

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE CAMPBELL The Gamecock

**COMMON COMPLEX:** University Commons is located at 800 Alexander Road in Cayce.

## Nothing common about it

University Commons becomes popular off-campus choice

ALLISON WILLIAMS Staff Writer

USC's newest residence hall is not on campus.

This fall, 576 Carolina students have found a slice of USC at University Commons across the Blossom Street bridge in Cayce.

From the gamecock mascot hanging in the front office to the "C" for Carolina on the bottom of the pool, University Commons has claimed its niche in USC life.

Everyone who lives in University Commons is a Carolina student, and the apartment complex is deliberately advertised that way. University Commons is designed especially to meet the needs and interests of students, particularly USC students.

Diane Taylor, University Commons property manager, feels this is what sets the Commons apart from other off-campus apartments. "People are attracted to living at the Commons because we are a student environment. We go straight to the campus, and we gear everything for students. Anything you do on campus, we do here," Taylor said.

For example, University Commons management has planned events such as USC-Georgia celebration, homecoming cookout, a parents' weekend reception and other events that coincide with activities on campus.

University Commons residents can also participate in many of the same activities that they might living on campus such as hall government, blood dri-



**HOMEBODIES:** Keith Larson, wearing a hat, entertains friends in his new University Commons apartment.

ves, food drives and door-decorating contests. The only exception is that students will decorate their balconies instead of their doors.

Many students are drawn to the Commons because of added features such as the balconies. The fully furnished four bedroom/two bath apartments are equipped with washer and dryer, dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator. Tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, weight room, computer room, convenient parking and 24-hour courtesy officers are other added attractions.

"I wasn't safe on campus," senior Pat Count said. "I didn't feel comfortable. I was tired of close quarters. The Commons are new and close to campus."

But is the price right? USC senior Patrick Carr wanted to move off campus last year but said it simply wasn't af-

fordable. This is a factor for many students, but Matt Commons, also a senior, added it up and said the Commons is price competitive with on-campus rates.

"I added up the flat fee for the Horseshoe, cable and activity and divided up 12 and got a monthly fee of \$273. I added rent, water, electricity, cable, installation and monthly fee for phone, processing fee and divided by 12 and got \$275," Commons said.

A fully-furnished, price-competitive apartment with an on-campus atmosphere is what has made University Commons a phenomenal success at USC, the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, Miami of Ohio, the University of Florida, Florida State, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and the University of Georgia. University Commons was full 9 weeks after it opened, and this was before the apartments were actually built.

"For off campus, it doesn't get much better than this," Commons said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON?!

Read WHAT'S UP in The Gamecock and find out.

If you would like to submit information on upcoming arts & entertainment events, bring it to RH 321 by noon every Friday.

## Hootie-mania hits the nation

NANCY SALOMONSKY Staff Writer

From Five Points to the White House, USC's own Hootie and the Blowfish have burst on the national music scene with their latest release *Cracked Rear View*.

The Columbia quartet is made up of Darius Rucker, lead vocals, Mark Bryan, guitar, Dean Felber, bass, and Jim "Son" Sonefeld on drums.

While Hootie's hit song "Hold My Hand" has been playing in Columbia since the CD was released this summer, it wasn't until recently when the rest of the East Coast and Southeast caught on to Hootie-mania.

The band was honored by President Bill Clinton by being asked to play at a Democratic fund-raiser. And if being picked to play for the President wasn't enough, Hootie will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

*Cracked Rear View* is a wonderful combination of mellow, folk and pop music. Each song is masterfully written and has great, deep meaning. *Cracked Rear View* is the band's first attempt on a major record label, Atlantic Records.

Before being signed by Atlantic, Hootie and the Blowfish put out three independent CD's, including *Hootie and the Blowfish* (1990), *Time* (1992), and the well known *Kootchytop* (1993).

The band will be coming home to perform after an extended road trip Sept. 2 at the Township Auditorium.

It is refreshing to see Columbia's talent being exposed nationwide. If you haven't heard *Cracked Rear View* you are missing out. The story of Hootie was started at USC and will continue to be written as this band blows up all over the country.



Atlantic Records

**COLUMBIA'S OWN:** Hootie and the Blowfish is, from left to right, Mark Bryan, Jim "Son" Sonefeld, Darius Rucker and Dean Felber.

## WHAT'S UP? The Gamecock Guide to Arts & Entertainment

### AUDITIONS

■ **Palmetto Maestrosingers** are currently holding auditions for male singers for the 1994-1995 concert season. Contact Donald Gray at 777-2984 or 790-1734 to arrange an audition.

