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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS: Vice-presidential runoff decided by 81 votes

Voter turnout lowest in years

BY JARVIS HOLLIDAY
THE GAMECOCK

When the official number of voters from the recent Student Government elections is released next week, it's expected to be more than 1,000 votes less than turnout in 2000, according to election officials.

This is the second year in which students have been able to vote for SG candidates online. The 2000 election saw a 17 percent voter increase from 1999 to 2,965 votes in the general election, an all-time high. In 1999, 2,527 students voted in the general election.

However, this year, with the same voting system in place, only about 1,700 students visited the university's VIP Web page to vote for president. Fewer students voted this year than in either of the past two elections, but the official number of students who voted this year won't be released until next week.

SG President Jotaka Eaddy believes there might be a number of reasons why voting decreased this year. She said the weather was a big factor.

"It rained on one of the voting campaign days, and that hurt candidates who were trying to get the word out," she said.

Eaddy also said she thinks there are some continuing reasons why many

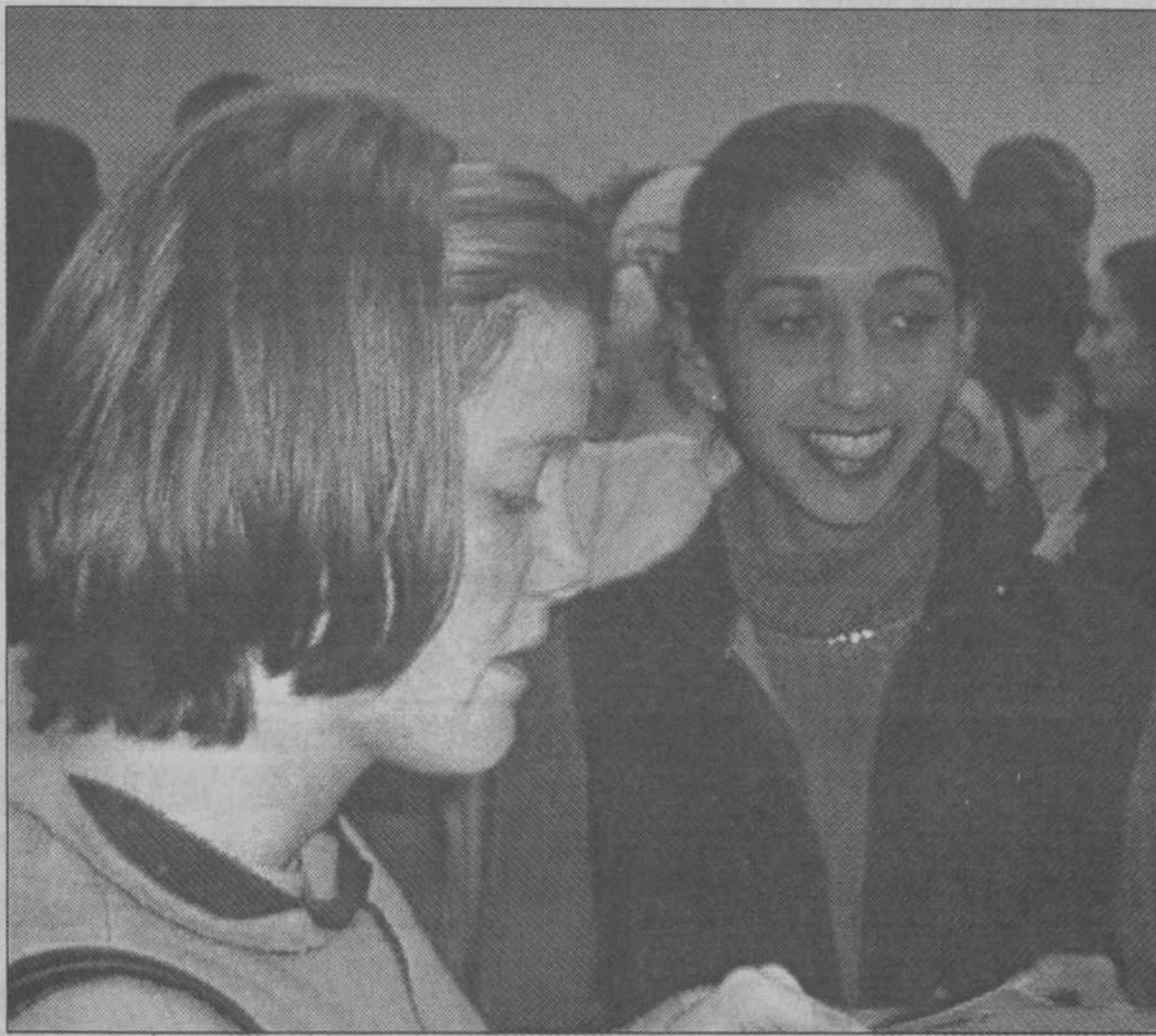
Voter turnout

Year	Votes
2001	1,700*
2000	2,965
1999	2,527
1998	2,233
1997	2,273
1996	2,123
1995	2,539
1994	2,380

