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The Daily Gamecock, Tuesday, October 27, 2015

The University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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The Daily Gamecock

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

VOL. 106, NO. 30 ● SINCE 1908

DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAM TO BECOME AVAILABLE IN SPRING



Regan Freeman / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Emergency management will allow graduate students to get jobs in governmental, profit and nonprofit sectors.

Patrick Ingraham
@PATTYMILLS11

The University of South Carolina announced Monday that emergency management has been added as a concentration to its Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree.

The addition of this concentration means more graduate students have the chance to be employed in governmental, profit and nonprofit sectors that help in planning and responding to disasters.

The MPA program at USC is the oldest accredited MPA program in the state, with over 1,500 graduates since its founding in 1968. This particular program will be the first of its kind at any accredited MPA program in South Carolina.

MPA program director Christopher Witko said that the program has been in the works since 2014.

"This is something we started working on last fall," Witko said. "It takes a long time for these programs to get approved ... we got the final approval about a month ago."

According to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), South Carolina

is vulnerable to nearly every major natural disaster, save volcanoes. The state is also susceptible to numerous man-made hazards like nuclear emergencies and homeland security threats. That vulnerability was more than evident from the unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding on the weekend of Oct. 4.

SCEMD Director Kim Stenson believes the field is constantly expanding and the need for qualified, educated and capable professionals is always there.

"Emergency management as a profession has grown tremendously over the last 20 years," Stenson said in a press release. "The disaster response and recovery programs that exist today are extensive and detailed. The modern emergency manager has to have a solid educational foundation coupled with real-world experience in order to make the best recommendations about people's safety in times of crisis."

"It will attract people already working in emergency management and planning that want to improve their skill set and knowledge, and it will also attract undergrads who want to have more

marketable skills for their first ... 'real jobs,'" Witko said.

Third-year hospitality management student Dylan Smith thinks that the concentration would be an excellent program for many students to pursue after they graduate.

"I'm kind of in a flux with my major right now ... But it definitely sounds like something the state could use, especially right now," Smith said. "The more people we have who are prepared for things like [the flooding], the better."

Witko believes those looking for employment in emergency management will have a leg up if they go through the program, but, more importantly, that it will positively impact South Carolina and the Southeast as a whole.

"We think that it will help in the future — governments, non-profits, companies, etc. — respond in a timely and effective manner to emergencies when they arise," Witko said. "Having more people with the skills and knowledge in this area can only be a good thing for the state, and really, for the region."



Daniel Hou / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks are 5-0-1 for home games this season.

MEN'S SOCCER PREVIEW USC VS. FIU PAGE 8

Crime report shows uptick in drug violations

Ben Crawford
@BENLCRAWFORD

On-campus drug violations reports rose dramatically last year, according to the university's 2015 Annual Security Report released earlier this month. In 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, 129 cases of university disciplinary action were drug violations, up from a mere 44 in 2013 — almost a 300 percent increase.

There were 801 cases of disciplinary actions taken against those violating liquor laws on campus, with 718 of those occurring in campus residence halls. Additionally, of the 129 violations involving drugs on campus in 2014, 124 of those cases took place in residence halls.

Instances of burglary in residence halls stayed constant with 2013 incidences, with three reported cases. There were 62 reported cases when the security report began gathering data in

2011.

Additionally, vehicle thefts nearly doubled in during that time period, from 32 to 60.

A total 110 arrests were made at residence halls in the past year, up from 77 in 2013. Unlike other recent years, however, no arrests in residence halls in 2014 resulted from weapons possessions — there were six instances of violations due to illegal weapons possessions in 2013. The vast majority of arrests consisted of drug and alcohol violations.

The report, mandated by the federal government under the Jeanne Cleary Act, shows information and statistics gathered during the 2014 calendar year. The University's Division of Law Enforcement and Safety (DLES) compiles the majority of the data used in the report. The university uses the report as an effort to ensure safety for current and future Carolina students.

