Flu season proves worse than years past for USC students

Along with death and taxes, flu season is one of life’s certainties. However, this year’s flu season has proven more devastating than years past, but “not to the point that we’re overly concerned,” said Kate Nicholson, a fourth-year accounting student Mary Alpert, said that certain professors nominated by students give a formal lecture as though it was the last one they would ever give. The program aims to connect faculty with students in a unique and more personal way by giving professors the opportunity to speak on any topic of their choice. Hughes’ popular book would be seen by the crowd of students who read the book to the literary songwriting of Bob Dylan. He noted that experiences like these improved the understanding of the students.

Brittany Franceschini

SINCE 1908

Flu season proves worse than years past for USC students

Along with death and taxes, flu season is one of life’s certainties. However, students and health center professionals agree this year has been worse than years past, but “not to the point that we’re overly concerned,” said Kate Nicholson, a fourth-year accounting student. Van Huygho, director of clinical and ancillary services at Thompson Student Health Center, said that this year was a little bit worse than the flu seasons past, but “not to the point that we’re overly concerned.” The Health Center gave around 4,000 flu shots this year, which is a record for USC. Approximately 700 students were tested for the flu and about 15 percent tested positive. Nicholson was one of those students who tested positive.

“I never had the flu before, and at first I thought it was the common cold,” she said, “but then when I had to Uber to get to my class, I realized it was something more.”

Nicholson said she did not get the flu shot but she would be getting it now. Hugygho said that someone still gets the flu even if they had the vaccine, but it is much less severe than if they hadn’t. Second- ary care, she said, can still get the flu even if they’ve had the shot but she would be getting it now. Officials recommended to take other medications to treat the symptoms. The Health Center is still offering flu shots, but they’re not as beneficial now because a person’s body doesn’t adjust for the vaccine to take effect for about 3-4 weeks.

Reference on SG elections ballot would add fourth executive position

Brook Muehner

SINCE 1908

The ballot for the upcoming Student Government election on Feb. 14-15 will contain not only the candidates for the nine regular executive positions, but also a referendum to add a new executive position—speaker of the student senate.

The referendum proposes a speaker of the student senate to take over the vice president’s administrative obligations with the senate, including presiding over the senate and overseeing the passage of new legislation. The new position will allow the vice president to spend more time working on initiatives for the student body.

Student Body Vice President Ross Lords, who is currently running for student body president, said that the vice president has historically been focused on the senate but that his goal once he became office was to redefine the role.

“I want to make sure that we can focus on specific goals and ideas that we want to achieve,” he said.

Over the course of his term as vice president, Lords worked to implement new initiatives such as additional options for the Greek meal plan, classroom improvement programs and mid-term course evaluations — initiatives for which the speaker of the student senate would be responsible.

Student Body President Michael Parks said Lords has been an unconventional vice president, but “in a good way.”

“He has run the day to day oscillations of the student senate,” he said. “But he has also worked on his own initiatives and projects that he worked on and promoted himself.”

He added that the referendum will free up the student body president to work with other students and less on daily administrative tasks.

SG BEAT: ELECTIONS, NUMBER OF CANDIDATES, VOTE VOTING

According to the Student Government website, there are currently 70 candidates for student government offices, which is the most candidates in USC history.

“T wo phases of marketing one to market for candidates to file and one to market the actual election itself is the major plan of what it’s been working on,” said Vallabhapuram.

“It’s a big change because we recognized the main purpose of the marketing plan was to engage students,” he said.“T he help of Marketing Outreach Chair Sam Shuz and Publicity Chair Hanna Powers, whose ideas were directed toward that goal by keeping events well-attended and updating Twitter and Instagram daily.

This year’s there’s also been a lot more encouragement to candidates to be more creative in how they campaign, and I think allowing a little bit more of that freedom has been very beneficial,” Alpert said.

Vallabhapuram said that around 95 candidates originally filed, but as of now, that number has decreased to people dropped out of the race because they were ineligible or they chose to withdraw.

“You see that in the execution of a race. A lot of people run but don’t understand completely what all the positions and what everything entirely duties and responsibilities,” Vallabhapuram said.
"They can shut me up, but they can't change the truth."

