

GAMECOCK

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Mike Boliver, left, and Ginny Tucker place sign on Humanities lawn protesting proposed widening of Pickens Street.

Coed dorm to provide academic atmosphere

By BETTY WOODRUFF
Staff Writer

Students wishing to live in a proposed coed dormitory geared to provide an academic atmosphere for serious students should sign up Tuesday in Russell House lobby.

Planned for Preston dormitory, the proposal, known as "Project Preston," has passed through all channels of administration at the University and is awaiting a final decision by the Board of Trustees.

Since the Board will not meet until May 13, after all students have left, students who would live in this arrangement must leave their name so that they can be informed of the Board's decision.

The philosophy of the dorm has been drawn up by a group of about 15 students "interested in improving the academic atmosphere of the University," Greg Jackson, project chairman, said.

Activities already planned include special interest groups such as language majors living together for an in-depth culture situation; special study groups, including

students from the same classes meeting together for further discussion; and tutorial services.

"Preston dorm was chosen because its natural architecture lends itself to coed living better than any other dorm," Jackson said.

"Essentially, it will still be two dorms, divided by right and left wings, under one roof. The coed factor is secondary, but we feel that to have the interaction we want and the diversity, males and females should be in close proximity," Jackson said.

"All precautions will be taken to make sure visitation rules and such will be followed between the two wings. This is primarily an academic attempt, and the coed factor is something rising out of the attempt to have the most participation possible," he said.

Several vacant rooms in Preston would become study or commons rooms for discussions, and the downstairs lobby would be enlarged to accommodate speakers or lecturing professors.

Jackson said, "Plans also call for some classes to be set up in the building."

He said he is aware that several residents now in Preston had protested the use of that particular dorm, but that the structure of Preston was the most suitable on campus for this type project.

To insure adequate security, Jackson said the committee had proposed all doors but the front one be equipped with fire locks.

Students who wish to live in the facility must make special applications including purposes for participating in the program and the contributions that can be made to the project.

"Project Preston" is open first to groups, then individuals if there are not enough groups. Faculty endorsements are desired and applicants must schedule a personal interview.

"Selection will be based on the student's indication of academic intents," Jackson said.

"People interested must sign up Tuesday so that if the Board ap-

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Widening Pickens just one expansion plan

By KARIN BURCHSTEAD
Staff Writer

The proposed widening of Pickens Street is just one element of a University plan for the expansion of a six-block area bounded by Pickens, Pendleton, Gregg and Green streets, according to Harold Brunton, vice president for Business Affairs.

A meeting has been scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday at Capstone "to answer student concerns about the proposal," Brunton said. This meeting precedes a 3 p.m. public hearing Wednesday at Capstone which will be conducted by the S.C. Highway Department and federal personnel.

Plans for the expansion of the

Students may attend discussion on proposed major renovations

"east campus" include a proposal for major renovations of a two-block section of Pickens Street through the USC campus; closing of certain sections of streets within the six-block area over a period of years; and development of mall areas, academic buildings and housing and parking facilities.

Brunton said the University has been working on the plans for the past 10 years. He said the expansion plans "represent the perfect ecological balance."

"The flow of traffic will increase

on Pickens Street but it will be safer and smoother, and ecology will gain in the more open areas that are provided for in the plans," Brunton said.

One of the immediate proposals of the development plans, which are to be implemented gradually through 1985, is the improvement of a two-block section of Pickens Street between Pendleton and Green.

The University has proposed to widen and depress the street and also construct a pedestrian

overpass at the point where Pickens intersects College Street.

"Pickens Street will be heavily screened with walls and trees, so the noise will not be objectional but an overall improvement," Brunton said.

Under the proposal the University will relinquish the land for the right of way in exchange for a tentative agreement with the city to give up Henderson, Barnwell and College streets and Gibbs Court, Brunton said.

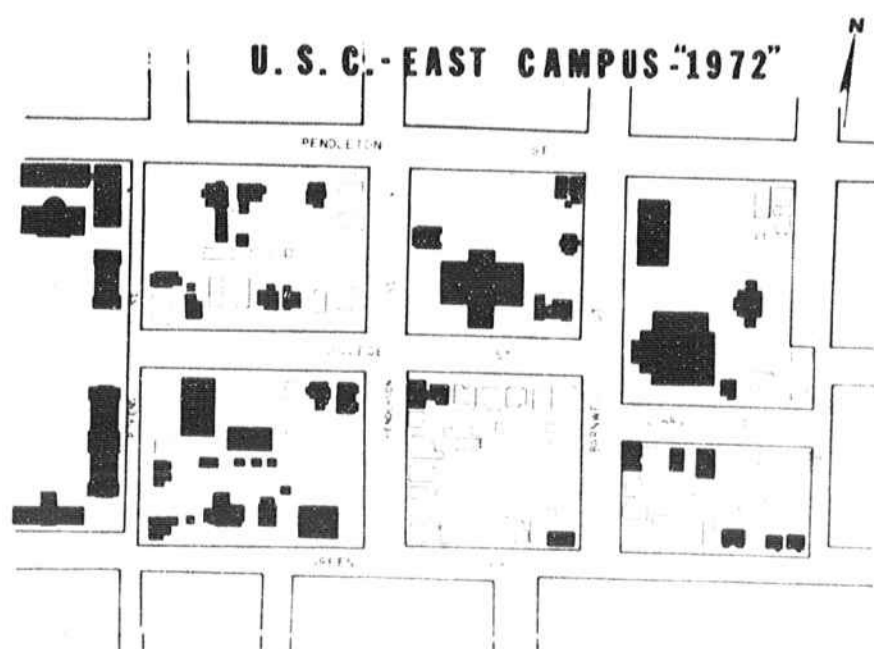
"In effect, there will be more

traffic on Pickens Street in exchange for the elimination of traffic on Henderson, Barnwell, College and Gibbs Court," he added.

Brunton said he does not believe a monorail would be feasible for the University because of the expense involved. "Essentially what we will have is a closed-loop situation in which the traffic is off the city streets."

According to traffic surveys, Pickens is one of the few north-south arteries through central Columbia and there exists an "acute" traffic conflict between motor vehicles and pedestrian

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Before and After

These charts represent USC today and USC as it will look in 1985 when plans for the construction of new buildings, the closing of street portions and the landscaping of "east campus" are expected to be completed. The blackened areas represent sections already owned by the University.

