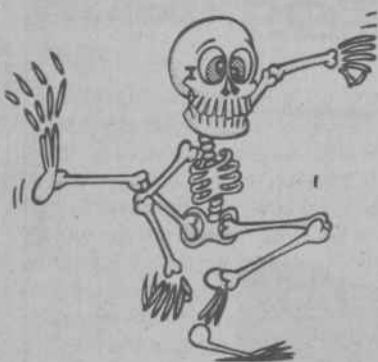


•The St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Koger Center. Tickets available at the Coliseum box office and Capital Ticket Outlets. 251-2222.

Cheap costume ideas that don't involve nudity.

<http://www.stretcher.com/stories/9610219.htm>

Decking the halls, Halloween style



asst. features editor
DENESHIA GRAHAM

Who says Halloween is just for kids? Students across campus are getting into the Halloween spirit by participating in decorating contests held in their residence halls.

Ranging from door decorating to hall decorating, each dorm is adding its own twist to the activity.

At Sims, residents can sign up for a door-decorating contest sponsored by the hall government.

"[The purpose of the contest is] to make residents more excited about where they live, to create a better environment within the hall," said Amanda Tingle, hall government liaison for the resident adviser staff at Sims.

Yesterday, Tingle and two other members of hall government judged the

they hosted from The Family Shelter in Columbia.

Residents handed out candy to the children, who were led around in groups by Bates RAs.

"Of the 18 wings that exist here in Bates House, 12 participated," said Karen Oliver, an RA and the community service chairperson for Bates House. "I am very proud of the residents and the job they did."

Similarly, McClintock, also in the Women's Quad, will host children from local community service organizations such as Sistercare and Big Brother/Big Sister.

The children will go trick-or-treating today in that dorm.

This event, like most others, is sponsored through the residence hall government.

"I am very proud of the residents and the job they did."

Karen Oliver

RA and community service chair,
Bates House

doors based on originality, creativity and neatness.

Bhavini Patel, an R.A. in Patterson Hall, made hall decorating into an activity, not a competition, in which everyone got together to decorate the floor.

"It brought interaction between both sides [of the floor] and got everybody involved," Patel said.

Lateca Wise, another Patterson RA, made the theme of her door-decorating contest "Who's Who" instead of relating it to Halloween.

Residents were told to display their personalities in a creative, original and tasteful manner.

"It's more about the residents as individuals instead of them just decorating for Halloween," Wise said.

Other residence halls added a twist by incorporating community service into their hall-decorating contests.

Residents of Bates House used their hall-decorating competition to create a haunted atmosphere Wednesday evening for the young trick-or-treaters

Capstone RA Lisa Paige was lucky enough to have her floor decorated for her.

One of her residents, junior Nikysha Scott, suggested that Alpha Phi Omega (APO Escort Service) have its 1998 fall pledge class decorate the floor as a campus service project.

Scott, who is the active chapter service vice president of APO, said the residents were pleased with the decorations.

"I think they were happy about it," Scott said. "They all came out and said 'thank you' to the pledges."

"[The decorations were] really creative," said Shana Graham, one of Paige's residents. "[The pledges] put a lot of hard work into it."

Paige saw another side to the idea of decorating for Halloween.

She said that while many people see Halloween as a negative or evil occasion, the decorating can be a good way for residents to come together to have good, clean fun.