Freshman creates custom costumes

Sam Breazeale
@TDG_ARTS

It's not difficult to find creative Halloween costumes on USC's campus — the school's size and the innovative nature of college students usually ensure that a huge variety of pop culture references, puns and cute Halloween staples are all covered in any given year.

First-year undeclared business student Emily Adams, however, takes the creativity a step further: for the last six or so years, she has made her own costumes from scratch, sewing together fabric and adding details to make sure she ends up with a perfect, personalized outfit to show off on the 31st.

Adams began by helping her mother make

costumes when she was little. In the eighth grade, she decided to make one herself, and since then, she hasn't missed a year. She's covered all of the spooky bases, from a witch to a piece of candy corn, which is her costume for this year. "[My favorite one is] honestly probably this one," Adams said. "Even though it sort of sucks. My mom and I were making it, and I was like, 'I have ten minutes,' and so we made it in literally ten minutes."

In this writer's opinion, the candy corn dress does not look like something that was made in only ten minutes.

Adams has even inspired some of her

SEECOSTUMEPAGE4



Leland McElveen / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Quick Hitters: Today in Gamecock athletics

- Gamecock wide receiver commit Bryan Edwards suffered a torn meniscus in his game Friday and will miss the rest of his senior season

- The South Carolina women's basketball team announced it eclipsed 10,000 season ticket sales this year two years after setting a goal for 5000

- South Carolina's Nov. 7 football game at Tennessee has been scheduled for 4 p.m. on SEC Network.

- Tuesday's men's soccer game at Stone Stadium will be a pink out. Students are encouraged to wear pink for the 7 p.m. game and the first 200 will receive free pizza.

— Compiled by Will Helms,
Sports Editor

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IN BRIEF

Local teenager killed in hunting accident

Eighteen-year-old Kendall Leshar Williams of Newberry County was killed in a hunting accident on Sunday around 7 p.m., WIS reported. Williams was a senior at Mid-Carolina High School. Principal Ray Cooper described him as an "outstanding young man." Coroner Craig Newton said Williams died from a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

—Compiled by Emily Barber, Asst. News Editor

Video depicts officer dragging student from chair at Spring Valley High School

A video of an incident between a student and a resource officer at Spring Valley High School has been circulating online Monday afternoon, WLTX reported. The video shows the resource officer pulling a female student out of her desk and dragging her on the ground for several feet. The officer tells the girl to put her hands behind her back just before the video ends. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said the resource officer was called in after the student was disruptive and refused to leave at the requests of the teacher and an administrator. Lott said the student was put under arrest. The resource officer has been placed on administrative duty. Richland School District Two said they are investigating the incident in coordination with the sheriff's department.

—Compiled by Emily Barber, Asst. News Editor

Trump leads in South Carolina GOP poll

According to a CBS/YouGov poll, Donald Trump has 40 percent of GOP primary voters in South Carolina for the presidential primary in February, The State reported. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson followed with 23 percent. Trump has a strong lead over Carson in New Hampshire, at 38 percent — 26 percentage points higher than the Carson. The candidates are tied in Iowa, each at 27 percent. In national polls, Trump and Carson hold first and second place, respectively.

—Compiled by Emily Barber, Asst. News Editor

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today's edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.

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 University of South Carolina

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October
30

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Courtesy of the Columbia Museum of Art

“Independent Spirits: Women Artists of South Carolina” is a collection of art from women across South Carolina.

Women artists unite CMA

Rachel Minetti
@TDG_ARTS

Riding on the tail of the Georgia O’Keeffe: Her Carolina Story exhibit, the Columbia Museum of Art’s newest exhibit showcases approximately 30 works of art by women across the state of South Carolina.

Independent Spirits: Women Artists of South

Carolina is a strong collection of impressive works that can be found in the Palmetto State. The theme of the exhibit is to promote a woman’s place in the art world and emphasize the role that women will play in the future of the arts in South Carolina.

“[We wanted] to recognize Georgia O’Keeffe’s Carolina story,” said Joelle Ryan-Cook, the deputy

SEEARTISTPAGE5



LeLand McElveen / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freshman Emily Adams makes her own Halloween costumes from scratch. She has brought to life ideas like a witch and a candy corn.

