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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Kidnapping attempts reported in USC area

BY PHIL WATSON
STAFF WRITER

A man in the Shandon area has been trying to lure children into his car over the last couple of weeks. The children's ages range from 8 to 17.

One of the 3 reported incidents involved several children walking near the Carolina Gardens apartment complex April 17. The man tried to talk the children into taking a ride from him.

A 14-year-old girl also reported that a man in a maroon car exposed himself to her on Wilmont Avenue on April 6.

Many families of graduate students live in the Shandon area. The children in these areas have been warned about strangers and suspicious activities.

According to USC Law Enforcement Director Ernie Ellis, the suspect drives a late model red or maroon 4-door sedan.

USCPD is very concerned about these reports, Ellis said.

"We are very intently continuing the investigation," Ellis said. "I would encourage all people on campus, especially females, to be observant for this vehicle and anyone fitting this description and to please call the police if they see it."

All the reported incidents occurred near campus in the Shandon area. The only on-campus incident involved a minor being approached in front of the Carolina Gardens.

The Columbia Police department and the USCPD are working on the investigation, El-

KIDNAPPING SEE PAGE A5

POLITICAL SPEECH Vandals make a statement



AMY GOULDING PHOTO EDITOR

Graffiti covers some of the university designs Student Government painted on the walls of the Coliseum tunnel. SG members had painted over decades-old designs and years-old graffiti earlier this month.

Coliseum tunnel renovations met with vandalism

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

It took only one week from the time Student Government members added the finishing touches to the renovations of the Coliseum tunnel to the time one or more graffiti artists left their fluorescent pink mark.

The vandal or vandals scratched off a portion of the paint in the center of one outline of South Carolina and painted an X across the state. The vandal or vandals also wrote, "WE JUST DON'T LIKE RETARDED POLITICIANS" and "FIRE RAVENEL."

The vandalism refers to a quote Sen. Arthur Ravenel, R-Charleston, said earlier this year at a pro-flag rally. He called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the National Association for the Advancement of Retarded People. Ravenel has since apologized to retarded people, but not the NAACP.

SG outgoing Special Projects Director Timothy Clardy said he wished people would find other venues to express their political opinions. He also said he doubted students were the culprits.

"I don't think students would do this. I think they take great pride in what we've done to make the university look better," Clardy said.

SG outgoing Freshman Council Adviser Duke Taylor was "disheartened" to see the graffiti, but

said he was glad it "didn't have a negative tone about the university."

Taylor first noticed the graffiti on his way to class Tuesday morning. He said no one could be sure when the incident occurred. He also said it wouldn't officially be reported to the USC Police Department.

Director of Law Enforcement and Safety Ernie Ellis verified that no one had reported the incident.

"We have nothing, but I will have somebody take a look at it and see what we can find out," Ellis said.

Taylor said he believed in "cutting to the chase" and having SG fix the problem without getting the police involved.

"If it's vandalized five times, we're going to be there five times to fix it. It took them five minutes to mess it up, and it will take us five minutes to clean up," Taylor said.

Both Taylor and Clardy said that SG tentatively plans to clean up the tunnel this afternoon using leftover paint given to SG and bought by the university paint shop when SG started renovating the tunnel March 18.

Assistant Director for Facilities Management Gerald Goings, who works with the paint shop, said the graffiti would most probably not clean off, and he said he would go ahead and paint over it as soon as possible so "it doesn't promote more

GRAFFITI SEE PAGE A5

Committee searches for vice provost of USC research

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
SENIOR WRITER

Yet another search committee is trying to fill a position at USC. This search committee is seeking to fill the position of vice provost of research, which has been vacant since April 1999.

The search for a vice provost of research will continue into the summer, according to Provost Jerry Odom. Also, according to Odom, the search committee has made sufficient progress and there is a serious offer pending for the position. The name of the person with the pending offer wasn't released.

But Odom did release a list of people already interviewed for the position: Will Harris, former executive director of Biosphere 2; Da Hsuan Feng, general manager of Science Applications International Corp.; Dan Walz from Wayne State University; and Bill Appleton, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Energy Research Corp. have all been interviewed for the position.

The search committee for someone to permanently fill the position is being headed by the dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Gerald Crawley. Crawley and the other members of the search committee have been directly appointed by Odom. Search committees for interim deans are usually elected by faculty and staff.

The position, which coordinates all research for the university, is a major factor in whether the university will be allowed to join the Association of American Universities. Along with coordinating research at USC, the position entails lobbying for grants and state

VICE PROVOST SEE PAGE A5

COMPARING CAROLINA

With Honors

In our final installment of the Comparing Carolina series, The Gamecock compares honors colleges at five regional universities and USC

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

It might be easier to get into USC's Honors College than some of the Southeast's other universities, but it's not as easy to get out.

