

The Rev. Al Sharpton speaks to students and Columbia residents Friday at the USC Law Center. The USC Law School Democrats organized the event.



## Al Sharpton comes to USC

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA  
THE GAMECOCK

Civil-rights activist and presidential hopeful the Rev. Al Sharpton spoke at the USC Law Center Friday in an event organized by the USC Law School Democrats.

Sharpton used the opportunity to outline his platform and answer questions from the near-capacity crowd.

Sharpton first addressed the war in Iraq. He said he is thankful to the American service men.

"I support the troops and I certainly hope and pray the troops will come home safely," Sharpton said.

Sharpton criticized Bush's decisions, however, and said he doubted that Saddam has weapons of mass destruction.

Sharpton said today's demo-

cratic leadership has given "tacit permission" for the United States to engage in "flawed foreign policy," and called the war a "glaring" example of the Bush administration's misplaced priorities.

Sharpton questioned Bush's motives in attacking Iraq.

"We cannot have an inconsistent policy based on whatever personal motives a person may have."

In addition, Sharpton called recent anti-terrorism legislation "un-American" and said he thinks the government is slowly "rolling back" civil liberties.

Sharpton said he thought the current Democrats' response to the war is inadequate.

"There has not been enough of an outcry from the leadership of the Democratic Party about this war," Sharpton said. "We have

◆ SHARPTON, SEE PAGE 2

## American prisoners forced onto Iraqi TV

Video footage showed frightened U.S. soldiers, at least four bodies

BY DANICA KIRKA  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOHA, QATAR (AP) — Looking by turns frightened or stoical, five captured U.S. soldiers were thrust in front of an Iraqi TV microphone and peppered with questions Sunday. The footage also showed at least four bodies.

U.S. officials confirmed that 12 soldiers were missing after Iraqi forces ambushed an army supply convoy around An Nasiriyah, a major crossing point over the Euphrates northwest of Basra.

The soldiers, interrogators questioning four men and a woman were broadcast by the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera with footage from state-controlled Iraqi television. Each was interviewed individually. They spoke into a microphone labeled "Iraqi television."

A senior defense official said the Pentagon did not know precisely how many captives there might be and would not identify the unit. Some of the prisoners are from Fort Blix, Texas, said Jean Offutt, a U.S. Army spokeswoman at the base.

Several families of the soldiers had gathered at the base Sunday evening, she said. "The mood, of course, is very tragic."

The 507th Maintenance, part of the 111th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, is stationed at Fort Bliss, and at least two of the interviewed prisoners said they were with the 507th.

Al-Jazeera quoted unidentified Iraqi officials as saying the Iraqis are using a defensive tactic of falling back, allowing their enemy to overextend itself and become vulnerable to attack behind the lines.

President Bush, returning to the White House from Camp David, said he did not have all the details of what he called a potential capture but added: "We expect them to be treated humanely, just like we'll treat any prisoners of theirs that we capture humanely. If not, the people who mistreat the prisoners will be treated as war criminals."

Speaking on CBS, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld charged that if those seen on television were indeed coalition sol-

◆ PRISONERS, SEE PAGE 4

### Key Developments in Iraq Crisis

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- ◆ The U.S. Central Command said Marines defeated Iraqi forces near An Nasiriyah in the sharpest engagement of the war so far. It said up to nine Marines were killed in the battle.
- ◆ U.S. troops found a suspected chemical factory near the city of Najaf, about 85 miles south of Baghdad, and were trying to determine whether it was involved in

making chemical weapons, U.S. officials said.

- ◆ Explosions shook Baghdad early Monday as the Iraqi capital came under another heavy air attack.

- ◆ A U.S. Patriot missile battery mistakenly shot down a British Royal Air Force fighter aircraft near the Iraqi border with Kuwait, killing both fliers on board.
- ◆ A U.S. soldier was detained

on suspicion of throwing grenades into three tents at a 101st Airborne command center in Kuwait, killing one fellow serviceman and wounding 15.

- ◆ A British television news reporter who disappeared in southern Iraq was believed dead.

