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The Gamecock

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Volume 90, Number 1

University of South Carolina

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Marriott's dining reign continues

ROSALIND HARVEY News Editor

USC students no longer need to ask, "Are we going to get a Chick-Fil-A?"

The answer is "Yes!"

According to Richard Wertz, the director of business affairs, USC's dining committee and the State of South Carolina unanimously voted on a five-year contract with Marriott, over the vendor Aramark.

Wertz said the selection process was difficult because both vendors had the capability to meet the university's needs.

"Aramark had a very nice proposal, but Marriott had more to offer to USC," Wertz said.

Marriott's contract proposal included adding Chick-Fil-A to the Carolina Grill and a Starbucks coffee in the Grand market place, Wertz said.

By the beginning of the fall semester, Marriott says they will have Chick-Fil-A up and running.

Marriott also has promised to add something new to each dining facility across campus.

For example, Fast Break in the Law School and Coliseum will have Chick-Fil-A and Pizza Hut added to their menu, Baker Street will have a larger selection of salads and Sidewalk Cafe will be changing its service format to a "grab 'n' go" concept to help students save time.

Wertz said Marriott has agreed to buy an estimated \$500,000 worth of new equipment that will be installed in many of the dining facilities across campus.

He also said he feels USC students will be happy with Marriott's improvements.

"We feel that Marriott has offered us a wonderful contract," Wertz said. "It is designed to benefit both students and the university."

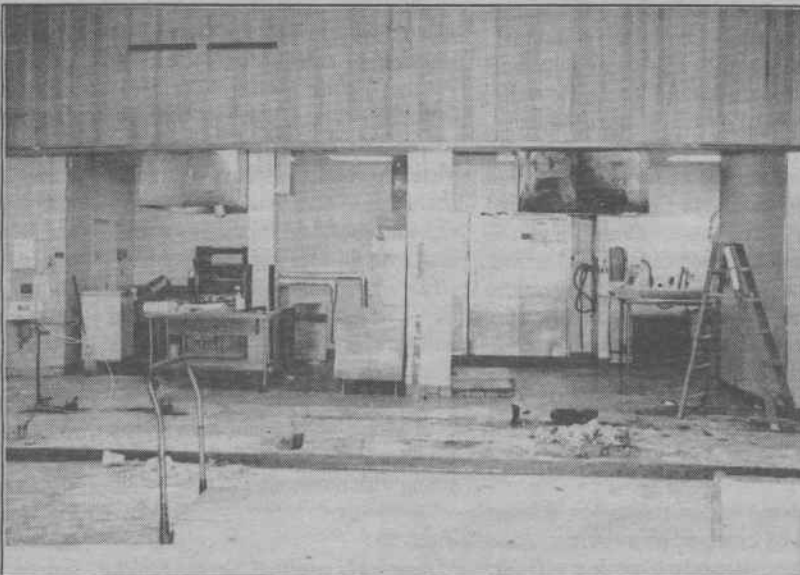
Other issues Marriott has focused on is its five-year proposal to customize student meal plans.

Marriott will now be offering two new plans — Block Plan 160 and Block Plan 185. The Block Plan concept allows students to use their meal plans more efficiently.

The 160 and 185 Block Plan will allow students to use their designated number of meals (160 or 185) during the semester at their leisure, Wertz said. The 160 plan averages out to around 10 meals a week and the 185 plan is around 12 meals a week.

Marriott will also be adding an incentive program to students who have a meal plan. Freshmen students with meal plans will be given a \$20 bonus added to a cash card that can be redeemed at all dining facilities. Marriott will also be offering a "Take you Professor to Lunch" concept that will allow students to buy lunch for their professors at a low cost, Wertz said.

The new five-year contract also includes incentives for the university.



NIKKI THORPE The Gamecock

Now that Marriott has renewed their contract with USC they prepare to add a Chick-Fil-A in the Gamecock Park. Other additions include a Starbucks.

Marriott has agreed to donate money to the Carolinian Scholars Scholarship fund and to the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Administration.

According to Wertz, Marriott also will donate money to Student Government in hopes to start a scholarship fund.

