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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

McCain makes campaign stop at Swearingen

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In front of hundreds of cheering supporters at USC's Swearingen Engineering Center, Republican presidential hopeful and Arizona Sen. John McCain boasted Wednesday about his 19-point win in the New Hampshire primary and promised to reform the government if elected.

"A terrible thing happened on the way to the coronation," McCain said, referring to Texas Gov. George W. Bush's strong support inside the Republican Party's establishment and the maverick senator's shocking win in New Hampshire. "We derailed it."

While McCain was leading or tied with Bush in many polls, few predicted the size of his victory. McCain gave thousands of young voters who

registered the day of the vote credit for his large margin.

"I'm so grateful for that, I can't tell you," he said.

McCain told those at the rally his message of reforming the government had attracted the younger voters.

"I gave them something they could believe in again," he said.

He compared his win with polls taken six months ago, he said showed him at 3 percent, but the poll had a margin of error of 5 percent.

"I could've been at minus two," he quipped.

McCain has made South Carolina one of the centerpieces of his presidential campaign. His strategy calls for turning his New Hampshire win into a South Carolina victory, and then defeating

Bush in Michigan and his home state of Arizona. This would give him a wave of momentum, heading into the crucial Super Tuesday primary, in which several states vote, including delegate-heavy New York and California.

McCain talked extensively about military issues and veterans. He is counting on support from South Carolina's 400,000 veterans, though recent polls show only 10 percent saying they plan on voting in the primaries this election, and a quarter of those plan on voting Democrat.

He said the government is not delivering the health care and other benefits it has promised veterans, calling the problem "the national disgrace."

"I promise you — I will fix that problem as president," McCain said.

He decried the Clinton administration's "fleck-

less photo-op foreign policy." He said neither the current president, the secretary of state, nor the secretary of defense had ever served in the military.

"That's going to change, my friends," he said. McCain also said the military was half the size it was during Desert Storm, and he attacked the spending on military equipment.

"We buy things the military doesn't need or want," he said. "There's going to be a C-130 in every school yard by the time we're done."

McCain also said he would change the fact that 12,000 military families are on food stamps.

"There will be no food-stamp army when I'm president," he said. "Those young people deserve better."

McCain also touted his tax cut plan, which

calls for extending the minimum 15 percent tax rate and eliminating the marriage penalty. He contrasted his plan, which he said helps working families, to Bush's, which McCain said gives 38 percent to the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers.

"Working families — that should be what it's all about," he said.

McCain said his tax cuts would come from closing loopholes in the current tax code and from the national surplus. He said the surplus could also be used to shore up Social Security, which he called "a ticking time bomb" and paying the national debt.

"Don't you think we ought to pay down that debt?" he said.

"It's conservative and family-oriented to take

McCain SEE PAGE A2

Student Organization Fair returns to campus

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
SENIOR WRITER

The student organization fair was held Wednesday on the Russell House Patio to get students involved in various USC student organizations.

There are 287 student organizations at USC that serve the various needs and interests of students.

Many different types of student organizations had tables set up at the event, which ran from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants included sports clubs, political groups, minority groups, religious organizations, Greek organizations, housing associations, honor societies, professional societies and student media clubs.

The fair, held at the beginning of every semester, was postponed from its original date of Jan. 26 because of inclement weather.

Although the fall student organization fair is usually larger and more widely attended, the spring version drew many people passing on their way to class.

"The student organization fair helps get your group name recognition, but today there hasn't been good foot traffic," said Jimmy Gahagan, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff member.

Despite the average turnout, members of student organizations had plenty of views on why getting involved at USC was important.

"Getting involved in organizations is what college is all about," said marketing and finance junior Tim Sinclair. "The more you get involved, the more you will enjoy college, and that really reflects in your grades."

Others at the event pointed to the fact that students experience a lot more through college organizations.

"I wouldn't have done half the things I have done in college if it wasn't for the clubs I was in," advertising junior Jane Johnson said.

Many professional societies said students should get involved in their groups because it can help them later in their careers.

"It is helpful to get involved because you can make contacts in the field you are interested in," said Heather Kever, senior Psi Chi member.

Douglas Wilson, president of the USC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also encouraged students to get involved in many different groups, not just those that have a direct link to their future careers.

"People shouldn't get stuck with one

FAIR SEE PAGE A2

CAMPAIGN 2000 McCain campaigns at USC



TRAVIS LYNN PHOTO EDITOR

Arizona Sen. John McCain, his wife Cindy and other supporters held a rally Wednesday at the Swearingen Engineering Center. McCain is campaigning before the Feb. 19 primary in South Carolina.

