition of the human body.

"Your body stays in good condition if you take care of it. If you treat it correctly and eat correctly and exercise correctly, you stay in good condition, but you still get older," he said.

"That's the same thing with nitrate film," Smith said. "As long as you keep it in good condition and monitor the temperature and humidity and clean it periodically, it stays in good condition."

To preserve the collection, USC has stored it in ammunition bunkers at Fort Jackson, Smith said. The bunkers are set into a bank of dirt, have about four feet of soil on top and are equipped with air conditioners and humidifiers, so the temperature remains relatively constant.

The films are inspected regularly; they are pulled from the rack and inspected; and their condition is noted, Smith said.

The maintenance of the films is not expensive, but restoration — transferring the images to another film base — is expensive, Smith said. Several films that had to be restored were paid for with private funds, he said.

The films have a history almost as unusual as the news scenes they depict.

Years ago, prior to television, movie theater owners came up with an idea to get people to see their features, Smith said. They put together eight- to ten-minute news items that preceded the movie feature, he said.

He said that was the only way people got to see news other than in the newspapers of the times.

"Movietone was 20th Century Fox's collection," Smith said. "Each one of the major studios had a news



reel (series). Movietone was the largest."

The Movietone series covered the period from 1919 to 1963, he said.

"The last news reel really produced was just before the (John F.) Kennedy assassination," he said. "When television began to hit the scene, the news reels began to disappear, and studios began to get out of the business."

He said USC received the news reel through what he called a South Carolina "connection."

Movietone came up with the idea of producing highlights of years and wanted to use the most famous narrator of all the news reels as their narrator — Lowell Thomas. So a series was produced called *Lowell Thomas Remembers*.

From that, more than 130 half-hour programs were produced and shown on the Public Broadcasting Station, Smith said. The producer in charge of the series was from South Carolina and worked out of the S.C. Educational Television offices in Columbia.

At that time, Fox wanted to get rid of the collection and was looking for a place to donate it, Smith said. USC took the company up on the offer and said it would provide a facility where the collection could be stored, preserved and cataloged by computer for future use.

In return, Fox received a tax deduction for donating the films.

"We don't have all of the Movietone (films) here," said Smith, who added that the total collection was so large that the company could not take the entire deduction at once. Instead, the company said it would give USC the films over a period of years.

"But after the first donation was made, 20th Century Fox was sold," he said. "It has been sold three times since then."

The company has since promised

to relinquish what remains of the collection but at a time when it is advantageous for them to give the collection, Smith said.

The films haven't been used for academic purposes as much as Media Services would like to see, but the potential for educational use is enormous, Smith said.

Some subjects that could be studied in more depth include history, journalism, theater, fashion in the 1930s and 1940s, early transportation and humor, Smith said.

John Lopiccio, a broadcast professor, said the news reel collection is valuable, not only for the footage itself, but because the paperwork and cameramen's notes accompany the films.

"The (USC) collection contains footage that was not seen in the news reels in the theaters," Lopiccio said.

He said he is able to recreate a news event as it actually looked and then show how it was put together and edited, comparing the methods that would be used today.

Smith said about half of the collection is on video tape at the Thomas Cooper Library, but he said the films haven't been promoted as heavily as he would like.

"There are really only two universities in the country that have a significant news reel collection — that's USC and UCLA (the University of California, Los Angeles), so we are in an elite group just with what we own," he said.

"If we get the rest of the film from 20th Century (Fox), we'll dwarf what UCLA has," he said. "If the rest of the Movietone collection comes to USC, without question we'll be one of the best film archives in the country. Maybe the best."

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