

Bush rallies GOP in Columbia



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA/THE GAMECOCK

Bush speaks about war with Iraq and campaigns for South Carolina Republican candidates at Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

President Bush addressed campaign issues and possible war with Iraq Thursday in a last-minute campaign effort for South Carolina's Republican candidates.

The event was held at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport's Jimmy Doolittle Flight Facility to support South Carolina gubernatorial candidate Mark Sanford and United States senatorial candidate Lindsey Graham.

S.C. Republican Party executive assistant Adam Shaw, a fourth-year USC political science student, spoke before the president arrived. "In the last few years, the governor's office has become bilingual, and truth is the second language," he said. "In 12

days, Mark Sanford is going to be elected governor, and our four-year nightmare will be over."

Bush took the podium at noon. "We've got some steep hills to climb, but there's no doubt in my mind we can climb them — after all, we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth," he said.

Bush praised the two candidates and addressed state education, welfare reform, the national economy, Medicare and the appointment of federal judges.

He also spoke about terrorism and possible military action in Iraq.

"You've got to understand there's an enemy out there that hates America because of what we love," Bush said. "We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love our free press:

We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not changing. We're not backing down, and the enemy can't stand that."

The president called Saddam Hussein "a man who has lied about whether or not he possesses weapons of mass destruction, a man who uses them, a man who hates America, a man who hates our friends. For the sake of peace, for the sake of the security of the United States and our friends and allies, if the United Nations won't deal with him, if he refuses to hear the call for peace, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein," Bush said.

USC College Republicans Chairman Charles Duncan applauded Bush's sentiments.

"It's obvious that the people of Iraq want Saddam out," he said.

"They're ready to get rid of him, and we can get him out. He's caused too much trouble for too long."

Joey Oppermann, a third-year history student, disagreed.

"President Bush is using a tactic to characterize Iraq as a group that hates the United States for our freedom," Oppermann said. "We aren't hated for our freedom; we're hated because we support Israel."

"The president is oversimplifying the situation in Iraq," he said. "There are several ways to go about securing stability in the Middle East. The question is, which is the best?" Oppermann helped organize the anti-war teach-in at Preston College this month.

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Police question two arrested in sniper slayings

Ballistics tests link suspects to shooting spree

BY STEPHEN MANNING
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of America's most extraordinary manhunts culminated Thursday in the arrests of an Army veteran and a teenager, asleep at a roadside rest stop — perpetrators, authorities think, of a bloody, three-week sniping spree that left 10 people dead and multitudes paralyzed by fear.

John Allen Muhammad, 41, — arrested with John Lee Malvo, 17 — appeared in court, and was ordered held without bail.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose said both men were considered suspects in the sniper attacks.

A gun found in the suspects' car — a Bushmaster rifle — had been linked by ballistics to 11 of the 13 shootings, said Michael Bouchard, an agent with the fed-

eral Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The AR-15 is the civilian form of the M-16 military assault rifle. As a soldier, Muhammad received a Marksmanship Badge with expert rating — the highest of three ratings — in use of the M-16, according to Army records. Police also found a scope and tripod in the car, the official said.

In handcuffs and a green prison jumpsuit, Muhammad appeared in federal court in a Baltimore courthouse patrolled by a dozen federal marshals armed with high-powered rifles.

Muhammad is due back in court Tuesday on a federal firearms charge stemming from a 2000 court order in Tacoma, Wash., that barred Muhammad from harassing or using force against an ex-wife and children.

U.S. District Court Magistrate Beth P. Gesner made no mention of the sniper killings. Muhammad spoke little during the 10-minute hearing. When Gesner asked him

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PHOTO BY KEN CEDENO/KRT CAMPUS

An officer guards an entrance to the U.S. Court House in Baltimore, where the two men arrested in connection with the recent sniper shootings are being held.

'IT'S A PARTY ON YOUR BIKE'



PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM/THE GAMECOCK

Wearing a sign that says "We are traffic," Katie McClendon leads a group of cyclists out of the Horseshoe and onto the road. The group rode as part of Critical Mass, a nationwide movement proclaiming bikers have as much right to the road as cars do.

Critical Mass pushes bike use

Cyclists ride to promote safety on Columbia's main streets

BY KATHERINE HALLORAN
THE GAMECOCK

In an effort to promote bicycle use, student organizations and bicyclists participated in

Columbia's first Critical Mass on Thursday's "Bike to School/Work Day."

Critical Mass is an event that began in San Francisco in 1992 to inspire people to use bicycles as a means of transportation. It has gradually become more popular throughout the United States. Katie McClendon, Student Government director of safety and fourth-year pharmacy student, has worked with Students Allied for a Greener Earth to help

raise awareness of bicycle rights and bicycle safety. As an avid cyclist, McClendon thinks if more students rode bikes to school, it would help alleviate some parking problems, though it would not solve the problem. Having been hit twice by cars on Greene Street, McClendon said she would feel safer if more "Share the Road" signs were displayed.

"I am excited about Critical Mass and it's not about protesting; it's a celebration of cycling.

It's basically a great opportunity to meet with people who share the same interests," she said. "We won't be blocking traffic because we are traffic."

After the Critical Mass ride was over, McClendon said, "It was awesome; we got the attention that we were looking for." She added, "I'm glad it wasn't just me and the two police officers that showed up!"

◆ BIKES, SEE PAGE 3

Scholars to discuss the South at forum

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

USC will play host to the 2002 Southern Studies Forum this weekend, which brings together international scholars to discuss the American South.

The forum, which begins today in the Capstone Campus Room and lasts through Monday, will bring together scholars from France, Germany, England, the Czech Republic, Scandinavia and the United States.

The event's theme is "The South as Another Place," and it will cover such topics as violence, slavery, the Southern woman, contemporary Southern literature, race and Southern writer Cormac McCarthy.

"There is a tremendous interest in many European universities in the American South," said Bob Ellis of the Institute for Southern Studies, which is sponsoring the event.

Institute for Southern Studies ◆ SCHOLARS, SEE PAGE 3

director and forum chairman Dr. Walter Edgar said, "Europeans long have been fascinated with the people, history and literature of the American South, and their interest in its study is growing."

"European scholars who study contemporary Southern literature are way ahead and are often the first to study certain authors and books," Edgar said, and "their perspectives on the American South enrich the research and the understanding of the region."

European scholars, such as Faulkner experts Lothar Hoennighausen and Hans Skei and Welty scholar Danielle Pitavy-Souques, will present during the forum. Bobby Donaldson of the USC History Department and African-American Studies Program and Valinda Littlefield of the USC History Department will also give presentations.

They will participate with sev-

Strutting her stuff



PHOTO BY MARK BISSETT/THE GAMECOCK

Nicole Roberts performs as a female impersonator in "The Birdcage," sponsored by the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Carolina Productions.

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Weather

TODAY		TOMORROW	
High	67	High	74
Low	58	Low	58