

Students celebrate Earth Day at summit

LONI STEWART Staff Writer

At the first Earth Day celebration in Columbia in 1970, one of the nation's leading conservationists, South Carolina's own Rudy Mancke, celebrated with the crowd a hope for environmental progress.

Today is the 26th anniversary of Earth Day, and Mancke recollected 25 years of environmental progress over the weekend as one of the many speakers at the 1996 South Carolina Student Environmental Summit, sponsored by USC School of the Environment, Sierra Student Coalition, Students Allied for a Greener Earth and the Sierra Club.

The summit attracted students from universities and high schools all over the state. "It was a real bonding experience," said Rebecca Vance, Sierra Student Coalition vice-chair. Others felt the weekend summit was definitely worth their time, and they were glad to meet other students with similar feelings about keeping the planet clean and livable.

For \$10, participants received two meals, endless snacks, lodging and a bounty of education from many perspectives. They were provided ecumugs as an alternative to plastic or Styrofoam cups, and all recyclable trash was properly disposed of after the summit.

This mentality was reinforced by Mancke, who said people need to practice conservationism. "Don't use rare resources...and never supply wants at the expense of needs."

Different speakers addressed the four main topics: land, air, water and skills for greening campuses. USC professor Judy Williams-Howze discussed water; Bob Guild, an



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Maria Calvey, of Lander College, signs a big 'Thank you' poster to Rudy Mancke, of SCETV's "Nature Scene," and other speakers who attended the 1996 Student Environmental Summit.

environmental attorney, covered land issues; DHEC representative Denise Horton discussed air issues; and Chris Thomas, a USC student in charge of the recycling office, talked about greening campuses.

The response was tremendous, especially as members of the community joined the summit for the panel discussion. Representatives from the Christian Action Council and community activist Mildred Myers were among the group.

Myers was driven to action when her neighborhood was targeted for an infectious waste incinerator. She hopes to fight off the pollution that often ends up in inner city and African-American residential areas.

Myers pointed out, however, that the water flows, and the wind moves the air everywhere, so her environmental problems are everyone's environmental problems.

"South Carolina needs to join hands of any color...(we need) unity," Myers

said.

The organizers of the conference were pleased with the results. A network of students was created throughout the state to encourage campuses to take steps, even small ones, like recycling cans and plastics.

Overall, the summit reflected Mancke's words, "We are all part of the natural world, not separate from it. Leave the earth in the same condition you found it in, and if you can make it better, go for it."

SG officers to continue achieving campaign goals

JENNIFER STANLEY Asst. News Editor

The Student Government Senate passed nine pieces of legislation during the first seven weeks of the 1996-97 term.

Most of the legislation involves the platforms and goals set by SG officers at the beginning of their term. The officers said they will continue working to meet their goals throughout the summer.

"Student Government will do everything in our power to make the (the legislation) a reality," SG Vice President Jamel Franklin said.

Several of the election candidates' platforms included concerns about student services and the continuing improvement of higher education.

During the elections, students expressed concern over safety, dining and the registration process. To meet their platforms, officers are already working with the administration and Marriott food service to lessen the dining restriction.

"It seems like this is not going to be easy, but is realistic," Franklin said.

According to Franklin, SG is going to work to make the times a student can use a meal more lenient. Student Affairs is assisting SG in the talks with Marriott.

Officers are also working to resolve students' concerns about safety on campus. When students return in August, they should find better lighting and more call boxes; Blossom Street Garage will have added lighting and fluorescent-like paint. Additionally, call boxes will be added by the School of Music and

"Student Government will do everything in our power to make the (legislation) a reality"

Jamel Franklin, SG Vice

Benson Theater.

In response to student concern, SG is endorsing a toll-free TIPS number. The registrar's office will begin a test group to determine whether or not the toll-free number is "more trouble than it's worth," Franklin said.

Senators and SG officers are also lobbying the administration, faculty and academic departments to establish a voting student member on the USC Board of Trustees and to increase funding for higher education.

To meet this goal, the senate passed a resolution during their last meeting. The resolution recommends the South Carolina State Legislature allow Patrick Wright to act as a voting member on the board; the student body president is traditionally a non-voting member.

"In order to correctly represent student concerns, we need him (Wright) to vote," Franklin said.

In other SG business, Treasurer Peter Siachos said it is "vitaly important to make sure that we use money in an efficient manner" and that SG should address the waste of student monies.

Siachos will be presenting the SG budget to Wright and Franklin this week and to the SG Senate in the fall.

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