

Spring 3-25-2019

## The Daily Gamecock, Monday, March 25, 2019

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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# 2019 March for Our Lives to focus on South Carolina gun violence

JOSEPH LEONARD  
@JSCLeonard

In solidarity with the national event in Washington, D.C., March for Our Lives in Columbia is set for Saturday, and this year’s event is different from the last. The focus is on gun violence, specifically in the Palmetto state.

Students and residents will march to the Statehouse and rally on the grounds from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Perry Bradley Jr., who plays a major role in organizing the event. Speakers such as 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Robby Wells will also attend, Bradley said.

“We’re not here for the temporary glory of just having a certain event and having people come out,” Bradley said. “We’re here because we want to make change in the community.”

In planning this year’s event, the Richland County Sheriff’s Department worked with a Columbia-based organization called Building Better Communities, of which Bradley is CEO. The organization aims to bring together minority communities, police and city officials to form relationships, Bradley said.

Amena Ogbonna, a first-year international studies student, got involved in March for Our Lives this year after she saw how the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School reacted after 17 of their classmates were killed in a mass shooting. She said it impacted her because at the time she was similar in age as the students who were speaking out.

“Seeing how the students at the high school, how they kind of took charge and they were like, ‘Enough

is enough; I need to do something to change this.’ It really inspired me,” Ogbonna said.

Ogbonna said she also wants USC students to take charge as those students did, and she uses social media as a platform to advocate for issues. She said this brings awareness to her friends who can then help educate their friends and beyond.

Reylan Cook, a first-year public health student and student liaison for BBC, is in the beginning stages of setting up a USC chapter of the organization. Cook said students should get involved in the March for Our Lives movement because the initial shock of gun violence has passed and the pressure on lawmakers to act is fading away.

“It’s important that we realize that this is still a problem,” Cook said. “Just because it hasn’t happened yet, it’s going to continue to happen, and we should continue to just press in and press forward.”

Cook said she got involved in March for Our Lives because her high school was located in a lower-income area where her fellow students were victimized by gun violence.

Cook also said she wants to work with resources at USC like the Student Health Services as well as local resources to strengthen safety measures on campus. Exposing students to these methods at the March for Our Lives event can allow them to prepare themselves if they’re ever involved in an active shooter situation, she said.

Bradley said Columbia could benefit from beefing up their security around public events because of the safety concerns of participants in this year’s march. This rise in concern has come from the recent shootings in two New Zealand mosques that killed

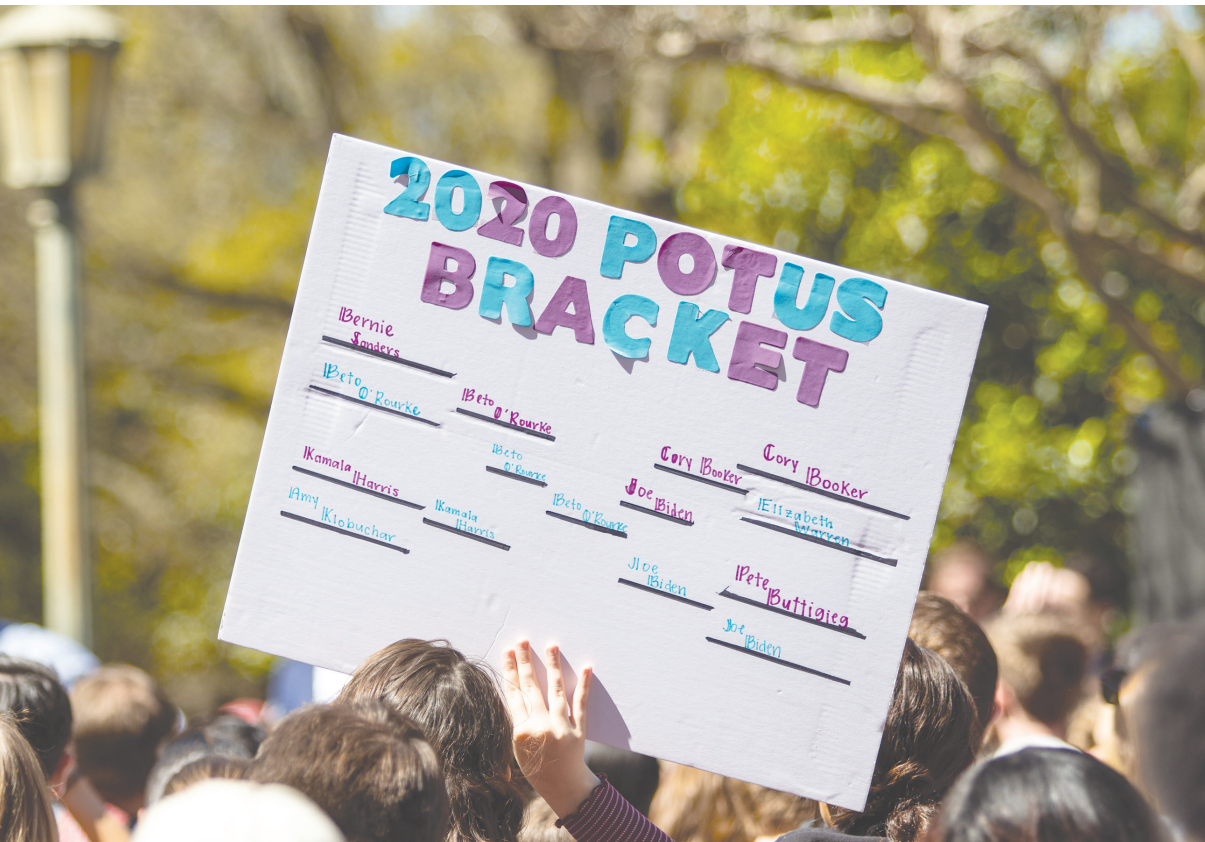


ZACH MCKINLEY // THE GAMECOCK  
A demonstrator holds up a sign at the South Carolina Statehouse during last year’s March for Our Lives event on March 24, 2018.

