



TODAY: Scattered showers; High 87, Low 69

Wednesday

June 9, 2004 ♦ Vol. 98, No. 2
University of South Carolina ♦ www.dailygamecock.com



THE GAMECOCK

INSIDE

VIEWPOINTS



You got what it takes to learn?

Paige Haggard discusses three kinds of students. **PAGE 6**

THE MIX



The week in music straight from a DJ

WUSC staffer rates his top three picks. **PAGE 7**

SPORTS



Gamecocks take care of business

The USC baseball team earns a bid to the Super Regionals. **PAGE 9**

INDEX

Comics and Crossword	9
Classifieds	12
Horoscopes	9
Online Poll	6
Quote of the Day	7
USC Police Report	5



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

President Ronald Reagan visited USC Sept. 20, 1983.

Thousands grieve Reagan's passing

Former president's death sparks fond memories of his life, legacy

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIMI VALLEY, CALIF. — Waiting good-naturedly for as much as half a day in traffic jams and a parking lot, tens of thousands of people filed past Ronald Reagan's flag-draped casket in an outpouring that forced organizers to extend the viewing period Tuesday by four hours.

An estimated 52,000 mourners had passed by the coffin in the 24

hours after the viewing began at noon Monday at Reagan's presidential library. The nation's 40th president died Saturday at age 93.

"He gave us eight years of service," said Keith Godliman, 50, of Santa Clarita. "It doesn't hurt for us to wait eight hours for him. He deserves us to wait eight hours for him."

The flow of mourners was in-

♦ REAGAN, SEE PAGE 2

Provost finalist touts teaching experience

BY ELLEN TWEEDY
THE GAMECOCK

Mark Becker, dean of the school of public health at the University of Minnesota, was selected by USC officials as one of four finalists to become the new executive vice president and provost.

At Minnesota, Becker also serves as assistant vice president for Public Health, Preparedness and Emergency Response, as well as a professor of biostatistics.

He is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Towson University, where he received a degree in mathematics in 1980. He went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University, earning a Ph.D. in

mathematics in 1985.

Becker was an assistant professor of statistics at the University of Florida, a visiting fellow in the field of statistics at Cornell University and a senior fellow in the biostatistics department at the University of Washington. He was also a visiting professor at Limburgs University Centrum in 1994.

He worked at the University of Michigan from 1989 to 2000, where he started as an assistant professor in biostatistics and left as a dean.

Becker has written and co-writ-

♦ PROVOST, SEE PAGE 2

Campus fitness centers set for improvements

BY MICHAEL LAFORGIA
THE GAMECOCK

Campus Recreation officials have plans for the Strom Thurmond and Blatt centers that will further improve the facilities.

The Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center was recognized Monday in an issue of Athletic Business, a publication that named the center a state-of-the-art facility, citing its abundance of natural lighting as well as the walkways, which protect students. In addition, the Strom received its first award when it was recognized as an Outstanding Sports Facility by the National Intramural Recreation and Sports Association at an April 2004 conference.

Plans for the Strom include the

construction of two multipurpose playing fields and six new tennis courts between the center and the Greek houses, said Herbert Camp, director of Campus Recreation. Four firms are competing for that contract. Camp said the new fields

♦ WELLNESS CENTER, SEE PAGE 4



PHOTO BY MELISSA WALLACE
THE GAMECOCK

USC student Kelly Vogel works out at the Strom.