COSTUMEPAGE1

candy corn dress does not look like something that was made in only ten minutes.

Adams has even inspired some of her friends, including her roommate, who deserves an award for most puzzling costume idea.

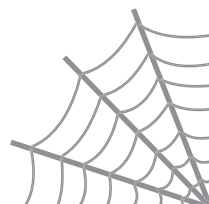
“She’s going to be a baked potato,” Adams said.

As one might guess, Adams has been looking forward to Halloween for quite a while. In recent weeks, she’s been getting competitive with some other Halloween fanatics in her residence hall.

“I’ve literally been talking about Halloween since September, because I love it so much,” she said. “And we worked really hard to decorate our dorm room and everything because we get super competitive with all the other people in our dorm, because they were trying to decorate it up, too.”

Despite her love for the October holiday, it’s not her favorite. (That’s Christmas.) But Adams feels Halloween deserves more attention than it usually gets.

“[Halloween] is cool because you get to express your creativity, and I feel like it’s a really underrated holiday. I really enjoy it.”



4 SNES games you should play immediately



Courtesy of Nintendo Life

All of these Super Nintendo Entertainment System games can be found through the Nintendo E-shop.

Joseph Glass
@TDG_ARTS

4: “Super Bonk”

This game is weird.

“Super Bonk” was the flagship character of the TurboGrafx-16 before it became obsolete, paving the way for this large-skulled cave-boy’s debut on the SNES, Super Nintendo Entertainment System. This game is a classic platformer, but probably has more in common with hallucinogenic drugs than it does with other popular mainstays.

Bonk’s main attacks and movement all utilize his massive cranium, defying physics in the process, unless Super Bonk receives a power-up. From anger-induced, petrifying earthquakes and lizard-faced, steam-fuming giants to rage-riding (literally the word “RAGE!”) little person and egg-laying chickens, Super Bonk’s power-ups are as strange as they get.

This time-traveling caveman adventure is sold on the Wii’s Virtual Console for 800 points, equivalent to \$8.

3: “Zombies Ate My Neighbors”

While technically also on the SEGA Genesis, “Zombies Ate My Neighbors” was one of the first co-operative zombie-killing games.

The player takes control of one of two too-cool-for-school ‘90s archetypes in an epic quest through various suburbs, malls, schools, haunted mansions and pyramids in an attempt to rescue your various neighbors before the zombies consume them.

The catch? Your arsenal of weaponry consists almost entirely of objects found around the neighborhood, including: water pistols, popsicles, soda cans, silverware, dishes, fire extinguishers and weed whackers.

With addicting gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humor, this gem is sold on the Wii’s Virtual Console for 800 points.

2: “Wild Guns”

This game is fun! I like to think this game was the inspiration for Will Smith’s movie, “Wild Wild West.” Similar to “Zombies Ate My Neighbors,” this game is a co-op experience with two stereotypically western-themed playable characters: Clint and Annie.

“Wild Guns” is a third-person fixed-viewpoint shooter in which Clint and Annie square off against the steampunk-inspired mechanic armies of ‘The Boss’ (what an original name). The gameplay is addictively fun, requiring precise dodging, special power-ups which change ammo type, varying stage locations and difficult-but-fun boss mechanics.

The game gets extremely difficult as the player approaches the final stages, but nabbing a friend and tackling the co-operative mode can alleviate frustration with its high-intensity gunfights and adrenaline-raising bosses.

Worth every penny, this game sells for \$7.99 on the Wii U’s Nintendo eShop.

1: “EarthBound”

Underrated during its heyday, “EarthBound” has accrued a cult following.

This game follows a young boy named Ness from the country of Egleland, representative of the United States, as he pursues an evil alien named Giygas who has covered the world in hatred. Ness and his friends — Paula, Jeff and Poo, must use a variety of childhood toys, including yo-yos, baseball bats and psionic powers to combat local wildlife, street thugs and corrupt police officers in a quest to save the world.

