

The Gamecock

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INDEX



Clipping the eagles, PAGE 6

NEWS 1
VIEWPOINTS 3
ETC. 4
COMICS 5
SPORTS 6
CLASSIFIEDS 8

WEATHER

TODAY	Cloudy
	High 51
	Low 31
FRIDAY	Cloudy
	High 43
	Low 32

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SG candidates' platforms may not be attainable

ADAM SNYDER Asst. News Editor
ALLISON WILLIAMS Special Projects

Candidates for 1996-97 Student Government executive and senatorial positions have set goals to establish everything from \$2 parking meter permits to a voting student member on the Board of Trustees.

But are candidates aware of how to implement these ideas and changes? Administrators and current executive SG officers foresee problems in setting unreachable ideas in motion.

Current SG Vice President Darcie Shively said candidates should have attainable goals.

"Candidates should focus on issues you can do, that are not too hard to implement," Shively said.

For example, SG advisor Woody Carothers said a voting student representative on the Board of Trustees has been an issue for many years. Currently, the SG president sits in on Board of Trustees meetings, but cannot vote.

"This has been hashed and rehashed for the past 10 years. It's a complex issue," Carothers said.

Current SG President Amy Bigham said that although the president cannot vote, trustees take the president's opinions into consideration.

"They are very much aware of what's going on," Bigham said.

The South Carolina legislature decides if the Board of Trustees can have a voting student member.

In addition to having a voting student on the Board of Trustees, presidential candidates are running on platforms such as more police patrols, increased lighting, more call boxes, student input on food, higher education funding, an SG newsletter and forums, student financial aid, a cap on tuition and fees, increased funding for Alpha Phi Omega's escort service, a volunteer patrol, higher quality campus food, increased higher education funding, syllabi on line,

improved advisement, expanded use of ID cards and an off-campus meal card.

Police patrols, increased lighting and more call boxes are safety issues handled through the Department of Law Enforcement and Safety or the Safety Committee, one of more than 50 special university advisory committees.

"I think police do a good job on doing their rounds. Candidates need to drop the safety issue and concentrate more on education for safety," Shively said.

Bigham said safety is an important issue that SG can have influence over. More money, Bigham said, is needed for such things as lighting and possibly helping Alpha Phi Omega increase

services. Alpha Phi Omega receives money from the allocation of student activity fees decided by the Senate Finance Committee.

"If you lay down and shut up about it, it (crime) is going to get worse," Bigham said.

Parking is another issue that must be worked out through special committees, according to Bill Baker, head of parking. One presidential candidate wants more \$2 parking meter permits, but Baker said this is something that must be "hashed" out through the committee.

Food issues are also handled through university committees. Shively said a committee is already set up to talk about

on-campus dining services.

"I hope they (new senate and executive officers) will work with what we already have set up," Shively said.

Other committees are also already discussing issues candidates mentioned in their platforms. An example is on-line syllabi. The Curricula and Courses Committee, one of more than 20 Faculty Senate committees, is currently working on the logistics of setting up a way for students to access course descriptions and syllabi via the Internet.

Caroline Eastman, chair of the Curricula and Courses Committee,

PLATFORMS page 2

SG presidents left their marks at USC

ERIN REED Staff Writer

Many USC students can't name their current Student Government president, much less describe what she has accomplished for the university during her term.

Although students may not realize it, the work of many of USC's past SG presidents is still reflected today.

They didn't do it to look good on their resumes. To some of them, it had absolutely no effect on their careers.

To others, serving as president inspired and enriched every part of their lives.

In 1968, Civil Rights protests were flaring up everywhere. When an Orangeburg bowling alley rejected some black students, students protested intensely to attract policemen to the scene. During the protest, policemen shot and killed three students.

Sam Drew, USC's SG president at that time, took it upon himself to organize a campuswide memorial service.

"It helped to define who we are and what we stand for. We stood up for the rights of students and helped keep the university peaceful. It was a turning point in the role SG played and established it as a force," Drew said.

Before Drew's administration, SG had only attended to typical duties, and it was questionable whether he even had the authority to organize the service.

There was "heavy student unrest" about integration, and the memorial service helped to "initiate talks between students and administration about the integration of black students," Drew said. "This thrust us all into a much more real world."

After graduation, his leadership experience inspired a span of jobs for the community. He worked in business, then joined the Teacher Corps, which was set up to attract people from different fields to education to make up for a lack of teachers.

Drew taught for two years, was a principal for five years, headed an at-risk school, was a school superintendent in Union and is now director of community education in Columbia, which concentrates on adult education and literacy.

Having served as SG president "provided me with a level of insight, vision

and leadership skills I couldn't have gotten elsewhere," Drew said.

Harry Walker was SG president in 1972. He installed a student court system at USC.

Did his experience help further his career? "Probably not," he said.

After graduation, he attended graduate school at USC, worked in education for two years and now works for IBM.

Walker said it was difficult to achieve a position like president of the school as a black student in the '70s. But he came out "with strong credentials," he said. His greatest benefit from the experience was "involvement in decisions."

Leigh Leventis' 1975 administration closed off Greene Street during the day, which is still in effect. He also set up a different plan for the distribution of tickets to sporting events.

Students had been camping out overnight by the Russell House to get basketball tickets, which were distributed on a first come-first serve basis. "There had been student pickets about this," Leventis said.

Serving as president "steered me towards politics and enhanced my notions of going to law school," said Leventis, who is now a lawyer. "I was able to work with issues that concerned me during that time."

The night Marie-Louise Ramsdale won SG president in 1989 she sang "We Are the Champions" on a bar stool at the Elbow Room, she said.

She had a good reason. During her administration, call boxes were installed all over campus. "Before I became student body president, there were no call boxes. When I left, there were 25," she said.

