

RAs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plans at this point. We're developing our budget for next year for university housing. We always take a look at our staffing and what the benefits are," he said.

Scott's plan involved third-year RAs taking on a position as senior RAs.

Senior RAs would be responsible for assisting the RHD with programming events and would receive free housing.

"The original proposal was instead of just throwing more money at third-year RAs, whenever you do pick up all of their housing you actually give them more responsibilities to take care of,

and they would be assisting the RHD of each building, so they would be able to maybe staff the front desk or handle any programming that may come up," Scott said.

Luna said Housing is open to ideas from students.

"We welcome those kinds of recommendations from Zach and from really any students on campus, and we do take those seriously, and sometimes they intersect well with plans we already have and other times they cause us to think different ways, but they are always welcomed, and we'll always consider them," Luna said.

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

Government

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

twice a year to lobby for our interests, but we figured if we had all the other schools with us, it would give us much more clout at the State House. We decided to ask for any schools that would be interested in joining an inter-university student government council, and the response from schools all across the state was astounding."

Anderson said with the state's economy in such bad shape, higher education has been receiving cuts almost every semester. The issue is especially sensitive for Clemson. It lost seven times more

public service funding than USC and 11 times more than the College of Charleston.

According to USC's SG Vice President Zachery Scott, there was a meeting during the summer about creating the council and another meeting a few weeks ago where participating universities drew up a declaration outlining the basics of the organization, including the participating universities and the organization's mission. A seven-student delegation drawn from participating schools will meet in April to draw up a council constitution to outline its agenda and rules for operation and set an official name.

Scott is one of the seven representatives who will help to author

this constitution.

"I'm glad USC will be a member of this council. Now we can finally take concrete action to prevent these budget cuts from happening, rather than just being one more voice in a chorus of complaints," Scott said.

Scott said the minimal first-year costs of the organization are covered by a grant but that eventually the organization will charge a membership fee for universities to join based on size.

According to SG President Katie Dreiling, USC is working on a similar project called the President's Council to bring together student government presidents of USC's satellite campuses to address higher education budget cuts.

"The administration is behind us 100 percent in the creation of both the President's Council and the inter-university council," Dreiling said. She added that the President's Council will work closely with USC lobbyist Johnny Gregory to make sure its message is heard in the State House.

"It really amazes me to see how far this inter-university council has come since its conception, especially since it was almost all students, not faculty, who were able to recognize the need for such a council and who had the drive and ambition to make it a reality," Dreiling said.

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

Students aim to black out MSU

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

Three USC students are working to bring back the Blackout when Carolina takes on Mississippi State tonight at the Colonial Center.

Mike Arthur, Levi Boudreau and Rebecca Campbell said they've been Gamecock fans for as long as they can remember.

"We just love the basketball team and don't feel like they get the support they deserve," said Campbell, a second-year civil engineering student. Together, the three have been urging students and fans all week to come to the game wearing black.

Arthur, a third-year political science student, said he wanted to do something to show support for the basketball team, a group he said has worked hard this year.

Arthur ran the idea of holding a basketball Blackout by coach Dave

Odom at his radio show last week.

"He said he would support anything that created unity," Arthur said.

With Odom's blessing, Arthur and his friends enlisted the help of Student Government to publicize the Blackout.

Arthur said they chose the Mississippi State game because so much will be on the line when the Gamecocks meet the Bulldogs tonight.

An Eastern Division powerhouse, Mississippi State has the best record in the SEC with 19 wins and one loss, the result of a miscue in the final seconds of a game against Kentucky.

The Gamecocks are 19-4, with conference losses against Kentucky, Florida and Ole Miss. Carolina is in second place in the Eastern Division.

"If we win this game it will do so much to let the country know

that the Gamecocks are a major power in the SEC," Arthur said.

USC last tried a Blackout in a football game against Florida in 2001. The result of that contest was a 52-17 victory for the Gators.

"I've heard some people say they didn't know about the Blackout because of what happened against Florida," Arthur said.

"I think we would have lost that game no matter what. I don't think the stadium color is very important."

Boudreau, a third-year chemistry student, said the Blackout was effective despite the loss.

"The atmosphere was there," Boudreau said.

For her part, Campbell said those worried about the Blackout because of the Florida game are too superstitious.

"I think they're being silly," she said.

No matter how effective stu-

dents' efforts prove, Boudreau said fans shouldn't expect the Blackout by itself to produce results on the court.

"It's not going to make our team stellar," Boudreau said. Campbell added, "It's really more about unifying the students and the other fans."

Arthur said the Blackout symbolizes unity before it intimidates the Bulldog.

"If it does intimidate that's a great side effect," Arthur said. "It's just to show the team that we're behind them."

Even so, organizers are banking on the energy the Blackout will bring to the floor.

"It'll certainly give the Mississippi State Bulldogs a hell of a welcome," SG Vice President Zachery Scott said.

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

How would you score?