50 people.

Ogbonna said when mass shootings occur, people tend to believe it’s an isolated incident, but she says this is a more serious concern for students.

“People don’t really take into account that this could happen anywhere, this could happen on USC’s campus,” Ogbonna said.



ETHAN LAM // THE GAMECOCK  
Beto O’Rourke was the first 2020 presidential candidate to visit USC, which allowed students to express their political views.

## Students get politically involved as 2020 candidates come to town

ALLISON LAPLAINE  
@tdg\_dailynews

Several democratic candidates visited Columbia to speak on their policies after kicking off their 2020 presidential campaigns.

In the past week, Beto O’Rourke, Cory Booker, Seth Moulton and Pete Buttigieg have spoken to Columbia residents and USC students. Other recent visits include Kamala Harris and Bernie Sanders.

Several students have responded positively to the opportunity to get more politically involved and learn about candidates’ platforms. Though she hasn’t been able to attend a candidate’s rally in Columbia, second-year psychology student Logan Gallagher said she appreciates that candidates pay attention to colleges and universities.

“I think it’s good that candidates can come

and express their opinions and make the college students be more aware of what’s going on, because I know being at school it’s harder to get the daily news that you’d usually get at home,” Gallagher said.

Some students also said they appreciate the opportunity to learn about the candidates in a more candid way. Elizabeth Grosso, a first-year media arts student, said she likes that candidates seem more “real” when speaking in person.

“I feel like you see them more honestly than the way they present themselves online,” Grosso said. “It can be more of a façade and that’s the real thing there, and you can ask whatever questions that you want to and be heard.”

SEE STUDENTS  
PAGE 2

## St. Jude’s Up ‘til Dawn event raises more than \$27,000

BRIAN ROSENZWEIG  
@briandrosie

Students celebrated having raised \$27,079 over the past year for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at the Up ‘til Dawn event.

Up ‘til Dawn is a community philanthropy event hosted by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and took place on Saturday morning from midnight to 6 a.m. at the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center to celebrate the money students and organizations collected throughout the year.

Shelby Keith, a fourth-year public health student and the events and logistics director, said it is significant that the event takes place early in the morning. The founder of St. Jude’s hospital, Danny Thomas, believed no child should ever die in the dawn of life, inspiring the Up ‘til Dawn main event.

“We stay up from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. in honor of all the patients that St. Jude has treated, all the things that they do to ensure that no family ever receives a bill for treatment travel,” Keith said.

The event brought together not only students who had been individually fundraising for St. Jude throughout the year, but also student organizations, including sororities, Cockapella and Swype. Some came donning t-shirts for their representative teams and organizations, while others came dressed in looks inspired by children’s characters, such as Sleepy from Snow White and Sully from Monsters, Inc.

Jessica Rodders, a second-year marine science student who got involved with Up ‘til Dawn individually, said she was excited for the event to begin after working to fundraise.

“I know that I’ve raised at least \$100, and most people here have raised at least, so I’m excited to see how much we’ve actually raised as a community,” Rodders said.

SEE ST. JUDE  
PAGE 3

THE  
SIDE  
NEWS



ABIGAIL GREEN // THE GAMECOCK

**SPORTS**  
Head coach Dawn Staley earned her sixth-straight Sweet 16 run after defeating Florida State.

Page 9



ABIGAIL GREEN // THE GAMECOCK

**SPORTS**  
South Carolina equestrian team barn manager Maggie Barton shares the upkeep of the 27 horses.

Page 7



GRAPHIC BY ALEX FINGER // THE GAMECOCK

**A&C**  
USC alumna Kiki Cyrus shares how she grew her business into a Columbia staple.

Page 5

# Beto O’Rourke makes campaign stop on campus

LEXI TORRENCE  
@lexi\_torrence

Texas senator and 2020 presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke visited USC’s campus to hear from students and discuss his presidential campaign goals.

The College Democrats invited O’Rourke to USC where he addressed students, faculty and alumni at the Russell House patio last Friday.

“There is so much pride in this institution. So many students and alumni of USC reached out to us and asked us to visit. I’ve heard so many great things, and I want to be here and see it for myself,” Beto said.

The El Paso native ran against Ted Cruz for Senate during the 2018 midterm elections. Though he lost the Senate race, O’Rourke received national attention and gained popularity among younger voters. Since he announced his candidacy on March 14, O’Rourke has toured the country, visiting colleges such as Keene State College in New Hampshire and Penn State University. He also visited South Carolina State University later Friday afternoon.

“I want to make sure that this campaign is all about bringing people together,” O’Rourke said.

