



USC apologizes for ZTA incident

Janet Jackson impersonation upsets black community, sparks backlash

BY ADAM BEAM
THE GAMECOCK

USC has apologized for a March 2 incident during Zeta Tau Alpha's "Big Man on Campus" fund-raiser where a white student wore black body paint to impersonate Janet Jackson in her Super Bowl halftime performance.

"The university regrets the incident occurred and finds it significant that the sponsoring organization, whom I believe was Zeta Tau Alpha, has provided a public apology for the actions of one of its contestants who in their attempt to use a current event for humor was in fact offensive to attendees

in the audience," said Dennis Pruitt, vice president of student affairs. USC is investigating the incident. Pruitt spoke for USC President Andrew Sorensen, who was at a dinner Tuesday night with the president of the Medical University of South Carolina.

According to Rodney Hollis, president of Kappa Alpha Psi, the fraternity was invited to participate in the ZTA event, a male beauty pageant that raised money for breast cancer research. Hollis said the group was supposed to perform a step show, but walked out after the Jackson impersonation.

Hollis said a white student, who

ZTA representatives identified as Tim Tice, a second-year history student representing Alpha Delta Pi, walked on stage with his legs painted black, wearing a black, skintight T-shirt with the word "Janet" written across his stomach.

"We saw — and I don't think this is an exaggeration — a modern day minstrel show," Hollis said. "The whole show was done like it was making fun of black people."

In a phone interview, Tice confirmed that he did represent ADPi during the event and said, "All I've got to say is sorry for the misunderstanding," before hanging up. ZTA representatives said they have contacted ADPi to tell them the skit was inappropriate.

Pruitt said Sorensen has "instructed the university staff to continue to engage in dialogue to

determine exactly what happened at this event."

Student Life Director Jerry Brewer said ZTA sent a written apology to Kappa Alpha Psi within hours of the event.

Members of AAAS and Kappa Alpha Psi met with ZTA representatives and Brewer Tuesday afternoon in the Russell House. Five ZTA representatives attended the meeting, including president Lindsey Dupree, Big Man on Campus co-chairwomen Rebecca Long and Miller Bethea, legal counsel Erin Cook and adviser Heather B. Oana.

Brewer didn't mention a reprimand for ZTA or the participants in the fund-raiser, but did ask for a list of participants' names.

Oana said ZTA policy prohibit-



Student Life Director Jerry Brewer answers questions from concerned students and faculty members.

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St. Patrick's Day festival comes to Five Points

BY JULIE LEDBETTER
THE GAMECOCK

After having two celebrations on the same day last March, there will be only one St. Patrick's Day festival in Columbia this year.

The Five Points Association and the St. Patrick's Day Charity Committee held St. Patrick's Day festivals in 2003.

This year, the St. Patrick's Day Charity Committee will hold its festival in Capital City Stadium April 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and

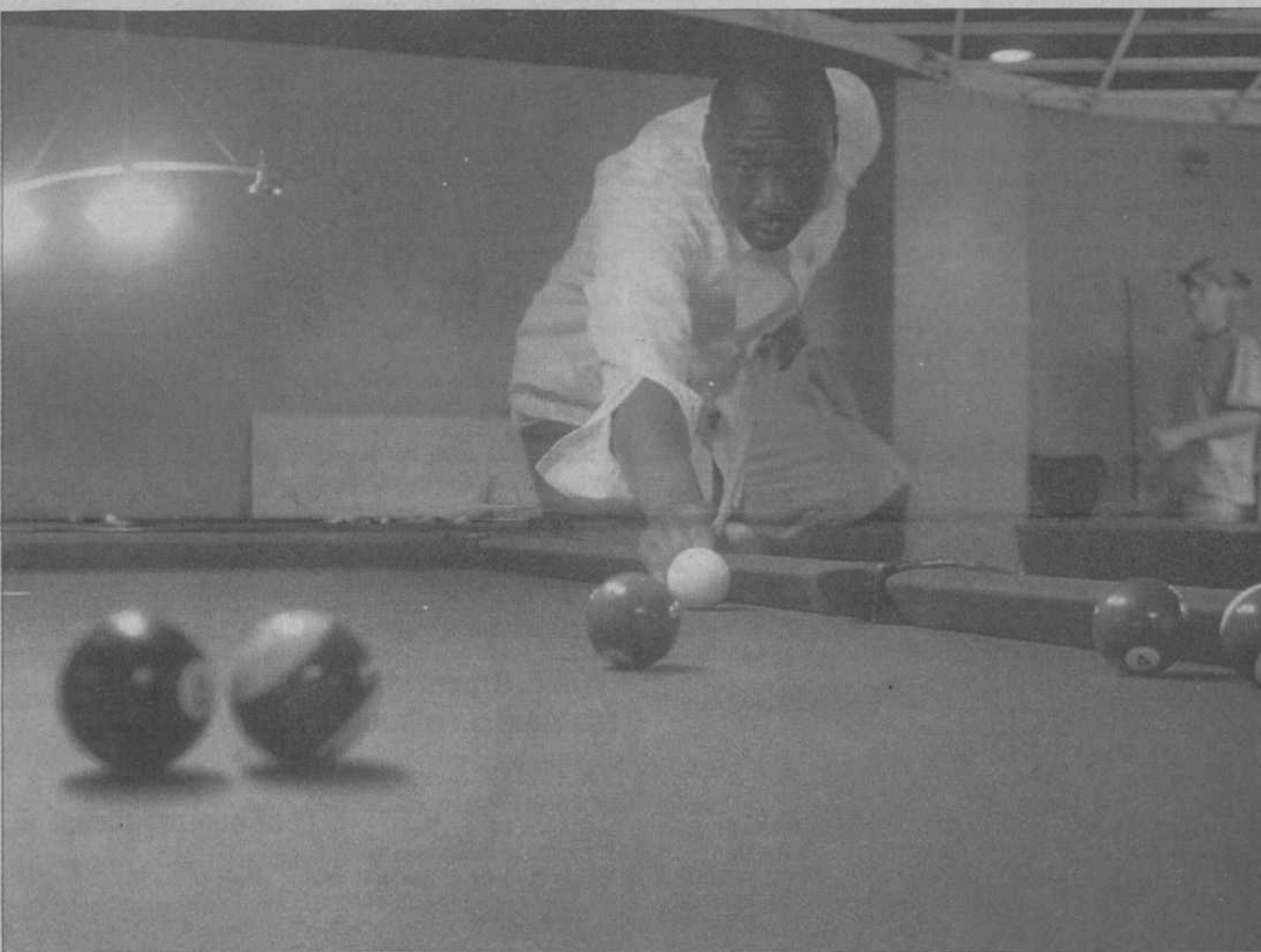
will feature a carnival and rides. A ticket to the April 12 Capital City Bombers game will get you in.

