

## NewsBreakers



### Russian troops move in to halt ethnic violence

MOSCOW — Paratroopers backed by armored vehicles moved into the Russian Caucasus Tuesday to halt ethnic violence that has claimed more than 200 lives and forced thousands from their homes, news media reported.

It was the second deployment of Russian troops in the region, the site of the worst outbreak of ethnic fighting on Russian soil since the Soviet Union dissolved.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said troops entered Ingushetia to enforce President Boris Yeltsin's decree last week that imposed a state of emergency.

More than 30,000 Ingush have fled into Ingushetia from their homes in neighboring North Ossetia after fighting sparked by a territorial dispute erupted Oct. 31 between Ingush and Ossetian militants.

### World leaders meet to discuss trade

GENEVA — World trade negotiators Tuesday directed the chairman of the talks to intervene with the United States and the European Community to defuse a looming trade war that could threaten global commerce.

The mission by Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, will aim to restart the 108-nation talks on freeing world trade,

blocked for two years by a U.S.-EC dispute over agriculture.

The mission could pave the way for a face-saving solution of the crisis, which Dunkel and others say could unravel GATT's system of safeguarding against protectionist trade wars seen in the Great Depression of the 1930s.



### Board rejects bid to ban the Bible

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. — A school board unanimously rejected a bid to ban the Bible from its public schools.

An atheist, Gene Kasmar, filed a petition in July asking the school district to remove the Bible on the grounds that it is full of obscene and offensive passages.

The school board in Brooklyn Center, a Minneapolis suburb, announced the result of its roll call Monday night, to a cheering crowd.

During the meeting, a legal expert for the Rev. Pat Robertson made a case for the Bible after flying in from Virginia at the last minute. And, in the spirit of anti-censorship, the leadership of the Minnesota Atheists lined up firmly against Kasmar and for keeping the Bible on school shelves.

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the Robertson-backed American Center for Law and Justice in Virginia Beach, told the board that court decisions have consistently held that the Bible "is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities."



### ABC commissioner under court fire

COLUMBIA — Opening arguments were slated for Tuesday as the corruption trial of former state liquor commission Chairman C. Wilbur Hodge Jr. entered its second day.

Proceedings bogged down Monday with jury selection and legal maneuvering by prosecutors and defense attorneys.

Hodge of Simpsonville is accused of accepting 18 cases of beer and wine coolers from wholesaler Jack Mullinax and then lying to the state grand jury about it. Mullinax, who runs Western Beverage Co. in Greenville, was regulated by Hodge as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

Hodge is one of six people indicted in the investigation of favor-peddling at the commission.

Hodge was indicted on charges of perjury and accepting a service or favor. The charges carry a maximum sentence of seven years and 90 days in prison and a \$1,000 fine.



### Professor to lecture on domestic violence

Michael Lamb, one of four finalists for the director of the

Center for Family Society at USC, will give a public presentation at 4 p.m. Nov. 19 in Gambrell Hall room 153.

His presentation, which is about "The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children's Development" and will be followed by a reception.

Lamb is a senior research scientist and chief of the section on social and emotional development at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Md. His research interests include children's testimony in court, the effects of domestic violence and the different kinds of child care.

He is a recipient of the Young Psychologist Award of the American Psychological Association and the Boyd McCandless Young Scientist Award.

### Harvard professor to give lecture at USC

A Harvard University political science professor will give a free public lecture on Asian economic reform Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m. at USC's Law School auditorium.

Dwight Perkins, Burbank Professor of Political Economy and director of the Harvard for International Development, will lecture on "Reforming Socialist Systems in Asia: China and Vietnam."

The lecture will explore how and why China and Vietnam have followed a different route to economic reform than the former Communist states of Eastern Europe and Russia.

# ISA president uses experience to help students



Yasir Niazi

## Student Leader Profile

By ROCHELLE KILLINGBECK  
Staff Writer

Most international students experience culture shock when they enroll at USC, but International Students' Association President Yasir Niazi uses his background in two nationalities to help them adjust.

