

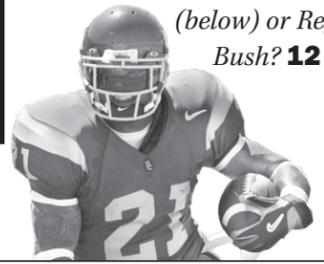


# DAILY TROJAN

Student Newspaper of the University of Southern California Since 1912

## INSIDE

Who should start at running back — LenDale White (below) or Reggie Bush? **12**



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August 31, 2005

Vol. CXLVII, No. 8

## Senate discusses year ahead

Student Senate announced additional funding for student organizations and improvements for the Lyon Center.

By **JOANNA LIN**  
Staff Writer

Student Senate President Jessica Lall addressed students and administrators Tuesday night at the first Senate meeting, emphasizing Senate's commitment to being inclusive and accessible.

"Hopefully, each one of you can contribute to our vision in some way ... (and) learn how Senate can help you realize your goals," Lall said to about 100 attendees at Upstairs Commons.

Lall said that Senate's goal for the year is to be more efficient, engaging and effective.

She gave credit to last year's Senate, which, under the leadership of President W. Joe DeMiero and Vice President Tessie Shih, strove to reform itself after being placed on probation and was challenged by a series of internal conflicts, she said.

"They did a phenomenal job taking an organization that was on probation and rebuilding bridges and re-establishing Senate as a respectable

campus organization," Lall said. "It made it very easy for us to take office and immediately begin getting things done."

Senate is committed to both fiscal and time efficiency, Lall said. "We have the special honor of managing \$2 million of student funds, and it is up to us to use money efficiently," she said.

Senate and Program Board passed a new budget this summer, increasing funding to a number of student organizations, including a 50 percent increase for KSCR radio station and a 30 percent increase for Recreational Sports.

More funds will be made avail-

able to student organizations as the semester continues and enrollment figures are finalized, Lall said.

Helping students use Senate resources is also a major priority, Lall said.

"The students' agenda is the primary focus of this administration," Lall said. "We would be doing a disservice to the student body by advocating and programming events students do not find engaging and necessary."

Chase Tajima, Senate vice president, said that another goal is better attendance at Senate's weekly meetings.

"We want there to be open dia-

| see **Senate**, page 3 |

## Student brightens troops' spirits

After a U.S. soldier asked for a visual fireworks display, one USC student responded to complete his request.

By **JOSHUA SHARP**  
Contributing Writer

Michael Tockstein is, in many ways, your average college student.

He balances multiple jobs and engineering classes during the school year, works as a lifeguard during the summer and enjoys a few hobbies on the side.

But what sets this 25-year-old USC electrical engineering graduate student apart is his main hobby: fireworks.

"As far back as I can remember, I've loved fireworks," he said.

Tockstein, who completed his undergraduate degree at California State University, Long Beach, is the manager of several Web sites and the creator of www.pyroinnovations.com, a site that hosts videos of several of Tockstein's fireworks shows.

He put his expertise to work last June when an American soldier e-mailed him from Sadr City, Iraq, requesting a virtual "fireworks display" to show the troops on the Fourth of July.

But given the time restrictions, he couldn't mail a DVD to Iraq in time for Independence Day.

So instead, he put together a high-quality video from one of his previous fireworks shows — a 20-minute display executed at Ventura College in 2004 — and uploaded it to his Web site, attaching a thank-you

| see **Fireworks**, page 3 |



Katherine Beck | Daily Trojan

**Did you brush?** Frederick Larry Moses IV gets his teeth extracted Tuesday by the USC-Union Mission Dental Clinic, a School of Dentistry health program.

## USC program provides free dental services

The USC-Union Rescue Mission Dental Clinic provides free dental care for low-income residents living on Skid Row.

By **JUSTINA LY**  
Contributing Writer

A routine trip to the dentist may cause some people to squirm. For many homeless individuals in Los Angeles, however, a visit to the dentist is the first step to a new life.

