

EVENTS

► "As You Like It," April 17-26, Drayton Hall. Public, \$10; students, \$6. 777-2551/2552.
► Blues Cruisers, April 17, Willoughby's Deli & Pub

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The Gamecock

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Getting the close-by coffee fix



Michael King serves coffee to Peter Meineck at Caffe Espresso, which is located next to Burger King across from the Horseshoe. Students go to drink coffee, talk to friends and study.

SEAN RAYFORD Asst. Photo Editor

staff writer ANGELA SHEPHERD

As I stand beneath the swinging white, wooden sign that announces the existence of Caffe Espresso, I take a deep breath and think about my mission.

I'm here today at the coffee shop trying to answer that elusive question—"Why do people go to coffee shops?" What's the big deal, anyway?

Caffe Espresso sits practically smack in the middle of campus, beside the James F. Byrnes building and across from Drayton Hall. The downstairs of the two-story house has recently been repainted a rich green, and the burgundy cushions on the wrap-around bench seats provide perfect nooks for curling up and sipping mocha.

Occasionally in the evenings, guest performers charm patrons with their tunes, and USC students have displayed artwork along the walls of the non-smoking room.

Students have been sighted in this coffee shop as well as Adriana's in Five Points and Courtyard Cafe in West Columbia. However, something besides its convenient location makes Caffe Espresso unique among these others—the people.

Rob Carter, a regular patron of Caffe Espresso, said he comes to the coffee shop because of the people and the coffee.

"Just look around," he said. "There are all kinds of people here, and they all get along really well."

"You talk to people you normally wouldn't talk to on the street. Freaks, hippies, ravers, rude boys, jocks, preps—everybody mingles together here."

Frazier Bell, a Heathwood High junior, said he also likes the diversity among customers at the cafe.

"In all the conversations you have up here, you get different views from different people," he said.

Randy Blackwell, another regular customer, agreed.

"I think just about everything applies here. I've seen military, businessmen, high school kids, hippies, goths, punks, and rave kids, all walks. I think the majority of people I've met here are very real. What you see is what you get," he said.

Several customers also cited the employees as a reason they go to the cafe.

"I think the staff at Caffe Espresso is very amiable," said USC student Buffy Summer.

What else would draw people to this particular coffee shop time after time?

"I figure any coffee shop that's supposed to have a ghost that likes the Cure must be worth hanging out at," said E. "Glas" Durborow, an environmental professional.

Daniel Wiseman, an employee since September, 1996, said the ghost is a real mystery. No one knows where it came from or what it's doing there, and only a few people know about its existence.

"As far as I know, the owners have been skeptics. They have never experienced it," he said.

Wiseman said he's one of the few people to have actually seen the apparition.

He said that the ghost is big, comparable in size to Lurch from the Addams Family. It wears a trenchcoat and has cropped hair, like Robert Smith from the early '80s.

"He likes the Cure and David Bowie and NPR," Wiseman said.

Wiseman also said part of the reason people come to cafe is that they have an inexplicable attraction to the place.

"If you hang out up here too much, it's addictive, and no matter how much you hate it, you can't bring yourself to leave. I attribute it to the resident entity, which is lonely and depressed. It feeds on lonely and depressed people and can even bring you down."

Wiseman said he's heard of people whose moods swing like a pendulum when they hang out at the cafe.

Caffe Espresso is even known among many regulars as "Caffe Depresso," although no one seems to know where the name originated.

"It's because it's dark," Summer said.

Several regular customers said they go to the cafe because they're bored and looking for something to do.

So what do people do there?

"Drink coffee and socialize a little bit," Ja Carter said.

"Smoke, talk, drink and gossip," said Kelly Galin, an AC Flora High School junior.

This seems to be the general consensus among regulars. However, for those seeking something more, a bookshelf in an upstairs room at the cafe holds ample opportunities for fun times.

Caroline Sigmon, a sophomore at Dreher High School, worked on a word challenge in "My Super Chunky Puzzle Book" while I talked to her.

Other popular pastimes at the coffee shop include playing chess, cards, or Mankala, a two-player game using a wooden board and rocks. On various nights of the week, patrons square off in pairs across intimate tables with flocks of onlookers hovering around them. Sometimes, group games erupt around bigger tables, with six or seven people joining in to play cards.

Other patrons prefer to sit quietly and read or simply pick up their beverage and go.

"We have regulars that don't hang out; they come in the morning or at lunch and drink and leave," Wiseman said.

