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The Gamecock

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University of South Carolina

WEATHER



TODAY
Storms
High 94
Low 74

THURSDAY
Cloudy
High 88
Low 69

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Campus thefts rise in September, October

Students should remember to lock their doors, bikes, law enforcement and safety officials said.

CECE VON KOLNITZ Senior Writer

Thieves roam dorm hallways searching for open doors.

That's why students need to remember to lock up when they leave their rooms, said Carl Stokes, director of USC's law enforcement and safety division. Otherwise, Stokes said, don't expect that gold ring or wad of cash you left on your dresser to be there when you get back.

And the number of thefts on campus increase during the months of September and October, Stokes said. People steal

jewelry, money, clothes from washing machines and anything else they can, he said.

"It takes two seconds for someone to get into your room and be gone without anyone seeing them," Stokes said. "Very seldom do we have any break-ins into dorm rooms because thieves can just walk in."

Stokes said he believes most thieves are students because of the tight watch the USC police department keeps on vagrants coming onto campus.

He said students can avoid theft and help USCPD deal with the problem.

"Don't act as though you're at home," he said. "Be aware of strangers and don't leave books unattended because someone

will pick them up and go sell them."

Sharing observations that may lead to catching a thief, or any criminal on campus, is important, Stokes said.

"Don't be hesitant to report strange activity," he said. "One of the best safety tips is to let police know what's going on. Be the extra eyes and ears for everyone's safety because we can't be everywhere, and we need to know."

“It takes two seconds for someone to get into your room and be gone without anyone seeing them.”

Carl Stokes
director of USC's law enforcement and safety

Through a police department program called Operation ID, students can have their valuables engraved with a number so they can be more easily identified if stolen.

Law enforcement officials suggest students who ride bikes around campus should both register their bikes either at the USCPD or the campus parking office at Pendleton Street Garage. They can also have their bikes engraved.

Bikes are a big target for theft, said Calvin Gallman, USC's victim/witness coordinator for law enforcement and safety. More than 50 bikes were reported stolen last semester, a loss that cost almost \$16,000.

The number was the same in 1995, up from 39 bikes stolen in 1994 and 28 in 1993.

Gallman said bike thefts were the only type of larcenies that didn't decrease in 1996. Most bikes were stolen from racks outside dorms, he said.

"Thieves are looking for bikes that are the easiest targets," Gallman said, and usually, a lot of bikes are stolen at once by the same four or five people.

To avoid bike theft, students should

use the U-shaped bike locks found at local shops. Gallman said bikers also need to remember to not lock the bike to itself, always locking the frame to a designated rack.

He said trees do not make effective makeshift racks, and it's illegal to lock a bike to a parking meter or street sign.

Gallman said he also suggests having a "bike buddy" who can check on your bike while you're in class. If a student who has a bike in one of the campus racks and is planning on leaving town, he should tell the USCPD and an officer can check on it for him, he said.

"Sometimes you can tell when someone is tampering with a lock," Gallman said.



You HAUL

Journalism professor Kent Sidel hauls a load of stuff into Preston Residential College. Faculty volunteers helped students move in as residence halls opened Saturday. Right, freshman Chris King and his father lug a refrigerator through a back door at Preston.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN MEYERS The Gamecock

'Good news budget' increases tuition more than 2 percent

State underfunds higher education, President John Palms said. In addition, the university has shifted \$16 million to academics.

KRISTIN RICHARDSON Asst. News Editor

The USC Board of Trustees approved a \$498 million budget for the 1997-98 school year over the summer that includes small tuition increases for South Carolina students at seven of its eight campuses, including USC-Columbia.

"We are still a state that has underfunded higher education," USC President John M. Palms said. "We have tried to make up for that lack of funding of about \$1,400 a student in and year out. We are not proud of that high tuition, but we do not want to sacrifice quality."

John Finan, vice president of business and finance, presented the budget to the board of trustees, calling it the "good news budget for the University of South Carolina."

Undergraduate students will see the cost of attending USC-Columbia increase by 2.1 percent in the fall.

General tuition will increase 1.9 percent for full-time students, and students will see a \$6 increase in health and activity fees for a total increase in student tuition costs of approximately \$36 per student. Under the plan, a South Carolina undergraduate's tuition will be \$1,717, or \$3,434 per year, up from \$3,362 for the 1996-97 school year.

"Student health fees will increase by \$3.75 per semester because of the deficit we're running in the health center," Finan said. "University activity fees will increase by \$2 per semester mainly because of the increase in minimum wage going up 24 percent in the last year."

Graduate students will see their tuition increase by 2.6 percent to \$1,862 per semester. Non-resident undergraduate tuition will increase 3.1 percent to \$4,420, and non-resident graduate tuition will go up 3.6 percent to \$3,817 per semester.

"Our university is making tremendous progress in attracting better students, higher research rankings, investments in technology and facilities and overall

administrative efficiency," Chairman William Hubbard said. "Without this tuition increase, we could not continue the remarkable momentum and recent quality strides we have made at Carolina under the leadership of President John Palms."