*Estimate

TURNOUT SEE PAGE 3

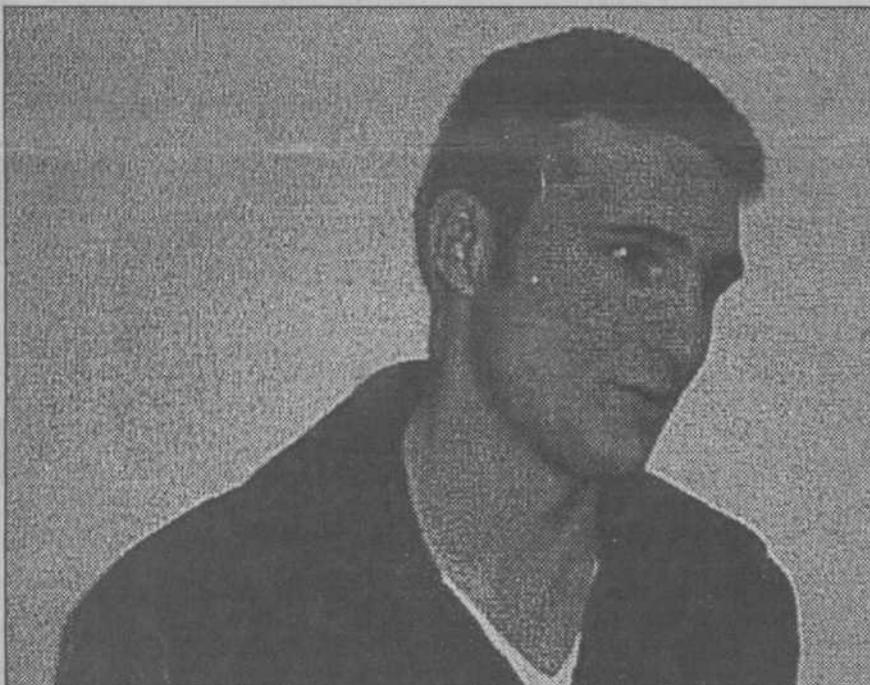
Bala edges White to win VP



ABOVE: SG Vice President-elect Nithya Bala speaks with Leigh-Anne Travers, a member of her campaign staff, Feb. 22 after finding out she was heading to a runoff with Sen. Nathan White. Bala defeated White by 81 votes in the runoff.

RIGHT: Sen. Nathan White reacts Feb. 22 to the announcement of a runoff between him and Bala.

Photos by Mackenzie Clements/
The Gamecock



Freshman Council adviser wins with more than 52 percent of vote

BY CRISTY INFINGER
THE GAMECOCK

Freshman Council Adviser Nithya Bala defeated Student Government Sen. Nathan White by a slim margin in this week's hotly contested SG vice-presidential runoff election.

Bala won by 81 votes, 832-751. She took 52.6 percent of the vote to White's 47.4 percent.

"I'm pretty excited. ... I'm just glad that it is over," Bala said. "I'm looking forward to beginning [the new term]."

White said he was disappointed by the loss, but he wasn't discouraged in his efforts to work in Student Government.

"I'm disappointed. ... We didn't do enough to get the vote out," White said.

But White said he wishes Bala well.

"I hope that [Bala] does a good job with the senate," he said.

Bala has an extensive campaign platform to carry out in her term as SG vice president.

Her main focus after she's inaugurated on March 21 will be to get senate meetings televised and to fill empty senate seats.

Bala said she would "make a valiant effort" to fill the seats, especially in engineering, which has only one senator.

Some of Bala's other campaign ideas include more perimeter parking for off-campus students and a coalition to lobby for improved safety measures on and around campus.

Bala's win in the election came despite an endorsement by *The Gamecock* for White.

"I'm glad that *The Gamecock's* blatant disregard for journalistic integrity has had no impact on the student body," Bala said.

Bala wasn't the only SG member to protest *The Gamecock's* endorsements in this year's elections. Senate defeated a resolution Wednesday introduced by Sen. Tyson Nettles that would have condemned the endorsements.

SG President-elect Corey Ford said he would have been happy with any of the candidates as vice president because he's friends with all of them.

"I really would have been pleased with

'I'm disappointed. ... We didn't do enough to get the vote out.'

Nathan White

College of Liberal Arts senator

any of the outcomes," he said.

Ford said the fact that Bala has an extensive agenda of her own doesn't bother him.

"I think that some of the ideas that we have coincide with each other," he said. "I don't see any problems with each other on that."

Thursday's announcement of Bala winning the SG vice presidency brought to a close an election fraught with infractions. More than 60 violations were filed, citing, among other things, incorrect posting of campaign posters and illegal meetings by candidates.

During the first round of the campaign, "campus beautification" posters calling for a removal of all Greeks from campus and listing White's phone number were attached to White's posters.