COFFEE TALK

staff writer ALIA AKKAM

The chill invades their bones as they scurry across the parking lot to the warmth of their car when the flashing lights of the new delicatessen across the street entice them to drop in for a steaming cup of brewed beans to restore the feeling in their fingers.

Upon returning from a movie, a group of friends gathers around a plastic table outside a coffeehouse, sipping ice-cold lattes while sharing laughter beneath the warm moonlight.

Undoubtedly, the role of coffee has had a profound effect upon American culture in a variety of ways. Seattle might have initiated the trend of coffeehouses, but gourmet flavors and unique concoctions are now abundant throughout the nation as trendy coffeehouses barrage consumers.

As Claudia Roden writes in her book, *Coffee: A Connoisseur's Experience*, "America has fallen in love with coffee. Few beverages are as intoxicating, heartwarming and utterly pleasurable."

Unfortunately, many Americans who gaze at coffeehouse menus are unaware of the subtle differences that distinguish one tasty coffee recipe from another.

The following is a compilation of coffee specialties likely to grace a coffeehouse menu.

Black coffee. In its purest form, the very strong taste made from a high roast and served en demitasse, a small after-dinner cup, is a French tradition that can be prepared with flavored coffees as well.

Cafe au lait. Traditionally for the French, this combination of coffee and milk is served for breakfast in large bowls with croissants and baguettes for dipping. Simultaneously, strong coffee and hot milk are poured into the cup in equal amounts.

Espresso. Strong and concentrated, this bittersweet social beverage is drunk black and sweetened in small doses.

Cappuccino. Topped with one-third foam, one-third is espresso and one-third is hot milk. Shaved cinnamon, chocolate or nutmeg complete the design of this beverage, which is served with sugar.

Caffe latte. The strong taste of espresso is diminished with this half-and-half mixture of hot milk and espresso.

Espresso macchiato. Espresso with frothy milk on top.

Latte macchiato. Espresso poured over hot, frothy milk.

Iced coffee. Chilled coffee can be served on ice cubes with crushed ice or ice cream. Whipped cream can be used as a topping.

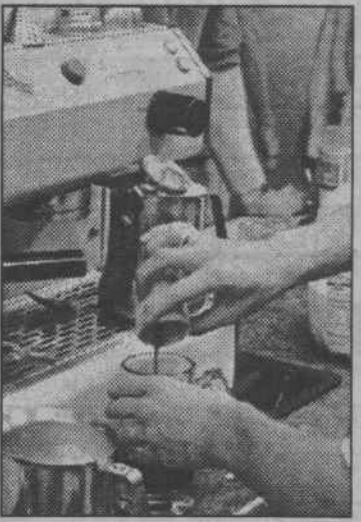
Cafes frappes. Made with ice in a liquidizer, the coffee is blended until a smooth, creamy, frothy texture has been achieved. Served immediately after prepared before the froth vanishes, this extra-strong coffee blends well with ice cream.

Irish coffee. A combination of hot coffee, Irish whiskey and sugar, the added heavy cream floats to the top.

Iced coffee mocha. Hot coffee and melted chocolate are mixed together and then chilled.

Coffee rumba. In a liquidizer, chilled coffee, coffee ice cream, rum and sugar are blended together and quickly served after nutmeg has been grated on top.

Tiramisu. Popularized in Europe, this Italian dessert is the perfect coffee companion. A mixture of coffee, rum and mascarpone cheese is spread over a bed of lady fingers.



SEAN RAYFORD Asst. Photo Editor
Coffee drinkers often get confused about what drinks have froth, whipped cream and extra flavor.

He also said the breakdown of customers is roughly 30 percent regulars and 70 percent nonregulars. He said things have changed: in previous years, more high school kids patronized the cafe regularly, especially on week-ends.

In the past, the staff and regulars kept scrapbooks at the coffee shop for customers to express themselves in.

According to Wiseman, three scrapbooks existed at one time, but the first two were destroyed by a former employee.

Wiseman said the regulars, primarily high school kids who used to flock to the coffee shop in droves of 40 to 50 on the weekends, started the scrapbooks and left them with an open invitation for additions. Contributors wrote

poetry and stories, drew pictures or portraits or each other and added basically anything anyone wanted to put in it.

Another interesting feature of Caffe Espresso is the international currency collection. Paper currency once bordered one of the upstairs rooms, pinned around the edges of the walls for display, and a bowl of coins still sits in front of the register on the counter.

"Our coins and money that's displayed came from international students from USC. We used to give them a discount for bringing stuff in, but we don't anymore," Wiseman said.

However, Caffe Espresso does give discounts for students on college night. Tuesdays and Thursdays after 7 p.m., students receive 15 percent off coffee drinks with an ID.

