






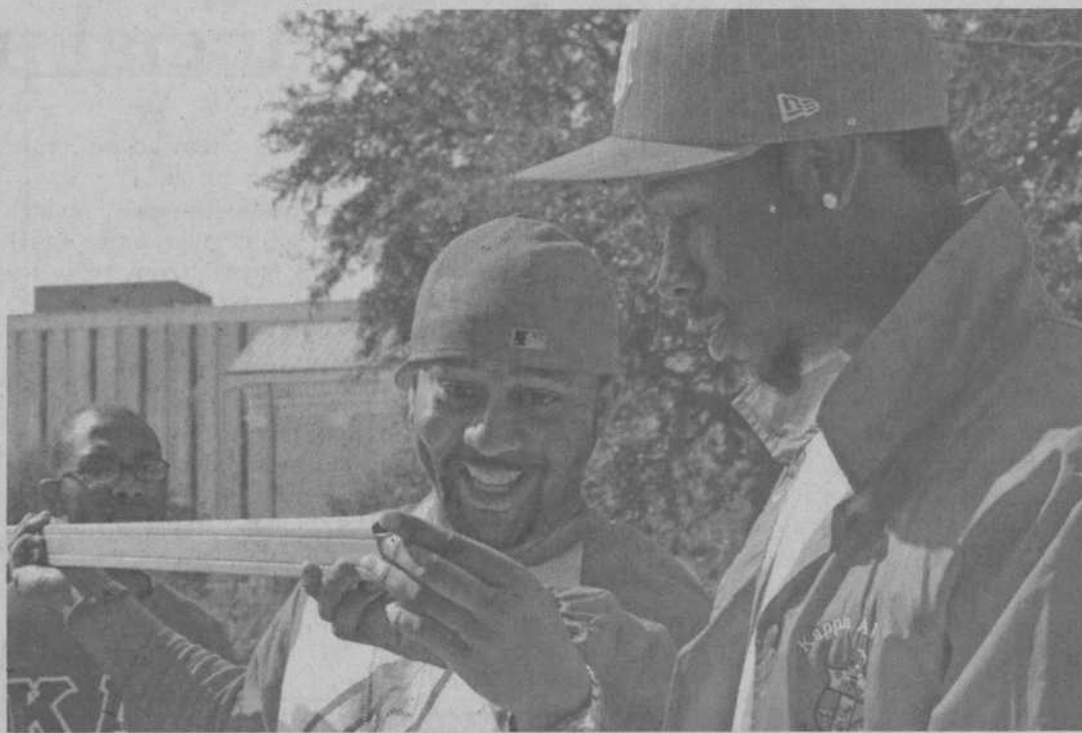
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## Weather Forecast

TODAY	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUE.
				
High 70 Low 48	High 52 Low 41	High 46 Low 35	High 45 Low 41	High 51 Low 40

## GET YOUR BUILD ON



Meg Gaillard / THE GAMECOCK

Fourth-year computer information systems student Benjamin Robinson, left, and fourth-year management and marketing student Reggie Price look at a piece of construction wood for the shed they helped build at "Get Your Build On," a Premiere Inc. Bateman team event. The event was held Wednesday on Davis field.

## CAROLINA BRIEF

Latin music concert to be held Feb. 27

The School of Music will host a benefit concert featuring Spanish and Latin-American music at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27.

The program of duets and solos will feature 10 works, each by a different 19th and 20th century Spanish or Latin-American composer. Proceeds from the concert will help provide scholarships for students to enroll in a new summer music study program in Spain.

## AAAS • CONTINUED FROM 1

he doesn't expect any more problems like the ones the organization faced this year.

"You could say we're making an example of them, but this is the only group where we've had this issue come up," Stoudenmire said. "This should send a message that this kind of mismanagement is not acceptable and will meet with consequences for any organization."

The finance committee members said they were told that the organization has "a history of screwing up and being forgiven," but their sanction was not related to any past incidents. This sanction is the first of its kind this year.

The committee required public acknowledgment that AAAS is at fault because of comments printed in The Gamecock that suggested a lack of responsibility for the organization, Spivey said.

The finance committee members said that AAAS's financial problems are the organization's fault, but Downs said that he doesn't think anyone should be blamed for the situation.

"I don't think anyone's at fault," he said. "It was all just a big misunderstanding."

Downs said he is not upset by the Senate sanction, but he does not agree with it — specifically that the organization must publicly acknowledge they were wrong.

"But policy is policy, and we will do whatever we need to make sure

## State

Historic Battery gets funds for restoration

**CHARLESTON** — The Battery has withstood war, hurricanes and rising tides. Now the protector of Charleston's priciest homes will get an \$8 million facelift.

The Charleston City Council on Tuesday approved a \$330,000 contract extension with Cummings & McCrady to design restoration work and prepare contracts to repair the stone and concrete seawall located where the Ashley and Cooper rivers meet at the Atlantic Ocean.

Work on the first two sections could be done next year, said Laura Cabiness, the city's director of public services.

