NEWS The Gamecock

Friday, October 10, 1997

Homecoming festivities wrap up

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ty that concluded Jam Fest and received an overwhelming amount of support.

"This week was extensive. It was a lot of work planning the events, but we were successful," Concert Commissioner Cedric Scott said. "All of the hard work paid off."

The Homecoming Parade will begin at 3 p.m. today at the corner of Park and Gervais streets, and continue through Greene Street, passing by the Russell House.

Floats made by different organizations will be on display.

The USC Marching Band, the Equestrian team and the ROTC are set

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The concert was followed by a part to make an appearance during the parade.

> One of the most exciting events during this week is the Homecoming Pep Rally. The pep rally will be held in the Carolina Coliseum at 7 p.m. today.

> Cockfest is sponsored by Carolina Productions, the USC Athletic Department and the USC Alumni Association. USC graduate and professional football player Todd Ellis will be the evening's master of ceremonies.

Students are encouraged to attend this event to support the Gamecocks and the different organizations that will be performing skits celebrating homecoming.

"We tried to emphasize how important Homecoming is to the university and to the students," Vaughn said. "In order to create an active alumni, we have to have active students."

Homecoming week will come to an end during the Halftime Awards Ceremony at the football game Saturday. Awards will be given in recognition of community service, leadership and spir-

"There is a Community Service Award, a National and Regional Recognition Award, and a Spirit of Carolina Award," Vaughn said. "This [last] award is by far the most prestigious of them all.

Survey shows crime statistics

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tions, said Jay Latham, USC associate journalism professor.

The media are being blamed for the increase in fear of violent criminals because the media are convenient scapegoats, he said.

"The media only mirror what happens in society," Latham said.

People who are affected by the media's portrayal of violent crimes are often people who confuse entertainment programming with news reports, he said.

"There are people who watch television and listen to the radio who don't have a real good understanding of reality," Latham said. "A lack of sophistication on the part of the audience has more to do with it than what the media do."

The media pursue stories about violent crimes for high ratings and to keep the public's interest, public relations senior Shana Whitener said.

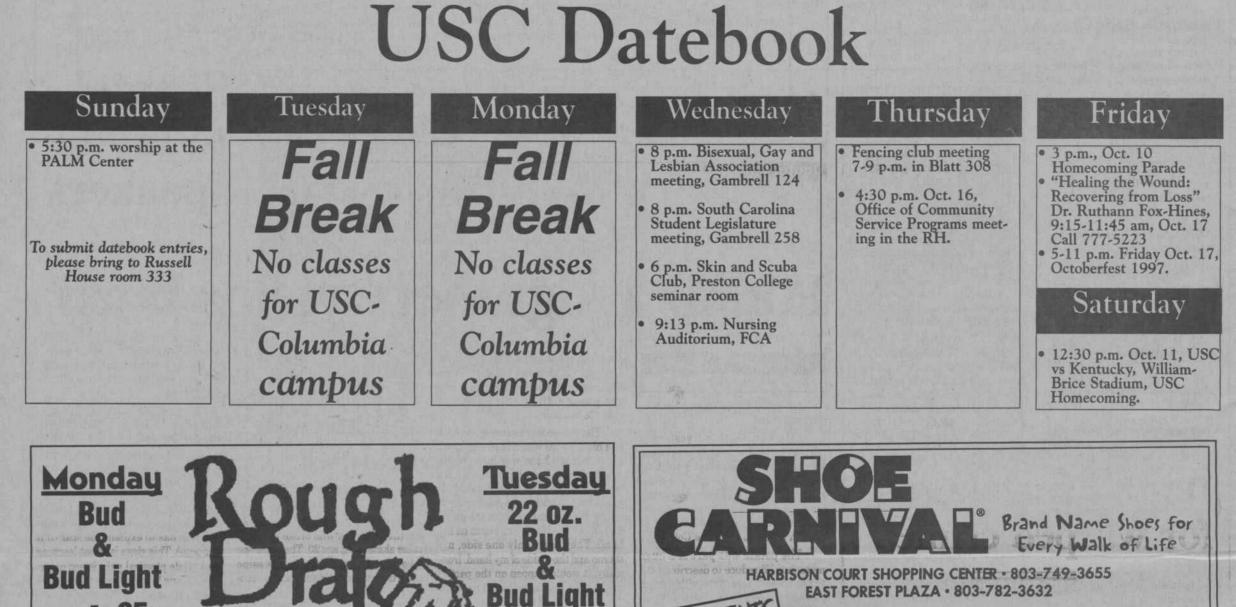
"The public is almost obsessed with violence," she said. "The media try to play on people's fears and insecurities. It turns me off. If I don't see a positive report on the news before the first commercial, I turn the channel."

While the media may cover their fair share of violent crimes, the ma-

jority of crimes committed are nonviolent, Stephens said.

The survey, which also studied acceptable ways of treating nonviolent offenders, showed that 30.6 percent of respondents thought nonviolent offenders should pay restitution to the victim, while 27.5 percent thought they should have to perform community ser-

"Prison doesn't make them better people," he said. "A lot of nonviolent offenders learn how to be violent in prison. They have to be violent to survive.



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