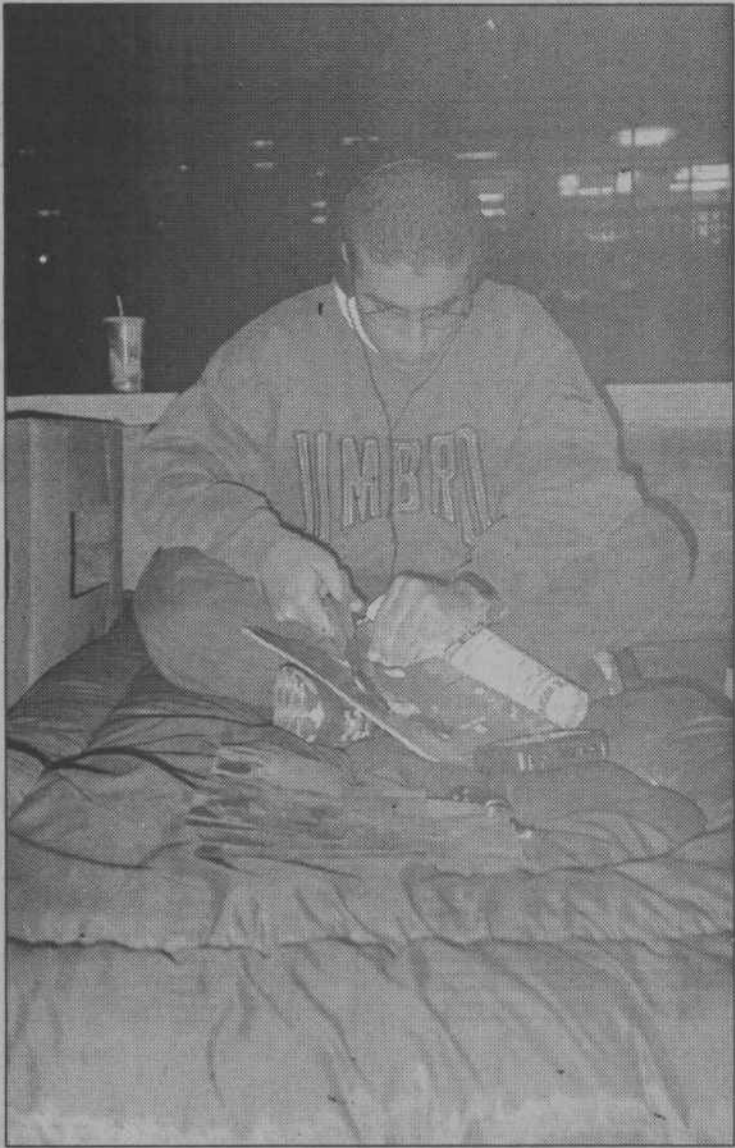


**HOMELESS FOR A NIGHT**



ERIN REED News Editor

Computer science freshman Maged Hassan does some work on his sleeping bag on the Russell House patio Thursday night for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Hassan participated as part of an assignment for his University 101 class. About 20 students participated in the event by spending the night on the patio from 8 p.m. Thursday to 7 a.m. Friday.

**Business leaders propose merging of state colleges**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business leaders advising the state Higher Education Commission plan to suggest merging some of the state's colleges and eliminating other programs statewide.

The commission's Business Advisory Committee also plans to recommend the creation of a central strategy-making body for higher education.

"We have to be more focused ... and, maybe, we're trying to do too much," said committee chairman G. Larry Wilson, founder of Policy Management Systems Corp.

"What we see is not enough quality and not enough focus."

The business committee planned to present its recommendations to the commission in December, but that has not been set up yet, commission spokesman Charlie FitzSimons said.

The advisory committee is made of manufacturing, publishing and financial executives. The recommendation to merge institutions might become the most controversial.

The committee wants to move all two-year colleges under a single technical education/community college board, and merge neighboring two-year institutions.

The state has 16 technical colleges and five two-year University of South Carolina regional campuses.

The plan would only affect four schools: University of South Carolina-Beaufort and The Technical College of

the Lowcountry, and the University of South Carolina-Sumter and Central Carolina Technical College.

That particular proposal has been made and shot down before about the Sumter school, said Sen. Phil Leventis, D-Sumter.

"If they wanted to save money, they wouldn't even think of combining these schools," he said. "Instead of having the best of either, you'd have a mediocre version of both."

**"If they wanted to save money, they wouldn't even think of combining these schools."**

Sen. Phil Leventis  
D-Sumter

The committee also wants to eliminate redundant programs across institutions and programs that don't have national accreditation or won't seek it within three years.

Other recommendations from the committee include matching the educational system's programs to the state's employment needs and improving the state funding process.

South Carolina's seven fastest-growing occupations are in health care and computer technology.

However, its top bachelor's degree-conferring disciplines are business, education and social sciences. Also, all state money for higher education in 1999 will be disbursed based on performance-funding scores.

Critics complain the system rewards progress, not accomplishment. Schools that already do well can't improve their rankings or the amount of money they get.

