

# THE GAMECOCK

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## No new parking plans at Strom

Z'ANNE COVELL  
THE GAMECOCK

Parking director Derrick Huggins said his department has no plans for creating more parking spaces at the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center, despite complaints from students.

Although the university owns land behind the Wellness Center, which could be used for another parking lot, Huggins said additional parking specifically for the Wellness Center is not financially possible.

"To make that land into parking would cost around one million dollars to develop," Huggins said. "We're not budgeted to do something like that right now."

Kurtis Kennedy, a second-year management science student, who received a ticket for parking illegally at the Wellness Center, said USC should have put more of the money budgeted for the Wellness Center toward parking.

"If they don't have a million dollars to spend on a parking lot, then they shouldn't have spent millions of dollars on ridiculous things like those hand sensors," Kennedy

said. "I'd rather have parking."

Huggins said a new parking lot is unnecessary, though, considering the other options available for students using the Wellness Center.

"Even though there are only 125 close spaces, there are over 2,000 spaces across the street," Huggins said. "Students can park in the other lots and use the bridges."

Huggins said the bridges were specifically designed to alleviate the parking problems at the Wellness Center.

"We did anticipate lots of students using the Strom Thurmond Wellness Center, and that is why those bridges were built," Huggins said. "The university spent a couple million dollars on those bridges for students to walk across from the other parking lots."

Huggins said students can utilize the shuttle systems if finding a parking space is not possible.

According to Huggins, students have begun to double park, park along the curbs and park in the grass, destroying the landscape. He says the USCPD will continue ticketing students who park illegally in the Wellness Center parking lot.

"Just because there are no close parking spaces doesn't mean students can park wherever they want," Huggins said. "We must have rules and regulations to avoid chaos, and to enforce these rules we must give out tickets."

Students will be ticketed \$25 when parking in the grass, in a no-parking area or along a yellow painted curb. Students will be ticketed \$15 when blocking a sidewalk or driveway.

Huggins said Vehicle Management and Parking Services uses the money collected from tickets for the maintenance of the campus' parking lots and parking garages.

Paul Wilkes, a second-year sports and entertainment management student, said ticket fees could be used more effectively.

"Money for new parking should not be a problem," Wilkes said. "The money received from people paying their parking tickets could be used to solve the problem with a new parking lot, and the problem would end."