O’Rourke is the latest of many politicians to visit Columbia but the first presidential candidate to speak at



SHREYAS SABOO // THE GAMECOCK

2020 presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke engages crowd while leaving the Russell House patio.

USC this year. Seth Moulton, Amy Klobuchar and Kamala Harris have all visited Columbia this year, in addition to Cory Booker and Pete Buttigieg, who visited this past Saturday.

South Carolina is breaking records with its predominantly African-American Democratic voting population, according to NPR. This means many Democratic candidates will campaign in the state to attract the minority vote and attempt to reach younger voters at college campuses such as USC.

“He possibly has my vote,” Arianna Sayles, a third-year psychology student, said. “I think the college vote is where

it’s at.”

O’Rourke addressed many topics, including the Mexican-American border, overpopulation in prisons and healthcare reform. He also focused on the history of inequality and discrimination in his home state of Texas and South Carolina.

O’Rourke emphasized his goals to create more inclusion and equality in America.

“As we say in Texas, ‘y’all’ means all of us,” O’Rourke said.

SEE O’ROURKE

PAGE 4

# 2020 candidate Cory Booker visits Columbia, discusses student debt

JOSEPH LEONARD  
@JSCLeonard

Cory Booker talked with a South Carolina crowd about his vision for America, touching on issues including economic inequality, healthcare reform, climate change and criminal justice reform.

The New Jersey Democrat and 2020 presidential candidate told personal stories, spoke about his platform and participated in a panel discussion and Q&A with the audience on Saturday, March 23.

Booker announced his presidential campaign on Feb. 1, and Saturday’s event in the Cecil Tillis Center was co-hosted by local organizations: Working Hero of South Carolina, which aims to provide people in poverty with financial security, the Talented Tenth, which aims to provide young African-American professionals with resources and service opportunities, and the South Carolina Democratic Party Black Women’s Caucus.

One panelist asked about student loan debt and told Booker it has impacted her and others, causing them to change their paths due to the large amounts of money owed after completing their education. Booker responded saying student loan debt is a national crisis because students and the younger generation



ETHAN LAM // THE GAMECOCK

Cory Booker, a 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, speaks to attendees at a panel discussion and Q&A at the Cecil Tillis Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

control the future of the U.S.

“In a global knowledge-based society, the most valuable natural resource a country has is the genius of its children,” Booker said.

Booker also said he wants to turn the federal student loan program into a student loan debt forgiveness program for all students, but to specifically accelerate it for careers in teaching.

“The federal government should stop profiting off of your pain, financial pain,” Booker said. “We make billions of dollars in the federal government through the student loan program, and that’s outrageous.”

Booker also said he wants to implement a program called Baby Bonds, which will give every child born in the U.S. a savings account worth \$1,000. The child would then receive an annual deposit based on the income of his or her family. Children born in lower-income families would receive more funds, and those born in higher-income families earning would receive less.

SEE BOOKER

PAGE 4

FROM STUDENTS

PAGE 1

Jacob Gamble, a first-year journalism student, said he is very politically active and has been to many of these campaign events because he appreciates being able to see candidates through more personal interaction instead of through television.

“You get to see who these people really are,” Gamble said. “You read articles about them, you watch videos of them on the news, but when you go to these events, you actually see who they are in person and that’s much different

sometimes than what the news portrays of them. It makes them more human.”

Gamble said he believes it is smart for candidates, particularly Democrats, to campaign on college campuses and target younger voters, he said.

“It’s a great idea to do that if you’re a candidate because the youth vote is extremely important ... to the primary because college campuses are primarily liberal, and students are the future of the vote,”

Gamble said.

Other students said they believe it’s important that others use these opportunities to get involved. Third-year political science student Josh Clardy said he thinks students should take advantage of these events being so accessible.

“Being politically involved is important for people our age, because we’re already the least involved age group voting-wise,” Clardy said. “We should start getting more involved.”



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**‘Two drinks...three drink’**  
While on patrol in Richland County last week, an officer noticed a vehicle moving at a high speed before making an abrupt turn onto Harden Street. After following the vehicle, the officer watched the driver commit several other traffic violations including lane drifting, rolling through a stop sign and driving in the wrong lane.  
Upon pulling the driver over, the officer noticed him to have slurred speech, glazed eyes, an alcoholic odor and what appeared to be urine down his legs. When asked to step out of the vehicle, the driver had to use the car door to support him as he nearly fell. After failing standard field sobriety tests, the driver was placed under arrest for driving under the influence.  
When the officer asked how much the driver had to drink, he responded “two drinks...three drink.” On the way to USCPD headquarters, the arrested driver was found to have vomited in the patrol vehicle.  
**A wild ride**  
While patrolling with other officers behind Millennium Buffet on March 16, an officer heard a

loud crash sounding like a car collision coming from the front of the restaurant.  
Upon driving up to the front, police noticed an SUV with extensive body damage stopped on Williams Street. As the officer approached the car to question the driver, the driver turned onto Blossom Street attempting to flee. The driver gave chase for a block, then pulled into a BP gas station and began to exit the car.  
Officers drew weapons and gave verbal commands for the driver to turn around and put his hands up to which the driver eventually complied. After detaining the driver, another officer noticed a strong smell of marijuana. The officer searched the driver and found a bag of what appeared to be marijuana from the driver’s right leg pocket, the report said.  
After crossing into Columbia from Blossom Street bridge, the driver went off the road, struck a sign, moved through the Athletics Department parking lot, hit two posts and a palm tree and drove onto Williams Street only to hit another sign.  
The driver was charged with leaving the scene of an accident and simple possession of marijuana, the report said.

