



Christmas is coming and USC is sprucing itself up from the dorm room to the President's House. See Carolina Life, page 4

S.C. seeking NFL franchise

See Sports, page 8

"This is USC, and if there's going to be any animal singing and dancing, it's going to be a squirrel." — Scott Pruden, columnist
See "Lifestyles," page 4

The Gamecock

Founded 1908

Eighty-one Years of Collegiate Journalism

Wednesday

Volume 82, No. 44

University of South Carolina

December 6, 1989

Forum to discuss black community

By JEFF WILSON
Assistant News Editor

A forum will be held Thursday night to discuss questions that have been expressed by students concerning the need for such things as the NAACP, black beauty pageants and a black press.

The forum, entitled "A Bridge to Understanding," is sponsored by the NAACP and will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Russell House theater.

"We saw an immediate need for the panel after concern arose over a letter in the Monday, Dec. 4 issue of *The Gamecock*," USC NAACP President Stephen Benjamin, said.

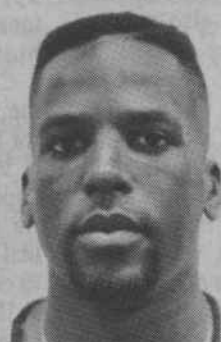
The letter with the headline, "Blacks close themselves off," accused black students of segregating themselves by sitting together during meals, wearing clothing with black slogans, and having separate newspapers.

"Over the entire semester we've noticed that there has been a simple lack of understanding of why certain things exist, why certain things happen and why society is the way it is," Benjamin said.

Benjamin said the NAACP "wants to open up the door to all students that don't understand why things are the way they are, whether they be white, black, oriental, Hispanic, or whatever."

"The NAACP felt it was necessary to sponsor the forum in light of recent comments and criticisms and past comments expressed by various students because of a lack of education of why we do have these organizations," said Rod Glover, statistics junior and NAACP vice president.

Glover added that many individuals have been making false assumptions and the organization wants the forum to be a way of de-



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Stephen Benjamin
USC NAACP President

aling with false assumptions.

"We want everyone to come there and leave, if not agreeing with everything, at least understanding some aspects," Benjamin said.

He said the panel will consist of such individuals as Bernard Leggett of the S.C. Black Media Group and Willie Harriford of Afro-American studies.

"We can basically say Harriford is a storehouse of knowledge. We have constantly debated the topics that will be discussed at the forum. Just by being there, I think he can open a lot of doors for understanding for the people present," Benjamin said.

"We are honestly making a plea that everyone interested in the topic attend. If we get an entirely black audience, we won't achieve anything. It's not going to be a debate. It's not going to be an argument. It's going to be like a show and tell with everyone learning from each other," Benjamin said.



Keeping on track

Medical technology freshman John Loudon tries his skill on OFF ROAD, a video game located in the Russell House game room. The game room has a variety of video games, as well as pool tables, ping-pong tables and a canteen area.

WIN OTT/The Gamecock

Priorities change for registration

By KELLY C. THOMAS
News Editor

Because freshmen were allowed to register for their spring classes immediately after seniors this semester, many juniors and sophomores have found themselves pushed out of the classes they need.

South Carolina College sophomore Kris McVey said she was lucky to get into an American Literature course she needed — and she only got into it because the honors college offered a section.

"I wanted to take a regular section of English 287," she said, "but they were all full when I went to register, so I had to take the honors section. And there was only one place left in that section."

"I didn't get closed out of a class, but I did have to take an 8 a.m. class," studio arts junior Thomas Kelly said. "I tried to get another section, but the 8 o'clock was the only one that would fit into my schedule."

He said he had heard many complaints from students who were shut out of classes because all the places were taken by freshmen — especially in the English department.

Many juniors are finding they cannot get into core requirement classes such as basic computer science courses, American and English literature courses and other humanities courses below the 300 level.

USC Registrar T.L. Gunter said the decision to allow freshmen to register before juniors and sophomores was made because of problems many freshmen encountered in registering for the fall semester in August.

"The only reason we did it — and this is the first time we've ever done this — was because of the hard time we had getting freshmen through registration at the beginning of this semester," Gunter said.

Gunter repeatedly said he does not think the same decision will be made again in the future.

He said he based his decision on the fact that freshmen would be signing up for freshman classes that juniors and sophomores wouldn't need.

"You know how you make decisions, and sometimes you like them and sometimes you don't, and I just think this is one of those decisions I won't make again," he said. "But you never know," he added.

Administrators, police encouraging students to play it safe

By HAL MILLARD
Managing editor

University officials are asking students to play it safe in the wake of a violent rape in a campus parking lot last week.

Dennis Pruitt, dean of Student Affairs, said Tuesday students can assist campus safety efforts by "watching out for themselves and watching out for each other."

Pruitt and his staff met with campus law enforcement and safety officials Tuesday to review the situation and determine ways to increase safety. The group said lighting on campus should be reviewed and also hinted that the one-way entrance to the lot where the

rape occurred may have contributed to the ease of the crime.

Pruitt said further discussion about the rape and ways to better secure the campus would probably be ongoing, but added that students must do their part.

"Be extra-special careful," he said. "There's lots of individuals out late at night. Students should be conscious of all the safety rules they've learned up to this point . . . because many students are not taking their safety seriously."

Campus police are more likely now to stop students and ask for identification, Pruitt said. "Students need to be sensitized to this and not be offended."

"Students should be conscious of all the safety rules they've learned up to this point . . . because many students are not taking their safety seriously."

Dennis Pruitt
Dean of Student Affairs

Pruitt also warns students the man who committed the rape may strike again and that "copycats" pose a threat as well.

USC music professor Richard Conant, chairman of

the University Safety Committee, said his group would probably not meet before the Christmas break. But Conant said the committee would take up the matter in a meeting scheduled for Jan. 16.

"We will review the incident and think of things that perhaps could have been done by the university to have prevented it," Conant said. "But I don't know what we can do that the police aren't already doing."

"Really, there is only so much you can do aside from putting bars all around the campus . . . we have

See RAPE page 2



WIN OTT/The Gamecock

Food !!

Roberta Elkins, a Frito-Lay employee, prepares to refill the Russell House vending machines Tuesday. Vendors' trucks are not an uncommon sight on a campus of 30,000 hungry students — who empty the machines almost as fast as they are filled.

Building construction drags due to weather

By SHAWN NELSON
Staff Writer

Construction of Drayton Hall, a sound-proof theatre and speech building, is going rather slowly due to adverse weather conditions and some delayed decision-making by USC, a university official said.

The Drayton Hall project should have been finished in late November, said George Mitchell, facility planning contractor.

"This is a complex project," he said.

A lot of remodeling has been going into the reconstruction. Specially ordered doors, which are sound proof, have been ordered for the project and have been a factor in the delay.

Mitchell said the project once completed would cost USC close to \$2 million. The delay in recon-

struction would not cost the university anything extra, Mitchell said, because of the contract the school has with the company, Triangle Construction.

But Ben Boatwright, supervisor for Triangle Construction, said the delay would cost the company thousands.

"Eighty percent of the delay is due to weather and 10 percent is due to the owners and another 10 percent due to the contractors," said Boatwright.

Drayton Hall is expected to be finished in late December. Once completed, it will be hold 400 people. With the new design, loud noise like a fire engine passing by during a performance, would be almost completely muffled, Mitchell said.

For The Record

In the Monday, Dec. 4 issue of *The Gamecock* it was stated that USC faculty members do not pay for parking in the university-owned garages. Faculty pay the same fee as students in the garages. They do not pay for surface parking. *The Gamecock* regrets the error.