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Serving the Carolina Community since 1908

University of South Carolina

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BRIEFS

Bayoumi joins engineering faculty

Abdel Bayoumi, a professor of manufacturing science and engineering at North Carolina State University, has been named chairman of the USC department of mechanical engineering.

Bayoumi will assume his responsibilities at the start of the 1998-99 school year.

USC graduate receives STAR award

Patrick Ferguson has been awarded a 1998 Science to Achieve Results Graduate Fellowship.

The \$102,000, three-year fellowship includes tuition and fees, a \$17,000 annual stipend and \$5,000 annual research allowance.

The fellowship is awarded to master's degree or doctoral degree students who are working on environmental research projects.

Only 100 awards are given annually.

Mechanical engineering students successful

USC's Solar Board design team competed against 17 collegiate teams and won.

The team of five mechanical engineering students participated in the annual Solar Splash competition in Milwaukee, Wis.

The team took first place in the four-hour endurance race.

They also took eighth place in a 300-meter sprint race, third in the slalom competition and fifth in the technical-report requirement.

Stores working to get books on shelves early

senior writer **PATRICK WIETCHA**
editor in chief **ROSALIND HARVEY**

With summer session two in full swing and fall semester around the corner, Columbia bookstores start their preparation for one of the busiest times of the year.

At the beginning of each semester, some students experience difficulties buying all of their books. With a new semester ahead, some students find it hard to be

optimistic about finding all of their books. However, bookstore managers are working to avoid this problem.

Junior Jennifer Brazell said she had problems finding her books for the spring semester and is not looking forward to purchasing her books for the fall.

"In my class only half of us had the book," Brazell said. "The other half had to borrow or photocopy the pages so we would not get behind.

"I know that they are a business that needs to make a profit, but it is absurd for someone to spend \$300 on books. I just pray they are all there when I have to buy them."

Part of the problem with the book shortage seems to be coming from the lack of communication between the bookstores and faculty members.

Russell House Bookstore Michael McLaughlin said, "We continually visit-

ed with the faculty on the importance of getting their lists in so that this would service the students."

McLaughlin said book orders turned in on time help the store get the books order and on the shelves. However, there is the case where publishing problems could cause some delays.

Michael Oliver, text book manager of Addams University Book Store said, "We

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GRAND DINING



AMY MCCORMICK Photo Editor

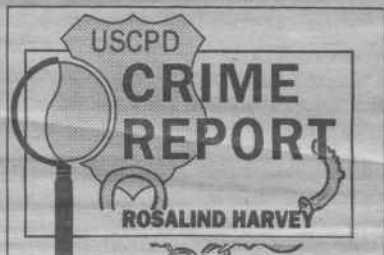
Junior Duke Taylor is one of few students on campus this summer. Taylor is eating at The Grand Marketplace in the Russell House. Taylor said the food "miraculously improves over the course of the summer."

July 8

•Harassment, Resisting Arrest, Medical Park Dr. Victim said the subject acted in a harassing manner towards her. The victim said the subject telephoned her after being told not to do so. The subject also visited the victim at her place of work after being told not to do so. Subject was arrested and transported to Richland County Detention Center. Investigation continues.

July 9

•DUI, 1100 Blossom St. While on patrol, responding officer was traveling east on Blossom and noticed a blue Chevy extended cab 4X4 truck turning west on Blossom Street off Main Street. The subject's vehicle swerved into the left lane then all the way into the right traffic lane.



The responding officer made a u-turn to observe the subject's vehicle further. The vehicle was swerving from lane to lane. The officer activated blue lights to effect a traffic stop. Upon approach, the officer noted a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage. After performing several sobriety tests, the officer arrested the subject for DUI and he was transported to Forest Acres Police Department.

Senate votes to extend Higher Education Act

college press **EXCHANGE**

Student loans would fall to their lowest levels in nearly two decades, and more needy students would benefit from federal education grants under the Higher Education Act, adopted by the Senate last week.

The bill, which passed 96-1 late Thursday, also included a surprise amendment that would allow welfare recipients to spend two full years in college or technical school without having to work at the same time.

"When Congress passed welfare reform, it surely did not mean to force students to choose between feeding their children and obtaining the education they need to better their families' future," said Sen. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who sponsored the amendment.

"Our goal in this bill is to strengthen federal support for higher education," added Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the senior Democrat serving on the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

The overall legislation is popular with student groups and college officials because it reduces interest rates on student loans by almost 1 percentage point to 6.8 percent from the current 7.6 percent while borrowers are in college, and to 7.4 percent from the current 8.2 percent after that. The interest-rate cut would save the borrower of the average \$12,000 loan \$650 in interest payments over the life of the loan, Kennedy said.

Despite the student savings, the Clinton administration opposes the bill because it would give billions of

what the White House calls "arbitrary and excessive" subsidies to banks. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost at between \$1 billion and \$3.6 billion over five years. Student loan providers say the federal money will help them cover costs associated with lowering the interest rates, but the White House contends that the subsidies are not offset by corresponding spending cuts.

Given overwhelming congressional support for the measure, it is unlikely the President would veto it.

Among the bill's other provisions:

- An increase of the maximum Pell Grant. The maximum award is set at \$3,000 for the 1998-99 school year, but the bill proposes to increase the award to \$5,000 in time for the 1999-2000 school year, and by an additional \$200 each of the following four years.

- Wider eligibility standards for Pell Grants that would include more students who are independent of their parents and more dependent students who work outside of college.

- A limit on the amount of time students can receive aid. Full-time students would lose their grants if they remained in school for more than six years.

- An extension of the amount of time lenders must give students who are more than \$30,000 in debt to repay their loans. Currently, students have 10 years. The bill proposes that they get 25 years instead.

- The forgiveness of student-loan debt up to \$8,000 for college graduates who teach for three years in schools in poor areas.