

The Gamecock

Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

WWW.GAMECOCK.SC.EDU

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Citizens, students rally against flag



AMY GOULDING PHOTO-EDITOR

Ella Epps, left, participated in the King Day at the Dome rally on Monday by being an "NAACP voter getter." Epps had registered 20 voters at the time of the photograph. She said her goal was to register 25 new or change-of-address voters.

BY CLAYTON KALE
NEWS EDITOR

About 46,000 people marched to the Statehouse on Monday in hopes of convincing lawmakers to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse dome.

Students, church groups, activist groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and concerned citizens came to the Capitol as part of King Day at the Dome to honor Martin Luther King Jr. and protest the flag.

Demonstrators were bused to Columbia in large numbers. Three lines of buses parked bumper to bumper caused the closing of Sumter Street from Greene Street to Pendleton Street.

Many of the demonstrators said they want Martin Luther King Day to be considered a state holiday, but the rally's focus stayed on the Confederate flag.

Some demonstrators brought flags of their own, depicting a black fist gripping the Confederate flag. Others carried signs that read: "Your heritage is my slavery."

Many of the demonstrators were wearing "Nu South" clothing. The logo for "Nu South" is a Confederate flag in black, red and green, colors often associated with Africa.

Jonathan Bailey, a journalism sophomore, came to the rally to support the flag's removal.

"I'm here [at the rally] because I'm ashamed to call myself a South Carolinian as long as it's [the Confederate flag] above the Statehouse," Bailey said.

Some flag opponents say the flag represents racism and divisiveness, while some say the flag should be removed from the dome because it doesn't represent a sovereign entity.

"It [the Confederate flag] is a relic, a memento of the past that people are hanging on to," political science sophomore Matthew Brady said. "It no longer has any real meaning because it doesn't represent a sovereign state or nation."

Many supporters of the Confederate flag say it honors ancestors who fought and died for what the flag stands for. But people like Donald Griggs don't agree with that idea.

"My great-grandfather fought in the Civil War and lost a leg," said Griggs, of Columbia, "but that flag doesn't honor him."

Griggs attended the rally with his church, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Columbia.

Monday wasn't the first time Griggs has demonstrated against the Confederate flag's position on the Statehouse.

"I marched a few years ago in Myrtle Beach for the same reason," Griggs said.

Bishop John Hurst Adams told the crowd that it was time to "bring an end to the Civil War."

"It's been over for a long time," he said.

'I think USC needs to be one of the leaders calling for the [Confederate] flag to come down.'

Malik Husser

USC student body president

Not everyone in attendance of the King Day at the Dome rally was in favor of removing the flag.

One man, surrounded by State Law Enforcement Division officers, carried a sign that read, "How do you spell racist? NAACP?"

And The Associated Press reported that another man, who was carrying a large Confederate flag and a sign that said "I love you," was arrested for disorderly conduct after he exchanged words with demonstrators and ignored police officers' requests to back off.

Student body President Malik Husser said he attended the rally and that it achieved what it was supposed to.

"The voices of the community that support taking down the flag were heard," Husser said.

"It shows that we can come together and get things done," he said.

Husser said he supports USC President John Palms' letter urging lawmakers to remove the flag from the Statehouse dome.

"I think USC needs to be one of the leaders calling for the [Confederate] flag to come down,"

RALLY SEE PAGE A2

USC mainframe avoids Y2K glitches

BY PATRICK RATHBUN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

USC survived Y2K without any serious problems, according to Computer Services.

"[We experienced] nothing we didn't expect," Stan Yarbrough, director of university information systems, said. "I couldn't have been more pleased."

Yarbrough attributes the success to the communication and teamwork among those involved.

"We planned for the worst and hoped for the best," he said.

"The communication between people couldn't have been better. We fixed a lot of things a lot of different ways."

On New Year's Eve, 100 people were working in the Computer Services office.

That's 90 more people than usual for that night, according to Yarbrough.

From 11 p.m. Dec. 31 until 1 a.m. Jan. 1, systems programmers worked to make sure the transition went well.

Other precautions included taking down the USC mainframe for several hours, advising against turning on personal computers and shutting down Internet access Jan. 1 because of the concern of hackers, he said.

Computer Services started to work again on Jan. 3, using the entire week to check for computer viruses.

According to Yarbrough, those involved with USC's Y2K effort have been working since late 1995.

USC's Y2K programmers worked on 7 million lines of computer codes and analyzed hardware and software to assure Y2K compliance, he said.

