



Something heavenly is always happening at the observatory. See Carolina Life, page 4

Soccer team shuts out Blue Hose

See Sports, page 7

"That really ruffled my Gamecock feathers." — Amy Loomis, columnist See Viewpoint, page 3

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The power of suggestion

Hypnotist Tom Deluca attempts to put USC students under the influence of his mystic power in the Russell House Ballroom. Deluca was sponsored by the Carolina Program Union.

RENEE MEYER/The Gamecock

System makes buying tickets more convenient

By KEILA M. LEGREE
Staff Writer

Thanks to the university's new \$250,000 South Carolina Automated Ticketing system, purchasing tickets for events at Carolina Coliseum, Koger Center, Longstreet Theatre and other performance facilities will be more convenient, a university official said.

SCAT is a Data General computer system which allows ticket buyers to purchase green-colored, computer-generated tickets at 16 locations throughout South Carolina, Carolina Coliseum Director John Bolin said. Initially, ticket buyers received vouchers that had to be exchanged at the coliseum for the actual tickets.

"One reason for the switch to computerized ticketing was customer convenience. The new system eliminates the extra step of exchanging vouchers for tickets and increases the number of locations where tickets are available," Bolin said.

Carolina Coliseum and Koger Center Business Director Richard Marks, who researched the system, describes SCAT as "an excellent menu driven, computer-friendly system."

Tickets can be purchased by mail, through phone charge by calling 777-SCAT, at any of the various outlets and in person at the coliseum box office.

There will be a one dollar-per-ticket convenience charge on tickets sold through the outlets, phone charge and mail order. No service charge will be added to tickets sold at the coliseum or at the Koger Center the evening of a Koger event.

Exceptions will be made if customers are buying tickets for events in other places. "In those

cases, we are acting as an outlet for other buildings, and we will add the convenience charge," Bolin said.

SCAT, which was installed in the coliseum in July and tested during the summer, will get its first major test today and Saturday when tickets for the pre-season Charlotte Hornets game and the concert featuring Chicago and the Beach Boys go on sale at the coliseum. The system will also be selling tickets for more than 25 Koger Center concerts this year.

SCAT outlets have been installed in three Columbia Sounds Familiar stores, the Taylor Street Pharmacy, Seaco Music in Sumter Mall and at the Longstreet Theatre in the near future, Bolin said.

The Columbia SCAT is linked with its Charleston SCAT counterpart, which has been in operation for more than a year. This bond will give Midlands residents easy access to events sold through the Charleston system and vice versa.

Before SCAT, tickets were stored and racked in individual metal trays. With the new system, a ticket is stored in the computer's memory and is printed only when a patron has purchased it. The system automatically assigns the next best available seat.

In addition to the sale function, SCAT also produces daily sales reports, marketing information and financial accounting data. "At any point in time, we can tell an event manager exactly how many tickets have been sold to a given event. This is helpful in planning marketing strategy," Bolin said.

The new SCAT system will handle all USC ticketing, except athletics, although some Gamecock basketball tickets will be sold through the system.

USC graduate elected to national office

By KELLI LISTER
Staff Writer

William Bilton, a graduate of USC and the USC School of Law, was unanimously elected president of the Young Democrats of America at its convention in Columbus, Ohio last week.

As president, Bilton hopes to expand the party, as well as entice young voters into its ranks, he said.

Bilton, a 32-year-old assistant solicitor for Richland County, attended USC from 1975 to 1979 and graduated from the School of Law in 1987. He was active in the Young Democrats of America at USC and served as its president in 1979.

As national president, Bilton will serve in

two capacities with the National Democratic Party.

First, he will oversee all operations by the youth arm of the party. Second, he will be a voting member of the national party as well as its prestigious executive board.

The Young Democrats of America are active in every state as well as four territories. Each state sends three representatives to the National Committee.

When asked about the recent landslide presidential defeat, Bilton said he thinks the Democrats have had problems "selling their message." However, he also said the "future is bright" for the Democratic Party.

The party's message concerns several key issues such as education, the environment, the economy and job training.

As for drugs, Bilton said he is "fed up" and

took issue with several points of President Bush's drug program. He feels the money used to build federal prisons would be better spent on local and state correctional facilities.

However, he does agree with the president's proposal to give aid to any country that requests help with a drug problem. The catch, he said, will be in finding the funding for these programs.

"Until now," Bilton said, "Bush's plan was 'Read my lips, no new taxes.'" Bilton is concerned that Bush will try to cut social programs in order to fund his \$7.9 billion plan.

Does Bilton see a political office in his future? "Well," he says with a smile, "never say never."

USC student develops flood monitoring system

By ALLEN WEST
Staff Writer

Severe rainstorms, leading to flooding, continues to be a problem to cities across the United States, particularly in the South.

USC graduate student and inventor Deepal Eliatamby has developed and built an environmental monitoring system which could play a role in helping civil engineers and city planners prevent the loss of millions of dollars in property damages caused by flooding.