USC has partnered with the Union Rescue Mission, a non-profit organization located in Skid Row, to provide free dental services to the homeless since May 2000. The USC-URM Dental Clinic is just one of several outreach programs under the USC School of Dentistry Community

Health Programs.

Other programs include the USC Mobile Clinic, Neighborhood Mobile Clinic and Queenscare Dental Mobile Clinic, which all provide free dental services.

The USC-URM Dental Clinic is the first treatment center in Skid Row to provide comprehensive dental care to homeless adults and children. Services include exams, cleanings, fillings, tooth extractions, root canals, dentures and emergency care. All services are free to patients. The program has approximately 3,000 patients.

"This is an eight-chair clinic.

Everything is modern and nice. We work in a secure environment," said Dr. Charlie Goldstein, director of USCSD Community Health Programs.

URM screens patients before receiving treatment.

"They are given a brief medical checkup by physicians. Many people have addictions or other health problems," Goldstein said.

The physical checkup ensures that patients are healthy and stable enough to receive dental treatment, Goldstein said. "We don't want to cause anyone unnecessary trauma," he said.

Upperclassmen dental students, dental hygiene students and general-practice residents staff the clinic. Students are required to work a

seven-week rotation at the clinic.

Students work under the supervision of Dr. Armando Lopez, director of the clinic, Dr. Kathleen Elizondo, co-director of the clinic and other USCSD faculty members.

"On a daily basis, 20 patients are seen at the Dental Clinic," said Rachelle Bautista, administrative secretary with the Dental Clinic.

The clinic operates five days a week during the year.

Students see one or two patients in the morning and another couple in the afternoon, said Scott Nevin, a fourth-year dental student.

"I was attracted to the program because of the work in clinics," Nevin said.

Nevin said that it's the first

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## WEATHER

**Today:** Mostly sunny. High of 81, low of 61.

**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny. High of 79, low of 60.

# NewsDigest

**State**

**LAPD releases data:** A change in the way the Los Angeles Police Department counts domestic violence has allowed it to exaggerate crime statistics, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The department distributed figures suggesting that overall violent crime was down 28 percent this year compared to last year. Without the reporting change, the actual decline is only about one-third as large.

The changes were made to bring the department into accord with federal guidelines, and LAPD officials said that they have issued a disclaimer about the shift in its reporting.

**Hotel to be razed:** The historic Ambassador Hotel will be torn down and replaced with a multi-school complex after Los Angeles school district officials and the L.A. Conservancy reached an agreement after a long battle to save the hotel, the Los Angeles Times reported.

In exchange for tearing down the hotel, the district would make a \$4.9 million contribution to a nonprofit organization aimed at conserving historic school buildings.

**Nation**

**Hundreds feared dead:** Rescue workers around the U.S. Gulf Coast rushed to save survivors from rooftops and flooded attics in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina while authorities estimated that hundreds might be dead, Reuters reported.

In Biloxi, Miss., a city spokesman said that hundreds might have died after being trapped in their homes when a 30-foot storm surge came ashore.

Risk analysts have estimated the cost of the hurricane's destruction at as much as \$26 billion, the highest in United States history.

**Household incomes stagnant:** According to a report released by the Census Bureau, household incomes were stagnant last year, and the poverty rate rose despite a growing U.S. economy, The New York Times reported.

It was the first time in five years that household incomes failed to increase.

The report showed that a 4-year-old expansion had not shown results, as the median pretax income was at \$44,389 for households, the lowest point since 1997, after inflation.



Amanda Sanchez | Daily Trojan

**Hot stuff.** Hung Luu, a sophomore majoring in business administration, barbecues with President Hazel Lebiga, a senior majoring in real estate and entrepreneurship, for the Asian American Business Association kickoff event.

The census numbers do not reflect tax cuts passed during President Bush's first term.

**World**

**Burro eradication in doubt:** A plan to control the burro population in Durango, Mexico is meeting resis-

tance from animal-rights activists around the world, the Los Angeles Times reported.

In May, state officials announced a plan giving farmers incentives to round up burros and exchange them for calves, goats or sheep. Burros have been blamed by the state for

increased erosion and a lowering of the water tables.

