

The Gamecock

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WORLD WIDE CAROLINA



Tom Hanks is back and this time he means business. Check out his new movie, "That Thing You Do," on the web.

<http://www.thathingyoudo.com>

WEATHER

TODAY
Rainy
High 84
Low 77

THURSDAY
Rainy
High 82
Low 75

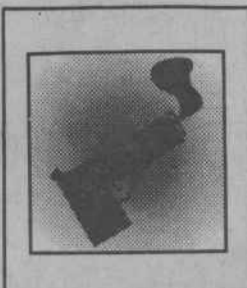
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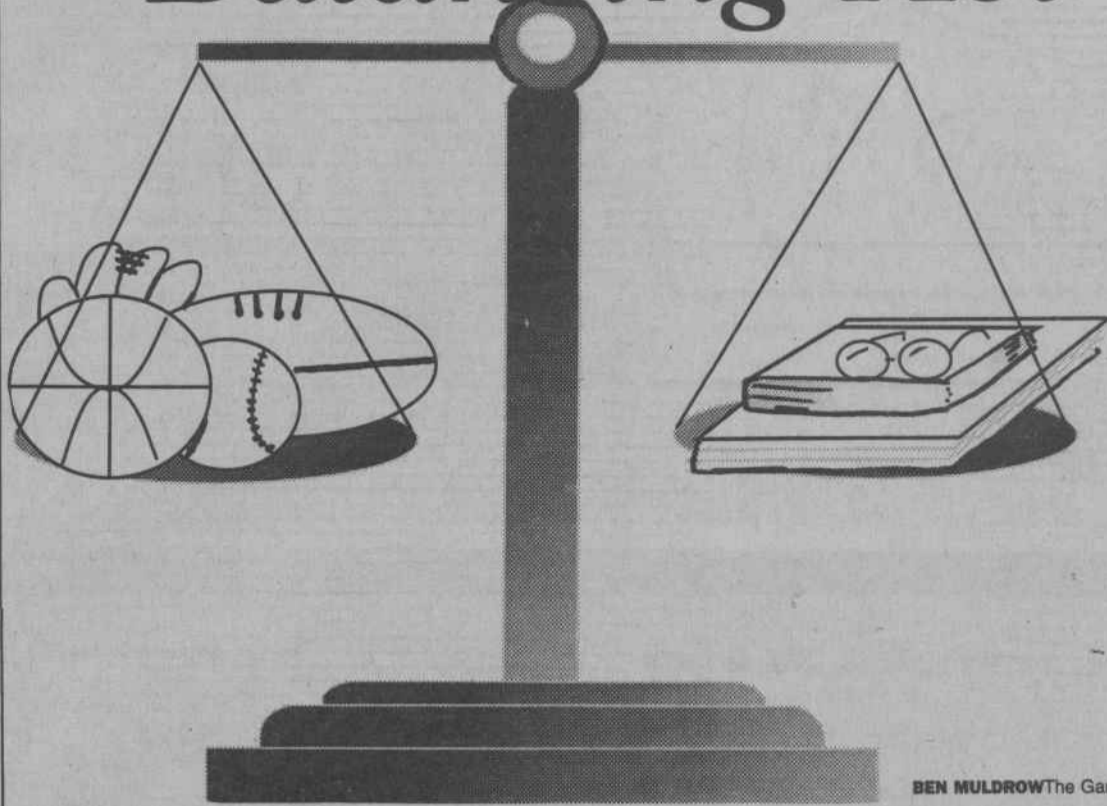
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Coaches square off: USC's Brad Scott vs. Auburn's Terry Bowden.

Balancing Act



BEN MULDRON/The Gamecock

Athletes mix sports, academics

STACEY BROWN Staff Writer

The Athletics Department has taken measures to increase athletes' GPAs and improve their outlook on academics. The Athletics Department added to their tutoring program with a more individualized program, as well as mandatory study hours at the Academic Enrichment Center, which was built four years ago.

As for improving their outlook on academics, the Athletics Department added the mentoring program as a person to go to if they have any problems in or out of the classrooms.

As for new athletes, there is the New Student Seminar that brings different people in from the campus to talk about issues that affect athletes. These issues include dealing with the professor and prejudged attitudes of non-athletes.

"Some of the prejudged attitudes are that athletes are loud, dumb jocks, think they are better than everybody else, and receive special privileges," Associate Athletics Director of Academic Support and Student Services Harold White said.

Student athletes are given the reputation of having special privileges. One of these supposed privileges is the lighter course load. But, in reality, the lighter course load is only during the competition season.

The NCAA regulates that during the school year the student-athlete must have 12 hours a week, and USC's athletes are no exception. But for the off season, USC's athletes are required to take 15 hours. On top of this, the athletes practice for 20 hours a week and have mandatory eight to ten study hours a week.

