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Student loans

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Sanders advises students to consolidate their loans once they graduate and attempt to pay off as much as they can in the six-month grace period before the interest rates go up drastically.

Many students need financial assistance to come to college.

"While I could have come to USC without the Stafford Loan, it helped me out a lot when my mom lost her main source of income and I didn't have a job," said third-year business student Megan Hinson.

Other students feel it is too much of a burden to pay off loans. Allison Shaw, a second-year exercise science student, received the Stafford Loan her freshman year at USC, but decided to rely on scholarships instead.

"I'm just working hard right now to pay for school instead of having to work even harder after I graduate to pay off a loan," she said.

Interest rates on loans have dropped dramatically since the 2000-2001 academic year, when students paid 8.19 percent interest on Stafford Loans.

The rates are based on short-term treasury yields measured in a 91-day period ending in May and adjusted annually July 1. Treasury yields have fallen the past year as a result of general economic weakness, lowering interest rates.

Students can find more information and advice about loans at www.ed.gov or log on to www.sc.edu/financialaid.

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



N.C. radio station won't air ad against illegal immigration

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — A radio station temporarily suspended airing an ad for Republican congressional candidate Vernon Robinson that rails against illegal immigration and signs off in Spanish with the words "Yo, Gringo!"

WSJS-AM said it made the decision over the holiday weekend because it was unclear if the sponsor was identified in the otherwise-English ad, which contends the prevalence of Spanish spoken in the United States can make Americans feel like they're in "The Twilight Zone."

Only the final line is in Spanish, in words that translate to: "Yo, Gringo! This episode of 'The Twilight Zone' was paid for by Robinson for Congress."

Robinson said Tuesday that the tag line was intended as a way to underscore his message, but he grudgingly agreed to let the station edit it into English. The catch phrase "Yo, Gringo!" — a contemptuous Spanish term for Americans — remains.

WSJS manager Tom Hamilton said other political ads were temporarily suspended on the station until the problem with Robinson's ad was resolved Tuesday.

In a statement, Robinson said the flap over the last line does not change the overall message of the ad: "To show the importance of securing our borders, stopping the illegal immigration invasion and making English the official language of the United States."