The gameplay takes inspiration from other popular role-playing titles, such as the “Dragon Quest” series, while diverging in a fresh and unique way. The tongue-in-cheek humor and charming narrative make this a unique gem among its peers.

This cult classic can be purchased from the Wii U’s Nintendo E-Shop for \$9.99 and is worth the steep price.

ARTISTPAGE4

director and director of external affairs at the CMA. “That iconic American artist period had an amazing epiphany and pivotal change in South Carolina. For us, [it was] an opportunity to think about those women working in South Carolina that exemplify that spirit of innovation ... independently doing their work the way they want to do it, no matter what other influences want to shift or change that.”

And the collection does just that. Ranging from rich paintings to intricate sculptures, the pieces truly reflect the growing role women have in telling their own story through art, especially in the South.

“We don’t think of South Carolina as the center of the art world; we think of New York and Chicago

and Los Angeles,” Ryan-Cook said. “There are some amazing, accomplished artists here in South Carolina ... I think a young woman artist can look at this for inspiration here at home. There are successful counterparts; there are mentors that can be out there. There are people that have successfully accomplished working as an artist. In South Carolina, you can do it.”

A great deal of the artwork on display has been created by Columbia’s own. “Ready for Burial,” a 69-by-42-inch embroidery of a vintage, black lace dress sewn onto an old bed sheet, is a standout from Columbia local, Susan Lenz. Bri Kinard, a USC graduate with a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Art and Design, has a large, colorful sculpture hanging from the ceiling, titled “Fear

Mongers — Extracted.”

“I think being independent, to a degree, is part of being Southern — we’re fiercely independent,” said Mary Bentz Gilkerson, another Columbia local with artwork in the show. “We don’t like people telling us what to do. And certainly, growing up as a Southern woman, being independent and making my own decisions sometimes wasn’t always encouraged in our culture.”

While each artwork has its own sense of individuality to it, the collection as a whole is brought together by the overarching theme of independence — a deeply ingrained part of the Southern identity.

“That’s really what we wanted to do,” Ryan-Cook said. “To say, ‘Hey, there’s some pretty incredible stuff going on in South Carolina.’”



Courtesy of the Columbia Museum of Art

The collection ranges from rich paintings to intricate sculptures and reflect the growing role women have in telling their own story through art, especially in the South. The entire collection is derived from South Carolinian women artists, and a great deal of the exhibit contains artwork created by artists who are from Columbia.

“I graduated on a Saturday, and had **my own classroom** by Monday.”

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The Daily Gamecock

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COUNTDOWN TO HALLOWEEN

2

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SHENEMAN THORPE CONTENT AGENCY



Head to Head

Is college necessary?

Opinion columnists debate whether or not a college degree is necessary for success in life

Yes



Rylan Learman

Fourth-year political science

No



Brandon Middleton

Second-year history and political science

A college degree is one of the most fundamental assets that a person can get in order to advance through our society. But it isn't the degree alone that makes college a cornerstone in nearly 40 percent of American's lives. The necessity of college is in the environment and culture as well as the degree that you receive.

The benefits of getting a college degree are endless. For example, the unemployment rate among citizens who have earned a high school diploma but not an associate's degree is 5.2 percent. Compared to the 2.5 percent unemployment among college graduates, and the 5.1 percent national average of unemployment, it is clear that a college degree can be an essential quality in order to be hired.

Receiving a degree, while ultimately the goal of college, is not the only reason for going to school. Some would even say that a college degree is nearing the point of having little to no value. This is because of the ease with which some people can go through college, simply passing the required classes to get the slip of paper that says they have mastered their area of academia.

Another method of institutional education also comes from the self-edification that college brings about. Students are given the opportunity and the resources to learn just about any subject. From teaching yourself at Thomas Cooper to meeting with professors to better understand a subject, college offers an area to learn unlike any other.

This environment, partnered with the diverse culture on college campuses, allows for the optimal experience in learning, both institutionally and socially.