— Sen. Elizabeth Warren after Senate Republicans voted to halt her remarks on the grounds that they were impugning another senator

"Something that Hitler created is a sign of evil – it’s not a conversation piece."

— Former state Sen. Joel Lourie about the painting by Adolf Hitler removed from a prominent USC Board of Trustees home

"Had Democrats been in charge, our roads would have been fixed a decade or more ago."

— Sen. Vincent Sheheen on State Democrat’s proposal to repair the state’s infrastructure

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February 10th

Painting Starts at 9 p.m. | Doors Open at 8:30 p.m.

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CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK

REFERENDUM
PAGE 1

the student senate.
Sen. Jay Selinsky of the College of Engineering and Computing, who is currently running for student body vice president, said that the speaker would be responsible for connecting the right people to the senate’s initiatives and legislation.

“This means there will be better quality and more total initiatives coming out of our student senate,” Selinsky said. Student Government has attempted to create a fourth executive position in past years, but this is the first time it has passed through senate and is to be voted on by the student body. According to Attorney General Corey Alpert, Student Government worked to phrase the question as neutrally as possible and it will read on the ticket as: “Should Student Government have a speaker of the student senate position?” Students will have the option to vote “yes” or “no.”

The referendum needs a majority vote from all voting students to pass. Parks encouraged all students to vote on the referendum, noting that all voters who abstain from voting on the referendum will be counted as opposed to the referendum. If the referendum passes, the inaugural speaker of the student senate will be elected during the next election cycle for the 2018-2019 school year.

— Debbie Clark also contributed to this article.
While February may be known as the month of love, not all of that love has to be romantic. On Feb. 14, some time should be reserved for appreciating your female friends on the unofficial holiday Galentine’s Day. This term was coined in the popular comedy television show just one week earlier by Leslie Knope, the female protagonist. She dedicates an entire day to her friends by giving thoughtful gifts, taking them to brunch and showing them how much they mean to her. In her words, Galentine’s Day is for “ladies celebrating ladies.” Ever since the Galentine’s episode aired in 2010, Galentine’s Day has evolved to be a holiday celebrated by even those that don’t watch “Parks and Recreation.”

For single and committed women alike, this day is a reminder that your girlfriends deserve just as much time and consideration as your significant other does. So this year, plan to set a little bit of time aside for your gal pals. Exchanges gifts, organize some time together and make sure to spend lots of time telling your friends how great they are.

From personal experience, I know that some chocolate and a few compliments to boost my ego is and certainly can be a long way in helping me feel appreciated. Because let’s be real, what girl doesn’t want to eat chocolate and be reminded of how awesome she is right in February before Valentine’s Day? But most importantly, Galentine’s Day is a great holiday to take part in because it helps remind us of how important girlfriends are. They are the ones who surround you and have your back when you need it most — like when you need someone to binge-watch “Parks and Recreation” with you. So, remember the wise words of Leslie Knope, “Love before break-ups,” when planning your Galentine’s Day this February.

Inexpensive Valentine’s Day gift ideas

Galentine’s Day this February.

With Valentine’s Day quickly approaching, the Arts & Culture staff compiled a list of all of our favorite love songs. Give them a listen if you want to start feeling romantic or if you want to wallow in self pity. Check out The Daily Gamecock Spotify account “thedailygamecock” to listen to these songs.

**ULYSSES** // JOSH GARRELS
**SELF CONTROL** // FRANK OCEAN
**CRAZY LUCKY** // BETTER THAN EZRA
**YOU AND I** // INGRID MICHAELSON
**HEAD OVER BOOTS** // JON PARDI

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Valentine’s Day told by a hopeless(by single) romantic

Alli McLeod

February is the month I associate with being constantly bombarded by chocolates, stuffed hearts and cheesy cards that I know I won’t be receiving. For all of us who are chronically single at this time of year, Feb. 14 is a day that we merely pass through before we get to discount chocolate and the much more bearable St. Patrick’s Day paraphernalia. Discount chocolate and the much more bearable St. Patrick’s Day paraphernalia.

