

# The Gamecock

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WEATHER

**TODAY**  
Sunny  
High 65  
Low 55

**SATURDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
High 66  
Low 46

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STUDENT ORGANIZATION LOTTERY TO BE HELD SOON

The "Lottery" for the Russell House Ballroom and other meeting rooms for Jan. through Aug. 1997 will be held Oct. 10 in RH 218. The first drawing will be at 9 a.m., followed by a second one at 10 a.m. Academic classroom space may not be reserved until Jan. 20, 1997.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS PLANS TRIP TO CAROWINDS

International Programs for Students is organizing a trip to Carowinds on Saturday. Vans will depart from the front of the Russell House at 8:30 a.m. for Carowinds. The vans will depart the park at 8:30 p.m. Interested students should sign-up in the International Programs for Students office. There is a \$3 transportation fee and admission to the park is \$21.95. For more information call 777-7461.

## A Gender Matter



NIKKI THORPE The Gamecock

Peter Tepley, left, spoke about how it's wrong to discriminate against same sex marriages. Walter Burns gave the opposing viewpoint of the argument.



NIKKI THORPE The Gamecock

## Same-Sex marriages: morally right or wrong?

ANGELA SHEPARD Staff Writer

Students and residents of Columbia gathered in the Law School Auditorium to witness a debate addressing the issue of same-sex marriages, at 5:00 p.m. Thursday. "Gay and lesbian couples have and will continue to live in loving, committed relationships," Mr. Peter J. Tepley, attorney for the offices of Turnipseed and Associates, argued for the affirmative. Tepley went on to say discrimination against same-sex marriages violates the Constitution and the government has presented no legitimate reasons that homosexual couples should not be granted the same rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples. Since same-gender marriages are not recognized under the law, homosexual couples are refused certain benefits, including some

health coverage plans and inheritance rights. "An unmarried partner can be excluded from the bedside [of the other partner] when crucial medical decisions need to be made," Tepley said. Same-sex partnerships cannot file joint tax returns. "I feel it's an economic issue — governments should grant them tax breaks," Columbian Laura Doyle said. Tepley also argued that members of homosexual relationships have proven to be loyal and responsible for their partners. "Civil marriage includes responsibility, and these responsibilities benefit society as a whole," he said. He also said marriage provides social cohesion and encourages stable households and long-term relationships. According to Tepley,

the government has provided no legitimate reasons to deny the legal recognition of civil marriage to same-sex couples. He said arguments to prevent same-sex marriages are reminiscent of those used to discriminate against interracial marriages 30 years ago. "Peter had a wonderful argument and did a wonderful job. Professor Burns seems very typical of the Christian Coalition Republicans. There's a big division based on age," said Zanne House, alumnus of 1991. Professor Walter Burns of Georgetown University opened his negative arguments by saying "All laws discriminate." According to Burns, marriage is a matter of public concern because it is a foundation for the family. Burns quoted Jean Jacques Rousseau's definition of marriage as a bond between a man and a woman, and said children are the

purpose of marriage. "I'm well aware of the possibility of real, genuine love between two men or women, but that's not the issue," Burns said. "I was disappointed on his performance. His only arguments were historical and religious," senior Tonya Harrel said. After the opening arguments, the moderator opened a question and answer session between the debaters. Tepley asked why the line for legal marriages is drawn at same-sex couples instead of those that can't procreate. "Too difficult to administer," Burns replied. Afterwards, the question and answer session opened to the audience.

## Students to shine in MasterCard Acts

SHARIF SIMMONS Staff Writer

This week marks the beginning of this year's third MasterCard Acts. MasterCard Acts is a nationwide talent search created by MasterCard International Inc. and coordinated by the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA). "It (MasterCard Acts) is designed to discover the most talented and promising student entertainers in music and comedy," Carolina Productions Concerts Commissioner Toby Jenkins said. University of South Carolina is one of 100 schools nationwide scheduled to hold local competitions, from which a winning act will

