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Southern studies scholars gather at USC

By NEVADA McCALL
Staff Writer

USC — Scholars from cities throughout the world, including Bonn, Copenhagen and Oslo, gathered for the first time in the United States to discuss the fascinating and intriguing region called the South.

USC's Institute for Southern Studies program held a three-day international symposium on Southern literature and history Monday through Wednesday.

European scholars have created the Southern Studies Forum to study aspects of the South.

"I think it was a tremendous success," said Walter Edgar, director of the Institute for Southern Studies.

In 1991, Edgar presented a paper at the University of Bonn and was asked then by the forum if he would be interested in holding the next biennial conference at USC.

"The Europeans understand the importance of regionalism and can identify with the South as being the most clearly, well-defined American region," Edgar said. "The South, unlike the rest of the U.S., has been somewhat out of the mainstream, and Europeans can identify with this."

Edgar said the Europeans view Southern culture as being closely related to their own.

The opening session of the conference was at Harper College on the Horseshoe. The visiting scholars presented papers on various aspects of the South from fictional landscape to views of home.

"The topics discussed ranged from William Faulkner and Thomas Jefferson, African-American burial customs to South Carolina barbecue," Edgar said. "The symposium covered a wide range of customs."

Jadwiga Maszewska from the University of Lodz read "Home and Homelessness" in Toni Morrison's "Beloved." Morrison was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature this year.

"The two motifs of motherhood and home come together within the novel," Maszewska said.

The symposium also featured the contemporary Southern films "It's Grits" and "The Strength of These Arms."

The next Southern Studies Forum will be held in 1995 at Cambridge, England.



Bryan Mims/The Gamecock

Anne Jones, a professor at the University of Florida, discusses Southern culture with Peter Nicolaisen of Flensburg, Germany.

USC offers morning-after pill

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series examining the uses of Ovral as a morning-after pill.

By JAY KING and
PATRICK SHARBAUGH
Staff Writers

USC — With little fanfare, women's clinics across the country have been offering postcoital contraceptives, the morning-after pill, for years, and Columbia clinics are no exception.

At USC, Thomson Student Health Center offers the postcoital contraceptive Ovral, and in the Midlands area, Planned Parenthood of Central South Carolina, Richland Memorial Hospital and Baptist Medical

Center provide the drug. "There is a strict protocol we adhere to when prescribing the pill," said Dr. William Boggs, head of the women's clinic at Thomson Student Health Center.

"Before we dispense the morning-after pill, we have every patient complete an informed consent form, and we verify that she is not pregnant."

Boggs, like many other obstetricians and gynecologists, stresses that Ovral and drugs like it are emergency contraceptives and are not an acceptable form of regular contraception.

Doctors and researchers are not sure precisely how postcoital contraceptives work, but they believe, if taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex, the drug inhibits sperm from getting to the egg, retards the sperm's ability to penetrate the egg's outer covering and changes the acidity in the uterus to prevent the egg from implanting on the uterine wall.

Jane Emerson, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Central South Carolina, said that, to some extent, a woman needs to

be in the right place at the right time and ask the right question to make use of the morning-after pill option.

"We do not suggest it for anybody," Emerson said. "A woman knows that she's recently had unprotected intercourse at the time of ovulation. She gets concerned, so then she calls. She's the one initiating a request for that service. It's a service that falls between the cracks."

The Columbia Planned Parenthood office has only been offering Ovral for a few months, Emerson said, and she estimates the office prescribes the drug about twice a month.

Nationally, the morning-after pill has been confused with the French-made drug RU 486, the "abortion pill." Both Boggs and Emerson stress that Ovral and pills like it are not abortion pills.

nor are their methods of action similar to that of RU 486. "The morning-after pill should not be construed as a method of abortion," Emerson said.

But the notion that Ovral is an abortifacient is but part of the widespread confusion about the drug's function. Many doctors and even some OB/GYNs do not understand the morning-after pill.

A spokeswoman for the Carolina Women's Clinic who refused to be identified said the clinic does not offer the morning-after pill. She also said the only doctor associated with the clinic believes the pill often operates in the wrong way, making it more instead of less likely for a woman to get pregnant. Research indicates this assertion has no basis in fact.

But Boggs and Emerson said it

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Exploring the Ovral option

When a woman goes to the Thomson Student Health Center for morning-after contraceptive treatment, she is asked if she had unprotected, mid-cycle intercourse within 72 hours of the visit. Candidates for Ovral must have no history of heart disease, blood clots, chronic liver disease or hypertension, and they must be prepared to abort if they become pregnant. Blood pressure, pelvic and breast exams must also show normal results.



A pregnancy test is given at the Health Center.

Doctors will give 2 tablets of Ovral or Orcon or 4 tablets of LoOvral when the patient comes in, and follow with the same dosage in 12 hours. Patients will also receive 25 mg of Phenergan every 4-6 hours for nausea.



A consent form is signed; the student gets one copy, and one goes on the student's chart. Doctors will also discuss and encourage contraception alternatives. The patient must return for another pregnancy test two weeks after the treatment and must not have intercourse during that time.

Source: Thomson Health Center

Chris Muldrow/The Gamecock

Misunderstandings cloud women's health issues

By SHAYLA STUTTS
Viewpoints Editor

USC — Although risks such as AIDS and pregnancy are given extensive media and educational attention, experts say that college women lack knowledge about their reproductive health.

Anne Lockwood, director of education at Planned Parenthood of Central South Carolina, said, "Despite all the sex we see and hear about in the media, young college-age women have very low knowledge. They don't know how to talk to their sex partners about needs and how to take care of themselves."

