

Students discuss visitation at Towers Issues Forum

By KATRINA BLASETTI
Staff writer

Sleeping double in a single bed was on everyone's mind Wednesday night at the Towers Issues Forum.

By a show of hands, a majority of the 100 students attending the forum in the Main Towers Lobby indicated they disagreed with the current visitation policy.

As it stands, Towers residents are allowed opposite-sex visitation from 12 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. during the week, and to 2 a.m. on weekends.

Residents on the first floor of Douglas and the second floor of Burney are denied opposite-sex visitation at all times.

Mark Twohey, one of the students opposed to the current policy, said, "I believe the current policy is unnecessary. We students are expected to assume adult roles in an environment which places adolescent restrictions on us."

"If I am expected to pass a biochemistry course, I should be allowed to choose who I allow in my room," Twohey continued.

Overnight opposite-sex visitation is not the only freedom the students feel they are denied.

Brian Gambrell, a political science freshman, said, "I had times last semester when I had to study in the lobbies at 2:30 in the morning because I happened to be studying with females."

A panel of six student leaders and USC ad-

ministrators answered questions and discussed the status of the visitation policy.

Jim McMahon, director of Resident Student Development, explained that safety and security must also be considered.

He stressed that students and administrators were concerned about vandalism and behavioral problems when the policy was introduced in 1988. Prior to that time, overnight visitation was allowed on weekends in the Towers.

"There was a lot of concern about 17 and 18-year-old freshmen being away from home for the first time and having too much freedom... There was a great deal of discussion on the Board of Trustees in the Spring of 1988," McMahon said.

The controversy became a moral issue, championed by state Rep. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, who was on Board of Trustees member at that time.

Fair was concerned that the sons and daughters of taxpayers were given an opportunity to sleep together.

Fair's opposition to opposite-sex visitation was widely publicized and became an important factor in the implementation of the stricter policy.

However, Fair is no longer a member of the Board of Trustees, which dictates the policy.

This factor was seen as a positive sign by student leaders on the panel who discussed how students might be able to initiate a change in

the policy.

"One man was able to manipulate the climate at that time. And he is no longer on the board," Student Government Vice President Shine Brooks said.

"But it will take more than an emotional appeal on our part — our leverage comes from drawing out the faculty and staff," Brooks said. "It seems as if every group is going in different directions. We need to get on the same wavelength."

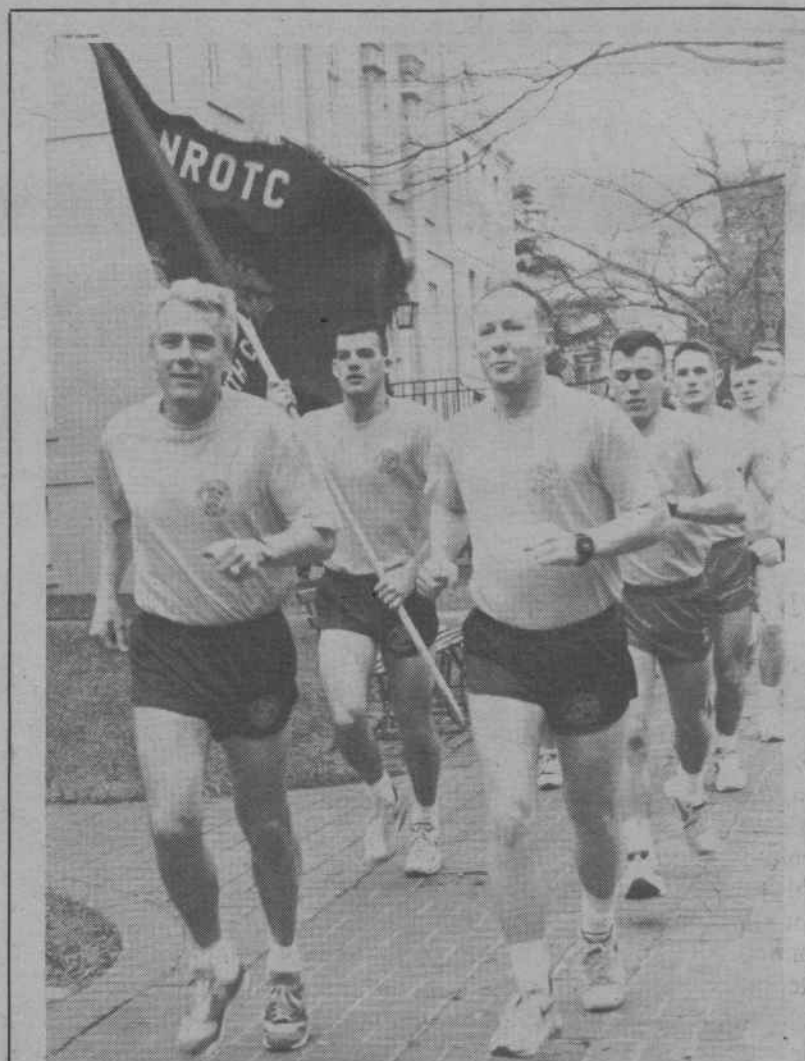
Residence Hall Association President Joelle Lastica agreed. "We need to get organized if we want to change visitation. Only together can we make a difference," Lastica said.