Valentine’s Day can be pretty confusing. It’s not quite like a milestone month or an anniversary, but there’s always pressure to give a gift, and when you’re a broke college student, showing that special someone that you’re thinking of them on V-Day can be hard.

With that in mind, one solution to being broke but in love (or like, as the case may be) is DIY. Making your gifts is a perfect way to show your significant other that the effort makes it mean more — even if it isn’t pretty, it’s from you, and that’s what makes it special.

If you want to spoil your valentine without spoiling your finances, here are some fun ideas that won’t max out your February budget.

A handwritten letter

Though this was the norm back when St. Valentine was alive, it’s a sadly dying art in our digital age. Writing down all of your cheery, mushy feelings on paper will make your significant other’s day. If you want to keep up with today’s norms, though, a long heartfelt “good morning” text probably wouldn’t go over well, too. This pairs well with the ever-popular flowers and chocolates.

Homemade scratch-off cards

It can be “Things I Love About You” or a set with redeemable vouchers for things like a back rub or a night in, kind of like the “RUO” coupons you may have given your mom as a kid. Either way it could be just what your Valentine would love.

To make your card a scratch off, mix equal parts dish soap and acrylic paint, place scratch tape or contact paper over the message, and paint the mixture over the tape. When it’s dry, you can scratch it off with a coin or pen like a fortune cookie!

A collage or picture

If you and your significant other are avid photographers of your relationship, this could be really simple. You can frame a picture or make a collage, prints of pictures cost 20 or 30 cents at photo centers like Wal-Mart, CVS or Walgreens.

Chocolate

Chocolates are the standard, but if you want to get creative, find a mug or jar and fill it with your Valentine’s favorite candy. You can even add in festive decorations like cut-out hearts, ribbons and a card that has some sort of heartfelt play on words that relates to the candy.

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Carolina Productions will present a comedy competition in search of USC’s best student comedian. Taking place on Monday, Feb. 13, the show will pull together several acts to perform in front of a live audience and three judges.

Second-year broadcast journalism major Jessie Ary is the Comedy Coordinator for Carolina Productions and one of the key organizers of the event.

“It’s basically a USC version of ‘Last Comic Standing,’” Ary said. “We’re going to put through who we think are the top few from USC and see how the audience reacts on Monday.”

The judging panel consists of a faculty member, the student body president and the reigning champ from last year’s competition. But it’s not only the judges who determine the winners — audience reaction is taken into account and included in the scoring system. The direct impact of a live audience is what makes stand-up comedy such a unique experience and, according to Jessie Ary, what makes it special.

“If you don’t see it in person, you won’t understand,” Ary said. “Everyone should try it ... if you like SNL, it’s very similar, and it’s very fun.”

Stand-up comedian Joel Kim Booster will host the event. Having previously performed on Conan, he is sure to keep the audience laughing between sets and will bring an air of professional comedy to the show.

As for the student line-up, the acts range in experience from beginners to well-seasoned upperclassmen. The humor will also vary widely — from dry quips to witty puns — and each comedian will bring something different to the table.

By the end of the night the judges will determine a first-place winner, who will claim the title of funniest student at USC, and a runner-up. Both first- and second-place winners will be awarded meet-and-greets with bigger acts that come to campus. First place earns two meet and greets one with comedian Nathan Fielder, who is putting on a show in April, and another that they can use for any talent Carolina Productions brings to USC in the future. Second place will get one meet and greet with a comedian of their choice who comes to USC; this would also include Nathan Fielder, should the runner-up choose to redeem it then.

In addition to the punchy fun of stand-up comedy, there are other reasons the show is worth attending. Jessie Ary emphasized that it is important to support student comedians at USC.

“You just never know how far someone is going to make it, and it would just be really cool if one of our own got into the field more professionally,” Ary said. Scheduled for 8 p.m. in Russell House Theater, the show will certainly bring a smile to your face at the time we all need it most — Monday evening. The event is free for students.
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Andy Wilson
Second-year English student

President Trump ran his highly successful campaign on a promise to restore America’s greatness. “Make America Great Again” was both a campaign strategy because of its vagueness. There were a lot of conflicting idealized versions of the past that he was able to bring together using this tactic. However, the vagueness of that promise gives him significant leeway in what he wants and claim that a new America is essentially great.

