

Coffee

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because it offers an entirely different atmosphere than Starbucks.

"People come here with more sophisticated tastes," Norris said, referring to its coffee and gelato. "They come here to relax."

Starbucks' next-nearest neighbor in Five Points is Cafe Con Leche. Owner Craig Rosado said his store, which has been open for about a month and a half now, has been unaffected by Starbucks.

"I think it's been pretty good," Rosado said. "People going to Starbucks know the Starbucks brand. People come here because we offer a different coffee and atmosphere."

Rosado said offering a Latin-themed menu and atmosphere separates Cafe con Leche from others.

The owner of Starbucks' third competitor in Five Points, The

Gourmet Shop, which competes in bean sales as opposed to individual drinks, was unavailable for comment.

Kevin Elmore, Starbucks' manager in Five Points, was unwilling to comment on whether the store has been meeting projected business expectations. Generally speaking, Elmore said, "We're doing well."

Commenting on the number of coffee shops in Five Points, Elmore said Starbucks isn't interfering with the other stores.

"We all have a different corner of a similar market," Elmore said.

Elmore also said the speed of Starbucks' service differentiates it from other coffee shops.

"We want to serve customers fast," Elmore said.

Some USC students remain unfazed by Starbucks' presence and support independent coffee shops.

"There are a lot of good independent coffee shops around Columbia," said third-year marketing and international business student Katie Devine. "I still go to the same coffee shops that

I've always gone to: Adriana's, Cafe Strudel."

First-year liberal arts student Zach Merritt said, "I'd probably go to an independent coffee shop like Cool Beans or Jammin' Java."

In other cities, most Starbucks-related disputes are focused on their "cannibalistic" approach to entering an area: establishing stores close to one another that draw business from other stores and don't allow for easy independent entry.

Some coffee drinkers cite Starbucks' consistent product for drawing them in.

"I'm used to it," said first-year music student Glenda Bates. "I have Starbucks at home in Virginia."

But as of right now in Columbia, with only one Starbucks in the downtown area, only well-branded shops having similar clientele have anything to fear.

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

University to dedicate city block for research

BY KALYN PALMER
THE GAMECOCK

With ground already broken on a new research building on the corner of Assembly and College streets, the next step in developing the research campus will be the addition of a city block devoted to research buildings, university officials said.

The research block, which will be on the property bounded by Assembly, Blossom, Main and Wheat streets, is part of the first phase of the research campus plan. Three buildings covering about 500,000 to 750,000 square feet are to be built on the lot where a Hardee's once operated. Craig Davis Properties Inc. is meeting with USC representatives to determine the university's space and property needs before development and construction can begin.

Tony Boccanfuso, managing director of the USC Research Foundation, said the research block will be highly specialized. He said the block will be composed of increased wet-lab space, engi-

neering research space, biomedical-type research space, specialized manufacturing rooms and clean rooms, which are sterile rooms used for manufacturing.

"The research campus will provide greater opportunity for students and faculty to perform research that will help them be successful," Boccanfuso said.

Support from the private sector will be a major factor in the development of the research campus. Space in the facilities will be leased to private companies looking for research areas.

"This will be a big step in bringing the private sector into closer relations with the university," Boccanfuso said. "It is a win-win situation for all parties."

The research block is part of the 10-year, 5-million-square-foot plan for the research campus. President Andrew Sorensen has set ambitious goals for USC's research campus.

With the new research block, USC's research campus will be well on its way to becoming an integral part of the USC communi-

ty, and it is expected to bring together students, faculty and the private sector.

Other recent examples of USC's close relationships with the private sector are the partnerships developed for the Inn at USC, the USC/Gateway Academy Child Development and Research Center and the naming-rights agreement between USC and Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co. of Columbia for the Colonial Center. State budget cuts have forced the university to look to public-private partnerships to help support major projects such as the research campus.


USC officials say USC might not immediately become one of U.S. News and World Report's top 50 public research universities in the nation as a result of the research campus, but they say the university will make continued progress toward more quality faculty and students and more space for research.

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Most students receive tickets despite distribution confusion

BY JON TURNER
THE GAMECOCK

Happy students found there were no losers in the Carolina-Clemson football game ticket lottery Monday when, despite some confusion, seemingly every student who entered the ticket lottery came out with that invaluable slip of paper.

Several stories circulated among the students waiting in line, and some were saying the lottery system had broken down completely and that the distribution was on a first-come, first-served basis.

"I heard that everyone was getting a ticket," said Julie Hartman, a second-year nursing student.

And, despite confusion, Charlie Davenport and Leigh Ann Green, first-year business students, reached the same conclusion. "It seems like everyone's getting one," Davenport said.

As she approached the ID scanner, Green wasn't positive she would receive a ticket but that she was confident in her chances.

"I thought I would get one," she said. "But I wasn't really sure. I haven't talked to a lot of people, but most people I've talked to have

gotten tickets."

Davenport said that the process worked fairly well, but he was disappointed by the dearth of basketball tickets. "It seemed to run pretty smoothly," he said, "but I didn't like the way they gave out the basketball tickets at the same time as the football lottery because, soon, there weren't any left."

Matt D'Amore, a third-year public relations student, said the distribution system's outcome has improved drastically from his first year at USC.

"When I was a freshman, it was wild," he said. "It was a wild chase. Some people wouldn't get tickets, and I knew people who would pay \$250-\$500 for a ticket."

"I would see people doing all kinds of things to get in, people forging tickets, people from back home."

D'Amore said ticket forgery wasn't all that difficult. "All you have to do is scan the image and print it on the right kind of paper," he said.

This year, it appears that the number of students who entered themselves into the lottery between Nov. 10 and 13 might have actually fallen short of the num-

ber of available tickets. Consequently, beginning at 9 a.m. today, tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Student Body President Katie Dreiling explained the situation. "Basically, we do the lottery, and almost everybody who enters should get a ticket," she said. "On the last day, if anybody didn't come and get their ticket, the rest are given away."

Dreiling didn't expect there to be many tickets left for students today. "For a big game like Clemson, hardly any tickets will be left. It depends on how many people come and get theirs today," she said.

Dreiling said that leftover tickets were generally picked up quickly.

"For away games, it happens a lot because we don't get as many tickets, and people don't realize you have to pay for them," she said.

Voncil Jeffers, a part-time employee of the athletics department, predicted a good number would be left for today.

"We told an awful lot of people to come back at 9 tomorrow," she said Tuesday.

But, by about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, several piles of tickets were still scattered about the desks of Russell House room 205, and each stack appeared to be between 30 and 50 tickets.

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