

## USC, MUSC to discuss merger

USC Board of Trustees might consider combining pharmacy programs on 1 campus at Dec. 15 meeting

BY KEVIN FELLNER  
THE GAMECOCK

USC's School of Pharmacy might be moving closer to a potential merger with the Medical University of South Carolina's program later this month.

USC Spokesman Russ McKinney said the merger might be discussed at the Dec. 15 USC Board of Trustees meeting. There

has been no word on when, if at all, it will come to a vote.

The board met with MUSC's board for the first time in history on Nov. 23 in Columbia to discuss contractual matters. The meeting was held in executive session and was closed to the public, as is allowed by law, although no voting can take place except to adjourn or return to open session.

McKinney said the meeting was held mostly to discuss legal matters concerning a potential merger.

"I think it was generally a positive meeting," McKinney said. "They discussed the general state of the collaboration but in particular the pros and cons of a possible merger."

A merger would mean the two schools would combine their

programs on one campus for the first three years of a student's study. The final year would include a clerkship or internship in a professional setting somewhere in the state.

McKinney said a merger would be only a fraction of the increasing research collaborations between the universities.

USC School of Pharmacy Dean Farid Sadik said he isn't expecting a decision on the merger until next year.

"No matter what, we are ready," Sadik said. "If they say yes, we will be ready in '05."

Sadik said he and his colleagues have concluded that USC has the space and resources to support the estimated 150 students who would be enrolled in the merged program. "The most important question is where will their three years of study be, at USC or MUSC," he said.

Sadik and John Cormier, MUSC pharmacy dean, devised the merger idea and formed committees composed of faculty members and alumni to study its feasibility. The committees presented their findings to USC President Andrew Sorensen and MUSC

President Raymond Greenberg on Nov. 20.

Sorensen has been stressing the academic and financial importance of research collaboration among USC, MUSC and Clemson University for more than a year, and he has joined administrators from both schools in backing state legislation that he has said might ease the process.

If the merger is approved, administrators say the changes should take effect in fall 2005.

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

## Security locks fail to prevent bicycle thefts

BY JOCELYN MEYER  
THE GAMECOCK

Yet another string of bicycle thefts is prompting some students to reconsider leaving their expensive bikes unattended on campus.

During the past two weeks, a dozen or more bikes have been reported stolen from campus.

Third-year political science student Stafford McQuillin said his bicycle, which was worth \$100, was removed from a rack near the Horseshoe, despite being secured with a Master lock and thick chain.

"Whoever stole the bike must have known about bikes because mine was the most expensive one at the rack," McQuillin said.

"When I bought my bike, they told me the lock was theft-proof but obviously not. They must have had some serious wire cutters and worked really fast," he said.

Ernie Ellis, director of the Department of Law Enforcement and Safety, said that if people have the proper tools and are intent on stealing bicycles, they will. Having a quality lock will protect the bicycle only slightly better. However, local bicycle shops do offer insurance on bikes and locks.

Law enforcers say stolen bikes are rarely recovered.

Ellis said the main way police find stolen bikes is when they arrest someone with a bike for a different crime and run the bike's serial number.

"I may buy a cheap Huffy bike and put stuff all over it so that no one will want to steal it. A bike is such easy transportation to get to class."

STAFFORD MCQUILLIN  
THIRD-YEAR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

He added that students should be aware of the serial number on their bikes so that they can identify a lost bike if it is found.

"We sent out a notice to the officers to pay close attention where bikes are parked, but these things happen so fast that you would almost have to have police on every corner," Ellis said. "We need the communities' help with stopping these crimes."

Ellis said anyone who notices suspicious activity near bicycle racks should call 777-4215 and report it to the USCPD immediately.

Even so, increased police activity is little comfort to students such as McQuillin, who find themselves frustrated and without transportation.

"I may buy a cheap Huffy bike and put stuff all over it so that no one will want to steal it," McQuillin said. "A bike is such easy transportation to get to class."

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### MENDING A SOCIAL PROBLEM



PHOTO BY KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

Steven Byrd, a third-year political science student, and Holly Tyler, a fourth-year exercise science student, put the finishing touches on a quilt that World AIDS Day participants later laid on the capitol steps.

## AIDS Day quilters march to State House

BY JON TURNER  
THE GAMECOCK

An absolutely enormous quilt took shape at the Russell House on Monday, World AIDS Day, as patches produced by different student organizations were assembled into a blanket statement against HIV/AIDS discrimination.

The sixth-annual quilt was

marched down Sumter and Senate streets and laid to rest atop the State House steps.