Geah Pressgrove, the public relations director for the Five Points Association, said it's better to have just one festival at a time.

"To have two festivals for St. Patrick's Day on one day in Columbia just creates two competing events, and people have to decide where they want to go and

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Rack 'em



William "Tank" Clark, a fourth-year business student, plays billiards in the Golden Spur in the Russell House basement.

PHOTO BY MORGAN FORD/THE GAMECOCK

Golden Spur reopens for students

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

The reopening of an old campus hangout in a new location is providing students and university staff alike with a place to practice ping-pong serves and billiard breaks.

The Golden Spur, a new game room in the basement of the Russell House, opened Monday

and is offering free billiards until Saturday to promote the new location.

The game room usually charges \$.75 an hour for billiard table use and \$.25 for ping-pong balls.

Money made from the billiard tables and ping-pong ball sales covers employee expenses and fixed operating costs.

The old game room, Cocky's Corner Pocket, was closed April

2003. It was located on the second floor of the Russell House where the Student Government offices are now.

The new room is roughly the same size as Cocky's Corner Pocket. The Office of Business Affairs operated past game rooms, but the Office of Student Life took over last year.

"We were able to take what they did and build on their suc-

cess," said Carmela Carr, director of the Russell House University Union.

Carr said the chance to shoot pool for free has attracted a lot of students so far.

"It's pretty much been packed for the last two days," Carr said. "We're hearing a lot of positive comments."

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Surf Yourself

Check out the events at www.stpatsinfivepoints.com

Address: www.dailygamecock.com

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Shops in Five Points get in the Irish spirit for St. Patrick's Day.

Symposium to feature rare MLK speech film

BY Z'ANNE COVELL
THE GAMECOCK

An obscure film of Martin Luther King Jr. speaking in Kingstree, S.C., will be screened during next week's Orphan Film Symposium, the university's annual presentation of rare and neglected films.

The film, which will be shown the Russell House Theater on March 24 at 8 p.m., is part of a film collection donated to the university by WIS-TV.

According to Orphan Film Symposium organizer Dan Streible, the film was originally shot as a clip for the news station when King visited Kingstree in 1966 to rally black voters.

"This would have been big news in that little town," Streible said. "He was speaking in a place where news often didn't happen."

Streible said since the film was originally intended for television broadcast, it was shot using 16mm

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Film festival flies, climbs

BY JUSTIN CHAPPELL
THE GAMECOCK

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is coming to USC next Thursday as part of its world tour that showcases the "world's best" visual footage on mountain subjects.

The festival promises to bring scenes of ice climbing in Canada and paragliding in the

Himalayas, as well as environmental and cultural stories from

around the globe — including the story of Biscuit, a small rock-climbing dog who scales mountain-sides alone.

This is the first time Columbia

will play host to the festival, which travels annually throughout 175 cities in North America since its inception in 1976.

Half-Moon Outfitters, 2930 Devine St., is sponsoring the Columbia showing because of three years of past success with the films in Greenville.

"It's sort of like the Sundance Film Festival, except it's all mountain oriented," said April Breazeale, Columbia Half-Moon Outfitters store manager and three-time attendee. "It's something you can't go rent."

Shawn Hunter, marketing and communications manager for the Banff festival, wrote in an e-mail that the films will "thrill

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