

CAROLINA!

USC profs take on CCI

By SUSAN GOODWIN
Staff Writer

Sociology of Sex Roles. Oral Interpretation of Literature. Mass Media and Society. And prison.

To see the connection, one needs to look no farther than the Central Correctional Institution, where inmates take these courses just like their USC counterparts.

"If English 101 or Psychology 101 is good enough to help people on campus, imagine what it does for someone who never expected to have a chance to go to college," said professor Mike Shoen, coordinator of the USC-CCI program.

Shoen first entered the program 10 years ago while he was a USC graduate student in psychology. It was not a maneuver he planned with long-range goals in mind.

"I didn't ever plan to be involved in prison education," Shoen said. "I got lucky and fell into it."

For English professor Jeffrey Helterman, who joined the ranks this past year, involvement was a follow-through for a personal theory.

"I got involved in a public debate with a colleague of mine who wasn't satisfied with his class, and I said, 'You can teach anybody,'" Helterman said. "I thought CCI would be a good test of that."

As one of the eight professors who are teaching at CCI this semester, Helterman noticed that the mentality of his students behind bars differed dramatically from that of his campus classgoers.

"The students are far more interested," Helterman said. "They

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absorb information because it's valuable, not because it will get them a better degree or a better job."

Shoen isn't surprised at such sentiments.

"I haven't met a single professor yet who hasn't said, 'Mike, that's the best class I've ever had,'" Shoen said. "Just contrast the college student pulling himself out of bed, saying 'shoot,' to inmates with smiling faces rushing down the corridor trying to get a front seat."

For Shoen, the reason behind such excitement over attending class is simple.

"It's kind of like being in heaven while you're still alive," he said. "It's a chance to go to class several times a week where it's not a living hell."

Helterman has also noticed an ironic difference, a freedom he has in his prison classroom that is lacking on campus.

"I have absolute freedom in what I can say there," Helterman said. "My classroom is the most unpolitically correct in the Southeast."

Despite these differences, both sets of students share some similarities. Both must have the standard qualifications for enrollment, a high school diploma or a GED and SAT scores if under 25. And both pursue degrees, as inmates can earn a two-year associate of arts degree.

While these stringent qualifications and the sheer nature of the program provide for limited enroll-

ment, 26 students out of about 1,300 inmates, Shoen still emphasizes its successes.

"There's something really wonderful about sitting in the audience at graduation where there are students who are serving sentences for felonies, some violent, in caps and gowns with tears in their eyes because they're so proud," he said.

The mentor experience has been Helterman's major benefit.

"I've had this experience of being a guru to this group," he said. "They really want to know everything I know."

With all the results of the 20-year program, participants feel a certain sadness over the fact that it is ending this semester. Because of the city of Columbia's purchase of the CCI tract and plans for its destruction, prisoners will be parceled out to other Columbia penitentiaries. A large block will be sent to a new prison in Bishopville.

Despite this reorganization, there are plans being made to continue USC-CCI's work, Shoen said. Courses could possibly be offered at the women's prison. Likewise, the Bishopville prison might have a similar USC-Salkehatchie program once its construction is completed.

Though the new programs are uncertain, Shoen believes that the work is important enough to continue.

"Hopefully, one program will give birth to two," he said. "Once you've been a part of this, you see that maybe there are other things that can be done so that people will change in prison and not become worse."

Carolina! Road Trip

DESTINATION: Historic Charleston

DIRECTIONS:
Take I-26-E until it ends at the Cooper River Bridge. There you are. The 112-mile trip takes about two hours.

For a great time, and perhaps the best date in South Carolina, Charleston is not to be missed. In two hours, you can be in the middle of one of the most beautiful places on the east coast. Here's a sampling of what there is to do, but look around — there is fun hidden throughout Downtown Charleston!

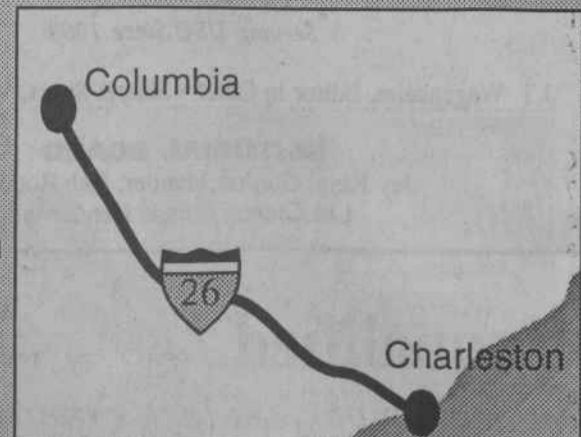
Plantations and gardens

Boone Hall, eight miles north of city on US 17, a wonderfully-authentic cotton plantations with ancient live oaks and a Georgian mansion. 884-4371.

Fort Sumter, boat tours leave from City Marina and Patriots Point. The site of the first shot of the Civil War with lots of cool cannons and historical artifacts. 883-3123.

Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, north on U.S. 17 out of Chas. Featuring the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier, with planes and crew mementoes. 884-2727.

Middleton Place, Hwy. 61. Plantation with regular demonstrations by a blacksmith, potter, weaver and carpenter. (800) 782-3808.



Historic Places

Charleston is loaded with places straight out of history books. There are a whole slew of places that you should see, but here are a few not to be missed.

