

# Library installs security system

## Lower levels more secure

By PATRICK VILLEGAS  
Assistant News Editor

Thomas Cooper Library implemented a new security system Friday which will help students feel more comfortable and secure while studying on lower levels of the library.

The new \$8,000 system, supported by supplemental revenue funds, has cameras and two-way intercoms installed on the bottom five levels of the library which are easily observable by librarians in the circulation desk and by security guards at the library exit.

If any student is in need of emergency help, he can push the designated button located by each of the elevator doors. By pressing the button, it will alert the circulation desk and allow communication between both parties through an intercom system.

In addition to immediate contact with librarians, the floor camera will begin to record the events taking place on that particular floor.

"It will provide people with security when on a lower level if they feel bothered and uncomfortable," said C.J. Cambre Jr., Assistant

Dean of Libraries for Management Services.

Security guards will also constantly monitor the lower levels with television sets located at the library exit.

Since the system went under operation Friday, Cambre said two incidents, both false alarms, occurred.

Cambre wanted to note that the system should be used only in case of an emergency, not for assistance in finding books or research materials.

"Hopefully, the students will use it for its purpose," he said.

The new security measures are taking place after a year-and-a-half absence of telephones that were once used for emergencies in the library. The phones were taken down because of the complexities of wiring when the USC phone system broke up.

Over that period of time, students became more concerned for their well-being, and a new plan was devised in November to increase library security.

So far, Cambre said he has received a fairly good response from the students, faculty and the library staff, and also said the system will soon be added to the Mezzanine level later this year.

### Planning their future



Eric Glenn/The Gamecock

Students browse through career opportunities Tuesday at the USC Career Fair in the Koger Center.

## Crime Report

The following reports were filed with the USC police department between Sept. 2-5

### Sept. 2

■ Arceny of a bicycle over \$100, NADA Apartments. Victim stated unknown person(s) cut the lock and unlawfully removed the bicycle. The lock was left at the scene.

### Sept. 3

■ Grand larceny of a bicycle, Burney. Victim stated that unknown person(s) cut the lock and took her red mountain bike from the above location.

■ Petty larceny, Russell House. Subject approached the reporting officer at Snowden and stated that his unattended bookbag had been stolen from the gameroom.

■ Abandoned vehicle, A-2 lot, 1300 Greene St. While on patrol, the complainant found the vehicle abandoned on its side at the entrance to the lot.

### Sept. 4

■ Grand larceny, Physical Science. Victim stated she left her purse at the above location. When she returned, it was gone.

■ Larceny of auto, Bull St. Complainant stated that person(s) unknown stole the secure vehicle by unknown means.

### Sept. 5

■ Burglary third degree, grand larceny, Physical Science. Victim stated unknown person(s) entered the above location and removed items.

■ Larceny of money, Baker. Victim stated that person(s) unknown entered her unsecure room and took money and checks from her purse.

■ Unlawful use of telephone, Capstone. Subject has refused to leave the victim alone. He calls her at her room, he calls her at home and he has tried to visit her at home and at school. Subject has called recently and said he would like to see her. Victim is afraid for her safety.

Compiled by Chad Bray  
Staff Writer

# USC business center helps entrepreneurs

From Staff Reports

Eddie Robinson of Columbia knew he wanted to start his own veterinary medical practice, but he just didn't know how to go about it.

In January 1990, Robinson saw a newspaper advertisement for a business seminar sponsored by the Small Business Development Center at the University of South Carolina.

The \$20 seminar was economical and only scheduled to last for two to three hours, so Robinson decided to attend.

"After being an associate in other veterinary offices in Columbia for six years, I knew I wanted to start my own business, but I had no idea how I was going to do it," Robinson said.

After attending the seminar and getting answers to all his preliminary questions, Robinson called the center and set up an appointment with a consultant to talk about setting up his own practice.

Today, after nearly a year and a half of planning and preparation, Robinson has his own clinic, the Midlands Veterinary Clinic in Columbia.

Helping small business entrepreneurs like Robinson is what the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is all about, Dean Kress, SBDC consultant said.

Operated through USC's College of Business Administration, the Columbia office of the SBDC provides consulting, information, referral and seminars to small business entrepreneurs. The center's services are free, except for a nominal charge for some seminars.

Once someone like Robinson comes forward for help, a SBDC consultant will meet and talk about their needs. After an initial meeting, the consultant can assist the entrepreneur in his market research to determine what demand there is for the product or service

the entrepreneur wants to provide.

Consultants also will help organize a financial plan, Kress said.

If market research shows there is a demand for the product or service, the consultant can advise the client on the next step necessary to establish his or her business.

Kress said the unique aspect of Robinson's attempt to start his own business was that he had the medical expertise but lacked the skills to put together a financial plan.

In Robinson's situation, as is often the case with professionals like doctors and lawyers, financial planning was the main area in which he needed assistance.

"It does not really matter if whom we're helping is a doctor or a shoe salesman," Kress said. "Both situations are very similar because they have an abundance of knowledge in their respective fields but lack the necessary skills to get a plan together."

"The business plan is the key to where I am today," Robinson said. "The center really helped me organize an effective and professional presentation I could give to the banks."

The process of obtaining a loan was long and tedious, Robinson said. It took about four and a half months of presenting his entire plan to several banks before he actually received financing.

Although it was a painstaking process, Robinson said he gained experience and familiarity with his own ambitions with each presentation.

Throughout the process, and even now, the SBDC remained available for consultation. "I recommend their services to anyone who is interested in opening their own business," said Robinson, who opened his office in June.

### Applicants can get experience

# Co-op program guides students

By VALERIE HILL  
Staff Writer

Due to the nation's economic situation, many students are turning to the University's Co-op and Internship programs for financial help.

Co-op is short for the University's Cooperative Education program. This program helps place students in positions related to their field of interest.

There has been a vast increase this semester in the number of stu-

dents searching for employment, said Tom Ward, director of the Student Employment Center.

"You go up to any freshman on the street and ask them how long they will be in college and they will say four years. It's automatic, but four years isn't even the average anymore," Ward said.

Many students are forced to cut back on credit hours per semester, while some even have to take whole semesters off to work.

Although working students may

have to take time off from classes, there is one good thing that comes out this situation. A student who gets an early start in their field, can increase their marketability and make important contacts within the company.

An alternative to Co-op is the USC Internship program, which employs 170 students.

"Internships can fall during any semester," Ward said "We've sent students to New York and even California."

Although only 56 percent of participating USC Internships are paid, they do offer benefits similar to those of Co-op.

Students can take up to five or more years to complete their college education.

"Engineering students are looking at an extra semester automatically," Ward said.

Student Employment has sent in new records, already placing students in positions this year.

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