

## Sharpton

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too many donkeys that are running around here that are elephants with donkey clothes on."

Sharpton also said that under current leadership, the Democrats have lost their soul.

"Clearly, those that have sat and allowed us to get here shouldn't brag about their mediocrity."

After addressing the war, Sharpton turned to such issues as unemployment and the current deficit.

He said he wanted to crack down on exploitation of blue-collar workers.

"There needs to be federal laws to protect workers' rights," Sharpton said.

Sharpton said he would invest in job creation if elected president.

Sharpton also said he was opposed to the death penalty because, he said, it has not proven to be a deterrent to crime.

Sharpton then addressed some people's doubts about his winning the Democratic primary.

"There are nine people running. Eight of them are going to lose," he said. "Don't act like there'll be eight winners and Sharpton."

Sharpton said he believed he could win by the numbers that support him. "I also believe we

can't lose because we're right," he said, and cited his heading a national institution, the National Action Network, as something that qualifies him above other state leaders.

Sharpton also answered questions on issues such as minimum wage and big business, trade agreements, the legalization of marijuana, foreign policy, his uniqueness from other candidates, immigration policy, his ministerial credentials and the Confederate flag.

Aaron Polkey, vice president of USC Law School Democrats, arranged Sharpton's appearance, and said his organization is trying to arrange for each Democratic primary candidate to speak at the Law School.

Second-year law student Van Anderson said he enjoyed hearing Sharpton speak.

"I have respect for him, and I think he's a product and sign of the democratic process here."

Third-year law student Terri Vincent said she admired Sharpton's firm stance on issues.

"It's just refreshing to hear answers to questions and strong opinions on issues," she said. "There are too many wishy-washy candidates."

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## Palmetto

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Alpha Delta Pi, says the organization is running on two platforms: budget redistribution and Student Senate reform.

"With the budget, we want to continue fiscal responsibility," Cabbage said. "Our goal is to have a \$20,000 plus surplus in Student Government that can be given to the student organizations."

According to SG President Ankit Patel, this budget surplus would originate from a combination of the increased student activity fee and a decrease in SG spending.

"We've cut out some things like the Homecoming parade," Patel said. "From my perspective, there is going to be a large amount of revenue coming in next year from the student activity fee increase."

The second part of the Palmetto Party platform, Senate reform, would entail some changes in the structure of the Student Senate.

"Our second proposal is to have each senator serve on two Senate committees and not just one, and we want to make sure that we hold our senators accountable," Cabbage said.

"By having the senators serve on two committees, this would enable us to make sure that our Senate is continuously working hard to better serve the students," she said.

In addition to having student senators serve on an additional committee, the Palmetto Party would like to see some changes in the overall committee structure, Patel said.

"They want to have new committees," Patel said. "In my opin-

ion, the current committees don't really reflect what the students need. The Powers and Responsibilities Committee, for example, isn't really relevant to what students need. The Palmetto Party wants to create a housing committee, a parking and safety committee, and an environmental committee, among others."

The Palmetto Party is currently endorsing Tyler Odom for SG president and Patrick Norton for vice-president.

"We're campaigning for them," Cabbage said. "Basically they have campaign staff, and then we have the Palmetto Party staff, and the money combines together."

Both Cabbage and Patel expressed hope that the formation of a party inside SG would spark the creation of other parties.

"I'm hopeful that some other students will start their own parties to spur more debate about the issues on our campus," Patel said.

The Palmetto Party is made up of a diverse group of students, according to Patel.

"There are people from all different political affiliations involved in this," Patel said.

"They want to make sure the party remains diverse, and I think they are doing a good job of that. International students and people from all different religions and cultures are involved," he said.

"I guess we're bipartisan," Cabbage said.

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## BRIEFLY

### Sites say what to do if S.C. attacked

USC's Division of Law Enforcement and Safety is urging students, faculty and staff of the university to visit its Web site and President Andrew Sorensen's Web site to familiarize themselves with important information that might help them if a terrorist attack were to happen.

"Of course, we don't want to unduly alarm the USC community," Ernie Ellis, director of Law Enforcement and Safety at USC, said in a news release. "But we know from past experience that knowledge and a plan for responding to emergencies are critical in dealing with a crisis, especially one that threatens our safety and well-being."