State appropriations provide less than 40 percent of USC-Columbia's \$375.7 million 1997-98 budget. Over the past five years, the university has focused on its most important academic priorities, including the recent shift of \$16 million from administration to academics, and administrative cost-saving measures of approximately \$3 million.

"As you know, over the past five years, various audits have commended the way in which we are managing our resources," Palms said. "Our ability to make progress toward our goals of excellence, despite growing expenses on one hand and persistent underfunding on the other, reflects our shared commitment to careful planning on all of our campuses. This budget, including the small tuition increase, will sustain our operations and programs without damaging their quality."

A 6 percent increase is planned for students attending the USC School of Law. Students from South Carolina attending USC's School of Medicine will see a 6 percent tuition increase and non-resident medical students will see a 10 percent hike.

Tuition increases at other USC campuses at Aiken and Spartanburg (6.1 percent), and the two-year campuses at Beaufort, Allendale, Sumter and Union (2.6 percent).

The 1997-98 budget took effect as of July 1, the beginning of the state government's fiscal year.

The University of South Carolina is the state's oldest and largest public university with an enrollment of 38,000 students at eight regional campuses.

Some 26,000 students attend classes on the Columbia campus. Of those, 16,000 are pursuing undergraduate baccalaureate degrees, and 10,000 are enrolled in various graduate schools at the master's and doctorate levels.

Candidates for Dickey's position to be invited to campus 'by Christmas'

CECE VON KOLNITZ Senior Writer

A search committee hopes to bring candidates to fill James Dickey's position to campus by December, according to English department chairman Robert Newman.

The committee, chaired by English professor and F. Scott Fitzgerald scholar Matthew Brucoli, has received suggestions from faculty members on who they want to take the job, left empty when Dickey, a prominent author and professor, died in January.

Other members of the committee include Don Greiner, associate provost and dean of undergraduate affairs, creative writing program director John MacNicholas and English professor Dianne Johnson-Feelings.

In April, MacNicholas said best-selling author Pat Conroy's name had been mentioned as a possibility for the position. Conroy was the

keynote speaker at a memorial service for Dickey held on the Horseshoe.

Conroy also spoke at USC's commencement ceremony in May and received an honorary doctorate degree in literature. The award-winning author of "The Prince of Tides" and "Beach Music," Conroy was Dickey's student in 1971.

Newman said the position has been advertised in publications all over the country and in London. Poets, novelists, non-fiction authors and short story writers have been invited to apply for the position.

The committee is looking for someone who is both internationally recognized as an author and a "stellar teacher as well," Newman said.

"We're not going to rush this," he said. "We're going after the best person we can get."

MacNicholas said in April the search would take about a year.

Religious centers open doors to student spirituality

JENNIFER STANLEY Managing Editor

Campus religious leaders say they want to open a door for students to have an active spiritual life.

"Students get to know each other and make a connection point," Baptist campus minister Jane Poster said. "They've been able to meet people who have similar interests."

Fortunately for USC's spiritual organizations, the connection between religious groups on campus and the university itself is a strong one.

"The religious aspects in college, a lot of universities don't include," Presbyterian campus minister Shauna Kelly said. "But the chaplains have a good relationship with USC, and that reflects the university's dedication to making people well-rounded."

And religion, she said, is an

important part of being well-rounded.

Campus chaplains agree.

"It's difficult (for students) to get involved after they've been here a while," Kelly said. "After about a year, they know what their interests are and what they're involved in."

And to help freshmen get involved from the moment they step on campus, the Presbyterian Student Center, located at 1702 Greene St., will begin the Fresh Crew.

The Fresh Crew is designed solely for freshmen and will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesdays beginning next week.

"This is a time for freshmen to come together and talk about concerns," Kelly said.

Kelly and Poster share a common concern of their own. Some students come to college and are ready to get away from both parents and church

life.

"It doesn't matter how much religious training students have," Hillel Religious Counselor Bernie Friedman said about a student's decision to seek religious involvement. "It depends on their needs when they get to campus. Some may want to continue and others may want a break."

"Some are still searching (when they get to campus)," Kelly said. "And sometimes it's the religious aspect they're looking for."

And that is just what campus religious organizations try to provide, Poster said.

"(In Baptist Life) the church provides spiritual nurturing for (students) in college," Poster said. "It's important to have Christian education, especially in a state

campus.

"Our center is open to anyone. We don't stand at the door and check to see who's baptized. For a lot of people it's a starting point, a place to get their feet on the ground. We help them grow from whatever point they're at. We offer a variety of programs."

During Carolina Welcome week, religious organizations on campus are showcasing their programs. Many groups have weekly meetings that include dinners, programs, entertainment and community services.

Information about welcome activities is available in the Carolina Welcome pamphlet, and listings of weekly meetings are available in The Gamecock's Datebook.