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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Dennis unlikely to make S.C. landfall

BY CLAYTON KALE
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Even though the National Weather Service says it's unlikely that Hurricane Dennis will make landfall in South Carolina, university officials say the university is prepared for such an event.

An advisory early Sunday from the National Weather Service in Charleston said "if Hurricane Dennis remains on its present course and speed, steady tropical storm force winds will begin affecting the South Carolina coastal counties."

Tropical storm force winds are classified as sustained winds under 74 miles per hour. A tropical storm is classified as a hurricane when wind speeds are steady at 75 miles per hour.

Director of Housing Gene Luna said university officials "don't anticipate that the storm will be coming to Columbia."

But he added that a preparedness plan for the campus began on Friday.

"We have been watching the news and the Weather Channel," Luna said. "We are watching it [Hurricane Dennis] carefully."

Luna said, if classes should ever be canceled or delayed, students will be notified by radio stations and the campus cable channel.

USC police officers, members of the department of Student Life and resident advisers will ensure that everyone is notified in case of evacuations or class cancellations, Luna said.

If the coast is evacuated, colleges along the coast send stu-

dents inland to their homes, Luna said.

"But those students who do not have a place inland to go are sometimes sent to USC," he said.

Lynn Bramer, an advertising sophomore at the College of Charleston, said the hurricane has been a hot topic on campus.

"Everyone has been talking about it [the possible evacuation] all weekend, and we don't know if classes are being cancelled," she said.

As of 7 p.m. Sunday, Bramer said students were not going to be evacuated from the College of Charleston campus.

But she said plans had been made to bus students to USC who don't have a way to leave town if an evacuation had been ordered.

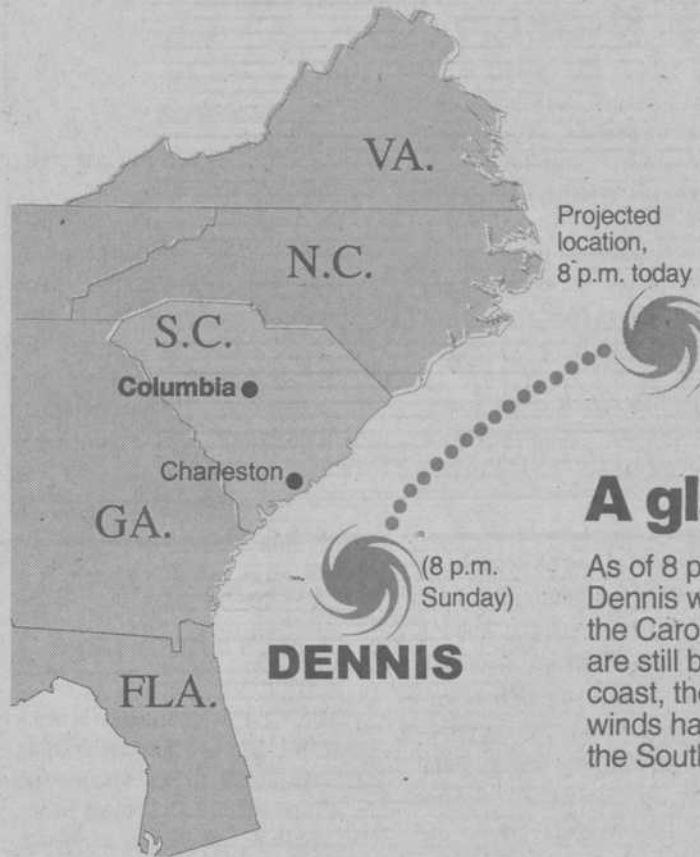
"In the past, we [USC] have housed those students [from coastal colleges] who cannot go home," Luna said. "We provide support for that."

Resident advisers have private rooms, and it's possible to house one or two students in those rooms, Luna said.

"Most RAs have agreed to use their rooms for housing students in an emergency. The [Blatt] PE Center can also have students bedded down on the floors," he said. Study lounges are also available to house students in an emergency.

Director of Law Enforcement and Safety Ernie Ellis said USC police officers would "work with Student Affairs to establish living areas for students coming from the coast."

"And we would be involved with, for lack of a better



Projected location, 8 p.m. today

(8 p.m. Sunday)

DENNIS

A glancing blow

As of 8 p.m. Sunday, Hurricane Dennis was projected to miss the Carolina coast. Its effects are still being felt on the Carolina coast, though, as tropical storm winds have been reported along the South Carolina beaches.