■ **Chapin Community Theatre** has set audition dates for the first play in its 1994-1995 season, "Say It Isn't So, Pharaoh!" Roles are available for nine men and four women, aged 18 years and up. Auditions will be held on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. in the theatre at the Chapin Recreation Complex, 107 Columbia Ave., Chapin and on Aug. 29 and 30 at 7 p.m. in the annex at Workshop Theatre. Contact Marlene Payne at 345-6181 for more information.

■ **The Columbia City Ballet** will hold auditions for full company and apprentice members. Positions are available for men and women, apprentice through soloist. The auditions will be held on Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Conservatory of Dance, 1128 Taylor St. Contact the Columbia City Ballet office at 799-7605 for more information.

■ **The South Carolina Philharmonic Youth Orchestra** will hold auditions on Sept. 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McMaster School of Music. Auditioning musicians will be asked to perform a solo selection of their choice. Auditions are by appointment only. Contact Judy Lawrence at 788-8442 for more information.

### COMEDY

■ Comedienne Tracy Smith will be at the Golden Spur on Aug. 30 at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

### CONCERTS

■ **Stone Temple Pilots, Meat Puppets and Jawbox** at Independence Arena Sept. 1.

■ **Jawbox** at Rockafella's Sept. 2.

■ **The USC Symphony** opens its 1994-1995 season with "Carolina Pops and Then Some" on Sept. 9 at the Koger Center. Ticket price for students is \$6. Students may purchase season tickets for \$32. Contact Noelle DeAtley at 777-7500 for more information.

### MUSEUMS / GALLERIES

■ **South Carolina State Museum** Admission is \$3 for students. Admission is free on the first Sunday of each month. Call 737-3014 for further information about these and other exhibits and events at the State Museum.

"Of Surfboards, Rollerblades and Polymerase Chain Reactions": Kary B. Mullis, South Carolina's Third Nobel-Prize Winner continues through June 30, 1995. The life and work of a former Columbia resident who discovered how to rapidly copy DNA is examined.

■ **Columbia Museum of Art Southeastern Arts and Crafts Exposition** Sept. 30 through October 2, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$4 for students. Contact the Columbia Museum of Art Public Relations office at 799-2610 for more information.

### TELEVISION

"The Grateful and the Dead" on SCETV 11:30-12:30 am. This special reveals the relationship between the rock band The Grateful Dead and some of Britain's most talented composers.

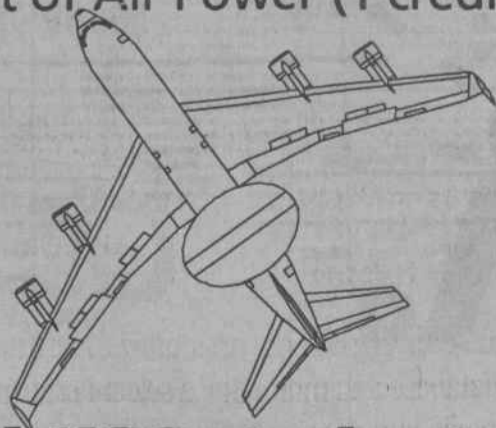
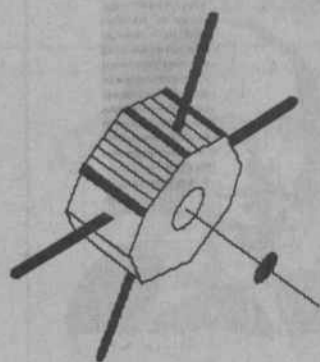
### MISCELLANEOUS

■ Young alumni from colleges in South Carolina are invited to show their school spirit and gather for fun and fellowship at **Harpers Restaurant** in Five Points September 1 at 5:30 pm.

■ **Deldre Carberry**, silver medalist in the U.S. International Ballet Competition and youngest dancer accepted into the **American Ballet Theatre** will teach three master classes at the Columbia Conservatory of Dance on September 9 at 6 pm, September 10 at 11 am and September 11 at 1:30 pm. The cost of the class is \$15. Contact the Columbia City Ballet office at 799-7605 for more information.

## ADD A COURSE

USC Department of Aerospace Studies offers one and three credit classes including:  
The Air Force Today (1 credit)  
and  
The Development of Air Power (1 credit).



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## SIGMA NU

Representing a 125 year heritage, Sigma Nu fraternity brings a tradition of excellence to the University of South Carolina. The brothers of Sigma Nu look forward to continuing this tradition and offering the opportunity for new members to become part of our legacy.

**Sigma Nu Fraternity**  
cordially invites  
**All Prospective Rushees**  
to our **Open House**  
Monday, August 29, 1994  
8:00 p.m.



**No Hazing - The Cornerstone of Sigma Nu**  
Sigma Nu was founded 125 years ago at Virginia Military Institute as a protest movement against hazing. Since that time, we have expanded to 258 other institutions and stand firmly by our no hazing tradition.