

Spring 4-2-2018

The Daily Gamecock, Monday, April 2, 2018

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Recommended Citation

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media, "The Daily Gamecock, Monday, April 2, 2018" (2018).
April. 1.
https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock_2018_apr/1

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University, social media respond to offended student

Hannah Dear
@THEGAMECOCK

“Today at the @UofSC I experienced racism from professor. After learning about welfare and social programs my phone goes off in class and he looks at me and says ‘that may be the welfare office calling you now’ he claims that he didn’t mean it as derogatory but how?”

Angela Bogni’s widely circulated tweet, posted March 29, has drawn a lot of attention from university administration, students and media organizations on Twitter. Bogni, a third-year biology student, experienced the comment while in Tobias Lanz’s American Government class.

Bogni tweeted about her experience at 1:46 p.m. By 3:36 p.m., @UofSC replied with the university’s first official statement. As with the racist posters in Gambrell, the university referred back to the Carolina Creed.

“We’ve forwarded these tweets to appropriate administrators and are looking into this,” the university said on Twitter. “As Carolinians, we abide by a creed which requires us to respect the dignity of all persons.”

Shortly after Bogni posted her original comment along with a video of her confronting Lanz, she posted a longer statement describing in detail what happened in class and the effect it had on her. The video she posted has been viewed 24,000 times; the original post has 363 retweets and 66 replies.

“I’m in American government and we’re talking about social programs one being welfare,” Bogni said on Twitter. “My professor goes on to say that mostly non white Americans are on these social programs (which is a fact) about two minutes later my phone goes off in lecture as I hurry to turn it off he looks directly at me and says ‘That may be the welfare office calling you now’ no one laughed and in a class of over 200 students the class was silent. I was so embarrassed!”

USC President Harris Pastides later replied to the Twitter thread, which serves as the university’s second official statement.

“I’m sorry for what you experienced today and deeply troubled by comments that perpetuate racist stereotypes,” Pastides said on Twitter. “This is not representative of @UofSC. We stand with you. Dept Chair Todd Shaw will be in touch with you directly.”

Lanz, a professor within the political science department, has been accused of making racist or sexist statements before, according to anonymous RateMyProfessors comments and the tweets in response to Bogni. Several students pointed out that, while he is an intelligent man, he is either loved or hated by students.

“you either like him or hate him as he’s not afraid to express his opinion,” said one reviewer on RateMyProfessors. “very well educated about subject matter!”

However, this user’s comment heavily contrasts with other reviewers who also saw Lanz make racist and sexist comments.

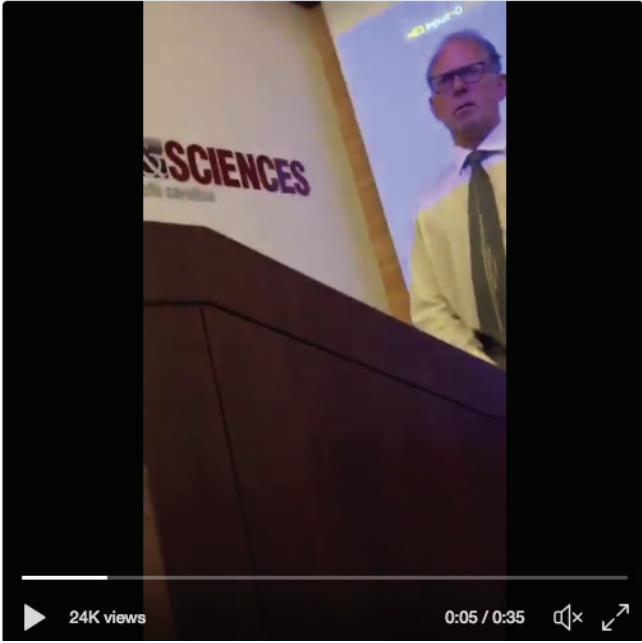
“I took his class because I was interested in the topic and heard good things, however his incredibly sexist attitude and un-engaging manner of teaching



Ang
@AngelaNazirah

Follow

Today at the @UofSC I experienced racism from professor. After learning about welfare and social programs my phone goes off in class and he looks at me and says “that may be the welfare office calling you now” he claims that he didn’t mean it as derogatory but how?





Harris Pastides
@HarrisPastides

Following

Replying to @AngelaNazirah @UofSC

I’m sorry for what you experienced today and deeply troubled by comments that perpetuate racist stereotypes. This is not representative of @UofSC. We stand with you. Dept Chair Todd Shaw will be in touch with you directly #NotOnOurCampus

6:30 PM - 29 Mar 2018

66 Retweets

518 Likes

12

66

518

turned me way off. Avoid him if you can,” said another RateMyProfessors reviewer.

