

Service worker suffers collapse

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

A landscape service worker collapsed Thursday outside of Columbia Hall after suffering from an unspecified health problem and has been admitted into the Intensive Care Unit of Palmetto Baptist Medical Center, USC officials said.

Preston Cheeseboro, 50, of Gadsden was working in the parking lot behind Columbia Hall when he collapsed onto the pavement at about 1:30 p.m., University Spokesman Russ McKinney said.

Jim Demarest, director of facilities services, said Cheeseboro suffered from some type of seizure. He said Cheeseboro lost a lot of blood and was unconscious when transported by ambulance to Palmetto Baptist Medical Center.

His condition appears to be very serious, Demarest said.

McKinney said the USC Police Department did not suspect foul play.

Comments on this story? E-mail
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SG ELECTIONS 2003

The following candidates have filed for Student Government positions:

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER
Was Donehue	Patrick Norton	Billy Grooms
Katie Dreiling	Zachery Scott	Ben Edwards
Ginny Wright		
Tim Roberts		
Brian Murphy		
Tyler Odom		
Justin Simmons		

For a list of candidates for Student Senate, please see page 2.

Candidates gear up for SG elections

BY JULIA KNETZER
THE GAMECOCK

The field is set for the 2003 Student Government elections as candidates have officially filed for office.

Campaigning will begin after spring break, when candidates will have two weeks to gather support before the election March 31 and April 1, said Election Commissioner Brooke Vickery.

Part of the campaign process includes an executive debate on Greene Street at 12:30 p.m. on March 25.

Before candidates can meet with any student organizations, they must attend a mandatory meeting Tuesday, March 18, which will brief candidates on rules they must follow during the campaign period, Vickery said.

