

King committee discusses observance, classes

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Brewer suggested meeting on the Saturday before or the Saturday after the holiday as some colleges do.

He told Franklin scheduling a make-up day for spring 1998 will be difficult because the academic calendar has already been set.

The committee brought up the possibility of Reading Day or a Spring Break day being canceled.

"Reading Day seems like a viable option," Franklin said.

Bobby Gist, chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee, suggested Franklin meet with Dr. Don Greiner, associate provost and dean of Undergraduate Affairs, to work out a time for the class time to be made up.

"You've got to make up those contact hours," Gist said. "I would suggest that Jamel and Don Greiner set it up quickly. The faculty and staff are the ones affected. They should work it out."

The committee also told Franklin to begin making plans now for asking for Martin Luther King Jr. day off in 1999.

"We need to look ahead for January of 1999," Gist said. "Perhaps we can cancel Reading Day or one of the Spring Break days. We need to do that this year instead of waiting until December of 1998."

The committee has asked the Hallelujah Singers to perform the night of the holiday at the Koger Center.

Shirley Mills, director of Governmental and Community Relations, said the group is working with the committee to create a program to meet their needs.

"They're going to tailor a program to meet our needs," Mills said. "It's going to focus on African-Americans in South Carolina history."

The committee also discussed whether or not to charge for the program.

"My concern is that if we have this tremendous turnout, we will have no way to seat them," Gist said. "We need some kind of crowd control. A nominal fee may serve that purpose."

Preston Winkler, associate director of Government and Community Relations, did not support charging for the performance.

"This program is a gift to the community," he said. "A charge might turn people away."

The committee agreed to ask those attending the performance to bring canned goods.

"People bring a canned good and we give them the program," said Jane Jameson, vice president of Human Resources. "This way they won't feel like they're getting something for nothing."

Franklin agreed to enlist Student Government's help in collecting the cans after the event and distributing them to a charity.

'Lost Cause' makes sparks

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"The symbol is the same, but the attitude has changed."

Wilson said he feels the flag and other "Lost Cause" symbols have been abused in racial and economical terms.

Wilson said he feels African-Americans are unable to embrace the Confederate flag and other "Lost Cause" symbols because they weren't able to choose what symbols the South would use.

Wilson also pointed out that the South isn't a racial region, but a biracial one.

"The burned churches in South Carolina is being rebuilt with black and white hands and with black and white money," Wilson said.

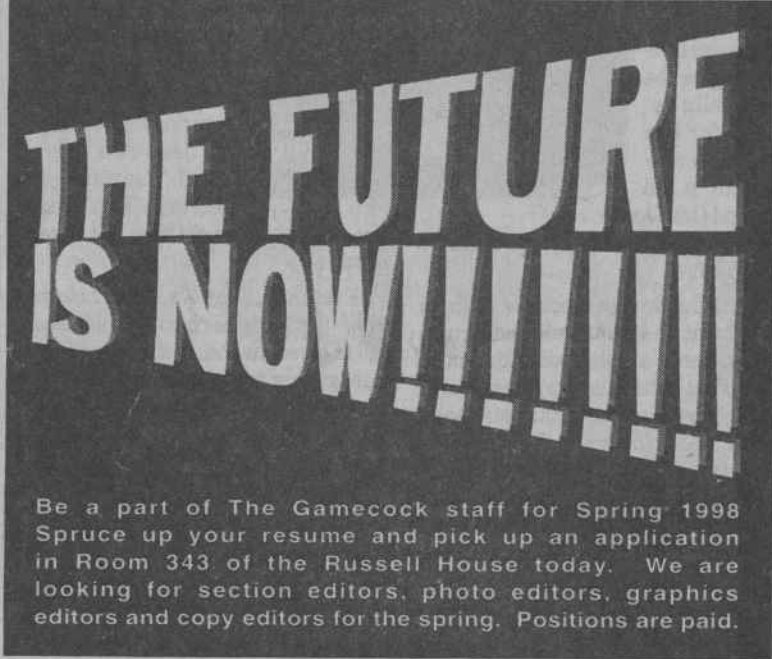
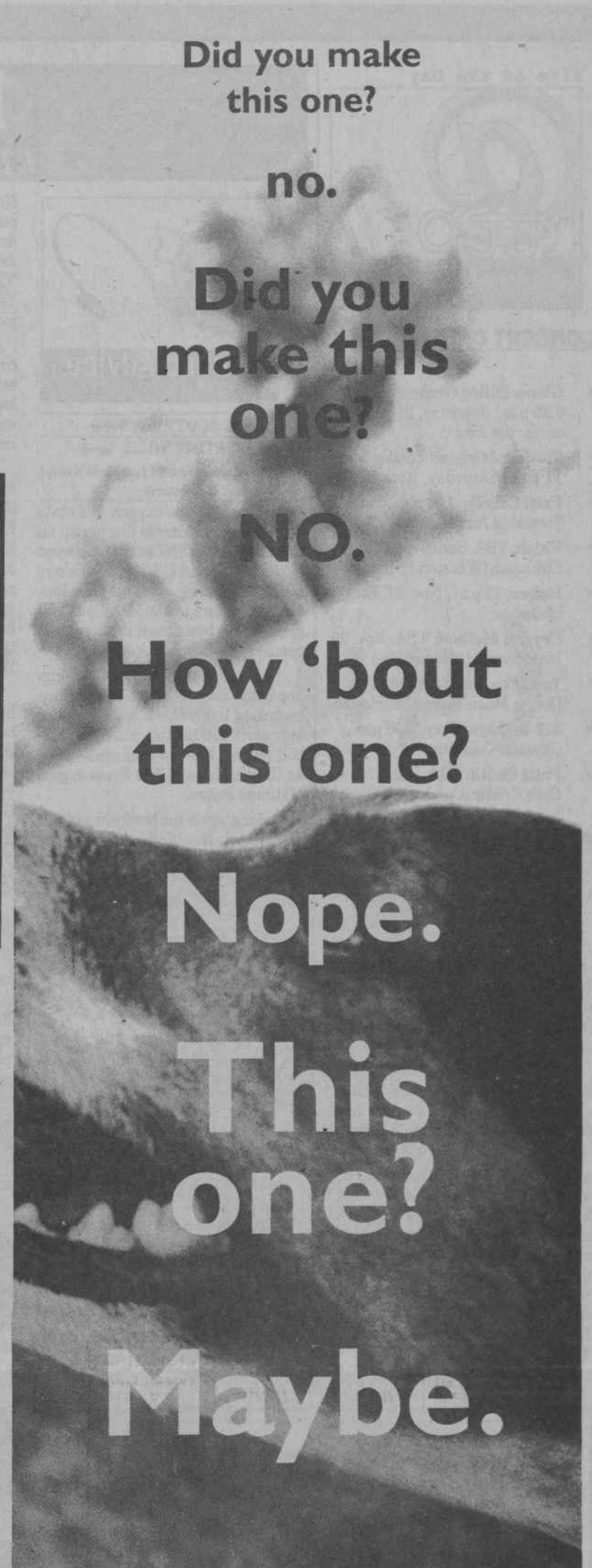
Wilson described the 1980s as "the new South movement."

