

## Two women may pursue Citadel challenge

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — Lawyers attacking The Citadel's all-male policy now say two women are willing to pursue the case that Shannon Faulkner dropped when she left the state military school.

Unlike Faulkner, who waged a public 2 1/2-year court battle to become a cadet, lawyers will try to keep the two women's names secret, submitting them only to U.S. District Judge C. Weston Houck, lawyer Val Vojdik said today.

"We have seen what happened with Shannon and all the publicity," she said. "These women do not want or seek publicity."

Ms. Faulkner, 20, dropped out of The Citadel on Friday, after less than a week as a cadet and most of that in the school's infirmary. She said the stress of the court battle and her isolation as the only woman in the corps

took too great a toll on her health.

Ms. Vojdik said paperwork to add the two women to the lawsuit could be filed Friday. She said both women were from South Carolina, one a high school senior and one currently attending college. They want to join the all-male corps of cadets next fall.

A third South Carolina woman has contacted the lawyers, but Vojdik did not know if she would be included.

All three contacted the lawyers since Faulkner dropped out of the corps last week, Ms. Vojdik said. On Tuesday, another lawyer, Suzanne Coe, had said only one woman wanted to join the corps.

Faulkner told ABC's "PrimeTime Live" that her fight was "2 1/2 years of hell," including physical threats.

"There's a lot that I'm not telling you about. ... And I don't know if I'm ever going to be able to tell anybody

but a therapist," the Powdersville woman said in the interview, scheduled for broadcast tonight.

State attorney General Charles Condon said Faulkner's lawyers were just seeking to increase the fees they can ask the court to award them.

"Suzanne Coe and the New York lawyers have shown their true colors — green, green, green," Condon said. "The tears have barely dried on Shannon's face and they are on to the next plaintiff."

Vojdik has an office in New York. The court ruling allowing Faulkner to become a cadet also should apply to any other women who want to join the corps of cadets, Coe said, but school spokesman Terry Leedom disagreed.

"The Faulkner case applies only to Ms. Faulkner and it's not a class-action suit," Leedom said.

Lawyers would ask Houck to make

the case a class action covering any women who want admission to The Citadel, Vojdik said.

Two women have applied to the corps, but the applications have not been processed, Leedom said. The school has received inquiries from about 200 others.

In ordering Faulkner into the corps, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it was special relief for her and "does not alter our determination that South Carolina may still elect to offer single-gender education to men and women."

The state's proposed alternative, a \$10 million women's leadership program at private, all-female Converse College in Spartanburg awaits a November court hearing.

## Statehouse renovation bids blow budget by \$7 million

Associated Press

Renovations of South Carolina's 140-year-old Statehouse will cost \$7 million more than expected, though Wednesday's approval of the contract may face a court challenge.

The State House Committee, with its majority worried about delaying the three-year project, voted 6-4 along party lines to accept Caddell Construction's bid of \$40.2 million for renovations that were expected to cost \$33 million.

Committee chairman Verne Smith, a state senator from Greer, said asking for new bids would delay the project and consume potential savings and could also keep lawmakers out of the Statehouse until 1999.

"I just think it is false economy for us to delay the project and try to get by cheaper," Smith said. "It's time to fish or cut bait."

But it could invite legal action from Morganti National, the Danbury, Conn.-based contractor that submitted the lowest bid of \$43.6 million on the state's original proposal.

The renovation includes a new dome and extensive work on the layout and mechanical parts of the building to bring it up to fire and building codes.

After bids were opened, state officials declared an "emergency procurement" and suggested 25 changes to the project. Three of the four contractors cut their estimates and Caddell of Montgomery, Ala., had the lowest bid.

Morganti refused to respond to the suggested changes and contends it should have been awarded the project. Its lawyer, W. Duvall Spruill, wrote the committee that the emergency declaration appeared to violate state law.

The company, with two protests pending, wanted any vote delayed until those could be resolved, Spruill said. He refused to comment after the meeting, except to say "legal action is always a possibility."

S.C. lawmakers will have an extra \$87 million to spend when they return in January, but those who voted Wednesday to delay the project said they would rather try to save the money.

"The sky is just not the limit for the taxpayers of South Carolina," said Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, a committee member.

Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, wondered how he would explain, to constituents, the project's bids came in above budget.

"I just need something to take home to tell them folks why we missed it" Peeler told architect Robert Lyles. "If I tell them the architect missed it, they'll say, 'Well, surely that architect isn't there any more.'"

Lyles said he couldn't explain exactly why the bids came in above budget until he could talk with the contractors. Morganti's challenge of the bid process at this point makes that impossible, he said.

To save as much as \$5 million, Peeler and the committee's two other Republicans wanted to scrap a proposed foundation that would help the Statehouse resist earthquakes. But that would have required new bids.

The Statehouse already has closed for asbestos removal related to the renovations. The governor, lieutenant governor and General Assembly are working elsewhere during the project and for the next two years the Legislature will meet in a renovated hotel across from the Statehouse.

## Spoletto facing deficit, manager's job uncertain

Associated Press

CHARLESTON (AP) — Spoletto Festival U.S.A. officials are trying to figure out how to recover from a \$900,000 deficit this year.

The Spoletto board's executive committee found out Tuesday the festival is \$1.8 million in debt, taking into account deficits from previous years.

"We're here on a very serious matter," Chairman Homer Burrous told the board's executive committee.

Burrous said while fund raising and ticket sales came close to targets for this season, expenses were well over budget.

Greg McLain, a certified public accountant who audits the festival's books, said there were expenses that didn't show up in the budget.

"Anything of significance should have been tak-

en to the general manager," he said. Some of the expenditures should have been taken to the board's financial committee, McLain said.

Burrous said that the festival has targeted potential donors for about \$600,000 of the shortfall and will work to raise the rest before Oct. 1. It also has cut its staff in half to 12.

Nigel Redden, a former Spoletto general manager who has served as a consultant in recent weeks has proposed a \$4.5 million budget for next year, a figure similar to this year's.

The board also discussed contractual matters in its two-hour meeting. The discussions apparently focused on Milton Rhodes, festival general manager.

Published reports have said Rhodes was leaving, but Burrous said "he has not resigned and we

have not asked him to resign." Rhodes was not at Tuesday's meeting.

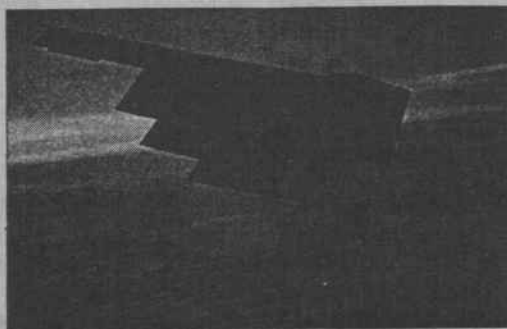
Burrous said the festival has negotiated with Rhodes but also has talked with other potential candidates for the general manager's job.

"We are looking at all the alternatives and Milton Rhodes is one of those alternatives," he said. Burrous said he could not discuss the specifics of the budget problems.

"I'm really not in a position to talk about it," Rhodes said when reached at his Mount Pleasant home. "Maybe by the end of the week."

This year's festival was the first without the artistic stamp of Gian Carlo Menotti, the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer who established Spoletto here in 1977 but left in a dispute with the board in late 1993.

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Interviews will be arranged between, August 21, 1995 and  
Friday, September 1, 1995.