

Merger

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and two years at MUSC. The other proposal suggests pharmacy students would study three years at one university and only one year at the other.

Sadik said the merger would not interfere with admissions processes.

"We're still going to admit the same number of students, and we're still going to concentrate on admitting people from in state," Sadik said.

Although the merger would provide savings, no concrete decisions have been made. USC

spokesman Russ McKinney stressed that the merger is only a possibility, and other possibilities are also being considered.

"Every month, a new collaboration is emerging between the three research universities in South Carolina — USC, MUSC and Clemson. The merger is just one option," McKinney said.

McKinney said collaborations between universities are important and even necessary because they can help universities gain funds.

"Both Greenberg and Sorensen are committed to looking for collaboration wherever possible because it enhances the ability for research funding," McKinney

said. "Collaboration strengthens research, which helps when competing for funding."

According to McKinney, the university is still trying to decide if the merger is feasible and if it will improve pharmacy students' education.

"Ultimately, we want to create a better education. That is what drives everything," McKinney said.

If the merger is approved, Sadik said the two deans would like to see the schools merged by fall 2005, but an actual date has not been determined.

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

STATE

Clark announces strategy for Iraq

ORANGEBURG (AP) — Democratic presidential hopeful Wesley Clark announced Thursday a four-prong strategy to win the war in Iraq and bring troops home.

The retired four-star general visited the family of the third soldier from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School to die in Iraq before addressing a predominantly black crowd of 300 people at South Carolina State University.

Four found dead in Chesnee bike shop

CHESNEE (AP) — Four people were found dead Thursday at a bike shop in western Spartanburg County.

A Spartanburg County coroner's investigator said four people were found dead about 3:15 p.m. at Superbike Motorsports. Investigator Alan Mason said deputies found three men and a woman inside the shop. Three of the victims have been identified, but their names are being withheld until family members can be notified. Mason said the cause of death was unknown.

Caretaker charged with casket theft

NORTH CHARLESTON (AP) — A cemetery caretaker has been charged with taking about \$1,000 from a dead woman's casket.

Police said Nancy Mitchell's casket was broken into and the money taken last weekend. Relatives had placed the money in the casket as a gesture to prepare her for the afterlife.

North Charleston police were checking out workers at Carolina Memorial Gardens when they noticed a caretaker had been arrested on an unrelated charge early Sunday.

NATION

Judge blocks ban on late-term abortions

NEW YORK (AP) — In a ruling that could have coast-to-coast effect, a federal judge Thursday blocked the government's new ban on certain late-term abortions — the second court victory for abortion-rights advocates since President Bush signed the law.

U.S. District Judge Richard Casey granted a request by the National Abortion Federation and seven doctors to block enforcement of the ban.

Rifle links suspect to sniper attacks

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. (AP) — The rifle found in sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad's car was the weapon used to kill eight people and wound three during last year's sniper attacks, a ballistics expert testified Thursday.

Walter A. Dandridge Jr. of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said he examined microscopic markings left on fired bullets, bullet fragments and casings taken from shooting victims or crime scenes.

NASA works to raise safety standards

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. (AP) — Spurred by a post-Columbia safety review, NASA is stepping up exterior inspections of the international space station and making numerous improvements, including installation of more extensive shielding against orbiting debris.

The space agency Thursday released its plan for safely keeping a crew aboard the space station without the help of the remaining three shuttles, grounded until at least next fall. Smaller Russian spacecraft are delivering crews and supplies for now.

WORLD

Marijuana pill could help MS sufferers

LONDON (AP) — A marijuana pill appeared to relieve some of the symptoms of multiple sclerosis in the first scientifically rigorous study of the strongly debated drug.

The research, published this week in *The Lancet* medical journal, found that even though improvements could not be detected by doctors' tests, a greater proportion of patients taking the drug reported reduced pain and muscle stiffness than those taking fake capsules.

Bertelsmann, Sony announce merger

FRANKFURT, GERMANY (AP) — Bertelsmann AG and Sony Corp. announced a preliminary plan to merge their music businesses Thursday, setting the stage for a music company that would vie for world primacy with Universal Music Group.

A merger of Sony Music Entertainment and Bertelsmann's BMG would bring together the world's No. 2 and No. 5 music companies as the industry struggles with losses blamed on music piracy.

Putin assures EU of oil case's fairness

ROME (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin sought to reassure the European Union on Thursday that the legal case against his country's largest oil company was fair and would not threaten the economy — a grave concern for nations with strong financial ties to Moscow.

Putin tried to strengthen ties to the EU before the bloc's expansion next year, but his talks at the 15-nation summit revolved around last month's jailing of Yukos oil-giant founder and chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

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Applications are now available for Gamecock Editor In Chief, Spring 2004

The Editor in Chief is responsible for all operations of *The Gamecock*, USC's student newspaper that is published three days a week during the Spring semester. Duties include overseeing editorial content, recruiting and supervision of the editorial staff.

Applications and job descriptions are available at the Office of the Director of Student Life, Russell House 115, or online at www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia.

DEADLINE for completed applications is Wednesday, November 12, 2003 @ 4:00 p.m.

Apply Now.



Design

I found a dimpled spider, fat and white,
On a white heal-all, holding up a moth
Like a white piece of rigid satin cloth--
Assorted characters of death and blight
Mixed ready to begin the morning right,
Like the ingredients of a witches' broth--
A snow-drop spider, a flower like a froth,
And dead wings carried like a paper kite.

What had that flower to do with being white,
The wayside blue and innocent heal-all?
What brought the kindred spider to that height,
Then steered the white moth thither in the night?
What but design of darkness to appal?--
If design govern in a thing so small.

-Robert Frost

Does God Exist?

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RA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

return the next year.

"The loyalty that RAs show to the position here at USC is greater than some other schools with which I'm familiar," Coley wrote.

Amber Schulz, a first-year international business student, said she would like to be an RA because of the opportunity to meet and interact with different people. She acknowledged the amount of time required to work as an RA.

"If you have good organizational skills, it shouldn't be a problem, but if you can't handle the workload, then you aren't really qualified," she said.

When asked if the RA program needed any improvement, Coley said the program is continually improved in many ways each year but that there are no significant weaknesses with the program. According to him, RAs are doing an excellent job.

"Last year, over 91 percent of our resident students indicated that their RA was doing a good job," he said. "This was the best response we have received in eight years."

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