"Sometimes athletics does get in the way of studying because you are tired after practice and you have to push

yourself to open your books and learn what you are reading," sophomore football player Jamar Nesbit said. "But athletics also helps with studying because you want to keep up your grades so you can stay on the team and not have the coach mad at you."

"We are representing the school, so we should do well, and besides, just because we are athletes we still have to prove ourselves in the classroom," senior softball player Kelly Dammer said.

The GPAs from fall 1991 to spring 1995 increased .292 points.

"It is accredited to the excellent support from coaches to discipline their athletes, the environment established where you are expected to do well, the young people buying into the expectations and the leadership from Mike McGee, the Athletic director," White said.

The Athletics Department hopes to keep up the increase in GPAs, and has fully implemented the sliding scale for the first time this year. For USC, the sliding scale kept many athletes from athletic scholarships.

"We will have to evaluate the positives and negatives of the scale and see what we think," White said.

The Athletics Department is also trying to keep the athletes' goals for the future broader than just pro sports.

"For some athletes, their eggs are all in one basket, but for me, personally, my eggs are spread out. With my major, international business, I have been forced to take classes that open my eyes to different things," Nesbit said.

"I definitely have plan 'B' to fall back on because being a women there are no pros for me. Softball is here to help me get through college with forcing me to study and with money," Dammer said.

Stress hits students at midterms

TRACY VREELAND Staff Writer

Tests, work, involvement in organizations: it gets crazy at this point in the semester.

"I have a lot of schoolwork that's due and tests coming up. That's why I'm stressed," Bates House RA Renee Keller said.

Students start to get run down. They are up all night studying for that test in their 8 a.m. class. Food becomes an option. Parties to relieve classes and cannot function the next day.

Students at USC have various ways to cope with the stress that comes along about this time. Although organizations add to the stress, they can also relieve it.

Mark Jennings, Columbia Hall Residence Hall Director, helps himself and his residents with stress. He says, "It's a good stress. My residents are under stress because they are getting involved."

Jennings believes, "It's not negative; not because they can't handle stress, but how they can."

As a RHD, Jennings is under a lot of stress himself. There is a large time commitment between studies and activities, as well as his job. When he gets stressed out, he copes by helping others deal with their stress.

"What I need the most when I'm under stress I try to give away. If I'm under a time constraint, I give time to others or myself and I find I'm more able to cope," Jennings said.

He advises students to "use a daily planner or make a 'to do' list. Get plenty of rest and eat well. If students are not physically or mentally alert, they cannot be academically."

Resident Advisers, as well as RHDs, see the growing tensions among their residents and in their schedule. Keller tells her residents "not to bog themselves down with stuff. Don't wait until the last minute."

Keller shares her own stress management strategies with her residents.

"Do something to relax, like listen to music. Go in order of what needs to get done," she tells them.

Sophomore Kristina Misuriello

Stress Busters

Ask Us at 777-7777 offers information on a variety of subjects. Here's what it says about stress.

- Avoid stressful situations
- Learn to relax
- Contract, relax muscles
- Pick up a hobby
- Have three good friends to talk to
- Express emotions
- Pray

agrees with Keller.

"I get stressed out when I wait until last minute to do stuff," Misuriello said.

"I listen to relaxing music to reduce stress. My friends help too, because they relax me."

Shelley Rothwell, president of the KAO chapter at USC, has to deal with her stress as well as the chapters. The chapter adds stress but also is supportive. Not only does she work, have papers and homework due, but also has forms to fill out, people to call and things to get done for Theta.

Rothwell said she tries "not to take things too seriously. I prioritize and do things that make me happy to reduce stress."

"I make a 'to do' list every single day. It adds to the stress to try to remember all the things you're stressing about."

"I try to keep an upbeat positive attitude all the time and enforce deadlines. If it doesn't get done, at least it's over," Rothwell said about Theta.

Off-campus junior Brad Vick is the prime example on how not to handle stress.

"I kept it bottled up and all of a sudden all hell breaks loose," Vick said.

"It gets stressful when you have so much on your mind and don't know how to handle it. I smoke, sleep and drink to relieve stress," said Vick.

Vick admits he is a bad example on how to reduce stress.

Blossom Garage car 'totaled' in brief blaze

ADAM SNYDER News Editor

A USC freshman's convertible was "totaled," according to the USCPD Tuesday night in the Blossom Garage.

Jennifer Mackie was returning to campus about 8 p.m. in her Ford LX when she noticed fumes were escaping from beneath the hood.

"I wondered if my car was overheating. The car decided to die," Mackie said.

She returned with friends to her dorm, where she called her father to meet her in the garage to inspect the vehicle.

"We saw the campus security, but we didn't think anything of it until we saw the fire trucks," Mackie's roommate, freshman Maria Karoutsos said.