By monitoring rainfall and stream flow, engineers can determine where to build storm sewers, channels and ponds to facilitate drainage and improve a city's ability to cope with the potential danger of flooding.

Eliatamby's monitoring system is not the first of its kind. It is, rather, a vast improvement over commercial units currently in use. These units cost five times more to own and operate than Eliatamby's system, are less versatile and are more difficult to obtain accurate readings from.

Eliatamby is currently working on an improved version that will streamline the cost even further, use less energy and store twice as much data.

Although still in the prototypical stage, Mike Meadows of the Civil Engineering department predicts the product could be commercially successful.

"We haven't started advertising the development," Meadows said, "but companies we've given nibbles to have shown tremendous interest."

"These units really have a lot of potential for private engineering firms," said David Corbett of the Lexington County Planning and Development Department, who is being assisted by Eliatamby and his machine in

Corbett's study of the flooding problems of Irmo.

"Beforehand, we might have been able to buy one or two commercial units to measure rainfall or stream depths. With the small price of his device, we were able to put about ten units in the field."

And yet, Eliatamby has not obtained a patent, nor has he made any money from his invention.

"I haven't reinvented the wheel," says Eliatamby, "but it will make life easier for engineers and help them make far more informed decisions."

Data from the old systems came in graph form only, which was subject to interpretation and thus prone to error. It recorded water levels using floats, counter weights, graph paper and an ink plotter.

"With the paper graph, I would have to go by every week and replace the paper, then spend hours translating those graphs into useable data," Eliatamby said.

The new system uses a computer circuit board to record and translate data. Digitalized data from the new system are in precise, readily useable figures.

"Its versatility is its most important aspect," Meadows said. "This machine wears many hats."

The computer is capable of monitoring salt water intrusion into fresh water and well systems, and with the addition of a simple sensing device, the machine can be used to study the impact of septic tanks on the environment.

The unit works off a 12-volt car battery and can last in the field from five to ten weeks. Data are retrieved by plugging it into a laptop computer.



Sustaining injuries

A USC rugby player gets help from his teammates after being injured during a game this week. The rugby team is just one of the many sports clubs that one can join at the Blatt P.E. Center.

DANA PURSER/The Gamecock

Pranks disrupt call box success

By BETH ALLISON
Staff Writer

Except for prank callers, the recently installed call boxes are working perfectly, a police official said.

Danny Baker, the assistant vice-president with the Division of Law Enforcement and Safety, said there have not yet been any real emergency calls, but there have been around 12 unknown or prank calls.

If a person is caught making a prank call, appropriate action will be taken. This matter will be taken to the courts and also to the student discipline board, Baker said.

Although the police officials are doubtful the prank calls could become a serious matter, Baker said the call boxes are for student safety. He feels confident the students are responsible enough to properly use the boxes.

"I am urging all students not to try and play with the call boxes," said Student Government President Marie-Louise Ramsdale. These boxes are to enhance security, and prank calls will only frustrate the police, she said.

As of today, there has been no vandalism inflicted on any of the call boxes, Ramsdale said.

Friday there were 10 call boxes actually installed. Currently, there are 19 boxes set up and ready to be installed, said Frank Mims of Operational Services. The goal is to have about 22 boxes set up all around campus this year.

The locations of the boxes were determined by the police and the safety committee, Baker said. He also said anyone in the community will have access to them.

"The call boxes are not for students only, they are for anyone in an emergency situation," Mims said. "It is up to the students, faculty and staff to make the call boxes work," Ramsdale said.

Advocate program gives advice to students in trouble

By D. R. Haynes
Assistant News Editor

Unfortunately, there are students who find themselves in trouble by violating a campus policy and don't know where to turn for advice.

Since its beginning in 1977, the Student Advocate Program has been assisting students with helpful advice on problems such as academic probation, residence hall violations and plagiarism.

Totally independent of the Student Government Judiciary Board, the Student Advocate Program assists people who have been accused of violating university

policies, Chief Student Advocate Harry Turner said.

Once charges have been brought against a student, the Student Advocate advises the student of his rights and alternatives, Turner said.

"We're on the student's side," he said. "We want to help them."

"Obviously if they are guilty the smartest thing they could do is to admit they're guilty," Turner said.

The program helps those who may be confused about what happens in the judicial process, S.G. President Marie Louise Ramsdale said.

"I encourage students to take advantage of the program," Ramsdale said. "It's one more service Student Government is trying to offer in response to student needs," she said.

Students who have been charged with violating a university code have several entitlements before a hearing. The student can have a pre-trial interview in which rights, responsibilities and procedure are explained, Associate Dean of Student Development Jerry Crotty said.

A written notice of charges issued along with an outline of rights is another entitlement, Crotty said. An accused student also has the option to choose be-

tween a hearing before an administrator or a panel of students, faculty and staff, he said.

In addition, a list of witnesses invited to testify and an opportunity to review evidence to be presented at the hearing is another entitlement, Crotty said. Five-day's notice is also given to the student before the hearing, he said.

During the hearing, the charged student has the right to testify, call and question witnesses and present