Panel members encouraged student action through involvement in residence hall meetings and student petitions.

Despite the overwhelming support for change, not every student present wanted a more lenient policy.

After the meeting, Pickens Hair, a resident advisor in Moore, said, "I'm against overnight visitation. Being a resident advisor, I see that especially in a freshman residence hall, people aren't ready for it."

But most of the students attending the forum apparently believe they are ready for a change in the policy.



Virginia Marshall/The Gamecock

USC President John Palms led a group of ROTC cadets in an afternoon jog through the Horseshoe.

Recycling of campaign signs a hot topic

By KIMBERLY SHARLOW
Staff Writer

Do you ever wonder where all those multi-colored student campaign posters go after the elections?

Well, in the spirit of environmental consciousness, this year they're going to be recycled.

Candidates are allowed a \$400 budget to promote their campaigns and much of the money is used for printing flyers and posters to hang in highly visible areas.

This year candidates plan to collect the flyers and posters and deliver them to recycling plants or return them to the printers after the Feb. 20 elections.

"It is your (each candidate's) responsibility to see that the paper used does not harm the environment," Vice Presidential candidate

Kelli Lister said

Lister said part of her campaign platform is recycling, and she would like to see USC establish a campus-wide residence recycling program, such as the one in Maxcy residence hall. After elections, Lister plans to return her posters to her printer in Greenville.

Presidential candidate David Haller has used half sheets of paper in his flyer campaign. He plans to take his posters to a recycling plant after the elections.

Debbie Drucker, director of special projects in Student Government, has been working with the USC recycling task force and other organizations.

Haller said he strongly agrees with Drucker's point that "waste management, including recycling, is not a student concern... the ad-

ministration has dumped this on the students when it is something that they should be handling."

Beth Reid, another presidential candidate, has approximately 1,000 yellow colored flyers from a printer that uses recyclable colored paper.

She also plans to recycle her posters by delivering them to a Columbia recycling plant.

Presidential candidate Shine Brooks said some of his posters are already on recycled paper, but because of availability, some are not.

Brooks said he plans to take all salvagable posters to the Carolina Program Union where they can be made into note pads.

Vice Presidential candidate Sam Sammataro plans to have his staff help him take down his campaign

posters. He will deposit them at the Richland County Recycling Center and also plans to take leftovers to CPU.

Treasurer candidate Eric Dell has printed 1,200 posters that are black and white with some maroon writing. Dell said he chose to use this print style because he knew it could be recycled. Dell also plans to deposit his posters at a recycling plant.

Beth McKay, a member of Students Allied for a Greener Earth, said a limit on the amount of posters should be set.

McKay said she is pleased the candidates are taking steps to recycle, but, "It bothers me to see colored flyers all over when they are not on recyclable paper."



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The Student Government campaign has brought many posters to the campus, especially in the Humanities building. Candidates say they plan to recycle their campaign signs.

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