But while graduating is the prima facie purpose of your college experience, the degree you receive does not always dictate your career choices. As a fourth-year student finishing up the final semester before graduating, this is especially true for me.

Most students who major in political science and minor in philosophy have plans of law school, graduate school or entering the workplace in the areas of government, nonprofits or other various positions. But I didn't choose these subject areas for the careers that they offered, but rather because that was the education that I wanted to pursue.

Sure, knowing the difference between a Machiavellian political structure and that of Thomas Hobbes is interesting to me, but I will most likely never use the information from many of my classes in the professional world.

This does not belittle the experience of these classes; it enhances it. Learning about things that interest you does not constrict you to working in those avenues. College degrees are a sign that you have matured enough to work your way through society, and hopefully learned enough skills to get a job.

Whether or not you receive an education while getting that degree is up to you.

Is College Necessary?

Well, necessary for what?

Knowledge? Does a degree automatically imply mastery of a certain field of study? Benjamin Franklin never graduated from college.

Wealth? One of the wealthiest man in the world, Bill Gates did not receive a degree. And, Larry Ellison, Michael Dell, Anna Wintour, Ellen DeGeneres, Rachael Ray and Jessica Alba are each multi-millionaires/billionaires without a degree.

Power? Past presidents without degrees include Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and most recently Harry Truman.

Changing the World?

Modern day personal computing: thanks, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

Modern day entertainment: thanks, Walt Disney.

Near future space tourism: thanks, Richard Branson.

Modern day commuting: thanks, Henry Ford.

I imagine dissenters are thinking that college is necessary for a job, and to some extent (especially when a degree is listed under the minimum requirements section for a position) I agree with them. However, I question how well undergraduate degrees prepare students for jobs. Imagine yourself a few days into a new job, fresh out of college, your boss has an assignment for you, but you can't use the internet, a calculator, notes you've made, other people or outside resources of any kind. These parameters seem odd don't they? Yet they are the same situations under which undergraduates (in many cases) are assessed.

I've also heard the numbers on average income and standard of living countless times. If your definition of success is to not be homeless then I do recommend college for you (the probabilities are heavily in your favor that you won't become impoverished with a degree) but if your definition of success is to be happy, help others, be remembered or change the world then I think knowledge and dedication would serve you better than a college degree.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR REQUIREMENTS

Letters to the editor must not exceed 300 words. Students must include their full name, major and year. Faculty and staff must include their full name, position and department. Community members must include their full name and applicable job title. Verifiable statements of fact must include at least one source; if we cannot verify a statement of fact, your letter will not be published until the writer

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University could do more about domestic violence

ISSUE

The Feminist Collective held a die-in Monday to highlight domestic violence

OUR STANCE

By doing so, they have addressed a dire issue that needs institutional attention.

On Monday, the Feminist Collective staged a die-in on the Pickens Street bridge. The event was designed to draw attention to domestic violence in the state. South Carolina has the highest rate of women killed by men in the nation. One of the most public cases of domestic violence took place on university grounds this February, when USC professor Raja Fayad was murdered in his office by his ex-wife.

The protest disrupted routines and made standard commutes across the bridge inconvenient. But given how little attention the issue gets, that's a good thing. The state's quiet epidemic should make people uncomfortable. It certainly affects some lives more than a delay on the way to or from class. This is particularly helpful because of confusion over what constitutes domestic violence and dismissal of its severity by the populace and official institutions.

As the largest public school in South Carolina, we feel as if the university has a particular obligation to make sure their students are aware of how to notice, prevent and respond to domestic violence in order that they can be responsible citizens. The Haven program that is required for incoming freshman to take is a good start. However, the knowledge gained there can be quickly forgotten. We believe that requiring recertification every year or so would be a better solution for educating the student body. Giving the issue time in University 101 would also help combat it.

While we understand that this would seem arduous and annoying for many students, the benefits of increased awareness and, in turn, better outcomes in some cases will more than outweigh it.

