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USC plans to build parking garage

Building could add 1,000 spaces; parking fees to increase in June

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

USC's Board of Trustees gave preliminary approval Friday to build an \$11 million, 900- to 1,000-space parking garage on a gravel lot that sits just south of the Bull Street Garage.

The garage could open as early as Fall 2005. Rick Kelly, USC's chief financial officer, said students could expect the board to approve an increase in parking fees next June to repay the portion of the bond used to build the garage.

"I think this is a luxury to the students," trustee Edward Floyd said. "We have other needs on this campus, and I want to make sure that funds raised by these fees will go to pay for this facility."

Kelly said the campus has added more than 1,400 parking spaces on campus in the last four

years. But enrollment is rising every year, and many of the new spaces are located on the outskirts of campus at such places as the Colonial Center and the former BellSouth building on Barnwell Street.

The proposed garage is part of a three-year, \$126 million capital financing plan that includes updating the campus energy system and renovating the Koger Center. The plan is the first step in addressing the more than \$220 million in deferred maintenance needs.

Deferred maintenance is the list of campus maintenance and im-

provement projects that the university hasn't immediately addressed because they aren't considered urgent and because the state's consistent budget reductions over the past four fiscal years have left USC with limited maintenance funds.

"Students have brought to us that their No. 1 concern with the campus is the lack of parking," Chief Financial Officer Rick Kelly said.

Trustees said they would consider next year moving to a differential parking-fee scale. Spaces in garages closer to the center of cam-

pus would cost more than spaces on the outskirts of campus. Parking preferences would also be given to students living on campus rather than commuter students.

USC President Andrew Sorensen said plans for the new garage are a result of Student Government's many requests for expanded and more accessible campus parking.

"We've been working with them for a long time, and this is a best possible outcome for the students, we feel," SG President Katie Dreiling said. She said SG has

shown support for the new garage's proposed site.

Dreiling said SG supports the concept of a differential parking-fee scale.

"I think it's important that students know that if they want the parking, that if they want the university to help them out with this, then they have to be willing to give a little more," she said.

More than \$16 million will be used for updating the campus' energy infrastructure. Campus buildings have already lost power