- ◆ The U.S. military's northern front against Iraq appears to be building, with American planes

landing in the Kurdish north and more airstrikes pounding positions of a militant Islamic group with alleged al-Qaida and Baghdad ties.

- ◆ U.S. military leaders said they expect fighting in Iraq to intensify as coalition forces advance toward Baghdad, facing increased resistance from Saddam's troops and their possible use of chemical or biological weapons.

### 2003 PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES

## Brian Murphy

BY WENDY JEFFCOAT  
THE GAMECOCK

By running a "campaign of doom," Brian Murphy hopes to get students to pay attention to Student Government.

"A campaign of doom will make people stop, they'll look, they'll point, they'll stare, and it'll get their attention," the second-year Honors College student said.

"And when people are paying attention to Student Government, they'll realize, 'hey, this is here to serve me,' and they're going to start demanding things from Student Government," he said, "and then things will start getting done."

Murphy, who is studying computer science, said he is not a "government insider" and that the extent of his political experience was serving in Maxcy Hall's government his freshman year.

"I'm not a politician," he said. "I don't pretend to be."

Murphy said he is not going to try to reform Student Government.

He said he could find only about three resolutions passed last year that dealt with the student population; the rest, he said, dealt with internal Student Government matters.

Murphy thinks Student Government is capable of serving the USC community as it is and does not need to constantly try to reform itself.

He also said he doesn't want Student Government "disappearing just right after the election and popping up again a few

◆ MURPHY, SEE PAGE 4



### President Personals

Age: 20  
Hometown: Aiken, S.C.  
Hobbies: acting, karate and fencing  
Favorite restaurant: Wendy's  
Favorite thing about USC: "It's definitely the campus and the surrounding area. I like this environment. It's big, so there're things to do, but it's small enough that you can walk down

the street and say, 'Hey, I know that guy.' There's actually a sense of community, which I think is real important."  
Why did you choose to come to USC?: "I needed a university that has a lot of options. Like most people, I had no idea what I was going to do with the rest of my life. And USC has a lot of things that I had on my list of what I wanted to do. So it was my natural choice."

## Tyler Odom

BY ADAM BEAM  
THE GAMECOCK

When formulating his plan for winning the Student Government presidential election, Tyler Odom didn't borrow from the ideas of tested political philosophers, but from the voice of the Gamecocks.

Taking Charlie McAlexander's touchdown catch phrase to another level, Odom modeled his plan around six issues he felt important to the student body, and he dubbed them the Garnet Six.

"Carolina athletics has always been something that I can get excited about," Odom said. "I guess that kind of goes back to the fact that I've been coming to football games since I was about 8."

Leading the list of Odom's ideas is painting spurs from Greene Street all the way down Assembly Street to Williams-Brice Stadium, as if "Cocky were walking down the street," he said. Student organizations could sponsor a spur and have their organization's name written under it. Odom borrowed



### President Personals

Age: 20  
Hometown: Anderson, SC  
Hobbies: USC athletics involvement, staying involved on campus, hanging out with friends and reading occasionally  
Favorite Restaurant: Cracker Barrel  
Favorite thing about USC: "The chance to get involved in many aspects of the university and to

make a difference in some way."  
Why did you choose to come to USC?: "I've come to Carolina athletics games since I was about eight. Living in Anderson, which is 30 minutes from Clemson, made me have stronger loyalties to USC. Being involved in the university has made my loyalties grow even more so that I'd like to serve students in any way possible."

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### Weather

TODAY	TOMORROW
High 75 Low 48	High 81 Low 51

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- ◆ SPORTS The women's basketball team advances in the NCAA Tournament. **Page 9**

## Student leaders form political party

BY ROB SEAL  
THE GAMECOCK

The first political party in USC history has been formed by a group of student organization leaders and Student Government officials. The Palmetto Party is endorsing candidates for several SG positions.

Leigh Anne Cabbage, Palmetto Party chairwoman and former president of USC's chapter of

◆ PALMETTO, SEE PAGE 2



The Palmetto Party meets on the Russell House third floor Sunday night.

PHOTO BY TRISHA SHADWELL/  
THE GAMECOCK