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A financial turning point arises with this Taurus full moon. There's money to be made. Complete old projects and begin a new phase. Love's a requirement, not an option. Hitch your wagon to a star.

Taurus
This full moon illuminates a new personal phase. Talk about what you want to accomplish. You're stronger, more confident and especially sensitive. Take control. Increase your comfort zone. Find the perfect deal. Don't brag about it.

Gemini
Begin a new thoughtful phase under this Taurus full moon. Review plans and consider alternative options. Meditate on what you most want to create. Shift focus toward nurturing and love. Take care of yourself first and then others.

Cancer
Launch a group effort with this full moon in Taurus. Friends want you to come out and play. Begin a new phase in social networking. You can move mountains together. Party for a good cause. Celebrate your team.

Leo
A full moon turning point arises in your career. Step into greater leadership. A new professional door opens, and your performance is being watched. Renovate your space to suit this new direction. This could be your lucky break.

Virgo
One educational door closes as another opens with this Taurus full moon. Learn by doing. Practice what you preach. A turning point in your journey appears. Shift your research in a new direction. Apply what you're learning.

Libra
The full moon shines on a new phase in your shared finances. Use new tricks. Practical attention strengthens foundations for long-term plans. Keep accounts current and balanced. Collaborate with experts and partners for growth.

Scorpio
Let someone else direct for a while. A full moon turning point arises in a relationship. Compromise. Complete the old phase and begin anew. Take time for transitions.

Sagittarius
Create space for this new full moon stage in your work by completing an old project. Ritual and symbolism provide comfort. Balance mental, physical and spiritual health by making time for yourself. Expect it to get busy.

Capricorn
This full moon in Taurus reveals a turning point in your game. Reach a new level. Put your heart into it. Avoid stepping on toes to get what you want. Romance and playful family interaction could flower.

Aquarius
Begin a new domestic phase under the Taurus full moon. Family matters take priority. Stick close to home and realize practical goals. Conserve your resources thoughtfully. Adjust to changes. Tend your garden with love.

Pisces
A new phase in communications, intellectual discovery and travel dawns with this full moon. Shift your research in a new direction. A turning point arises in your creative expression. Start a new chapter.



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Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 10/27/15

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17						18				19		
20					21				22			
23				24					25			
26			27					28				
29						30				31		
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43				44				45	46			
47							48				49	
50						51				52		
53						54				55		56
57						58				59		
60						61				62		

ACROSS

- '60s activist Bobby
- Forward sail
- Flavonoids-rich berry
- *Shady spot
- Mesabi Range output
- Not for minors
- *Furry forecaster?
- Chain with a red cowboy hat logo
- Some spring rolls?
- Former "Today" co-anchor Curry
- Plant sold in animal-shaped pots
- Gave away, as true feelings
- One ___ time
- *Jolly Roger, e.g.
- *Formal beginning
- Lip balm stuff
- Subleased
- ___-ray Disc
- Gives substance to, with "out"
- Decks out
- L.A.'s ___ Center: second-tallest building in California
- Salsa ingredient
- Hard-to-hit server
- *Freedom from control
- *Leave the ground
- Stoplight color
- "Done!"
- Vagrant
- PSAT takers
- Acct. accrual
- Summers in China?
- Big name in publishing, and a visual hint to the three adjacent pairs of answers to starred clues
- "My Little Grass Shack" singer
- Die down
- Hoover rival
- A&W rival
- Versatile Scrabble tile
- Small bite

DOWN

- Loses muscle tone
- Dashing Flynn
- Dwelling
- Reed of The Velvet Underground
- Compass point ending
- Poet Keats
- Historic toolmaking period
- Impertune
- Lacking purpose
- Tropical rum drink
- Prince ___ Khan
- "___ in the bag!"
- "That hits the spot!"
- "Body of Proof" actress Delany
- Insertion symbol
- Cancún uncles
- Like many an easy grounder
- New Orleans school
- IM user
- Safari sights
- Like grizzlies
- Tack on