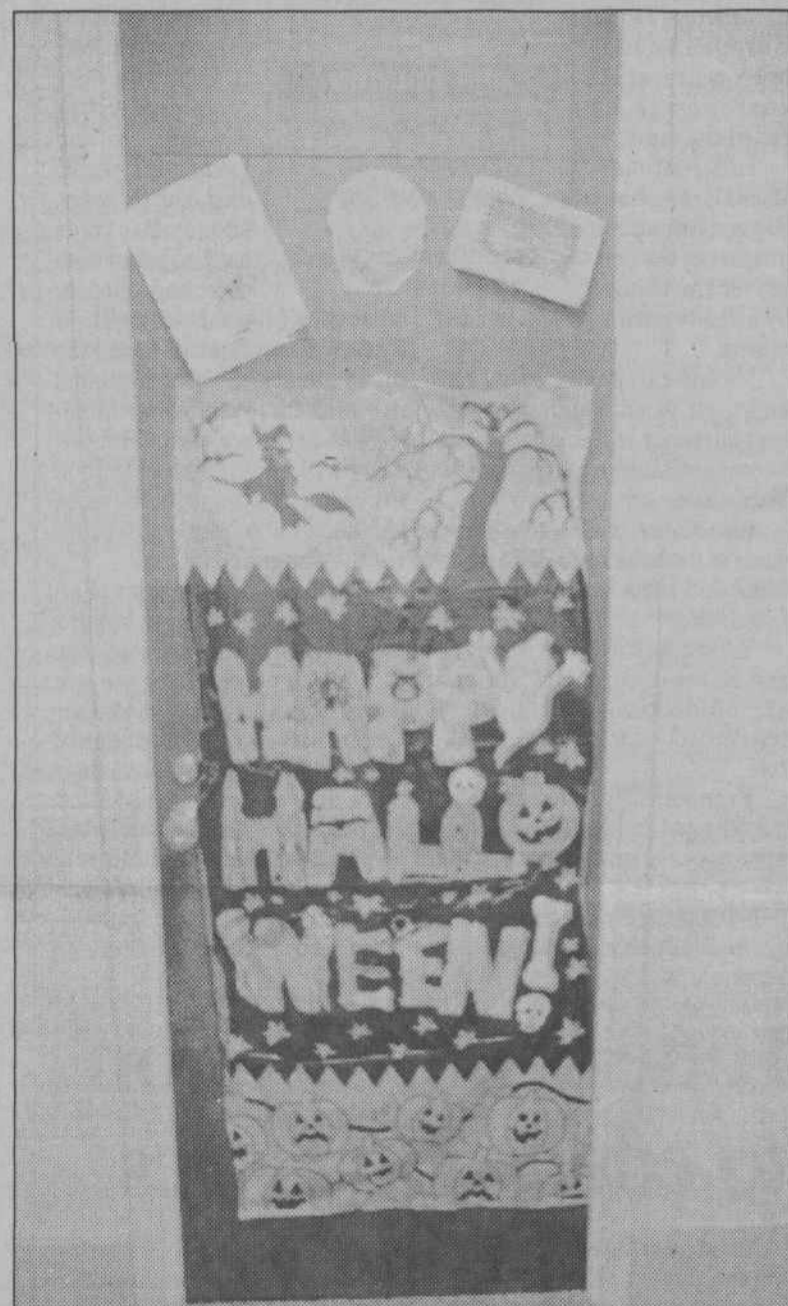


PHOTOS BY AUDREY MCCALL

The Gamecock

(left) Freshmen Margaret Skarich and Dawn Doughty covered their door with pumpkin paper to celebrate Halloween. The girls are roommates in Patterson Hall.

(below) Freshmen Laura DeWitt and Kristen Crookes, who live in Patterson Hall, decorated their door. Patterson was one of the many residence halls on campus that had decorating contests for Halloween.



Recognizing the dangers of anorexia and bulimia

special to The Gamecock **JENNIFER MACKIE and GRACE RAMIREZ**

Anyone who's been watching the TV show "Ally McBeal" this season has probably noticed something missing from the show: her waistline.

The topic of eating habits is becoming a popular issue as people strive to become the size-6 "ideal woman."

But did you know the average American woman is 5'4", weighs 140 pounds and wears a size-14 dress?

Still, 75 percent of American women are dissatisfied with their appearances and resort to diets that might become unhealthy.

Between 90 and 99 percent of diets fail to result in permanent weight loss.

This obsession to be thin can lead to serious eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia.

Anorexia is when one loses weight through techniques of self-starvation. This common disorder is life threatening and includes dangerous physical and emotional behaviors.

Physically, a person becomes malnourished, weak and dizzy. Serious cases include loss of menstrual cycles and hair.

Emotionally, victims have a distorted body image, can be irritable and depressed, and have perfectionistic tendencies. People who suffer from this disorder are obsessed with calorie counts and might exercise compulsively.

Bulimia is a disorder associated with eating and then purging in the hopes of controlling a diet.

Bulimia victims might not show outward signs of weight loss, but their internal organs, including the throat and stomach, are afflicted.

Individuals often binge on food, then secretly purge when they're not around others.

After these episodes, they can be left with feelings of embarrassment and guilt.

Anorexia and bulimia are diet attempts that go wrong. Though both have different characteristics, these traits can be easy to recognize.

Watch out for:

- frequently skipped meals
- an obsession with counting calories
- pale features
- disappearances after meals

There are many more signs of an eating disorder than those mentioned above.

For a complete list of details about these eating disorders, stop by the Health and Wellness Office, which is located in the basement of the Thomson Student Health Center, or call 777-8248.

Remember to eat healthily!

Jennifer Mackie is a SHARE peer. Grace Ramirez is an Open Door peer.

Center helps students with writing

staff writer **ELISE TYNDALL**

Jane is typing an English essay at midnight and has a question about punctuation and sentence fluency. Who does she call?

Not ghostbusters.

Jane would probably have to make the best guess and turn the paper in with a possible mistake — that is, unless she knew about the hotline service.

The hotline is one of the many services that's provided by the Writing Center and available for those spur-of-the-moment questions.

A brief history

Graduate and undergraduate students, people from the community and even professors sometimes need help in writing.

Since the 1970s, USC has offered the Writing Center to accommodate that need.

The Writing Center is a free tutorial service open to any people who'd like to improve their writing skills.

The center isn't a drop-off copy-editing service; it's a one-on-one tutoring session designed to help clients work on specific areas of need.

The center's mission statement is "to bring writing services to the entire university community."

In keeping with this statement, the center has four on-campus locations, a hotline (777-2078) and a number of writing assistants.

Students as assistants

"It is best that the client bring a piece of writing with them that they are working on so the [writing] assistant can help them answer specific ques-

tions," said Jean Bohner, the center's director.

The tutorial room has a warm atmosphere, complete with murals painted on the walls and swivel chairs, for the client and assistant to sit together and discuss the work.

relationship differ also because the client is in control."

Those clients can be anyone from freshmen looking for help on their first college compositions, to graduate students writing dissertations, to professors working on articles.

Clients can also express concerns about elements of their writing that they think need work.

"I will definitely go back to the Writing Center to get help because it gave me the chance to get someone else's perspective on my writing," freshman Katitia Eaddy said.

The assistants are willing to serve anyone in the university community and are always on hand for general questions.

"The assistants are there to guide the student in putting their own insights into their papers, which often makes a tremendous difference in content," English professor Anna Shealy said.

Writing assistants also help clients brainstorm ideas for and fine tune papers.

When the community cometh

Along with USC students, faculty and staff, community members are encouraged to use the services to get help with books, short stories or memoirs they might be writing.

"I guess at first I thought the Writing Center was strictly for people who were poor writers, but after I went and received help on an English essay, I realized that the assistants are there to help anyone who is interested in improving their writing skills," freshman Bobby Brittain said.

The Writing Center, located in room 014 of the Humanities classroom building, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are necessary.

The three satellite sites on campus, which are located in Patterson Hall, Columbia Hall and the Towers, are open from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

