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Racist, sexist graffiti found in Moore hall

By TAYLOR SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Students of Moore residence hall awoke Sunday morning to find the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh floors of the freshman dorm vandalized with racist and sexist remarks written on doors and walls.

Immediately after the incident was discovered, university police reported to the scene and the markings/depictions

were cleaned by cleaning crews that

"I was appalled at some of the stuff I read," said Rob Kilaeski, a first-year business student and RHA senator for the dorm.

"I would like to know who did it and they need to be punished legally and through the school."

The markings that were written across the walls were characterized by witnesses as racial and sexist slurs and included some graphic depictions of reproductive

organs.

"I don't think they were targeting any group of people," Kilaeski said. "They were just defacing school property and attacking groups in general."

Housing Director Gene Luna could not be reached for comment. Several other USC officials did not return phone calls.

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



CHARLIE DAVENPORT/THE GAMECOCK

Second-year education student Ashley Brite donates blood Tuesday. While the drive had its largest first day participation ever, many students can't give blood because they fail to meet requirements.

Some students turned away from record-setting drive

By TAYLOR SMITH
STAFF WRITER

After recording the largest first day of blood donations in the history of the Carolina-Clemson Blood Drive, some USC students are having trouble with the health requirement for donations.

"It is very important that the criteria is followed to monitor the blood supply before it goes to testing and then goes to hospitals," said Cheryl Austin, donor recruiter for the S.C. Blood Region

Office. "We provide the information beforehand to try and screen people."

The requirements for blood donation to the American Red Cross include numerous items such as being older than 17 and not being pregnant or nursing.

Certain criteria though, are keeping more students away from the blood drive. Question 14 on the Blood Donation form states: "Are you a male, who has had sex, even once, with another male since 1977?"

"Gay men are perceived to be a high-

risk demographic and that is misunderstood," said Student Government President Zachery Scott, who is gay. "Because they don't want a case where infected blood is donated and might miss the screen, but that means that it should just be strengthened."

Scott argues that such a criterion reinforces the stereotype that AIDS is a gay disease.

The question is actually part of an

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Web site defends sociology

◆ Professor slams school of thought for unwarranted bias

By RYAN JAMES
THE GAMECOCK

Mathieu Deflem, an assistant professor of sociology at USC, has created a Web site speaking out against what he calls "an attack on sociology as an academic discipline."

Public sociology is a field of study that the American Sociological Association says "defines, promotes and informs public debate on class and racial

inequalities, new gender regimes, environmental degradation, multiculturalism, technological revolutions, market fundamentalism, and state and non-state violence." It's also a term Deflem claims limits sociology to a few narrow areas of study and does not account for the complex applications it has in the real world.

A leading opponent of political activism in sociology, Deflem argues that sociology is a science that should strive toward a goal of universal knowledge instead of participation in partisan politics.

"Political issues cannot be a foundation for sociology," Deflem said. He's concerned that public sociology has

infused an inherently academic field with divisive and subjective viewpoints and was popularized by figures such as Karl Marx.

Deflem criticizes the ASA for taking stances on political issues such as gay marriage and the war in Iraq. He said the Association's stated opposition to the war in Iraq is "not useful" and has a "negative impact on sociology." He says that taking such stances "narrows the scope of sociological discussion" because it alienates sociologists with opposing political views. Politics and sociology have a close relationship, he says, but the purpose of sociology is merely to

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CLUB RA



DAVID STAGG/THE GAMECOCK

The former Crocodile Rocks, soon to be Club Ra, is scheduled to open next month.

Vista piano bar to reopen as Ra

◆ Crocodile Rocks owners reinvent bar as Vegas-style club

By KRISTI LAUBE
THE GAMECOCK

Crocodile Rocks, which has closed after four years as a dueling-pianos nightclub, will return in December as the Egyptian-themed Club Ra.

The club will combine Las Vegas style with Myrtle Beach's relaxing atmosphere, club owners said. The new club will include three levels of stages, VIP booths on a balcony and a large golden statue of a pharaoh.

A little more than four years after opening the club, owners decided to close Crocodile Rocks in favor of a new concept. The owners teamed up with Robert Hills, a Myrtle Beach club owner, to create a new dance club in Columbia.

Hills said he wants to open Club Ra in a little more than a month, a quick time span considering the amount of renovations that need to be done.

"They are hoping to open Club Ra

a few weeks before New Year's," said Amanda Klicka, assistant manager for Crocodile Rocks. "The idea is to get customers used to the new club in time for New Year's Eve, which is a big night for a club."

New ownership meant a lot of changes for the Crocodile Rocks staff.

Crocodile Rocks employees learned the club would be closing Oct. 13, just four days before it was to close.

"We were all in shock," Klicka said. "I am sad because that's where I met all my friends and worked with them every weekend."

A four-day notice is not a lot of time to save up money and figure out what to do next, employees said. Hours before Crocodile Rocks' closing was announced to the public, an employee meeting was held to let everyone know what was going on.

"We knew something was going on, but we didn't expect to be closing in four days," said Jon Howell, a Crocodile Rocks employee. "It definitely caught all of us off guard, considering our managers didn't even know."

Crocodile Rocks opened May 17,

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SG senator wants parking fines on VIP

By THOMAS CHANDLER
THE GAMECOCK

Student Government passed nearly unanimously legislation for a new, electronic ticket notification plan Wednesday.

The proposed system would use VIP technology to alert students of the parking tickets they have received.

Student Sen. Tommy Preston said students' nightmares of returning to a car-shaped mound of little yellow tickets might not be entirely unfounded.

Besides issuing a paper ticket, legislation author Tommy Preston explained, Parking Services does not notify students of fines, making it easy for enormous fines to accumulate as forgotten or lost tickets go unpaid.

When told about the system, second-year student Payton Foust, who keeps a car on campus, said, "I've always thought about if someone took the ticket off of your car you'd be out of luck, you need a way of knowing if you're being fined."

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JASON STEELMAN/THE GAMECOCK

A car on Pendleton Street seen with a ticket for an expired meter. Student Government wants students to be notified of fines online.