



### NSEP offers workshop

A National Security Education Program scholarship and fellowship workshop will be held at 3:30 p.m., Nov. 4, in the Gressette Room of Harper College. Patricia Willer is the NSEP faculty advisor. NSEP provides opportunities for Americans to study in regions critical to U.S. national interests. Award amounts are up to \$8,000 per semester or \$16,000 per academic year for undergraduate students. For applications, contact your NSEP campus representative or the NSEP office at (800) 618-NSEP. Deadline is Feb. 8, 1999.

### Hertz Graduate Fellowship offered

Graduating seniors with the potential to become leaders in scientific and technological advances and exemplars

for graduate work leading to a Ph.D. in applied physical sciences can apply for this fellowship, which offers a \$25,000 stipend plus cost of education. A 3.75 GPA is required. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 10 and are available at [www.hertzfdn.org](http://www.hertzfdn.org).

### Pre-doctoral fellowships offered

Eighty fellowships will be awarded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for full-time study toward a Ph.D. or Sc.D. in the biological sciences. The fellowships are intended for students who have completed less than one year of graduate study. The application deadline is Nov. 10. For more information or an application, call (292) 334-2872.

### Fellowships offered for minorities

About 50 pre-doctoral fellowships will be awarded in a nationwide competition sponsored by the Ford Foundation and administered by the National Research Council. An annual stipend of \$14,000 is awarded to the fellow and a \$7,500 stipend to the institution. Applications are due Nov. 14. For more information, call (202) 334-3419.

### Scholarship available for female doctoral candidates

Female doctoral candidates completing dissertations, female graduate students in designated fields where female participation has been low or engineering doctoral candidates are eligible to apply for the American Association of University Women Fellowships which offer up to \$15,000. Applications must be postmarked by Nov. 15 and are available at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

### Ph.D. fellowships to be awarded

Twelve fellowships will be awarded for three years of full-time study toward a Ph.D. in an area related to integrated systems of manufacturing and processing. This includes, but is not limited to, large-scale systems and integration of product designs with manufacturing processes. Fellowship awards provide \$20,000 annually. Application deadline is Dec. 4. Call (202) 334-3419 for more information.

## Gubernatorial, senate races rely on negative advertising

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One popular ad paid for by Hodges features the fictitious "Bubba," a convenience store clerk from Georgia. At the end of the commercial, Bubba proclaims that Georgians "loooove David Beasley."

Beasley has put out a number of negative ads as well, including one in which Hodges' face morphs into Bill Clinton's face.

The fierce nature of the race is one reason candidates are running so many attack ads.

"Whenever there is such a close race, there tends to be even more money spent in television ads," said Sonya Duhé, a media political scientist. "[The candidates] try to differentiate themselves from each other." Both the governor's race and the senate race have relied heavily on the use of attack ads.

During a debate Saturday night in Columbia, Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings and challenger Bob Inglis were given an opportunity to comment on negative ads from the other candidate's party.

Some of these ads have been called vicious, like the one launched by the Republican Party showing the incumbent Hollings in a Hawaiian shirt, straw hat and sunglasses holding a tropical drink. The caption reads "Why is Fritz Hollings smiling?"

The ad then goes on to say, "His retirement will be better than yours," citing a number of votes that he has made increasing pension.

"I think the tactic Inglis uses here is humor," Duhé said.

Duhé isn't inclined to believe this campaign is particularly negative.

"I'm from Louisiana, where the campaigns are as spicy as the food," she said. "I've seen a lot worse. A lot of

the ads are issue-oriented and are only trying to differentiate between the candidates."

A Hollings ad used children to criticize Inglis' support for cuts in educational spending. Inglis said this ad was done in poor taste.

"Using children to make political points is a new low from the democratic party," Inglis said.

Hollings called his ads "right on target" and said he stands by them.

Some students think negative television and radio spots are unfair advertisements that discourage them from voting.

"Politicians should focus more on their own issues rather than cutting down their opponents," freshman Katie List said. "They should focus [on] their good sides."

Associated Press contributed to this article.

## Student expelled for cross-dressing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARROLLTON, Ga. — Patrick Nelson had heard that a cross-dressing boy was enrolled at his high school.

"I looked for him the first couple weeks," Patrick said. "The honest truth — I didn't even know."

One day, he was talking about the mystery to a friend, who smiled and pointed to the pretty blonde at the desk next to his.

