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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Bookstores to pay more during buyback

BY JOHN HUIETT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students selling back textbooks this semester might want to consider all of their buyback options before choosing a bookstore.

The Russell House Bookstore, Addams and the South Carolina Bookstore are all offering incentives to attract students wishing to turn books into cash after final exams.

Russell House Bookstore manager Mike McLaughlin said that in addition to extending store hours after exams, satellite locations will be set up to make selling books more convenient for students. Locations will include the Darla Moore School of Business and outside the Towers, as well as the corner of Greene and Main streets. The store will stay open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the next two Saturdays and from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 12.

But some would say the most attractive incentive the Rus-

sell House Bookstore is offering is a guaranteed 66 percent buyback price on all textbooks being used again for the spring semester. McLaughlin said that even if a book was bought at the used price, the bookstore will pay 66 percent of the book's new price, provided the store hasn't met its supply quota for the book.

For example, if a book cost \$50 new, but a student bought it for the used price of \$37.50, the buyback price would still be \$33. But once the store reaches its supply limit for the book, the buyback price will drop to the book's wholesale worth.

McLaughlin said the store offers 66 percent because he wants to ensure that students will continue to be customers in the future, coming back to buy items other than textbooks.

He added that if the supply and purchasing of books is kept within USC instead of among book wholesalers, all students would eventually benefit.

"You want your students to be your main supplier," McLaughlin said. "We are able to pass the savings on to the next student

taking a class in the spring."

And he dismissed criticism that the Russell House Bookstore is trying to corner the textbook market at USC.

"I have dealt with multiple stores throughout this nation," McLaughlin said. "I have consulted on a national level with stores. This is what you need to be doing for the students. I didn't realize the other stores did not do this until after I was here."

He said that the current buyback policy has been in place since he became the store's manager in 1998.

However, Addams textbook manager Michael Oliver said a 66 percent buyback policy isn't exclusive to the Russell House Bookstore.

"We give 66 percent back," Oliver said. "That's nothing special. We've advertised that for years."

Oliver said that even though a 50 percent buyback price is guaranteed for books bought at Addams, the store will pay the extra percentage if the book is picked up for next semester's use.

But Oliver said Addams doesn't want to be seen as merely a place to sell back books.

"It's not like we want your books," Oliver said. "We want you as a customer overall."

Regardless, to make the buyback process as convenient as possible for students, Oliver said Addams isn't setting specific business hours during final exams.

"If we're still busy, we'll stay open," Oliver said. "We're very flexible."

Although the S.C. Bookstore isn't offering price guarantees or providing satellite buyback locations, manager Bruce Wyndham said the store has its own method of attracting students. Wyndham said the S.C. Bookstore will be allowing students to register to win free textbooks for the spring semester, a practice it began last spring.

And he warned that students should be careful not to sell their books back to just any store.

BOOKS SEE PAGE 2

THE HOSE

Getting ready for the new P.E. center



SEAN RAYFORD PHOTO EDITOR

Men work at the building site for the new Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center on Assembly Street across from the Coliseum. The center, which will replace the Blatt P.E. Center, is scheduled to start construction in the next few years.

Second Serving gives more food to homeless

BY CHARLES PRASHAW
STAFF WRITER

A program to help feed the homeless has made some changes in its delivery system.

Beginning last week, Second Serving started picking up and delivering left-over food from USC eateries every day instead of three times a week, as it used to. Marriot Dining Service officials have also given the program permission to take leftovers from the Grand Marketplace more often.

In addition, the program has expanded to handle the more frequent deliveries.

"The company as a whole is trying to do all it can, and we are committed to doing community-related things," Marriot Director of Marketing Brad Masteller said.

Second Serving is a program in which left-over food from campus restaurants is donated to a local homeless shelter.

Marriot takes part in other projects like Second Serving at other colleges and corporations it serves not to save money or reduce waste, but to feed the hungry, Masteller said.

"It is the right thing to do," he said. "Winter is coming, and it is the time of year when the need is the most."

The food is delivered to the Oliver Gospel Mission. The mission, at 1100 Taylor St., is one of the largest homeless shelters in the Midlands.

According to Second Serving Presi-

dent Blakely Hallman, the project saves the Oliver Gospel Mission \$300 a week and feeds 100 to 150 people every time leftovers are donated.

"We have the dual purpose of feeding the homeless and not wasting food," Hallman said.

Members of Second Serving meet the first Wednesday of each month in the Russell House, room 304.

The group has 40 to 50 members, Hallman said.

Hallman said she believes that students should be aware of the program and try to serve the Columbia community even though they're part of a university community.

"USC students make up roughly 10 percent of the Columbia population," she said. "We live here for four years or more, and we should give back to the community."

The idea for Second Serving came from former student body Vice President Chris Dorsel, who used the project as part of his campaign platform for Student Government elections in 1998.