A preliminary engineering study found that all sections of the Battery need repair, but the newest part — a World War I-era concrete section linking the high and low sections of the seawall — is in the worst shape.

"I walk on the Battery most mornings, so I'm aware of it, and I think a lot of people have noticed it," said Councilman Henry Fishburne, whose district includes the neighborhood around the Battery, and who lives nearby. "Some of it looks like it's structurally questionable."

The original High Battery is in the best shape, Cabiness said. She said that section was last repaired in the 19th century.

our organization stays up and running," he said.

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu)

## Nation

Pop-star's kids' mom wins custody appeal

**LOS ANGELES** — Michael Jackson's ex-wife, Deborah Rowe, won a round in her battle over their two children, with an appeals court ruling that her parental rights were not properly relinquished under the law.

The California 2nd District Court of Appeal ruling Wednesday set the stage for further litigation between the former couple.

The pop star, who has been living out of the country since his acquittal on molestation charges last June, could further appeal the ruling. He is reportedly traveling with his children in Italy.

Jackson and Rowe married in November 1996 and filed for divorce in October 1999 after the births of son Prince Michael and daughter, Paris. Jackson also has a son whose mother hasn't been identified.

While acknowledging Rowe initiated the proceeding to give up her parental rights in 2001 and made clear she wanted Jackson to have sole custody, the appellate court said the judge in the matter did not handle it properly.

The retired judge, Steven M. Lachs voided his own ruling even though he had found in 2001 that the arrangement was in the best interests of Paris and Prince Michael.

## World

Annan: Close down Guantanamo prison

**UNITED NATIONS** — Secretary General Kofi Annan on Thursday said the United States should close the prison at Guantanamo Bay for terror suspects as soon as possible, backing a key conclusion of a U.N.-appointed independent panel.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan rejected the call to shut the camp, saying the military treats all detainees humanely and "these are dangerous terrorists that we're talking about."

The panel's report, released Thursday in Geneva, said the U.S. must close the detention facility "without further delay" because it is effectively a torture camp where prisoners have no access to justice.

Annan told reporters he didn't necessarily agree with everything in the report, but he did support its opposition to people being held "in perpetuity" without being charged and prosecuted in a public court. This is "something that is common under every legal system," Annan said.

"I think sooner or later there will be a need to close the Guantanamo (camp), and I think it will be up to the government to decide, and hopefully to do it as soon as is possible," the secretary-general told reporters.

## CRIME REPORT

WEDNESDAY,  
FEB. 15

Suspicious activity,  
12:15 a.m.

Wardlaw College,  
820 Main St.

An individual called USCPD stating that someone was soliciting money in front of Wardlaw College. Reporting officer M. Davis searched the area and could not find the suspect.

Malicious injury to  
private property,  
10:14 p.m.

Bates parking lot,  
1423 Whaley St.

The victim said someone punctured the two rear tires on his green 1999 Honda.

Estimated value: \$100  
Reporting officer:  
N. Husbands

Information,  
11:06 p.m.

1300 Block  
of Greene Street

Reporting officer R. Baker rolled into another person's vehicle, striking the rear bumper. There was no damage to either vehicle. The driver did not wish to have an accident report taken.

Harassing phone call,  
11:45 p.m.

Sims, 1501 Devine St.

The victim said an unknown person called her cell phone.

Reporting officer:  
N. Husbands

## DANCE • CONTINUED FROM 1

a bracelet at the beginning of the event with a child's name, age and ailment so that they remember their reason for dancing.

This year, every child represented on a bracelet will be present during the event. The children and their families will have opportunities to speak during the marathon.

"Most of the time, these talks are really emotional, and it really makes you realize what the event is all about," Jones said.

Three hundred participants are registered, and more are expected to come today. The cost is \$150 to participate.

Dancers have used their own money, written letters to friends and family members, and even reached out to businesses within Columbia to raise money for the event.

Last year, nearly \$90,000 was donated. Proceeds go to Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, and funds come from the Columbia area.

Palmetto Health Children's Hospital is working toward opening a freestanding children's clinic in 2008. The clinic will move into what is now the cancer wing of Palmetto Health to keep from scattering the kids throughout the main hospital.

"It will be so great to finally have all of the kids together. We will be able to provide them

with a much different, better atmosphere," said Lynn Hazel, the hospital consultant for Dance Marathon. "We will also be able to increase the amount of beds available and in turn be able to accommodate more children."

"This is a \$33 million project, so the money from the fundraiser is much needed and appreciated," said Amy Coward, the marketing and public relations division director for the Palmetto Health Foundation.

It is most appreciated by the families of little girls such as Corrie Hester, who was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age 5. Through the intensive care given by the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, Hester underwent her last treatment last February.

Jess Maddox has a similar story. Days after complaining about a tummy ache, he was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumor on his left kidney. Thanks to the "Thomas the Tank Engine" videos and books, as well as the caring support provided by the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, little Jess was able to endure extensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment and overcome his ailment.

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu)

## Employment Opportunity!

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