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COLUMBIA, S.C.

USCPD receives reaccreditation

BY PATRICK RATHBUN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The USC Police Department has been reaccredited after months of planning and assessment.

The reaccreditation process went smoothly, Director of Law Enforcement and Safety Ernie Ellis said.

"[The USCPD] went through the whole process without a hitch," he said. "I was very thrilled with the way the entire process went."

USCPD Deputy Director of Support Services Chris Wuchenich agreed.

"[The process] went even better than I had hoped," he said.

Ellis said the accreditation might not be un-

derstood by the general public, but that other law-enforcement agencies "appreciate the accomplishment."

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. visited the USCPD in January to examine its compliance with 355 standards, Ellis said. The assessors then reported back to a board of commissioners and recommended that the USCPD be reaccredited. The final decision was made Saturday at a committee meeting in Las Vegas.

The agency will remain accredited for three years.

The USCPD went through much preparation, including filing and documentation procedures, in order to have information in place for the assessors, Ellis said in a statement earlier this year.

The assessors examined the department's procedures, equipment and facilities, and examined the quality of such items as patrol cars, evidence storage and office space, Ellis said.

Ellis said the assessors also sought the opinion of the USC community and received positive responses from students and administrators.

"The assessors were extremely impressed," Ellis said.

Ellis said the USCPD went through the commission's review process without any major questioning.

Ellis said the only two questions the commission asked were about the department's physical facility. The questions concerned the USCPD's telecommunications area security and its power generation. Both of the questioned areas have been

corrected, Ellis said.

He said the department isn't lacking in any major areas.

"We are not lacking in any significant way," Ellis said. "There was not a single question of a substantive nature. We have clearly demonstrated compliance with all of the standards."

Wuchenich said the accreditation was the second the USCPD has received and that this reaccreditation carried more weight.

"I do believe [the second accreditation] was more significant," he said. "Typically, in a university environment, reaccreditation is a significant achievement. [The reaccreditation] is very reassuring."

Wuchenich said the first accreditation is based on what the agency says it will do, and the sec-

ond accreditation shows that the agency has followed through with its words.

Ellis said the USCPD's professionalism and expertise separate it from other agencies.

"I don't think there are any [agencies] that are more professional [than the USCPD]," he said. "We have a broad base of expertise to meet almost any challenge."

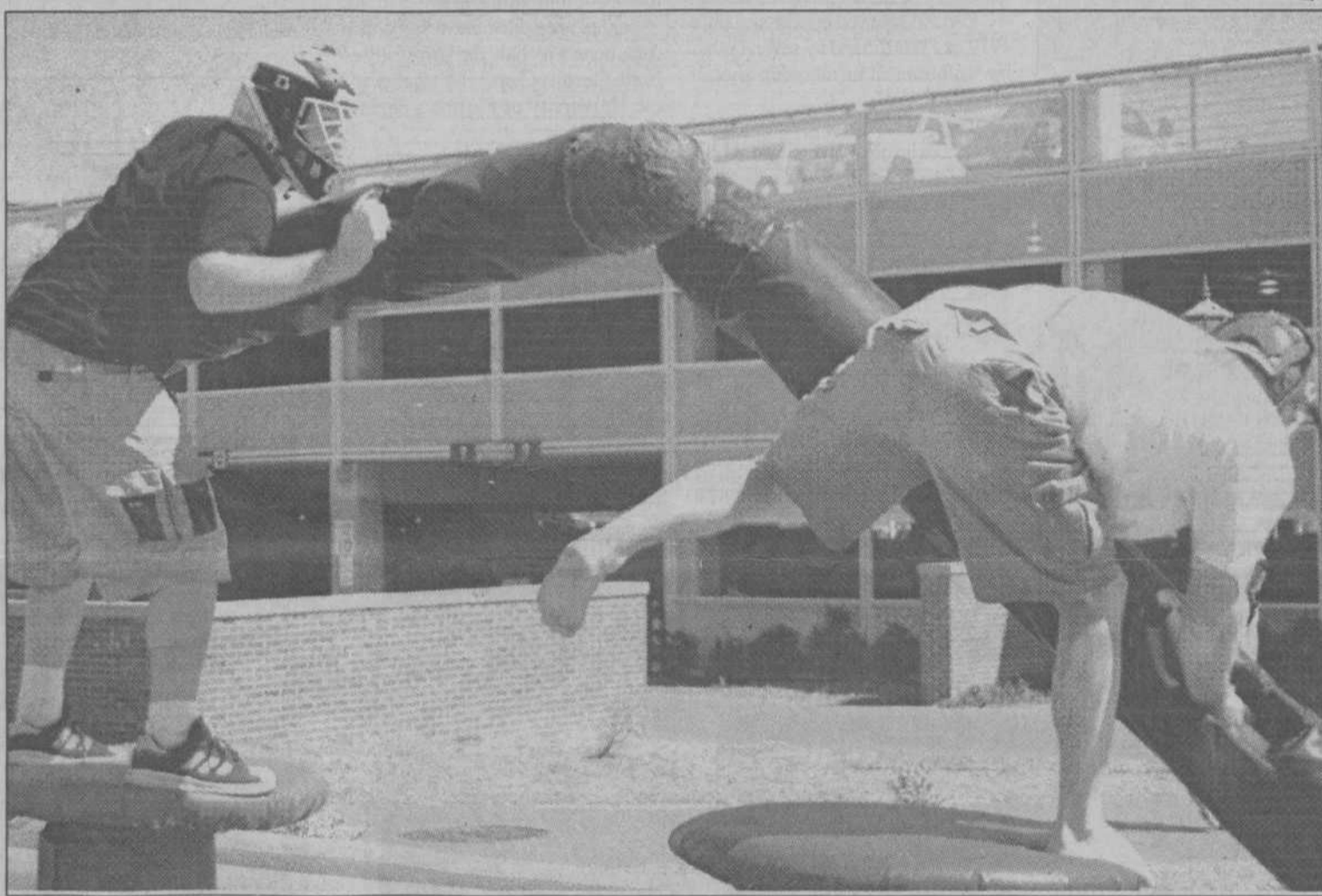
Wuchenich said he agreed with Ellis' assessment.