Second Serving started as a Student Government project in September of that year.

It became an independent organization in January, but is financed through Student Government special projects funding.

For more information about Second Serving, call 777-3860 or e-mail at secondsserving@hotmail.com.

Dept. merger causes concerns

BY GRAY STEVENSON
STAFF WRITER

The transition team for a departmental merger at USC is encountering problems.

The team said space, hirings and course listings are the primary concerns it's facing as the departments of computer engineering and computer science begin to merge.

First, neither Sumwalt nor Swearingin has a space large enough to house the

MERGER SEE PAGE 3

SHARE sponsors events for World AIDS Day

BY KELLY HAGGERTY
SENIOR WRITER

According to the American Association for World Health Web site, 8,500 people worldwide under the age of 25 became infected with the human immunodeficiency virus each day in 1998.

It's facts like this that USC's Student Health Awareness and Rape Education organization said it would like to make known to students.

In order to raise such awareness, SHARE is sponsoring a number of different awareness events today in observance of World AIDS Day.

SHARE will hand out red ribbons and offer free, confidential HIV testing from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Russell House.

It will also hold a canned food drive in front of the Russell House to benefit the Palmetto Aids Life Support Services.

At 5 p.m., a quilt panel assembly will be held in conjunction with a brief ceremony on the Russell House patio.

SHARE and other individuals and organizations will take part in the Midlands Candlelight Event at 6 p.m. on the steps of the Statehouse.

Program Director for Sexual Health Programs and Sexual Assault Services Kim Sheffield said the events are educational.

"We hope students will become more aware about the impact HIV has on our community," Sheffield said. "We want them to feel empowered to make changes in their life that would hopefully lead to eliminating this epidemic."

Students can show their support by wearing a red ribbon.

The ribbon is the national symbol for AIDS awareness, and it symbolizes hope, courage and love.

The ribbons are traditionally worn close to the heart to show commitment to finding a cure for HIV and AIDS and to honor those affected by the epidemics.

SHARE Peer World AIDS Day Co-

ordinator Danielle Novakowski said she has worked since September to organize these events.

It's the second of four major events sponsored by SHARE and the only one related to HIV and AIDS.

"This is just one way for us to help promote the idea of AIDS awareness throughout the community," Novakowski said. "This year, we are doing something different. We're actually having an assembly."

At the quilt panel assembly, brief speeches will be given, but most of the time will be devoted to the joining of 55 quilt panels made by student organizations, residence halls, Greek organizations and University 101 classes.

Earlier in the semester, each group received 3-by-3 feet of muslin cloth panel, paint, felt, glue and other craft decorations from SHARE.

The organizations had to design a quilt panel based around the theme "AIDS — End the Silence. Listen, Learn, Love."

The Women Students' Association and the Graduate Women Students' Association worked together on the project.

WSA Co-President Martha Wright said that the two organizations had similar designs.

Wright said the WSA's panel shows half of a woman's face, illustrating that heterosexual females outnumber heterosexual males 2 to 1 in the number of AIDS cases.

She said the GWA's panel also shows half of a woman's face, demonstrating that African-American women are the population with the fastest growing contraction rate of HIV.

Golden Key Secretary Caroline Hill said Golden Key took a different approach and used its motto on its panel of blue, gold and red.

"We incorporated the World AIDS Day 1999 theme and our motto," Hill said. "We put red ribbons, gold keys and blue ribbons on it, as well. Some of our members know HIV victims, and their

names will be on there, too."

The different quilt panels will be joined using a quilt gun.

Novakowski said the panels will first form a long banner for the walk over to the Statehouse. Once there, they'll be made into a quilt.

Last year's panels have been kept at the SHARE office after having been loaned out for displays. Sheffield said she doesn't know what will be done with this year's panels.

"I think it would be a neat idea if the organizations kept them," she said. "If they participate every year, then they can join their panels together to make their own quilts."

At the Statehouse, members of the community will gather for a candlelighting ceremony.

The ceremony will include a speech by Jesse Washington, director of communications for the Community Relations Council.

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INSIDE



Women's basketball falls to Clemson

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DATEBOOK



TODAY

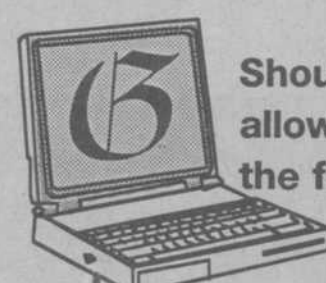
• World AIDS Day
• GAMMA, 4 p.m., RH 303
• Student senate, 5 p.m., RH Theater



THURSDAY

• NAACP, 6 p.m.
• SALA, 7:30 p.m.
• "A Bug's Life," 9 p.m., RH Theater

ONLINE POLL



Should professors be allowed to give exams the final week of class?

Go to www.gamecock.sc.edu to vote in this week's poll.