

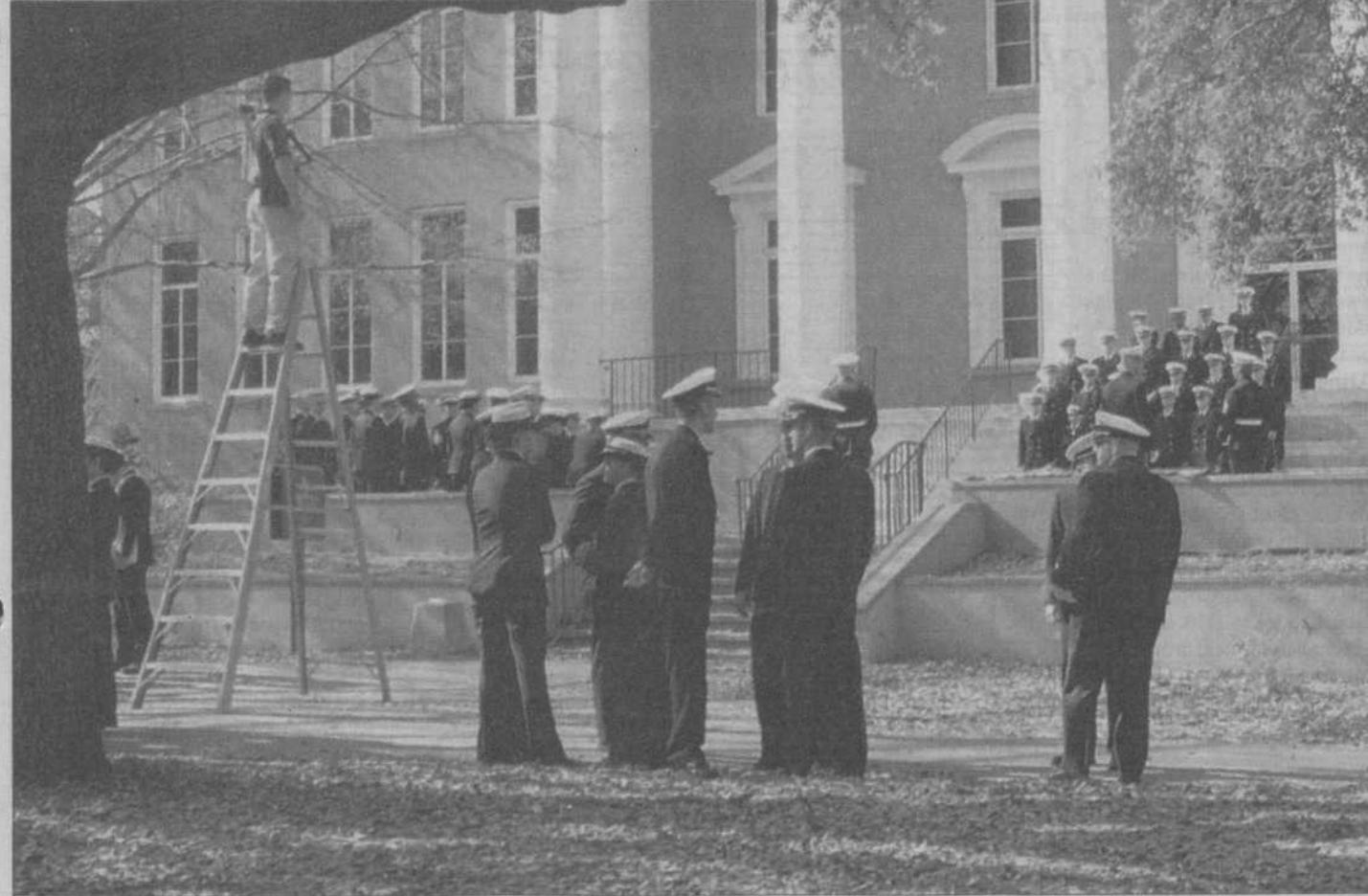
THE GAMECOCK

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Sir, say cheese, sir



The Navy ROTC took pictures for its yearbook in front of Barnwell College on Thursday's bright and sunny afternoon.

Students discuss death penalty

BY MARIA CHARLES

THE GAMECOCK

Last week's execution of David Clayton Hill, a Georgetown man convicted of murdering Georgetown's assistant police chief Spencer Guerry, is bringing to light the debate over the morality of capital punishment.

Hill was executed at Broad River Correctional Institution on Friday.

It was the 29th execution in the state since 1976 but will not be the last to occur this year. On the same day as Hill's execution, the state courts announced an April

16 execution date for Jerry Bridwell McWee, a former Augusta police officer, who was convicted for the 1991 murder of an Aiken convenience store clerk.

Before Hill's death by lethal injection, the defense argued the method by which S.C. administers lethal injection is cruel and inhumane. The inmate receives a sedative followed by two other drugs, one that paralyzes muscles and can stop breathing and the other, potassium chloride, which stops the heart.

