

Felton may be tried for DUI after all

By TIGE WATTS
News Editor

Former USC Basketball Coach George Felton and four other alleged DUI drivers might get their day in court.

Almost two weeks ago, E.J. Chrisopolos, the arresting officers for the five defendants, left the state highway department to enroll in a Tennessee seminary school.

Under South Carolina laws, Chrisopolos would have to pay for his trip back to South Carolina to testify in those trials. If he does not return, those five cases would be dismissed because of the lack of state's evidence.

The South Carolina chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who believes very strongly that all DUI cases must be tried, has started a collection to underwrite the cost for Chrisopolos' trip back to South Carolina to testify in those trials.

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MADD has stated before they would like to see the entire policy of how cases are handled and/or dismissed upon an officer's resignation to be re-examined.

"The one thing about this case (Felton's) is that it brings to light a problem that has existed. It doesn't seem right that when an officer leaves, all of his DUI cases are dismissed," Watson said.

"I think that George being a public person has really brought out this loophole. The public perception is that this is another instance where a public or prominent figure can get away from justice," he said.

Watson said the donors have all agreed the loophole must be plugged.

"One person wrote us, 'please accept this donation in your efforts. There is no logical reason why this case should be dismissed because an officer does not have the time or money to testify.'"

As of press time, Watson's agency has collected \$125 from six different donors. Watson spoke briefly with Chrisopolos this week and said the ex-officer wouldn't mind coming back to South Carolina to try the cases.

"His biggest concern was whether or not the magistrate could work with him in regards to his class schedule. He doesn't want to miss a full week of classes if he can avoid it. Otherwise, he's very willing to come back. He feels the cases should take place," he said.

Chrisopolos also told Watson his former office has not contacted him about coming back to South Carolina.

"We're going to put some feelers out and drum up attention to bring this up in the Highway Department," Watson said.

MADD also believes it may be in the best interest for the five defendants to have their day in court.

"The five defendants are innocent until proven guilty. They deserve their day in court. Otherwise, there may always be a cloud of suspicion whether they were guilty or not," Watson said.

"If they're innocent, they have nothing to lose. We're sorry this happened to George Felton. We're not after Mr. Felton though. We're after the crime of drunk driving. Anyone charged with the crime should have the chance to clear his name and George Felton is one such person accused of drunk driving," Watson said.



Felton

Freedom of Speech



Renee Gibson/The Gamecock

There are often protestors on the grounds of the Capitol. Here, this man protests abortion and believes it should be stopped.

Students to buy private insurance

Booklet available for policy owners

By TIGE WATTS
News Editor

Students who usually purchase health insurance through USC might have to know more about insurance policies before they sign the dotted line.

USC was not able to sign on with one policy in time for registration. Because of this, they have opened the doors for local companies to offer different policies.

Currently there are three blanket health insurance plans and seven individual plans available for students, which is causing headaches. To help out, Student Affairs put out a brochure informing students of general information.

"It's kind of important people know what they're doing. Otherwise they could sign up for a policy which might not cover accidents," Will Prioleau, an agent from Greater South insurance company, said.

When reviewing health care policies, students should not focus on

premium costs. The lowest price may not be the most economically sound. Students should analyze the policies first and choose the one that most fits their needs.

Students should also look for specific features when comparing plans. This will allow for much wiser decisions.

"Students should be sure to pick up this brochure before they sign any policy. This is a choice that will require a lot of thinking and analyzing," Student Affairs Vice President Dennis Pruitt said.

Pruitt also said students should direct any questions to the Student Health Center.

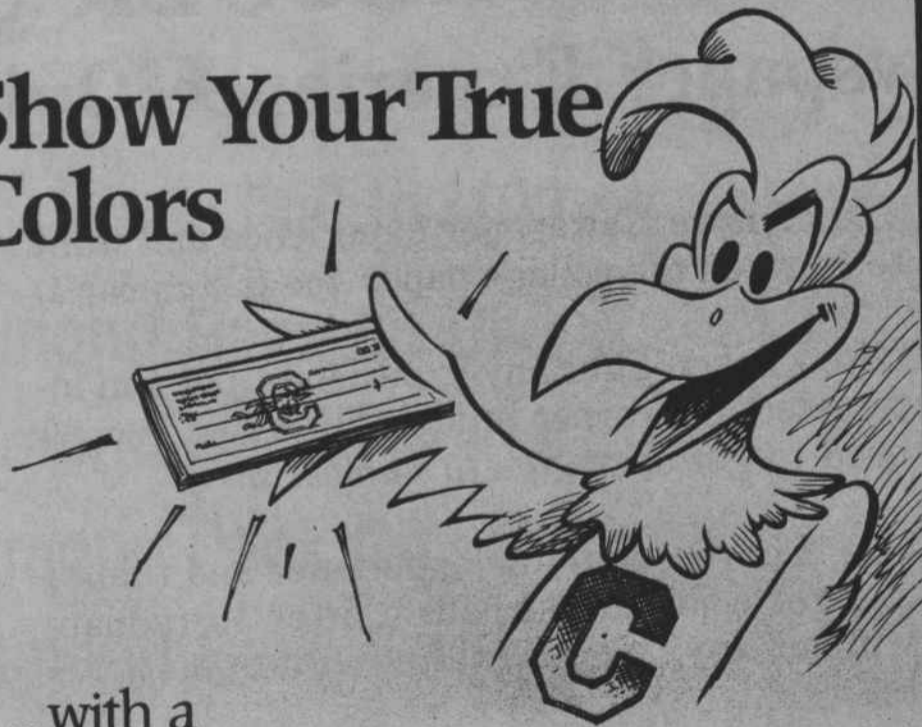
Steve Hinson, a sales representative for Blue Cross/Blue Shield said students should look at all of the policies available.

