

# Laborde fire causes little damage



David Mandrell/The Gamecock

Columbia firefighter Capt. Cleveland Geter inspects damage caused by fire on the balcony of LaBorde 515.

By KEITH BOUDREAU  
Assistant News Editor

Laborde residents had to be evacuated Tuesday night because of a fire on room 515's balcony.

A cigarette was the apparent cause of the fire, according to the Columbia Fire Department.

Political science freshman Jeremy Novak put out the fire with an extinguisher.

"Someone yelled that there was a fire, I grabbed a fire extinguisher, slid open the balcony door and put the fire out," Novak said. "The RA pulled the fire alarm. Then, they made us leave."

Some residents were upset about the inconvenience caused by the fire.

"It was a big inconvenience, but we were fortunate that it wasn't that serious," business freshman Richard McCurry said.

"Unfortunately, I've got three exams tomorrow," business sophomore Linn Pitt said. "Thanks to this fire, it's going to be a very late night."

"I'm getting tired of all these emergencies happening in Laborde," biology freshman Lee Champman said.

The Laborde evacuation went smoothly.

"The residents were very cooperative in exiting the building," fourth-floor RA Gene Aubuchon said.

No one was hurt in the fire.

# Housing project alternative for break

By CRISTINA ROJAS  
Staff Writer

This spring break, the Office of Community Service Programs will sponsor "Alternative Spring Break," a project designed to improve the housing structures of homes at Rural Mission in St. John's Island, on the S.C. coast near Charleston.

"Repair work such as painting, hammering, nailing and cutting wood will be undertaken," said Shelly Hoover, the project's coordinator. "We hope to be making the community a better place."

Twenty USC students, ranging from freshmen to graduate students, will be involved in the project. The project will be supervised by Rachelle Lehner, coordinator of the Office of Community Service Programs.

"The idea of having an alternative to the usual spring break and turning it into an opportunity to contribute to the needs of the community has become popular," Lehner said.

"Two students, John Ogle and Kelly Smith, initiated the 1994 Alterna-

Alternative spring break by writing to the Break Away National Organization which helps schools find regions where help is needed," Lehner said.

According to Hoover, the majority of the money needed to carry out projects like "Alternative Spring Break" comes from the students themselves who each pay \$100.

"Future fund-raisers such as 'Buy a Nail, Build a House' will provide more funding for these projects," Hoover said.

Source: Elections Commission

## Student Government Elections

# General elections to be Thursday, Feb. 17

Polls will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You must vote at the following locations according to your major. You must present your valid student ID.

- RUSSELL HOUSE - Second floor lobby
  - Criminal Justice
  - Education
  - Health
  - Pharmacy
  - Science and Math
  - Social Work
- GAMBRELL HALL - Beside the elevators
  - Honors College Baccalaureate
  - Humanities and Social Science
  - Interdisciplinary Studies
  - Nursing
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - First floor lobby
  - Business Administration
- COLISEUM - Blossom Street lobby
  - Applied Professional Sciences
  - Continuing Education
  - Journalism
  - Library and Information Sciences
- SWERINGEN - Main lobby
  - Engineering
- LAW SCHOOL - Main lobby
  - Law School
- MEDICAL SCHOOL - Main lobby
  - Medical School

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## ELECTION continued from page 1

the SGA Attorney General Derwin Brannon will collect ballots and count them in the Russell House. Winners and run-off candidates will be announced at about 11 p.m.

Executive candidates must get 50 percent plus one vote to win. If no one wins a majority in an executive race, the top two vote-getters will be in a Feb. 24 run-off election.

Muldrow said students need to observe two rules when voting.

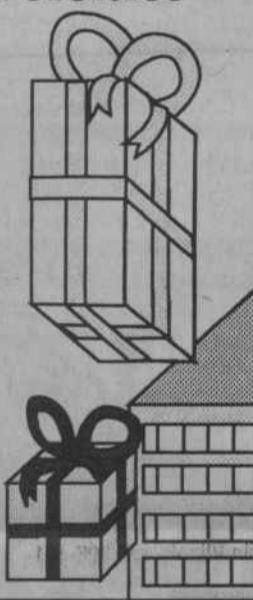
"There can't be any campaign materials within 50 feet of the polls," he said. "If they have a button or sticker on, they need to remove it before they vote."

"Also, no one can be handing out lists of candidates' names. If the poll watcher sees anyone violating the rules, they will ask them to take it off or take the materials."

## School Gifts

# Gifts given to colleges and universities

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  - gas station
  - Buick dealership
  - chalet in the south of France
  - mansion in Turkey
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania:
  - Mack truck
  - bond from Israel worth \$25,000 at maturity
  - sailboat
- Stern School of Business at New York University:
  - collection of pigs made of porcelain, cloth, glass or metal
- University of Louisville in Kentucky:
  - 1985 GMC bucket truck, valued at about \$23,000, with a double bucket on top of a 55-foot boom



Matthew Alford/The Gamecock



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