## **Budget**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more giving to the campus," Kelly said.

"We are continuing to look at cutting back on costs associated with operation on campus and hoping the economy would turn around so the state could find new dollars to come in," Kelly said.

The budget crisis has been blamed for a number of university problems, from deteriorating buildings to teaching vacancies and hiring freezes.

"I think what's clear is the budget position is affecting the program of the university," said Rob Wilcox, a USC Law School professor and president of the Faculty Senate. "The idea that there is fat that could still be cut is being blind to the reality of the impact of these cuts."

The budget shortfall has crippled the university's hiring ability and left 800 vacancies spread out over all university departments. Joan Stewart, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, advertised for seven new faculty positions, but was forced to cut back to three positions after the budget.cut.

"The situation is getting worse at the level we should be able to perform at," Kelly said.

The situation has become so bad there have been talks among administrators of shutting the university down for a week to save money.

"We've talked about that internally, but it's not something we have contemplated seriously," Odom said. "That's money that you save at that time, but it's not a recurring savings. And so it is a very drastic measure."

Odom did stress that USC is not alone with its budget problems, and that states such as California and North Carolina share similar budget shortfalls.

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## Shoulder Tap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, the Lexington and Richland County sheriff's departments, the City of Columbia Police Department and the Irmo and Chapin police departments.

"Our goal is to not put people in jail but to reduce community risk. Our goal is to help our young people survive the high school years and make the transition into college and to do so effectively and without criminal records and without putting themselves and the community at risk," said Jack Claypool, executive director of Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council.

"We believe that education is important," said Lexington County Sheriff Jim Metts. "We also believe that enforcement is important."

The new project is the second phase of the council's operations designed to curb underage drinking. The first phase, which Claypool said he thought was successful, included educating local merchants on checking ID's and making sure underage patrons couldn't purchase alcohol.

Metts said he wanted to get his message out to parents furnishing alcohol to their underage children, as well.

"As we work in our communities to have our children safe and rid them from this menace of alcohol and tobacco and drugs, I find so many parents really support their youth," he said.

"So many parents go out and buy alcohol and give it to them in their homes," Metts said. "So many parents think that this is not a major problem, that we in law enforcement ought to be putting our efforts in other areas. Let me tell you who have that opinion, we're putting our efforts where it really counts and that is ridding this menace of our children, so our children can have a better chance of success."

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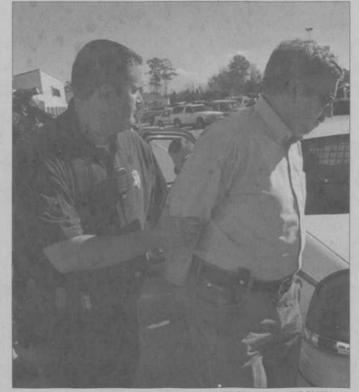
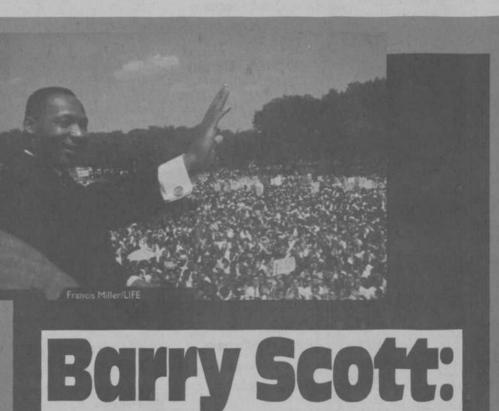


PHOTO BY ERIC SOONG/THE GAMECOCH

Lexington County officer David Arnold arrests Mark Moorhouse during a staged 'shoulder-tap' operation.





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