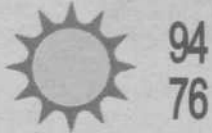


TODAY'S WEATHER



THIS WEEK: Mostly sunny today, sunny this weekend

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Spotlight takes a look at Spielberg's latest, 'A.I.'
SEE PAGE 10

ONLINE POLL

WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE RADIO STATION IN COLUMBIA?

- 15% 104.7: which only owns five CDs
- 10% 93.5: the supposed "alternative"
- 16% 101.3: R&B and rap
- 12% 106.7: adult contemporary snooze music
- 9% 96.7: lite and little else
- 7% 103.1: nothing but oldies
- 18% 90.5: WUSC, which only has five listeners
- 13% 103.9: the newer version of the Big DM

NEXT WEEK'S POLL

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITHOUT BURGER KING IN COLUMBIA?



Cast your vote at www.dailygamecock.com. Results will appear next Wednesday.

Tuition increase lowered

Increase will now be 5.2% for in-state, 8.5% for out-of-state

BY CRISTY INFINGER
THE GAMECOCK

USC students are sighing with relief after the board of trustees voted June 29 to lower the recent tuition increase.

Under the revised plan, tuition for in-state students will be raised by 5.2 percent, instead of the previously set 10.4 percent. Tuition for out-of-state students will increase by 8.5 percent. In addition, departmental budget cuts, originally slated for 10 percent across the university, were reduced to 5 percent.

The board's move came after millions of dollars were restored to higher education when the legislature failed to override Gov. Jim Hodges' vetoes of budget cuts. The vetoes and subsequent budget increases were in response to outstanding tuition increases at state-supported schools, such as Clemson's 42 percent tuition increase.

USC President John Palms immediately responded to the increased higher education budget by recommending that the board of trustees relieve students from high tuition increases.

"I believe the governor and the General Assembly took this bold action trusting that the colleges and universities would respond in a manner which would impact South Carolina families — through a reduction in the previously approved tuition increases," Palms said.

Darla Moore School of Business junior Elizabeth Gray said she's happy with the lessened increase, particularly when compared to Clemson's increase. "I guess we came out on the better end of things," Gray said. "If the state doesn't give us adequate funding, it makes sense to

INSIDE

- Revised tuition increases for all student categories — PAGE 2
- Details of Hodges' vetoes, saga of the budget cuts — PAGE 2

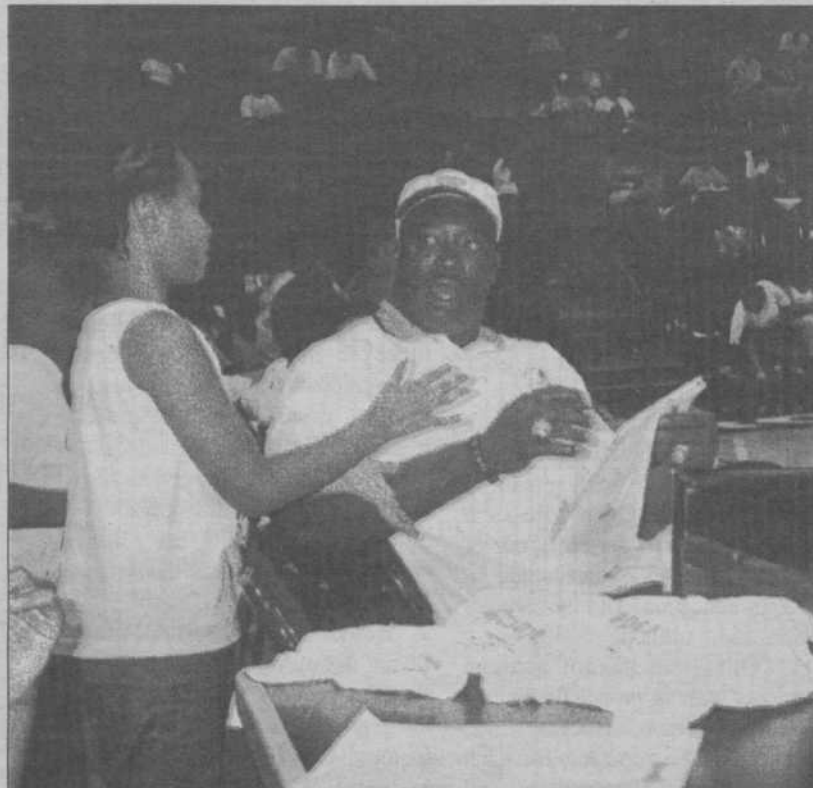
ask students for a little bit more."

Still, Gray said she'd like to see the university keep tuition increases even lower in the future.

"Sometimes I think USC could trim a lot more of fat from its budget than it lets on, [in terms of] extraneous programs," Gray said.

The news desk can be reached at gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

HEISMAN WINNER SAYS 'STAY IN SCHOOL'



Mackenzie Clements/The Gamecock

George Rogers, a former USC football player who won the Heisman Trophy in 1980, signs autographs for a young participant at Sunday's celebrity basketball game. The event, which featured step shows, dancers and musical performances, was sponsored by the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to promote staying in school. SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL STORY

USC student missing

BY GREG HAMBRICK
THE GAMECOCK

The family of a missing USC student is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his return.

Shelton Sanders, a 25-year-old student in the College of Hospitality, Retailing and Sport Management and an employee in the School of Medicine, has been missing since June 19. Fliers were posted across campus this week in hopes of obtaining new information about his disappearance.

Sanders was last seen heading from Columbia to his Rembert home in Sumter County. He commuted every day from Sumter to Columbia on U.S. 76-378.

The \$10,000 reward was announced last week by the Sumter County Sheriff's Office after meeting with the Richland County Sheriff's Office and State Law Enforcement Division officials. After several unsuccessful leads, authorities are hoping the reward will lead to a break in the case.

On June 19, Sanders spent the evening making plans for a bachelor party. After calling his father about 9 p.m. to say he was on his way home, Sanders went to the Embassy Suites and the Wellesley Inn in Columbia to help friends plan the party. He was last seen leaving at 9:51 p.m., driving a 1988 Oldsmobile Regency with S.C. license plate 214-LZM.



SANDERS

Officers have said the disappearance is suspicious.

"We feel like there's someone that has knowledge of his whereabouts, if foul play is involved," Sumter County Sheriff Tommy Mims said.

Since Sanders' disappearance, authorities have conducted aerial and ground searches of Sumter and Richland counties.

"It is our suspicion that he may

MISSING SEE PAGE 4