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Going Garnet

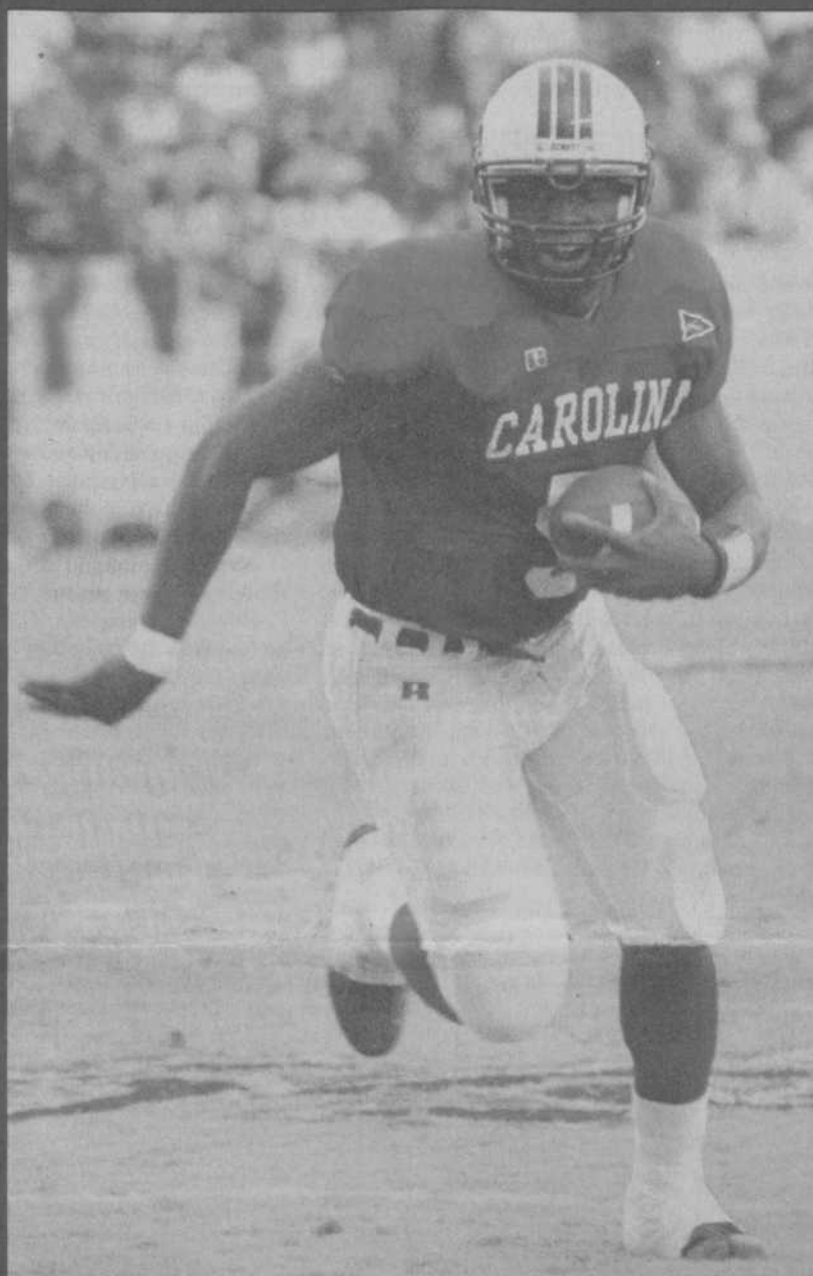


PHOTO BY TRAVIS LYNN

Dondrial Pinkins scrambles for some extra yards in the USC vs. Georgia game. Pinkins and the Gamecocks will play host to Tennessee this weekend at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Fans will fill the stadium with USC's signature color as the Gamecocks take on the Volunteers

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA AND ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

When Tennessee rides into Williams-Brice Stadium this Saturday, Charlie Mac's catchphrase, "put a garnet six" on the scoreboard, will take on a whole new meaning.

After the fans showed up for last year's game against Florida in all black, the Student Gamecock Club decided to go with the team's signature color this time, and has asked Gamecock faithfuls to wear their garnet to the game.

"I'm not superstitious, but I'm superstitious enough," said Charlie McAlexander, known to fans as the voice of the Gamecock Radio Network. "When you're in black, it looks like nobody is there, but garnet is more of a vibrant color."

The Student Gamecock Club has dubbed the event "Garnet Gameday," and it hopes to distract Tennessee enough to give the Vols a disappointing 1-4 record in the SEC.

