

CAROLINA NEWS

SAFE RIDE

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clude the bus itself, along with its taxes, tags, drivers, maintenance and gas.

"I think there was a [risk-management] concern by everybody that was looking at it," Carothers said. "Risk management is always a concern."

Carothers said he had been concerned about last year's proposal, spearheaded by SG President Pro Tempore Leigh-Ann Travers, that would have used vouchers to pay for taxi rides back from Five Points.

The new plan being discussed by the university would go to Bull Street instead of all the way to Five Points.

Sen. Rebecca Anne Payne, who co-chairs the Student Services Committee along with Fletcher, said the program could be expanded to cover Five Points at a later date.

"You can expand it later," she said. "You know, when things fall into place."

Fletcher said Dennis Pruitt, USC's vice president for Student and Alumni Services, has found a fund that would pay for a one-month trial of Safe Ride.

Carothers said he wasn't sure where the money would come from, but he said it would probably come from "auxiliary

sources," or non-tax funds, such as vending and bookstore money.

But there's still "no solid plan" for the on-campus system, Carothers said, though he said it was more probable than an off-campus system.

"It seems that having a late-night, on-campus shuttle ... seems to be a more viable need," he said. "It [the proposal] seems to be moving to more of a late-night, on-campus thing."

A few weeks ago, SG sent out bids to area vendors such as South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. and the city's trolley service, trying to farm out the costs of providing and maintaining buses and drivers.

Carothers said one vendor has responded, but its service and price are in question.

Darrell Barnes, a co-owner of Yesterdays Restaurant on Devine Street, isn't particularly happy with the idea of Safe Ride being shelved.

"I think it's a very bad idea," Barnes said. "Students come down here and they shop, they don't just drink."

Barnes said he thought the proposal was shot down partly because it went to Five Points.

"I would say it's part of the backlash against Five Points," he said.

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like to fill the entire tub with money," Bonds said.

Passers-by could have thrown their money right into the tubs or given it to Tri-Delta members walking around the area asking for donations. Psychology sophomore Courtney Rakes thought the sorority was making a good amount of money.

"For right now, we are doing great, especially for college kids who don't have a lot of money. It's impressive," Rakes said.

Cassiano Falangola, a student from Brazil, used his spare change to shower Rakes and her tub companion, hotel, restaurant and tourism administration senior Erin Pigg.

"They really want to help the children, so they draw attention by sitting out

here in the cold all day. I think it's good that they are doing something about helping the children and not just saying they are going to do something," Falangola said.

The event lasted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Philanthropy Chairwoman Amy Covington said local businesses also contribute a large amount of the money Tri-Delta raises.

"We go out to the Columbia businesses first, and then we come to campus. Eventually, all the money goes back to the community, though. When you see these 2- and 3-year-old children who are sick, you really appreciate where the money goes," Covington said.

Last year, Tri-Delta raised \$3,500 for Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital's Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders center.

"Last year was a great year. It makes it a challenge to beat it and raise \$4,000 in one sitting this year," Bonds said.

Fraternity works with voter registration, collects cans for hurricane flood victims

BY GRAY STEVENSON
STAFF WRITER

Students who would like to register to vote may do so at the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated's community service table in front of the Russell House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday.

Members of the fraternity believe that students should exercise their right to vote.

"We should not sit back and let other people determine [our future]... We should be able to voice our opinions," Kappa Alpha Psi President Lucius Fulks said.

The fraternity is trying to get as many people as possible to sign up to vote.

"We are the future... I believe college students should [vote because] we need people in office to represent the average 18- to 20-year-old," Kappa Al-

pha Psi vice president Carlton Adams said.

At the table, students are told the specific procedures necessary for voter registration.

The fraternity is trying to "get the youth involved in voting," said art-education senior Calvester Graham.

The fraternity is also organizing a canned food drive for flood victims.

Fulks said members of the fraternity are planning to deliver the canned goods and nonperishable items to the flood victims themselves.

A specific goal for the number of cans they would like to obtain hasn't been set.

"As many as we can," Fulks said. They're planning to provide food mainly for the Myrtle Beach area.

Collections for the flood victims will continue until Thanksgiving.

The drop-off point for the goods is

the table in front of the Russell House.

Fulks said the fraternity is considering setting up other drop-off locations for future can drives.

Graham and Fulks said several residence halls have conducted unofficial, irregular collections for the drive.

Once the cans from this drive are delivered, Fulks said the fraternity plans to continue collecting cans for the remainder of the semester.

Lucius said both projects have been successful.

One way the fraternity attempted to promote collections for the drive was to host a dance.

The entrance fee to the dance was reduced by a dollar if a student brought a can to donate to the drive.

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think that it's the most appropriate time for it," Washington said. "I don't think we should have to have a forum, but it is commendable."


The forum was open to all students. Some members of USC's NAACP chapter attended, and some people attended as a requirement for University 101.

Marine science freshman Amanda Meszaros chose to come to the forum instead of other Creed Week activities as a part of a class requirement.

"I thought that this would be the most interesting," Meszaros said. "I don't think they should fly the flag. It's too controversial."

Chemical engineering senior Troy Green also said he thinks the flag should come down. "I think that the meeting was really good, but one thing that I was disappointed in was that more students of all races did not attend," Green said. "We are all South Carolinians, and this issue affects us all."





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