

THE GAMECOCK

University of South Carolina
www.dailygamecock.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2004

Vol. 97, No. 56
Since 1908

Free throw frenzy



The USC faithful at the Carolina Center attempt to distract LSU's guard Xavier Whipple in Carolina's 6-point win. The crowd at Saturday night's game totaled 17,927 people. ♦ FOR MORE SEE PAGE 10

PHOTO BY DAVID STAGG/THE GAMECOCK

Candidates file as SG election season begins

BY JON TURNER
THE GAMECOCK

The Student Government election season begins today with filing for SG offices from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Russell House. Filing runs through Tuesday.

The SG presidential election was hotly contested last year, and it took a run-off for President Katie Dreiling to garner 50 percent of the vote.

Dreiling said the difficulty of winning the election generally fluctuates with the number of candidates in the race. Last year there were six candidates before the run-off narrowed the field.

"It's generally pretty hard," Dreiling said. "But the main thing is to talk to as many students and as many organizations as you can, and let them

know the platform you're running on and why you'd be a good president."

She said that after candidates file for the election, they'll receive election packets with a schedule of opportunities to address groups and to distribute flyers around the Russell House.

"I'm interested to see who does file," Dreiling said, "I've told all the people interested in running that they're more than welcome to come and talk to me about the office. I'm not going to pick any sides."

Although nothing is certain until Tuesday, SG Sen. Carol Copeland said she was fairly certain about at least one of the can-

didates.

"I know Zach Scott is planning to run for president," she said. "Other than that, I've heard a lot of people talking, but I think a lot of people are intimidated, because he really won by a wide margin when he ran for vice-president."

SG Sen. Cameron Burnette said he hoped Scott would run.

"All I've heard is rumors, and you know how rumors are," he said. "I'd like to see Zach file; I think Zach would do a good job. This is my first year in Student Government, and he's been really helpful. He tries to keep us in-

formed as well as possible... and if we need anything, or if they need anything, we help each other out."

Burnette said that, although he only came to USC last spring, he thought SG had done a particu-

larly good job this year. "We got stuff accomplished this year that, at least in the very recent past, we haven't been able to do," he said.

Dreiling said she hoped the prospective candidates could maintain positive approaches in their campaigns for what she considers a vital role in connecting students and administration.

"You know, you are the voice of the student population," she said. "It's a time-consuming position, but it's well worth it if you put the effort into it."

"You know, you are the voice of the student population. It's a time-consuming position, but it's well worth it if you put the effort into it"

KATIE DREILING
SG PRESIDENT

Comments on this story? E-mail
gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

Smoke bomb causes morning evacuation, lingering odor for South Quad residents

BY JUSTIN CHAPPELL
THE GAMECOCK

A smoke bomb triggered fire alarms early Sunday morning in South Quad residence hall and filled the entire building with smoke, leaving residents outdoors for more than an hour.

The smoke bomb was set off around 6:45 a.m. in the southwest stairwell of South Quad, near the corner of Sumter and Wheat streets. Both the USC Police Department and the Columbia Fire Department were present at the scene.

"We were outside until basically 8 a.m.," said Brooks Willet, South Quad resident adviser and third-year mathematics and Russian student.

While USCPD and housing officials are still investigating the source of the smoke bomb, South Quad residence life coordinator,

Todd Cellini, said it was a "two-minute" smoke bomb, which means it emitted smoke for two minutes continuously.

"It gave off enough smoke to simulate a fire," Cellini said. "It was not a good situation."

The second, third and fourth floor hallways of South Quad were filled with smoke, according to USCPD reports.

"Some of the rooms still smell," Willet said about 10 hours after the incident.

Officials were unwilling to comment on specifics because of the ongoing investigation.

The effects of the smoke bomb were not lasting. Willet said there was no obvious damage to the stairwell.

The four-stories tall South Quad, built in 1996, houses approximately 400 students.

Comments on this story? E-mail
gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu



A smoke bomb in the southwest stairwell of South Quad filled three floors of the building with smoke.

PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

5 adults, 1 child die in Greenville motel fire

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENVILLE — Six people, including a toddler, died early Sunday in a motel fire that sent panicked guests jumping from windows into the parking lot and produced smoke so thick some of the victims ran toward the worst

of the blaze as they tried to escape.

The fire at the Comfort Inn started shortly before 4:30 a.m., said Wade Hampton Fire Chief Gary Downey. It took firefighters 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze, but guests and authorities said smoke filled the motel quickly, sending guests in their pajamas into a chaotic scramble for the ex-

its. Investigators didn't know what sparked the fire, which began on the third floor of the five-story inn along I-385. The building didn't have sprinklers.

"If there had been sprinkler systems in the hallways, probably the fatalities and injuries would not have been near what they were,"

Downey said.

He said the county fire marshal told him the building was not required to have sprinklers, and the motel passed its last inspection less than a year ago when it changed from a Days Inn to a Comfort Inn.

♦ FIRE, SEE PAGE 4

Safety board offers week of activities

BY JULIE LEDBETTER
THE GAMECOCK

The Safety Board will be having a week of safety events from Wednesday to Saturday that will include a Safety Walk, an evening shuttle promotion, a bike ride for Critical Mass and a self-defense class.

The Safety Walk will take place Wednesday at 8 p.m. and is open to the public. Everyone will meet on the second floor of the Russell House, where they will be separated into groups. Each group will walk a different area of campus looking for anything that appears unsafe, including broken lights, broken call boxes or locations that need call boxes.

The groups will also be walk-

ing in areas off campus where most students walk anyway, such as university neighborhoods. The Greek Village and the Roost are also on the list, because they were not covered last year.

"The goal is to have the entire campus covered," said Katie McClendon, Student Government safety director. "Whatever the group sees is a problem in that area, they'll just write it down and if it's on city property, we'll take the concerns to the city; and if it's on campus property, we'll take it to the people on campus that can fix it."

The Sorority Council will be organizing a group that will cover

♦ SAFETY, SEE PAGE 4

The Daily Gamecock is finally daily
Find us online five days a week at www.dailygamecock.com

Hazardous Weather

USC has delayed classes until 10 a.m. today. Check www.sc.edu for updates.



What's Inside

♦ **TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS** Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity will hold a recruiting session. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 3**
♦ **GOT WEAPONS?** Former U.S. weapons inspector says there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before U.S. attacks. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 4**

♦ **MARRIAGE POLICY** Bush's faith-based initiative hurts marriage. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 6**
♦ **BY ANY OTHER NAME** Graham Culbertson is confused by USC's Christian organizations. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 6**
♦ **CHATTING IT UP** Cell phones have become a campus accessory. **FOR**

MORE SEE PAGE 7
♦ **THE BIG CHILL** As the cold settles in, students bundle up. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 7**
♦ **TIGERS BURNED** Men's basketball wins its fourth straight SEC contest. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 10**
♦ **CRAZY EIGHTS** Women's basketball team loses its eighth straight game. **FOR MORE SEE PAGE 10**

Index

Comics and Crossword	9
Classifieds	12
Horoscopes	9
Letters to the Editor	6
Online Poll	6
Police Report	2
Entertainment News	2
USC Calendar	2

Weather

	TODAY	TUESDAY
High	37	52
Low	35	30
	Freezing rain, southeast winds 9 mph	Mostly sunny, west winds 16 mph

Visit us



online at:
www.dailygamecock.com

The Gamecock is printed on recycled paper.