"[The reaccreditation] demonstrates our level of professionalism," he said. "I feel a great deal of pride in the division. We are a highly dedicated department."

Wuchenich also said the amount of training the

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ROCK 'EM, SOCK 'EM Let's get ready to rumble



AMY GOULDING PHOTO EDITOR

Rellglon freshman Matt Brodie, right, knocks his opponent, music education freshman Matt Schrelber, off the jousting platform on Tuesday. Jousting was just one of the events on the Russell House Patio sponsored by Sports Illustrated as part of Campusfest.

Army school under fire for actions of some graduates

BY CHRISTINE TATURN
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

CHICAGO — About 2,000 college students nationwide have pledged to fast for the first two weeks of April to raise awareness for what they say are human-rights violations in Latin America caused, at least in part, by the United States.

Protesters want the U.S. Army School of Americas, based in Fort Benning, Ga., closed. Dubbed the "School of Assassins" by Latin Americans, the SOA has trained more than 60,000 Latin American troops in commando tactics, military intelligence and psychological operations. Among the institution's strongest backers are the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of State and the Drug Enforcement Administration — all of which say the school is an important tool that helps the United States shape foreign policy, promote democracy and fight drug trafficking in Latin America.

Protesters, who include veterans, religious leaders and several members of Congress, insist that the school has been responsible for human-rights abuses and massacres in several countries, including Argentina, El Salvador, Chile and Colombia. They're also quick to name some of the school's notorious graduates, who include Panamanian dictator Manuel Nor-

iega, Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru and Hugo Banzer Suarez of Bolivia.

Army officials acknowledge that some of the school's graduates have been linked to human-rights violations, but also note that less than 1 percent of its 60,000 students have ever been associated with such atrocities.

"Graduates who have committed human-rights abuses are individually responsible for their actions," the school's Web site states. "There has never been a link established between training received at the school and subsequent human rights abuses by graduates."

Protesters aren't so sure about that — and say it's no coincidence that some of Latin America's most aggressive and murderous leaders have been trained at the school. The idea behind the upcoming fast, they say, is to demonstrate how nonviolent measures can bring about social change. School of the Americas Watch, a watchdog group bent on closing down the school, is spearheading the effort. Group leaders are encouraging protesters to lobby legislators during a planned meeting on Capitol Hill on April 3.

