

**Budget writers faced with spending cuts**

Instead of cutting state spending to cover a new \$107.8 million hole in the state's spending plan, Senate budget writers came back to the table Thursday with plans to spend \$13.7 million more.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said his subcommittee chairmen will have to go back and cut budgets because there's no appetite to raise taxes.

**Campbell lobbying for natural resources**

Former Gov. Carroll Campbell, an avid outdoorsman whose move for government restructuring created the state Natural Resources Department, wrote each state senator about the proposed \$3.2 million budget cuts for the agency.

The agency has said if the cuts go through, it would have to eliminate 86 jobs.

DNR director John Frampton said it was an honor to have Campbell writing on his department's behalf because Campbell understands "the role South Carolina's natural resources play in our state's quality of life and economy," Frampton said.

**Nation**

**Rumsfeld announces Iraq tour extensions**

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon stopped the planned return from Iraq of some 20,000 American troops, giving commanders the extra firepower they believe necessary to confront an insurgency that is taking a mounting toll on the U.S.-led coalition.

The decision, announced Thursday by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, breaks a promise to soldiers who were assured when they arrived in Iraq that they would stay no more than one year. By extending their tours by three months, the Pentagon is acknowledging that the insurgency has ruined its plans to reduce the size of the U.S. presence this spring.

**474 counties failed pollution guidelines**

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency told officials in 31 states Thursday they must develop new pollution controls because the air in some of their counties does not meet federal health standards.

The EPA identified 474 counties that either have air that is too dirty or that adds to nearby counties' inability to meet the federal air standards for smog-causing ozone.

**World**

**Iranian diplomat assassinated in Iraq**

NAJAF, IRAQ — Gunmen assassinated an Iranian diplomat in Baghdad on Thursday just as Iran, with tacit U.S. approval, attempted to mediate with a radical Shiite cleric defying American forces in this southern Iraqi city.

The slaying of diplomat Khalil Naimi, shot in the head by unknown gunmen while he drove near his embassy, cast a shadow over Thursday's unusual negotiating mission to Najaf by the envoy from neighboring Iran, which fought an eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s and does not have diplomatic relations with Washington.

Iranian Embassy officials were investigating whether there was a link between the assassination and the envoy's visit. Naimi was not a member of the Iranian negotiating team.

**Cheney warns Asia could face arms race**

SHANGHAI, CHINA — Vice President Dick Cheney warned Thursday that failure to contain North Korea's nuclear weapons program could trigger a new nuclear arms race across Asia.

North Korea's nuclear program is a top agenda item for Cheney in South Korea, but he heads there at a difficult time after eight South Korean missionaries were kidnapped in Iraq.

Washington is not only looking to Seoul to help revive stalled six-nation nuclear talks with North Korea, but also is counting on South Korea's commitment of more than 3,000 troops for Iraq.



1724: First Easter is observed.  
1935: Babe Ruth plays in his first National League game.

**Extended Forecast**



**Today**

HI: 79  
LO: 51



**Saturday**

HI: 82  
LO: 52



**Sunday**

HI: 84  
LO: 53



**Monday**

HI: 83  
LO: 57



**Tuesday**

HI: 83  
LO: 54

**Coming Up @ USC**

**Today**

**USC STRING QUARTET WORKSHOP:**

School of Music 206, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

**ISLAMIC AWARENESS WEEK, WEEKLY CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:**

Masjid al-Musulmin, 1-3 p.m.

**"SUPRAMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY APPLIED TO THE ASSEMBLY OF NANOSTRUCTURES AND TO THEIR SUBSEQUENT MANIPULATION":**

Karen L. Wooley of Washington University, Jones Physical Science Center 006, Refreshments 3:45 p.m., Seminar 4 p.m.

**VICTOR CORREA-CRUZ LECTURE RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 4:30 p.m.

**JOSHUA REECE PIANO RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 6 p.m.

**ISLAMIC AWARENESS WEEK, "THE MUSLIM JESUS" AND "THE ISLAMIC CONTRIBUTION TO CIVILIZATIONS":**

Ali Shehata and Rashid Naim, Business Administration Building 005, 7-9 p.m.

**ROBERT POWELL SENIOR TROMBONE RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

**TRADITIONAL CRAFT WORKSHOP, BASIC TATTOOING:**

McKissick Museum, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**JULIE-ANN NEUBERGER PIANO RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 6:30 p.m.