DENNIS SEE PAGE 2

NAACP boycott raises tension

BY ERIN NEWSOME
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON — Sen. Glenn McConnell holds unique sway over the Confederate flag issue.

The Charleston Republican sells artwork from his North Charleston store, CSA Galleries, that depicts scenes from the Civil War, uniforms and camping gear used by re-enactors and belt buckles that read "The South will rise again."

He's one of the S.C. General Assembly's more ardent supporters of the Confederacy and one of the Senate's more influential members when it comes to whether the Confederate flag flies atop South Carolina's Statehouse.

McConnell has supported compromises on moving the flag in the past. The NAACP boycott has him digging in heels and wanting to do whatever it takes to keep the flag flying.

"I'm not going to surrender it now to a reputation of shame," McConnell told *The (Charleston) Post and Courier*.

Still, Senate leaders look to McConnell to help resolve the issue, including Senate Majority Leader John Land.

"With the standing that he has in the Senate, if he said, 'This has gone far enough, and we need to move the flag,' ... we might could solve this matter, and he would be the man to do it," the Manning Democrat said. What McConnell cares about is not allowing the Confederacy to be thought of as an embarrassment to South Carolina.

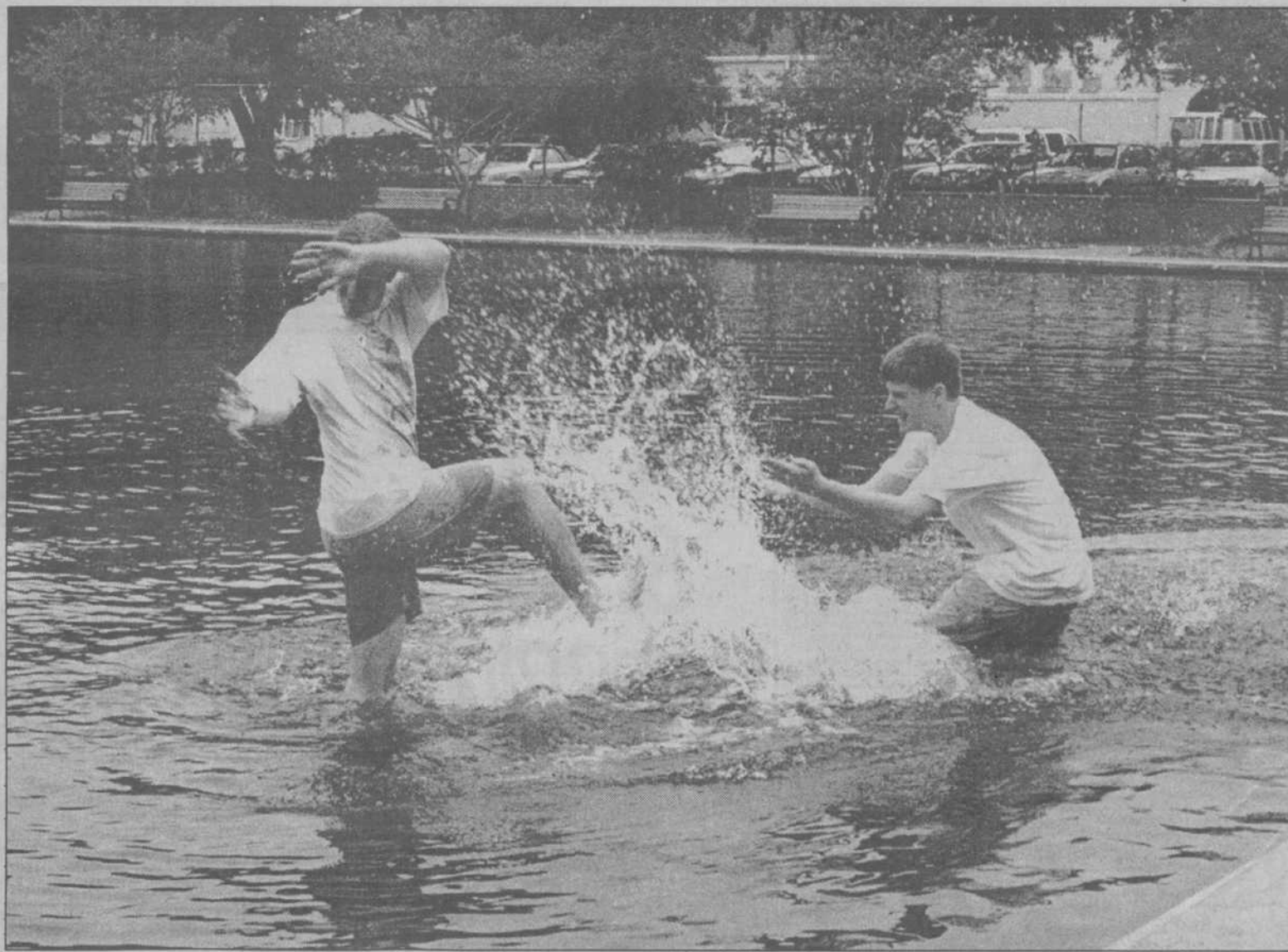
If the state could come to an understanding in which there was mutual respect for Southern and black heritage, McConnell would not mind moving the flag to a monument on the Capitol grounds.