FROM ST. JUDE  
PAGE 1

At the beginning of the event, Jasmine Cobb, a second-year psychology student who raised money with her hip-hop dance team Swype, expressed her excitement at what was to come throughout the morning.  
“I’m looking forward to performing and seeing the other groups perform as well, and hopefully participating in some of these activities,” Cobb said. “I like how we’re so enthusiastic about it at literally one o’clock in the morning for a very good cause.”  
The event had a “no more chemo” party theme, similar to parties hosted for children at St. Jude. Keith explained that teams compete in challenges throughout the night to win points and prizes and

end the night with the “no more chemo” party.  
From midnight to 6 a.m., students and groups participated in various games including “Minute to Win It,” life-sized “Hungry Hungry Hippo” consisting of scooters and inflatable balls and a lip-sync battle, leading up to the reveal of the amount raised.  
Keith, who first got involved in Up ‘til Dawn through a friend of hers, said the event has come to mean a lot to her as she learns more about St. Jude’s mission and purpose.  
“I just love meeting the patient families that are so grateful to St. Jude for just helping them in the most terrible time of their life,” Keith said. “And I’m really dedicated to the mission of St. Jude and how everybody is a family.”



MARY COMTOIS // THE GAMECOCK  
Cocky participates in toilet paper wrapping challenge at St. Jude’s Up ‘til Dawn fundraiser Friday night.

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FROM BOOKER  
PAGE 2

Children could earn up to \$2,000 per year until the age of 18, Booker said, and they would be allowed to use this account to purchase a home, pay for college, enter a training program or start their own business.

“It would make every American suddenly have wealth in this country and more of a stake in our economy without living paycheck to paycheck,” Booker said.

Booker said he would accomplish this by bringing back the estate tax, which was in effect under Obama, and by ending corporate tax loopholes.

Royce Mann, a high school student, said he enjoyed the panel discussion and Q&A because it showed that Booker was listening to local activists and the community. As a prospective college student, Mann said he was intrigued by the Baby Bonds proposal and the student loan forgiveness programs. Mann said he finds these plans feasible, because if

the U.S. military budget is nearly \$600 billion, the government can also allocate funds to student loan forgiveness plans.

“Because you have so many people who are based on circumstances out of their control when they’re born, [they] don’t get the same opportunity,” Mann said. “I think especially investing in young people and ensuring that everybody at least has that equal opportunity is really important.”

Lyric Swinton, a third-year sports and entertainment student, said that addressing rising college tuition, funding for Planned Parenthood and police reform are among the top issues for the 2020 presidential race. She said that she would like to think Booker’s bonds proposal is feasible; however, she has her doubts about the program.

“Giving every baby \$1,000 — that sounds like a lot,” Swinton said. “But, it also sounds like he’s thought of a lot of great ways to be able to pay for this.”

SEE ONLINE  
[www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com)

FROM O’ROURKE  
PAGE 2

Mckenzie Rice, a second-year public health major, said he enjoyed hearing O’Rourke’s opinions but hoped he would be more concrete.

“I like how he addresses the issue. I do wish he would talk more about how he is going to do everything,” Rice said. “I actually consider him the candidate I’ll be trying to vote for.”

After his speech, O’Rourke answered questions from the audience. Those gathered asked questions concerning teachers’ wages, police shootings, health care reform and the opioid crisis.

“Let’s end the war on drugs, the war on people,” O’Rourke said.

O’Rourke made an effort to discuss his thoughts on the increasing cost of college along with the cumulative sum of debt American college student possess to the audience that consisted largely of

college students.

“Let’s face the fact that we have 1.5 trillion in outstanding student loan debt,” O’Rourke said.

O’Rourke expressed his disapproval of the Trump administration’s tactics of dealing with student loan debt.

“[Trump] wants to defund federal subsidized student loans, meaning that you’re going to pay more at higher interest rates for the education that allows you to unleash your potential and live to your full promise,” O’Rourke said.

According to Forbes, Trump’s 2020 budget proposal includes a large overhaul of higher education and student loan funding. The administration proposes a 10 percent decrease in funding to the Department of Education from 2019.

One audience member asked O’Rourke to address his history with accepting fossil fuel money despite his policies on environmental protection. The individual wanted to know if O’Rourke would

take oil money in the future.

O’Rourke explained he took money from a variety of people in addition to the fossil fuel industry. This was because he refused to accept political action committee donations. He said his campaign was the highest recipient of funds from hairdressers and pharmacists and that donations by advocates of fossil fuels were only a small portion of his funds.

In the back of the crowd a sign saying “¿Por que Beto?” was held up. The student who carried it, Emmanuel Torres, a fourth-year biochemistry and molecular biology student, was hoping to get more definite answers from O’Rourke during the speech. He currently does not think he will vote for Beto in the 2020 election.

Torres said he thinks Beto is “a little too left-leaning.”

“He seems to be like a people person, but it’s kind of hard to say with his shady background,” Torres said. “There’s a lot of questions still out there.”



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ETHAN LAM // THE GAMECOCK  
Beto O’Rourke wore a South Carolina baseball cap while speaking outside of Russell House.

