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NAACP argues over court finalists

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

Arguing that this year's Carolina Showcase finalists are nearly all white, the USC chapter of the NAACP has organized a petition against the process for selecting USC's Homecoming king and queen.

The petition, which is expected to have more than 1,000 names by the end of the day, calls for a student role in picking the winners. It argues that Carolina Productions, which organizes all Homecoming activities, fails to select the Homecoming king and

queen democratically.

Under the current system, a committee of nonstudent judges selects the winners based on applications from which the applicants' names have been removed for objectivity.

"We want as many people to be eligible for the court as possible," said Jerome Bryant, president of USC's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Bryant plans to present the petition to the Homecoming Commission on Thursday.

Sarah Grove, Homecoming commissioner, said the commission has been open to speaking with any student organization

with concerns about the selection process. She said Sunday that she had not yet seen the petition, but said plans to go ahead with Homecoming Showcase - Wednesday's celebration that will feature the crowning of the king and queen - are firm.

"I hope that this concern with Showcase also shows that there is great support and interest for it,"

Grove said. She added that the committee is devoted to consistently improving Homecoming events.

Bryant said the NAACP is also concerned with Carolina Productions' statement that the competition is open to all students. He said only one of the 20 finalists is a nonwhite student.

"Our concern is not just with racial aspects, but also how the court is selected as a whole,"

Bryant said. He said he thinks more students who are not involved with a fraternity or sorority should be encouraged to participate, as well.

Grove couldn't discuss the race of any participants, but she said participants in the competition had to meet requirements, such as having a minimum 2.75 GPA and at least 60 credit hours, to be considered. Besides those requirements, she said, all students could be considered based on the merit of their application, which included questions about involvement in campus activities and two personal essay questions.

Bryant said he would invite Grove and other committee members to a meeting Thursday to discuss the merits of the petition and the NAACP's concerns. Grove said she would accept the invitation and looks forward to the opportunity to hear the group's opinions.

Bryant said the petition and meeting with the Homecoming Commission are aimed at making policy changes in future Homecoming events and are not intended to change the outcome of this year's competition.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com



Bryant

Delta Gamma makes a splash



PHOTO BY AMANDA TRAUB/THE GAMECOCK

At Delta Gamma's annual Anchor Splash, Alex Pearlman of Chi Psi fraternity swims across the Blatt P.E. Center pool carrying a ball on a spoon. The event, for Delta Gamma's national philanthropy, raised money for the Service for Sight/Aid to the Blind.

Homecoming isn't just Greek

BY BLAKE CLANCY
THE GAMECOCK

Despite the Greek dominance of Homecoming competitions, this year's Homecoming Commission is working to involve a wider variety of student organizations.

"Our main goal is to get as many students and organizations involved as possible," said Sarah Grove, a fourth-year business management student and this year's Homecoming commissioner.

Greek organizations carry

"Our main goal is to get as many students and organizations involved as possible."

SARAH GROVE
HOMECOMING COMMISSIONER

much of the Homecoming spotlight. Of the 16 groups in the Spurs and Struts dance competition, all organizations are Greek. The four finalists for Cockfest, a pep rally at Williams-Brice Stadium the night before the

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USC looks for private support

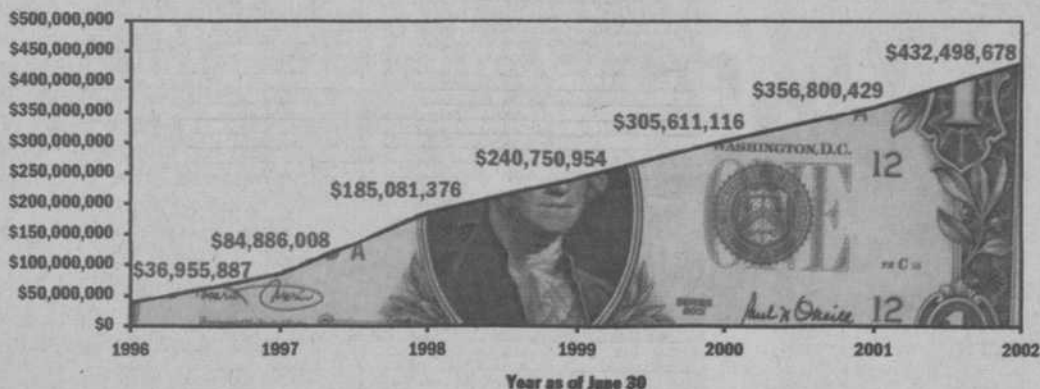
BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

With impending state budget cuts, increasing tuition rates and expanding departmental needs, USC's administration is looking to private support to finance as many of its initiatives as possible.

Since the first day President Andrew Sorensen set foot on campus, he has made it clear that the university's state funding will only decrease during the coming years. He has made it his goal to promote the university's every quality in hopes that the private sector will think investing in USC's initiatives is profitable for the university and the community.

"In this situation, we can't sit here and simply gnash our teeth, moan, cry. ... But I think this is a challenge to clarify our vision, develop a strategy for achieving that vision and pursue relentlessly the financial and intellectual capital to realize that vision," Sorensen told faculty during a Sept. 4 meeting.

Money raised in Bicentennial Campaign



Sorensen plans to use his networking skills to inform as many people as he can of USC's vision and its need for financial support. He promotes both community and financial involvement in the university through his state tour, nicknamed the "bow tie" bus tour for his signature neckwear.

"My daddy was a Presbyterian minister, and our family survived on how the offering plate was filled

on Sunday," Sorensen said. "I have absolutely no embarrassment about passing the offering plate around, even if there's only one person in church."

How to contribute

People can donate money to USC in many ways. The simplest is to give cash to the annual fund. For the fund, paid student callers in USC's Development Office solicit donations year-round from university alumni and friends.

"The better the university markets itself, the easier our job is," said Senior Director of Development Cantey Heath, who manages private fund raising based on the administration's needs.

Other donations can be made through bequest - money left to the university in someone's will - or from foundations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, that provide money for educational interests, such as buildings and faculty salaries. This type of giving, called planned

giving, usually comprises a much smaller portion of overall giving than cash donations, but planned giving donations tend to be larger.

"Sometimes people will call, and that's nice, because that is an easy way of doing it. They'll call and they'll say, 'When I was in school, I got a scholarship and always said, if I were in the position to do the same, I wanted to,'" said Harriet Wunder, director of planned giving.

Typically, private donations are restricted, meaning the donor requests them to be used for something specific, such as scholarships or chairs. Property and equipment can also be donated as a form of capital.

Large donations are typically used to set up an endowment, which is a sum of money that is invested; only interest earned off that investment is spent.

The university sometimes offers incentives for large donations. When alumna Darla Moore gave \$25 million to the

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HEALTH GRANT



PHOTO BY DAVID STAGG/THE GAMECOCK

The Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health was given a \$2 million federal grant last Wednesday toward a new building.

Health School is granted \$2 million

Money will help build facility, convert offices into classrooms

BY WENDY JEFFCOAT

THE GAMECOCK

USC has been awarded a \$2 million federal grant to help construct a new building for the Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health, U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings announced last Wednesday.

Cheryl Addy, interim associate dean of the School of Public Health, said the grant would help

with the construction of a five-story, 88,000-square-foot building at College and Assembly streets. It would also help convert the Carolina Plaza on Assembly Street into office and classroom space for the school.

The Board of Trustees would retain its space on the second floor, but otherwise, only the School of Public Health would occupy the Carolina Plaza.

"We have been working toward this project for a number of years and are excited to see progress toward making the building a reality," Addy said.

According to a news release, the grant is part of a fiscal year 2002 ap-

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