The tweets in response to Bogni’s original post were just as mixed as the RateMyProfessors reviews. Some sympathized with Bogni and were able to share their own experiences with Lanz. Other tweets told Bogni that she was overreacting and that the comment was not necessarily racist.

“I’ve taken classes with this professor during my time at USC and he is by far one of the most compassionate and least discriminatory professors in the Political Science department,” fourth-year finance student Michael Hodshon said on Twitter. “In my experience he makes comments anytime a phone goes off or someone leaves the lecture early.”

Bogni defended her original tweet in her longer statement. Her opinion on the matter was that if she did not draw the university and students’ attention to the racist nature of Lanz’s comments, he would continue to embarrass students.

SEEWELFAREPAGE3

Letter from the president

With inauguration Tuesday, Ross Lordo bids farewell



Victoria Richman / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

To My Carolina Family,
Thank you.

A little over a year ago, you gave me the privilege of embarking on what has been a remarkable and life changing journey – to represent you.

The spirit, passion and love that our community has for the University of South Carolina is inspiring. Through all the ups and downs over the past year, we have continued to believe in each other. We have come together knowing that as Gamecocks, we are more than just ourselves; We are a family.

With your support, we have made Student Government more collaborative, effective and stronger than ever. We successfully laid the critical groundwork for a new student union, ultimately seeing the Board of Trustees take steps to begin funding what will be a tremendous capital project. We implemented the first digital CarolinaCards in history, founded our campus’s new Student Sustainability Fund, created the Open Educational Resources (OER) Award to incentivize faculty members to decrease textbook costs and even helped manage the annual Homecoming Cockstock concert, which attracted close to 8,000 students. We took our advocacy to a whole new level, testifying at the Statehouse for a student vote on the University Board of Trustees. Furthermore, we established the South Carolina Student Collaborative for state-wide advocacy for years to come. When the time came to elect new leadership, our elections commission excelled, shattering turnout records and reaffirming the trust our students have in Student Government’s mission and future leaders.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you this past year. While I undoubtedly know you have changed me for the better, it is my sincere hope that I have left behind a few positive changes here on our campus. Representing a diverse student population of over thirty thousand was challenging at times but thrilling nonetheless, as each day brought new opportunities. I will never be able to adequately express my gratitude to each one of you. Thank you for believing that together, our voice can be heard.

Stay involved, ask questions and believe in the impact we can have together. Change is never easy, but that makes it all the more important. Though we come from different backgrounds, we are forever united in our bond as Carolinians.

Serving as your Student Body President has been the honor of my life. I see a bright future ahead for all of us, but it is up to each of you to keep improving on that better tomorrow.

Forever to thee,
Ross F. Lordo
Student Body President 2017-2018

College Park at Carolina Cup comes to end



Zach McKinley / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Chris Lorensen
@THEGAMECOCK

College Park, the university section of the Carolina Cup, may have had music loud enough that nobody even noticed the national anthem had come and gone. But it was still a shadow of its former self.

A slightly off-the-track aspect of the annual horse race, College Park was best known for its big university parties. Students came from as far as Florida to take part in this aspect of Greek life — dressing up, hanging out with friends and feeling good about yourself. It acts as an escape from the impending end of the spring semester.

This year, however, was the last chance students had to experience it. In February, race organizers announced that 2018 would be the last year of College Park. While to some the Carolina Cup is known for its fun, relaxing atmosphere, the college student presence is more known for overly drunk and sometimes underage students being escorted away by the

authorities.

Yet relaxing in the sun at a tent rented by USC’s Delta Upsilon fraternity, the Cup appears to only be the former. There was no slamming down shots or shotgunning beers. Instead, members were firing up the grill while enjoying their drinks with complementary cigars. The fraternity even had a bus to shuttle everyone the half hour to and from Columbia so no one had to drive. Looking beyond the tent, however, there were still signs of the drunken stigma.

There were only about 30 tents rented in College Park this year, and Delta Upsilon was the only USC organization with its own tent. Just a few years ago, the Park filled up with 100 tents. With USC one of the closest schools to the Cup, a decline in USC students has contributed to the falling attendance as a whole.

“I knew it was the last year, but I definitely wasn’t expecting this,” said Johnny Stevenson, a fourth-year accounting student. “This is very bare ... just not as lively as it was last year.”

The main suspicion for the

dwindling turnout at the Cup is not any loss in hype. Students point to an overly oppressive police presence as responsible for the drop in popularity. Kevin Sheehan, a fourth-year accounting student, has been coming to the Carolina Cup for three years and says there used to be four times the amount of students as there were this year.

Yet even as participation has decreased, the amount of police presence has stayed the same. That presence included at least six cities this year from Kershaw all the way to Irmo, along with members of USC police as well.