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PHOTOS BY SHREYAS SABOO // THE GAMECOCK

Kitwanda ‘Kiki’ Cyrus sautéés shrimp for her classic shrimp and grits. The dish features andouille sausage, brown gravy, mushrooms, garlic, onions and butter served with a buttermilk biscuit.

TAYLOR WASHINGTON  
@\_taydelrey

Before becoming a full-time chef, USC alumna Kitwanda ‘Kiki’ Cyrus worked at a variety of places: California Dreaming restaurant, Verizon Wireless and Newberry College.

Today, she is the owner of Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles, a Columbia staple that has the likes of Rachael Ray and Hillary Clinton singing its praises.

“It’s just awesome. I mean some days, I kind of think and I’m like, ‘Is this true?’” Cyrus said.

Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles was founded by Cyrus and her husband. Since working together at California Dreaming, the couple dreamed of opening a restaurant of their own one day.

Though chicken and waffles has become the restaurant’s namesake, initially Cyrus wasn’t sure what type of cuisine she wanted to serve. It wasn’t until she and her husband waited in line for two hours to dine at Gladys Knight’s Chicken and Waffles in Atlanta that she was inspired.

“These people are in line waiting to get inside this restaurant, this is a big hit,” Cyrus said. “I already knew about Roscoe’s in LA and the chicken and waffles in New York, so I knew it would be a big hit to bring it here.”

Thus, Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles was born in 2012. It started as a small location near Spring Valley High School, added a food truck and eventually moved into a building on Parklane Road.

While South Carolina is the birthplace of many Southern dishes, popular Southern restaurants in Columbia tend to come in the form of fast food chains, such as Lizard’s Thicket and Bojangles’. For this reason, the Cyruses believed that Kiki’s homegrown food would standout.

“You think about it now, what restaurant can you go to to get soul food in South Carolina or Columbia? It really wasn’t a lot at all,” Cyrus said. “We had a niche with the chicken and waffles, we had a niche with the soul food.”

While many menu items came from recipes that were passed from Cyrus’ mother and grandmother, others are Cyrus’ own creations. The restaurant features southern staples such as shrimp and grits, smothered pork chops and Cyrus’ personal favorite, “Kiki’s Soul Food Plate,” which comes with four wings, two sides and a corn muffin.

Since opening, Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles has welcomed guests from far and wide, with some being escorted in by the Secret Service.

Cyrus’ highlights include hosting former Vice President Joe Biden and former presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton when she was on her campaign trail.

When Biden was in town he arrived in a motorcade and left with a full stomach.

“That day, it was just crazy. I had to get pat down to walk in my own restaurant, and we had Secret Service all over the place, but it was good



Customers eat at Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles’ Two Notch location. The Cyruses pride themselves in treating patrons like family.

experience,” Cyrus said.

Earlier this month, Cyrus was featured in Rachael Ray’s magazine, where she was dubbed “the Chicken-and-Waffles Queen of Columbia, South Carolina.”

One of Kiki’s most prominent local fans is South Carolina women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley. Staley has even done several commercials for the restaurant, and Cyrus says that the team comes in for dinner sometimes.

Upon entry, it isn’t hard to notice the community of love Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles has fostered. Booths are filled with smiling faces, patrons interact with Cyrus and her husband on a personal level, and the cooks in the kitchen exchange jokes with one another.

“I think we have the touch of the owner’s touch — we’re always in here. If I’m not here, my husband’s here. He’s walking around to the tables, greeting the customers, they feel like they know him,” Cyrus said.

In addition to making herself a known presence in the restaurant, Cyrus hosts music nights for local Columbia artists and eventually wants to host events.

The latter serves as just one of the reasons Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles is expanding once more.

In May, the restaurant will be opening a new location in Harbison that will include a party room, outdoor seating, high-top counters with charging stations and much more.

The Harbison area is well known for heavy traffic, which could potentially deter people who live there from visiting the current Two Notch location. The goal of the new restaurant is to bring Kiki’s to them.

After all these years, Cyrus’ reputation in



Kiki and Tyrone Cyrus opened Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles in August 2012. Their new Harbison location will open in May.

Columbia precedes her. When one first-time patron compared meeting her to meeting Beyoncé, she seemed bashful. Despite everything she has accomplished, Cyrus remains a humble soul.

When asked what keeps customers coming back to Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles, Cyrus looked to the restaurant’s motto for her answer.

“We cook with love and we treat people like family,” Cyrus said.



# Artist reflects on shrinking black-owned spaces

IGGY SHULER AND NICK SULLIVAN  
@tdg\_arts

Cedric Umoja is an artist on a mission: to preserve black-owned spaces in the face of increasing challenges.

A visual artist and 2019 Indie Grits fellow, Umoja is exploring issues of blackness in connection to land with his exhibition “Spells for the Freeman / Liberation of Land Through Breath,” which opened on March 21 at Indie Grits Labs, a nonprofit that promotes media education and artist-driven projects.

“This body of work speaks towards the commodification of land. It specifically addresses the evaporation of black spaces, namely the slow yet obvious demise of the black community,” Umoja said in the exhibition’s artist statement.

The artist said he was moved by his own experiences with his mother’s side of the family and their property. He observed his maternal grandparents, great uncles and cousins working as a community and took walks with his grandmother through the woods, picking blackberries and drinking from springs. All of that is now gone, Umoja said.