She said the ignorance problem is seen with unintended pregnancies and STDs among college students. Although women in college residence halls request programs on how to use contraceptives and how to lessen their risks of catching AIDS, Lockwood said such "how-to" programs aren't going to help.

Without understanding oneself

and the reproductive cycle, it is dangerous for women to use contraception as a safety net instead of considering the future. Yet, this is how college students handle contraception.

"The problem runs deeper than a lack of knowledge," Lockwood said. "The issue of reproductive health and sexuality must be looked at in its wholeness, not just the sex act. This is much different than just showing someone how to use contraceptives."

Comfort with oneself as a sexual being is essential to understanding one's body. However, female students who receive care at Thomson Student Health Center have little more than a basic knowledge about their reproductive health.

William Boggs, head of Women's Care at the health center, said, "They know to get a pap smear, but they don't know what pap smears can and cannot detect."

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Stokes addresses safety at vice president's panel

By SCOTT POWELL
Staff Writer

USC — Students were given the chance Tuesday to voice their concerns about campus issues at the SGA-sponsored Vice President's Panel.

"The purpose was to find out what student concerns are so student government can better prioritize what needs to be done," junior Mike Moore said.

Concerning incidents in which students have been shot by pellet guns and robbed at gunpoint, campus safety was a major concern of students participating in the discussion.

Carl Stokes, director of Law Enforcement and Safety, said if students spot suspicious people on campus at night and are concerned about their safety, they should go to a call box on campus.

"The only way we have to protect people is to make sure people have business there," Stokes said.

In addition to having nine officers on duty every shift, Stokes said there are 15 reserves available.

He said the reserve officers are criminal justice majors who are certified as constables by SLED, which gives them the authority to arrest people. However, RPO's are not allowed to carry guns.

Because of budget cuts, Stokes said a security contract to provide guards for the Blossom Street Garage at night was eliminated this year.

However, he said police in plain

clothes patrol the area on a regular basis, though shifts are staggered to avoid a set pattern.

"I feel we've done a better job without exposed security guards," Stokes said. Since September, 20 to 25 arrests have been made for tampering with cars.

Stokes said the main responsibilities of USC police are on campus, including providing some funding for the APO escort service.

The mission of the USC Police is to provide a safe campus for students, Stokes said.

SGA Vice President Brian Comer said legislation is being introduced to cover the cost for paying drivers for a proposed shuttle to Five Points, which would run Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Other issues discussed included possible changes to commencement exercises.

There is a possibility commencement will be split between colleges in an effort to shorten the overall ceremony, although concern was expressed that this would not allow other students to see their friends graduate.

SGA Chief of Staff David Haller said there were several myths surrounding commencement speakers.

Haller said academic calendars are set in advance until 1999 and it takes at least three to four years to get a nationally known commencement speaker.

Power loss inconveniences students

By ROCHELLE KILLINGBECK
Senior Writer

USC — While students enjoyed "The Fly" Friday night at the Russell House Theater, 12 campus electricians laid about 10,000 pounds of cable after a power loss in a tunnel near the north Horseshoe area.

"A major (electric) cable failed and exploded inside a conduit about 8 p.m. Friday," said Cecile Sheppard, high voltage supervisor for energy services. He said the cable was 25 years old.

The power loss affected the

north Horseshoe area near the Caroliniana Library, as well as Patterson and the Russell House.

Carolina Program Union leaders had to tell about 60 people to go home at 9 p.m. when the electricity went out in the Russell House, forcing them to cancel "The Last Action Hero."

"We lost about \$200 in revenue, but we were able to show "The Fly" at 11 p.m. after the power came back on," said Stephen Brown, CPU cinematic arts chair-

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Alabama administration will not punish council for funding male stripper

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The administration at the University of Alabama has decided not to place sanctions on the Coordinating Council of Student Organizations for its involvement in the hiring of a male stripper.

Gene Marsh, associate professor of law, reviewed the case for the Office of Student Life and compared it to a case involving Delta Tau Delta fraternity members. He said the two events were not comparable.

Marsh, who reviewed police reports, wrote about the Delta Tau Delta incident: "(Sgt. Dale Harsin) observed two females unclothed

except for a G-string that covered the front vaginal area. There was a male seated in a chair while one of the females was standing over the male's crotch area moving up and down as though the two were involved in an act of sexual intercourse.

"The other female was leaning over the male kissing and licking the male's facial and neck area."

The only sentence in Marsh's report mentioning the actual incident at the Office of Student Life involving CCSO members said, "The male dancer evidently removed his shirt and cap in front of the OSL office and danced to



an audience of about 25 students, staff members and other faculty and staff visiting (the Ferguson building)."

The stripper was hired by CCSO member Jeff Piasky to strip for OSL secretary Pam Sewell.

The Crimson White
The University of Alabama

Tabloid publishers discover trash disposal

COLUMBUS, Ohio — After beginning a season with the Lantern Stadium View disappear-

ing by the thousands, the publishers have discovered an official in the Ohio State University Athletics Department instructed stadium workers to throw the special football tabloid in the garbage.

"I told them to pick up any trash lying around," said Michael Dolan, athletics facilities supervisor. "You tell me, is this publication trash?"

Raymond Catalino, the Lantern business manager, said issues were being thrown away in 1992 and that Dolan had said he would clear up the situation if copies of the Lantern remained outside of the

stadium. Catalino said the throwing away of Lantern issues has caused problems for the tabloid's staff.

"Last year, we had to refund approximately \$2,000 to advertisers when the first issue was taken," he said.

Catalino said he is currently working on a memo to the director of athletics informing him of the situation and asking for \$2,500 to reimburse advertisers.

The Lantern
Ohio State University