

The Gamecock

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

SG passes budget bill

Bill passes unanimously despite protest

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After peppering the Senate Finance Committee with dozens of questions, student senate passed two finance bills allocating a total of \$615,774 Wednesday.

Tension was occasionally present during the meeting, particularly when parliamentarian Austin Brown stood to give the Judicial Council report. After the senate voted to allow him to speak, Brown began to protest the Council's allocation, saying that Judicial Council should have received more as the "third branch" of Student Government.

Senators took issue with Brown's statements. "This is neither the time nor the place

to take care of this," Senator William Frick said.

Senators split on a second vote to decide whether to allow Brown to continue. Vice President Brandon Anderson voted not to allow Brown to continue. "I don't want to deal with this today," he said.

Among the questions senators raised was a query about the Judicial Council's allocation.

Finance Committee Chairwoman Sally Ballentine said the council would have access to senate's special projects fund next year to help it put on events such as Creed Week.

"They had access to additional [funds] being a third branch of Student Government," Ballentine said. "The precedent has been set, and there's no reason why" the council couldn't have access to the projects funding next year.

She also pointed to the spending pattern set by the council last year. "This organization hadn't spent any money up until January and February," Ballentine said.

Ballentine also said council gave

no specific costs for many of the items for which they requested funds.

"Over half of their budget were blank pages," she said.

Other finance committee members said they couldn't make a decision without having more specific information.

"We cannot fund unless we have specific items on what's going to be funded," Sen. Aesha Harrison said.

Student Body Treasurer Elizabeth Fordham said the committee's decision was fair.

"I don't feel like they were slighted in any way, because they have access to additional funds," Fordham said.

Ballentine also officially announced their decision on an appeal of student funding for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The appeal, by history senior Brandon Gaskins, alleged that the NAACP was a political organization.

SG Finance Codes prohibit political organizations from receiving general funding. The Finance Committee decided to revoke all of the NAACP's general funds, amounting to \$800, and allocate \$800

"The Finance Committee feels this allocation is fair and in the best interest of every student involved."

Sally Ballentine
Finance Committee
Chairwoman

more to the organization's Black History Month Event.

Any organization can receive money for general funding.

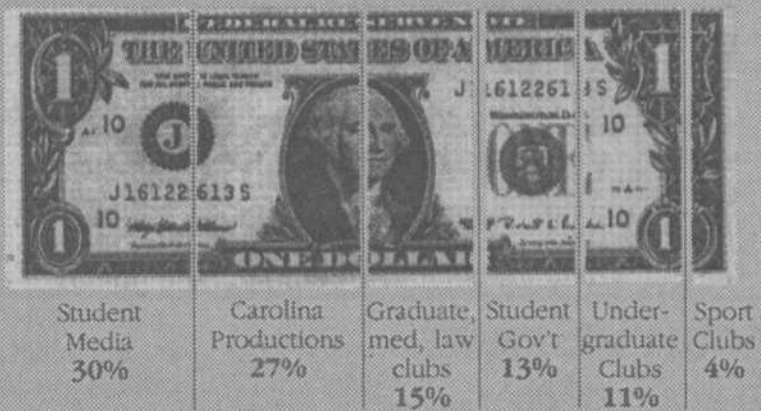
"After serious review and consultation, the Senate Finance Committee reconsidered the money allocated to the organization to attend their National Convention," Ballentine said in prepared remarks.

"The Finance Committee feels this allocation is fair and in the best interest of every student involved," she said.

BUDGET SEE PAGE 2

Where your fees are going

Distribution of \$615,774 in tuition and fees allocated for student programs and organizations for the 2000-2001 school year:



Undergraduate clubs and projects receiving the most money:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| PHARMACY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS | \$3,830 |
| USC DEBATE TEAM | \$2,500 |
| STEP SHOW | \$2,455 |
| BLACK HIST. MONTH | \$2,300 |
| ALT. SPRING BREAK | \$2,250 |

In addition to allocated monies, a \$20,000 loan was approved for Mortar Board Honor Society.

Source: Student Government

Week of programs warns students of spring break 'traps'

BY AMANDA SILVA
STAFF WRITER

Students were warned to "Beware of the Traps" this week in an effort to promote spring break safety.

Beginning Sunday, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs and the department of Student Life sponsored a series of programs to raise awareness of and encourage students to consider safety issues.