“Just gone. People from my generation probably, and some people who were older, when they were given the opportunity to have control and stewardship over the land, what they did was they sold it or they just let it get into a place where they didn’t pay the taxes on it.” Umoja said.

The artist said his family’s land isn’t the only place he’s observed these kind of changes, but rather a small part of what he believes is a widespread phenomenon.

“There’s areas being controlled, purchased, confiscated, however you want to put it and being used in ways that don’t benefit the whole,” said Umoja, whose work confronts this shift through the sculpture, paintings and short film he’s created through his Indie Grits fellowship.

“Within our community, the black community, there are times when we don’t really see the importance of it until we can’t put our hands on it anymore — until it’s not tangible, as it used to be,” said Umoja.

In his work, Umoja attempts to confront these issues with a visual style which may seem abstract at first, but is actually intended as symbolic, he said. By using mirrors and partially visible text, he encourages viewers to engage with the exhibit’s paintings on a deeper level.

“It works sort of as a subliminal means of



HANNAH DAMICO // THE GAMECOCK

Cedric Umoja was inspired by his maternal roots on the East coast to create his sculptures and paintings on display at Indie Grits.

contacting the subconscious. So, I hope it pushes and pulls people,” said Umoja. “Mirrors tend to work like portals; they tend to push you out, pull you in.”

In addition to the exhibit, Umoja created a film as part of his work with the fellowship. The film, titled “Ten Toes Down,” will screen at this year’s Indie Grits Festival, a four-day event showcasing film, music and art in Columbia. A mixed media short film based in Afrofuturism, “Ten Toes Down,” takes place on Umoja’s family land and features a performance from the artist himself. Some of the text visible in the exhibit’s paintings appear in the film as spoken spells and rituals, lending a sense of

continuity to the projects.

“‘Spells for the Freeman,’ ‘Ten Toes Down,’ they’re all short films, they’re all cohesive. It’s all really one unit,” said Umoja.

Umoja’s work is part of Indie Grits Labs’ The Rural Project, a 2018-2019 project which will spotlight the narratives and experiences of rural communities of the South in the changing modern world.

The exhibition will be on display at Indie Grits Labs until June 13, and “Ten Toes Down” will screen at the Indie Grits festival next week.

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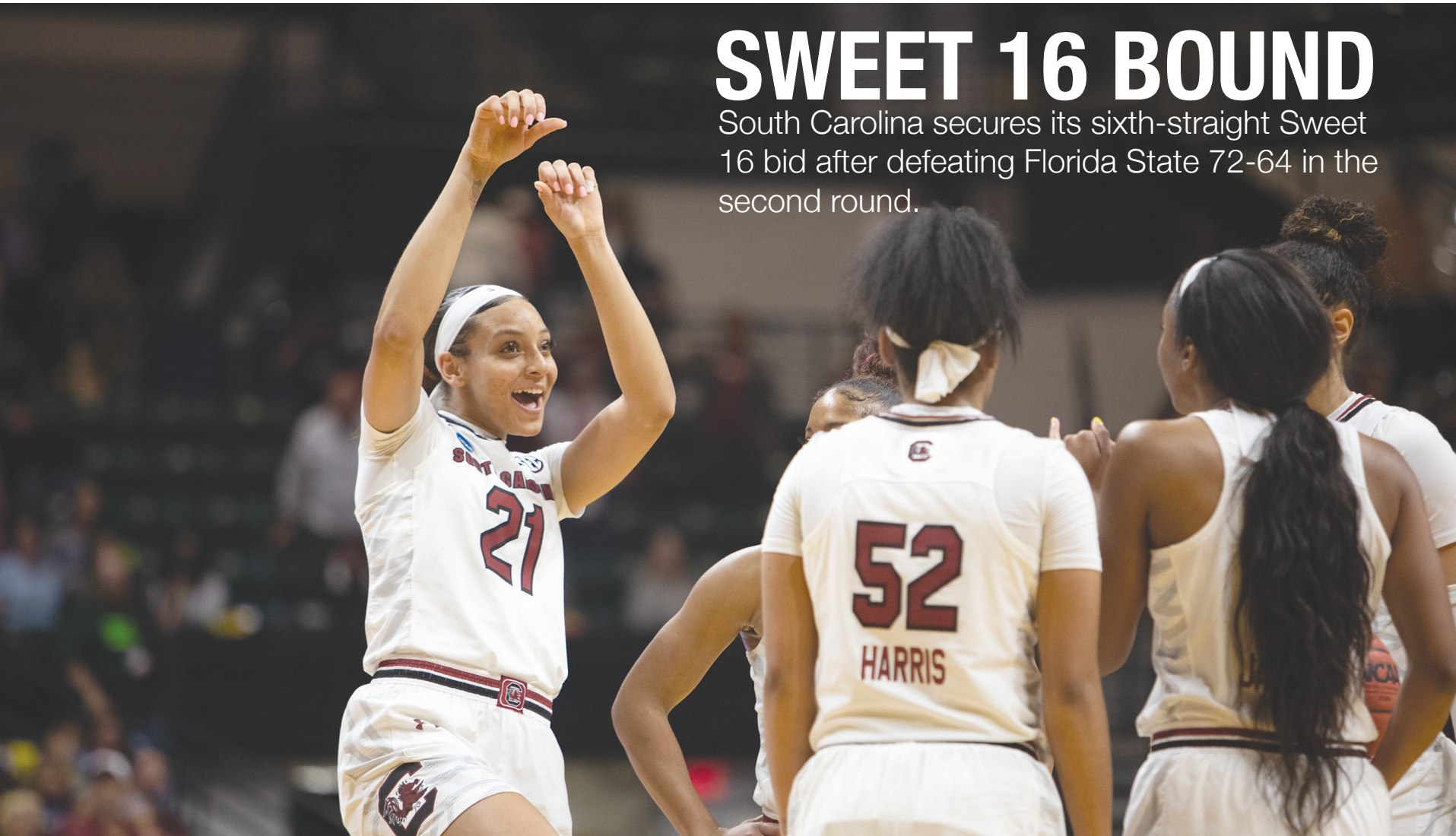
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# SWEET 16 BOUND

