

MEMBERS Only

University Club yet another haven for Gamecock elite

NIGEL RAVENHILL Staff Writer

If you were to buy a rusty caboose, refurbish it and paint it garnet and black, you would have little more than a curious little playroom for the kids during football season.

Local developer Ed Robinson had this odd idea, and the "Cockaboose" was born. Robinson also created Carolina Park, a parking area for well-heeled Gamecock fans, and is close to realizing the unveiling of his third venture, The University Club.

Essentially, it is a country club resort. The golf course will have 27 holes open next year, and plans ultimately call for 45. Also, there will be the requisite tennis, swimming and social/entertaining facilities one expects from a private club.

Robinson and fellow partner, Carl Espy, conceptualized their project as a place where Gamecock fans, alumni and students could maintain contact with their Carolina kind. Although the club has no official or administrative relationship with USC, the unique lure comes from the membership structure.

Acceptance is limited to members of the Gamecock Club, the Educational Foundation or the USC Alumni Association. The school pays nothing for this reciprocity, and the revenue returns for the three organizations have been immediate.

Club operations will begin next spring with the golf course, and construction on the clubhouse will begin during the summer. Any private club needs a centerpiece for their membership. The Carolina Hall will have me returning to the Columbia area until I grow too old even to cheer against Clemson. If the ar-

chitectural drawings are anything close to the actual results, I'll have a wonderful time at the club without even swinging a pitching wedge. The plans ooze that lazy, golden hue of gin-and-tonics in the fading glow of an afternoon as the sun gives way to crickets chirping under the stars. The clubhouse will also offer business lounges, Jacuzzis, fireplaces—all the gentility one could ask for.

The issue of what to do with little Gamecocks will warrant consideration. Club employee Betsy Deery, USC alumna and former intern, assures day-care will be available for any youngsters who may be around.

To ensure a diverse membership, the club offers 5 different memberships: Metro-Columbia, Regional, National, International and Student. There are a limited number of memberships from each county, and these numbers vary depending on location. Monthly dues vary according to proximity to the club. Metro-Columbia, which includes residents of Richland, Lexington and Fairfield counties, will pay \$98. Regional, members within 150 miles of Columbia (that's anybody hailing from Augusta or Charlotte), pays \$58. National and international members will be assessed annual dues of \$150 and \$25 respectively.

Student memberships, limited to just 100, are presently sold out. However, as student members graduate and their membership status changes, their places on the list will open and be filled from those on a waiting list. One feature of membership is being able to change your status according to your residence without incurring any penalty.

Membership will be initially restricted to



NIGEL RAVENHILL The Gamecock
The colonial-style gates welcome members to the University Club, a new country club and golf resort exclusively for the Gamecock upper echelon.

2001 Founding Members who, by virtue of having made the plunge and joined a club not yet constructed, will have their initiation fees waived. Aside from avoiding these fees, \$5,000 for Metro-Columbia residents, Founding Members can buy golf paraphernalia that expresses to the world, "I'm a golfing Gamecock for life." The membership drives thus far have been a considerable success.

The University Club has some beautiful golf terrain and well-respected golf designer P.B. Dye has laid out a creative challenge for members and guests. The golf course will serve as the home to USC's men's and women's golf teams, and the programs can't help but receive a substantial boost from having unlimited access to these facilities. Robinson has even installed a Cockaboose beside the driving range as an office for varsity coaches Kim Abbott and Steve Leibler. Although there wasn't any grass, it was easy to visualize hitting balls onto practice greens and fighting with that inopportune slice that plagues so many games.

The University Club has plans for course-side pavilion accommodation in addition to double and single suites available in the main clubhouse for those members who are only frequently in town. At the very least, the club will serve as an important football ticket exchange for distant members making annual pilgrimages to Williams-Brice.

The club has also created a private indoor tailgating facility in a warehouse beside the stadium. A pre- or post-game visit is a great opportunity to meet fellow members beside the mini-putt course that is just a short chip from the bar. As the saying goes, "membership has it's privileges," even if you are only a poor graduate student.

The University Club has proven to be such an exciting concept that the partners are looking to replicate their initial success by developing similar projects at other SEC schools. Having seen what they have done with 500 acres of trees, a ton of school spirit and some hard-working recent graduates, it is easy to conceive of a number of clubs throughout the Southeast.