Citing evidence from autopsies, the defense for Hill said

about half of the prisoners executed by lethal injection in the past 10 years did not receive enough sedative. Therefore, the inmate is still conscious while the second drug inhibits the muscles. In effect, the prisoner suffocates, which the defense argued was a cruel way to die. The state attorney general's office disputed this claim with a statement from the state toxicologist who said levels of sedative in the blood can be altered during the time it takes the inmate to die. South Carolina started using lethal injection in 1995.

The controversy surrounding

Hill's death, and the impending execution of McWee has some up in arms over the death penalty. USC Political Science professor Tom Durkin taught a section of Controversies in American Politics that focused on capital punishment. According to Durkin, the argument Hill's lawyers used is extremely popular.

"It is seen as a way to slow down the process to where the process looks increasingly ludicrous," he said.

But should the process exist at

♦ EXECUTION, SEE PAGE 2

Group wants to help student governments



USC President Andrew Sorensen speaks at the Student Government induction ceremony at Rutledge Chapel March 17.

BY ASHLEE RICKARD

THE GAMECOCK

The American Student Government Association was organized this winter for the purpose of assisting student governments at universities and colleges from across the country.

ASGA has 100 founding members representing 30 different states.

The professional association is a networking resource for student governments and allows leaders to access a database of other student governments from around the nation. Their Web site also provides resources such as links and articles helpful to student government officials.

Oxendine Publishing, the

publishers behind the popular magazine "Student Leader," started ASGA to "help student governments grow, improve and connect."

"ASGA is all about student governments — period. Simply put, ASGA is the most incredible resource for student government leaders ever created," said Brian Oxendine, founder of ASGA and editor in chief of "Student Leader."

Oxendine asserted that student governments are most effective when networked with other student governments. By being knowledgeable of the workings student governments all over the nation, each can

♦ RESOURCE, SEE PAGE 2

Wellness office to sponsor body image programs

MARJORIE I. RIDDLE

SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

USC students can get help with frustrating diets and overall health issues this week at the Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center as part of Body Image Awareness Week.

Beginning Monday, the Campus Wellness Office will sponsor programs on health topics

ics including eating disorders, stress relievers and nutrition information.

According to Wellness office officials, one major problem for college students is lack of calcium, an important part of a healthy diet, can lead to osteoporosis. The recommended daily intake of calcium for a college-age woman is 1000 mg a day. A measurement of bone density can show warnings

of osteoporosis.

The Wellness office is offering bone density screenings for \$10 on Monday in Russell House 205 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"It's like a foot bath," said Mary Ellen Ramos, Campus Wellness graduate assistant. "You put your foot on this bath, and they send an electric shock through your heel, and they'll get your reading."

Those with low readings can see a doctor for a full bone density scan.

In addition, a Mind, Body, and Spirit Fair will take place on Greene Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

In an effort to solicit blood donations, Greek Life will work with Campus Wellness on a Blood

♦ IMAGE, SEE PAGE 2

Group asks lawmakers for funding

BY GREG WEBSTER

THE GAMECOCK

More than 100 USC alumni, students and friends of the university made their way to the capitol Wednesday to convince lawmakers to give higher education more money.

As the group marched past the 200-year-old oaks on the State House lawn and onto the marble-floored lobby of the state legislature they continued to echo the importance of funding higher education, especially for USC.

Among those presenting ideas to lawmakers was Marsha Cole, executive director of the newly established Carolina Action Network.

"We are hoping that the alumni can serve as a bridge between our elected officials and the expertise that we have at the university," she said. "Who better than the educated people of the state of South Carolina to be talking about what ought to be happening with their government?"

Standing in the State House lobby, the group was met by numerous state senators and representatives, including Rep. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia.

"I think it's exciting and very important that the USC alumni family come to the State House to advocate for the university," he said. "When you look out here you see people from every county of South Carolina in every profession and that the legislators make a connection and see that they are a large influential group that is here on behalf of the university."

A USC graduate, Lourie expressed the importance of funding higher education.

"We've got difficult budget times, and decisions have to be made ... but even in tough economic times, education is something that can't be sacrificed," he said.

The network's lobbyist, Shirley Mills, expressed her satisfaction with the influence of the event and

♦ LOBBYING, SEE PAGE 2



Alumni Director Marsha Cole gives an interview during the Carolina Action Network rally at the State House.

Campus sex offender sentenced to 10 years

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA

THE GAMECOCK

Timothy Kearns, who was charged with kidnapping and sexual assault after an incident on campus last April, pled guilty in Richland County Court last week and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The court ordered Kearns to register with the S.C. Sexual Offender Registry upon his release.

The USC Police Department issued a safety alert in October to notify students that someone matching Kearns' description had been spotted on or near campus, and the chance of meeting the 6-foot-4, 250-pound man on a campus street had several students worried.

According to USCPD Director Ernie Ellis, instances of aggravated assault at USC are rare.

USCPD originally arrested Kearns for assault after receiving a call from a passing student. Ellis said community involvement plays a big part in keeping the campus safe. "This case came to fruition because of the community's support," he said.

Ellis said students helped police foil an escaping criminal in a recent burglary case.

"A safe community is that way because of community involvement," he said.

According to the sex offender registry, there are 310 sex offenders, 303 men and 7 women, living in the Columbia area. Crimes that land offenders in the registry range from indecent exposure to criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

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

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