Until then, candidates can go ahead and hang

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RALLY FOR HOPE

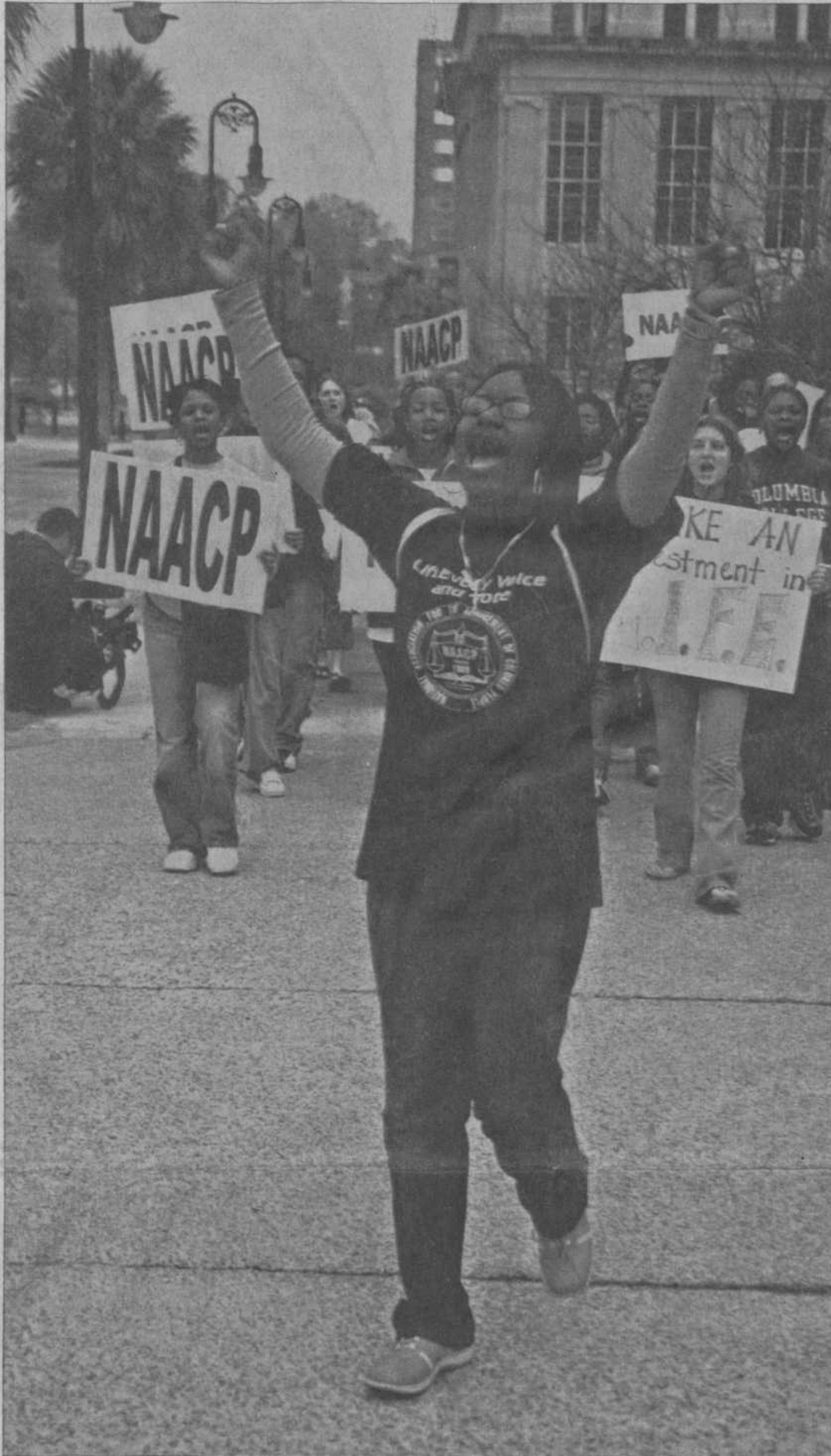


PHOTO BY SAMANTHA HALL/THE GAMECOCK

Kasonna Kennedy, a third-year social-work student from Benedict College, leads the NAACP march Wednesday at the State House. Students from USC and Columbia College joined in the rally to voice their opposition to the eradication of the HOPE scholarship.

Possible loss of scholarship spurs protest at State House

NAACP, Columbia-area colleges join in demonstration

BY ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

Accusing the state Legislature of playing "Robin Hood," the USC chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People joined two other Columbia-area colleges Wednesday in a march to the State House to protest the proposed elimination of the HOPE scholarship.

Eliminating the HOPE scholar-

ship would be an alternative to getting rid of the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, which benefits mainly technical college students.

First-year advertising student Latoya Hines said she wanted to let the legislators know that "you just can't create a South Carolina Education Lottery and then, all of a sudden, not have the funds available to create scholarships for the students who need that money to

come to school."

Carrying signs that read "Tell the truth — you dissed our youth" and chanting, "Keep HOPE alive," nearly 60 students from USC, Columbia College and Benedict College marched from Davis field to the south steps of the State House.

Armed with an electric megaphone, Kasonna Kennedy, a third-

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Victim fears a trend in assaults

BY ALLYSON BIRD
THE GAMECOCK

When second-year International Master of Business Administration student Jessica Black and her four friends were held at gunpoint in Five Points on Feb. 7, Black said Columbia police told her, "Oh, it happens all the time."

Black said police hardly took a description of the attacker.

"It's just not acceptable for this to happen in Columbia, South Carolina. It's just not a really big place," she said.

Black said she has talked to several people within the IMBA program — a program of only 300 students — who have been assaulted this year. Black said she is worried that her incident was more than just a chance armed robbery.

Lesha Utsey, public relations director for the Columbia Police Department, said that robberies have been on the rise lately, and police attribute this increase to economic downturns.

"What we have found in the last month is there has been an increase in commercial robberies," she said, explaining that the same people might be committing the individual robberies as well.

Black said the attacker wasn't very aggressive.

"He was pretty coherent, but he had a cell phone in his hand. Maybe he was talking to someone who was watching and saying that there are five people not paying attention," she said.

When Black and her friends were assaulted, she thought it was a joke — until the attacker fired a shot. He then took their wallets.

"He was already annoyed with me, so he stuck his hand down my pants and up my shirt. I grabbed his pinky, and he fired a second shot," Black said.

The shot, fired at the side of her head, left her temporarily deaf and with a large bruise behind her ear.

Utsey said city police have recently teamed up with Richland County and Forest Acres police to take action against this problem.

"The goals are to have a higher visibility in surrounding areas and to look at trying undercover operations," Utsey said.

Black and her friends were attacked in the Hiller Hardware parking lot on Blossom Street where James Cooper has been a manager for a year and a half.

Cooper is from the Columbia area, and he too

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PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

When walking at night, students should be aware of their surroundings because of an increase in robberies, police say.

Sorensen seeks faculty's support for research campus

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

Faculty members were personally introduced to the university's proposed research campus Wednesday when USC President Andrew Sorensen sought their support at a Faculty Senate meeting.

Sorensen gave a similar presentation to the one he gave last week to a joint retreat of the board of trustees and the university's four foundations, giving a glimpse at the project's first phase, which includes four proposed research buildings



Sorensen

that would require an estimated \$30 million in private funding. He then took questions from Faculty Senate members.

Most questions focused on how the university could maintain fiscal and academic success during a time of significant expansion. Some members also inquired about the parking situation, to which Sorensen

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Weather

TODAY



High 62
Low 43

TOMORROW



High 73
Low 45

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