The policy also applies to Stensland said. “This from the residence halls.” was already prohibited existing ban on all hoverboards only out last week announcing students that the email sent relations, reiterated to hoverboards.” Stensland said in a press release. "The ban was a pre-existing ban on all motorized vehicles, so any kind of motorized vehicle was already prohibited from the residence halls.” Stensland said. “This essentially just clarifies that the policy also applies to hoverboards.” After a wealth of videos surfaced showing people riding injured while using hoverboards, USC officials felt it was necessary to remind students of the safety measures. “Safety is a main concern, and that’s why there’s an existing ban on all motorized vehicles,” Stensland said. “You could envision where folks who were trying to ride on a segway or something down the hall, you could have some dangerous accidents.” Not only do hoverboards allow for possible collisions in the small spaces of hallways, but recent news reports showing hoverboards catching fire also show how unsafe they can be. Campus Fire, Marshal Todd Griffith said he believes the main reason for the ban is spontaneous combustion...
Lexington County could demolish up to 99 homes to reduce flood damage

According to The State, the Lexington County Council is considering demolishing 99 homes in Irmo near Kinley Creek. In neighborhoods near the creek, regular flooding causes erosion in people’s backyards and sometimes damage to homes and roads. The removal of homes and relocation of families would cost about $23.8 million. The Council is also considering slightly harsher options, such as drainage improvements along the creek. Relocation of homes seems to be the most permanent solution, but the county faces tight financial constraints.

—Compiled by Emily Barber, News Editor

Four people charged in connection with Forest Drive robbery

Columbia police have arrested four people in connection with a robbery at gunpoint on Forest Drive, WLTX reported. The robbery took place on December 26, and the victim was not injured. Deonte Benjamin, 28, has been charged with armed robbery, criminal conspiracy, unlawful carrying of a pistol, and possession of a stolen pistol. Mary McMarva and Erika Dickerson, both 22 years old, have been charged with accessory after the fact and criminal conspiracy. An unnamed 15-year-old boy has also been charged in connection with the robbery.

—Compiled by Emily Barber, News Editor

House passes bill limiting spending on former presidents

The Associated Press reported that the House of Representatives has passed a bill that would limit the amount of taxpayers’ dollars used on ex-presidents’ expenses. Any ex-president who earns more than $600,000 per year would not be eligible to have his travel or office expenses paid by the federal government. Allocations would be incrementally reduced for any ex-president who earns more than $400,000 per year. Panions would stay about the same at $200,000 per year.

—Compiled by Emily Barber, News Editor
Bull and Devine Streets, and the parking area outside of Callcott Social Science Center will remain closed during the time of construction. First-year business student Cole Baxter is neutral on the inconveniences because he doesn’t use the parking areas that will be affected. “I like that the university is still striving to make improvements to the quality of services they provide to us,” he said.

The visions of the expansion are ones of optimism, as it will serve as an enrichment of the myriad of provided health services. The center will provide expanded physical therapy, lab and x-ray services and counseling, as well as eye care services.

Meg Southern, assistant principal of the International House at Marcy College, is particularly excited about the project. “I’m excited that the new health center will make their services available to a larger population,” she said. “It represents another fantastic collaboration between many different offices on campus and showcases how well they prioritize the needs of the students.”

Students who are thinking of ignoring the ban might want to reconsider. Griffin reminded students that breaking the hoverboard ban will be treated like any other broken rule on campus. “It’s going to be treated just like any other item that’s not allowed in housing,” Griffin said. “It would be handled through the judicial process.”

With that warning in place, students might wonder if there will be any places on campus to practice their hoverboard tricks. Rumors have circulated around social media about a possible prohibition of hoverboards campus-wide instead of only in residence halls. Standard has not yet made an official statement regarding the potential campus-wide ban of hoverboards. With a fresh semester comes a fresh start. The policy makers and enforcers on USC’s campus want all of the students to be safe and follow the rules. Hoverboards can be something fun to look forward to using on trips home or during spring break.