33 Solo
34 Pitch in
37 Flunk out
38 Año beginner
40 Slurpee cousin
43 PennySaver ad subjects
46 Big times
47 Black-box analyzers: Abbr.
51 Takes for a spin
52 Pass
54 Theater program item
56 Chafes

58 Little one
59 Tack on
60 Accessorizing wrap
61 Below-average grade
62 Parking place
63 Stat for R.A. Dickey

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Sudoku By The Mepham Group 10/27/15

	1	3				5		
	6							3
				4	7			2
		9			5	1	2	
	7			3				8
	2	1	7			3		
1			6	2				
	4							7
		6				8	5	

Level 1 [2] [3] [4]

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

For solutions to today's puzzle, go to dailygamecock.com or download our app!

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— world series —

who has the advantage?



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Mets' second baseman Daniel Murphy heads into Tuesday night's Game 1 riding an MLB record six-game home run streak. He homered in every game of the NLCS.

Royals

Bobby Balboni
@ROB_BALBONI1

Starting Rotation

With nicknames like "The Dark Night" and "Thor," the Mets rotation has been hyped to a superhuman status. The four playoff starters are just an average of 25 years old, but according to Brooks Baseball database the average fastball velocity of the quartet was over 96 MPH this season. So far the hype hasn't gotten to the group, as Matt Harvey, Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Steven Matz yielded just six runs in 26 innings during the NLCS against the Cubs.

For the Royals, the rotation is more of a question mark. General Manager Dayton Moore acquired Johnny Cueto to be the ace of his staff down the stretch, but Cueto has struggled since arriving in the City of Fountains. Edison Volquez and Yordano Ventura are very viable options behind Cueto, but they will still be the underdogs when facing the monsters on New York's staff.

ADVANTAGE: METS

Bullpen

Kansas City has seemingly managed to build their pitching staff from the back to the front, with the league's most dominant pen. Despite losing closer Greg Holland to a late season injury, the Royals won't be too worried with Wade Davis, who posted a 0.94 ERA in 2015, taking the ball in the ninth. The Mets have leaned heavily on closer Jeurys Familia during the postseason, and they will also rely on the ageless Bartolo Colon for key

ADVANTAGE: ROYALS

Lineup

The Royals average 4.47 runs per game while the Mets averaged just 4.22, but this Mets offense is a lot better now than it was coming out of Spring Training. New York bolstered their offense by acquiring outfielder Yoenis Cespedes from Detroit, and he rewarded them by slugging .604. Then there's second baseman Daniel Murphy who has been doing his best Mark McGwire 1998 impression. Murphy has homered in six straight games heading into the series.

The 2014 Royals were famous for their aggressive, contact-over-power approach, but this team has more pop than most give them credit for. On the whole, this is a deep, multifaceted lineup from top to bottom. Five-tool talent Lorenzo Cain anchors the lineup and epitomizes their approach. During the regular season Cain hit .307 and slugged .477, while also stealing 28 bases.

ADVANTAGE: ROYALS

Defense

The Royals are regarded as the league's best defense by both the experts and by most advanced defensive statistics. Catcher Salvador Perez, first baseman Eric Hosmer and left fielder Alex Gordon have all won multiple Gold Gloves at their respective positions. The Royals outfield defense is especially impressive, with the ability to bring defensive specialists off the bench at the end of games. The Mets are not as strong defensively, with shortstop Wilmer Flores considered to be a liability at one of the most important positions on the diamond.

ADVANTAGE: ROYALS

— Prediction: Royals in six —

Chris Slade
@DJANGO_UNSLADE

Starting Rotation

The Mets' staff ranked fourth overall in 2015 with a collective 3.44 ERA, second with 1002.2 innings pitched, ninth in strikeouts per nine innings and eighth with a collective opponent batting average of just .288. Compare that to the Royals whose starters ranked 22nd in baseball with a 4.22 ERA, 24th with 912.2 innings pitched, 25th in strikeouts per nine innings and 27th with a .266 opponent batting average.

The Mets have two pitchers with sub-3.00 ERAs in Matt Harvey (13-8, 2.71 ERA) and Jacob deGrom (14-8, 2.54 ERA) who have both been in great form during the playoffs.