“They really ruined a good thing,” says Sheehan. “Whoever’s in charge of it, they just over-policed it.”

While College Park is coming to an end, organizers will just be replacing the section with different branding. And policing aside, members of Delta Upsilon were determined to see their Carolina Cup experience through to the end and not let what may feel like a criticizing eye ruin a springtime party.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published in print two times per week in the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are the author's and are not the university's. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Office of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from Student Media.

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IN BRIEF



Courtesy of Tribune News Service

“Mexico has got to help us at the border. If they are not going to help us at the border, it is a very sad thing. We need two countries. Mexico has got to help us at the border.”

— President Trump on Sunday

Completion of SC highway construction pushed to 2020

Columbia’s commuters are going to have to wait longer for the widening of I-20 and I-77 in the Midlands due to engineering issues, The State reports. “We had some trouble with the existing shoulder and the construction method had to be changed,” said Allen Thompson, an assistant district construction engineer with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The change pushes the \$99 million project, which was expected to be completed in 2019, back to spring 2020.

— Compiled by T. Michael Boddie, news editor

OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2018

Congrats to the 2018 Outstanding Woman of the Year: Rebecca Kaze

Congratulations to finalists: Laura Billington, Janelys Villalta, Caryn Ramelb, and Abigail Witt

WELFAREPAGE1

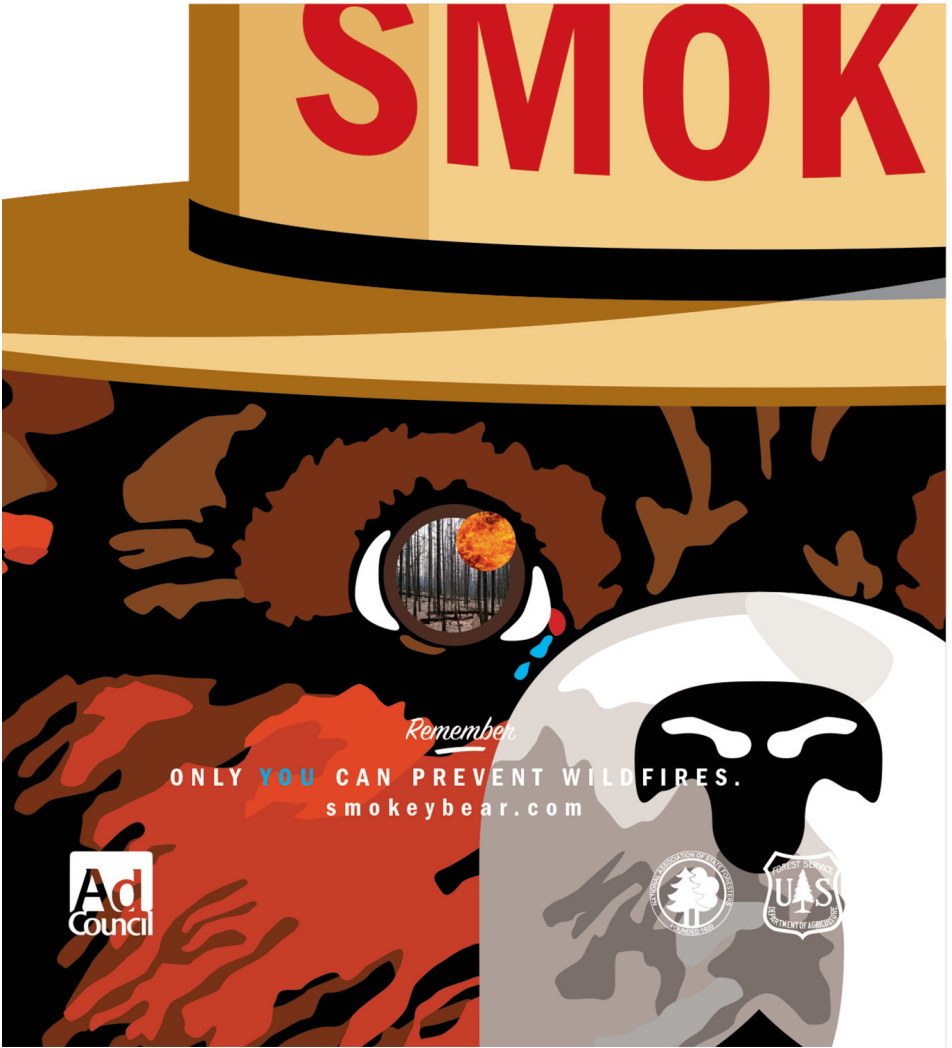
“some may say I’m overreacting but being publicly embarrassed in front of your classmates would have you angry as well,” Bogni said on Twitter. “And USC has not had a good year when it comes to minorities and racial issues on campus.”