From what I have seen in my very brief interaction with the University Club, it is a first-class organization, and beyond the wonderful facilities, it is an imaginative bridge to the spirit and excitement of the University. Anyone within the South Carolina community, whether as a graduate, faculty or Gamecock Club member, will enjoy the benefits of joining.

In a world of cliches, this is a "win-win" situation as the University will benefit by enrolling a host of new members in the Alumni Association, the Educational Foundation or the Gamecock Club while weekend athletes like myself can skip balls into the water hazards or lunge after passing shots on the tennis courts.

Workshop's 'Evita' a magical musical

■ USC junior David Lee steals the show in Weber/Rice's not-to-be-missed mix of romance, music and dark humor.

JAMES TURNER Staff Writer

Exactly how many part time jobs did Cuban guerrilla leader Che Guevara have as an Argentine student?

While this may not be a burning question on the minds of typical American citizens, it certainly provides many humorous encounters in Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Evita," presented by Workshop Theater.

"Evita" is an extremely captivating musical based on the life and experiences of Eva Peron (1919-1952), Argentinian politician. The play itself encompasses her entire life, from her humble beginnings in Junin, to her stardom in Buenos Aires and her death in the midst of her search for glory.

An Andrew Lloyd Weber/Tim Rice collaboration, "Evita" is a marvelously-written work, the musical compositions extremely complicated and beautiful. The play's content is both serious and humorous with dark overtones, as Che, the narrator, takes stab after stab at governmental monkey business and political shenanigans present in Argentina. In addition, some scenes are blatantly tawdry, but surprisingly tasteful in their good-humored nature. This joviality is neatly balanced with a decidedly darker second act, as Che grows less and less contented with Eva Peron.

The cast appearing at the Workshop Theater made this production a simply magical performance. I must extend kudos to David Lee, who appeared as Che. A USC junior (not to mention a dead ringer for Che Guevara), Lee stole the show from start to finish. Delle Parris Arnold was stunning in the title role. Her solos were magnificent, and her portrayal, flawless. One of the more noteworthy soloists was Robin Gottlieb, who will graduate in May. Her rendition of "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" was stirring and showed real talent.

With romance, music, dancing and dark comedy that reveals frightening aspects of the world political scene, Evita is a performance not to be missed.

Put out that butt. Quit smoking. You'll thank us later.

Carolina!
Nothing could be finer.



HOMECOMING 1994 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 5

CAROLINA Carnival

Featuring: Peppercorn Lane

Sponsored by: Contemporary Sounds
Committee of Carolina Program Union

11 AM-3 PM
Greene Street

Rain Location: Russell House Ballroom

Thursday, October 6

COCKFEST

**THE ULTIMATE HOMECOMING
PEP RALLY**

Sponsored by: Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity

featuring
**JAZ KANER &
R.E.O. SPEEDWAGON**
6:15 PM at the State Fairgrounds

Tickets: \$2 for Students w/ID
at the RHUU Information Desk

Thursday, October 6

**PARADE FLOAT BUILDING
PARTY**

After Cockfest, at Gibbs Prop.

At the corner of Blossom &
Assembly
(BAND TO BE ANNOUNCED)

Friday, October 7
PARADE

Co-Sponsored by: Carolina First

3PM, Beginning at Park/Gervais
Sumter to Greene to Pickens

Review Stand in front of the
Horseshoe

CAROLINA FIRST

Friday, October 7

STREET JAM '94

Co-Sponsored by:

Alpha Phi Alpha
featuring
CURTIS WILSON from the
BIG DM 101.3

8PM-11PM Greene Street
Rain Location: RH Ballroom

Saturday, October 8
THE HOMECOMING GAME

**USC
vs
EAST CAROLINA**

1 PM at Williams-Brice Stadium



People needing special assistance for disabilities, please contact the Homecoming Commission at 777-7130 at least 48 hours prior to the event.

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SCHOOL
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Applications for graduate programs are at record levels. Competition for admission is heavy.

What do you need to know before you apply?

Attend "Is Graduate School For You?"
Wednesday, October 5
3 - 4:30 pm, room 152
Gambrell Hall

Start career planning early...your future depends on it!

Any person needing special assistance for a disability, please call Sally Rowell at 777-7820

Looking for a part time job?



**Interviewing
on campus
Wednesday
October 5**

- Starting pay \$8-9 / hour
- Shifts: M-F, no weekends

To schedule an interview, visit:
The Career Center
6th Floor, BA Building

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All programs are paid for, in part, by student activity fees.