A few years ago, he was prepared to sign off on a deal to that effect.

Then terms like "red rag" and "oddi-

BOYCOTT SEE PAGE 2

SPLASH! A clean pool beckons students to swim



SARA LADENHEIM THE GAMECOCK

Computer science senior Tate Austin, left and math senior Thomas Cramer jump into the reflecting pool in front of the Thomas Cooper Library. The pool was recently drained, cleaned and refilled. The two took advantage of the water while it was still clean.

DESK ASSISTANTS

Security guards replace desk assistants in dorms

BY MACKENZIE CRAVEN
SENIOR WRITER

For the second full year, USC has hired security officers to serve as third-shift desk assistants for on-campus residential housing.

Sizemore Security International signed a state contract with USC effective July 1, replacing Advance Security as the university's security provider.

According to Melani Miller, residential and housing services director, there were no problems with Advance Security, but its contract ran out, and Sizemore Security was the first to place a bid.

In previous years, security officers were only hired on an as-needed basis, for events like exams week and the beginning of fall and spring semesters. But beginning last fall, security officers worked every night from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. at the front desks of many residence halls. Fifty officers from Sizemore Security International currently work at USC, most as third-shift desk assistants.

Jennifer Vaughan, operations manager at Sizemore Security, says she believes that the relationship between the residents and student DAs has influenced the amount of control kept over the dorms. This has resulted in

the hiring of security officers.

"Desk assistants are around all the time, and they are less likely to keep law and order because they know [residents] too well," Vaughan said.

Biology sophomore Laquisha Stokes, a Sims desk assistant, said she thinks that students see DAs as peers, and that many might feel that security guards are more reliable in emergency situations.

"I think [people] would trust [a security guard]," Stokes said. "With the outfit and everything, they look professional."



KEVIN LANGSTON THE GAMECOCK

GUARDS SEE PAGE 2 Mechanical engineering sophomore Lerone Cohen works as a DA for Preston. Guards replace students nightly.

POLL SEE PAGE 2

ALABAMA STRAW POLL

Talk-show host wins Alabama straw poll

BY PHILLIP RAWLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — The few who came prospered in Alabama's first-ever Republican straw poll.

Talk-show host Alan Keyes won the non-binding ballot, with Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah finishing second and Texas Gov. George Bush, front-runner in the national race for the presidential nomination, third.

Keyes, Hatch and Florida education advocate Angel Rocker were the only candidates who came.

"The only people showing up are the candidates with no chance of being elected," said Merle Black, a political scientist at Emory University in Atlanta. "That diminishes the straw poll."

Gary Bauer was fourth, Elizabeth Dole fifth and Steve Forbes sixth.

Keyes pulled 29 percent, Hatch 27 percent and Bush 25 percent. The other

WEATHER

TODAY
86
69
TUESDAY
82
65

INSIDE



etCetera says go to the puppet show

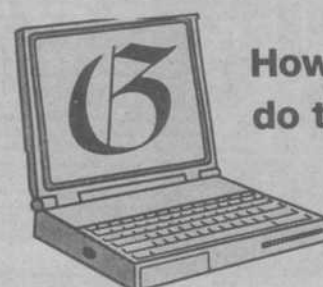
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DATEBOOK

AUGUST 30 TODAY
• The Gamecock news meeting, 4 p.m., RH 333
• Fraternity Council, 4 p.m., RH 322/326
• Sorority Council, 5 p.m., RH 322/326
• Carolina Productions, 3:30 p.m., 2nd floor RH

AUGUST 31 TUESDAY
• Student Organization Fair, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., RH patio
• S.C. Student Legislature, 9 p.m.
• RHA, 7 p.m., RH 307
• AAAS, 6 p.m., RH Theater

ONLINE POLL



How will the Gamecocks do this season?

Go to www.gamecock.sc.edu to vote in this week's poll.