The law enforcement web site is www.les.sc.edu, and the emergency preparedness web site is www.sc.edu/emergency. There are links on both sites to information concerning what to do in the event of a chemical or biological attack, how to spot suspicious packages and how evacuation procedures will be conducted.

### Registration begins for walking event

Registration for the Walking for Wellness Initiative, which will take place during April, begins today and lasts through Friday.

The event is sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Health Council and under the guidance of USC's Health and Wellness Office.

According to the news release, the overall purpose of the program is "to increase physical activity and nutritional knowledge in women."

### USC junior chosen for Goldwater award

Andy Frassetto, a junior geophysics student at USC, has been selected as a 2003 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar.

Frassetto, a South Carolina Honors College student, has done research in USC's Department of Geological Sciences with Alicia Wilson and Tom Owens. During the summer of 2002, he participated in a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates.

Frassetto is a member of First Mentors USC Volunteers and the Geology Club. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in geophysics, and hopes to teach and do research at a major university.

Jae Jun Kim, a sophomore physics and mathematics student, received an honorable mention in the competition.

The Goldwater Scholarship is awarded nationally to sophomores or juniors pursuing bachelor's degrees in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering with an intention of pursuing a career in research or college-level teaching.

Only four students from each college or university can be nominated, and students must be nominated by a university faculty committee to apply.

Students interested in applying for the award should attend the Goldwater Scholarship workshop April 7 at 4 p.m. in the Gressette Room.

## STATE

### USC, black colleges join to study health

COLUMBIA (AP) — Higher education officials hope a new partnership to study health could represent a watershed moment in relations between the University of South Carolina and the state's historically black colleges.

Leaders from South Carolina State, Allen and Claffin universities and Benedict, Morris and Voorhees colleges announced last week they would partner with USC in the \$2.75 million W.K. Kellogg Foundation health disparities project.

"With this, we're involved on the front end and not the back end," said Leroy Davis, former president of South Carolina State University and now head of Voorhees College's Center for Excellence in Rural and Minority Health.

"We're very excited about it and we see our participation at the very maximum level."

The project, designed to get more minorities in public health careers, was viewed by some as the latest in a long line of empty promises from USC to include the black colleges as partners.

### Catawba tribe owes \$1 million in fees

YORK (AP) — A Circuit Court judge has ordered the Catawba Indian Nation to pay the Rock Hill School District for back fees.

The district sued the tribe in June 1999, claiming it owes about \$1,400 per year for each student who lives on the tribe's York County reservation. The district says a 1993 agreement with the state requires the Catawba to pay out-of-district fees.

Families who live on the reservation are exempt from residential property taxes, a major source of funding for public education.

When the lawsuit was first filed, it meant to recover at least \$280,490 in fees. The Catawbas agreed to pay the money to compensate for revenue lost due to the tax-exempt status of the tribe's land and portions of property on the reservation, according to the suit.

That amount has increased to almost \$1 million, said school district attorney Don Harper.

Judge Lee Alford signed the 17-page order last week, ruling that the Catawbas owe the district fees for educating their children.

### Budget cuts might hurt state's defense

CHARLESTON (AP) — Some fear the state's first line of defense could be weakened because of budget cuts to South Carolina's National Guard.

A loss of nearly \$6 million because of the state budget crisis has resulted in the South Carolina Military Department losing up to \$12 million in federal matching money during the last three years.

During that time, the Guard has closed 10 of the state's 76 armories. Officials with the state's military say closing the armories, which serve as training facilities and staging areas during hurricanes and other disasters, likely has cost the Guard some troops and new recruits.

The Guard's remaining facilities are suffering from \$16 million in deferred maintenance that officials say they cannot afford.

## NATION

### Air Force helicopter crashes, killing six

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Air Force helicopter crashed in Afghanistan Sunday, killing all six people on board, the U.S. military said.

The HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter was on a medical evacuation mission when it crashed at about 11:20 a.m. EST, about 18 miles north of Ghazni, Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command said in a statement.

The helicopter was not shot down, the statement said.

The precise cause of the crash is under investigation.

U.S. Military officials in Washington and Afghanistan said The medical emergency and the helicopter flight was not in connection with Operation Valiant Strike, a mission involving members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in southeastern Afghanistan.