"It's now a South like the rest of the nation," Wilson said.

After Wilson's lecture, questions were raised about the future of the Confederate flag and the issue of the flag on the S.C. State House.

It was suggested that the solution to this controversy would be to place a similar symbol blacks can embrace along with the Confederate flag on the State House.

Staff Writer Matthew Meyers contributed to this story

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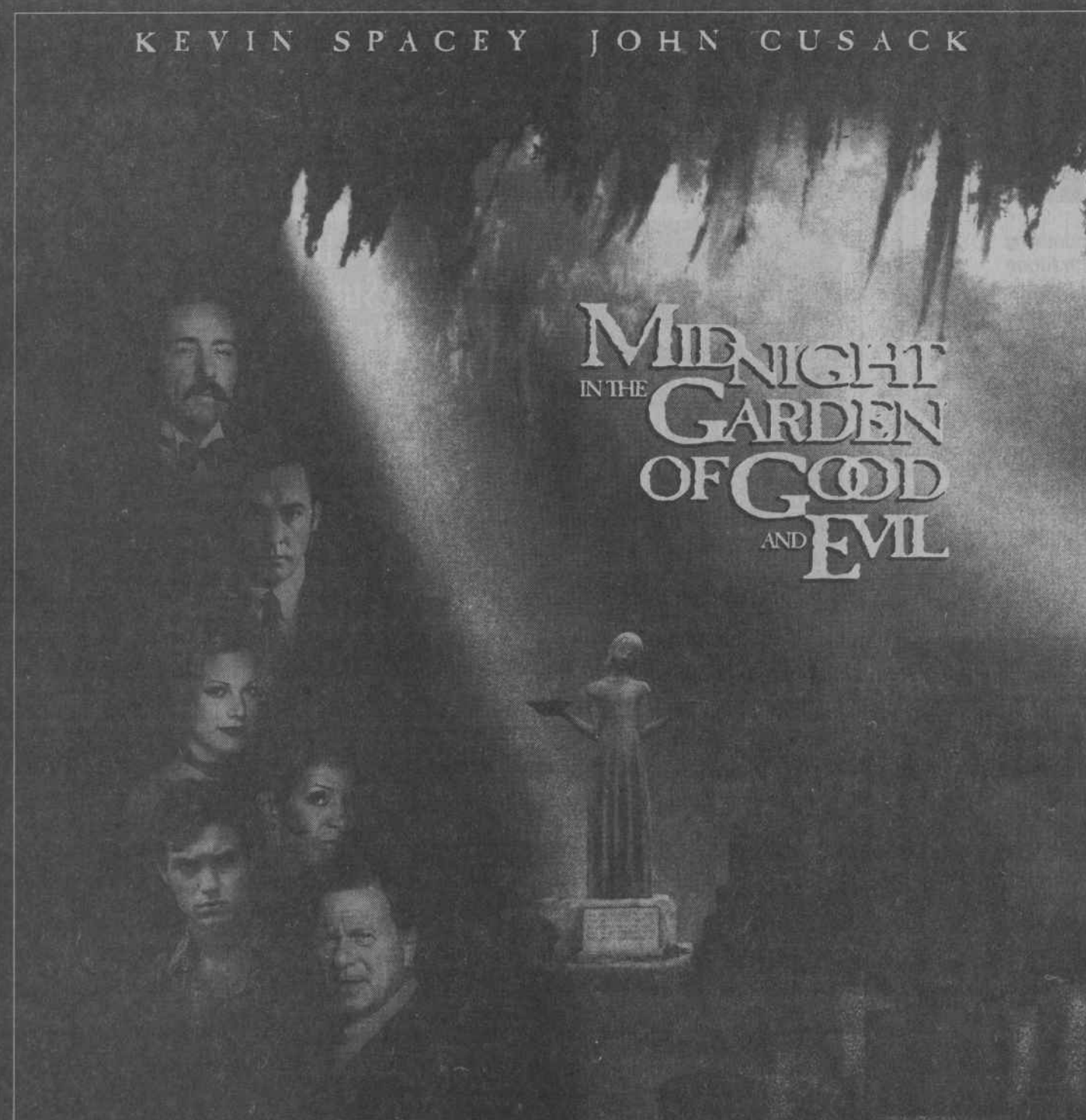
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