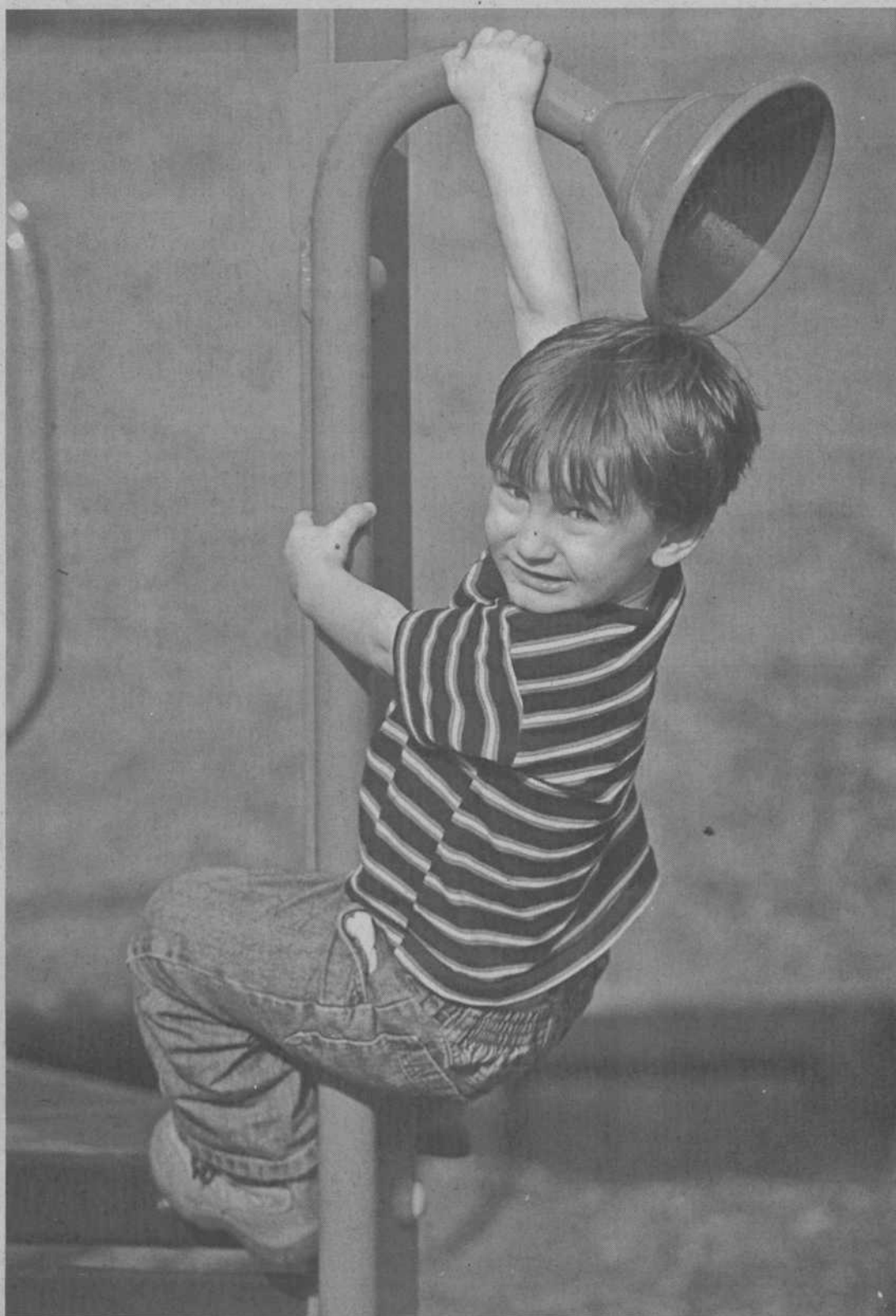


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PLAYTIME



Special to THE GAMECOCK

Three-year old Elijah Blas proves living on campus is not as hard for some people as he enjoys the warm weather outside of Carolina Gardens family and graduate housing.

State

First Lady's tea cup stirs political debate

There was a tempest in a \$34 tea cup Thursday as the state started selling Italian-made dinnerware at its State House and Governor's Mansion gift shops.

"I guess she changed her mind about shopping at Wal-Mart," said Rod Shealy, campaign manager for Oscar Lovelace, a Prosperity doctor and Gov. Mark Sanford's Republican opponent in the June primary.

Senate Democratic Minority Leader John Land, D-Manning, said it was unusual to have a first lady who "would appear to be selling, or hawking or endorsing china made in Italy ..."

Nation

Videotape discloses president's knowledge

On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's fateful landfall, President Bush was confident. And warnings of the coming destruction — breached or overrun levees, deaths at the New Orleans Superdome and overwhelming needs for post-storm rescues — were delivered in dramatic terms to all involved.

All of it was captured on videotape.

The Associated Press obtained the government video and made it public Wednesday, offering Americans a glimpse into the government's fateful final Katrina preparations after months of finger-pointing.

