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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Sexual Health Programs receives \$300K grant

BY AMANDA SILVA
STAFF WRITER

USC's Department of Sexual Health Programs has received a grant of nearly \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

According to Tricia Phaup, director of Sexual Health Programs and Sexual Assault Services, the grant money will go toward assembling a task force specializing in responding to cases of relationship violence.

Also, with the grant, what was known as Sexual Assault Services will become the Office for Sexual Health and Violence Prevention.

Statistics on relationship violence show that in the United States, a woman is battered by her boyfriend, husband or live-in partner every 15 seconds.

Of relationship violence cases reported, 30 percent include the use of a weapon, according to Sexual Assault Services.

A task force was begun in 1998 to study the need for a relationship-violence program.

In May, the Relationship Violence Committee submitted an application outlining the services to be provided to a division of Student and Alumni Services, which called for the development of a policy and program addressing relationship violence.

Phaup said a portion of the grant is to provide temporary off-campus housing for violence victims who are students and are trying to escape hazardous relationships.

This housing will be at an unidentified site to protect those who seek shelter there and will in essence be a women's shelter specifically for USC students, Phaup said.

Students who go to the shelter must agree to terms set by Sexual Health Programs to protect the privacy of the individuals who seek help there.

Phaup said some graduate students in USC's sexual health offices are trying to get donations from businesses in order to furnish and stock each room at the shelter with living essentials.

That way, someone won't have to go back and forth from their dorm room to move belongings, Phaup said.

Phaup also said she hopes that Alltel will donate phones to

the program to be used by the students for immediate emergency contact with the police.

In addition to the new housing facility, the grant will provide for the hiring of a new USC police investigator specifically trained to handle criminal violence, Phaup said.

She said that last week marked the start of interviews for another counselor in the sexual health offices.

Another key aspect of the grant and the efforts being made by the Department of Sexual Health Services is increased preventative education.

The grant provides for three new positions with Sexual Health Programs, and the new advocates will become part of the program next year.

Advocates are on call 24 hours a day to respond to relationship cases and emergency calls.

Phaup said the advocates serve to provide students with options and plans for maintaining their individual lives as they make the transition from a bad relationship.

For example, they might help a student develop a strategy to change their schedule for additional protection, Phaup said.

Additional services provided by the advocates will include notifying faculty and staff of a student's situation, or possibly referring them to professional counseling.

Other women's groups, like the community-based women's shelter Sistercare Inc., are contributing to the promotion of the program and the help available on campus.

Educational materials will be used in University 101 classes to teach the dangers of relationship violence and the components of a healthy relationship.

Phaup said emotional abuse, a key component to relationship violence, will also be addressed by the relationship violence program.

The new program will be fully publicized in the fall and is expected to yield an increase in the number of students who seek help for relationship violence.

This year, 13 cases of abuse have been reported to Sexual Assault Services. The estimate for next year is at least 40 students, Phaup said.

Experts say summer programs benefit students

STAFF REPORTS
THE GAMECOCK

Sending children to summer camps might be more than giving them a place to go while their parents work, according to some USC experts.

Summer camps provide intellectual and creative enrichment, said Jan Phillips, assistant director of USC's Office of Fellowships and Summer Programs.

"Athletic camps have been available for many years for students. But summer camps and programs that have an academic or creative component are becoming more sought after," Phillips said.

Parents are more savvy to the importance of college education, Phillips said, and summer camps provide a learning environment that complements the classroom environment.

"Parents are looking for more summer science and math opportunities," she said. "More than anything, they want good, broad-based academic programs that will enhance their children's education."

This summer USC will host several dozen camps and programs that help students develop skills in areas such as drama, journalism, computers, engineering and music.

Programs at universities and colleges are becoming more popular because parents understand the importance of a college education, Phillips said.

"They [parents] want their children to be on a college campus so that they can be exposed to the opportunities that are available at college level and to see what campus life is like," she said.

Some programs are intended for elementary school students, and others are for students preparing for college.

James Stiver, director of the Adventures in Creativity camp at USC, said many colleges offer summer programs, and parents should first consider what their child wants to gain in the program.

"Is it knowledge, or social or computer skills? A glimpse of a particular campus? Try to match a program with their priorities," Stiver said.

Stiver, who is also the associate dean of the South Carolina Honors College, said if parents want their children to attend a program that is academically enriching, they should examine the criteria

CAMPUS SEE PAGE 2

GAS LEAK Capstone residents experience inconvenience caused by gas line break

Capstone suffers gas line rupture

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A gas leak outside Capstone House restricted students to their rooms for about one hour Friday.

At 11:33 a.m., Main Lining Service, Inc. struck the gas line at Barnwell and College streets. The contractor from Elma, N.Y., hit the line with a backhoe while working on a water line for the city.

No one was hurt, and the leak was under control at 12:25 p.m., according to Columbia Assistant Fire Chief Bradley Anderson.

However, Capstone residents were asked not to leave the building until the leak was stabilized. Students could leave from the left side door if absolutely necessary. Psychology sophomore Carlyn Aldrich said residents were instructed to walk behind Columbia Hall to Pendleton Street.

Residents in several houses on College Street had to evacuate, as well.

"Because of the gas leak, we didn't want to have anyone nearby in case it was to ignite," Anderson said.

USC police officers also blocked traffic on the 1700 block of College and the 900 block of Barnwell.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. came and pinched off the 2-inch plastic line to stop the leak.

"It's not uncommon to have [a gas leak]. We might have one a week throughout the city and county," Anderson said.

Some students said they were annoyed with the inconvenience the gas leak caused.