The plan was to take burros to slaughterhouses and convert them into dog food, meat for zoo animals or sausage for human consumption, but the plan has now been put on hold after protests.

# Take Kaplan. Score higher.

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MCAT

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**Classes are starting soon!**

**LSAT:** 9/29  
10/17 **USC Radisson**

**GMAT:** 9/7  
10/20 **USC Radisson**

**GRE:** 9/21 **USC Radisson**  
10/18 **USC Radisson**

**MCAT:** 10/1 **USC Radisson**

**DAT/OAT:** 9/12



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## Upcoming

To submit an item for Upcoming, send a fax to (213) 740-5666 or e-mail dtrojan@usc.edu.

**Wednesday, Aug. 31**

**6 p.m.:** The USC School of Architecture and USC Architectural Guild sponsors "Celebrate the Future," an event that recognizes students who make a positive impact on society and gives benefactors an opportunity to meet the students they fund. The event is held at the south lawn of Watt Hall, and admission is free. For more information, e-mail atierney@usc.edu or call (213) 740-2723.

**7 p.m.:** The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center, Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs and El Centro Chicano sponsors a book discussion on "Down for Whatever." Author Frederick Smith will speak about his new book about finding love in a city of false leads and tempting distractions. A book signing will follow the discussion. The event is held at the Norman Topping Student Activities Center and admission is free. For more information, e-mail lgbt@usc.edu or call (213) 740-7619.

**Thursday, Sept. 1**

**4:30 p.m.:** The USC Information Services Division sponsors "State of the Arts: a Conversation with Barbara Isenberg." The event will feature a reading from Isenberg's 2000 book, "State of the Arts: California Artists Talk About Their Work." Isenberg is a former staff reporter for the Wall Street Journal and editor of three books about theater. The event will be held in the intellectual commons at Doheny Memorial Library and admission is free. For more information, e-mail gaskill@usc.edu or call (213) 740-2070.

**Thursday, Sept. 3**

**8:00 p.m.:** TRUTH entertainment sponsors "The Underground — Gospel Hip Hop Sanctuary," featuring live performances by The Tunnelrats and The Counsoul, a DJ spinning gospel music and a spiritual freestyle session. The event will be held at Ground Zero. Admission is \$5 with a student identification and \$10 for the general public. For more information, call Carla Yorke at (310) 387-3486.

## Dental: Clinic growing to meet patient demand

(continued from page 1)

rotation at the USC-URM Dental Clinic. He said that he has worked at other USCSM mobile clinics, including the Queenscare Dental Mobile Clinic.

"Clinic work is a required part of the program, but most people do more than the minimum," Nevin said. "The adults and children are receptive and friendly to us. Sometimes, a couple weeks after our work, we'll get cards, letters, thank-you notes and boxes of donuts."

The USC dental clinics do not provide cosmetic surgery or cosmetic procedures such as teeth whitening; however, the aesthetic improvements provided after a cleaning or a new set of dentures help to boost a patient's self-esteem.

"The goal is get people back in the mainstream and to get them healthy," Goldstein said.

The Brentwood-based Homeless Not Toothless program shares the same goal. Dr. Jay Grossman created the program in 1992 and the organization provides free dental care to homeless patients.

Grossman said that his frustra-

tion with panhandlers was the impetus for the program.

"I was torn between giving them a sandwich or my money. I didn't know what they were going to use the money for so I decided to offer my skills as a dentist," he said.

When homeless people asked him for money or food, Grossman said that he handed them his business card.

"I told them that I would provide free dental care if they were willing to change and improve their life," Grossman said.

Soon people responded and called Grossman's office for appointments, he said.

Grossman said that he paid the expenses for supplies and laboratory work. He estimated that \$300,000 in services have been provided to his homeless patients since the clinic opened.

Compared to time and labor, "the supplies and lab bills are the biggest expenses," he said.

Grossman said that he was eager to help more homeless patients and contacted the Venice Family Clinic.

The clinic provides assistance to

people with low incomes and with no health insurance.

The Venice Family Clinic screens patients and refers them to Grossman for dental treatment, he explained.

