

The Gamecock

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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TODAY'S WEATHER



94
76

THIS WEEK Mostly sunny today, sunny this weekend

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Spotlight takes a look at Spielberg's latest, 'A.I.'
SEE PAGE 10

ONLINE POLL

WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE RADIO STATION IN COLUMBIA?

- 15% 104.7: which only owns five CDs
- 10% 93.5: the supposed "alternative"
- 16% 101.3: R&B and rap
- 12% 106.7: adult contemporary snooze music
- 9% 96.7: lite and little else
- 7% 103.1: nothing but oldies
- 18% 90.5: WUSC, which only has five listeners
- 13% 103.9: the newer version of the Big DM

NEXT WEEK'S POLL

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITHOUT BURGER KING IN COLUMBIA?



Cast your vote at
www.dailygamecock.com.
Results will appear next
Wednesday.

Tuition increase lowered

Increase will now be 5.2% for in-state, 8.5% for out-of-state

BY CRISTY INFINGER
THE GAMECOCK

USC students are sighing with relief after the board of trustees voted June 29 to lower the recent tuition increase.

Under the revised plan, tuition for in-state students will be raised by 5.2 percent, instead of the previously set 10.4 percent. Tuition for out-of-state students will increase by 8.5 percent. In addition, departmental budget cuts, originally slated for 10 percent across the university, were reduced to 5 percent.

The board's move came after millions of dollars were restored to higher education when the legislature failed to override Gov. Jim Hodges' vetoes of budget cuts. The vetoes and subsequent budget increases were in response to outstanding tuition increases at state-supported schools, such as Clemson's 42 percent tuition increase.

USC President John Palms immediately responded to the increased higher education budget by recommending that the board of trustees relieve students from high tuition increases.

"I believe the governor and the General Assembly took this bold action trusting that the colleges and universities would respond in a manner which would impact South Carolina families — through a reduction in the previously approved tuition increases," Palms said.

Darla Moore School of Business junior Elizabeth Gray said she's happy with the lessened increase, particularly when compared to Clemson's increase. "I guess we came out on the better end of things," Gray said. "If the state doesn't give us adequate funding, it makes sense to

INSIDE

- Revised tuition increases for all student categories — **PAGE 2**
- Details of Hodges' vetoes, saga of the budget cuts — **PAGE 2**

ask students for a little bit more."

Still, Gray said she'd like to see the university keep tuition increases even lower in the future.

"Sometimes I think USC could trim a lot more of fat from its budget than it lets on, [in terms of] extraneous programs," Gray said.

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HEISMAN WINNER SAYS 'STAY IN SCHOOL'



Mackenzie Clements/The Gamecock

George Rogers, a former USC football player who won the Heisman Trophy in 1980, signs autographs for a young participant at Sunday's celebrity basketball game. The event, which featured step shows, dancers and musical performances, was sponsored by the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to promote staying in school. **SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL STORY**

USC student missing

BY GREG HAMBRICK
THE GAMECOCK

The family of a missing USC student is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his return.

Shelton Sanders, a 25-year-old student in the College of Hospitality, Retailing and Sport Management and an employee in the School of Medicine, has been missing since June 19. Fliers were posted across campus this week in hopes of obtaining new information about his disappearance.

Sanders was last seen heading from Columbia to his Rembert home in Sumter County. He commuted every day from Sumter to Columbia on U.S. 76-378.

The \$10,000 reward was announced last week by the Sumter County Sheriff's Office after meeting with the Richland County Sheriff's Office and State Law Enforcement Division officials. After several unsuccessful leads, authorities are hoping the reward will lead to a break in the case.

On June 19, Sanders spent the evening making plans for a bachelor party. After calling his father about 9 p.m. to say he was on his way home, Sanders



SANDERS

went to the Embassy Suites and the Wellesley Inn in Columbia to help friends plan the party. He was last seen leaving at 9:51 p.m., driving a 1988 Oldsmobile Regency with S.C. license plate 214-LZM.

Officers have said the disappearance is suspicious.

"We feel like there's someone that has knowledge of his whereabouts, if foul play is involved," Sumter County Sheriff Tommy Mims said.

Since Sanders' disappearance, authorities have conducted aerial and ground searches of Sumter and Richland counties.

"It is our suspicion that he may

MISSING SEE PAGE 4

The Gamecock

Burger King closes Columbia restaurants

BY SHAWN MILLER
THE GAMECOCK

If you've had trouble finding an open Burger King in the Midlands lately, it's no surprise — 12 area "BK" restaurants have closed in the past week.

The closings, which have put about 500 people out of work, are the result of a financial dispute between James A. Hinton, the franchise owner, and the Miami-based Burger King Corp.

Hinton was ordered by Burger King to close the restaurants after he fell behind in his franchise payments by more than \$300,000, which pays for advertising and royalty

fees. Burger King franchise owners have also sustained additional expenses stemming from Burger King's April 1999 corporate makeover that created new logos, color schemes and drive-through systems.

Though Hinton also owes \$5,000 in property taxes on some of his BK properties, he has not filed for bankruptcy.

Closed restaurants include those on College Street across from the Horseshoe, North Main Street, Two Notch Road, St. Andrews Road, Charleston Highway and Bush River Road. Hinton's attorney, Robert Zarco of Zarco & Pardo in Miami, indicated that the restaurants might be reopened if the dispute is resolved. He said Burger

King's decision to close the restaurants was a "drastic measure."

Though rumors of the closings circulated among employees for weeks, the abruptness of the closings was unsettling.

"They just walked in and said, 'We're closing the store,'" said Constance McClain, a former manager at the College Street Burger King.

