

## A record-setting shot

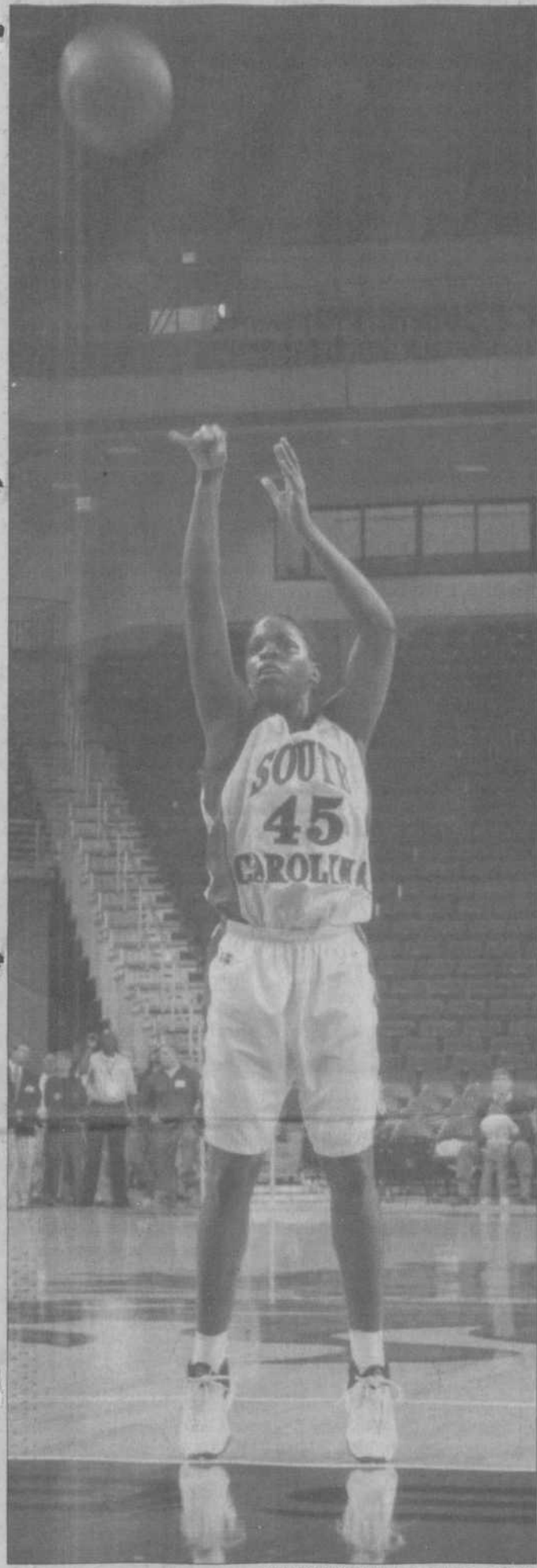


PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

Lady Gamecock basketball player Jocelyn Penn ties the USC record for most points in one game with this free throw. She scored 50 points Wednesday night against Wofford.

## Storm brings USC to a halt

BY COREY GARRIOTT  
THE GAMECOCK

USC shut down its offices and canceled classes Wednesday in accordance with the South Carolina Office of Human Resources, which closed state offices in 22 counties because of an ice storm that hit the Upstate. The office was responding to the National Weather Service, which sent a bevy of severe weather warnings throughout the southern Plains and Eastern Seaboard.

Wednesday, Columbia received a pair of those warnings. One, an advisory, predicted freezing rain during the day with small accumulations of ice. The second, issued later, was a winter storm warning that predicted a quarter-inch to a half-inch of ice in spots and advised motorists to avoid bridges and overpasses. By the end of the day, up to a

foot of snow fell in locations from Texas to Virginia.

In North Carolina, southern counties woke up to snowfall early yesterday morning. Several highways closed, with the low-pressure system which closed them moving further South. Two inches fell on Charlotte, N.C., 90 minutes north of Columbia, forcing Charlotte public schools to shut down again on Thursday.

More than 200,000 in the Anderson-Greenville-Spartan-burg area lost power yesterday because of downed power lines. Ice and 2 inches of snow weighted down area tree branches, which hung on near-by power lines.

E.O. Ferrell, Duke Power's senior vice president of electric distribution, calls the Carolinas' ice storm "the worst in compa-

◆ WINTER STORM, SEE PAGE 2

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# Voters OK amendment to push back elections

Commission members hope the new date will increase voter turnout

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA  
THE GAMECOCK

Students voted online yesterday and Wednesday to pass an amendment to the Student Government constitution that will allow elections to be held after spring break.

The amendment passed easily, with 340 supporting votes and 73 opposing. Election commission members said the percentage of opposing votes was sur-

prisingly high. Brooke Vickery, elections commissioner and a fourth-year marketing student, said the students who voted against the change might have been misled by the vote's online presentation.

"The format of the vote online was confusing," said Vickery, who initially proposed the legislation.

"The reason we wanted to see elections moved is that we wanted them to become more effi-

cient," Vickery said. "Now, it splits up the semester into two parts. If we move the election after spring break, we could get more done."

Student Government and Election Commission members said the change allows administrations more time to complete their agendas and encourages voter turnout.

"I'm excited about it because I

◆ AMENDMENT, SEE PAGE 4



### Voting Breakdown

Supporting: 340 VOTES  
Opposing: 73 VOTES

# SG plans to give surplus to student organizations

Cutbacks, increase in student-activity fee leave \$15,000 in excess funds

BY ADAM BEAM  
THE GAMECOCK

Cutting back on "frivolous" expenditures and lobbying the Board of Trustees for a higher student-activity fee have led to a \$15,000 surplus in Student Government, with most going back to student organizations.