Students urged to take part in 'sacred right'

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
SENIOR WRITER

Tired of seeing MTV's "Choose or Lose" for the eightieth time this week? Have a problem with something wrong in America today? Well, vote!

"Everybody should vote, because it is such a sacred right," Richland County Voter Registration Chairperson Gloria Wilson said.

Voter turnout in the 18- to 20-year-old group has gone down ever since the 1972 election when 18 year olds first voted.

"Letting your voice be heard through voting is important, because it makes you an active member of a democratic society," said advertising senior Ben Muldrow, who said he intends to vote for John McCain.

The upcoming Republican Presidential Primary is Feb. 19 in South Carolina, and the Democratic Presidential Caucus is March 9.

The purpose of the primaries is to

narrow the field of presidential candidates in each major political party to one who will get the official nomination of his or her respective party through the national conventions.

The Republican National Convention will be held July 31 in Philadelphia, and the Democratic Convention will be held Aug. 14 in Los Angeles.

Depending on who wins the most primaries, either Arizona Sen. John McCain, Texas Gov. George Bush Jr., Steve Forbes or Alan Keyes will win the Republican nomination and will face the winner from the Democratic party, either Vice President Al Gore or former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley.

The winners from each party will run against each other in the general election Nov. 3.

The presidential race this year is expected to bring out more than a million South Carolinians to vote, with another 45,000 expected to register between now and the election, according to Wilson.

But South Carolina is 47th in the nation when comparing the percentage of voters to its total population. South Carolina's population is slightly more than 3.5 million, while only 1.2 million people voted in the last presidential race in 1996.

To vote in the upcoming primary or caucus, one must be 18 years old by the general election in November and must be a U.S. citizen.

Other qualifications include being a resident in the district in which you plan to vote, not being imprisoned and not being judged mentally incompetent.

Registered USC students can vote in either primary, caucus or the general election at the Capital Senior Center at 1650 Park Circle, just off Pickens Street.

According to Wilson, voters can only vote in either the Republican Primary or the Democratic Caucus, but voting in either one doesn't mean you have to vote for that party in the

general election.

Also, during the general election one can split their vote for local offices, because in South Carolina one doesn't register by party affiliation.

To vote in any primary or caucus, one must be registered three days beforehand, and to vote in the general election in November one has to be

VOTERS SEE PAGE A2

Senate discusses pharmacy funding

BY AMANDA SILVA
STAFF WRITER

A bill that addresses the funding for the College of Pharmacy's professional graduate department was introduced at the Student Government senate meeting Wednesday night.

According to the college, its funds are significantly lower than those of other professional programs like medicine and law.

"We have had declining funding for years, and we need stability to carry on our professional obligations, just like the medical and law schools," College of Pharmacy Sens. Bree Goldberg and Kevin Cogsdill said.

The bill was suggested by Student Government Adviser Woody Carothers and proposes that pharmacy students receive "38 percent of \$42 of tuition and fees paid per semester by each full-time student" for the last two years of their program.

The pharmacy program lasts for 6 1-2 years, as opposed to the four-year programs of the Schools of Medicine and Law. Therefore, pharmacy students are paying activity fees for an additional 2 1-2 years, despite their low funding.

The College of Pharmacy offers a program leading to a doctorate of pharmacy degree, as do the Schools of Medicine and Law. All three of these degrees are terminal degrees, which means that they differ greatly from bachelor's degrees.

"The doctorate of medicine, jurisprudence and pharmacy degrees are all professional degrees with extended duration," College of Pharmacy professor Farid Sadik said.

However, the College of Pharmacy is the only college that requires two years of 600-level courses in order to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

"We are unique in that we receive a terminal doctorate degree in our field; therefore, we also should receive special consideration and autonomy in allocating our funds," Goldberg said.

SENATE SEE PAGE A2

Coming Monday

The Gamecock asked 200 students their opinions on the Confederate flag. Want to know what they had to say? Check it out Monday.



Should USC tear down the Coliseum after the new arena opens?
62%-Yes 38%-No

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

WEATHER

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SPECIAL SECTION

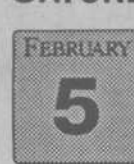
DATEBOOK

FRIDAY



• Baseball vs. Charleston Southern, 3 p.m. (home)

SATURDAY



• Student Leadership Training Conference
• Racquetball doubles begin
• Round Table Gaming Society, noon to 11:45 p.m., RH

ONLINE POLL RESULTS