World

British court accepts foreign port takeover

LONDON — Britain's High Court on Thursday approved a Dubai state-owned port operator's takeover of British shipping company P&O, a deal that has caused uproar in the U.S. among lawmakers concerned about port security.

Justice Nicholas Warren dismissed a last-minute appeal by U.S.-based Eller & Co. as he gave the required go-ahead for DP World's 3.9 billion pound (\$6.8 billion) acquisition of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.

"The objections of Eller do not persuade me that I should not sanction the scheme," Warren said.

Weather Forecast

TODAY	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUE.
High 64 Low 36	High 61 Low 35	High 64 Low 44	High 68 Low 42	High 66 Low 41

CRIME REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
Assistance rendered,
6:29 p.m.

Russell House,
1400 Greene St.

The victim, 56, complained of chest pains. EMS responded and transported him to Providence Hospital.

Reporting officer:
M. Davis

Found property,
10:30 a.m.

Corner of Park
and Devine streets.

Reporting officer, K. Morgan, found three VHS tapes in the roadway, but the tapes failed to have contact or identification information on them.

Non-suspicious fire,
11:10 a.m.

Currell College,
1305 Greene St.

A trash can caught on fire. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Estimated value: \$25

Reporting officer:
C. Knoche

SG CONTINUED FROM I

Committee. Kyle Warnock, a second-year engineering student, will chair the Athletics Committee. Jonathan Ross, a second-year political science student, will chair the Academics Committee. Melise Cook, a fourth-year fashion merchandising student, will chair the Minority Affairs Committee.

Before the meeting, friends, family and several university officials and legislators watched the inauguration of the Senators and executive board members. Six South Carolina legislators were in the audience, include State Rep Joe Brown, of District 73. Brown is President Tommy Preston's uncle, and was just one member of Preston's family there to watch him. Holt's mother flew in from Texas, much to his surprise.

During their inauguration speeches, the new executive board outlined some plans for the upcoming year. Preston, a third-year political science student, said that although the previous administration "changed the perception of Student Senate forever," he had bigger plans for this year.

Preston said his first priority is to make sure the grade forgiveness program is seen through. He also said he would continue to work to lower textbook prices, establish a "healthy Carolina" program, get new shuttles and improve parking, and create a "wellness path" from Capstone to the Greek Village for students to walk or ride bicycles on.

Holt, a third-year

political science student now serving in his second term as vice-president, said Wednesday was the "dawn of a new era in student leadership." Because both he and Preston have experience in executive leadership, they have already established relationships with university officials and state leaders, he said.

"Despite the greatness of the past that Dr. (Andrew) Sorensen and Justin (Williams) have helped characterize, this is, after all, a second term and with that comes a sea of new beginnings," Holt said. "The future lies empty."

Treasurer Jennifer Guest arrived late because she was in a car accident and said she was shaking.

"Part of it is nerves from the wreck and part of it is because of the sheer joy that I have the opportunity to serve you," she said.

Guest said she would continue to work on expanding the use of the CarolinaCard to all areas on campus and maybe eventually off campus as well. She said she planned to reach out to treasurers from every organization.

Both Preston and Holt said by the end of their first term, they had grown to think of several of the administrators and their fellow Senators as good friends.

Preston said he will join President Sorensen on his Bow Tie Bus Tour next week.

"This is a team effort," Preston said. "I truly believe that we are some of the greatest leaders in our university's history."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gum.sc.edu

CAROLINA BRIEF

Officials begin plan to promote health

USC officials launched a campus-wide initiative Tuesday to improve the health and well-being of faculty and staff.

The initiative, called Healthy Carolina, will be spearheaded by USC's Student Affairs. Healthy Carolina is expected to have significant, long-term benefits for the Carolina community and to position the university as a national leader in campus health promotion.

Healthy Carolina will promote healthy behaviors to enhance student learning; improve the recruitment, retention and productivity of faculty and staff; and be a catalyst for health research.

Improving students' health can help them get the most out of their college experiences and benefit them in the years after graduation, said Dennis Pruitt, vice president for Student Affairs.

Improving the health of USC faculty and staff is a key to increasing productivity, morale and retaining excellent employees.

An inventory of USC health-related research activity will uncover opportunities for research collaboration between faculty and staff in academic units and other university offices. Much of this research will be directed at health concerns of particular importance to the people of South Carolina.

The initiative will seek collaboration from offices and academic units across campus, particularly the Arnold School of Public Health, said Pruitt.

For more information on Healthy Carolina, call Healthy Carolina director Michelle Burcin at 777-4752, or visit the Web site www.sc.edu/healthycarolina.

THIS WEEK USC

TODAY

Susan Kathrene Gray senior voice recital:

5:30 p.m. School of Music 206

Spring 2006 seminar series — Dr. S. Thai Thayumanavan, "Bioinspired Macromolecules":

4 p.m. Jones Physical Science Center 006

INDIA • CONTINUED FROM I

military — and to open the civilian side to international inspections for the first time.

The agreement must be approved by Congress, and Bush acknowledged that might be difficult because India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

"I'm trying to think differently, not stay stuck in the past," said Bush.

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