

The Gamecock

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WEATHER

TODAY
Sunny
High 50
Low 35

WEDNESDAY
Cloudy
High 60
Low 40

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Jenni Spangler became the top ranked U.S. marathon runner after winning Saturday's race in 2 hours and 30 minutes. She entered as the 61 seed.

Racing to the FINISH LINE

Columbia residents gathered along the streets Saturday to cheer on the runners for the U.S. women's Olympic Marathon trials. The course covered 26 miles and ran through USC's campus. The winner, Jenni Spangler, completed the course in 2:29:54; her time set a new course record.



ROBERT WALTON The Gamecock



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock

Parking: a candidate platform

Each year Student Government candidates mention parking problems in their campaign platforms. Students continual concerns about parking prompt candidates to address parking issues.

DIPKA BHAMBANI Asst. Features Editor

Every year, Student Government candidates announce the USC parking problem as an important issue on their platforms, one for which each candidate has a feasible answer.

Because parking is still an issue on the minds of USC students, according to The Gamecock's polls, we've decided to feature the problem and potential solutions to the parking situation from both the candidates' and the USC voters' point of view.

One big problem is the lack of spaces. "I think our greatest problem is we do not have sufficient number of spaces on campus," said Bill Baker, Director of Parking and Vehicle Registration.

P.J. Snavey, SG candidate for president, hopes the new garage being built behind the Russell House will alleviate that portion of the problem.

The lack of safety in and around the garages is another problem. "A student can be guaranteed a space in a specific garage for \$160 per semester, but they cannot be guaranteed their vehicle will still be in that space at the end of the day," sophomore Amber Felkel said.

There have been several car thefts and vandalisms in the USC garages this year.

"A lot of safety problems can be solved by increasing lighting and call boxes in areas such as the Horseshoe, around the Coliseum and in parking garages," said Patrick Wright, SG candidate for president.

Jamel Franklin, SG candidate for vice president, plans to put in his efforts to make the garages safer because it is expensive to park in campus garages.

"If police are going to be so picky about a person parking a minute over the meter's limit, then they should have the time to guard the students' cars from theft," junior Karim Hijazi said.

Students who don't see value in parking in the garages and can't find a student sticker space park at meters. SG candidate for president Jon Robinson has an idea that will allow students a \$2 meter permit so students don't have to keep refilling the meters with change.

"I hope they have enough power to do something about it," Hijazi said.

Some candidates say the power of SG can either be influential or weak, depending on whether or not they have the support of the students. Candidates aren't necessarily making empty promises, but they can be without students' support throughout the year.

"The student input should be there," Baker said. "Other than lobbying and remaining active on parking organizations, I don't know what the student government can do."

Cain, a candidate for SG president, said he would like to provide adequate and affordable parking by Fall 1996.

Lobbying to university officials can be effective. Through the efforts of current SG president Amy Bigham and her staff, USC plans to increase the lighting at Blossom Street Garage, repaint the garage and create a regular cleaning schedule.

The main contribution students can make is voting for any of the candidates. All other candidates did not include their parking views in their platforms.

Blatt P.E. Center renovations to enlarge lobby, locker room

Renovations to the Blatt will expand the men's locker room and allow for an aerobics room.

CHRIS RICHTER Staff Writer

The Solomon Blatt P.E. Center has been budgeted \$500,000 to build a new aerobics facility and a more expansive lobby.

The P.E. Center is currently using the volleyball court as a makeshift aerobics room. The new aerobics studio will be a more traditional facility with a state-of-the-art sound system and mirrored walls.

Herbert Camp, director of campus recreation, said the new facility will be as good as other studios in the area.

It will be constructed at the site of the current men's locker room. The plan is to essentially cut the locker room in half, using one half for the aerobics studio and the remaining half as a men's locker room.

Camp estimates that once the construction is completed, the locker room will hold 600 people.

Before laying out the plans for the facility, the center surveyed peer institutions from the SEC and ACC to get an idea of what needed to go into the new aerobics studio. Of the 16 schools that replied to the survey, two didn't have a dedicated aerobics room. Of these two institutions, one is in the process of building a studio.

One thing considered in the decision to build the new facility was gender equity, Camp said.

Camp said there were not enough opportunities for women at the P.E. Center. The P.E. Center has a weight room and basketball courts, which are used mainly by men. Women taking aerobics do not have a room designed only for aerobics. With this construction, the gap between opportunities available for men and women will be lessened, Camp said.

The plan includes the construction of a larger lobby to replace the existing area.

Camp hopes the new lobby will be more aesthetically pleasing, eliminating the "maze look." He also sees the new lobby as becoming a social area where students can come to hang out.

There will be vending machines and a big-screen television where students can come to watch the Gamecocks play.

Fortunately for USC students, there will be very little inconvenience caused by the construction, Camp said. The tentative starting date is late April or May, with a completion date in the middle of August.

Aerobics classes will continue to be held in the volleyball gym until the construction of the studio is done.

"Our goal is to be fully functional by the first day of school in August," Camp said.

Student-directed committees shape students' experiences in Preston

KENDRA CARLSON Staff Writer

Preston Residential College is a residence hall where students get involved with each other, the faculty and the running of the college.

Preston's staff consists of five residential assistants and three principals. The three principals, Becky and Kevin Lewis and Cyrs Armbrust, the assistant principal, facilitate everything the students do.

"We want to establish a college that is run by students," Lewis said. "The principals are liaisons between students."

Preston has its own government consisting of 17 representatives and a monitor. There are three representatives from the three floors of the building. The college also has a budget to fund students' activities.

Anne Knight is one of the government representatives.

"We have different committees, and when they want to sponsor something they must come to a weekly meeting," Knight said.

The committee must have an itemized statement about the activity they want to do, and the government picks the function that best represents the college.

There are several student committees in Preston. The committees range from Sunshine and Gardening to the Basement committee, which cleans out the basement. Students can form new committees anytime.



ROBERT LINDSEY The Gamecock

Preston residents Nicole Thorpe, Manton Matthews and Robert Regal talk on the Preston patio during the first of several open houses.

Preston College has several offices for faculty members and seminar rooms where faculty can teach.

"We try to make informal places for the faculty to meet that teach here," Lewis said. "There is an informal interchange at Preston between faculty and students."

Preston residents are required to eat in the college's own cafeteria in the Russell House. Faculty members are encouraged to and sometimes do eat with residents.

"The quality of the food is no better than in the Market Place," resident Peter Sorenson said. The college is designed to foster a close-knit group of students and faculty.

"Preston College is not for every student," Lewis said. "It is mainly for students who want to interact in a community environment."

"Preston has a community atmosphere where everyone knows each other," resident Ryan Cockrill said. "It is the type of place people leave their