

Lieberman presents higher-education plan

Democratic presidential candidate unveils policy at Benedict College

BY WES WOLFE
THE GAMECOCK

U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, the second Democratic candidate to visit Columbia in four days, unveiled a major policy address on higher education at Benedict College on Monday.

In front of a crowded room at Benedict's Business Development Center, which included Benedict President David Swinton and S.C. Rep. John Scott, Lieberman outlined his plan, which included helping families in affording college, making sure students are ready for college and implementing a system to test colleges and school districts on student readiness and graduation rates. The senator also talked about giving assistance to historically black colleges and universities.

"With Congressman Clyburn, I've been working and succeeding at obtaining \$50 million from the

federal government to rebuild buildings at HBCUs," Lieberman said. Jim Clyburn is the U.S. representative for the 6th Congressional District in South Carolina.

The frequency of the recent Democratic debates might have taken a toll on Lieberman's oratory — when pointing out his problems with the state of American public education, he said, "There are two school systems in America: one for the haves and one for the have-nots." Another Democratic candidate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, says the exact same thing in his campaign speech.

Lieberman led his discussion of making college more affordable by first talking about what he says President George W. Bush has done wrong with federal financial-aid policy, including Pell grant reductions by the federal Department of Education and the proposed elimination of the Leveraging Educational Assis-

tance Partnership Program.

"Those cuts, for the upcoming fiscal year — this is what the President proposed and negotiated with Congress — would mean more than 375,000 fewer college students would get federal student financial assistance," Lieberman said.

The Pell grant is the federal government's largest grant program for students, and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program is a collaboration between states and the federal government to provide grants to students with exceptional financial need.

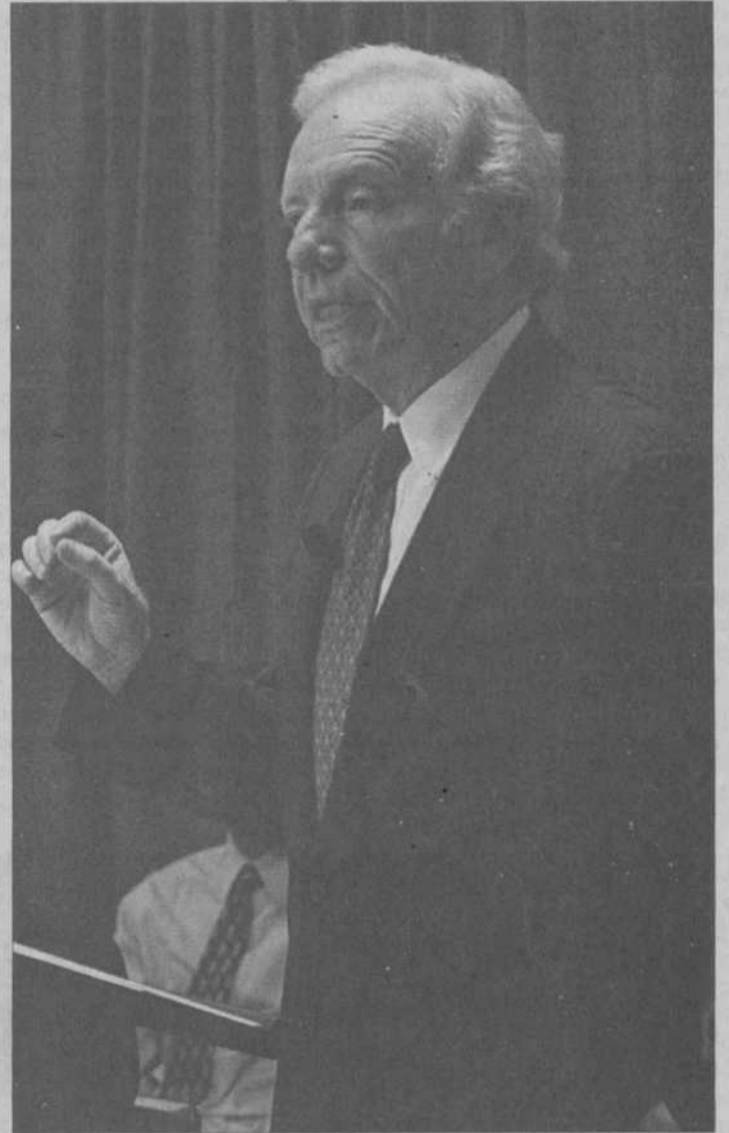
Lieberman's plan would include raising the maximum Pell grant award from the \$4,050 per academic year to \$7,760 per academic year by the 2008-2009 term. According to his campaign literature, the senator would also provide tax credits to families that

have children in college.

Lieberman said his goal is to by 2020 have 90 percent of Americans go to college or vocational school or into the military after high school and have 90 percent of college students graduate within six years. Lieberman then proposed additional funding for colleges that have increased enrollment and graduation of low-income and minority students.

Lieberman answered 14 questions from the audience of students and teachers. The questions ranged from reparations for slavery to Iraq to school prayer. When answering a question about Social Security, Lieberman harkened back to the policy debate between Al Gore and George Bush in the 2000 election.