South Carolina secures its sixth-straight Sweet 16 bid after defeating Florida State 72-64 in the second round.

DAVID CHEN // THE GAMECOCK

Mikiah Herbert Harrigan celebrates after South Carolina secures the second round win from a technical foul committed by Florida State on March 24, 2019 in Charlotte, North Carolina.



HANNAH WADE// THE GAMECOCK

Doniyah Cliney collected four rebounds against the Bruins.



DAVID CHEN// THE GAMECOCK

Doniyah Cliney drives past the Florida State defense for a layup.



HANNAH WADE// THE GAMECOCK

Te'a Cooper put up 15 points against Belmont in the first round.



DAVID CHEN// THE GAMECOCK

Junior guard Tyasha Harris secured the victory in the final minute to claim a Sweet 16 spot.

## 27 horses: A look into equestrian team's horse upkeep

SHELBY BECKLER  
@ShelbyBeckler

The South Carolina equestrian team travels 30 minutes to Blythewood every day to prepare for competition, but much of the team's time is dedicated to the horses.

Despite the distance to practice, the Gamecocks take time to care for each of the 27 horses at the barn. The riders provide the necessities for the horses, such as grooming and medicating them. However, the riders don't oversee the horses alone.

Barn manager Maggie Barton works with the athletes and horses and has been with South Carolina's program for five years.

"[The horses] work hard enough for us, we would like to take care of them," Barton said.

The horses are usually ridden six times a week: two days jumping, two days flat and two days mixing both. Gear varies between competitions, but saddles are provided especially to the horses who have back problems. Barton said that English riders tend to bring their own saddles since they are lighter to pack.

The athletes work with a different horse each week. Practices last about an hour, then the riders spend 30 to 45 minutes on the maintenance of their given horses. Barton said riders will cool down the horses and get their heart rate down, similar to a stretch break for people after exercising. The riders also place poultice, a drawing agent for inflammation, on the horses' legs as a preventative measure after jumping.

Because each horse is used for competition, they are kept shaved. Maggie said that it is better for them health-wise to ensure there is no fungus. The horses also receive glucose shots and daily vitamins.

Though it's good that the athletes work with each of the 27 horses for training purposes, Barton said that it



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL GREEN// THE GAMECOCK

Barn manager Maggie Barton calls over Ollie, a South Carolina horse who was National Collegiate Equestrian Association's horse of the month in October.

can be a challenge.

"The most frustrating thing is sometimes if you don't have a horse that likes different riders — they might be a one-person horse — and so that's difficult and frustrating for you as a rider," Barton said.

The South Carolina equestrian program's horses were all donated, most from the coaches' close contacts. Sometimes, horse owners look to sell or donate a horse but have trouble deciding on a place. Because of this, the program grants the owners a one-month trial with the horse to make sure that it will be a good fit for the program's needs.

SEE EQUESTRIAN

PAGE 9



Within the barn, there are specified shelves for each horse's grooming supplies that the athletes use.

## Swimming & Diving

Emma Barksdale

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** South Carolina junior Emma Barksdale earned the All-America honors in the individual medley (IM) event for her second-straight season.

## STATS:

Barksdale placed first in the 1000 freestyle, 1650 freestyle, 200 IM, 400 IM and 200 freestyle.



**SHREYAS SABOO// THE GAMECOCK**

## Tennis

Ingrid Gamarra Martins  
and Mia Horvit

## KEY TAKEAWAY:

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) ranked South Carolina doubles team Ingrid Gamarra Martins and Mia Horvit as the No. 1 ranked tandem in the country.

## STATS:

Martins and Horvit went 8-2 in the SEC and notched a 12-3 record while securing a No. 2 position in the 2017-18 season.



**SARA YANG// THE GAMECOCK**

## Beach Volleyball

Caroline Skaff

### KEY TAKEAWAY:

South Carolina sophomore Caroline Skaff went 2-5 in the starting lineup. Skaff also paired with Julia Mannisto for a win vs. No. 12 FIU at the Surf 'N' Turf Invitational, and beat UAB at No. 5 with partner Jess Vastine.

## STATS:

Skaiff had an 8-2 record and seven exhibition wins in 2017.



ZACH MCKINLEY// THE GAMECOCK



**SIMEON ROBERTS// THE GAMECOCK**

# Volleyball

Mikayla Shields

### KEY TAKEAWAY:

Sophomore Mikayla Shields was the first player in program history to be nationally recognized twice in her career, earning a spot on the Honorable Mention All-America list and American Volleyball Coaches Association's All-Southeast Region team.