Marriott's financial obligation to USC includes 10 percent of the gross sales to be placed back into the university. Wertz said the estimated \$1 million from Marriott's sales will be used for housing and other campus facilities.

Students won't see a big change in meal plan costs. Wertz said there will be an estimated 3 percent increase across the board. This increase would have been necessary whether or not Marriott's bid proposal or Aramark's proposal was accepted.

The new improvements will be seen in the fall semester. However, according to Wertz, Marriott will be making constant improvements over the next five years.

"The contract has both long term and short term plans," Wertz said. "For example, we are still looking to add more name-brand concepts."

Board hikes tuition

KRISTIN RICHARDSON
Asst. News Editor

The USC Board of Trustees approved a \$498 million budget for the 1997-98 school year June 24 that includes small tuition increases for South Carolina students at seven of its eight campuses, including USC-Columbia.

"We are still a state that has underfunded higher education," USC President John M. Palms said. "We have tried to make up for that lack of funding of about \$1,400 a student by a modest tuition increase year in and year out. We are not proud of that high tuition, but we do not want to sacrifice quality."

John Finan, from the Division of Business and Finance, presented the budget to the board of trustees, calling it the "good news budget for the University of South Carolina."

Undergraduate students will see the cost of attending USC-Columbia increase by 2.1 percent in the fall.

General tuition will increase 1.9 percent for full-time students, and students will see a \$6 increase in health and activity fees for a total increase in student tuition costs of approximately \$36 per student. Under the plan, a South Carolina undergraduate's tuition will be \$1,717, or \$3,434 per year, up from \$3,362 for the 1996-97 school year.

"Student health fees will increase by \$3.75 per semester because of the deficit we are running in the health center," Finan said. "University activity fees will increase by \$2 per semester mainly because of the increase in minimum wage going up 24 percent in the last year."

Graduate students will see their tuition increase by 2.6 percent to \$1,862 per semester. Non-resident undergraduate tuition will increase 3.1 percent to \$4,420, and non-resident graduate tuition will go up 3.6 percent to \$3,817 per semester.

"Our university is making tremendous progress in attracting better students, higher research rankings, investments in technology and facilities and overall administrative efficiency," Chairman William Hubbard

USC remembers poet, professor Dickey with exhibit

STAFF REPORTS

The life and works of University of South Carolina professor and poet James Dickey are captured in a poignant exhibition in USC's Alumni Hall of Distinction through Sept. 5.

"A Hunger for the World: James Dickey, A Tribute" highlights the distinguished career of the USC poet-in-residence, who died Jan. 19 at age 73. Dickey had taught English at the university since 1968.

The exhibition features a series of dramatic black and white photographs by USC media arts professor Gene Crediford, as well as numerous editions of Dickey's poetry and prose, with inscriptions to his closest friends.

An article about Dickey by friend and colleague Reynolds Price and another by his daughter, Bronwen Dickey, also are featured. Additional objects include

posters from the movie adaptation of Dickey's best-known book, "Deliverance," an aluminum cast of his face, video footage of his 70th birthday tribute and his memorial service, and poetry written by his former students.

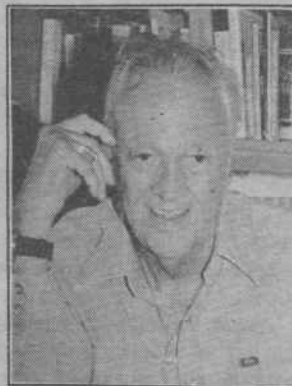
Much of the materials are on loan from USC faculty members, including Dr. Matthew J. Bruccoli, the Emily Brown Jefferies Professor of English, Dr. Donald J. Greiner, associate provost and Carolina Distinguished Professor of English, and Dr. George Terry, vice provost and dean for libraries and information systems.

The Alumni Hall of Distinction, an exhibition area within the USC Visitor Center, is located in the lobby of the Carolina Plaza at the corner of Assembly and Pendleton streets.

It was established in 1996 by USC's Alumni Association as a venue to highlight the contributions made by

outstanding members of the university community.

The exhibition area is free of charge and open to the public from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information call the USC Visitor Center at 803-777-0169.



DICKEY