Adding an established ace like Johnny Cueto definitely helped bolster the Royals below-average rotation as that allowed them to drop struggling veteran Jeremy Guthrie and his disastrous 5.95 ERA from the rotation. However, even with Cueto, the Royals appear to be at an obvious disadvantage, considering Cueto pitched to a 4.34 ERA in the second half and has been inconsistent in the playoffs.

ADVANTAGE: METS

Bullpen

The Royals standout bullpen played a huge role in their run to the World Series last season and that has been the case again in 2015. The Royals have one of the most dominant relievers in baseball in Wade Davis who pitched to an absurd 0.94 ERA in 67.1 innings pitched, allowing just 33 hits and 20 walks while striking out 78. Kelvin Herrera is the other standout reliever in this bullpen, armed with a fastball that comfortably sits upper 90s and

often touches 100 MPH. Overall, the Kansas City bullpen ranked second in baseball with a 2.72 ERA, more than making up for the pedestrian numbers posted by their starters.

The Mets bullpen pitched to a respectable 3.48 ERA in 2015, which ranked 11th in baseball. The Mets also have a standout closer in their stable as Jheury Familia pitched posted a 1.85 ERA in 78 innings of work while going 43-for-48 in save opportunities.

ADVANTAGE: ROYALS

Lineup

The Royals lineup will present an interesting challenge for the talented Mets pitching staff, as they were collectively the most difficult lineup to strike out in baseball this year. As a team, they struck out in just 15.9 percent of their plate appearances, by far the lowest percentage in the majors. While they finished 24th with 139 home runs, they did rank seventh in the majors in total runs scored. The Mets were eighth and 17th in those categories, respectively.

Ultimately, though, I give the Mets the advantage here for the following reasons. Trade deadline acquisition Yoenis Cespedes truly jump-started the offense with an MVP like performance over the final two months (.287 AVG, 17 HR, 44 RBI, .941 OPS in just 57 games). They have more power in their lineup and will face a weaker starting pitching staff than the Royals have to deal with. They also have Daniel Murphy, who has somehow transformed himself into Babe Ruth in the playoffs, setting the record for home runs in consecutive playoff games with his current six-game streak.

ADVANTAGE: METS

— Prediction: Mets in six —

Gamecocks come home, hope to end losing streak

Drew Mueller
@TDG_SPORTS

The Gamecocks have stumbled in their past three games, dropping two vital conference games to the two top teams. Traveling to No. 15 Kentucky, South Carolina couldn't put the ball into the net even though they had four shots on goal compared to Kentucky's two. The only score of the game was the Wildcat's Jordan Wilson's header off a penalty free kick in the 31st minute.

Then South Carolina had

another road game five days later in Charlotte. The 49ers dominated the game, outshooting the Gamecocks 18 to 10 with 10 to 5 of those shots on target. Two different Charlotte players scored, and they wasted no time doing so. In the 3rd minute, Brandt Bronico took a free kick to the back of the net. Then in the 21st minute, Kyle Parker got his own rebound and kicked in a goal from 13 yards out. The game ended 2-0 as the Gamecocks could not convert on any of their attempts.

South Carolina hasn't played well

on the road; they are 2-6 after the Charlotte loss. Luckily, their last three games are at home where they are 5-0-1. Wednesday's opponent, FIU, is average on the road, going 4-3. The Gamecock defense will have their hands full trying to handle a high-octane Panthers offensive scheme.

Under head coach Scott Calabrese's direction, FIU has only been shut out in two games, scoring 33 goals in 13 contests. They lead the Conference USA in almost every major offensive category — points

(95), goals (33) and assists (29). Luis Betancur leads their offense with seven goals, yet there are 11 different Panthers that have found the back of the net this year.

The game Tuesday will be played at Stone Stadium at 7 p.m. It is a pink out, so all attendees are encouraged to wear pink. Pink rally towels will be given out before the game, and the first 200 students will receive free pizza.