And while the ban would have done nothing to improve national security, it may have had the unintended consequence of easing the U.S. substantial restrictions on Western and more fertile recruiting ground for extremists as government policy on aliens and demonizes Muslims.

attacks are committed from the twisted logic ostensibly for security purposes. Trump’s ban was specifically to be racially inferior. This is why the Japanese immigrants were held and restricted from the United States. Congress passed laws late 19th and early 20th centuries to restrict immigrants from Japan and South Korea. The 1924 immigration act which advocated for U.S. protectionism was also obsolete, and that long-standing practice in Japan and South Korea must two practices for U.S. protection. They are reminiscent of the America First movement—prior to and during World War II—which advocated for isolationism in the face of Germany’s and Japan’s aggression on the grounds that it would protect our land being taken and our population being infiltrated. While things aren’t quite as bad now as in the 1930s, this has been a significant and ongoing condition. It has been a long-standing and proclaimed priority. The current administration appears to support and to be actively pursuing the same agenda. In 2016, the Trump administration has stepped up immigration enforcement, arguing that it is necessary to protect our national security. This is how “America First” is redefined in the current administration.

In all the cases above, Right-wing extremism is an ignored threat

Dan Nelson
Second-year English student

Trump and his ideological backers, particularly the “alt-right,” made a move this year regarding the threat of “Radical Islamic terrorism.” However, what they seem to be missing is the growing radicalization within our own ideological charged ranks. Law, a month, a number of Alexander Baissonnet opened a mosque, a young man killing six and wounding eight. Baissonnet’s far-right views were no secret and included support for Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen, as well as suppression to refugees and feminists. Of course, this is in no way asserting that the average Trump supporter or “alt-right” is anything to do with such appalling violence. I believe that such incidents of radical violence are examples, which are no secret and included support for Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen, as well as suppression to refugees and feminists. Of course, this is in no way asserting that the average Trump supporter or “alt-right” is anything to do with such appalling violence.

This makes the “Alt-right,” essentially, a white national movement. Trump and his followers make no such ambiguity, even within the movement, about what its core ideological tenants are. However, as a result, the “alt-right” is a coalition of ideological views ranging from isolationism, protectionism and “America First” to white supremacy.

The ambiguity is itself disturbing. But it is the resulting intellectual chaos caused by his confusion about the movement to become a driver of radicalization. For example, a conservative could get pulled into the movement by the relatively moderate “alt-right” writings of Milo Yiannopoulos. From there, they could then be exposed to far more radical ideas. This brings to light a disturbing trend of hate, among many others, bring radicalization within their social environment in which otherwise unacceptable views and behavior are normalized. Surrounded by other radicals, the Internet becomes a virtual “echo chamber” in which the most extreme ideas and suggestions receives the most support and validation. Through this mechanism, the “Alt-right” and far-right presence has become more prominent. Online forums such as Reddit, Vein and Stormfront, to name a few, have become the home of possibly the most extreme ideas and suggestions.

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Leo
Take action for a personal passion today and tomorrow. A sudden move changes the entire game. Focus to make your targets. Ask for what you want.

Virgo
Notice your dreams over the next few days. Slow down and consider where you’re going. Postpone unnecessary projects and make an overdue change.

Libra
Work on big projects and teams over the next few weeks. Avoid gossip and controversy, and treat people respectfully. Friends help you make a valuable connection.

Sagittarius
Explore new cultures, views and flavors today and tomorrow. Walk and talk. Alternate between physical exercise and mental tenacity. Simulate as much as logic.

Capricorn
Adapt to changing priorities. Prepare your case to convince a skeptic. Manage financial obligations over the next few days. Save up to invest in your future.

Aquarius
Work with a partner for the next few days. Determiners who do what take turns being in charge. The more completed, the more gained.

Pisces
Stay sharp on a busy schedule today and tomorrow; dress for success. Negotiate a deal. Get moving.

