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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Group seeks labor resolutions

Amnesty International pushes for stricter codes for USC apparel makers

BY PATRICK RATHBUN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Far East is said to be a hotbed for the issue of human rights. And while many think the issue might not be on the mind of "apathetic" college students, it's not so far removed from the USC campus.

USC's chapter of Amnesty International, a group working to protect human rights worldwide, is concerned about the manufacturing conditions of USC licensed merchandise. Those involved with the effort are happy that USC has a current code of conduct, the Collegiate Licensing Company code, but they want the code to be "taken a step further," Amnesty International Vice Presi-

dent and anthropology junior Autumn Perkins said.

That step consists of the adoption of the Worker's Rights Consortium, which is a set of criteria for codes of conduct that would allow for third party human rights groups to enter and investigate manufacturers' facilities and to fully disclose the location and conditions of the facilities. A resolution for the WRC will be brought before Student Government Wednesday.

The WRC targets sweatshops and child labor. Among the scrutinized conditions are wage levels, benefits provided, scheduled and average work hours and policies and citations, according to the WRC agreement.

The consortium was formed by the United Students Against Sweatshops organization, which has a membership of about 230 universities nationwide, Perkins said.

The CLC code requires "decent working conditions" and a living wage, but it's without enforcement or inspection, political science junior and Amnesty International president Christine

Cook said. Cook said the current monitoring exists only internally and the polices of CLC are "unclear."

She also said the internal monitoring doesn't work because of language barriers.

Amnesty is concerned with USC licensed apparel at bookstores and other locations, including athletic stores.

Amnesty members are currently working with USC's Director of Business Affairs Richard Wertz, who has been responsive, Perkins said. Amnesty has also circulated petitions to achieve student support for the effort, and 300 signatures have been collected.

Perkins said the CLC code is in need of modification.

"[The CLC code] is like having a really good bill of rights without having police or lawyers to enforce and defend the bill of rights," she said.

Chrissy Stauffer, a political science freshman and a liberal arts senator who endorsed the resolution, said the adoption of the code would be "im-

proving the status quo." Stauffer said the CLC code provides "independent monitoring without standards or instructions," while the WRC would include such stipulations. Stauffer also said she has hope the WRC will be passed by SG.

Cook said there are considerable reasons why USC should adopt such a code.

"It's really important to look out for the rights of people not in America and for schools to take care of workers everywhere," she said.

The resolution will also be brought before Faculty Senate.

Many schools have adopted WRC criteria, including the University of North Carolina, the University of Illinois, the University of Iowa, Columbia University, Cornell University, Boston College and all of California's state schools. Perkins said she hopes Amnesty can resolve the labor issue without the use of sit-ins or protests, as some other schools have been forced to do.

The USC chapter of Amnesty is also active-

AMNESTY SEE PAGE 2

No. 2 Carolina baseball team tames Tigers

The Gamecocks received eight strong innings from starting pitcher Kip Bouknight to notch a 6-3 win over the No. 7 Clemson Tigers at Doug Kingsmore Stadium in Clemson.

FULL STORY IN SPORTS, PAGE 9

Senate votes to move flag

NAACP rejects plan, says boycott will continue

BY LEIGH STROPE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bill to remove the Confederate flag from South Carolina's Statehouse dome cleared the Senate on Thursday, but the NAACP rejected the plan and said the boycott will continue.

The bill now is headed to the Republican-controlled House, where leaders stepped forward this week with a similar plan to remove the flag after months of remaining on the sidelines.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," Republican House Speaker David Wilkins said of the Senate bill. "I think it really is the only viable alternative to resolve the issue with honor and dignity and finality this year."

The House on Thursday passed a bill to create official state holidays to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. and Confederate Memorial Day. Six weeks ago, the same bill failed after rancorous debate that created racial and political rifts.

Expect the flag to be even uglier, said Clemson University political scientist Dave Woodard.

"We're not through with it," he said. "The worst battles are ahead. The House is more partisan. The discussions are going to be an awful lot more vitriolic."

House Judiciary Committee Chairman J. Harrison, R-Columbia, said a subcommittee would debate the bill next Wednesday and has the votes to pass the bill out. The full Judiciary Committee probably has enough votes to bring the bill to the House floor for debate, Harrison said.