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## Slamming Alabama

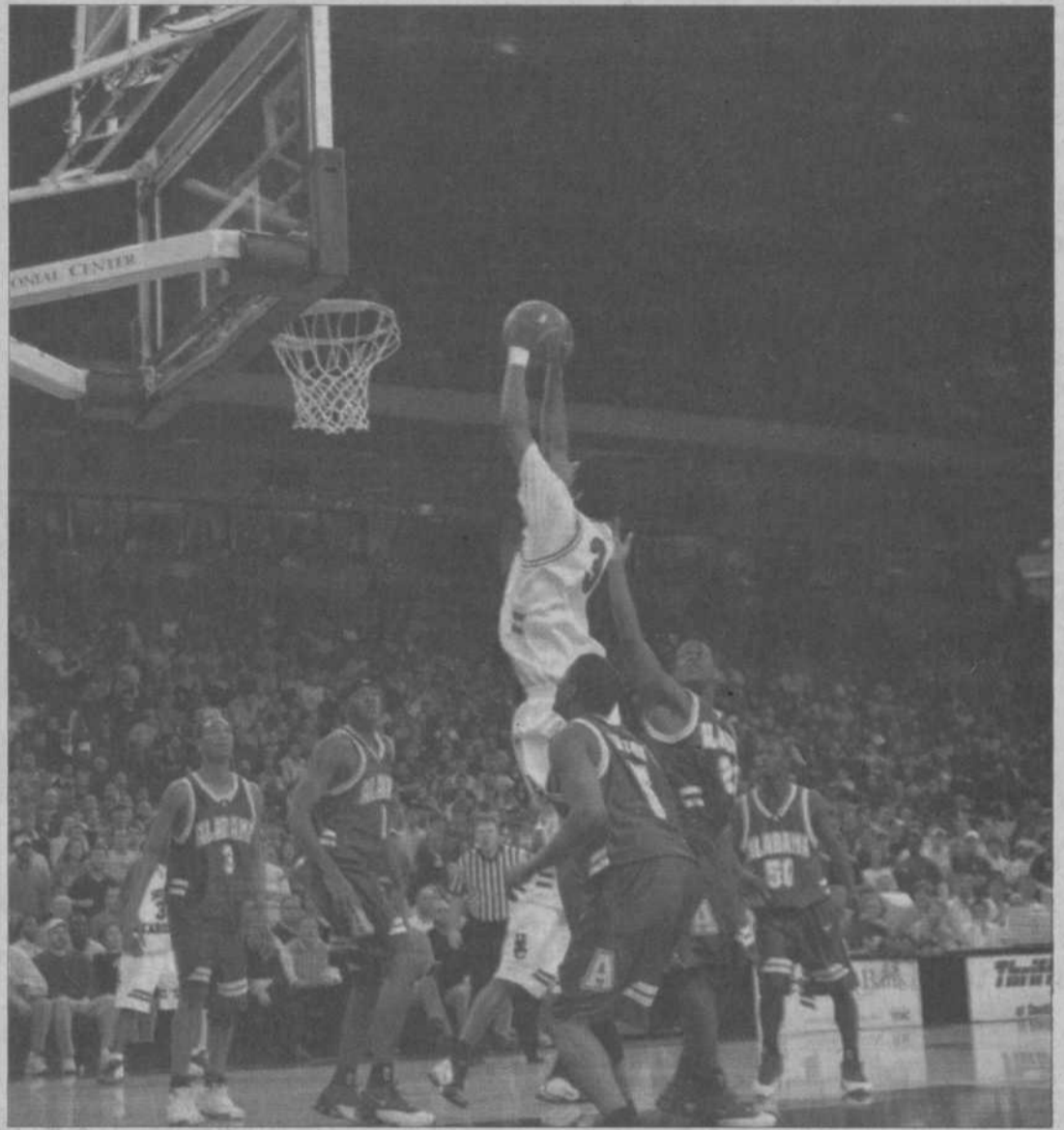


PHOTO BY DAVID STAGG/THE GAMECOCK

Forward Rinaldo Balkman goes up for a slam dunk in USC's victory over Alabama on Wednesday, 90-82. ♦ FOR MORE SEE PAGE 7



PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

From left, Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Marcus Alexander, Marc Grimmitt and Tiffany Stewart answer students' questions.

## Panel speaks on progress of black students

BY PATRICK AUGUSTINE  
THE GAMECOCK

Nearly 80 students filled the Russell House Theater Tuesday to hear USC and state leaders discuss the progress blacks have made on campus in the university's first State of the Black Student Address.

Organized by USC's African American Association of Students, the panel discussion brought together students with dignitaries like Rep. Leon Howard, D-Richland, and state NAACP President Lonnie Randolph.

The eight-person panel answered questions from moderator and AAAS President Justin

Williams, centered around the theme "Do black students belong at USC?"

In response to a question about the progress USC has made since it was integrated in 1963, Howard said the university had the duty to use its influence to push statewide changes that would benefit minorities. Randolph said the problem is that "other ethnic groups continue to not have the barriers that people of color still have" in South Carolina, and went on to advocate an academic recruiting system for minority students modeled after the one used by the athletics department.

♦ AAAS, SEE PAGE 3

## Ricin investigators search Capitol Hill

BY CURT ANDERSON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Investigators expanded their search Thursday for the source of ricin discovered on Capitol Hill after intensive testing of a Senate office mailroom failed to turn up the deadly poison's origin.

The ricin was discovered in Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's office. Law enforcement officials say no letter or note has been found indicating how it got there, who was behind it and whether the Tennessee Republican was the target.

"We're not at the point in time

where we can say how it was delivered," said Michael Mason, assistant FBI director in charge of the Washington field office. "We have not found a hot letter."

Mail has been the primary focus of the probe since Monday, when an intern found a small amount of ricin on a mail-sorting machine in Frist's office. But no further ricin or other evidence was in the stacks of letters nearby.

Because no answers have come from mail or items in the mailroom, investigators now must consider if the ricin was placed on the machine by someone or if it had spilled out of an

older letter and been there for a long time. If so, investigators would have to trace the paths of these older letters, some of which may have been destroyed.

The discovery prompted the closure of three Senate office buildings, one of which reopened Thursday, and decontamination procedures for staff and Capitol police officers who were at the scene. Ricin is a highly toxic substance with no known antidote.

Although no one has become ill from the ricin, nine staffers in Frist's office have been asked to submit two blood samples to Navy medical researchers, Frist spokesman Nick Smith said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

A U.S. Capitol police officer guards a doorway of the closed Hart Senate Office Building Wednesday.

## USC celebrates Black History Month

BY LESLIE DENNIS  
THE GAMECOCK

As a tribute to Black History Month, organizations at USC have prepared a month of music, speeches and presentations honoring black heritage and culture.

The events are not only designed to be entertaining, but will provide learning for students unfamiliar with black history programs.

"The goal of our Black History Month celebration is to educate the USC community about contributions made by historical and contemporary men and women of color," said Carl R. Wells, director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

The Russell House will be showing films featuring prominent black actors and actresses, including Academy Award winners Denzel Washington and Cuba Gooding Jr.

Grammy-winning artist Roberta Flack will appear in a USC production at the Koger Center Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. in a benefit concert for The Auntie Karen Foundation.

Tickets range from \$30 to \$37.50 and proceeds will go toward the foundation's mission to "empower, enlighten and educate children through the arts with a series of outreach programs," according to the foundation's Web site, www.auntiekaren.org.

Professors from various USC campuses will be speaking on black history and personal experiences in the fight for equality.

"I will be talking about the civil rights movement and assessing experiences from the sit-ins to the march on Washington leading up to the black power and anti-war movement," said Cleveland Sellers, director of USC's African-American Studies Program.

To extend education about blacks and other minority groups throughout the year, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs has planned a retreat for students.

"We have devised a diversity retreat to take key student leaders to educate about issues such as gender, race, gays and lesbians," Wells said.

Comments on this story? E-mail  
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### SURF YOURSELF

For information about upcoming programs, visit the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs' Web site at <http://www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/>.

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### Weather

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
High 66 Low 47 Showers and windy	High 54 Low 28 Party cloudy and windy

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