"I have a lot of friends from Latin America, and I've heard their stories — torture, family members being killed," David Aurisano, a Spring Hill College se-

ARMY SCHOOL SEE PAGE 2

Clinton wades into flag battle

BY ANNE GEARAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With a visit to a historically black South Carolina college, President Clinton is wading into the debate over display of the Confederate flag, which could become an issue in November's election.

The symbolism will be potent and the political undertones strong today as Clinton appears at a \$500-per-person fundraiser honoring Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Along with many others in South Carolina, Clyburn wants the flag removed from atop the South Carolina Statehouse.

Clyburn said he wanted the event, held at Allen University, to make a statement, even though more money could have been raised at a larger, more lavish location. There will be seating for about 1,000 people.

"I want to make a statement about that flag every chance I get," Clyburn said recently.

By his presence at the school, founded in 1870 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Clinton will ally himself with the movement to remove the flag as a symbol of racism, said Bruce Ransom, a political science professor at Clemson University.

"You've got the president in South Carolina, he's at a predominantly black college, talking about the flag, and he's there with Clyburn," Ransom said. "As far as symbolism, there's a bundle all together there."

Supporters say the flag, which has flown atop the State-

house since 1962, honors those who died in the Civil War. Opponents say it is a symbol of slavery and racism.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is leading a tourism boycott of South Carolina until the flag is removed.

This week, the NAACP offered some support for a compromise proposed by state legislators on both sides of the flag issue. The plan would remove the flag from the Statehouse dome but erect other Civil War-era flags on the Capitol grounds.

"The president will talk about the flag and he will talk more broadly about tolerance," White House spokesman Jake Siewert said Tuesday.

Clinton will likely expand on rhetoric he used this month at a commemoration of the civil rights march in Selma, Ala. "As long as the waving symbol of one American's pride is the shameful symbol of another American's pain, we have another bridge to cross," Clinton said at Selma.

And in a state likely to vote Republican in the fall, Clinton will point to the political controversy over the flag in this year's pivotal South Carolina GOP primary.

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee George Bush demurred on the question of whether the flag belongs at the Statehouse, calling it a local issue. Bush's former GOP challenger, Arizona Sen. John McCain, also refused to take a position.

On the Democratic side, Vice President Al Gore and then-challenger Bill Bradley both recommended that the flag be re-

CLINTON SEE PAGE 3

Breakfast celebrates 'spiritual expression'

BY AMANDA SILVA
STAFF WRITER

A prayer breakfast Thursday will honor the variety of religious traditions found on campus.

"In this Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, we gather together in mutual respect to share a spiritual expression of a purpose that extends beyond our individual lives - the search for truth and an understanding of our places in the world," USC President John Palms said.

It will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Russell House Ballroom.

The breakfast, which the Interfaith Committee will be host to, is an effort to increase awareness of all the religious traditions represented on campus, according to Tom Wall of the Carolina Chaplains Association.

"There is a large number of students who don't realize the number of traditions represented on campus," Wall said.

According to Wall, attending a prayer breakfast and hearing the power and vitality of other faiths is a moving experience.

To hear these other traditions validates religion and makes it come alive in a predominantly Judeo-Christian society, he said.

"It's part of the living experience," Wall said.

The breakfast will feature student speakers and musicians who represent various faiths within the campus community.

"The voices you will hear represent some, but by no means all of the religious traditions we value in our university family," said Carl Evans, associate professor and Interfaith Prayer Breakfast Committee member.

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 30

• President's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
7:30 a.m., Russell House Ballroom
Tickets: \$5, on sale in the Russell House

• Lectures on New Testament
10 a.m., Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
8 p.m., Russell House Ballroom

Wednesday, April 5

• Interfaith Student Panel
7 to 8:30 p.m., Golden Spur
More information: Tom Wall, 799-7363

• Discussion/luncheon for faculty and staff
Spirituality's Role in Higher Education
12:15 to 1:30 p.m., Preston College
More information: Carol Flake, 777-6234

Monday, April 17

• Interfaith Jewish Seder Dinner 7 to 8:30 p.m., Presbyterian Student Center

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Encore!
takes on
Oscar

ENCORE!

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• Student Senate, 5 p.m.
• GAMMA

THURSDAY

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• NAACP, 6:30 p.m.
• SALA, 7:30 p.m.
• National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 7 p.m., RH 3rd-floor lounge

ONLINE POLL



Should universities regulate students' internet surfing?

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