In response to this situation, Lanz sent out a formal statement to media outlets apologizing for the way his comment was perceived by both Bogni and social media.

“I am issuing an apology to Ms. Bogni and all of my Political Science 201 class,” Lanz said. “I made a joke last week that was never intended to offend anyone. Unfortunately, it did and I am sorry.”

The exact plan moving forward has not been made clear by the university, but Lanz will work to ensure that all of his students feel welcome and able to learn in his classes.

“I am truly saddened and shocked by this turn of events because I value the relationship I have with my students,” Lanz said. “In my 24 years at USC, it has never been my intention to offend. I look forward to speaking with Ms. Bogni personally as we move forward.”





M O M E N T U M
Conversations for a Better World

Idea Submission

Have an idea to facilitate conversations for a better world? Submit your proposal here to turn ideas into action in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Submit ideas by April 6 at:
bit.ly/MomentumIdea

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University of South Carolina Student Life

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Carolina Productions

BIRDCAGE

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 8 PM

RUSSELL HOUSE BALLROOM





Courtesy of IMDb

Review: ‘Journey’s End’ is intense but predictable

Caitlin Burnham
@CAITYBURNHAM

“Journey’s End”

Release Date: March 16
Director: Saul Dibb
Duration: 1 hour 47 minutes

B

In a brutal example of the tragedies faced at war, “Journey’s End” places the viewer directly in the British trenches of World War I. The movie, adapted from RC Sherriff’s 1928 play, attempts to show the different ways in which war changes lives, and ends them. We meet Jimmy Raleigh (played by Asa Butterfield), a second lieutenant fresh out of training. He asks to be assigned to a company led by Captain Stanhope (Sam Claflin), a man Raleigh knew from school, even when he finds the company is being

sent into the thick of the front. But when Raleigh arrives, he doesn’t find the old school friend he expected. Instead, he finds Stanhope much changed by his experiences, and Raleigh quickly learns why through firsthand experience. There isn’t a lot of character development, but that is because there is no time for the characters to tell us their stories. Director Saul Dibb turns this lack of development into something that adds meaning to the film. We follow these characters for less than a week while they are in the midst of war. That is what is important — not Stanhope’s barely-mentioned love interest or anything more than the immediate experience of the characters. It seems like the most obvious flaw in the movie, but instead it offers the briefest of glimpses into who these people are and how that makes the war-time environment so real and emotional. This purposeful lack of definition continues into one of the biggest climaxes of the movie.

In an intense moment where the company raids a German trench, the camera shakes and the sound is chaotic. The characters’ confusion and terror are not only evident through their acting, but through the cinematography and sound that portray the experience. Combined with a tragic ending, “Journey’s End” brings you achingly close to the World War I trenches. We feel the dark, close quarters with the soldiers, experience the jarring sound of bombs and gun shots as they do. We see the young lieutenant on his first assignment, the seasoned officer who knew what was coming — and then we see the immediate threat they all face. But then the movie fails in the same place as most war movies — falling into the typical. There is no lack of war films out in the world, and each tries to rise above the last to make a bid for being remembered. But most fail, especially because of the framing of the plot. There’s always a stern but caring leader,

a fresh-faced new recruit and the confrontation of imminent death. “Journey’s End” does offer incredible acting and a strong ending, but it ultimately fails to make that lasting impression you need for a good war movie. Too much of it was full of the expected. While screenwriter Simon Reade did well in creating engaging action scenes, the dialogue between the officers and the time spent inside their underground quarters loses his vision. Claflin, Butterfield and all of the other actors play their parts well, but the dialogue feels stagnant and uninteresting. “Journey’s End” is an average movie with a terrific ending. It is only made into something memorable by the raw emotion we see after tragedy and the fearful perseverance of soldiers when under attack. Without these things, all of which are seen in the last quarter of the movie, “Journey’s End” would have been nothing great.

What I talk about when I talk about ... faith

Emily Barber
@EMRBARBER

I have a Bible on my bookshelf, but I never open it. I pray, but I don’t believe in God. In ninth grade, I became a churchgoer after being raised with no particular faith, and I decided to get baptized. For the past six years since then, I’ve gone to church sporadically, only ever with friends or on a special occasion. I identify as agnostic and love talking about all sorts of different religions, from Christianity to Confucianism. Not having been raised to follow any particular religion, and also not having ever felt pressured into a belief system, I have a generally positive outlook on faith. Many close friends of mine find hope and security in their religions, and they are often thoughtful and wise because they have studied their beliefs. Institutionalized religion brings people together and fosters community. Any belief or moral system is going to hold some hypocrisies, so that’s not unique to religion. People have done some terrible things in the name of their god, but they’ve also done a lot to make the world better. Religion isn’t inherently good or bad; it’s a way of living that we can use in many different ways, harmfully or beneficially, publicly or privately. My bigger question, then, is more about faith for those of us who don’t adhere to a particular religion. Without a doctrine, prophet or sacred