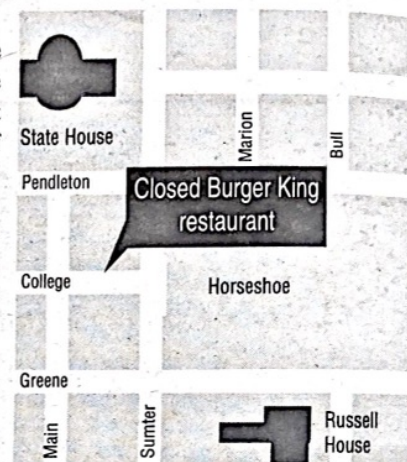
Many former BK employees are single mothers with no other sources of income. Debora Smith, for example, has run out of food since the BK she worked at closed, and she must now live on a \$68 unemployment check each week until she can find

another job.

Marvin Jackson, the Lexington Employment Office director, said he is confident that the office can place laid-off BK employees in new jobs. Jackson said he has been contacted daily by employers with positions to fill, including Waffle House and Lizard's Thicket.

This isn't the only bad luck endured by local Burger King restaurants lately. On July 3, the Devine Street Burger King was robbed in the early morning hours. No one was hurt.

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Mackenzie Clements/The Gamecock

Twelve area Burger Kings, including the one on College Street, have been closed in the past week because of a feud between franchise owner James Hinton and the Burger King Corp.

USC TUITION INCREASES

OVER 2001-2002 ACADEMIC YEAR

STUDENT CLASSIFICATION	TUITION	% INCREASE	ORIGINALLY
Resident undergraduates	\$3,964	5.2 percent	10.4 percent
Non-resident undergraduates	\$10,904	8.5 percent	10.4 percent
Resident graduate students	\$4,434	5.2 percent	10.4 percent
Non-resident graduate students	\$9,854	8.5 percent	10.4 percent
Resident medical students	\$9,900	10 percent	20 percent
Non-resident medical students	\$28,686	10 percent	20 percent

Budget cuts: A 6-month saga

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

When Gov. Jim Hodges recently vetoed cuts to the state appropriations of South Carolina's institutions of higher learning, it was the last chapter in a six-month saga that had once pitted him against the presidents of the state's colleges and universities, a saga that often changed along with Hodges' thinking.

"Our state cannot achieve success without proper funding of higher education," Hodges wrote in a letter to Speaker of the House David Wilkins after announcing he was vetoing the cuts to all of the state's 33 colleges and universities.

GOP attempts to override the vetoes in the General Assembly all came up short of the necessary two-

"To cut the source of enlightenment ... is just not something that we're going to accept without putting up a good fight."

USC President John Palms

thirds majority.

Over the course of the six-month fight over higher education, Hodges went from the enemy of higher education to its savior, finally deciding to put deeds behind a March 22 promise to "fix higher education."

It all began in late 2000, when Hodges reportedly warned USC President John Palms that past budget procedures might force state leaders to make deep cuts in South

Hodges' vetoes restore budget

BY BRANDON LARRABEE
THE GAMECOCK

Making good on his promise not to cut higher education, but drawing criticism that he didn't care about the state's poor or elderly, Gov. Jim Hodges used his line-item veto pen to spare South Carolina's colleges and universities from far-ranging cuts to the state's \$5 billion budget.

Despite the fact that Hodges' vetoes also undid a tax break that would have saved South Carolinians a penny on every dollar spent on food, the General Assembly failed to override the vetoes dealing with higher education.

"I am vetoing the budget cut for the University of South Carolina so this funding can be restored," Hodges wrote in a refrain he echoed for every one of South Carolina's 33 institutions of higher education. The move saves USC \$24.5 million.

"Our state cannot achieve success without proper funding of higher education," Hodges wrote, something he repeated for each item he vetoed about colleges and universities.

The vetoes were among 48 Hodges issued after a furious end to the legislative session that led to gridlock over how to slice \$500

million from the state budget to avoid constitutionally banned deficits.

To spare colleges and universities from severe budget cuts, though, Hodges was forced to suspend last year's penny-on-the-dollar sales tax break on food purchases. However, Hodges said he expected something from colleges in return.

"Consequently, I expect our colleges and universities to repeal any exorbitant tuition increases," Hodges said.

USC responded immediately by slashing a 10.4-percent tuition increase in half for resident undergraduates and cutting back on the increase out-of-state students will have to pay.

"I am disappointed that the General Assembly did not adopt other more effective tax relief such as the additional sales tax holiday."

Republicans returned fire, saying the moves could throw the state budget into deficits later in the year and force the Budget and Control Board to cut all state agencies.

According to House Ways and Means Chairman Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, the math behind Hodges' vetoes doesn't add up. He said that while Hodges

restored \$95 million in spending, he only added \$72 million of revenue.

"The Budget and Control Board will have to go in and have to cut all the budgets across the board one-half (percent) to 1 percent in order to bring the budget back in balance," said Harrell, who, as House and Ways Chairman, is a member of the board.

The board was forced to make a similar move this year, a move that impacted colleges and universities when a bill to exempt them — sponsored by Harrell and supported by Hodges — floundered in the House.

But Senate Minority Leader John Land, D-Manning, cast doubt on the GOP numbers.

"I doubt their figures very seriously and I think this budget is totally and perfectly balanced," Land said.

Bonnie Adams, a lawyer for the Senate Finance Committee, implied the argument was a matter of semantics. She said the vetoes would throw the budget out of balance, but only if the colleges and universities didn't return the \$28.5 million they were to receive from the clean-up fund from the Barnwell low-level nuclear waste