Actors explore country, royal living in Shakespeare's 'As You Like It'

staff REPORTS

USC will present William Shakespeare's popular comedy, "As You Like It," in a 20th-century setting April 17 to 19 and April 21 to 26 in the Drayton Hall theater.

Tickets are \$10 for the public, \$8 for senior citizens, military personnel and USC faculty and staff, and \$6 for students.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Special matinees are set for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday for school groups. Special rates for all performances are available for groups of 10 or more with advance purchase of tickets. Shakespeare wrote "As You Like It" in 1599 when he was 35 years old.

One of Shakespeare's themes in "As You Like It" is the joy of living in the country compared with formal court life. His tale is about Duke Senior, who is exiled to the Forest of Arden by his brother, Duke Frederick. Hearing that the Forest of Arden is a utopia, the court inhabitants begin to slip away, one by one, to join Duke Senior.

The exodus includes Rosalind, Duke Senior's daughter, and her best friend and cousin, Celia, daughter of Duke Frederick. Others follow, including Rosalind's suitor, Orlando, and his older brother, Oliver, and their servant, Old Adam. Even Duke Frederick is finally drawn to the magic forest of Arden.

The wonderland transforms the young people into moonstruck lovers. Shakespeare's philosophy shines through the character of Touchstone, a clown at Duke Frederick's court, and the melancholy Jacques, a philosopher who attends Duke Senior in the forest.

It is Jacques who delivers the immortal soliloquy "All the world's a stage," which outlines the seven ages of man. Following Shakespeare's lead, director Jim Patterson has tailored "As You Like It" to be exactly as his 20th-century audiences will like it.

Patterson has relocated the comedy to the western United States and set it in the early 20th century. Through editing and pacing, he has trimmed the play to two hours, and he has enlisted Dick Goodwin to write original songs for his production.

Acting professor David Wiles is Duke Senior; David Avin, Duke Frederick; Fannie Hungerford, Rosalind; Jillian Pollack-Reeves, Celia; Walter Brandes, Orlando; Mike Colter, Oliver; William Kwapy, Touchstone; and Ellen Rosenberg, Jacques.

Box office hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Longstreet Theatre and one hour before each performance in Drayton Hall.

For reservations, call 777-2551.

Senior spins Wheel of Fortune, hits jackpot with \$25,000 prize

copy editor CONNIE KARICKHOFF

For most USC students, spring break was a time for rest and relaxation, maybe vacationing at the beach or lying around at home.

But for senior broadcast journalism major Laura Friedman, spring break meant big bucks.

Friedman hit the jackpot on the gameshow Wheel of Fortune, taking away the grand prize of \$25,000 in cash.

Friedman celebrated Tuesday night, when her show aired on WOLO, at a local restaurant, Mangia! Mangia!, where she waitresses part time.

Family and friends gathered in the courtyard with a cake shaped like the Wheel of Fortune and three televisions to watch the show.

There were even Wheel board games on tables around the restaurant so guests could play along with their friends before dinner.

"We also worked with Wheel of Fortune to get some gift items, including key chains, autographed photos of Pat Sajak and Vanna White, t-shirts, baseball caps and tote bags," Mangia! Mangia! general manager Paul Chernoff said.

"I kept losing. The wheel kept going bankrupt everytime I spun. Until the last round. I won by \$50, and then I went on to the bonus round"

Laura Friedman senior

Some of the items were given away to guests during the viewing party, and others were donated to local charities to assist fundraising efforts.

Friedman won an audition for the game show through a promotion with ABC more than a year ago. She went to Charlotte for an eight-hour audition, where she was interviewed and participated in several mock games. Then she forgot about it.

March 5, she got a phone call telling her that she had been selected for the show that would be taped March 12, right in the middle of USC's spring break, in Los Angeles.

Playing against two other contestants, Friedman's chances for winning big looked dim after losing the first three rounds.

"I kept losing. The wheel kept going bankrupt every time I spun," she said. "Until the last round. I won by \$50, and then I went on to the bonus round."

With just \$4,800 in her pocket, Friedman went on to solve the puzzle, "forklift," in the bonus round and opened up her mystery prize of \$25,000.

"I was thrilled," she said. Game host Pat Sajak said Friedman's success was "the strangest road to victory I've ever seen, but it worked."

And just what will she do with her windfall?

Friedman said she wanted to buy a car with the prize money, but her parents gave her the money for a new car so she could invest her winnings for the future.

But, she said, "I may take out \$5,000 and travel to Europe this summer."