text, what guides our faith? What determines our higher purposes or solidifies our moral codes? I have no definitive answers, only conclusions I’ve drawn based on some experience with religion and that weird, instinctual feeling of knowing something to be true. For example, I know that life is valuable -- human life, my own life, my family and friends and pets’ lives. And I know that kindness, honesty and compassion are worthy pursuits. I believe in striving for forgiveness and radical empathy, because they’re good not only for my own mental and spiritual health, but also for the world. These ideas arise in plenty of religious teachings, but that’s not where I learned them. As a nonreligious person, I don’t have the same sort of tradition to turn to when forming my moral convictions. So, where does secular faith come from? What do nonreligious people have faith in, if not a higher power? “Harry Potter and the Sacred Text” is a podcast that reads J.K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter” series chapter by chapter and treats it as sacred. Let’s be clear: It’s not about worshiping any of the characters or believing that the story actually happened. The point is to expand the realm of what we call “sacred” to things that are usually secular, such as stories and our own experiences and relationships, and to build community around the shared experience of rigorous study. The hosts, Casper ter Kuile and Vanessa Zoltan (who

is an atheist chaplain, by the way), study the novels in great detail, draw analogies within the text and to the real world, and try to learn from the stories. They offer blessings and engage in sacred reading practices, such as lectio divina and florilegium. To someone who doesn’t believe Biblical stories to be true either, the practices of studying the Bible and studying the “Harry Potter” series sound remarkably similar. What does a Potterhead podcast have to do with a deep sort of faith? I don’t believe that Rowling’s stories actually happened, so how does it offer a moral standard, like the example that Jesus sets for Christians? Community and compassion become the higher purpose on their own merit, rather than being deemed important by any sort of god. Or perhaps charity and generosity become the higher purpose. Or love or forgiveness or kindness. Whatever guides your moral compass and enables you to act in ways that better the world, those are the things you have faith in. Secular faith is tricky because it differs for everyone who subscribes to it. (The same happens with every organized religion, if less obviously.) I don’t have a church or a holy text to back my beliefs, but I do have many sacred stories, relationships and experiences that guide me. For me, that’s as good as a religion.

This week in Arts & Culture

The Nickelodeon Theatre
“Journey’s End,” playing March 30 - April 5
“The Death of Stalin,” playing March 30 - April 11
“The Party,” playing March 30 - April 5
“Loveless,” playing April 6 - April 11

Russell House Theatre
“Halloweentown,” playing April 5 at 10:30 p.m.
“Ferdinand,” playing April 6 - 8 at 6 p.m.

“Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” April 6 - 8 at 9 p.m.

Trustus Theatre
“Fun Home,” March 23 - April 14

Tapp’s Arts Center
“Alebrijes and Small Beings,” exhibition showing April 5 - 28
She Returns From War, Faline and Brian Robert musical acts playing April 6 at 8 p.m.

SMOK



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CAROLINA ALERT

Carolina Alert is the Emergency Preparedness resource on campus for students.

- Sign up to receive emergency notifications
- Learn how to stay safe on campus
- Review emergency procedures

Students, sign up to receive text messages and emails at carolinaalert.sc.edu.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (#CarolinaAlert).

www.sc.edu/carolinaalert

 Rave Guardian

Download the Rave Guardian App!

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

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Carolina **After Dark**
University of South Carolina Student Life

NIGHT AT THE FIREFLIES

Thursday, April 19 at 7 pm
Spirit Communications Park



Shuttles will be available on the Horseshoe. First 500 students get in free!

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"MY MOM WON'T TELL ME WHAT A 'PORN STAR' DOES. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SIGN A NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT!"

Don't keep using Facebook



Johnathon Fuerte
First-year advertising student

Lately, Mark Zuckerberg has been roving the countryside, observing families and learning about human customs. Every day for the past several years he's worn the same grey t-shirt and blue jeans. If you've seen "The Social Network," it's no surprise that Zuckerberg's an insufferable egomaniac. And it's no surprise his company is now under investigation by the FTC for potentially helping to undermine democracy.

Thinkpieces have been written. Formal apologies have been issued. Its stock has dropped. Good riddance. It's about time Facebook has seen some sort of pushback for its shady dealings.

