



'Working Girl' has its moments, but the film never quite lives up to its potential.

See Features, page 5

## Women's basketball moves to 9-0

See Sports, page 10

"The team is Top 20 material, and Felton is now being seen around the country as one of the up-and-coming young coaches." — Jeff Shrewsbury, columnist

See 'Felton' column page 4

# The Gamecock

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## Arts center to be ready

London Philharmonic to perform Saturday

By SUSAN NESBITT and MARY PEARSON  
News editors

USC's Ira and Nancy Koger Center for the Arts will be ready for the grand gala of opening events planned for Saturday and all of next week, USC administrators promise.

The center will open after years of planning, delays and scares of not having sufficient funding to complete the project.

However, Gonzales Hall, the main auditorium of the Koger Center, and all other construction necessary for the opening performances will be complete by Saturday, said Thomas Stepp, director of the center.

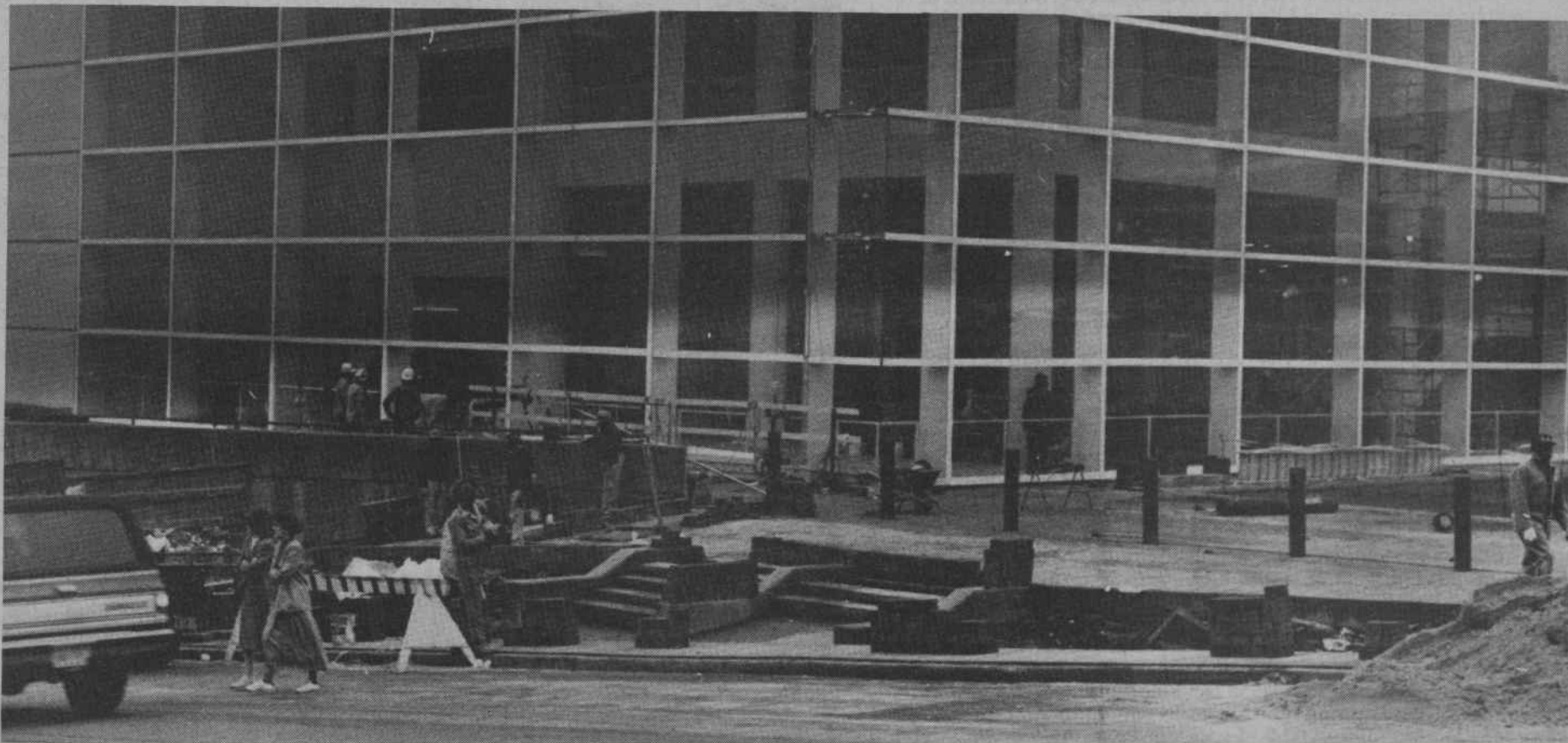
The \$15 million arts center will open with a performance by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at 8 p.m. Saturday. The event will feature the American premiere, by a professional orchestra, of Gustav Mahler's unfinished Symphony No. 10 as completed by Clinton Carpenter.

