



the Seahawk

"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"



Volume L I, Number 23

www.theseahawk.org

March 1, 2000

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Aramark, Marriott compete for food contract

by SOMER STAHL
Staff Writer

In presentations last week, Marriott Food Services emerged as a strong competitor against Aramark for the food service contract for the 2000-2001 school year.

Every five years distributor contracts terminate and new companies, as well as the old one are able to bid on the job.

Aramark, the university's current food distributor, and Marriott Food Service both bid for the new contract on Monday, Feb. 28. According to Student Government Association (SGA) Secretary Travis Tice, the UNCW Food Service Review Board has listened to proposals made by Aramark, and has named them along with Marriott "the main bidders out of all other distributors."

Aramark and Marriott are currently the highest ranked food companies in the nation.

"Just because Aramark is the current food service provider, I think both presentations should be equally considered and the decision based on merit," Tice said.

Aramark's proposal centered around proposed improvements on current food services. Director of Aramark Food services Tom Williamson said the company's main focus will be on the Hawk's Nest renovation over the next couple of years. This construction will make the facility larger and thereby able to offer a greater variety of foods. Williamson said the company is also hoping to offer more flexible meal plans that can attract commuter students.

Aramark's proposal also deals with changes to Wagoner Dining Hall, such as more visual cooking and an emphasis on freshness.

Marriott is also looking to improve upon what is already being offered as far as food distribution is concerned. Tice said that Marriott's proposal offers authentic cuisine and a "home meal replacement idea."

"Students who have a late class or a late game can stop at Wagoner and pick up pre-packaged, single meals to pop into their microwaves," Tice said.

Marriott has also proposed the idea of ethnic cuisine in Wagoner and expansion in the Hawk's Nest based on the idea of a food court concept.

Marriott has proposed the idea of tuition/text book scholarships



This display was part of Marriott's proposal to take over food service at UNCW. The decision will be made this week on who will provide service next year.

for their student employees as well.

"What's truly impressive is that thirty-five percent of Marriott's current management worked in the kitchen during their college careers," Tice said.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill currently employs Marriott as their food service provider.

"I've heard that Marriott's proposal was outstanding," said SGA President Patrick Gunn, "but I must say that I appreciate the efforts Aramark has made over the past year or so to improve food service on campus. Tom Williamson has been very supportive with the comments made by SGA and other students. I do think, though, that we are lacking creativity and we need more emphasis on the student population as a whole from our food distributor."

With the current food service contract expiring in June, the Food Service Review Board will make a decision as soon as possible, well before the end of the semester.

"My friends have said that UNCW has the best food out of any of the other colleges that they've visited. We have a lot of choices, lines are quick and there's always something you can find that you'll probably like," said freshman Jen Johnson.

Hurricane evacuation/preparedness procedures re-evaluated

by HEIDI BING
News Editor

Nearly six months after Hurricane Floyd's arrival in North Carolina, the Cape Fear region is still recovering from the devastation of the storm's floods. The effects of Floyd coupled with the fact that the city of Wilmington was hit with three storms within a span of eight weeks, has drawn attention to need for hurricane awareness and safety campaigns and the reevaluation of standard procedures in emergency situations.

Last week, representatives from across the country converged on campus for "Hurricane Preparedness 2000: Lessons Learned," a conference focusing on preparedness at the nation, statewide, and local level.

House of Representatives Congressman Mike McIntyre opened the conference, which took place in the Warwick Center Ballroom from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The event featured a keynote address from Jerry Jarrell, retired director of the National Hurricane Center and panel discussions focussing on "Forecasting, Meteorology and Public Awareness," "Hurricane Prepared-

ness at the State Level" and "Hurricane Preparedness at the Local Level."

Learning From History; Predictions for the Future

Jarrell's lecture focused on the importance of gauging future hurricane situations by examining both recent experiences and past history.

"We do not prepare for the lessons of history but for our memory and perception of history," he said.

Jarrell emphasized that hurricanes come in "clusters" and that in order to understand storm patterns, people must examine how areas have been impacted in the last one hundred years, rather than trusting lifetime experiences with local weather.

He described the last few years as an "abnormal" period in which El Nino and La Nina influenced weather. As the weather enters a "normal" period, Jarrell expects an increased level of storm activity.

While Wilmington has served as an exception, the majority of the country has been left unscathed by hurricanes. Jarrell believes this is dangerous because it has allowed people to "put down their guard" about the potential of natural disasters.

"In that abnormal period we have allowed crazy things to happen to our coastline, our building codes have relaxed the population has skyrocketed at



Radar image of Hurricane Floyd.

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