**USC STRING QUARTET WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE:**

School of Music 206, 8 p.m.

**Sunday**

**USC CONCERT CHOIR:**

First Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m.

**KATHRYN ANDERSON JUNIOR VIOLIN RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 6:30 p.m.

**ANDREA STANFORD VIOLIN RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

**Monday**

**HEATHER A. WADE DOCTORAL LECTURE RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 4:30 p.m.

**ADAM ESTES SAXOPHONE RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 6 p.m.

**LEE LAMB AND IAN LOGGANS TRUMPET RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**

**ROB WEBB TROMBONE RECITAL:**

School of Music 206, 6 p.m.

**USC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE:**

Koger Center for the Arts, Gonzalez Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

**CAROLINA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S "SPRING FLING":**

1400 Greene St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Cruise raises money for 9-11 rescue workers**

NEW YORK — An organization Tom Cruise co-founded has raised \$1.2 million to expand a treatment program for rescue workers exposed to potentially hazardous materials after the collapse of the World Trade Center.

The New York Rescue Workers Detoxification Project said it has treated more than 200 workers who say they've suffered effects from breathing the air filled with smoke, dust and debris after the Sept. 11, 2001, destruction of the trade center.

The money Cruise and others raised would expand the project to treat twice as many people, said Keith Miller, the project's director. The treatment is provided at no cost.

Cruise said during a fund-raiser for the project last week that seeing images of the plume of smoke billowing from the trade center rubble on September 11 prompted him to act.

"Shortly thereafter I visited ground zero and knew immediately that not only would people be getting ill, very ill, but that it would be sooner rather than later," he said.

**Lil' Kim charged for lying to grand jury**

NEW YORK — Lil' Kim, the rapper known for her outrageously revealing outfits and sexually charged lyrics, was charged Wednesday with lying to a grand jury about a 2001 shootout involving her entourage.

The 29-year-old star, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, surrendered in federal court. She pleaded innocent and was released on \$500,000 bail. Her attorney, Mel Sachs, called the charges "baseless." She declined to comment.

Also charged in the case were her manager, Damion Butler, bodyguard Sulf Jackson and a friend, Monique Dopwell. All pleaded innocent.

Authorities said the shooting apparently happened as Lil' Kim's entourage was leaving the hip-hop radio station WQHT, or Hot 97, and the entourage of the rival rap group Capone-N-Noreaga was arriving. One man in the duo's entourage was wounded.