Student Government Election: Live poll from the executive debate

PHD • JORGE CHAM

Crossword
Edited by W. Robert Williams
2/9/17

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Sindarius Thornwell

By the Numbers

Games Started (PF)

In Steals Per Game

In Free ThROWS Made

Assists per Game

Three Pointers Made

Points Per Game

RANKINGS REFLECT: IN GAMECOCK HISTORY

SEC This Season

#1

#2

#4

For those who didn't watch Tuesday night's men's basketball game, let me give you a quick summary of what happened. South Carolina played really poorly in the first half. Then, Sindarius Thornwell scored 21 second-half minutes. It was probably South Carolina's worst game of the season, and Thornwell carried the team as far as he possibly could, nearly missing six games (which includes his six games he missed), but what

Thursday, February 9, 2017

SOUTH CAROLINA

SPORTS

Bannion<br>Bill Gaynor<br>

The Lancaster native is averaging 20.4 points per game, trailing only Kentucky's Malik Monk. What's even more impressive is Thornwell's rebounding stats, averaging 7.7 boards per game as a 6-foot-5 guard, ranking him second in the conference and a full two rebounds per game above the next-highest player at the position. Even more impressive, averaging over 21 points and eight rebounds per game. He's willed the Gamecocks to victories on several occasions this season, and when PJ Dozier has struggled (or sat out, as he did against Kentucky), it's been on Thornwell's shoulders to lead the charge for the Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks welcome three freshmen and four transfer students this season. With starting catcher Jordan Bizzell graduating in 2016, Penn State transfer Alyssa Vendreever will be counted on to help fill the void behind home plate. The All-Big Ten catcher hit 24 home runs and had 100 RBIs in two years with the Nittany Lions. Second baseman Alexi Hickman transferred to Oregon at the end of last season, so freshmen infielder Jessica Bizzell and junior Kamryn Watts at third base. Outfielder Kennedy Clark is primed to have a standout sophomore season both offensively and defensively. In 2016, the California native set the program record for RBIs in a season for a freshman at 40. She hit .390 with 54 hits and 16 RBIs. The third most on the team. Recognized for her outstanding defense, a double-header against Ohio at 5 p.m. and earned SEC Co-Freshman of the Week honors on March 7.

New faces

The Gamecocks poised for fifth straight tournament appearance

Carson Nosek

with four straight NCAA Tournament appearances under coach Beverly Smith, the South Carolina softball team is poised for another winning season in 2017.

The Gamecocks will have to play some of the best Division I competition to advance to a Super Regional for the first time in 10 years. The Gamecocks finished 10-23 overall and 7-17 in the SEC and were ranked 24th in Rating Percentage Index (RPI). This season, the Gamecocks are scheduled to play 10 games against teams that appeared in the NCAA Tournament last year. Eighteen of those games will be against teams in last year’s Super Regionals and 15 against Women’s College World Series teams.

Pitching

Senior pitchers Nickie Blue and Jessica Elliott will return to the mound in 2017. Blue will be a top starter and also will see some time as a reliever. Last season, the 6-4 southpaw led the Gamecocks in strikeouts, strikeout-to-walk ratio and walks and hits per innings pitched. Similarly, Elliott will be utilized as a starter and reliever. The right-hander started 16 games and had 11 relief appearances last season. She posted a 2.77 ERA with 18-10 record and three complete games in 193.1 innings. The seniors will be joined by three-time South Carolina Gators High School Player of the Year Cayla Drotar, as well as junior Hayley Copeland. The coaches are hoping Drotar, a freshman, can help take the burden off the two seniors.

Returning players

Fourteen Gamecocks are returning to diamond in 2017. The Gamecocks batted .265 as a team, but he’s played in every conference and a full two rebounds per game above the next-highest player at the position. Even more impressive, averaging over 21 points and eight rebounds per game. He’s willed the Gamecocks to victories on several occasions this season, and when PJ Dozier has struggled (or sat out, as he did against Kentucky), it’s been on Thornwell’s shoulders to lead the charge for the Gamecocks.

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