"We didn't call the campus police," Mackie's friend, freshman Maggie

Corrigan said.

According to Jay Jones and R. Harter, both patrolmen for the USCPD, a call was put in about 8:15 p.m. about the vehicle being on fire. From there, the police phoned the fire department and fire engines were dispatched.

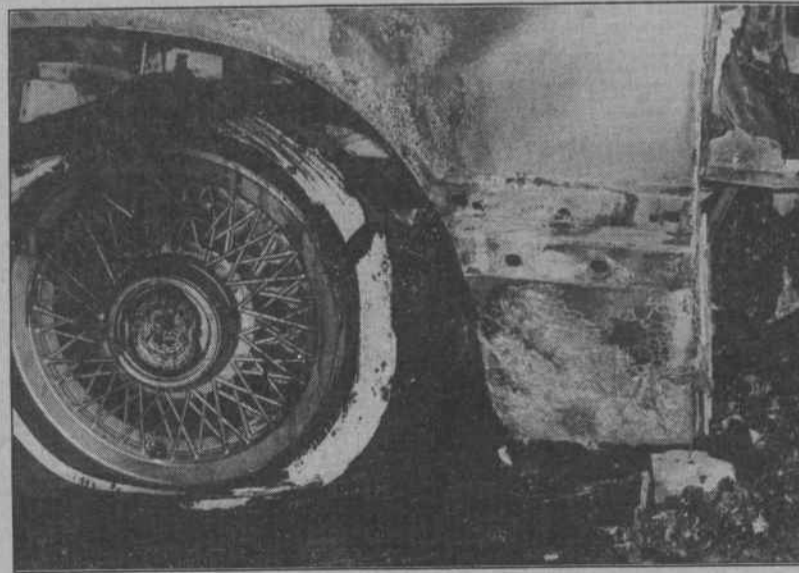
Three engines responded to the call, blocking Sumter Street between Blossom and Wheat Streets. Only limited traffic was allowed in the garage. The third level was closed.

Fire fighters put out the blaze before 8:30 p.m., and had left by 9 p.m. At the scene they were unable to determine the cause of the fire.

"I got a new engine a few weeks ago," Mackie said.

No major damage was caused to surrounding vehicles.

"Cars can be replaced, but people can't," Mackie said.



NIKKI THORPE The Gamecock

Tuesday night's fire destroyed the new engine and the complete front end of this car in Blossom Garage. No one was injured in the incident. Also, the damage was contained to the vehicle although several other cars were layered with soot and water.

9-30-96

Larceny of bookbag, Russell House Bookstore. Victim reported that unknown persons removed his bookbag from the bookbag storage rack. Bookbag was unattended.

9-29-96

Autobreaking, larceny of cassette player, Field House Lot. Multiple victims complained that unknown persons had broken windows of their respective vehicles. Once access to the vehicles was gained, subjects rummaged through glove compartments and trunks, removing several items of value, including money. Estimated loss: \$655.
Trespassing after notice, B6 Lot.

Reporting officer observed subject loitering in incident location, and aggressively panhandling students as they passed through.

Reporting officer stopped suspect and advised that the suspect had been previously warned to stay off campus. Suspect was arrested and transported to Richland County Detention Center.

Larceny of bicycle, Douglas bike rack. Victim reported that unknown persons removed his bicycle from the rack by cutting through a steel chain securing the bike. Estimated loss: \$185.



9-28-96

Simple poss. of marijuana, Williams-Brice Stadium lot. Reporting officer observed strong odor of marijuana smoke coming from a vehicle in the incident location. Consent to enter vehicle was given, and all subjects admitted to using marijuana. All were charged and issued courtesy summons.

Driving under suspension, Blossom Street Garage. Reporting officer observed suspect fail to stop for a red light at Blossom and Sumter Streets.

Suspect was stopped at above location. A license check revealed that suspect's license was suspended. Suspect was arrested and transported to Richland County Detention Center.

9-27-96

Autobreaking, larceny of CD player, CS-13 Lot. Victim reported that unknown persons entered his secured vehicle and removed a CD player, an amplifier and two speakers. Estimated loss: \$550.

Larceny of cellular phone, BA Building. Victim reported that unknown persons entered his unsecured vehicle and removed a cell phone. Estimated

loss: \$100.

Larceny of bookbag, Russell House Bookstore. Victim reported that unknown persons removed his bookbag from the bookbag storage rack. Estimated loss: \$165.

9-25-96

Trespassing, USC Coliseum. Reporting officer observed suspect selling bootlegged t-shirts out of Coliseum Lot 2 and warned suspect to stay off USC property. Suspect was observed on property a second time after being warned. Suspect was arrested and transported to Richland County Detention Center.