advance to the semifinals. Two acts in each of the six semifinal locations will be awarded \$1,500 and a chance to compete in the MasterCard Acts national finals Feb. 23, 1997. The winning act will be awarded the title "Best Student Act in America", \$15,000 and the opportunity to perform live in front of entertainment industry professionals. A contribution of \$10,000 also will be made to the winner's school scholarship fund. In last year's competition students performed before 1,800 people that included representatives from the nation's best known music-industry companies, such as Capitol Records Inc. and Virgin Records Inc. "More than anything, MasterCard Acts gives

college students the opportunity to perform before record label executives, an opportunity that they would normally never have," Jenkins said. Participants must be enrolled at USC for a minimum of six hours. Only half of a band or musical group's members needs to be enrolled at USC. Eligible students with comedy or musical acts can sign up from Sep. 23 to Oct. 11 at the Program Office and at the Information desk on the second floor of the Russell House. For more information on the MasterCard Acts local competition at USC, call Toby Jenkins or Stephanie Summerson at 777-7130.

## State Fair brings food, entertainment to Columbia

ALYSSA SMITH Staff Writer

The annual State Fair opened Wednesday for the 127th time. Food, rides, exhibits and shows are all a part of the fair. This year, the fair has some new attractions: A laser show, a ski jump show, chain saw artists and two new rides. There is also a new food item: roasted corn. The corn is roasted in its shuck, over an open fire and then peeled and dunked in butter. According to General Manager Gary Goodman, "The fair also offers livestock, flowers and agriculture, and art - the finest in the eastern states," he said. Food has always been a big part of the fair: Elephant ears, cotton candy, hot dogs, corn dogs, sausages, barbecue, french fries and hamburgers—just to name a few.

"I go for the food," sophomore Angel Ellis said. "My favorite part of the fair is the food," junior Chris Boozer said. "I go to ride the rides, eat food and have a good time." The rides have always been the main attraction at fairs. This year, there will be two new rides: The Scorpion and The Terminator. "The rides are the best part of the fair," freshman Andrew Deming said. "The big roller coasters are the best," junior Laura Metcalf said. This year, there will be daily grandstand shows (except Oct. 8 and Oct. 12) at 7:30 p.m. The Goo Goo Dolls, Shenandoah, Sammy Kershaw, Blackhawk, Travis Tritt and Marty Stuart, Lorrie Morgan, Smokey Robinson and Immature are all scheduled. The Goo Goo Dolls will be playing

today. Tickets are \$5. There are 1,000 tickets left for the 6,000 seats available on a first come, first serve basis. Other shows at the fair will be local bands Shades of Gray at noon and 2 p.m., Oct. 5 and Treadmill Trackstar at 1 p.m., Oct. 12. For other concert times, check The State's State Fair information section. College students will be admitted free until 8 p.m. on both Friday nights. This new feature will attract many students. "I was planning on going anyway, but it makes it [the fair] even better," freshman Susie Caldwell said. "That's really an incentive to go," Metcalf said. "That would make me go even if I wasn't planning on it," Ellis said. Regular admission prices for adults are \$4 Monday through Thursday and

\$5 on weekends. Tuesday is Winn-Dixie Day. Visitors get free admission by bringing four canned goods for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. There will also be a pay-one-price ride ticket that can be bought for \$12 on Monday through Thursday. The ticket is for admittance to all rides, all day. Strips of 30 ride coupons can be bought for \$18 at the gate. The State Fair is a private nonprofit agricultural exhibit. Their annual budget is 2.5 to 3 million dollars. The State Fair is expecting a turnout of at least 500,000 people. Last years attendance was 576,040 and they hope to top it. This year's fair theme is "Give Us a Whirl." The fair runs through Sunday, Oct. 13 and is open at 10 a.m. daily and at noon on Sunday.

1996 State Fair

- The State Fair opened yesterday and runs through Oct. 13.
- What's New**
- Nightly Lazer light show
  - Back Hoe rodeo
  - Chainsaw artist
  - A dozen new rides
- Times**
- Starts nightly at 7:30 p.m., except Oct. 12
  - Opens at 10 a.m. Monday-Saturday
  - Opens noon Sundays
  - Closes at midnight
- Costs**
- \$4 adults, Monday-Thursday
  - \$5 weekends
  - Friday, students get in free until 8 p.m.