Already the lines are getting drawn. Some black House members think the Senate compromise to fly a Confederate flag in front of the Statehouse is too visible. And the NAACP's executive committee voted unanimously against the proposal, said state Pres-

FLAG SEE PAGE 2

COMEDY ON CAMPUS

Second City comedy troupe comes to Russell House



AMY GOULDING PHOTO EDITOR

The Second City, a national touring comedy company out of Chicago, performed Wednesday night in Russell House. Carolina Productions sponsored the event, which has featured famous comedians like Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi and Chris Farley.

SG senate passes new Freshman Council constitution

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A new Freshman Council constitution passed student senate Wednesday after a flurry of amendments.

The senate also tabled a bill that would amend the SG Elections codes and ratified Vice President Corey Ford's choice for senate clerk.

The constitution was subject to a flurry of amendments and votes, including an amendment that was defeated only after Vice President Corey Ford cast the tie-breaking vote.

Sen. Becky Floyd, co-sponsor of the new constitution, said the bill was an attempt to update the old constitution, which she said hadn't been updated in at least 10 years. Changes in the current constitution include the codifying of the Cabinet Liaison and Senate Liaison positions, and changes to the selection process.

Floyd accepted an amendment, striking language that required more than 30 fresh-

SG SEE PAGE 2

USC plans Earth Week activities

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

What do yoga, barbecued tofu and a keynote speaker from Greenpeace USA have in common? They are all a part of USC's celebration of Earth Day.

For the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, USC will host a variety of events and activities to increase awareness about the environment April 16-22, which will be free and open to the public.

Gwen Geidel, assistant dean of the School of the Environment, said she thinks it could be the biggest Earth Day event ever held on campus, particularly because it's the first time the celebration will last an entire week. She said she expects 2,000 to 3,000 participants.

"I think it will be very successful because there's enough variety that every student can get involved in something," Geidel said.

Geidel said she hopes students rec-

ognize that much can be done to improve the environment. She said that in some ways, people's general approach to environmental issues has improved in past years, and in some ways, people are continuing to have an adverse effect on the environment. On the plus side, industries have been strictly regulated to help preserve the environment and have become "better stewards of the Earth."

People, on the other hand, have contributed to the worsening of the environment because of things like pollutants and the size of cars. They have, however, been better about consistent recycling.

Geidel said she hopes Earth Week participants realize that even the smallest effort to help preserve the environment can have a significant impact. For instance, she said participation in clean-ups and monitoring the amount of unnecessary running water in a sink

could make a difference.

"Every person is important to the environment. Each individual act that we make makes a difference," she said.

"There are some people who don't need Earth Week to take action, and there are some who need to be reminded," Geidel said.

Wednesday will be Earth Week's most important day, according to Sarah VanWye, vice president of Students Allied for a Greener Earth.

The day begins with half an hour of morning yoga taught by experienced practitioners on the Horseshoe.

The real fun will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Greene Street. This Celebration of Earth and Environment will feature a showcase of non-profit environmental organizations, research and activities. The USC Swing Shift Jazz Combo will perform as well.

During the celebration, participants

EARTH WEEK SEE PAGE 2

Upcoming Events

- April 16**
2-3 p.m.: Clean-up in A.C. Moore Garden and duck pond. Meet in the garden on the corner of Pickens and Blossom.
- April 17**
8 a.m.: Sunrise yoga on the Horseshoe. (April 17-19)
3-5 p.m.: "The Wetlands Mitigation Quagmire - Can Natural Wetlands Functions and Values be Replaced?" School of Law auditorium.
8 p.m.: Candlelight environment poetry reading on Horseshoe.
- April 18**
2-3:30 p.m.: "Challenges in Environmental Ethics," Nursing 125
- April 19**
12 p.m.: Awards Ceremony in front of the Russell House.
12:30-1 p.m.: Clean-up at Rocky Branch Creek. Meet in front of RH.
7 p.m.: Performance by Djoliba Don of the African Drum Ensemble in Gambrell 153.
7:30 p.m.: "Environmental Justice for All; Confronting Racism and Economic Injustice," at Gambrell 153.
- April 22**
Earth Day Celebration. Finlay Park.

WEATHER

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INSIDE



EtCetera looks at the parking perils on campus

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DATEBOOK

FRIDAY
APRIL 14

• L.E.A.D. Retreat

SATURDAY
APRIL 15

• Round Table Gaming Society, noon to 11:45 p.m., RH
• L.E.A.D. Retreat

ONLINE POLL



Do you use Napster software to download music files from the Web?

Yes-72% No-28%

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