"It's possible that some of the office space will not be complete, and that there will remain some finishing touches to be made on the rehearsal hall," Stepp said, "but 98 percent of everything, all that's necessary for the opening, will be complete."

Part of what remains to be done is the acoustical testing of the hall. Stepp said, though, the testing was "not like a final exam, a one time thing." He said the testing had been and would continue to go on for months, with adjustments being made.

"Every surface in the hall has been tested individually," he said. "Thursday and Friday we will have all the elements together for the first time, and we will both test and adjust them."

He said the many activities scheduled for the center's opening days would delay further construction, but that



USC officials say the Koger Arts Centers will play host to the London Philharmonic Saturday night, although construction is not complete.

the center would be completed within another month.

The road to the opening celebrations has been a long rocky one. It began with O. Stanley Smith, who originated the idea of building such a center in Columbia. Funding has been one of the major obstacles to the opening of the center. It was not until 1987 that an agreement between the city, Richland County and USC allowed for construction to begin.

The county provided \$3.7 million, the city gave \$2 million and the balance is being provided by USC through donations from the Carolina Research Development Foundation. The largest donations included a \$4 million gift from Ira and Nancy Koger of Savannah. Other dona-

tions were provided by the Gonzales brothers, who founded *The State*. The Gonzaleses donated \$1.5 million, and the Knight Foundation of Ohio has contributed \$200,000.

Last minute details such as training of student staff members are being taken care of this week, according to Ronald Pearson, the associate director of operations for the Koger Center.

The center is holding training sessions all week for the 345 students who signed up in the fall to work as ushers, ticket takers and other various positions, Pearson said.

"We plan to have from 40 to 50 students working each performance, so the training is essential. In the sessions, we will be going over how things work in the perfor-

mances and safety standards," Pearson said.

Other details include the arrival of stage equipment and lighting equipment, Pearson said. The equipment should be in place by performance time, he said.

The orchestra will arrive in Charlotte Friday at 4 p.m., and chartered buses will bring them to Columbia, Pearson said.

"So the only thing we really have nightmares about right now is a major ice storm hitting our area," Pearson said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather service predicts rain Friday and early Saturday, but no ice storms are in the forecast for Columbia.

## New small business technology

# South Carolina, USC to cooperate on research center

By JOHN MILLS III  
Staff writer

The federal government has selected USC and the S.C. Technology Board to participate in one of three regional centers that will produce advanced technology for small companies.

This technology should rival that of Japan.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology, a division of the U.S. Commerce Department, selected the two organizations to serve as the South Carolina center for production. The center will be called the South Carolina Technology Cooperative.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., first authorized legislation funding the centers. Hollings is pleased USC was chosen to participate, said Pat Windham, a spokesman for the senator.

"The Senator talked with (USC President James) Holderman and urged him to apply and put together a good proposal, Windham said. "Hollings was very pleased."

He said three dozen applicants were in the running, and only three were selected. The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. and the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program also received NIST awards.

Up to \$5 million could be given to the South Carolina center over a two-year period. The initial start-up and operating costs of the center for the first six months will be funded by a \$1.5 million federal award. There will be negotiations for the additional \$3.5 million.

USC will contribute faculty and staff time and equipment to match the federal grant.

"The center is not for research as most federally funded centers are. This one is a cultural extension to provide advice for small- to medium-sized companies on how best they can automate. There is a strong belief that the smaller companies are lag-

ging behind the Japanese," Windham said.

The U.S. will renew its chance to continue to be competitive in the world markets, Holderman said.

"This award puts South Carolina in the vanguard of an intensive national effort to help the United States remain competitive with other major manufacturing nations," he said.