The theme this year was "Stigma and Discrimination," and most of the speeches reflected that focus.

The event began at 5 p.m., with a radio beating out hip-hop and about 30 people meandering around the Russell House patio, but by the time the group left, the

crowd was closer to 100 strong. Many of the student organizations that took part in the event turned up to show their support. The patches of the quilt, most about 12 square feet, were diverse in design but carried many of the same messages, AIDS facts and statistics.

Second-year media arts student Justin Chapura was one of the first score or so to arrive at

the event.

"I came because I heard the music," he joked, then corrected himself.

"I'm here because World AIDS Day only comes once a year, and millions of people contract it every day," he said. "We should be working on a vaccine for this."

Student Body Vice President

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### CORRECTIONS

A Nov. 10 story about the South Caroliniana Library's collection of letters from soldiers in wars contained several errors.

◆The story mentioned a letter written by a black soldier, who should have been identified as Millage J. Gomillion. He was stationed at Camp Jackson, now Fort Jackson, and later served in France. Also, the story should have stated that the letter was written during World War I.

◆The story should have stated that a collection of bullets at the library is from the Civil War. The bullets do not belong to the library; they are on loan from a private collector and in a separate display.

◆Also, the headline erroneously referred to the collection of letters as an "exhibit."

The Gamecock regrets the errors.

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## Rescuing the research

Around-the-clock work allows fast electricity restoration after outage

BY JUSTIN CHAPPELL  
THE GAMECOCK

It was a cool Sunday afternoon just two days away from the beginning of Thanksgiving break when an electrical explosion inside the Graduate Science Research Center crippled the building and left it powerless. Now, some are calling the efforts to regain power and stabilize lifetime-spanning research projects nothing short of heroic.

Around 2:50 p.m. on Nov. 23, a four-inch conduit that sent power from an external transformer on Devine Street to the research center short-circuited and sent a powerful burst of air through the piping. The air was hot enough to create a small explosion that

blew the doors off a circuit box and left the building without electricity. The amount of dirt and dust that erupted from the conduit flooded the air and then triggered the fire alarm.

Reaching the center at 3:30 p.m. and being greeted by the USC police and the departing Columbia Fire Department, Scott

Goode of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was one of many professors who realized the threat of a power outage at the research center.

"Every faculty member has an active research program with Ph.D. students that needs to produce results," Goode said. "Lost enzymes could take years to replace."

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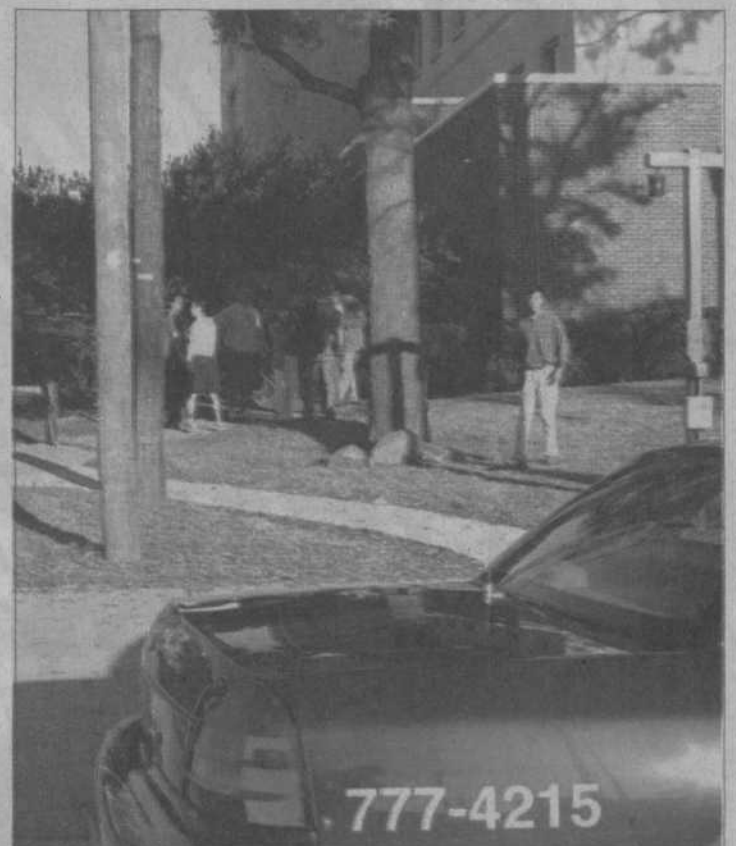


PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

Students wait outside the Graduate Science Research Center after a power outage caused the fire alarm to go off on Nov. 23.