The Battery and White Point Gardens, East Bay and Murray Blvd., provided a great harbor view with Ft. Sumter in the background.

Catfish Row or Cabbage Row, 89-91 Church St., The inspiration for 'Porgy and Bess' with private homes and specialty shops.

Charles Towne Landing, Off S.C. 171 about 3 mi. NW of downtown Charleston, A park located on the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina. Pathways and a replica of a 17th-century trading ketch highlight the trip. 556-4450.

Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St., One of America's first playhouses. 720-3884.

Rainbow Row, 83-107 East Bay, A really neat group of 14 houses which mirror the colors of the rainbow, dating from 1740.

Waterfront Park, east side of Chas. harbor, Okay, so it's not historic, but it has one of the best views in Charleston.

Upcoming events:

Moja Arts Festival, showcasing African-American and Caribbean cultures of the Lowcountry, held in early Oct. 724-7305.

Taste of Charleston, featuring 40 of Charleston's finest restaurants at Brittlebank Park, held on Oct. 10. 577-4030.

Holiday Festival of Lights, at James Island County Park will have a spectacular light display during the holidays, from Nov. 12-Jan. 2. 762-2172.

For more information

Charleston Chamber of Commerce, 577-2510.

Charleston Trident Convention and Visitors Bureau, 853-8000.

Action flicks merely ludicrous clones

By ERIC GLENN
Photo Editor

Kim Basinger's new film, "The Real McCoy," should have been named "The Real Decoy" because it pretends to have a story and believable characters.



The entire film is like something you would see in a window at the mall. Everyone is nicely dressed and looks lovely but is all fake. There's no life, no animation, not even a reason to like or hate the characters.

The heroes, for lack of a better title, are Karen McCoy (Basinger) and J.T. Parker (Val Kilmer). Karen has been recently released from prison after serving six years for robbing a bank.

J.T. is a hapless, would-be thief also on parole. They are both likable characters, but it's all plastic. The story never puts you in a position where you suck in your breath and pray nothing happens to them. It's Disney meets "Lethal Weapon."

Basinger isn't as annoying as she has been in the past, and Kilmer still has the charm that has made him a great supporting character in other films. However, neither has the strength to carry the film.

However, in all the muck, there are some bright points. One is the direction. Russell Mulcahy, the director who gave us "Highlander," has an excellent visual style that kept me interested, even though it is sad story to

work with.

Although his work isn't on the level of other directors, Mulcahy knows how to shoot an action film. Also, this is one of the few films that has characters with believable Southern accents.

This is a little film. You're not forced to think or figure anything out. It's manufactured and predictable, but it has a charm.

Ironically, the what makes "The Real McCoy" fail is what makes "Undercover Blues," the new film with Kathleen Turner and Dennis Quaid, succeed. Turner and Quaid play the Blues, a yuppieish couple in the spy game who decide to take some time off to rear their baby girl.

Enter a would-be terrorist in possession of high explosives, and we

have a story.

In every scene, the good guys wear white and the bad guys wear black. The good guys always look clean and pressed, the bad guys always look a little dingy.

The entire movie is lighthearted with nothing to take seriously. The tense parts are eliminated with a quick one liner from Turner and Quaid.

As with "The Real McCoy," this film is thin. There is no character development, but these are static characters. Good versus bad, not bad guy versus not so bad guy.

This is a great Sunday afternoon film. There's no emotional component to pull you down, only a lot of physical comedy and sight gags.

It's just fun.

Extras needed for new movie

By WENDY HUDSON
Staff Writer

There will be an open casting call for extras for the movie "Renaissance Man" from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Columbia Mall.

The movie, being filmed at Fort Jackson, is directed by Penny Marshall and stars Danny DeVito and Gregory Hines. The casting company is looking for 18- to 30-year-old soldier types of all races. Some of the roles will require filming for several days in a row. The company is also looking for people to be family members for the graduation scene.

The casting call will be at the Center Court in Columbia Mall. Applicants should bring a recent snap-shot, but if they don't have one, a photographer will be there taking pictures for \$2.

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WJSC

TOP 10

1. THE MACHINES
Various Artists
2. BUILT TO SPILL
Ultimate Alternative Wavers
3. LET'S ELECTRIFY
Versus
4. MASH IT UP '93
Various Artists
5. MEN WITH STICKS
John Lurie National Orchestra
6. HOLY ROLLERS
Holy Rollers
7. LASH
Jesus Lizard
8. DANCING WITH DADDY
Tigers
9. MUSIC FOR THE PROLETARIAT
Various Artists
10. LAST SLASH
Breeders

hanley's top 10

TOP 10 SIGNS THERE MAY BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND

10. At parties, tells people she's the unknown author of "Footprints."
9. Has taken to calling her professors "Daddy."
8. Guaranteed her intramural team would go undefeated, then loses to Razorbacks.
7. Thinks those top ten lists in The Gamecock are funny.
6. She's changing her major to Underwater Basket Weaving.
5. When traffic prevents you from crossing Pickens on Greene Street, she cuts through the back seat of a stranger's car and offers him a Mentos.
4. You come home, and she's screaming "Home Alone Boy's evil! EVIL!"
3. She's faithful.
2. Wears jean shorts, big belt and tight shirt. (Oops, that's a sign she wants to be like every girl on campus)
1. You say, "How are you?" and she says, "Not much."

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