—Compiled by Emily Mewborne
Mediocre album ends great career

"Blackstar"
Release Date: Jan. 8
Artist: David Bowie
Label: Rawkus Records
Duration: 41 minutes

Joseph Glass


I love Bowie and, with rare reviews all over the web, I wanted "Blackstar" released on his birthday. It's not great, I don't use this term lightly — I hate it. Don't get me wrong — the album has a distinct blues quality to it, and makes good use of Bowie's aged voice and his band's less instruments, but starts to fall apart near the end. It's not great, but not bad either.

The title song has been lauded for its experimental music. I didn't like it. It's not in my personal taste to call something experimental if it has been ripped straight from the auto-beat function found on the more modern of electronic keyboards — a which takes place once Bowie before the quick and steady decline production.

The titular track, "Blackstar," is a painful sting. It will transport the middle-class housewife miles from popcorn and a theater seat to a bloody wilderness of the past.

Although there is no argument that DiCaprio dominates the film, an equally credible villain is Tom Hardy truly becomes the easy-to- dislike trapper, and is almost or flippantly. He solidifies his characterization. This is extremely apparent in DiCaprio's ultra- convincing portrayal of Glass. DiCaprio's commitment to this role conveys the true dedication of the cast of "The Revenant," an equally credible villain Hardy provides a thorough development of Glass's character, his bravery in the face of impending doom, his ill-considered but justifiable fight with cancer and his effect on every generation for the past 40 years — David Bowie deserves an Oscar. May he rest in peace.

Carolina Gamers Club’s, pioneering the art form of game design of USC, has a dedicated and diverse membership.

Bear with "Revenant" for intense beauty, pain

"The Revenant" was a visually stunning film, but without a doubt the most difficult terrain. The result is a film that immerses the audience almost fully in its story. It was a heart-rending experience that left me in awe.

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"The Revenant" brings audiences into the midst of its grittiness and harsh reality.
action. Scenes such as the brutal bear attack on Glass seem to surround the viewer and pull him into the thick of the action. Furthermore, the natural beauty and exhausting size of the filming locations are showcased in breathtaking panoramic shots, achieved through shooting with very wide lenses. These sweeping shots highlight the enormous odds facing the injured Glass as he slowly travels alone through uncharted landscapes. The width of the lenses also forced Lubezki to shoot very closely to the actors’ faces, adding an interesting emotional element to the cinematography in which the most minute facial movement of a character is captured in a close-up. In an attempt to involve the audience as much as possible in the world of “The Revenant,” the haggard exhalation of a character occasionally fogs the lens, immersing the viewer in even the breathing of the actors. The cinematography manages to involve the audience in the film’s action, making “The Revenant” extremely visceral and engaging. “The Revenant” is resilient and real, and it forces the viewer to commit to an evening at the cinema that enlightens and exposes rather than simply entertains. The harrowing, gritty portrayal of Hugh Glass and his fellow trappers took home three Golden Globe awards on Sunday for best dramatic motion picture, best director for Inarritu and best actor in a drama for DiCaprio. It would be no surprise if “The Revenant” has an equally strong night on Oscar night, and on top of bagging a fourth Academy Award for Inarritu, finally gives DiCaprio a golden trophy to call his own as a well-deserved gesture of appreciation for this epic and beautiful film.
Calendar Launch Party

Tuesday Jan. 12, 2016
Noon - 4 p.m. on Greene Street

Come see what great events will be coming to campus and to find out more information about Carolina Productions!

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Gun action bad precedent

Nikki Haley should proceed carefully

Ben Turner
Fourth-year
mass communications student

Tuesday night, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley will be center stage in the national political discussion. Her warm up act? President Obama.

Haley has been chosen by congressional Republican leaders to deliver the opposition response to the State of the Union address. A tradition dating back to the 1960s, the nationally televised speech follows the president’s as seen as a huge opportunity for politicians to gain national attention.

