

## Caroling at Carolina



PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

Higher Harmony sings at the tree-lighting ceremony on the Horseshoe on Wednesday night.

## Sexual orientation added to policy

*USC spokesman says university president has added protection for gays to nondiscrimination clause*

BY KEVIN FELLNER  
THE GAMECOCK

USC President Andrew Sorensen and other administrative officials have decided to add sexual orientation to the university's nondiscrimination policy.

Sorensen and the university's administrative council, comprised of USC's six vice presidents, General Counsel Terry Parham, Equal Opportunity Programs Director Bobby Gist and other top-level officials, decided to change the policy last month and have it take effect immediately for all USC campuses.

"I think Dr. Sorensen felt it was just time to move ahead with this," USC spokesman Russ McKinney said. "I think he felt it had been considered long enough and thoroughly enough that it warranted action."

McKinney said Sorensen didn't publicly announce the change because he felt it was mostly ceremonial and that the university has always been opposed to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but has never forbidden it in its policies and procedures.

The new policy states an individual can't be discriminated against based on his or her sexual orientation in matters of "educational or employment oppor-

tunities or decisions on the basis of personal characteristics that are not relevant to an individual's abilities, qualifications or job performance."

But the plan doesn't apply to the university's relationship with other agencies, such as the federal or state governments, which have their own nondiscrimination policies, in matters including benefit and retirement plans administered by those agencies.

Colt Broome, a third-year advertising student and president of USC's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance, applauded the decision but said it still doesn't eliminate discrimination as a whole.

"I think it's important to make the point to accept sexual orientation as a form of diversity," Broome said.

McKinney said support of a sexual-orientation provision in the discrimination policy has been present on campus for at least five years and played a role in Sorensen's decision.

"I think it certainly had some bearing," McKinney said about public opinion on campus. "I think any good college president, and especially President Sorensen, values the opinion of the university family."

Sorensen faced questions about his stance on the proposed policy change since his arrival at

USC in July 2002. In March, he promised a group of students gathered at the Russell House that he would communicate with university employees and students about the issue.

Third-year public relations student and former BGLA vice president Michael Mazzell said he thinks the new policy is a major change for the university's character.

"With the new president and a new outlook on the university, it's definitely good news to receive," Mazzell said.

Both Broome and Mazzell said they think the policy change reflects a growing acceptance of gays in society.

McKinney stressed that the university doesn't have a history of discriminating based on sexual orientation and that the policy was changed to make practicing nondiscrimination official.

Administrators agree that the policy is conceptually similar to policies already held by more than 500 universities nationwide, McKinney said. Furman University and the College of Charleston have sexual orientation listed in their nondiscrimination policies.

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

## School of Law might announce new dean today

BY KEVIN FELLNER  
THE GAMECOCK

USC administrators said an announcement naming the new dean of the School of Law is likely to be made sometime this morning.

While there is no word yet on whom the university will choose, administrators say it is sure to be one of the three finalists named on Oct. 24: C. Peter Goplerud III, dean of the Drake University Law School; Burnele Powell, dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School; and Rodney J. Uphoff, associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School.

Columbia attorney Frank Mood has been serving as interim dean since May, when he replaced retiring dean John Montgomery.

The university was courting Bob Hillman from the University of California-Davis in the spring when he withdrew his name from candidacy shortly after being of-

fered the position in April. The law school then restarted the search.

The dean search committee members and Interim Dean Frank Mood wouldn't comment on the search.

The university has yet to fill the position despite more than two years of searching. After having filled two vice-president positions earlier this year, administrators have said naming a new dean would allow for more leadership and a stronger vision for the law school and university as a whole.

Law school officials also now have to worry about local competition, with a private law school scheduled to open in Charleston next fall.

USC Law School saw its assistant dean of admissions, John Benfield, resign in October to take a job at the Charleston Law School.

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## Lending a hand



PHOTO BY JASON STEELMAN/THE GAMECOCK

Stephen Fastenav, left, a first-year engineering student, and Clemson alumnus Eddi Arecco donated cans to play poker Thursday night during an RHA fund-raiser at Top of Carolina.

## City threatens to charge residents parking on grass

BY JON TURNER  
THE GAMECOCK

As the result of the compliance deadline of city ordinance 2003-021, finalized in April, some Columbia residents were surprised to find warning notices from the city clipped to their windshields threatening costly citations.

Jason Fant, a resident of the 1851 Blossom St. apartment complex, home to several USC students, was outraged at notices served to residents there. "I think that sucks," he said, "I'd be kind of pissed off to pay that much of a fine." He said he pays his bills and that "I should be able to park where I want to park."

But Fant said he wasn't going to worry about the possibility of being ticketed.

"It's supposed to be a space, but I don't know," he said, "I'll see if I get a ticket. If I do I'll just bill my f---ing landlord."

The letter issued by the city recommends that landlords "make alternate arrangements"

for residents of noncompliant buildings. Fortunately, in Fant's case, his landlord was on top of things.

Renee Pruitt, working in property management and real estate for Landmark Resources, said the main problem with updating Fant's complex stemmed from coordinating the residents.

"At one time, the owner had gravel there, but over time it's gotten packed down," she said. "The problem is not so much getting gravel hauled into the property; there's just limited space to park. What I've had trouble with is just coordinating time to park with a time to bring in gravel."

"We've had the gravel dumped today, so we're in compliance now. What I had to do was call one of the city employees doing the inspection and ask for the extension. So basically she gave me a week to come into compliance."

Compliance, says Marc Mylott, city zoning administrator, is all the city really wants.

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### Weather

TODAY		SATURDAY	
High 55	Low 37	High 53	Low 29

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## Virus hits campus via AOL Instant Messenger

BY JUSTIN CHAPPELL  
THE GAMECOCK

A computer virus swept across USC's campus Thursday afternoon by planting unauthorized links in AOL Instant Messenger profiles and directing users to a Web site that automatically downloaded the virus.

The virus, Win32.Alpha.Worm, inserted misleading text links into AIM profiles and spread to other users after they clicked the link, which had seemingly harmless names like "RealPHX.com," "TalkStocks.net" or "BuddyPictures.net." Once the virus was downloaded to a computer, it altered preset home pages and installed pornographic links in the navigation bar.

USC Network Security Engineer Russell Kaiser said the virus operates through a hole in the Windows Internet Explorer browser that allowed the virus to install harmful code on computers visiting the Web sites.

Clicking a buddy's link is sec-

ond nature for most students because AOL Instant Messenger serves as a common communication platform on college campuses.

"I didn't know it was a virus when I clicked on it," said Kimberly Hartig, third-year management student and victim of the virus.

Hartig said the virus deceived her because it appeared as a link in a friend's profile that read, "I can't believe I found (user's name)'s picture here." The virus personalized the text and changed

the user's name for each person who viewed it. The word "here" then linked to pornographic Web sites.

While the virus does not appear to do any internal damage to a computer, fourth-year accounting student Andrew Christopher was outraged when his sister downloaded the virus and pornographic images appeared on her computer screen.

"Her young, virgin mind was corrupted by this devastating and

♦ AIM, SEE PAGE 2