

Budget cuts might mean fewer classes

Spring courses might be in short supply, fill up faster

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

Second-year pharmacy student Eric Riffenburg logged on to VIP last week to register for Biology 244, a class that is required for his major, only to find that all available sections were full.

"I think that if it's a required class, they should open more than enough spots for people to fill," he said.

It's common for students not

to get into a class they want to take as an elective from a college outside of their majors because the college's students tend to fill it up quickly. But students such as Riffenburg don't expect to have to fight to get a seat in a required course. Administrators suspect the spring's course offerings might be thinner than usual and think budget cuts and a large freshman enrollment might be to blame.

College deans won't know exactly how different enrollment in their colleges' courses will be until each department can study the final numbers after the semester's drop/add date.

While colleges vary in how they choose what classes and how

many sections to offer, Don Greiner, associate provost and dean of undergraduate affairs, cited this fall's freshman enrollment — the largest in school history — as a possible reason for fewer sections in introductory courses. These courses include freshman-level biology, geology, English, Spanish and French. He said several departments poured additional money into freshman courses this semester because of the growing enrollment.

Deans and their staff members are closely watching their colleges' operating budgets after the state sustained budget cuts totaling about 8.5 percent during the last 12 months, with another reduction expected to be handed to

the university before the end of the year.

"We are always concerned about budget cuts — always," said Mary Ann Byrnes, assistant dean for the College of Liberal Arts, USC's largest college. "But I think what we've had to do this past year has to really focus on the essentials, and we'll continue to do that."

Budget reductions have delayed searches for faculty members to replace those who are retiring, while forcing colleges to downsize overall operations.

"You might not see as many upper-level courses as you would in previous years when we had

♦ CLASSES, SEE PAGE 3

Uncovering history in S.C.

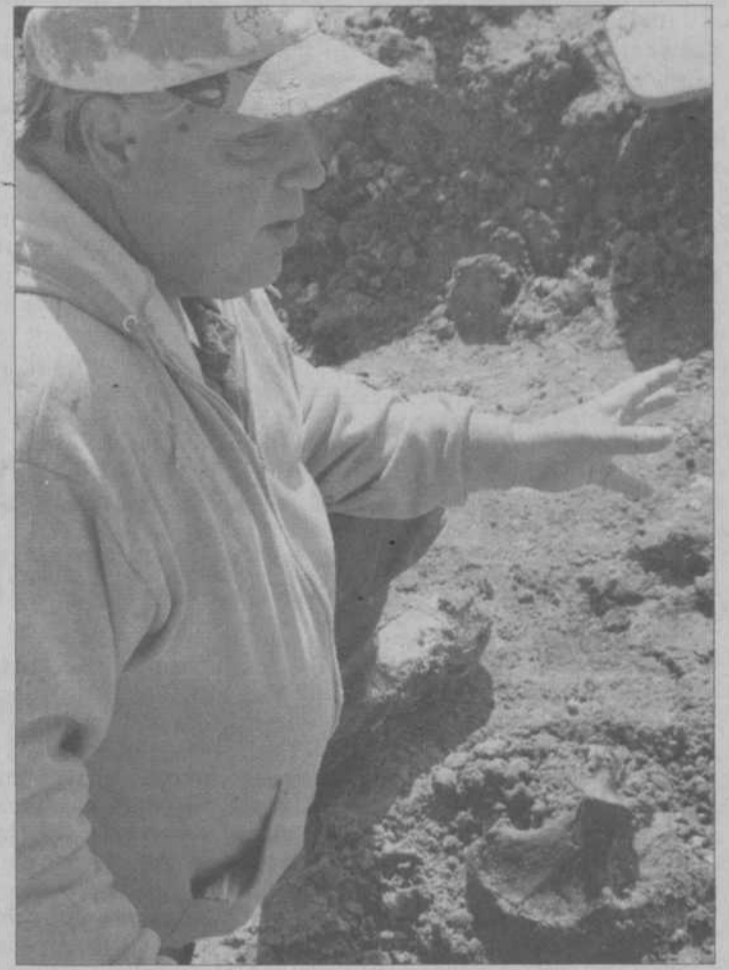


PHOTO BY ERIC SUTTON/THE GAMECOCK

Vance McCollum, a volunteer at the Giant Cement Co., examines fossils found in Dorchester County. Hundreds of fossils have been taken to the State Museum for analysis.