Three presidents got the chance
to give the rebuttal before they stepped behind the podium for the main event. They included presidential contender Marco Rubio and former vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan, both of whom used the speech to advance their political agendas.

But it’s a huge stakes gamble.-flexible. Haley gained significant exposure from the speech, she has been mocked relentlessly ever since for her awkward delivery which made it seem like she was shaking inside without breaking eye contact with the camera. And Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal saw his rising political star come crashing down after a widely panned response to Obama’s first congressional address.

Haley clearly sees this as a chance to increase the buzz about her prospects include on this year’s Republican ticket. After a year that has seen her present no response to the Charleston shootings, her role in the removal of the Confederate flag at the State House and her leadership during the catastrophic flooding, Haley is at the top of the list for possible vice presidential nominees in 2016.

I’ve been previously critical of Haley’s vice presidential aspirations, noting that Haley has a mixed record on racial issues despite portraying herself as a leader and example in that area. But for all the risk that myself and others have done about her increasing national profile, it’s where the rubber meets the road. Flame out during the speech, and she can kiss any nomination this year goodbye.

As for the impact on the state and on USC, Haley’s rise in ratings is a mixed bag.

After John McCain was smeared with vicious rumors in South Carolina in 2000, Strom Thurmond was targeted posthumously by scandal, Alvin Greene stumbled his way through his Senate campaign in 2010 and Lindsey Graham took a fastball but to his cell phone last year, South Carolina is due for a win in the political reputation department. Haley could deliver a defeat to a school that is the epitome of the state’s image, as she argues she already has.

But Haley’s past in the rough and tumble world of South Carolina government leaves the possibility that for an exploded scandal to emerge midway through a general election cycle.

As far as USC goes, Haley has no more higher education funding a public priority during her term in office, or more so when she threw the school’s most generous donor, Darla Moore, off the board of trustees and replaced her with a campaign donor. Plus, she’s a Clemson grad — so there’s that.

The bottom line is it’s make-or-break time for Nikki Haley’s national ambitions. Could she ever hope to be a vice presidential contender? She has a mixed record with vicious rumors in South Carolina, a Peach State where she can kiss any nomination this year goodbye.

Let’s start back up and the spring semester begins, so too does the semimall radical of syllabus week. We’re all experienced at it once again: first the week of classes where the syllabus week becomes immensely unpopular. 90 percent of Americans now want what Obama’s done, including 90 percent of gun owners.

Republican leadership is wanting time and energy in their opposition to the gun control aspect of this order, which is extremely modern. With the Democrats in the majority of the future (at least) and the opposition to the issue the issuance of an executive order toورد sections of existing laws, even if they are unpopular.

Even those who support President Obama should be wary of allowing the executive this sort of power. President Rubio could, under this president, issue an executive order toورد sections of existing laws, even if they are unpopular. Even those who support President Obama should be wary of allowing the executive this sort of power. President Rubio could, under this president, issue an executive order toورد sections of existing laws, even if they are unpopular.

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Get lost in diversions and get stronger. Assertiveness works well. Spend your energy wisely. You learn quickly and can adapt to new situations. Some work hard to get what they want. You're especially creative today.

Cancer
Fall is in the air, a new subject. Plan up the next few days. Your yard is getting worse. Synchronize schedules with those involved. Others provide creative solutions. Beneficial advice comes from afar.

Sagittarius
Energize your home base. The next two days are excellent for interior decoration. Get into a household project. Appraise antiques. You can afford an upgrade. Find a sweet deal on a gem. Family comes first.

Aquarius
Make extra money over the next few days. This perfect, as there are bills to pay. Send invoices and accounts receivables to your resources together. A financial forecast is in order. You get more than you asked for.

Pisces
Take charge of your destiny. You're making changes for the better. You're getting stronger. Assertiveness works well. Expand your territory with a lucky break. You're eager on your door.