Niazi, who is a Saudi Arabian citizen but was born in Pakistan, said it takes some of them a while to get used to American food and society.

"We watch American programs on television and study about the United States, but that's really the only contact a lot of us have with Americans before we get here," he said.

Niazi, who is a senior electrical and computer engineering major, said he wants ISA to serve as a spokesperson for international students.

"The main purpose of ISA is to help orient international students to campus life through different social and cultural events," he said.

Niazi said international students often question him about various aspects of American culture.

"An Asian student asked me to explain Valentine's Day to her because in her country guys buy girls candy, but the girls ask the guys out on a date," he said.

He said a European student told him that America was more conservative than European countries. "One girl said the drinking age is 18 over there," he said.

Niazi said he has also learned to adapt to cultural differences.

In the Middle East, it is customary for the host of a party to introduce himself to the guests and to introduce the guests to everyone at the party.

But, he said, "In America you have to kind of fend for yourself. I like American socials. I just had to get used to the cultural differences."

ISA has sponsored a Somali Relief Dance, in which they raised several hundred dollars, International Day and various panel discussions.

"Yasir really looks out for international students," Salman Ansari, an ISA member and a good friend of Niazi's, said. "He uses a lot of time and energy to make sure the organization serves all international students well."

However, achievement is no stranger to Niazi. His father is a dermatologist and was the first doctor in the Saudi Arabian National Guard, which earned him and his family Saudi citizenship.

Niazi said balancing academics and ISA is not a problem because, "I know that studying is a necessity."

"I take my studies as a necessity, my duty," he said. "After I take care of my studies, I focus on ISA."

"There are other international student organizations on campus, but I think ISA truly shows the diversity at USC and helps internationals socially and culturally," he said.

# Baptist convention arrives at USC

By The Associated Press

Unlike previous years, South Carolina's Baptists came to their convention, which began Tuesday, with no major issues to divide them.

"This convention, if there is any conflict, I don't know of that," B.

Carlisle Driggers, convention executive secretary-treasurer, said during a breakfast meeting.

The South Carolina Baptist Convention is the state's largest religious organization with more than 720,000 members from 1,836 churches and missions.

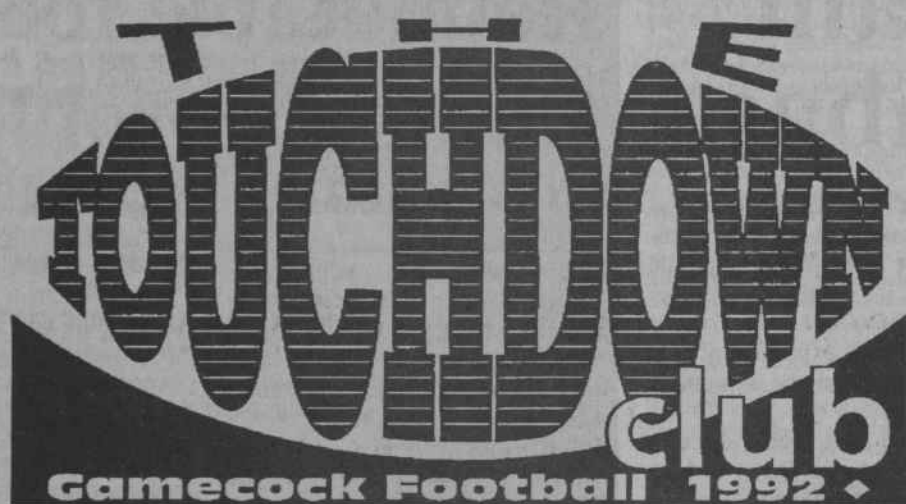
About 3,000 messengers from

local churches and missions are expected to gather at the Carolina Coliseum for the two-day meeting that ends tonight.

The newfound unity follows a year of controversy about Furman University and the school's power to elect its own trustees. During a special convention in May, mes-

sengers voted to sever ties with Furman.