Meanwhile, low-performing schools can perform better because they have so much progress to make, critics say.

**TIPS still convenient information source**

VIP continued from page 1

There are no plans to get rid of TIPS. Many students are using the Internet to complete spring registration. Registration began Nov. 16, and, by the end of the day, 46 percent of transactions were completed over the web.

A transaction is when a student requests a course. Even if a course is deleted if it is selected, it will still count as a transaction.

VIP is funded by the student technology fee. In the academic year '97-'98, the technology fee was \$35, according to the Undergraduate Bulletin. The fee was increased by \$15 for '98-'99.

In the future, administrators hope to upgrade VIP. They would like to integrate the schedule into registration so as to eliminate the schedule book. They would also like to be able to update the transactions more quickly.

Students can access VIP at <http://www.vip.sc.edu>

**Police to unearth victims in multiple Gacy murders**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Police were only looking for one missing boy on the winter day in 1978 when they went to John Wayne Gacy's house.

"But there were bodies under the garage floor, bodies under the concrete, bodies under the basement," prosecutor Colin Simpson recalls.

Investigators have long suspected that not all of the unrepentant serial killer's victims were found.

Prompted by new evidence, police plan to begin digging today outside a brick apartment building where Gacy's mother once lived on Chicago's Northwest Side.

Ground-penetrating radar suggests something's under a blacktopped parking lot — possibly a rib cage, tennis shoes, a body, maybe several bodies.

There's no certainty, but experts say that what police find could add to the toll of 33 known victims of the amateur clown and building contractor.

And that could be important to families who have never learned the fate of boys missing at the time.

When the 33 bodies were unearthed, worried parents sent in hundreds of sets of dental records from across the nation to see if they matched any of the remains, said Dr. Edward Pavlik, a forensic dentist who is chief of forensic sciences for the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

"There were a couple of families who kept sending their records in hopes that they could put closure to their family affair," Pavlik said.

DNA, a tool that wasn't available in 1978, might also be used to identify new bodies if any usable samples can be recovered from the remains.

Interest in the site outside the apartment house began when private investigator Bill Dorsch, a former city policeman, told officials of the Chicago-based Better Government Association that he recalled once seeing Gacy in a nearby alley at 3 a.m. carrying a dirty shovel.

Dorsch said that after Gacy was arrested three years later, he called the Cook County Sheriff's Office, but the information he gave went nowhere.

The association, a privately financed civic group, rented the radar, used it to examine the small parking lot and took the resulting picture to police.

"I don't think that there is any alternative, now that this information has come up, but to unearth these things and find out what they are," says former Gacy prosecutor Terry Sullivan.

For six years beginning in 1972, Gacy lured young men and boys to his home for sex, then tortured and strangled them.

The bodies of 27 were found in the dank, malodorous crawl space under his house.

Two more were dug out of his back yard and four others were fished out of the nearby Des Plaines River.

Gacy spent much of his 14 years in prison painting pictures of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and of fellow serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer.

In 1994, after savoring a last cigar, the man described by police and prosecutors as wholly without a conscience died in the execution chamber at Stateville Correctional Center near Joliet.

Even veteran homicide investigators were shaken by the bodies, mainly reduced to skeletons by decomposition and the lye Gacy used to kill the odor.

"It was horrible," says Joe Kozenczak, the former chief of detectives in suburban Des Plaines, whose investigation of a missing boy first brought police to Gacy's door. "It was a nightmare that has never gone away."

**Men plead no contest to sodomy charges**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Two men found having sex in a private home pleaded no contest Friday to sodomy charges, signaling a legal challenge to the 119-year-old Texas law that bars gay intercourse.

John Geddes Lawrence, 55, and Tyrone Garner, 31, were arrested for engaging in homosexual conduct on Sept. 17 when deputies — responding to a false report of an armed intruder — found them having consensual sex in Lawrence's apartment.

Justice of the Peace Mike Parrott fined them \$125 each.

The men, who want to keep the case alive to fight the law, appealed the fine and posted appeal bonds of \$332.50

each, moving the case to state district court.

"I hope that the law changes," Garner said. "I feel like my civil rights were violated, and I wasn't doing anything wrong."

The sodomy law makes homosexual oral and anal sex a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

Although on the books for more than a century, the law is rarely enforced. Gay activists have worked unsuccessfully for years to overturn the statute.

Of the 19 states that have a sodomy statute barring consensual anal or oral sex, Texas is one of five that specifically targets same-sex partners.

The other four are Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, according to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc. of New York.

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Florida	Wed., Jan. 13

Special distribution of student tickets will be Monday, Nov. 30 and Tuesday Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. until 4p.m. Distribution will be in Room 205 of the Russell House. Student tickets will also be available on game day at the Coliseum Ticket Office Student Ticket window from 9 a.m. until half time of the game. Validation will cost \$12.00 for the SEC games and \$10.00 cash for non-conference games. Validations will be available at distribution or at the Coliseum on game night.

- Students are not guaranteed a student ticket to each game, only the right to a ticket as long as student tickets are available.
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