"We've had a really good turnout," said Student Life representative Felicia Law.

The safety week focused on the primary traps for students on spring break: assault, DUI-related crashes, harassment, hotel room break-ins, predatory drugs, rape, regretted sex, sexually transmitted diseases and sun risks.

To prevent these and other problems and situations during spring break, the OADP and the department of Student Life advise the following:

- Drink responsibly. According to the ODAP, almost 30 percent of drinkers aged 18 to 25 reportedly become "aggressive" while drinking. Innocent bystanders often become the targets of alcohol-related assault. Drinking also increases the risk that people will harass others because of their gender, race or sexual orientation. In addition, excessive intoxication lowers one's inhibitions, impairing judgment and often resulting in regretted sexual incidents.
- Drink carefully. Take caution when drinking and be aware of predatory drugs like rohypnol, or "roofies," and gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), two of the most common drugs used to spike drinks. Both of these drugs are known to impair motor skills and cause memory blackouts.
- Take turns serving as designated driver.
- Limit the number of valuables you bring on vacations and double-lock hotel room doors.
- Be cautious, particularly if you're female. According to the ODAP, one in four women will experience rape or attempted rape by the end of their college

careers. Ninety percent of these cases occur when the assailant, the victim or both used alcohol.

- Practice safe sex. To avoid STDs or pregnancy, students should practice abstinence or use proper protection, like latex condoms.

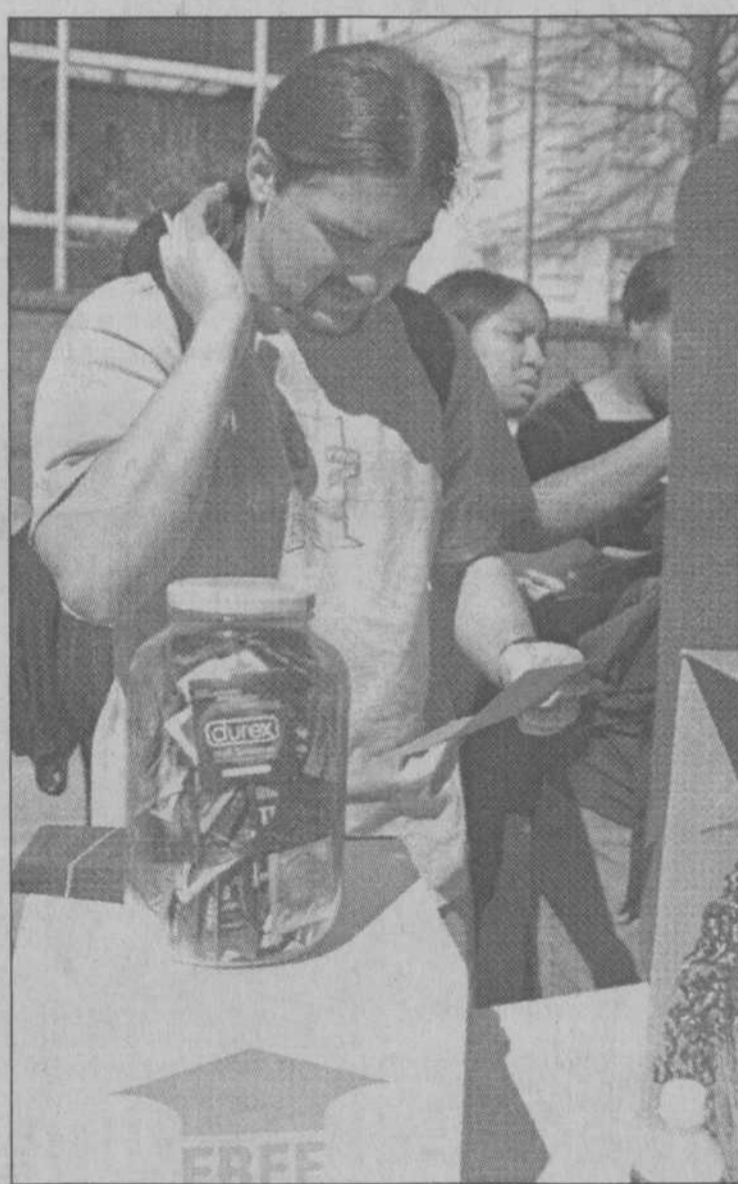
- Avoid overexposure to the sun. Drink plenty of nonalcoholic beverages to avoid dehydration. Avoid the midday sun and use sunscreen regularly to reduce the risk of sunburn.

