

Presidential candidates rally runoff supporters

By TAYLOR SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Student Government runoff elections are nearing an end, but the two candidates for president are reiterating their platforms and revisiting voter groups.

Neither Yvonne Miller nor Justin Williams were able to earn a majority of the first election's votes, so both candidates returned to their campaigns

and familiar tactics.

"You just got to keep trucking," a "tired" Williams said. "I believe I am doing the right thing."

Neither candidate mentioned any trouble acquiring supplies for the extended campaign trail, and they both felt their message was being conveyed to students who would pick the right person for the job.

"Right now everything is looking

okay," Miller said. "We are just trying to get my name out the best way I can."

Williams said he is using the time to advertise, distributing mixed CDs endorsed by local disc jockeys. Williams added that he was speaking to graduate students as well as undergraduate groups.

"I don't know how to reach graduate students. They have kids," Williams said. "But I am going to be sure to talk to them."

After giving a WUSC radio address, Miller said she her primary message was to reiterate and reinforce students' rights on campus, like the right to be aware of crimes occurring nearby.

"I want to have USCPD address the students, maybe in a press conference," Miller said. "USC students should know crime statistics."

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DEAN DIALOGUE



NICK ESARES/THE GAMECOCK

Honors College Dean Peter Sederberg will step down in June. Sederberg has been with the Honors College since its founding in 1977. The college is housed on the Horseshoe.

Dean leaves college with bright future

By TAYLOR SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Located on the Horseshoe, the South Carolina Honors College boasts the highest SAT scores on campus.

Honors College Dean Peter Sederberg is stepping down in June, but the tradition he cultivated in USC's youngest college will remain intact.

Sederberg was instrumental in getting the college started in 1977 and worked to build respect for it within both the university and the greater academic community.

Having an honors college raises USC's prestige as a university too, Sederberg said.

When the college was introduced, the competition for acceptance was fierce, but nothing compared to the 1400 average SAT

of today.

"Probably half of the class we admitted in 1983 would not get into the college today," Sederberg said.

Despite the raised admission standards, the Honors College has managed to raise the caliber of students' overall numbers.

"In the last 25 years, there are 800 students that would not have been here then," Sederberg said.

Jeremy Wolfe, a fifth-year honors student recently named to the USA Today All-USA academic team, said the Honors College was appealing to him because he knew USC had a passion for undergraduate research unlike some Ivy League schools.

Wolfe said he appreciated that the university had such a focus on

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KATIE KIRKLAND/THE GAMECOCK

Fans rush the court after Tuesday night's basketball game against Kentucky in the Colonial Center. The SEC might fine USC \$5,000.

Disorder on the court

SG Senate resolves to reimburse Athletics Department for possible SEC fines

By JON TURNER
NEWS EDITOR

Student Government adopted a resolution Wednesday to appropriate \$5,000 toward the payment of a possible SEC fine.

The SEC is considering the possibility of a fine against USC for its fans' behavior during the basketball game against Kentucky on Tuesday night. Cheering students rushed the court with seconds still on the clock as the Gamecocks defeated the No. 3 Wildcats in an enormous upset.

Third-year political science student Adam Piper, the senator who introduced the resolution, called the misconduct "a

triumph for school spirit."

"Whereas the general student body screamed their lungs out for greater than forty minutes, giving our beloved Gamecocks a 'Sixth Man' on the court ...," the resolution states, "... whereas the Southeastern Conference fines member institutions for such actions, be it resolved by the student senate that it is recommended that the Senate Finance Committee appropriate \$5,000, as a donation to the Athletics Department on behalf of satisfied students ..."

USC Sports Information Director Kerry Tharp said the SEC would probably announce its decision today.

"The rule, and the policy is clear that

you're not to come onto the floor or the field after the contest," he said.

Tharp said he had heard about the resolution.

"I think it's admirable," he said. "I don't know exactly how that would play into it, if indeed we do receive a fine."

Despite SG's resolution to donate the money to the Athletics Department, Tharp said he wasn't sure the gift would be accepted.

"We certainly appreciate the students' support," he said. "We need them at the remaining two home games. We don't want to curb their enthusiasm by any means, but they also need to know that there is a policy in place and we need to abide by that policy."