Aries
Clean up old messes today and tomorrow. Clear your clutter and make time for what's new. Communication your next move and make things right. Surprise someone in private. Make time for romance and playfulness. Telephone

Taurus
Schedule meetings and parties for the next two days. Friends help you make the more, the merit. Together, you can decide what you're looking for. Share expensive. Strong partnerships head your way. Be open to new ideas. Accept a challenging assignment. You do things better. Your roots make a lasting impression. You'll be able to accomplish the next few days, aim for reality over idealism. Secure an excellent service and earn a new income source. You learn quickly and can adapt to new situations. Some work hard to get what they want. You're especially creative today.

Crossword
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
1/12/16

PHD • JORGE CHAM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GAIN VALUABLE MEDICAL EXPERIENCE

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is interviewing in December 2015 and planning to attend medical school. The ideal candidate possesses strong 

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FIND YOUR NEST.
The away teams prevailed during a bizarre first round of the NFL Playoffs, with the Kansas City Chiefs, Pittsburgh Steelers, Seattle Seahawks and Green Bay Packers all coming away with victories. Although Cam Newton is a favorite for MVP of this NFL season, the most crucial player of this Wild Card Weekend truly was the kicker, with two teams winning by a field goal — or less.

In a strange game that saw defensive star J.J. Watt play on the offensive side of the ball, the Houston Texans lost to the Kansas City Chiefs, 30-0. The Texans committed five total turnovers, with quarterback Brian Hoyer accounting for three of them in the first half alone. Hoyer threw a whopping four picks and fumbled the ball in this horrid quarterbacking display. It seems that the Texans’ perpetual search for a long-term quarterback isn’t over, as one could not imagine them sticking with Hoyer after this abysmal loss. Making a playoff appearance was a success for the Texans, so it is certainly no surprise that they were eliminated in the first round.

The matchup between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cincinnati Bengals wasn’t a pretty one by any means. In fact, it was downright ugly. Bengals quarterback AJ McCarron showed signs of life late in the fourth quarter, as he mounted an improbable comeback. However, the Bengals quickly began to self-destruct, due to two of the biggest — and arguably, the most feared — defensive stars in the game, linebacker Vontaze Burfict and cornerback Adam “Pacman” Jones. Both committed huge personal fouls that prolonged the Steelers’ final drive, setting them up for the game-winning kick. In an equally as classless display, many spectators even booed Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger as he was carted off the field due to an injury. However, Roethlisberger returned later in the game and...
had the last laugh, as his team came away with a clutch 18-16 win, thanks to kicker Chris Boswell. Despite an impressive regular season, the Bengals came away from the game empty-handed, once again. It seems that the Cincinnati Bengals have mastered the art of making the playoffs—burying the hopes of the winning a playoff game? Not so much.

Blair Walsh: the reason why the Minnesota Vikings had a chance to win against the Seattle Seahawks, and the reason why they lost. The Vikings were their slot in a tough defensive battle against the surging Seattle Seahawks. But Walsh missed the crucial potential winning field goal with only seconds left on the clock, allowing the Seahawks to win, 9-7. This was no time to think about last week’s win, and it’s going to take more than luck to beat the NFC juggernaut next week in Charlotte. The Seattle Seahawks team will be looking for revenge after their heart-wrenching loss to the Carolina Panthers earlier in the season, and this rematch will certainly be a must-watch next Sunday. Despite the recent loss, the Green Bay Packers’ offense eventually hit its stride in the 18-18 win against the Vikings. Behind an impressive running game, the Packers continued their winning ways, showing that perhaps they are the wild card team to beat. Not many people foresaw the Packers making the playoffs, and many people certainly didn’t see them beating the Vikings, despite their sloppiness as of late. When Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is good to go, which he is most often, you can have confidence in a good, even and the best teams should be nervous. This weekend has been a true reminder of how little the regular season means when it comes time for the playoffs with all the Wild Card games. It’s that time of year and it’s a must-watch for the Leaders, Maybe Desperate fans. There is no worse feeling than letting your team down, but Lady Luck for this season comes in 2015, leading the team with 111 total tackles (13 more than the next highest player) and four interceptions.