For example, the Blue Cross policy limits psychiatric treatment to \$5000. The policy also covers prescriptions and doctor visits.

"People just need to keep up with their receipts," he said.

Hinson suggests that students should sign for the maximum benefits if they choose his policy. "You never know what might happen. This program prepares you for the worst," he said.

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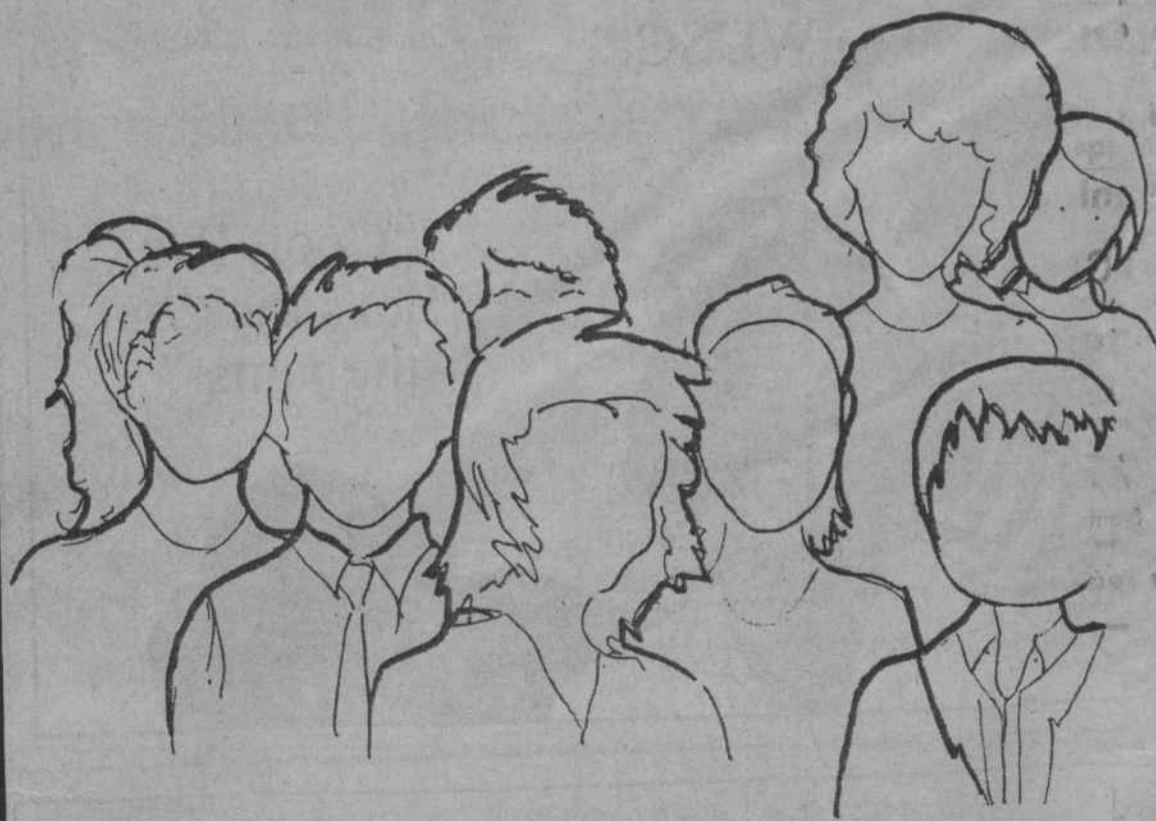
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August 25-29

Learn more about USC's Fraternities and Fraternity Rush at the Rush Information Session on Thursday, August 22 at 2 pm in the Russell House, Room 327.

To register for Rush, stop by the Campus Activities Center located in the lower level, west wing of the Russell House University Union or call (803) 777-5780.