Facebook kicked off the trend of reshuffling our feeds out of chronological order. Its messaging app is absolutely bloated. Who asked for stories? And mandatory read receipts? Remember how it always used to change the site's layout? This stint with Cambridge Analytica is just the latest in a long list of offenses Facebook has committed.

Facebook has historically had an ethics problem. An early, similar website Zuckerberg created was used to rank Harvard students by hotness. Zuckerberg might even have stolen the idea for Facebook from someone else. Their whole business model banks on the bet that no sensible person would ever read their mile-long terms of service. If you can only get someone to enter into a deal by obfuscating the terms, you've long since stopped listening to your conscience.

Facebook makes us miserable. Seeing posts of perfect smiling newlyweds on their fourth trip to Barbados paired with articles about impending nuclear war cooks up feelings of worthlessness and anxiety. We all know this, including Facebook. It's admitted to it and choose to capitalize on it.

One time, just for kicks, Facebook researchers

wanted to see how emotionally vulnerable individuals — think teenagers — react when exposed to more negative content in their feeds. Predictably, not very well. This is plain grimy and just a glimpse into the power Facebook has and does not take seriously.

Facebook played a huge part in spreading misinformation and fake news during the 2016 election. Operatives were able to take advantage of Facebook's algorithms to reach wide audiences. Facebook created an easily exploitable system which rewards provocative "engaging" content that stirs feelings of anger and fear and brings out our worst tendencies.

Facebook has ruined the Internet not just by aiding in the rise of clickbait but also by draining the profits of publishers. Publishers are dependent on Facebook, receiving an average of 40 percent of their traffic from the platform according to analytics firm Parse.ly. Facebook charges publishers to promote their content — those who've liked their page won't actually see their posts until they pony up. And if you only read a headline on Facebook, only Facebook is making money, not the journalist who wrote it.

Facebook has a near monopoly on a large part of our modern society. At the very least, it has a responsibility to tend to the Pandora's Box they've opened. But it has proven, despite having billions of dollars, to be unable or unwilling to solve any of its own problems. Did you know at one point you could buy unlicensed firearms off Facebook?

Instead Facebook races to the bottom, trying to unravel the knots in our brain to learn how to best get us as addicted as possible. And we opted in. We made a deal with the devil signing ourselves away for the convenience of seeing memes from our 10th grade lab partner's ex-boyfriend. We are complicit in all of this. This all ends as soon as we say no.

Students must use available safety systems



Manny Mata
Second-year criminal justice and mass communications student

For the roughly 34,000 students at USC, both undergraduate and graduate, the university does a great job in implementing systems and resources to enhance student safety. A common concern for students is their safety and preparedness in emergency situations. Students want to be able to ensure the safety of themselves as well as others, but many students don't know about or use the resources USC advocates to help keep the community safe.

The first of these systems that most students are familiar with is the Carolina Alert. With the Carolina Alert system, students are given the ability to receive news in events such as emergencies, weather-related incidents and even school closure notifications. Once enrolled as a student, the Carolina Alert system is required — all students must be registered to receive updates.

Another valuable system in place at USC is the emergency callboxes stationed around campus, connecting students to the USC police department. However, with all these protective measures provided, most students do not generally take the time to really consider the possibilities of utilizing these resources. It is common to classify these measures under usage in extreme situations only, and neglect thinking of other scenarios in which they can be used.

For example, many students may be unprepared in handling medical situations that could occur, or have something occur to them with no one else around. With that in mind, the emergency callboxes become an easily accessible resource. It is because of such scenarios that students need to see the potential of the resources offered, and not focus on only using them if extreme possibilities arise.

Speaking of potential for the resources offered, it is important to note, as most students have already heard, the Rave Guardian app. With this app, it is possible to set safety timers that notify friends when one is walking back at night and it sends an alert if the timers are not turned off within the window one specified. The app has other features that would be beneficial to the community if more students utilized it, such as notifying safety officials about ongoing situations. Rave Guardian also allows its users to send these messages to safety officials through text, making it a wonderful resource for students.

These resources are frequently promoted, but it seems like students rarely use or download them. I believe these resources offered by USC should be kept at hand in case of an emergency. It is quite easy to believe that "these things will never happen to me," but the reality is a contingency plan should always be on hand. Students should know the extent of the systems in place for their own safety, as well as the knowledge of how to use it. Finally, students should know that these systems are not always for extreme situations, but can be used when situations such as medical urgencies present themselves.

USC does a great job of making the campus safe and as students we should know the resources at our disposal and aid our community in using them.

Lower drinking age for students



Jared Bailey
Second-year English and political science student

I knew last week that I wanted to write about reforms necessary for effective student health care on campus, but, when I finally sat down to write, I drew a blank. What programs really need to be reformed? I think that the University of South Carolina actually does a pretty good job of keeping its students healthy, both physically and psychologically. Whether it's free flu shots or the 10 complimentary counseling sessions — or the new multi-million dollar health center — the university has showed its firm commitment to comprehensive care. That being said, even good systems can be improved. There is still a sore spot that the university has been hesitant to deal with: alcohol.