Hollings sees this opportunity as a chance for USC to work with the tech system and to reach a group of smaller companies that have not benefitted from USC before, Windham said. It will also make USC look better, he said.

"To be included among the first

three national centers to be established under this program represents a giant leap forward for the university, the tech system and the state," Holderman said. "For the first time a national center of this magnitude will be based in South Carolina, a privilege until now enjoyed by states outside the Southeast."

South Carolina was chosen because of university and tech system resources and because the state's tremendous growth in industrial development has increased the need for competitive technology, said Paul Huray, USC senior vice president for research.

"From an industrial base

dominated by the textile and apparel industries, South Carolina has moved into a much more diversified manufacturing economy," he said.

The center will work in a narrow market initially and will deal with metal cutting, robotics and other technology, Windham said.

Engineers trained by the federal government will be transferred to the center, he said.

"A lot of smaller companies don't have the engineers or the technology to compete with the Japanese. Just a few basic improvements in technology from small companies would be very beneficial," Windham said.

## NAACP plans meeting with Carolina officials about minority hiring

By DANNY MITCHUM  
Staff writer

The NAACP plans to meet with USC about its minority employment practices, said a state association official Tuesday.

Nelson Rivers, executive secretary for the S.C. state conference of NAACP branches said the NAACP wants to meet with USC officials after figures on minority hiring practices and salary levels are released by the Human Affairs Commission in its annual report Feb. 1.

Past commission reports on minority hiring practices at USC were not good, Rivers said.

The report's figures are important in determining how the NAACP will approach USC, Rivers said.

The commission oversees the affirmative action and equal opportunity practices and policies of all state agencies.

Ed Hayes, president of the USC Black Faculty Association, said he also hopes to meet with President James Holderman next week to discuss possible salary level differences between black faculty and other faculty members at the Columbia campus.

Hayes said he and Holderman met two months ago to discuss some positive steps that could be taken at USC.

"There has been some improvement," Hayes said. He said, however, that both he and Holderman described the current progress as

"weak." Hayes said he would be acquiring figures soon on possible salary differences between white and black faculty.

Charges were made last month by Roy Henderson, the president of the Spartanburg NAACP chapter, criticizing hiring and promotional practices at the USC Spartanburg campus.

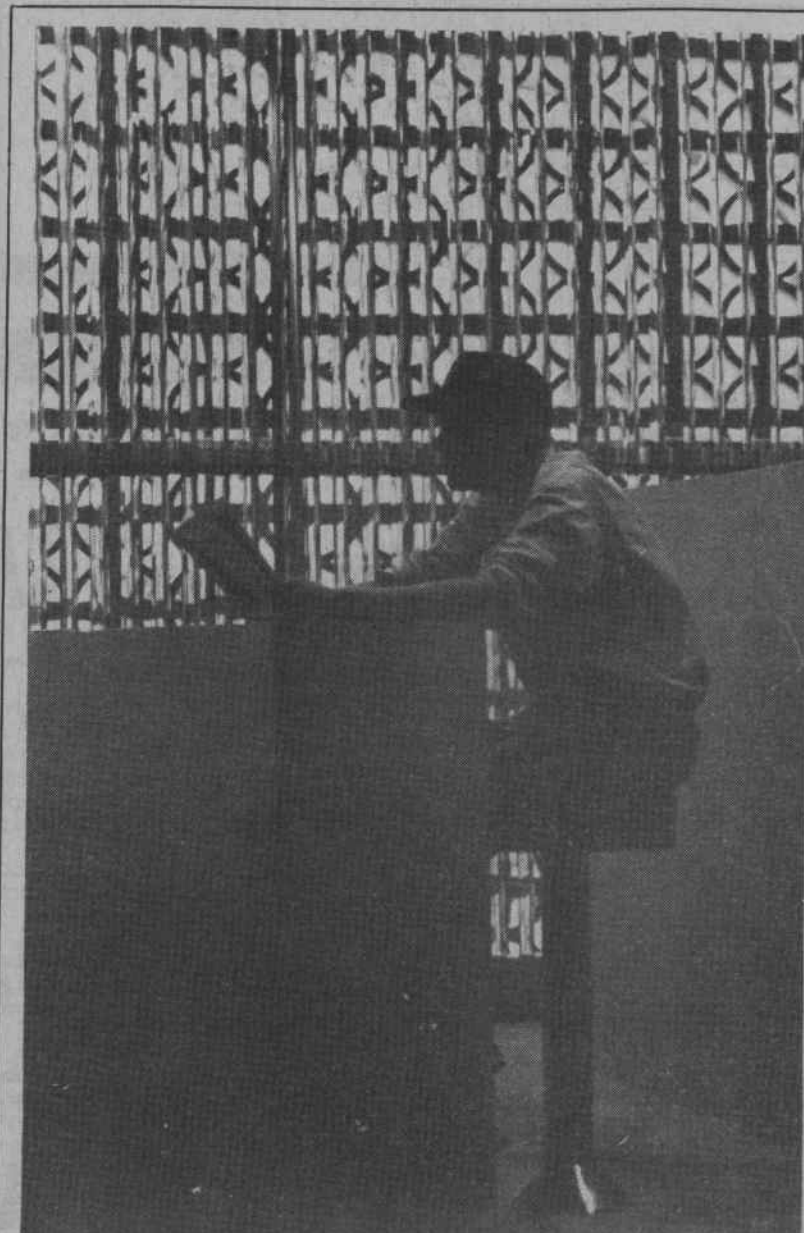
USC Senior Vice President for Personnel Jane Jameson said USC was investigating Henderson's charges one by one. The inquiry, which was ordered by Holderman, got started Tuesday at the USC-Spartanburg Campus.