This week's runoff was triggered after Bala failed to win more than 50 percent of the vote in the general elections.

In the first election, Bala took 44 percent of the vote to White's 22 percent. Sen. Brian Hunter took 20 percent, while Institutional Affairs Director Adam Bourne grabbed 13 percent of the vote.

One of the more contentious elements of the campaign was the opposing slogans during the runoff — White supporters wore red campaign shirts reading "Make It Complex" in obvious parody of Bala's green "Keep It Simple" campaign shirts.

The university desk can be reached at gamecockdesk@hotmail.com

Power to appoint in air for Lottery Commission

BY BROOKE BRYENTON
THE GAMECOCK

Despite the increasing number of hours spent in subcommittee meetings mulling over lottery legislation, several lottery issues still must be decided, such as who will have the power to appoint members of the S.C. Lottery Commission.

As it stands, Gov. Jim Hodges has the authority to appoint each member of the seven-member commission, as proposed in the initial stages of lottery planning.

Hodges thinks he should make all decisions regarding the commission, according to his spokeswoman Cortney Owings.

"The governor believes that this is a power that he should hold," Owings said. "It would allow the committee to be controlled by one person."

Susan Musser, assistant director of

research to the Senate Judiciary Committee, said there are pros and cons to either side.

"There are two schools of thought on this," Musser said.

"First of all, giving the governor complete control would put one person in charge — one person who would be accountable for everything if something goes wrong. The public would go to him. The other side is that this gives him too much power."

Musser also said the bill requires the consideration of race and other demographics. This requirement would be easier to carry out if the governor made appointments, she said.

"If appointments are divided, who's gonna say, 'You do the minorities and you do this group?'" Musser said.

LOTTERY SEE PAGE 3

STUDENT SENATE

Resolution to censure Gamecock fails

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

Student senate defeated a resolution Wednesday urging *The Gamecock* not to endorse political candidates in Student Government elections.

The amendment, which also "suggests *The Gamecock* takes steps to increase its level of professionalism as a representative of the student body," failed on a 15-11 vote. Three senators abstained.

Sen. Tyson Nettles, who sponsored the bill, said it was prompted by an item in Wednesday's edition of *The Gamecock*. While Nettles didn't specifically mention the item he was responding to, the newspaper had repeated its endorsement of Sen. Nathan White for vice president that day.

"I think what has been going on has kind of overstepped the boundaries," Nettles said.

Sen. Hydrick Harden also supported the resolution.

"I'm not here to say *The Gamecock* does not have the right to say what they want in their paper," Harden said.

"It looks as though *The Gamecock* is behind one particular candidate," Harden said, adding that the endorsements might give the impression that USC backed a candidate.

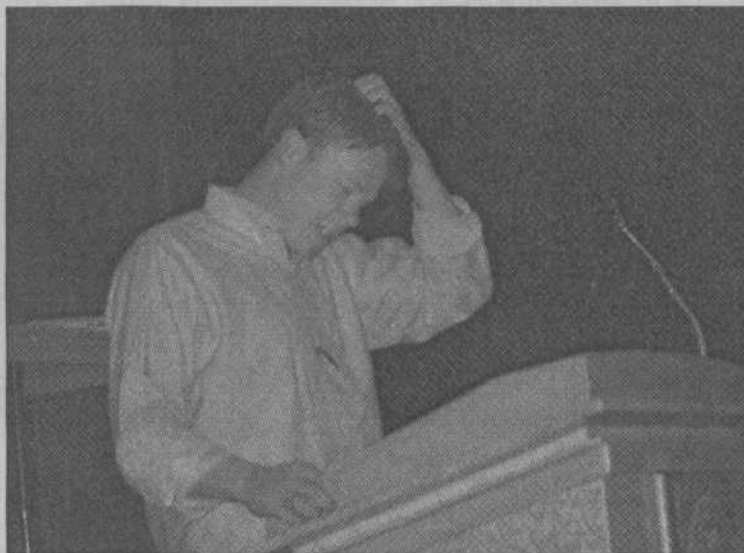
"While I don't hold to that argument, some people do," he said.

Harden also said it wasn't an issue of freedom of the press.

"This is not a First Amendment argument. This is simply a request by Student Government to preserve the sanctity of our elections," he said.

But Sen. Chrissy Stauffer defended the newspaper, saying *The Gamecock* had the right to endorse candidates.

CENSOR SEE PAGE 3



Ann Marie Miani/The Gamecock

SG Sen. Tyson Nettles proposed a resolution to discourage *The Gamecock* from endorsing candidates in SG elections.

WEATHER



TODAY
64
45



SATURDAY
55
50

COMING UP



A look at SG President Jotaka Eaddy's term

NEXT WEEK

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Success has a great tendency to conceal and throw a veil over the evil deeds of men."

— Demosthenes

ONLINE POLL



Should Eddie Fogler keep his job as head basketball coach after this season?

Yes: 53% No: 47%

Look for next week's question at www.dailygamecock.com