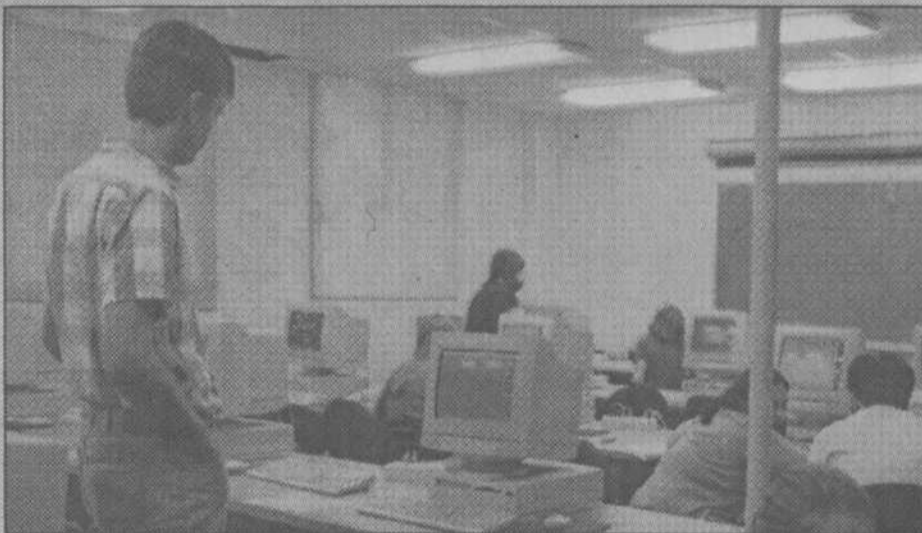
USC standards to be "competitive" for admissions are not as high as some of the other five other schools — Clemson, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia and UNC — looked at as part of a survey by *The Gamecock*.

However, USC's Honors College expects more from its students than many of the schools surveyed, particularly in the number of hours required to graduate with honors.

USC has higher admissions standards than Clemson or Tennessee. Florida and Georgia had more stringent standards, while the top 200 students are allowed into UNC's program from the university's already prestigious freshmen.

However, USC requires the highest number of honors hours for graduation. A student at USC's Honors College must complete 45 hours of classes. Clemson students must complete 14; nine honors courses are required by Georgia,

COMPARING CAROLINA SEE PAGE A6



FILE PHOTO

A USC Honors College student looks on in an honors level class. Admittance into the USC Honors College is weighted heavily on GPA and SAT scores.

Comparing Carolina: HONORS PROGRAMS

This graphic is based on information that is the last of The Gamecock's seven-part series comparing USC to other high-profile southeastern institutions. The series has included comparisons of student life, parking, crime, tuition, dining and housing.

CLEMSON	Specialty housing available	FLORIDA	Specialty housing available
Admission requirements: Sliding scale of GPAs and SAT scores Graduation requirements: 3.4 GPA; "A" or "B" in 14 hrs. of honors courses; thesis		Admission requirements: 1350 SAT; 3.8 GPA as calculated by school Graduation requirements: Determined by college	
GEORGIA	Specialty housing available	TENNESSEE	No specialty housing available
Admission requirements: By invitation; 1410 average SAT score for 3.98 GPA Graduation requirements: 3.3 GPA; 9 honors classes and 3 grad courses; thesis		Admission requirements: 3.5 GPA, 1210 SAT Graduation requirements: 3.5 GPA	
UNC	No specialty housing available	USC	Specialty housing available
Admission requirements: N/A; 200 admitted per year Graduation requirements: Senior thesis after 3.2 GPA by end of junior year		Admission requirements: 3.5 weighted GPA; 1300 SAT makes student competitive Graduation requirements: 3.3 GPA; 45 hours of honors work; thesis	

Wellness Center bids exceed budget by \$10 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bids \$10 million higher than expected have forced University of South Carolina officials to change plans for a wellness center.

"The bids were way in excess of what we were led to believe would be the range," trustees Chairman William Hubbard said Monday.

Trustees agreed to add \$6.3 million to the \$33 million budget.

"We have tried to use less-expensive materials. We will put the infrastructure in. We just won't finish certain parts of it," Hubbard said.

The number of skylights and the variety of building materials are being reduced, Project Manager Jerry Brewer said. In addition, one gymnasium and one swimming pool will not be completed when the building opens, he said.

The construction schedule also is being stretched to avoid paying overtime.

The building originally was supposed to open next year, but now will not be ready before the end of 2002 or the beginning of 2003, Brewer said.

A second round of bids is due July 14, and construction could begin as early as August.

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INSIDE



Encore!
presents
their
greatest hits

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DATEBOOK

WEDNESDAY
APRIL
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• Stress Blowout, 6 p.m. to midnight, Blatt P.E. Center

THURSDAY

APRIL
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• Reading Day

SUMMER GAMECOCK

Look for *The Gamecock's* first summer issue May 31. Good luck on all your exams.