Only 10 percent of USC's personal computers were not compliant, and 90 percent of those had no reason to change, he said.

The university also had various contingency plans, Yarbrough said.

The programmers had contact with all hardware and software vendors, in-

'[We experienced] nothing we didn't expect. I couldn't have been more pleased.'

Stan Yarbrough
director of university
information systems

cluding Microsoft, Novell and Dell, he said.

"We knew who to get in touch with [if something failed]," he said. "Everybody was cooperative."

All of the vendors' Web sites were "inundated with information," he said.

Yarbrough also said Y2K isn't over, the next big date is Feb. 29.

"Everyone is keeping their eye out" because of the unusual date and leap year, he said.

A few minor problems occurred at some area businesses, but several others, including Affinity Technology Group Inc. of Columbia, Springs Industries Inc. of Fort Mill, AFX Corp. of Myrtle Beach and Honeywell's fibers near Irmo reported no Y2K-related problems, officials at those companies reported.

USC's Computer Services are also on alert through the fiscal year to check calculations and month-end and year-end accounting programs.

A NEW LOOK Dr. Palms presents the bicentennial logo



AMY GOULDING PHOTO EDITOR

USC President John Palms unveils the logo for USC's bicentennial celebration. Palms said USC is the only university celebrating its bicentennial in 2001. "The eyes of the academic world will be on the University of South Carolina," Palms said.

College of Liberal Arts names new director of African-American Studies

BY PHIL WATSON
STAFF WRITER

USC's African-American Studies Department has named Dr. John Michael Spencer as its new director.

Spencer will begin his duties with the African-American Studies department, part of the College of Liberal Arts, on July 1.

Spencer earned a bachelor's degree in music from Hampton University. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees in music composition from Washington University and a master of theological studies from Duke Divinity School.

Spencer is the author of 12 academic books, one book of poetry and two novels. He is working on a third novel, as well.

Beyond teaching African-American studies, Spencer will also be a professor of religion and an adjunct professor of English.

Spencer said he has experience in teaching a wide array of subjects. In the past five years, Spencer has taught classes on Rastafarianism and reggae, rap music, religion, music in American culture, the music of African Americans, Frederick Douglass and slavery, Martin Luther King Jr., African-American intellectual leadership of the 20th century, and race in South Africa.

Spencer is the Tyler and Alice Haynes Professor of American Studies at Richmond University, where he also teaches in the religion department, the music department, the international studies department and the School of Leadership.

"I hope to help the [African-American Studies] program develop and mature, by building upon the program's best attributes, whose foundations have been laid by the directors and affiliated staff that preceded me," Spencer said.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SEE PAGE A2

Carolina For Kids to hold Kickoff 2000

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students can sign up starting today to volunteer at local elementary and middle schools.

Carolina For Kids will hold its biannual kickoff from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Thursday outside the Russell House.

CFK President Tom Winslow said Kickoff 2000 serves as the first chance for interested students to register with the organization to serve as tutors or lunch buddies at the schools.

"As of right now we have no tutors, but we normally have 250 tutors after registration," Winslow said.

At the kickoff, CFK officers will pass out informational fliers and registration forms to any interested USC students or their spouses. Free food and drinks will also be available.

According to Winslow, CFK is a service organization dedicated to tutoring children in local elementary and middle schools. Tutors often spend one hour a week working with a class of students for one semester.

Sometimes, CFK members become lunch buddies instead. They eat lunch with students and try to befriend them.

"Schools always give us positive comments about our organization," Winslow said. "We also always hear good things from tutors."

Broadcast journalism freshman Leigh Lane tutored special-education students at BC Grammar last semester. She said she hopes to be able to tutor again this spring.

"I'm definitely going to try to teach again, but it depends on my schedule," Lane said. "It was so much fun, though. The fact that it was my choice to help

KICKOFF SEE PAGE A3

WEATHER

TODAY
54
39
THURSDAY
57
32

INSIDE



Gamecocks fall to Kentucky 64-48

PAGE B1

DATEBOOK

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 19
• The Gamecock, 4 p.m., RH 333
• Student Senate, 5 p.m., RH Theater
• University Ambassadors, 8 p.m.
• Circle K International, 8 p.m., RH 205

THURSDAY

JANUARY 20
• NAACP, 6 p.m.
• SALA, 7:30 p.m.
• Muslim Students Association, 7:30 p.m., RH 305
• Poster sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., RH Ballroom C

ONLINE POLL



Should the Student Gamecock Club have lost its block seating?

Vote at www.gamecock.sc.edu. Results will be published Friday.