Grossman said that he enlisted other dentists in the West Los Angeles area to join the program because of the response.

There are now about 40 dentists participating in the Homeless Not Toothless organization, he said. Grossman added that he expanded his office to serve more patients.

Two years ago, the program officially became a non profit organization and now qualifies for grants and government funding, he said.

Grossman said that he still financially supplements some of the dental supplies and laboratory work, while dentists donate the time and labor commitment.

"I would ask for more volunteer dentists. All I'm asking for is one hour a month. It would make a huge difference if every dentist gave one hour a month. Imagine all the people we could help," Grossman said.



Katherine Beck | Daily Trojan

**Ouch.** Scott Niven, a senior in the dental school, extracts teeth Tuesday from Frederick Larry Moses IV at the Union Mission Rescue Center.

## Senate: Director of International Affairs added

(continued from page 1)

logue at our Tuesday meetings."

As part of its effort to anticipate and recognize student needs, Senate created a new position, director of International Affairs.

"With one in every five students being an international student, this position will with no doubt assist them in meeting their needs," Lall said.

Lall added that two new assemblies, the Political Affairs assembly and Assembly of the Arts, are in discussion. "We feel that incorporation of these groups into Student Senate will help us better serve our diverse student body," she said.

Representatives from the Lyon Center, the provost's office and Phi Delta Theta fraternity spoke about changes and goals they hope to accomplish with Senate's cooperation.

Justine Gilman, associate director of Recreational Sports, said that Senate was pivotal in helping the Lyon Center receive funding for renovation and thanked students for their active support.



Nicholas Pellico | Daily Trojan

**Leader.** Jessica Lall speaks at the Student Senate meeting Tuesday.

"We're thrilled to have additional funding on a continual basis — the Lyon Center will continue to improve," Gilman said. "Your letters are the most effective way to help us get there. (The university) needs to hear from the students. You make the difference."

The Lyon Center has converted its cycling room to accommodate more cardiovascular equipment and is planning to enclose the upstairs workout area for cycling and boxing, she said.

A climbing wall will also be open to students in the near future, Gilman said, adding that she hopes more renovation will be complete by December.

Recreational Sports and the Lyon Center will continue to push for the improvement of facilities as well as maintaining adequate space for student use, said Don Ludwig, director of the Lyon Center.

Senate will also work with the provost office to bring more academic- and career-oriented resources to students, said Gene Bickers, associate vice provost of Undergraduate Affairs.

Lall said that Senate will focus on bringing tangible results to students. "If by the end of the year every student on this campus cannot say how (his or her) undergraduate experience has been enriched and enhanced by Student Senate, then we have failed as an organization," she said.

## Fireworks: U.S. soldiers in Iraq sent letter of commendation

(continued from page 1)

note for the troops. His contact in Iraq was then able to access the site and present the fireworks show on a large projection screen to nearly 1,000 troops.

"I felt honored to be able to help our soldiers feel more at home on a holiday which would normally be spent with their families," Tockstein wrote in an earlier e-mail. "The Fourth of July celebrates the very freedom that they are fighting for."

A letter of commendation from the soldiers' commander in Iraq illustrated the widespread appreciation for Tockstein's presentation.

"Your fireworks film momentarily transported our soldiers back to America, and the celebrations that mark the birthday of our great nation," wrote Lt. Col. Gary E. Luck, Jr.

"For the approximately 1,000 soldiers of our task force, this film represented freedom and why we remain vigilant in our efforts to bring democ-

racy to Iraq," Luck wrote.

But becoming a licensed fireworks operator was no easy task.

"It's pretty hard to get into the industry," he said.

He went to a number of local fireworks shows in an attempt to get close enough to the crew to talk to an operator. After finding the right people and asking enough questions, Tockstein began training for his pyrotechnic operator's license.

The process involved "a lot of red tape," and required experience working with numerous fireworks displays throughout the training period, he said.

In 2001, he became eligible to obtain his license and was soon a certified pyrotechnician. His experience with fireworks displays includes working on shows for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Los Angeles Galaxy. This weekend, he will be involved with a fireworks display for a NASCAR event.

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## 2005-06

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