I've written on this topic before; In a previous article, I highlighted that alcohol-related medical transports have skyrocketed in the past two years. Similarly, I pointed out how the university has taken a hands-off approach to dealing with the issue. Though I criticized this strategy previously, I believe it has the potential to be highly effective;

however, it can't be done in half measures — it requires something a little more drastic. The next step for the university has to be establishing — whether it be by petitioning state legislature or establishing autonomous policy — a drinking age of 18.

As with the country's ongoing opiate crisis, the solutions to harmful binge-drinking are not stricter laws and harsher enforcement. Deterrents like fines and jail-time don't prevent use of illegal substances, they just push users into the shadows. This is unnecessary and counterproductive. Users should always be able to feel safe seeking medical help, and lowering the drinking age would be a massive leap towards that goal. Implementing this new policy would fundamentally change the culture

of our campus. There would be no more need for deception, for fake IDs, for smuggling; students would no longer have to avoid RMs and law enforcement. Instead, students would be able to live their lives out in the open knowing that the law and the authorities are on their side. And most importantly, students would be able to ask for help confidently and use the medical resources available to them without fear of potential repercussions — the positive impact is incalculable.

The university already has a permissive message on alcohol consumption. As I mentioned in my article about AlcoholEdu, the university won't tell students not to drink, but will do whatever it can to make sure that students know how to drink responsibly. Implementing

a lower drinking age would allow the university to be both fully consistent with its own message and more capable of producing that responsibility in students by allowing them to learn in a safe and well-monitored environment.

For a university so dedicated to student health, dealing with alcohol on campus should be an obvious priority. For all of USC's healthcare successes, this has been an area of embarrassing failure. It's ridiculous to have a system of law and order that discourages students from seeking medical treatment just because of their age. Lowering the drinking age is a simple solution that will bolster health and maybe even save lives. The university has an answer to its alcohol problem, it just needs to get out of its own way.

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 implements necessary changes or provides

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FOOTBALL IS (ALMOST) BACK



Victoria Richman / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Gamecocks get first look at new, up-tempo offense

Joe McLean
 @JOEMCLEAN97

The scoreboard at Williams-Brice Stadium said the Black team defeated the Garnet team by a score of 34-20, but the offense was the real winner of the day.

The Gamecocks, under new offensive coordinator Bryan McClendon, treated the 25,500 fans in attendance to a combined 614 total offensive yards with an average of 5.1 yards per play.

Head coach Will Muschamp, who is preparing for his third season at South Carolina, had high praise for the new-look offense.

“Very pleased with how our guys have received [the offense],” Muschamp said. “I thought we dictated the tempo well.”

Jake Bentley, who is set to once again be the starting

quarterback for the 2018 season, echoed similar statements after the game as well.

“I think we did a lot of good things,” Bentley said. “I think, as you can see, the tempo caused the defense problems ... it’s a big advantage that we have.”

Muschamp specifically noted that Bentley plays better when the offense moves at a faster pace as it did on Saturday afternoon, crediting the pace being something McClendon has worked to fix.

“Certainty I think that Jake plays better when he plays faster,” Muschamp said. “That’s what happens when you create some tempo.”

Bentley finished the day 15-of-25, while throwing for 174 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions.

“It goes back to backyard football. It’s just ‘Go

play.’ There’s no thinking involved really. You know what your assignments are and you just roll with it,” Bentley said.

This new style of play from the Gamecock offense is a noticeable change from last year’s offense, which only averaged 24 points per game and was part of the blame for some of the team’s four losses last year.

After a look at an up-tempo offense in the spring game, as well as in the 26-19 Outback Bowl victory over Michigan to end the 2017 season, there is reason to believe that the Gamecock offense will look different in 2018 under McClendon.

Even with all the excitement, Gamecock fans will still have to wait until Sept. 1 to see the new offense in motion when South Carolina takes on Coastal Carolina in the season opener at Williams-Brice Stadium.

Mid-year enrollees shine in Spring Game

Shelby Beckler
 @SBECKLER13

There’s been a lot of focus during the offense on the incoming freshmen who will be entering into South Carolina’s football program and trying to make a name for themselves in Williams-Brice Stadium.

With that being said, the task of developing young players will not be a given to each Gamecock. The time and work that has to be put into developing each player is crucial for the players to be successful.

“The emphasis is going to be on our young guys,” head coach Will Muschamp said. “We got to continue to get these guys to help us.”