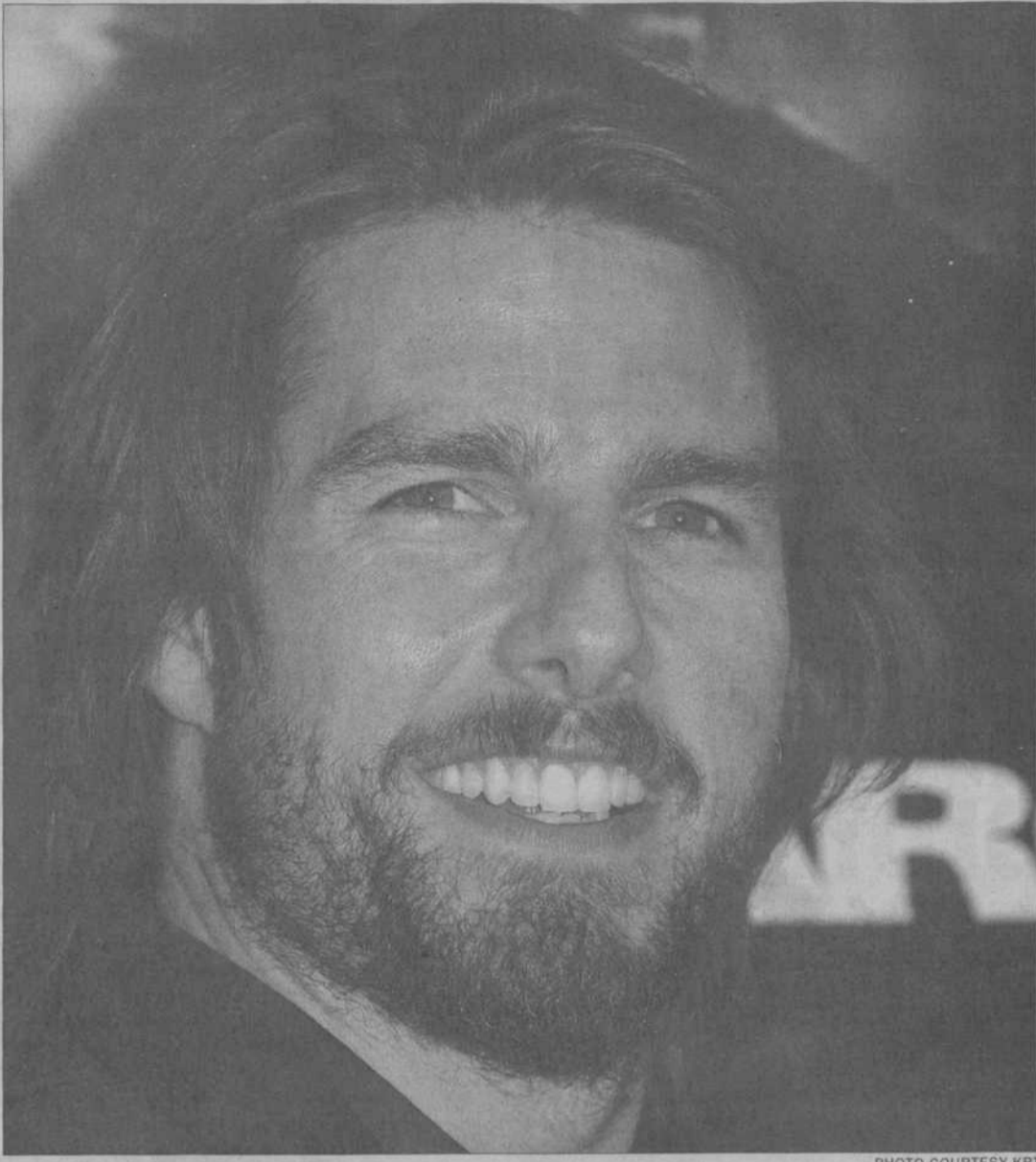
**Big Mac signs on as Hardee's pitchman**

ST. LOUIS — Hardee's now has its own Big Mac.

Mark "Big Mac" McGwire signed with the St. Louis-based fast-food chain as a pitchman for Hardee's Thickburger.

The 30-second TV commercial shows the beefy baseball player chomping into a big burger. The announcer tells viewers that "some guys don't like eating a half-pound of bread to get a half-pound of meat."

Introduced last year, the Thickburger is offered with one-third, one-half or two-thirds of a pound of beef, along with a low-



Tom Cruise co-founded the New York Rescue Workers Detoxification Project.

carb cousin and versions featuring bacon or mushroom and Swiss cheese.

The spot marks the first major TV advertising campaign for McGwire since he retired in 2001, three seasons after hitting a then-record 70 home runs for the Cardinals.

**'Passion' soundtrack tops Christian charts**

MOBILE, ALA. — The soundtrack to Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" has been certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America, according to Integrity Media Inc.

The album sold 500,000 copies in February, the Mobile-based company that publishes and distributes Christian products, said Monday. The CD was released by Integrity Music to the Christian market and by Sony Music to the general market.

The company also said Nielsen SoundScan reported that through the week ending April 4, the soundtrack had been the best-selling Christian music album for six consecutive weeks on Billboard's contemporary Christian chart.

"The success of this CD clearly illustrates the power and appeal of music, by allowing so many moviegoers to extend their experience of 'The Passion of the Christ' through the purchase of

the soundtrack." Integrity Music President Jerry Welmer said in a statement.

**Clapton to perform alongside Gill, King**

NASHVILLE, TENN. — It's a good thing Eric Clapton invited Vince Gill to perform at his Crossroads Guitar Festival in Dallas this June, because Gill would have a hard time staying away.

"It sounds like something I'd like to go to anyway even if I wasn't invited, just to hear," Gill said.

The festival, to run June 4-6 at Fair Park, will include performances by Clapton, Buddy Guy, J.J. Cale, Robert Cray, B.B. King, Carlos Santana, Joe Walsh and many others.

Gill and Union Station members Dan Tyminski and Jerry Douglas are the only Nashville pickers on the list.

