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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Carolina to honor 200-year existence

BY BETSY BAUGH
STAFF WRITER



USC will celebrate two centuries of higher learning and community activity with the Bicentennial Celebration in 2001.

The year 1801 marks the birthdate not only of USC, but also of higher education in the state. USC was the first school to be financed entirely by state funds and to have a board of trustees composed entirely of citizens elected by the General Assembly.

The celebration will begin on the Horseshoe on Jan. 10 with a public ceremony, to be followed by many events, including special performances, commemorative exhibits, publications and education outreach projects.

"We have a lot to be proud of here by serving the state for 200 years," said Sally McKay, executive director of the Bicentennial Celebration. "We want our community to be involved because this is an anniversary of the state celebrating higher education."

Nine different committees have been set up to organize bicentennial programs. The committees deal with academic events, alumni events, athletics events, educational outreach, government, history and remembrance, publications and promotions, public events, and student events.

The celebration's main focus will be to further USC's relationship with communities in South Carolina. USC is organizing a group of Bicentennial Partners from across the state to help coordinate celebrations in their respective areas.

These partners are composed mostly of alumni and will help pass along information and get people involved in community activities.

The Bicentennial Office is also looking for old keepsakes from USC like any memorabilia representing student life, especially letters from parents, grandparents and friends.

Any donated letters could be used in a book, to come out next year. Professors Catherine Reynolds and Carolyn Matalene are compiling the book, "Student Voices," which will be composed mostly of old student letters to tell the history of student life.

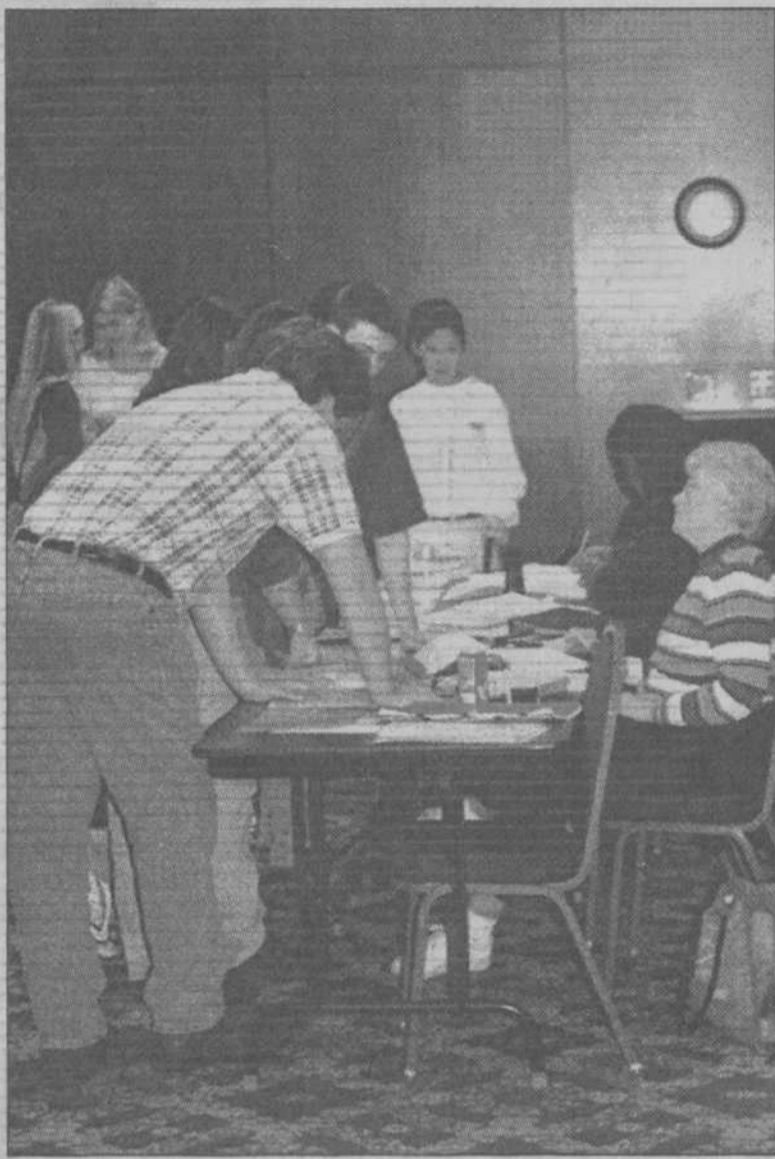
Two other books will also be coming out for the Bicentennial. "The University at 200," a coffee-table book by Robert Clark, is scheduled for release in January and features color pictures and a history of USC.