Aldrich had just gotten back from class when the incident occurred.

"I just beat the fire trucks there. When I got up to my room, all I could see were firetrucks and a huge hole in the ground," she said.

Aldrich said she thought she would have to leave during the incident, but SCE&G contained the leak before she had to. She said she wouldn't have been happy if she had to go out of her way when leaving.

"I thought it was pretty crappy because people couldn't leave and cars were blocked in. I kind of expect it, be-

GAS LEAK SEE PAGE 2



AMY GOULDING PHOTO EDITOR

A worker for SCE&G repairs a gas line that was cut near Capstone House Friday afternoon.

Class looks for believers of the "Lizard Man"

BY PHIL WATSON
STAFF WRITER

An Honors College sociology class is looking for people who claim to have seen the infamous Lee County Lizard Man.

The "Sociology of the Paranormal" class (SCCC 331G) is looking to talk with people who say they saw the Lizard Man as a part of their investigation into paranormal claims.

According to town folklore, the rural South Carolina town of Bishopville was terrorized by an 8-foot, half-lizard, half-man creature with green scales and red eyes during the summer of 1988.

The Lizard Man was first reported by 17-year-old Christopher Davis, who told police a giant monster tried to kill him at 2 a.m. in the Scape Ore Swamp. Davis claimed the creature chased his car at speeds of more than 35 miles per hour.

Since that June, many Lee County residents have said they believe in the existence of this giant swamp creature. The Lizard Man became South Carolina's version of Bigfoot.

Honors College senior Julie Jensen said she thinks the project is an interesting angle to take with paranormal claims.

"We thought that the Lizard Man would be a neat thing to look at," Jensen said. "We're trying to find

'I think there was a consensus that we wanted to do something regarding fringe archeology, like Bigfoot or the Abominable Snowman.'

Kevin Couch
Honors College senior

people who say they saw it and decide for ourselves whether they really think they saw it."

The Lizard Man is a good subject for the study because it's a local legend, Honors College senior Kevin Couch said.

"I think there was a consensus that we wanted to do something regarding fringe archeology, like Bigfoot or the Abominable Snowman," Couch said. "But the Lizard Man is a lot more interesting since it's something that's close."

The students have put advertisements in various newspapers throughout South Carolina that ask people who claim to have seen the Lizard Man to contact them.

The class has also set up a Web site for people who claim to have seen the Lizard Man. The site is very general and doesn't give much information about the Lizard Man because the class doesn't want to influence what people think they saw, Jensen said.

Sociology professor Shane Thye is one of professors overseeing the students' work. He said the study of the paranormal is a great way for students to learn about research.

"The study of the paranormal is a great way for students to learn about the scientific method and the research process. That's really the whole point of the class," he said.

"It's a nice venue for students to learn about statistical principles and scientific principles and how to evaluate claims in a really fun kind of way."

South Carolina Honors College Dean Peter Sederberg is providing funding for the students to do this research, Thye said.

This is the first time the class has been offered at USC. It is only open to honors college students.

Sociology professor Patrick Nolan, who is also teaching the class, said he would like to see it con-

LIZARD MAN SEE PAGE 2

41 percent of LIFE scholars can't keep scholarships

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly half of the students who earn state-sponsored LIFE scholarships lose them because their grades fall in college.

An analysis by *The State* newspaper found that 41 percent of those who received LIFE scholarships in 1998, including 83 percent of LIFE recipients at technical colleges, lost them because they didn't maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Although the numbers seem high, Marvin Carmichael, Clemson University's financial aid director, said they're not a surprise.

"Statistically, we knew that there would be a large portion of students ... who would not be able to retain it," Carmichael said. The average student GPA at Clemson is 2.6.

Students needed a 3.0 GPA in high school and a score of at least 1,000 on the SAT to receive a LIFE scholarship. This fall, the SAT requirement rises to 1,050.

The state's technical colleges had the lowest LIFE scholar retention rate, with only 124 of 751 students — fewer than one in six — keeping their scholarships.

Lawrence Ray, spokesman for the State Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education, said those numbers are deceiving. Ray said almost two-thirds of those who lost LIFE scholarships stayed in school anyway, showing that the scholarships are achieving their goal of drawing students into college.

"As far as the students' staying in school ... our students are going, but our typical technical college student is someone who has to work and goes to school when they're working," he said. In fall 1999, 44 percent of technical college students went part time.

The Medical University of South Carolina had the best retention rate among LIFE scholars, with just 1 percent losing their scholarships. About one-third of South Carolina private school students lost LIFE scholarships, compared with 35 percent at USC, 55 percent at Clemson and 50 percent at the College of Charleston.

Those numbers reflect what Georgia has seen with its HOPE scholarship, a similar program paid for through lottery proceeds. Barry Fullerton, vice chancellor for student services for the University System of Georgia, said the HOPE scholarship retention rates — about 50 percent — were a disappointment.

"I don't think there initially was any expectation [on retention]," Fullerton said. "We were a little surprised early on. ... The retention figures were a little discouraging."

The State's analysis also found that the

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INSIDE



EtCetera explores art in Columbia

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DATEBOOK

MONDAY

APRIL
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- The Gamecock, 4 p.m., RH 333
- Fraternity Council, 4 p.m., RH 322/326
- Sorority Council, 5 p.m., RH 322/326
- CP, 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

APRIL
18

- AAAS, 6 p.m., RH Theater
- S.C. Student Legislature, 9 p.m.
- FOCUS, 8:15 p.m., Women's Club
- Spring Board, 5:30 p.m.

ONLINE POLL

Should the NAACP continue its boycott if the flag is moved from the State House dome?

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