

Trustees okay fitness center

Center to be named for Thurmond

editor in chief **ROSALIND HARVEY**

The Board of Trustees building and ground committee approved the construction of a \$38.6 million Wellness and Fitness Center during their May meeting.

Director of Buildings and Grounds Charles Jeffcoat said the \$38.6 million budget will be funded with \$32.1 million in institution funds, \$4.36 million in private funds and \$2.135 million in institutional capital project funds.

The \$32.1 million in institution funds will be paid by USC students. Jeffcoat said this cost will be paid by students over several years by raising the student activity fees by a small amount each year.

The idea of a new fitness center was sparked during a meeting to discuss the over all Master Plan in 1994. The plan states that the university "falls well below both national standards and its peers in the Southeast in the provision of outdoors recreation fields..." The plan also cited the Blatt PE Center "as deficient in meeting the university's recreational and fitness needs."

The current fitness center was built in the early 1970's when the university population was much smaller.

In February 1997, the board approved a \$750,000 budget for the planning and idea development of a fitness center for USC's growing population. Since then, a site has been determined and a 170,000 square foot facility has been designed, Jeffcoat said.

The center will be located at the corner of Assembly and Blossom streets on the Gibbs property owned by the university, Jeffcoat said.

In a later meeting, the board approved the name for the fitness center, which will be called The Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center.

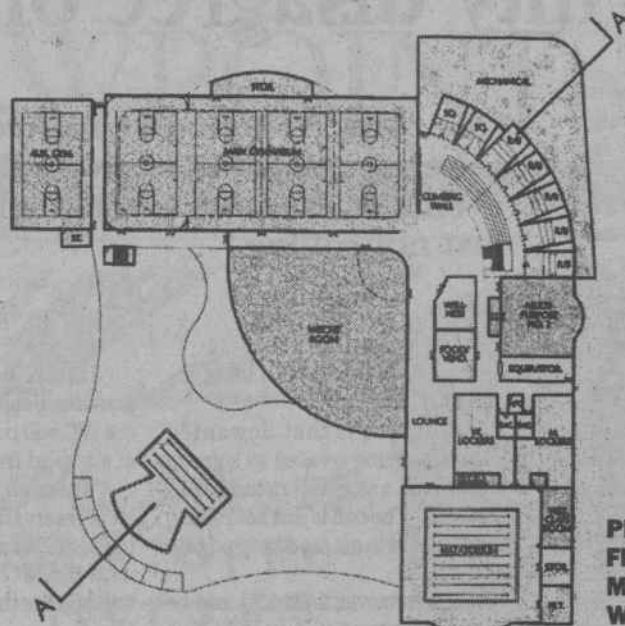
Senator Strom Thurmond has had a long-standing tie to the university and has endorsed USC's plans to develop a new fitness center. He also has been an advocate of recreational fitness, this is why the board felt the fitness center should bare his name.

"As someone who has dedicated himself to maintaining health through careful diet, preventive medicine and a vigorous exercise program, I am very enthusiastic about the plans to construct this facility and am offering my strongest support to this project," Thurmond said.

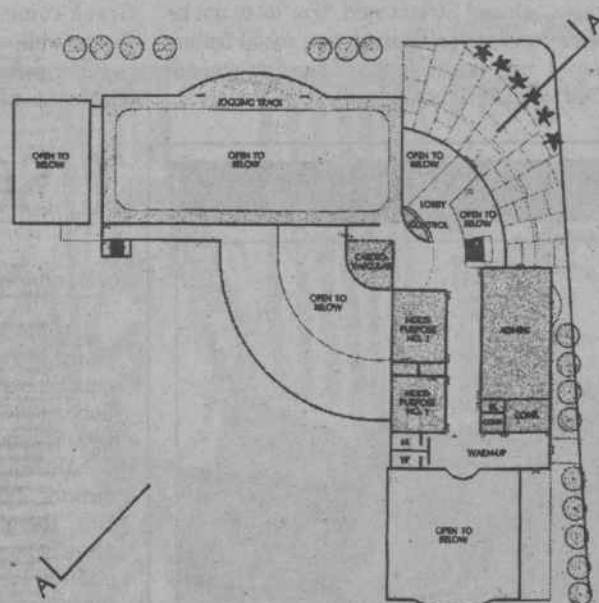
The fitness center will have racquetball and squash courts, weightlifting and exercise room, indoor and outdoor pools, recreational fields, an indoor track, a climbing wall and gymnasiums.

Other things the fitness center will house include administrative offices, a food facility, an informal lounge area, locker rooms and pro shop

Construction on the \$38.6 million center is expected to start next fall and be completed by August 2001, Jeffcoat said.



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR, STROM THURMOND HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER



PROPOSED SECOND FLOOR, STROM THURMOND HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN UPDATED AND CHANGED SINCE THIS SKETCH. THE UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTS WILL MEET AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER.

Donations at almost \$102 million

STAFF REPORTS

Private support for the University of South Carolina reached a record \$101.3 million in 1997-98, increasing more than 50 percent from the previous year.

The university, which is in the midst of a \$300 million Bicentennial Campaign, will use the funds to support and attract outstanding faculty, enhance the library, create scholarships, strengthen academic programs and improve facilities. The campaign, which was officially announced in April, will conclude in 2001.

USC President John Palms said the increased support is very good news for the university because it demonstrates a commitment by alumni and friends to the university's mission and vision.

"For today's public university, private giving is both a barometer and predictor of improvements," Palms said. "This record-breaking giving is powerful evidence that the university has the private support that will enable it over the long term to achieve its destiny to be among the nation's top research universities."

Support for scholarships reached \$33.7 million in 1997-98, while supports for academic programs enhancements totaled \$58.4 million. Funding for faculty development, including chairs and professorship, reached \$3.1 million.

USC's endowment, through investments, funding management and private giving, rose from \$146 million to 201 million in 1997-98.

Corporation gave \$15.5 million; non-alumni donated \$13.2 million and foundations made \$6.4 million in contributions. Alumni giving also rose significantly. Alumni gave \$62.4 million, and of the more than 50,000 alumni gifts, 15 were \$1 million or more.

USC alumnus Robert McNair, chairman, president and CEO of Cogen Technologies in Houston, Texas, made a \$20 million gift to create and endow a prestigious scholarship program for out-of-state undergraduate students attending USC.

In other fund-raising news, USC's athletic department, through the Gamecock Club and USC's premium sear program, reached its largest fund-raising total in the history of the department, with \$9.18 million in 1997-98.

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Thomas Cooper Library Fall 1998 Tours

Discover the world of information available in the library—take a tour this fall! One hour tours will be divided into two parts: a tour of the building for the first half-hour, and a tour of the Electronic Resources Network for the second half-hour. No sign-up is necessary. Just show up and learn what resources and services are available to you.

August 24th - September 24th

Tours	
Mondays:	11am
Tuesdays:	11am
Wednesdays:	2pm
and	7pm
Thursdays:	4pm

The tours will last approximately one hour. The first part of the tour will include many of the library departments, such as Reference, Science Reference, Education, Government Documents, and Circulation. The second part of the tour will focus on the electronic resources available at the Thomas Cooper Library. The Internet, USCAN, and CD-ROM databases will be demonstrated