Cockwheat issue raises concerns

By GORDON MANTLER Assistant News Editor

The Cockwheat controversy continued when the latest issue of Gamecock Fever was distributed at this past Saturday's Carolina—Virginia Tech game.

The newspaper printed two more stories about USC's "Token Black Mascot," including one satiring the student protests of two weeks ago.

Cockwheat is a combination of the USC mascot, Cocky, and the "Little Rascals" character, Buckwheat.

Student Government leaders voiced concern to the publisher, Rod Shealy, over a Cockwheat article printed in the Carolina—Duke game issue of Gamecock Fever because of blatant racial overtones.

Currently, Student Government is drawing up a letter to advertisers, expressing their concern over the racial overtones in the newspaper. The letter is expected to be sent out this week.

Possible actions include a boycott of the advertisers, which include Conoco, South Carolina Bookstore, the Carolina Plaza Hotel and Kentucky Fried

"It's very obvious that he (Shealy) didn't take any of the student recommendations seriously," said Student Vice President Shine Brooks

In an interview with *The Game-cock* after the first Cockwheat article, Shealy said he would not change anything and all the protests would, "provide me with more article material."

"I actually believe the student body is split. I get mixed feelings from the student body," he said. "Some feel it is very blatant racism and others see it as just humor."

When asked about the Cockwheat controversy, USC President John Palms said, "I think this is an important student issue. It strikes a sensitive nerve."

"They have to understand this humor that is offensive, and students will have to handle it with sensitivity," Palms said.

Shealy was unavailable for comment this past week. Don't let it fly away



eddy Lepp/The Gamecock

Lefty the Clown, a representative from Helium Greetings in Columbia, ties a balloon to a small child's wrist at this weekend's Autumnfest celebration.

Greek program helps new pledges

By KIM EVERITT Staff Writer

In a day full of workshops and seminars, more than 360 Greeks gathered at Russell House Saturday to participate in the Greek Membership Training Academy.

The training academy was to help new pledges better understand the role of the Greek system at USC. Student leaders, who are also a part of the Greek system, served as workshop presenters and panelists.

Lisa Jennings, co-chairman of the Greek steering committee and organizer of the day's events, hoped the information would "help the new members in their adjustment, not only to Greek life, but to the university as well."

Keynote speaker Bud Richey, director of Greek affairs at Louisiana State University, said Greek membership offers many benefits.

He urged the new pledges to "take advantage of the system and become more involved." His speech stressed the importance of friendships, a strong value system and "a greater sense of knowledge of self."

Topics at the workshops included values and

ethics of the Greek community, campus activities, laws and enforcement, and alcohol policies.

The risk management seminar featured speakers from USC's Law Enforcement and Safety Division and the South Carolina Alcohol and Beverage Commission.

In regard to cheating, hazing and date rape, the Greek values workshop presented imaginary case studies provoking discussion on academic integrity and human dignity.

Alpha Tau Omega pledge Trey Gerard thought there was a lot of hazing in fraternities before he came to college.

"It was a big surprise when I found out it was really looked down on," he said.

The final presentation, "Judge or Be Judged," featured role playing situations from students in SEED (Student's Educating and Empowering for Diversity). Actors Jim Moore and Faith Lawrence portrayed an interracial dating scenario.

"It got people to think about the situation and helped them to question their values," Moore

Educational session panelists encouraged

pledges to look past the Greek system and expand their involvement in organizations at USC.

Sorority Council President Bonnie Jean Drake told pledges to "go beyond the barriers" and meet different people from different organizations. Leadership Council member Debbie Drucker hoped pledges would "take advantage of what USC has to offer."

The new pledges attending the seminar had many positive comments about the Greek system and what it has to offer.

Warren Cassels, Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge president, said he likes "meeting new people and working as a team." However, he said the worst part of pledging is "cleaning the lounge after the parties."

Sigma Phi Epsilon pledge Chip Auger knew it would be fun but "never realized it would be so much work, too."

Rob Gibbons, a Kappa Sigma pledge, "admired the unity and brotherhood of the fraternity."

Tri-Delt pledge Jessica Sparks thought the Greek system provided "a way to make friends and immediately become involved on campus.

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