"Remember in the 2000 campaign, they were arguing about



Sen. Joe Lieberman spoke to a crowd of students and teachers at Benedict College on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO BY KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

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PHOTO BY JASON STEELMAN/THE GAMECOCK

General Motors is now working with USC on fuel cells to cut back on the amount of pollution from cars.

2 businesses help fund USC fuel cell center

BY JON TURNER
THE GAMECOCK

Two more industrial sponsors joined with USC on Friday to help fund its state-of-the-art research center for fuel cells.

On June 16, the National Science Foundation selected USC as the site of an NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Fuel Cells, the only one of its kind in the country. Over the next three years, NSF will provide a total of \$210,000 in funds for the new center.

USC President Andrew Sorensen said he is proud of the progress the university is making.

"The selection of USC to house the National Science Foundation's Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Fuel Cells marks the beginning of an important era in research at USC. Today, leaders in science, business, industry and government will recognize what we have known for a long time: that scientists at the University of South Carolina are among the best in the United States," Sorensen said in a news release.

Fuel cells are an essential part of the transition to a "hydrogen economy." The National

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New office to link USC to businesses

BY LAURA MOSS
THE GAMECOCK

USC has established BusinessLINK, an office of economic development, which will make its resources more accessible to businesses both locally and nationally.

The BusinessLINK program was announced Thursday at a meeting of USC faculty and business leaders from throughout the state. It will offer one point of contact between five university offices to make it more efficient for businesses and developers to use university resources.

This is the first time the university's business-development

and research resources will work collectively.

Anthony Boccanfuso, managing director of the USC Research Foundation, will oversee BusinessLINK.

"Combining these offices will make them more efficient in how they work together since they can use each other's assets," Boccanfuso said.

BusinessLINK will combine the Small Business Development Center, the Industrial Agreements Unit, the Center for Manufacturing and Technology, the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator and the Intellectual Property Office.

"Traditionally, we have pro-

vided the business community of the state with many services, and now we can make it much easier for both small and large businesses to gain access to us," Boccanfuso said.

USC President Andrew Sorensen said the USC BusinessLINK program is a radical change in university operations. "We want to aggressively market these offices, their resources and the talents of our faculty and students to business and industry and put them in touch with the specific research and resources here on our campus," he said in a news release.

Boccanfuso said the new office of economic development would

provide both faculty and students with new opportunities in business. Many USC students have already worked with local businesses in the private sector, and the BusinessLINK program is expected to result in similar opportunities by opening up communication between new businesses and the university.

"From this point forward, USC BusinessLINK will help the university bolster economic development, enhance public-private partnerships, strengthen community relations and increase external funding," Boccanfuso said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

An enduring brotherhood

Minority Greek organizations thrive in post-Civil Rights period

BY KEVIN FELLNER
THE GAMECOCK

Rodney Hollis' high-school friends told him he should become a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity because he was often wearing its signature red-shirt-and-khaki-pants combination.

Even though Hollis, a Florida resident, knew little about the fraternity, especially regarding its presence at USC, he sought and gained membership to the fraternity, one of four campus fraternities composed predominantly

of minorities.

The concept began with segregationist attitudes on college campuses during the first half of the 20th century. Schoolteacher Elder Watson Diggs received Kappa Alpha Psi's first laurel wreath at Indiana University in 1924, signifying the fraternity's official inception, at a time when he wouldn't have been allowed to join any of the ex-

isting fraternities.

University officials nationwide have questioned the role of minority fraternities, as well as predominantly white fraternities, during the post-Civil Rights era as possibly creating racial division on campuses.

"I think it's just a reflection of the recruitment process and the number of minorities on campus," said Hollis, a fourth-year public relations student and president of Kappa Alpha Psi. He said his fraternity is unique in

that it doesn't actively recruit any of its members, thus making its racial composition impossible to control.

Phi Beta Sigma President and fourth-year management and marketing student JaRodd Webb said he was instantly attracted to his fraternity when he arrived at USC.

"The brothers on campus seemed to be so friendly and close with each other," Webb said. "They didn't act like they were better than us; they were down to earth."

Webb said he had no qualms about joining a minority fraternity because he knew little about

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McKissick to put collections on Web site

BY IRA KLEIN
THE GAMECOCK

USC's McKissick Museum recently received a federal grant to help pay for the creation of an interactive Web site that will allow anybody anywhere to access the museum's diverse collections on Southern and South Carolina folk life and material culture.

The \$90,985 Learning Opportunities grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services was only one of the 169

museum grants presented this year, totaling over \$15 million. According to Saddler Taylor, curator of folk life at the museum and director of the Web site project, it will probably take about three years to complete the project, and an introductory version should be available toward the end of the second year. The Web site will contain several audio clips, particularly of traditional Southern music; image and photo galleries; video clips from the museum's film projects; and virtual exhibits.

In developing the Web site, the museum plans to use a combination of university programmers and resources, as well as independent companies from the community. A technical committee made up of several USC students and faculty members as well as a group of technicians from ETV are working on the project.

"What we're planning to do here at the university is to use this project as a training ground for graduate assistants and interns who are interested in au-

dio and video editing and digital media. Hopefully, they'll be able to gain important experience and will be contributing to the university, while learning a great deal in the process," Taylor said.

According to Taylor, the idea for the Web site didn't come from any one source. Instead, the idea was based on feedback from museum visitors as well as on a general feeling of having to "keep up with the times."

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