

Dining

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Helen Zeigler of USC Dining Services said Sodexho's interest in refurbishing dining facilities was a major reason they won the contract.

"We asked the vendors what kind of investment they would make," Zeigler said. "They came in and talked to us ... We're very happy with the choice."

Bohlke said Sodexho plans to display signs in campus dining areas during the school year to inform students about the progression of changes and construction.

"We've enjoyed a great relationship with USC for the last 20 years," Bohlke said. "We were thrilled to continue to work with them."

But even though change is scheduled, Sheffries is adamant that the good parts of USC dining will remain intact.

"Cancel Chicken Finger Wednesday? No way. I don't know what would happen if we did that."

Although familiar eating spots may give way to different venues, most USC students look forward to the new food selections and menu variety that will be coming to USC in the next few years.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockdesk@hotmail.com

The Highlights: Some additions and changes Sodexho plans for USC

- ▲ Expanding the walls of the Grand Marketplace to reach the concrete poles on the sidewalk surrounding it
- ▲ Moving the mailboxes from the hall outside of the GMP to make room for a sub shop, a store, and a Cinnabon
- ▲ Opening Capstone for Sunday brunch
- ▲ Offering more vegan and vegetarian choices
- ▲ Opening a "smoothie concept" at the new Strom Thurmond Wellness Center
- ▲ Opening Preston College Dining Hall to faculty during lunch hours
- ▲ Expanding the fast-food choices on the second floor of the Russell House, possibly to include Burger King, Einstein Bagels and an Asian restaurant

Note: USC has issued an intent to accept the Sodexho contract, but plans will not be final until the contract's legal protest period has ended.

Plutonium

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

indefinitely and ordered law enforcement officials to physically blockade the South Carolina border and turn back the trucks carrying plutonium.

U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie ordered Hodges to allow the trucks through because

a physical altercation between federal trucks and South Carolina Highway Patrol officers presented a potential terrorist target by itself.

Governor Hodges also questions the safety of the building to be used for storing the plutonium. Although cracks were found in the structure in several places in July 2000, the building was deemed suitable for the long-term storage described by the DOE.

A similar study conducted in May of 1992 said that the building was in fact structurally sound enough to withstand an earthquake.

The report concluded, as reported by The State, that "the reactor building was designed and constructed to provide the required protection."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockdesk@hotmail.com

University of Georgia uses new classifications to motivate students toward degrees

BY KRISTEN WYATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS, Ga. - Hoping to embarrass slackers who take more than four years to get a degree, the University of Georgia will start referring to students by the number of years they have been enrolled and may take away parking and football-ticket privileges after their senior year.

The university will call students "first-years," "second-years," or even "seventh-years," rather than freshmen, sophomores or seniors.

School officials said overcrowding is a major reason for the changes.

University of Georgia students take an average of 4.3 years to graduate, which is actually below the national average of 5.3 years. But too many students are taking up dorm and classroom space in the 33,000-student university, where tuition for state residents is \$2,800 a year.

One problem is that Athens - with its nightlife, mild weather and music scene - may be a little too pleasant.

"Athens is a great place to live, and I think for some of our students it's kind of a joke to stay," said Hugh Ruppensburg, an associate dean who leads a committee charged with getting students out on time. "They want a fifth football season. They don't want to leave their

friends. And this is a very affordable education, so it's not like it costs \$40,000 a year to stay."

Nineteen-year-old freshman Drew Perry said: "Kids just want to have fun and stay in Athens. They don't want to grow up and get a job. I don't either, but I still want to get out in four years. It really is crowded on the buses and the dining halls and all."

Provost Karen Holbrook said a recent survey that found students average just 13 hours a week in class and six more hours studying.

"What are they doing with their time?" she asked. "Certainly many of them work and are involved in extracurricular activities. But we think with the caliber of our students, they can take a much heavier program and do very well at it."

Under a proposal that still needs university approval before taking effect, those who spend more than four years in college would be put behind freshmen in line for coveted parking spaces and football tickets.

The most recent national figures from the U.S. Education Department show that college students are taking longer to complete degrees. About 30 percent of those who were college freshmen in 1993 took six years or longer to graduate, up from 25 percent in 1977.

Riverbend Apartments

100 Riverbend Drive
W. Columbia, SC 29169



Enjoy a campus atmosphere without the dorm atmosphere.

- State of the Art Fitness Center
- Multi Station Computer Lab
- Fax & Modem Station linked to USC Campus
- Two On-site Laundry Facilities
- Swimming Pools
- Tennis Court
- Catering to Students
- Lounge Area
- On-site 24 hr. Maintenance

794-2948
Fax 794-0017

www.riverbend@bhproperties.com

Call about our move-in special!



Now Open for Lunch 7 Days a Week!

- Hearty Steaks
- Delicious Prime Rib
- Killer Ribs
- Award winning BBQ Ribs
- Upbeat Atmosphere
- Ice Cold Beer

2 locations to serve you!

400 Columbiana Dr.
407-6670

M-Th 4-10:30pm
Fri-Sat 11am-11:30pm
Sunday 11am-10:30pm

8304 Two Notch Rd.
788-5384

If you are under the age of 21, it is against the law to buy alcoholic beverages. All ABC regulations enforced.

Interested in working for the
Gamecock?

e-mail: gamecockeditor@hotmail.com