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Falling short

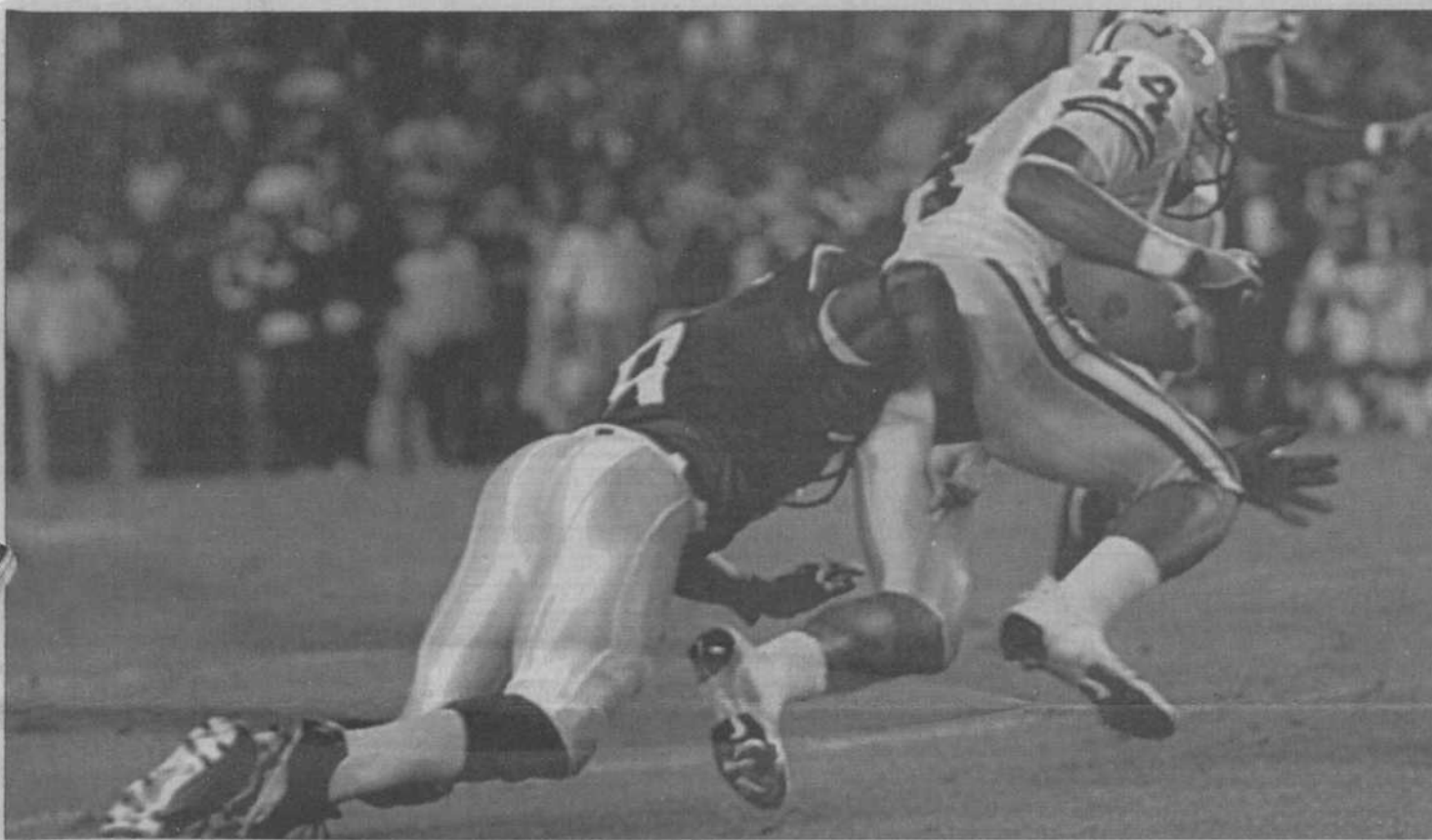


PHOTO BY JOHNNY HAYNES/THE GAMECOCK

A USC defender tries to bring down LSU wide receiver Michael Clayton during Saturday night's game at Williams-Brice Stadium. The Gamecocks were held to zero rushing yards in the 33-7 loss. ◆ FOR THE FULL STORY, SEE PAGE 7

Board mulls over merger

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

USC President Andrew Sorensen gave the Board of Trustees on Friday his initial recommendation to approve a merger of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science and Mathematics.

Sorensen said combining the colleges would bring in more tuition dollars to the single academic unit formed from the Value-Centered Management adopted last year and foster a more cooperative attitude within the university. He said he would present a formal recommendation to the board in December.

Sorensen said the VCM model rewards colleges that offer classes with higher student enrollments. "What I predict will happen is

that the faculty will create more courses so that they can attract students, which will, in turn, attract tuition," Sorensen said. "The enrollment figures that we have from the fall semester indicate that that is, in fact, happening."

He added that large classrooms and auditoriums are often underused by some departments and should be assigned to certain classes by the provost, not individual deans, to be more efficiently used.

Some of the most vocal concerns came from trustees Robert McLellan and Helen Harvey. McLellan said he was concerned with how USC would fund the merger, especially maintaining the larger classes. He also asked administrators to study how

◆ MERGER, SEE PAGE 2

Ticket distribution changes to rely on student input

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

Whether the student-ticket distribution system for the Carolina-Clemson game gets changed depends on USC students' input, Student Government President Katie Dreiling said.

Dreiling said SG officers are focusing on collecting student opinions about the system in place now, which operates on a lottery basis.

Student Gamecock Club President Sean Bishop said the lottery system often results in ticket surpluses. A revised distribution system would eliminate this problem, he said.

In the past, Dreiling has said that a seniority-based distribution system or a system that favors avid fans would be better than a lottery. Bishop raised the possi-

bility of a first-come, first-served distribution system that would benefit those who make attending the game a priority.

Dreiling and Bishop said they have had bad experiences with the lottery distribution in the past.

"For the past two years at Clemson, I haven't gotten tickets, and I'm the most die-hard Gamecock fan there is," Bishop said.

But, Dreiling said, SG can do nothing without strong student support.

"As of now, we haven't set anything in stone," she said. And, she added, SG will wait for significant student backing before moving forward.

Dreiling encourages students to seek her out with their input on the matter.

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Should the Clemson-game lottery should be changed to a first-come, first-serve basis?



"I think it should be changed. Why should it be different just for the Carolina-Clemson game? If it's first come, first serve, if you want to go, you'll go and wait and get a ticket."

NATALIE BUTBUL
FIRST-YEAR BUSINESS STUDENT



"I think it should be changed. If I get a ticket, and none of my friends get a ticket, I'm not going to go. If we all go at the same time, and we all get tickets, we'll actually go."

STEPHANIE FINK
SECOND-YEAR BIOLOGY STUDENT



"Yes, because I'm paying too much money to come here out-of-state. It makes me mad that someone who is paying nothing can get a ticket."

GEOFF ROBERTSON
SECOND-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT



"Yes, because it seems like a more fair, just system. If you are really dedicated to getting a ticket, you'll be willing to stand in line for a long time to get a ticket. That's what the die-hard, crazy fans do."

SIMONE YOUNG
THIRD-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

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TODAY



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Homecoming week kicks off

New king and queen selection process one of many changes

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

Today marks the start of USC's 2003 Homecoming week, and this year's festivities will include a carnival, a cooperative clean-up effort between Carolina

Productions and Student Government, and changes in the king and queen selection process.

Scott Sowell, Homecoming commissioner, said this year's homecoming theme is "Coming Home to a New Carolina."

Sowell said the Homecoming Commission decided on the theme as a way of recognizing the many new on-campus additions and improvements.

"We're kind of celebrating all the great things that have happened here at Carolina over the last year," Sowell said.

Sowell and his commission have been planning events since last December.

"This really is a yearlong process," Sowell said. He said Carolina Productions members are most excited about this year's improved version of Spurs and Struts, which Sowell called a "huge Homecoming kickoff carnival."

Sowell said the carnival will take place Monday on Davis Field from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It will be open to everyone and will include booths, games, a dance competi-

tion and free food.

And Tuesday, Carolina Productions will team up with Student Government for Clean Carolina, an annual SG event.

"We wanted to do it bigger and better this year, and it just worked to combine it with Carolina Productions," SG President Katie Dreiling said.

Sowell said the event's timing is perfect this year.

"There's no better time for the campus to be looking great than

◆ HOMECOMING, SEE PAGE 2