LSAT
GMAT
GRE
MCAT
DAT

Take a practice test at Kaplan's Test Drive and find out.

February 28th at 10am
University of South Carolina
Gambrell Hall

To register, call or visit us online today!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com/testdrive

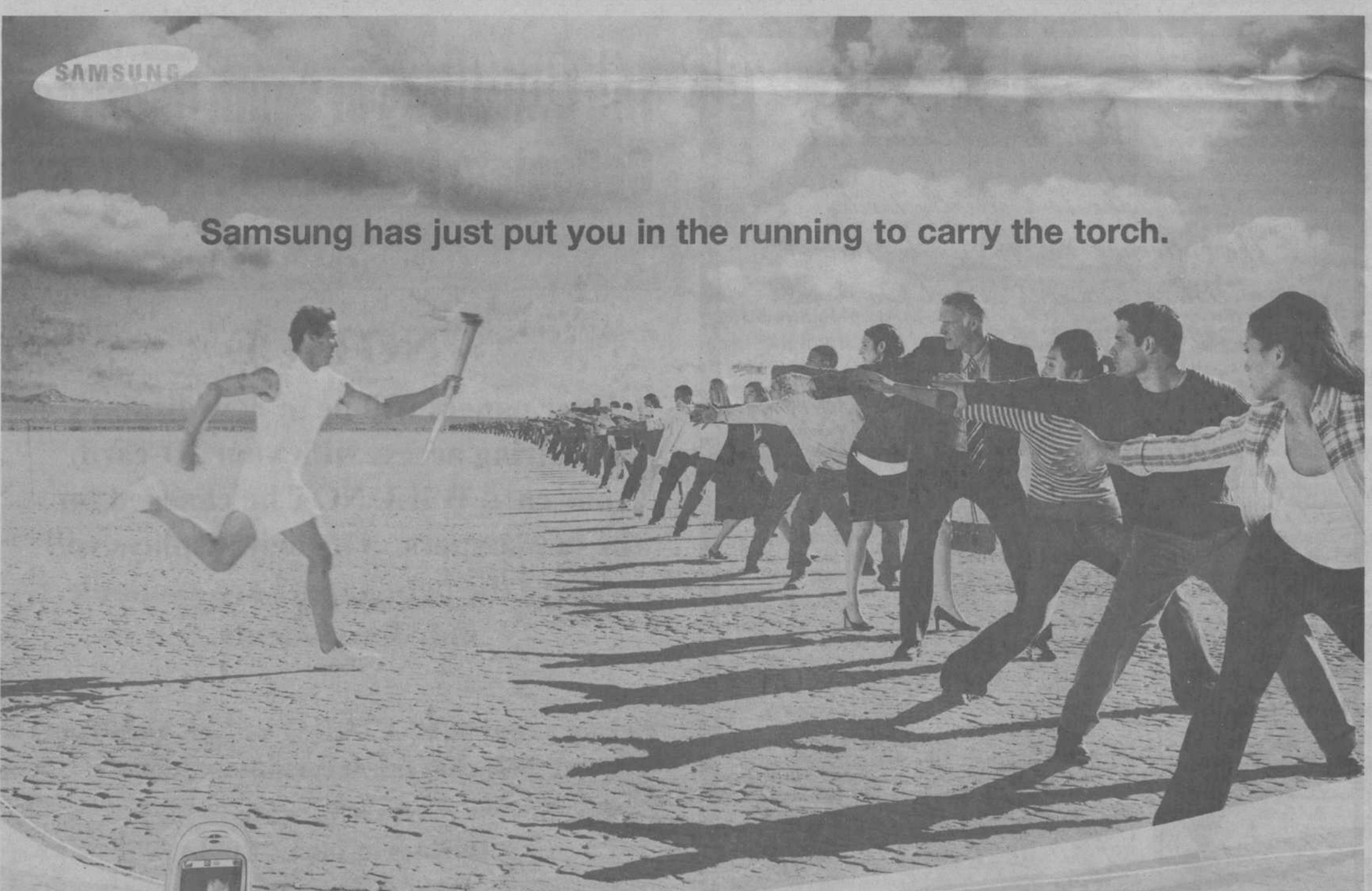
Test Prep and Admissions

*Test names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

garnet&black

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of Garnet & Black by attending its block party Friday on Greene Street

Samsung has just put you in the running to carry the torch.



Samsung x426
Wireless Phone

Write an essay and you could be a torchbearer for the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Torch Relay. Just visit www.samsungusa.com/olympics

Samsung is bringing you one step closer to the glory and fame of the Olympic Games. Just write a simple 50-word online essay at www.samsungusa.com/olympics explaining how you embody the Olympic spirit. If your submission wins, you could have the honor of being an Olympic torchbearer as the torch goes on tour. It's your chance to potentially share in a unique moment of Olympic history for all the world to see. Samsung. Share the experience.

Pass the flame, unite the world.



www.dailygamecock.com