"University of South Carolina History (1940-1990)," by Dr. Harry Lesesne, associate director and bicentennial historian, will come out in the fall of 2001. This hard-cover book will include historical pictures of USC.

In addition, a Horseshoe tour through time will be made for DVD or CD-ROM to show student life through the years, including what old dorm rooms were like. Also, a video documentary will be made to represent USC's purpose throughout history.

For more information on the Bicentennial Celebration or being a Bicentennial Partner, call 777-1801 or visit www.sc.edu/bicentennial.

HONORS HOUSING Students sign up



TAB HENDERSON THE GAMECOCK

Honors students sign up for housing for next year. Sign up was from 7:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Tuesday in the Capstone Campus Room. Sign ups for Preston and McBryde Quadrangle will be today, and sorority sign up will be Thursday. Sign up for regular housing will occur online via USC's VIP Web site from March 22 to 31.

Mill neighborhoods divided on road plan

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Residents of the Olympia, Whaley and Granby mill villages rejected a plan Monday night to build a new boundary road that would have rerouted truck traffic from the nearby Tarmac quarry in a tense and occasionally heated meeting sponsored by the Richland County Council.

The council held the meeting to discuss the proposed road and hold a "test for consensus," basically a straw poll of the residents who attended.

While none of the five options on the ballot garnered a majority, 85 of the 191 residents voted for the final option: "I outright oppose the road." Thirty-seven voted for the second most popular option: "I fully support the proposed road."

The vote, while not official, shows there isn't a consensus among area residents, according to County Council Chairman Kit Smith. She said the push for a new road was probably over because of the results.

"I think it's over unless the community decides to present another alternative to us," Smith said.

Councilwoman Bernice Scott, who represents the area, said she thought the road project was dead.

"As for me and my house, it's a dead deal," she said.

The compromise voted on Monday was an attempt to reconcile plans by Diversified Development, which originally proposed the new road, and the community's road committee, which submitted an alternative to the Council.

Supporters of the road said Diversified Development, the company that originally proposed the new truck road, would put \$40 million into stores, apartment buildings for the elderly and other buildings if the road were built, as well as renovating the mills. They said it would move traffic from the trucks to a road around the neighborhood from the current route, which brings trucks through the neighborhood.

They also said revenue from the construction of the road could fund a revitalization of the area.

"Vote for the future of Olympia and not our past," said Vi Bazzoni, a member of the neighborhood's road committee.

Larry Gates, also a member of the committee, urged residents to act.

"Now is the time to do something," he said. "We're already in a state of decline," Gates said. "It's going to get worse."

Those opposing the road complained that the quarry might not be around for a long enough time to justify its construction. They also said Tarmac should use the river road, labeling the cost of the road as too high, even with the benefits. And while the new road would have a sound barrier, detractors said they were concerned about the smoke and dust that might be spread by the trucks.

Opponents said Tarmac should use its own "river road" for its trucks.

"Go to the river road, and if it means not developing the mills, then OK," resident Corena Branham said.

Betty Hilliard, who led the road committee, had harsh words for Tarmac.

"You're running out of room," she said. "You're running into our community, and we don't want you in our community."

Hilliard also complained about what she said was a lack of cooperation from the Council.