"We want everyone showing up wearing garnet," said Chris Odom, club president. "We want everyone to be loud and proud."

Student Gamecock Club Vice President Brandon Bookstaver hopes the crowd's spirit will prove contagious. "Let the pride and enthusiasm carry over from the fans in the stadium to the players on the field," he said.

McAlexander said the sea of garnet affects both sides of the field.

"I don't think it intimidates anybody, but if you're a player out there and you see this wave of garnet, it will catch your eye," he said. "It makes a difference to players, the opposition and to us. I think it jacks us up."

◆ GARNET, SEE PAGE 2



PHOTO BY ERIC SUTTON/THE GAMECOCK

Steve Hager, editor for High Times, signs autographs for students after the legalization of marijuana debate Saturday.

Drug debate draws more than 1,000

Speakers urge students to weigh all sides of marijuana legalization

BY EMMA RITCH
THE GAMECOCK

More than 1,000 people turned out for Wednesday night's debate about marijuana legislation, forcing organizers to turn about 400 people away from the packed Russell House Ballroom.

The ballroom, which seats 650, was filled to capacity by the time moderator Brook Bristow introduced the two speakers, High Times editor Steve Hager and former Drug

Enforcement Administration agent Robert Stutman. High Times is an international publication that supports making marijuana legal.

The debate format allowed Hager to speak for 15 minutes, followed by Stutman. The audience then participated in a question-and-answer session.

Hager discussed why he wanted the "full-out legalization of marijuana." He gave five reasons: its

◆ MARIJUANA, SEE PAGE 2

Uncertainty surrounds U.S. education budget

With Congress in recess, questions remain about funding for aid

BY ALLYSON BIRD
THE GAMECOCK

Congress has recessed for elections, but the 2003-04 national education budget has not yet been approved.

And that's what upsets Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., the senior Democrat on the House Education and Workforce Committee.

"They are asking schools to be held accountable for results, while at the same time, they shirked their responsibility to cast a vote on an education budget because they didn't want voters to know that they might vote to cut financial aid and education spending," Miller said in a news release.

Miller said parents should know what to expect of financial aid next year. His news release cited a College Board survey that said tuition increased 9.6 percent in 2002 and that the average student-loan debt has nearly doubled during the past seven years.

But an additional College Board survey found that financial aid

has increased more than 10 percent during the past year and 117 percent during the past 10 years. Pell Grants, which do not have to be paid back to the government, increased 23 percent.

Peter Keitel, president of New York State Higher Education Services Corp., said he expects major Title IV funding to increase 3.9 percent nationally under Bush's proposal for the 2003 fiscal year. Title IV funding includes such federal financial aid as Pell Grants and Perkins Loans. Bush's plan would include continuing the \$4,000-maximum Pell Grant while

◆ BUDGET, SEE PAGE 3

Ghoulish games



Kyari Williams, left, and Alexis Huguenin, fifth-graders at A.C. Moore Elementary School, play tic-tac-toe at Capstone's Halloween carnival Thursday night.

PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM/THE GAMECOCK

Trick-or-treating, Greek-style

Boys and Girls Club children come for candy, haunted house

BY KIMBERLY HUNT
THE GAMECOCK

Laughing goblins and screaming cheerleaders poured into McBryde on Wednesday for "Trick-or-Treat with the Greeks."

Armed with empty Wal-Mart bags and vampire teeth provided by the Greek organizations, about 150 elementary- and middle-school children from three Columbia-area Boys and Girls Clubs showed up to take advantage of a Greek-style Halloween.

"This festival might be the only trick-or-treating these kids get," said Sara Harden, director of operations for the Boys and Girls Club.

The Sigma Nu fraternity and the Kappa Delta sorority spent 10

hours building a haunted house in Sigma Nu's lobby. The children obviously feared the fraternity members who were inside donning blood on their chests and dark circles around their eyes.

"I'm not going in that junk by myself," 9-year-old Antonio Archie said.

Not wanting Antonio to miss out, David Johnston, a third-year advertising student and Sigma Nu brother, took Antonio's hand and led him and a group of other children inside.

"This festival might be the only trick-or-treating these kids get."

SARA HARDEN
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The screaming kids sprinted out of the lobby and away from the orange-clad criminal with a buzzing chainsaw.

"It was really scary," 10-year-old Delaquan Williams said.

◆ HALLOWEEN, SEE PAGE 3

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Weather

TODAY	TOMORROW
High 63 Low 41	High 60 Low 34

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◆ **SPORTS** The Gamecock football team hopes to beat Tennessee Saturday for the first time since 1992. **Page 7**