Piper said the idea of the resolution had occurred to him when he read the SEC policy on the matter.

He called the situation on the floor of the Colonial Center a "special circumstance."

"There was no destruction," he said. "There was no bad conduct. Everybody was just celebrating." He was quick to add, "In no shape or form do we condone the behavior."

If the Athletics Department doesn't want a donation, Piper said, the \$5,000 will be returned to the senate's special projects fund.

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

Academic libraries link up to create research database

By SOREN KORNEGAY
THE GAMECOCK

Several academic libraries around the state, including USC's Thomas Cooper Library, have united to create a massive statewide database of electronic research materials.

The Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries looks for the South Carolina Virtual Academic Library to unite existing electronic resources with an annual licensing agreement that would allow compilation of 12,000 full-text journal volumes in core academic disciplines, business and health sciences.

The new database would allow students to read entire journals online over the Internet. It would replace a system similar to a topic index, each entry containing merely the titles and subjects of articles within that journal — rather than full journals or articles.

Thomas McNally, a Thomas Cooper librarian, said the system would also benefit non-students.

"One of the things we had written into the contract was that anyone in the general public could use the new system once it was in place, whether they are students, small businessmen, or anyone else in the community," he

said.

PASCAL's other initiative, called "universal borrowing," serves to create a unified collection of almost every book within South Carolina's academic libraries — allowing students to borrow any of the 12 million titles in the system. Students would place book orders over the Internet. The system would be able to ship any title within two days of its request.

The PASCAL initiative is being paid for by a \$2 million donation from the S.C. General Assembly. The funds, taken from unclaimed lottery winnings, were initially expected to be a one-time donation, but McNally said, the libraries were looking for an annual contribution.

"We feel like this makes it a program important enough to cover annually in the state's budget," he said.

The program also eliminates redundancy in the purchasing needs of all the state's academic libraries.

"We feel like this is a win-win situation for the student, the community and the state," McNally said.

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

Professors breathing new life into African Studies Program

By JESSICA FOSTER
THE GAMECOCK

USC professors are working to rejuvenate the university's African Studies Program, which seeks to promote interest in African issues and provide a forum for research.

The program, reestablished in fall 2004 after years of inactivity, sponsors public events and allows students to minor in African Studies through a multidisciplinary curriculum.

Program coordinator and African history professor Ronald Atkinson said the program had drifted into limbo.

"It just kind of died away and so what we're doing is just an attempt to begin to reconstitute the program, to revitalize the program," he said.

International and Area Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, the African Studies Program brings together professors in fields such as history, geology, anthropology, business, educational psychology and public health.

"There are faculty who are interested in Africa who are just beginning to get together and plan some programs and activities," Atkinson said. "I think it's exciting to get something going again."

Atkinson became interested in African studies as a student, inspired by a professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. He, in turn, has heard from former students who have gone on to earn doctorates in African history, study in Africa or participate in the Peace Corps in Africa.

"I think that it's been a real privilege to introduce so many students here to

Africa and African history and to see how many of those students become really engaged in that interest," Atkinson said.

Heading up the program, Atkinson will help provide students with more opportunities to learn about the continent that fascinates him.

"One of the main goals of the program is to foster campus and community interest in and awareness of issues related to Africa, especially (but not exclusively) Sub-Saharan Africa," according to the African Studies Web site. To this end, the African Studies Program sponsors public lectures, colloquia, and symposia, and supports faculty and student research on African topics, both in Africa and elsewhere.

Last semester's events include a workshop about economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa, presentations on

genocide in Rwanda and a lecture focusing on the Somali Bantu. This semester's events have not been announced.

The lectures and courses organized by the program aim to teach students explore Africa from a variety of perspectives across several disciplines.

To satisfy requirements for an African Studies minor, students can choose from Africa-related courses in history, geography, anthropology, English, French, economics, political science and religion, as well as language courses in Swahili and Arabic. Students also have the option of focusing on particular themes and traveling for research.

For Atkinson, traveling to Africa, studying and researching it has been a

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Subliminal messages

Sublime tribute band Badfish visits Headliners tonight.

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'Bama bound

The men's basketball team looks to force another upset as they travel to Tuscaloosa to take on the Alabama Crimson tide.

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