SG President Ankit Patel said most of the surplus came from cutting various expenses within SG, such as money for receptions

and banquets, overhead costs including copier expenses, and pet projects, such as SG T-shirts and Homecoming floats.

SG Treasurer Becky Floyd said cutting SG's Homecoming program "just wasn't necessary because people in Student Government were involved in other organizations, so we just saw it as a frivolous cost."

Floyd said organizations can now look forward to bigger allocations in the spring. Every year,

student organizations turn in a budget-request form to the Student Finance Committee, which in turn decides how much funding each organization gets from SG. Patel said "it's not guaranteed" that organizations will receive more money. "But what I can say is the Finance Committee will have more money to distribute," he said.

About 66 percent of the surplus will go to the Senate Finance Committee, and the oth-

er 34 percent is earmarked for organizations' special projects. This year, Patel created councils that loosely affiliated organizations with SG. An example of this is the Community Service Council, in which council members comprise the presidents of all the service organizations on campus. Patel said part of that 34 percent would go toward several of the council's spring pro-

◆ SURPLUS, SEE PAGE 4

## Hootie and the design class

Students work to create a cover for Hootie and the Blowfish's album

BY EMMA RITCH  
THE GAMECOCK

USC assistant professor Scott Farrand says Lou Holtz was his inspiration to ask Hootie and the Blowfish to become involved in an album-design project for the Journalism 364 class he teaches.

"When President Palms was here, his motto was 'Shoot for the best,'" Farrand said. "I came here the same time as Lou Holtz; his motto is 'You are the best.'" Farrand decided he, too, wanted the best — for his graphics-design-and-production class: a "real client" for whom they could design an album cover.

Farrand said he originally wanted members of Hootie and the Blowfish to come speak to the class so that students could design a fake CD cover for the band. "So I thought, why not ask

them?" he said.

Farrand said the band liked the idea so much, it wanted the students to have a contest to design its new album, coming out in February. "I didn't even know they were coming out with a new album," Farrand said. Hootie and the Blowfish doesn't yet have a name for the album; in fact, that's part of the students' projects.

Farrand kept the final project secret from his students until Nov. 6, when the band visited the class. After it got clearance from its record company, Hootie and the Blowfish let the students listen to recordings of parts of five new songs going on the album.

"It's not every day you walk into class and there's a Grammy-award-winning band there," said class member Jason Mitchell, a fourth-year advertising student. "It was definitely a surprise."

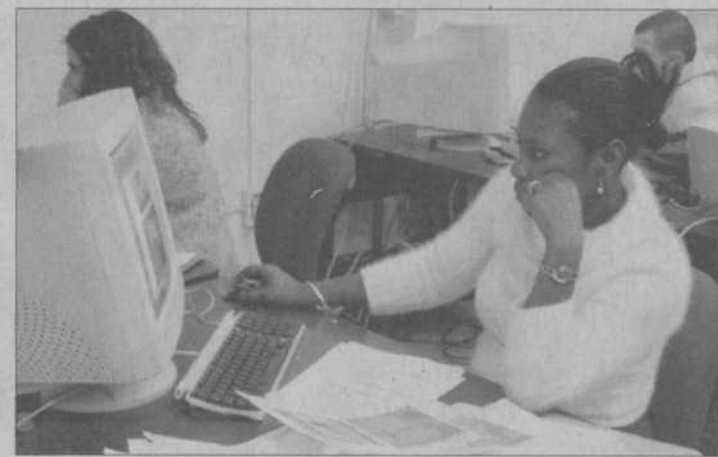


PHOTO BY KATIE SMITH/THE GAMECOCK

Third-year public-relations student Kim Fields creates a cover for the new Hootie and the Blowfish CD as part of a final project for a journalism class.

But Hootie and the Blowfish needed the design four weeks earlier than Farrand anticipated. The students wouldn't have been prepared, Farrand said. So, he said, the band is having a company that is not familiar with the members

or music to create an additional design for the album. The class has an advantage, Farrand said, because it is "privy to more information" than the company is.

◆ CD COVER, SEE PAGE 3

## Retail team wins ethics competition

BY KEVIN FELLNER  
THE GAMECOCK

A five-student team from the Retail Department edged out five teams from other departments to win a competition among USC's Students in Free Enterprise that aimed to convince random students of the importance of an issue that involves business ethics.

The team, which made a 30-

minute presentation about its report Tuesday night at The Roost, decided to tell USC's athletes about the dangers and unethical behavior involved in steroid use.

The students depicted the pressures to succeed in both professional and amateur sports that can lead to a dependence on the physical boost provided by

◆ COMPETITION, SEE PAGE 3

## Index

Comics and Crossword	8
Classifieds	13
Horoscopes	8
Letters to the Editor	5
Online Poll	5
Police Report	2

## Weather

TODAY		TOMORROW	
High 52	Low 28	High 54	Low 33

## Today

◆ ON THE WEB Read state, nation and world briefs. [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com)

◆ VIEWPOINTS Phil Watson prepares for Columbia's biker week. **Page 5**

◆ THE MIX Check out the best of 2002 in movies, music and video games. **Page 6**

◆ SPORTS Jocelyn Penn ties school record with 50 points in the Gamecocks' win over Wofford. **Page 9**