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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Eaddy to announce grant on Tuesday

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

USC students will have the chance to start their own businesses at a Student Incubator Center, which will be funded by a grant Student Government plans to announce Tuesday.



EADDY

The announcement will take place at 12:15 p.m. on Greene Street, SG President Jotaka Eaddy said. It will be attended by Eaddy, USC Provost Jerry Odom, USC Vice President for Research William Harris, Columbia Mayor Bob Coble, USC faculty member Richard Robertson and Columbia incubator project Director Joel Stevenson.

While Eaddy wouldn't announce the size of the grant, which comes from the South Carolina Research Institute, she did say it was big.

"It's the largest amount any Student

GRANT SEE PAGE 3

Billboard falls onto interstate

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
THE GAMECOCK

Several motorists on I-77 narrowly avoided disaster Saturday afternoon when a 100-foot billboard fell across the southbound lane near the Ridgeway exit.

Columbia police believe the sign, which was 100-feet long and 75 feet from the interstate, was blown onto the road by high winds that reached up to 30 mph. No one was hurt in the accident, and an investigation will continue.

According to a witness, the sign, which weighed about a ton, fell on the roadway with a large crash and bounced several times. The billboard fell around 5 p.m. and narrowly missed two cars.

Ferguson told *The State*, "We observed the sign blowing in the wind," when he was riding with his wife in their pick-up truck. "It leaned 20 degrees and then 40 degrees. We realized it was falling, and I slowed down or we would have been crushed."

"There were two cars in front of us, and they just cleared it by what looked like about 10 feet."

Police said they couldn't tell who the sign belonged to because it was heavily damaged.

A wrecker service was called but was unable to move the sign, which at one point backed up traffic for two miles. However, a welding crew that was stuck in traffic volunteered to help cut the sign off its large pole.

The pole was then pushed off the road, and both it and the sign were loaded

The city desk can be reached at gamecockcitydesk@hotmail.com

"I'd been praying for a church family and good spiritual friends ..."

Melissa Martin, first-year USC student



Columbia Church of Christ gathers for a religious service at Finlay Park on Sunday, Oct. 8. Members of the church are diverse - a variety of ages, races and ethnicities.

GENESIS

Melissa Martin thought the Columbia Church of Christ would answer her prayers. PART ONE IN A SERIES

There she was — surrounded by a diverse group of people, all of them worshipping God with fervor. It was something Melissa Martin had been looking for since the summer of 1999.

"I'd been praying over the summer for a church family and good spiritual friends because I had left my old church home ... because the youth group was hypocritical," said Melissa, a first-year student in the College of Liberal Arts.

But here was a group that appeared to be, "from a distance, very on fire for God," Melissa said. "And I like that."

What Melissa didn't know was how her life would be affected by the Columbia Church of Christ. Melissa's story is a glimpse into the church during her nearly three-month membership.

It all began a couple of weeks after Melissa began attending USC in the fall of 2000. On her way to lunch at the Grand Marketplace, she was approached by three members of the church. One asked her to attend a meeting at the Russell House Theater at 2 p.m.

CHURCH SEE PAGE 3



A baptism of a member of the Columbia Church of Christ also took place at the Oct. 8 service. Before being submerged in the baptismal tank of water, members meet repeatedly with church leaders, former-member Melissa Martin said.

Story by Brandon Larrabee ♦ Photos by Arif Kidwai

ECONOMY

USC adds jobs, cash to state

■ University contributes \$3.8 billion, 54,000 jobs to economy, report says

BY MARY HARTNEY
THE GAMECOCK

USC contributed \$3.8 billion and 54,000 jobs to the state from 1998 to 1999 through the university's eight campuses and its alumni, according to a report released by The Darla Moore School of Business' division of research.

"The University of South Carolina and Its Economic Impact on the State of South Carolina," authored by Douglas Woodward and Sandra Teel, also indicates that colleges in the American Association of Universities typically generate more money for their communities than nonmembers do.

USC has long aspired to become a member of the AAU, which includes some of the most prestigious universities in the nation.

Woodward said USC's progress toward AAU status has impacted the state's economy through athletics, construction and research.

"In the process of trying to get there, we have raised visibility in terms of sports and sponsored research here at USC," he said. The increased visibility brings in new money from out of state and the process starts to snowball, which attracts additional funding and research, Woodward said.

Studies estimating the university's impact on the economy have been done before, but not of this magnitude or complexity, Teel said.

"In my opinion, what was most significant was how the numbers added up to such a large figure," she said. "I never imagined they would add up to quite so large an amount. But you have to keep in mind that this is a large university."

USC's eight campuses contribute \$1.4 billion and 22,400 jobs to the state's economy both directly and indirectly, the study says. The direct contributions range from athletics purchases to construction contracted by the university. This direct spending causes a "multiplier effect," where the local economy benefits and, in turn, increases its spending.

What USC gives to the state:

■ **ALUMNI** contributed \$2.4 billion and filled 31,600 jobs in S.C.

■ **CAMPUSES** contributed \$1.4 billion and supplied 22,400 jobs in S.C.

■ **IN ALL**, the university contributed \$3.8 billion and 54,000 jobs to the state from 1998-1999.

ECONOMY SEE PAGE 2

Task force to investigate state election procedures

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
THE GAMECOCK

In the aftermath of the long, strange post-election confusion of the 2000 presidential race, Gov. Jim Hodges is forming a task force to look into the election process in South Carolina.

According to Hodges, the task force is needed to prevent a Florida-like situation from happening in future South Carolina elections.

"The task force will ensure that all votes are counted fairly and accurately so that South Carolinians will have the utmost confidence in the integrity of our elections," Hodges said.

The task force will review state and local laws, ordinances and procedures pertaining to elections. The committee will also examine voter registration, voting methods and vote counting procedures.

"The right to vote is the building block of our democracy," Hodges said. "We don't want what happened in Florida to happen here."

One of the members of the elections task force, State Rep. Mark Kelley, R-Horry County, said he didn't know much about the task force yet because he was waiting for the first meeting to be called. He said he feels the state needs standardized changes.

"We should vote the same way throughout the state," he said.

Kelley said some counties use punch-hole ballots or paper ballots while others use electronic machines.

"My hope is the whole state goes electronic. I think it is more accurate," he said. "We don't want to sit around and debate hanging chads."

Republican Party Executive State Director J. Sam Daniels echoed feelings about standardizing voting technology rules in South Carolina.

"It's not so much the machines, but the rules in place in different parts of the state concerning the machines," Daniels said.

"My hope is the whole state goes electronic. We don't want to sit around and debate hanging chads."

Rep. Mark Kelley
R-Horry County

He pointed to an example in Jasper County, where officials in the mostly-Democratic county publicly admitted they were in violation of at least 10 state statutes concerning the elections process.

"They didn't even check the machines in Jasper to see if they were working,"

Daniels said. "We need to change things so that won't happen again."

Daniels wants to allow the state elections commission to have more authority and power.

ELECTION SEE PAGE 2

WEATHER

TODAY
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TUESDAY
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COMING UP



How state's proposed budget cuts might affect students

WEDNESDAY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Love is the idler's occupation, the warrior's relaxation and the sovereign's ruination."

— Napoleon

ONLINE POLL



Are the police doing a good job patrolling the Five Points area?

Vote at www.dailygamecock.com. Results will be published Friday.