The process and program that Muschamp is building is one that needs efforts from the youngest players to the oldest. Each player’s skills and leadership will help develop the program as a whole.

During Saturday’s spring game, some key freshman were able to really get a feel for the upcoming season and experience what Saturdays at Williams-Brice will be like.

Two of South Carolina’s mid-year enrollees, Deshaun Fenwick and Dakereon Joyner were able

to get their first snaps during the game. Muschamp gave high praise to Joyner and Jay Urich for their performances thus far.

“They’re gonna be good players,” Muschamp said. “At the end of the day, the games got to slow down for them. Dekereon’s got to take care of the ball better in traffic situations obviously, but I am excited about both guys.”

Moving forward as spring practice start to wind down, these final looks will be good measurements to see how these young players have improved and how they’ve all handled the challenges of adjusting.

“I think that we’ve continued to evolve and improve,” Muschamp said. “And it’s a huge day of evaluation, and Monday and Tuesday is going to be big days for us as well, especially for the young guys.”

These practices are going to be where South Carolina needs to see fundamental aspects and growth in each player, especially the incoming ones. Muschamp is pleased thus far with the progress that his team has made, however in the next 123 days, he wants to see more improvement and build depth within both the offensive and defensive side of the ball.



Shreyas Saboo / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Gamecocks sweep Vols behind key pitching



Sarah Hipckley / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Claudia Chakamian
 @C_CHAKAMIAN

In a weekend full of injuries, the South Carolina baseball team was able to work through a shuffled lineup and find timely hits to complete the three-game sweep over Tennessee.

For head coach Mark Kingston, having so many different players step up was key to them getting the wins this weekend.

“Just means we played really well this weekend; we found ways to win,” Kingston said. “If you have ‘Carolina’ across your chest, you should expect to play well and win, no matter what your last name is. If you’re a Gamecock, you should expect to go out there and help us win the game and that’s our mindset.”

The Gamecocks were able to start off the weekend with a big night from Adam Hill. After sitting out last weekend in Georgia due to shoulder tendonitis, Hill found his command and looked right at home on the mound. He threw five no-hit innings, walked four and struck out four.

On Thursday night, South Carolina was led by Jonah Bride, Chris Cullen and Riley Hogan. Cullen walked in the first run of the series, then had a big two-RBI single in the third to give the Gamecocks a comfortable lead. Hogan, who followed Cullen in Thursday’s lineup, had a two-RBI single of his own in the first to put South

Carolina up 3-0 early. Having players like Cullen and Hogan step up in times and places they’re not used to is big for the Gamecocks moving forward.

“Our mindset before the game was players play, ballplayers can play anywhere and that’s the way we need to approach this thing,” Kingston said. “I think that speaks to the unselfishness of this team right now. To me, that’s a very important trait for a program ... We have a lot of guys right now that are selling out for the team and that’s why we had a great week.”

A similar story followed on Friday as the hitters were motivated by their starting pitchers’ performance. Carlos Cortes broke out of a slump with a deep solo home run in the fourth inning to break the scoreless game. Danny Blair followed in the next inning with a solo shot of his own, his first of the season. The Gamecocks added two more runs in both the fifth and sixth to secure the win.

Cody Morris had another solid start, one that Kingston said was probably the best he’s seen Morris throw. He pitched six innings of one-run ball with four hits, five strikeouts and just one walk. Having both Morris and Hill throw so well on their respective nights was key in getting the offense to click.

The story was a little different on Saturday. Ridge Chapman got the start and didn’t have his best stuff, lasting three and two-thirds innings and gave up three

runs on two hits while walking four and striking out four. Tennessee took its first lead of the series in the fourth, but South Carolina rallied back to get the win.

The Gamecocks tied it in the seventh as Riley Hogan drew a walk with bases loaded to walk in a run. Then in the eighth, Jacob Olson launched a double off the right field wall to plate one. A few batters later, Matt Williams doubled to a similar spot to bring home two and give the Gamecocks a comfortable 6-3 lead.

Down by two, the crowd was really the motivating factor for the Gamecocks to spark the comeback. Kingston credited the energy of both the fans and the team for helping South Carolina come back to complete the sweep.

“That game [Saturday], that’s why I came to South Carolina, that’s why I wanted to be a Gamecock. The combination of our team playing with that kind of will and that crowd being into the game as much as it was to me, that’s what South Carolina baseball is,” Kingston said. “When I think of South Carolina baseball at its best, that’s what it is. It’s players playing with that kind of heart and will, and it’s a crowd that helped will a win with them.”

South Carolina (17-11, 4-5 SEC) is now riding a four-game win streak and will now try to continue that momentum into Tuesday as it takes on North Carolina in Charlotte.