"I said, 'No way, that's too weird!'" Patrick recalled. "Then I thought about it, and I said, 'So what's so weird about that?'"

But while Patrick and his friends were willing to accept Matthew "Alex" McLendon's feminine appearance and mannerisms, others in this rural, conservative western Georgia community of about 20,000 weren't.

Fifteen-year-old Alex withdrew from school under pressure, leaving supporters of the popular, easygoing student wondering from what threat they had supposedly been protected.

"Alex wasn't causing any problems," said classmate and friend Meayghan Denkers. "She got along well with everybody."

"She wasn't trying to change anybody to be like her or anything."

After a heated board meeting in the small, private Georgian Country Day School on Oct. 6, Alex was "invited to withdraw" or face expulsion.

Alex, who had enrolled in September after attending public school, was cited for wearing a tongue ring but had been called before school authorities earlier about his female dress, makeup and hairstyle.

Most of Alex's classmates — including some of the boys — wore bows in their hair in protest until ordered to

remove them by the principal.

Some indignantly quoted their school handbook, which urges acceptance of "diversity in opinion, culture, ideas, behavioral characteristics, attributes or challenges."

"Alex represents something that's way beyond the experience and the comfort zone of the very conservative people we live with," said Lori Lipoma, Meayghan's mother and a drama teacher at the school. "I really think we all lost something very precious that night."

School officials would not discuss the case.

"We make no comments on students," said Rex Camp, chairman of the board of the school, where tuition is more than \$5,000 a year for the 50 or so high school students. Kindergarten and elementary students are in a separate building, but one parent of a 6-year-old expressed concern at the board meeting about Alex's effect on younger children.

"I believe in sexual standards in society, and I want my child in a school that holds the same sexual ethics that I do," said Craig Neal.

Alex, who speaks in a soft, feminine voice, began cross-dressing two years ago and considers himself "95 percent girl."

Larry Harmon, a Dade County, Fla., psychologist who counsels patients on sexual identity, said such feelings appear to fit a rare condition called gender-identity disorder.

He said it doesn't necessarily imply homosexuality, and it's difficult to know how many youngsters have it and why.

"I'm not homosexual," Alex said. "I just look like a girl and I dress like a girl. It wasn't anything flamboyant,

not sequins or anything. But because I'm a guy ..."

He enrolled in night school but quit in less than a week because he didn't feel the courses offered would help his education goals. He hopes to pursue a career in fashion merchandising and modeling.

Alex said Thursday he's looking into the possibility of home-schooling. "I do wish I was still at the Georgian Country Day School," he said.

At the Georgian Country Day School — where Alex said he enrolled to get a better education — he struck up a friendship with Meayghan and was soon invited to spend nights over at her house. The first couple of times, Meayghan's mother popped in on them unannounced just in case.

"They'd be sitting there doing hair or painting nails, and I said to myself, 'This is a girl,'" Ms. Lipoma said.

A few weeks into the school year, he and his father were summoned to a meeting with school officials.

They said parents had complained and that he had to dress like a boy, Alex recalled. He refused and was sent home. A special board meeting followed.

Under the law, a public school would have had to show that Alex was disrupting education or undermining safety. A private school has more leeway.

Alex's mother died when he was young. He said his cross-dressing initially caused a rift with his father but that the older man stood with him in the dispute with the board. Mack McLendon declined an interview.

"School is supposed to be preparing you for life," Alex said. "Parents are trying to protect their kids by covering their eyes. It's going to be a real shock for some of these parents when their kids get out into the real world."

## Glenn returns to space after 36 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — John Glenn rocketed back into orbit Thursday on a mission of science and seiftment, returning as the world's oldest astronaut to the high frontier he pioneered for America 36 years ago.

"Let the wings of Discovery lift us on to the future," said launch control in its final words to the seven-member crew before liftoff.

"Liftoff of Discovery with a crew of six astronaut heroes and one American legend," added launch commentator Lisa Malone.

Discovery rose majestically from its seaside launch pad, riding the roaring flame of its five rocket engines through a cloudless blue sky.

The craft quickly gained speed, arced toward the east and slowly faded from view, gaining orbit 8 1/2 minutes after liftoff.

"America is very, very proud of you today," President Clinton told NASA engineers at the launch control center. Glenn's journey began 19 minutes late — a lot better than his first trip to orbit in 1962, when he had to endure 10 postponements in a two month period.