"That consumed a great deal of time," convention spokesman Ben McDade said. "That has been taken care of and it cleared our agenda for us to get on with what we're supposed to be about."



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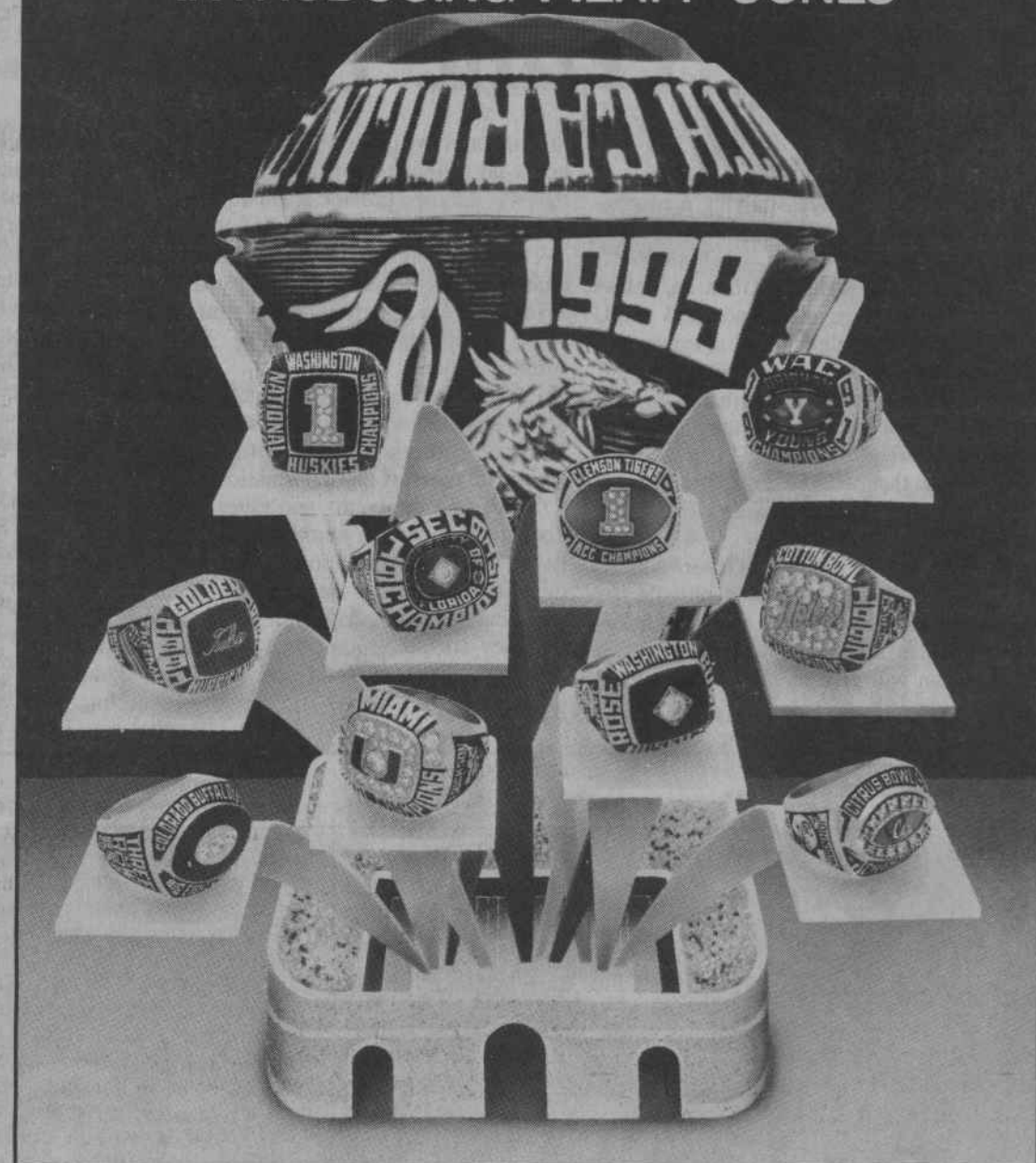
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