"I was flattered beyond words that I got included," Gill said. "I listened to all of those guys. Probably as a guitar player, I tried to find more from the rock world than I ever did from the country world early on."

BRIEFS FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

**USC Briefly**

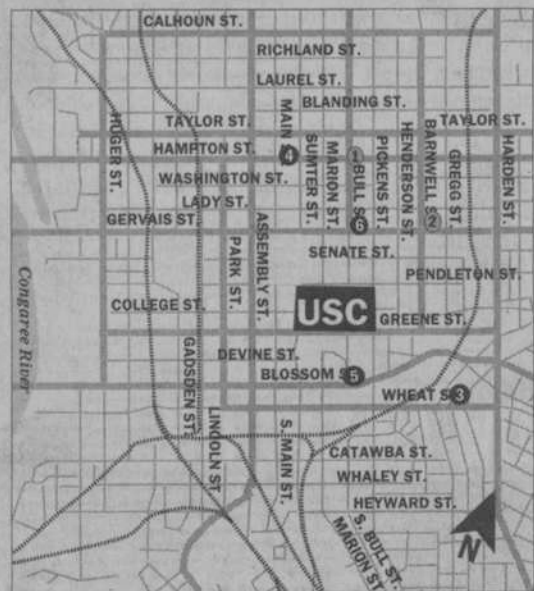
**Alumni Association to hold Spring Fling**

The Carolina Alumni Association will hold its annual Spring Fling Wednesday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Greene Street. The event will feature music, refreshments and prizes. Students can join or renew membership to take advantage of discounts and other benefits offered by the Carolina Alumni Association. For more information, visit www.CarolinaAlumni.org/students or call 777-4111.

**The Gamecock needs staff writers**

The Gamecock needs staff writers for the fall 2004 semester. Six paid writing positions are available; three for News, two for Sports and one for The Mix. Writers will be paid \$10 per story and will be required to write two stories per week. For more information and to set up an interview, e-mail Editor in Chief Adam Beam at gamecockeditor@gwm.sc.edu. Each applicant is required to have a resume and three published clips of his or her work.

**Police Report**



Each number on the map stands for a crime corresponding with numbered descriptions in the list below.

**DAY CRIMES (6 a.m.-6 p.m.)**

□ Violent  
○ Nonviolent

**NIGHT CRIMES (5 p.m.-6 a.m.)**

■ Violent  
● Nonviolent

**CRIMES AT UNKNOWN HOURS**

■ Violent  
● Nonviolent

These reports are taken directly from the USC Police Department.

**Wednesday, April 14**

① MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, CAROLINA GARDENS APARTMENTS, 100 BULL ST. The complainant said that between April 12 and April 14 someone sprayed graffiti in white paint on both sides and the front of the trash dumpster. Estimated damage: \$50. Reporting officer: W.R. Bond.

② MALICIOUS INJURY TO PERSONAL PROPERTY, S-4 LOT, 918 BARNWELL ST. The victim said someone caused several scratches on the rear of her vehicle and also bent the radio antenna of the vehicle. Estimated damage: \$190. Reporting officer: J.M. Simmons.

**Thursday, April 15**

③ MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON AUDITORIUM, 1400 WHEAT ST. Reporting officer J.L. Meador found that the north-side window was broken. Estimated damage: \$200.

④ SUSPICIOUS FIRE, SNOWDEN, 600 MAIN ST. Reporting officer D. Pardue responded to a small fire in the grass area on the Main Street side of the dorm. Pardue used a fire extinguisher to put out fire, which consisted of a burning book. Officer Baker saw a one-gallon plastic gas can located approximately 30 feet from the fire. The gas can was confiscated and returned to headquarters where the remaining contents were

poured out.

⑤ MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, MCBRYDE QUADRANGLE B, LOBBY, 1311 BLOSSOM ST. The complainant saw four white males hitting a chair against a window. The window sill was damaged. The suspects fled on foot when they saw the complainant. Estimated damage: \$50. Reporting officer: J.L. Meador.

⑥ MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, BULL STREET GARAGE, LEVEL 4, 600 BULL ST. The complainant found the garage entrance gate bent at the hinge area. Reporting officer J.L. Meador bent the gate back to working order, but the hinge is damaged. Estimated damage: \$50