



Senior Kurt Jarnagin enjoys the cold temperatures with a smoke and a hot chocolate before his class at Gambrell Hall. Weather is expected to grow colder up to the holidays.
Lea Clayton/The Gamecock

Race relations can be improved, study shows

By ROCHELLE KILLINGBECK
Staff Writer

A recently published report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Race Relations has found that race relations at USC are tolerant, but can be improved.

"One of the principle problems of society is trying to teach people to accept others," USC law professor O'Neal Smalls said. Smalls, committee chairperson, said there is a tendency for people to prefer those who are like themselves and disapprove of those who are different.

"If people learn to accept differences we'll have fewer frictions in society," he said.

Smalls also said if society has any hope of doing this, it has to start at the university level.

The ad hoc committee has made

several recommendations for advancing race relations on campus, such as having each school establish a committee on race relations to monitor progress within each school, increase the number of African-American students, faculty and staff members and recommend ways to incorporate African-American history, culture and contributions into each school's curriculum and programs.

"The United States has undertaken departure from history because people have been usually separated by race," Smalls said.

He believes advancing race relations is an on-going process.

However, some African-Americans don't think race relations are improving.

"Race relations are pretty much the same. I haven't seen much

improvement," accounting sophomore Ephriam Mosley said.

"Race relations are a lot more public, and maybe that's why people are saying it is worst or hasn't improved," Student Body Vice President Kelly Lister said.

Lister said she believes it's good to express opinions through forums, but students need to be involved in activities to supplement the forums and help improve race relations.

"One positive thing is that people are more willing to talk about race relations than they were several years ago, and that's good," political science senior Robert Ellington said.

"African-Americans don't want to be tolerated, we want to be respected and appreciated," Mosley said.

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