"We [the committee] feel like we have gotten nowhere" in negotiations, Hilliard said.

"The solution ... is either the river road, or no road," she said.

Tarmac has resisted using the river road for its shipping. Opponents of the new road said the Council could use imminent domain to seize the road.

However, Scott and Smith said that option would land the Council in court and could take years to resolve. That would mean the Council could no longer enter an agreement with Tarmac, since the company is about to be bought by Anglo American, a South African company.

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COMPARING CAROLINA

Faces in the crowd

■ For the next seven weeks, The Gamecock will explore how USC compares with other state-supported schools in the immediate region. This week, we look at student life.

BY BRAD WALTERS
MANAGING EDITOR

At a glance, it might seem difficult to try to differentiate USC from other flagship state-supported universities in our region. Tens of thousands of students roam the vast expanses of these campuses weekly with one common goal — to eventually get a degree and a good job. But a look at students outside the classroom can paint an interesting picture of a few of the subtle differences between these schools.

DIVERSITY

Maintaining diversity among students is one of the major goals of most university administrators, no matter where the school. Of the six schools studied — Clemson, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, UNC and USC — the student body at USC was the most diverse, according to 1998 statistics provided by each school. More than one-fourth of all USC students are minorities, and more than 19 percent

COMPARING CAROLINA SEE PAGE A2



FILE PHOTO

Hundreds of freshmen gathered at Williams-Brice Stadium during Welcome Week in August for "First Night" festivities.

Comparing Carolina: STUDENT BODY

"Comparing Carolina" is a seven-part series that analyzes how USC measures up with other state-supported schools in the region.

*Numbers based on 1998 statistics

SCHOOL	UNDERGRADUATES	25th-75th percentile, SAT	DIVERSITY	STUDENTS IN FRATERNITIES/SORORITIES	FRESHMAN RETENTION RATE
CLEMSON	13,053	1030-1240	7% black, 4% other minority	20%	84%
FLORIDA	31,477	1120-1320	7% black, 18% other minority	15%	91%
GEORGIA	23,479	1100-1290	6% black, 6% other minority	16%	87%
TENNESSEE	19,693	980-1220	5% black, 5% other minority	8%	77%
UNC	15,291	1130-1340	11% black, 8% other minority	18%	94%
USC	15,907	960-1210	19% black, 6% other minority	14%	79%

BRAD WALTERS THE GAMECOCK

Six win early housing placement

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Six students got their first choice of housing under a Department of Housing lottery program last month.

Housing concluded its "Winning Wednesdays" sweepstakes at the Feb. 23 home basketball game against Louisiana State University. During half-time, six of the 25 competing students won the opportunity to live in the residence hall of their choice, with their preferred roommates, despite any usual requirements for living there.

The 25 students lined up on the side of the basketball court, and at the sound of a whistle, each student ran to stand on one of the posterboard-sized signs lying on the floor. Each sign had a letter, word or symbol on the side visible to contestants and the name of a prize on the opposite side. Students received their choice of housing, cash cards valued between \$50 and \$250 dollars, in-line skates, signed basketballs and footballs or other gifts, depending on which sign they chose.

Biology/chemistry freshman Ken Boyd, computer science junior Jeff Mobley, nursing freshman Nakita Carty, political science junior Norm Jones, journalism freshman Brandy Foster and medical technology sophomore Anitra Davis won their choice of housing. The men chose to live in Rutledge, and the women chose to live in either South Quad or East Quad.

HOUSING SEE PAGE A3

WEATHER

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INSIDE



Encore!
rates the
power of
elves

ENCORE!

DATEBOOK

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 15
• Student senate, 5 p.m., RH Theater
• University Ambassadors, 8 p.m., Visitor Center

THURSDAY

MARCH 16
• NAACP, 6 p.m.
• SALA, 7:30 p.m.
• Professional Society of International Studies, Cool Beans, 8 p.m.

ONLINE POLL



As holidays end, should USC make its residence halls accessible earlier?

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