Ramsdale also installed the Permanent University Safety Committee and put together the Lightways Map, which shows the locations of the call boxes and the safest paths to take. She also established the Freshman Council.

After college, she went to Harvard Law School, where she was also student body president. "I learned so many skills — how to get things done," Ramsdale said. But "anyone who becomes student body president to further their career needs to think twice," she said.

In 1993, SG president Thomas Young

PAST page 2



SHIN YUN The Gamecock

The Dragon Dance was part of the Vietnamese New Year's celebration. This is the year of the rat, in the Lunar calendar.

Celebrating culture

SHIN YUN Staff Writer

It's the year of the rat for those who go by the lunar calendar.

Rats, people born in 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948 and 1936 are imaginative, charming and generous but are quick-tempered and critical. A legend explains that Buddha invited all the animals of the world to visit him but only 12 came, so he named a year after each of the loyal animals.

Vietnamese students helped organize this year's Vietnamese New Year's celebration last Saturday at Richland Northeast High School. Feb. 19 is New Year's day based on the cycles of the moon.

The celebration included traditional dancing, singing and honoring the ancestors. New Year's is the biggest holiday in Vietnam, and the celebration lasts a month. The Vietnamese community in Columbia only has one formal celebration.

For one day, families stopped working and got together with friends from Myrtle Beach, Greenville, Spartanburg, North Augusta and Atlanta.

Queen Vo, one of the dancers, was born in the United States. Her New Year's wish came true the night of the celebration because she got to spend time with her friends and meet new people. She said that for Vietnamese who were born in America and can't speak Vietnamese and those who have recently arrived and are learning English, working on the dances taught them about one another.

"We learned about each other, not as individuals, but as groups — like she's really Americanized, but

she's OK, and she's really Vietnamese, and I can accept her," Vo said.

Vo said she is always learning about her heritage. Last summer, while studying at Carnegie Mellon University, she discovered a Vietnamese Internet relay chat. She got kicked out the first time she logged on because the Vietnamese from all over the world thought she was making fun of them when she wrote that the Vietnamese symbols on the computer screen must be a bad connection. They let her back on, and they helped her learn the language by letting her write out words phonetically.

Vo also credits karaoke as helping her learn the language.

Thuy Nguyen has been dancing in the New Year's celebrations for four years. She says it's unfortunate she's too old to get money in red envelopes from older people, a Vietnamese tradition.

"Little kids know a lot of elders, and they get rich quick," Nguyen said. "If you're my age, 22, you try to get it from the guys."

Nguyen was born in Vietnam, lived in a refugee camp in Thailand for two years and arrived in the United States when she was nine years old.

Her father was in the U.S. working to get his family to join him. But for the two years her mother,



SHIN YUN The Gamecock

Sophomore Mary Nguyen participated Saturday in the traditional Vietnamese New Year's dance.

brothers and sister were in Thailand, they didn't celebrate New Year's because there wasn't anything to celebrate with, and they didn't have the time.

NEW YEARS page 2

SG Senate passes budget

STAFF REPORT

The Student Senate met for the next to last time this term in a meeting that could be deemed short but sweet.

Three bills were passed in the 20-minute meeting, all by acclamation. A spectator in the gallery described the officials as "lame duck" senators.

The main legislation passed was the budget bill. Student activities fees totaling \$744,422 were allocated to different student organizations across campus. A total of \$300,000 will go to support salaries of the staff working directly with student support functions.

The senate also decided the \$100,000 administrative fee for 1996-97 will be paid in June of 1997.

Scholarship promotes science research

MARTHA HOTOP News Editor

At least 15 students will receive science research opportunities this summer.

The UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research scholarship award supports African-American students who are life science or physical science majors. Scholarship awards are a component of the UNCF-Merck Science Initiative.

"The goal of the scholarship is to significantly increase the pool of highly-trained, well-qualified African-American research scientists in the biomedical sciences and related scientific disciplines," said The Merck Company Foundation. Scholarship winners receive academic support through tuition assistance and research opportunities in state-of-the-art laboratories. Recipients will also work closely with a mentor.

Scholarships are worth a maximum of \$35,000. The total amount of the award is broken down into three components. Recipients may apply a maximum of \$15,000 towards tuition and room and board. Recipients also receive \$10,000 over the course of two summer internships.

An additional \$10,000 grant is awarded to the department in which the recipient is majoring. Departmental grants may be used to purchase research supplies and support research activities. The grant can offer scholarships to other scientists.



GAMECOCK GREENBACKS

Scholarship recipients must be full-time students at four-year institutions. They must be life science or physical science majors; those majoring in physical science must have completed two semesters of organic chemistry. Applicants must also have a minimum 3.3 GPA.

A selection committee consisting of Merck scientists and educators will review each application. Selection will be based on GPA, interest and ability to conduct laboratory work and interest in advancing scientific education.

Applicants must be officially nominated by the dean or president of their academic institution.

Applicants must include a financial statement, transcript and three letters of recommendation. The recommendations should address the applicant's laboratory and academic abilities and their potential to pursue scientific studies. One of the letters must be from the head of the student's department.

Applicants should also include a statement about themselves that is no more than three pages long. The statement should describe their career interests and goals in the field of science.

SCIENCE page 2

VOTING SITES

The following are the voting locations and the colleges serviced by each. The voting sites will be open from 9 am - 6 pm today.

2nd Floor Russell House	Education
Criminal Justice	Music
Health	Social Work
Pharmacy	
Science and Math	
Gambrell	
Honors College Baccalaureate	Nursing
Liberal Arts	Interdisciplinary Studies
BA	
Business Administration	
Coliseum	
Continuing Education	APS
Journalism	
Library and Info Sciences	
Swearingen	
Engineering	
Law School	
Law School	
Medical School	
Medical School	

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