Jameson said she was not aware of any upcoming investigation by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People concerning the Columbia campus.

The local branch has received some complaints concerning the hiring practices and salary discrepancies at USC, Rivers said.

Rivers said the NAACP was involved in promoting the objectives of the Fair Share Program. Those objectives emphasize an increase in the amount of employment at all levels, specifically policy making positions, for blacks in the public and private business sector.

He mentioned that the NAACP had recently reached a successful agreement with Winthrop College concerning the goals of the Fair Share Program



Keith Jones enjoys the quiet solitude of the study area in the newly renovated Golden Spur.

## Golden Spur to open after months of delays

By KRIS TAYLOR  
Staff writer

The Golden Spur will celebrate its grand reopening Friday after several months of delays.

The Spur closed in 1984 when the state legislature changed the legal drinking age to 21. It is being reopened as a non-alcoholic, multi-functional entertainment complex.

The Spur was first scheduled to reopen at the beginning of the fall semester, but construction delayed the opening.

"The construction workers were giving us completion dates which were not realistic," Spur manager Lee Cossin said. "We also had to do everything through the USC purchasing system, which takes some time."

"It was a project in which we underestimated the time it would take to complete," University Project Development supervisor Herb Brinson said.

The fixtures and frames needed for the Spur's new high-tech look took extra time and labor to install, he said.

In the past six months, the facilities have been completely renovated. USC administrators set aside \$250,000 for the changes, Brinson said. Final cost figures are not in, but Brinson said he believed the cost stayed within the range.

Although student activity fees were not used to fund the Spur's \$250,000 renovation, they help with operation costs, S.G. adviser Woody Carothers said.

The student Senate approved a proposal last spring that called for

one dollar from every student's required activity fee to go to the Spur.

The proposal went before the student body by way of a referendum last spring and was approved.

The new facility is divided into two separate rooms. The first is designated as a quiet room and is used for studying, reading, or playing board games.

The back room is a high-tech area including a raised stage, 36-inch color television and a dance area.

Opening festivities begin 4 p.m. Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception. Dennis Pruitt, vice president for student affairs, will cut the ribbon.

Other highlights of grand opening week, dubbed "Eight Days a Week," include a live band performance by The Cartwrights Friday evening.

The Residence Hall Association will follow the grand opening performance with a Saturday night dance emceed by Yes 97 radio.

Monday has been designated as a Martin Luther King celebration. Features will include several documentary films on the Civil Rights movement.

The Carolina Program Union will host acoustic musician Barry Drake Thursday evening, and "Eight Days a Week" will conclude Friday with a DJ dance.

The Spur is open every day. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. until midnight, Friday 8 a.m. until 1 a.m., Saturday noon to 1 a.m. and Sunday noon until midnight.