That mission, which began earlier this month, is meant to root out remnants of the al-Qaida and Taliban believed to be operating in the area.

The last helicopter crash in Afghanistan was Jan. 30, when an Army Black Hawk helicopter — the Army's version of the Pave Hawk — on a training mission crashed near the Bagram air base, killing four.

### Owners of N.C. plant sued after explosion

KINSTON, N.C. (AP) — Three people have sued the owners of the Kinston plant that exploded in January, alleging the blast exposed them to dangerous chemicals and damaged their property.

The lawsuit is the first stemming from the explosion that killed six people and destroyed West Pharmaceutical Services' medical supply plant Jan. 29.

Plaintiffs Terry Ellis, Rosalie Whitley and Gloria Young want a Superior Court judge to classify the case a class-action lawsuit, which would allow others with similar claims to join as plaintiffs.

The three, who did not work at West Pharmaceuticals, live within a mile of the plant.

"It was a community harm," said New Bern attorney Donald J. Dunn, one of seven attorneys handling the complaint. The other lawyers are from Louisiana.

The lawsuit alleges West Pharmaceuticals, based in Lionville, Pa., failed to keep its plant safe and didn't carefully handle dangerous chemicals. Plant manager Thomas Clagon is accused of failing to properly supervise employees.

The plaintiffs also say the company should be held liable for damages even if negligence isn't proven because the nature of its work was so hazardous.

### Army soldier hangs himself in jail cell

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — An Army Special Forces soldier charged with killing his wife after returning from Afghanistan nine months ago hanged himself in a jail cell this weekend, officials said.

Lt. Glen Mobley of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department said Master Sgt. William Wright was found dead in his cell about 2 a.m. Sunday.

Wright was one of four soldiers at Fort Bragg suspected of killing their spouses in a six-week stretch last summer.

The deadly spree forced the Army to re-evaluate how it provided support for soldiers with strained marriages and those readjusting after combat service.

## WORLD

### Fighting in Nigeria forces oil giant out

LAGOS, NIGERIA (AP) — Oil giant ChevronTexaco on Sunday evacuated staff and shut down most of its installations in Nigeria amid weeks of fighting between ethnic militants and government forces that has killed scores of people.

The development came as the militants' leaders accused the army of attacking the Niger Delta village of Okpelama, near the company's main Escravos oil export terminal.

Ethnic militants have threatened to blow up 11 multinational oil installations they claimed to have captured in retaliation for government military raids.

In a communique, Jay Pryor, chairman and managing director of ChevronTexaco's Nigerian subsidiary, said the company was evacuating its remaining workers from the Escravos terminal and offshore rigs "to protect them from harm."

"The safety of people is our absolute priority," Pryor said. The company earlier evacuated most of its staff at onshore oil sites.

Battles between rival Ijaw and Itsekiri militants have drawn a massive armed response. Villagers accuse the armed forces of indiscriminately pouring gunfire into their towns, killing and injuring residents and causing others to flee their homes.

### U.S. military prison releases 18 Afghans

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AP) — Several Afghans who had been held at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay were released because they were no longer considered a terrorist threat, officials said Sunday.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Burfeind, said 18 prisoners had left the base at Guantanamo on Friday to be released.

About 30 new prisoners were taken to America's high-security island prison in Cuba on Sunday, bringing to about 660 the number of inmates there, Burfeind said.

Afgan presidential spokesman Sayed Fazel Akbar said earlier that U.S. authorities handed over 19 prisoners to Afghanistan's Interior Ministry on Saturday. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in numbers.

"According to the Americans who investigated them, they no longer posed a terrorist threat to the international coalition," Akbar said.

Akbar gave no other details and it was unclear if the prisoners were still in custody. Interior Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

### New barrier would give Israel more land

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is considering two plans to extend a barrier separating Israelis from Palestinians, officials said Sunday. Both would likely claim more land for Israel and muddy progress on a U.S.-backed plan for Palestinian statehood.

Israel says the electronic fences and cement blocks that Israelis have been calling a "separation fence" are meant to protect Israel proper and Jewish settlements from attacks by Palestinian militants.

The barriers do not run strictly along the border of undisputed Israeli territory; instead they bite in several areas into the West Bank, which the Palestinians claim as the heartland of a future state, incorporating thousands of Jewish settlers — and Palestinians.

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