The countdown had proceeded flawlessly until about 10 minutes before the scheduled 2 p.m. launch, when an alarm sounded inside Discovery's cockpit, triggering a nine-minute delay.

Shortly after the count resumed, it had to be held again briefly when a

plane intruded into the restricted area. NASA said later it was a private pilot jockeying for a good view, and an Air Force plane escorted him out of the zone.

One small problem did occur during liftoff, NASA said at a post-launch briefing. A panel that might be the door covering a drag chute used during landing was jarred loose during liftoff and might have hit one of the main engines. Officials studied video of the craft but said the incident was unlikely to have any impact on the mission or landing.

The weather at the Cape was perfect for writing a new chapter in space history — temperatures in the 80s and winds calm with occasional gusts.

Glenn, 77, was the first American in orbit in 1962, on the third U.S. manned mission. He returned to space on the nation's 123rd manned mission. Clinton called it "a great day for America and a great day for our senior citizens."

Besides the president and his wife, Hillary, members of Congress and some Hollywood celebrities were on hand at the Kennedy Space Center area for a fleeting glimpse of history roaring into space.

Veteran observers said the launch frenzy rivaled that of missions to the moon and far exceeded most recent shuttle flights. Nearby highways and beaches were lined with RVs, cars and tents, and NASA spokesman Bruce Buckingham estimated there "may well be

a million people watching," including residents and visitors.

Even though he is a U.S. senator and an American space hero, Glenn returned to space as the lowest-ranking of Discovery's crew. His official title for the nine-day mission is Payload Specialist 2.

In keeping with his position, Glenn went next-to-last when the crew boarded the shuttle in their baggy orange space suits and tight white caps.

All seven crew members crawled on hands and knees into the cabin, where technicians helped to strap them into couches on their backs with their feet in the air. Glenn rode on a lower deck with two others.

During a routine communications check from Mission Control in Houston, Glenn replied vigorously, "PS2, loud and clear," at his turn.

The other crew members are Curtis L. Brown, the commander; Steven W. Lindsey, pilot; mission specialist Stephen K. Robinson, Scott E. Parazynski, and Pedro Duque, and Payload Specialist 1, Chiaki Mukai.

Shortly before launch, NASA played a greeting from original Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter to be replayed for the crew after launch.

"Good luck, have a safe flight, and ... once again, Godspeed, John Glenn," said Carpenter, his voice quivering slightly as he repeated his famous benediction for Glenn's first flight in 1962.

## USC campus poses problems for disabled students, faculty

HUNT continued from page 1

Longstreet Theater, Luna said, "This is where I feel like cutting class. I'm hot, I'm tired, and I just feel like sitting here."

A major problem the hunters encountered was the absence of a ramp leading from the Russell House to the Towers Residence Hall.

Students in wheelchairs must go around Longstreet Theater and get on Greene Street to reach the Russell House.

The Horseshoe poses another problem for disabled students and faculty members.

Chair wheels can sometimes get caught on the bricks, making it difficult for some disabled students to get around.

Aside from these problems, USC is a very accessible campus, said Karen Pettus, director of the Office of Disability Services.

"USC is known for its accessibility," she said.

Pettus said she wants students to be aware of people with disabilities and that she was pleased to see students helping the scavenger hunters.

**CORRECTION**  
Wednesday's article "Kids will trick-or-treat at campus dorms this week" was co-sponsored by NADA and International Student Association.

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The Gamecock

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Blockbuster Music

**The final Great GAMECOCK Tailgate Party of 1998**

USC vs. Tennessee  
this Saturday, October 31 - 10:00 am to 12:30 pm  
featuring the band: CALVIN & FRIENDS

State Fairgrounds (right in front of Seawell's)  
Enter on Rosewood Drive at "the ROCKET" and look for the tent on your left.

**COSTUME CONTEST: \$100 Prize package for the Most Original Costume!**

The best part is that it is all FREE! Don't miss the final Tailgate Party of the season!  
Live music, lots of great food, drinks and door prizes. Souvenirs for the first 200 USC students in attendance.  
General parking is available at the fairgrounds for \$5 per vehicle.

THIS TAILGATE PARTY IS AN ALCOHOL, OTHER DRUG AND VIOLENT-FREE ENVIRONMENT sponsored by the USC Office of Alcohol & Drug Programs.

Funding is made possible by a grant received from the US Department of Education's Safe and Drug Free Schools Program and Student Activity Fees. Actual time or event may change due to funding or programmatic decisions.  
For additional information, please call 777-5780.