Celebrations turn ugly after football games



PHOTO BY CANDI HAUGLUM/THE GAMECOCK

Clemson fans celebrate a 27-20 victory over USC on Saturday night in Death Valley. Fans rushed the field after the game and tore down a goal post. A sheriff's officer and a fan were injured in the celebration and were carried off the field on stretchers.

Clemson among several sites of injuries to fans

(AP) — Fan celebrations got out of hand after several college football games Saturday, as several people were injured following victories and Washington players were pelted with

debris.

Most, but not all, of the rowdy behavior surrounded the usual goal-post-dismantling parties that followed big victories:

♦ In Clemson a 67-year-old sheriff's officer and a female fan were hurt when fans rushed the field and tore down a goal post following the Tigers' 27-20 win over South Carolina. The victims were taken away by ambulance.

Officer James Booth was in stable condition at a hospital; he was hurt when 30 fans piled on top of him. Details on the female fan's condition weren't available, but her injuries were not life-threatening.

♦ In Raleigh, N.C., three people were injured on the field when fans tore down goal posts following North Carolina State's 17-7 victory over No. 14 Florida

State. One person had a broken leg and two others had knee injuries.

There were 21 arrests, but none was related to the on-field celebration. Pepper spray was used on fans to keep the goal posts standing as police remembered a similar episode two years ago, when car windows were bro-

♦ RIOTS, SEE PAGE 3

MCAT scores will no longer be withheld

Results from each test attempt will now be released to medical schools

BY WENDY JEFFCOAT
THE GAMECOCK

Medical-school applicants will no longer have the option of withholding MCAT scores from potential schools beginning in 2003, according to a new regulation set in motion by the American Association of Medical Colleges.

"This will try to reduce the number of people who take it irresponsibly,"

said Albert Chen, executive director of graduate programs for Kaplan Inc. "The ones who aren't taking it seriously are the ones it will affect."

Chen said that up until this year, students had the option of not releasing scores if they felt they did not do well on the test. The date the student took the Medical College Admission Test, however, was still released; he said this would lead some admission committees to think the student did poorly on the exam.

The AAMC wants "to start changing the mindset from individual scores to test history."

Chen said. Students who took the test between 1991 and 2002 will still have the option of not releasing their scores.

Richard Hoppmann, associate dean for medical education at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, said the department encourages students to take the test twice, once in the spring of their junior years, then in the fall of their senior years.

Now he said students may be more hesitant about taking the exam during their junior years.

"I think the biggest disadvantage

for the students will be ... with the release of all scores, some students will be reluctant to take the test in April," he said. "They will need to be ready to take it in April."

Chen said the AAMC does not want students to take the MCAT to practice; there are other ways, such as online tests and study

♦ MCAT, SEE PAGE 3

USC student will lead mock legislature

BY KATHERINE HALLORAN
THE GAMECOCK

The South Carolina Student Legislature elected a USC student as governor of the organization for the second time in the past 17 years.

Third-year history student Joey Oppermann was elected governor at the fall session of the statewide model legislature program. Oppermann, the 12th USC



Oppermann

student governor since Robert McNair in 1956, defeated two students from the Citadel and Bob Jones University for the position.

USC is one of 12 schools that participate in the organization, which includes such schools as Clemson and the College of

Charleston. During the past session, Oppermann's platform included expanding the number of schools involved with the student legislature. He said that out of the 31 colleges in the state, only 12 schools participate in SCSL.

Oppermann said he would like to see the conference made stronger with the help of schools such as South Carolina State University and Benedict College. He said, however, he knows it

will not happen overnight.

"SCSL is the best organization that I have ever been involved with, but currently, only four public schools are involved," Oppermann said. "With limited resources, we'll have to work to slowly expand."

Fourth-year political science student Adam Shaw is now USC chairman of the SCSL. He is re-

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Weather

TODAY	TOMORROW
High 67 Low 40	High 59 Low 39

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