The Safe Spring Break Week began on Sunday with a baseball game against the College of Charleston.

A Mardi Gras carnival, complete with mask-making and a traditional king cake, was held Monday. Students who attended the carnival received free spring break survival kits.

Tuesday's programs, "Spring Break Stock-Up" and "Happy Hour at the Blatt," featured contests and offered door prizes and free spring break goodies. Later Tuesday evening, Carolina Productions sponsored a masquerade ball in the Russell House Ballroom.

The week ended on Wednesday with a continuation of "Spring Break Stock-Up" and a workshop on campus alcohol policy. A meeting of Gamecocks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol later Wednesday afternoon addressed the personal and financial issues of DUI convictions.



PHOTOS BY AMY GOULDING

Business Junior Cale Johnson, above, inspects SHARE's table promoting sexual health. SHARE and several other groups had tables on Greene Street on Monday for the Mardi Gras celebration.



Members of the USC Jazz Band, left, provided music for the Mardi Gras celebration, which was part of Safe Spring Break Week. Safe Spring Break Week was sponsored by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the department of Student Life.

Parking director fields questions at Faculty Senate

BY BRAD WALTERS
MANAGING EDITOR

Questions about the future of parking on campus were fielded at Wednesday's Faculty Senate meeting.

"I know we have a parking problem, and the only way we're going to be able to solve it is with a perimeter parking scheme; that's what we're working towards," said Derrick Huggins, director of Parking and Vehicle Management.

"Our goal is to make sure we have the buses in place so that when we start removing spaces from the campus core, we have a transit system that can bring people in."

The university recently bought two full-sized buses, and Huggins said four more would be running by year's end.

Once all six buses are in place, two buses each from the Coliseum, Bates area and the soon-to-be-acquired Bell-South parking lot would run to and from campus — with a turnaround time of five minutes each, Huggins said.

The bus running from the old Bell-South lot on Pickens Street, four blocks

north of campus, would probably also stop at McMaster, Huggins said, providing art students a closer place to catch the shuttle than the current shuttle stop more than a block away.

As for current problems, Huggins provided few concrete solutions, but he did say some ideas are being explored — including the possibility of keeping the shuttles running until 7 p.m. and then asking Alpha Phi Omega escort service to run a van until midnight to increase safety.

In other business, the senate approved a list of the courses to be offered by the newly formed Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Course descriptions that had been written for those classes were not sent to a vote, however.

Most computer science and computer engineering courses, formerly labeled CSCI and EECE in the current Undergraduate Bulletin, will be replaced with the CSCE designation, to denote the consolidation of the two departments.

FACULTY SENATE SEE PAGE 2

Bull Street garage opens for free parking

BY PHIL WATSON
STAFF WRITER

Parking services has opened the lower level of the Bull Street garage for free parking every day from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

If students have not moved their cars by 7 a.m., they must pay a fine to get out of the garage.

The lower level of the garage will hold 250 cars, but Director of Law Enforcement and Safety Ernie Ellis said the bottom level only has about 170 cars parked in it each night. He said the majority of the cars are moved by 7 a.m. With approximately 80 spaces left each

night, lack of parking spaces in the garage hasn't been a problem.

"We opened the bottom level to be sensitive to the needs of students; this way, they will have some type of parking close to the dorms," Ellis said. "We lost a lot of parking in the second phase of building housing facilities, so this helps."

A gravel parking lot was removed in order to make room for the new South Quad East dorm.

Most of the students who use the lower level of the garage live in the Fraternity Quad or the South Area, Ellis

PARKING SEE PAGE 2

WEATHER

| | |
|----------|----------|
| TODAY | 61 47 |
| SATURDAY | 67 48 |

INSIDE



'Cocks fall to Gators
87-67

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DATEBOOK

FRIDAY
MARCH 3
• Women's tennis vs. Clemson, 2 p.m.
• Spring Break begins

SATURDAY
MARCH 4
• Round Table Gaming Society, noon to 11:45 p.m., RH

ONLINE POLL RESULTS



Do you feel safe on campus?
40%-yes 60%-no

Look for next week's question in Monday's edition of *The Gamecock*.