## STATS:

Shields was the fifth junior to break 1,000 kills in three seasons in program history in 2018.



ZACH MCKINLEY// THE GAMECOCK

## Softball

Alyssa Kumiyama

### KEY TAKEAWAY:

Alyssa Kumiya opened her Gamecock career in 2018 with 58 appearances, starting 36 times.

## STATS:

Kumiyama hit .235 with a total of 10 home runs and 38 RBI to go along with her .529 slugging percentage, finishing with nine multi-RBI games.

# Basketball

Tyasha Harris





## KEY TAKEAWAY:

Harris is second in the SEC and 31st in the nation in assists per game and her 3.02 assist-to-turnover ratio places her at No. 12 in the country.

### SEASON HIGHS:

28 points, seven free throws made, 13 rebounds, 13 assists, two blocks and six steals

—compiled by Keianna Benson  
for Women's History Month

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# Dawn Staley ‘beat the odds’ as head coach

CLEOPATRA SHABAZZ  
@cshabazztv

It’s no secret that Dawn Staley has changed the culture of women’s basketball in South Carolina. During her 11 years as head coach, the Gamecock women’s basketball team has won a National Championship, along with winning four consecutive SEC championships and having six players drafted into the WNBA. Though it seems impossible to imagine Colonial Life Arena practically empty during basketball season, Staley remembers a time when few more than friends and family of the student-athletes showed up to women’s basketball games. “I really didn’t care how many people were in the stands at that moment,” Staley said in an interview with Carolina News and Reporter. “I was more concerned with turning the program around.” Staley’s coaching career began in 2000 when she became the head coach of the Temple University women’s basketball team. Within eight years, the Owls made six NCAA tournament appearances but never made it past the second round. In 2008, Staley seized the opportunity to take over the South Carolina women’s basketball program. “I didn’t really outgrow Temple,” Staley said. “But for what I was trying to do in the coaching ranks, I just thought that South Carolina would give me the right ingredients to win a national championship.” Staley’s journey to winning a national championship took a bit longer than she expected. Staley said that the first two years of her career felt like “professional suicide” because she wasn’t able to recruit the current players on the team. The Gamecocks were playing under .500 and did not make any NCAA nor WNIT appearances during Staley’s first two years. “I don’t think the players at the



HANNAH WADE// THE GAMECOCK

time realized that this was a full-time thing,” Staley said. “But as we got kids in here who wanted a great balance of wanting a pro career and loving basketball, things started turning around.” The turning point for the Gamecocks was the 2011-2012 season, when the women’s basketball team made its first ever NCAA tournament appearance in almost a decade. “Senior year, we made it to the Sweet 16 and that was probably one of our best years,” said Courtney Newton-Gonzalez, who played for the Gamecocks from 2007 to 2012. The Gamecocks started making consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, but the team still needed more talented and motivated players to achieve its goal of winning a national championship. “I think Coach Staley was an underdog early on in the season because they didn’t have the talent they needed to win the national

championship,” said Debbie Antonelli, who has analyzed women’s collegiate and professional basketball for 30 years. In 2014, the women’s basketball program found themselves in a pivotal moment when Columbia native A’ja Wilson announced that she would play for South Carolina. Wilson was the top-ranked player in the nation who turned down the opportunity to play for UConn. The 2014 and 2015 season was the first time the Gamecocks became SEC tournament champions and made it to the NCAA Final Four. “A’ja was that piece that really allowed S.C. to build where they are now,” Antonelli said. In 2017 South Carolina won its third consecutive SEC tournament championship along with its first national championship. South Carolina also had three players drafted into the WNBA during the 2016 and 2017 season.

“When you win a national championship, you put yourself in the position to be seen in a national light,” Staley said. The Gamecocks have remained in the national spotlight as the team is making its eighth consecutive NCAA tournament appearance this season. South Carolina also secured its first top recruiting class for next season with four out of the five players being ranked within the ESPN top 13 recruits. The odds of South Carolina winning a national championship were low for many years. Staley changed the team’s expectations from hoping to make a WNIT appearance to making consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and fostering players who now have a stronger chance of having a professional career. “I come from a place where you have to beat the odds no matter what you’re doing in life,” Staley said.

FROM EQUESTRIAN  
PAGE 7

“We obviously want the best for the horses, so we might say, ‘We just don’t think that they’re going to hold up for our program, but here are some other options for you to look into,’” Barton said. “Just because the amount of work that they do as athletes — the horses themselves as an athlete — is a lot.” Most of the horses are middle-aged and have had previous competition careers. When South Carolina was in need of horses, head coach Boo Major asked Barton if the riders could use her 14-year-old horse, Ollie, who Major has owned for nine years. Barton said that she was riding him as much as she could, but it wasn’t very often. “He’s going to be like a little kid who hasn’t been out to play. He’ll just be wild and have a lot of energy, which he did at first,” Barton said. “Now, he has come quite a long way just being used.” Each of the Gamecocks helped train

Ollie to get him competition-ready. South Carolina currently uses him as a flat horse because he needs more training, but Ollie will be competing in the SECs and nationals this year. Nationals is always held in Texas, which is a challenge for the horses because of the long distance. However, the only time the horses from South Carolina travel are to SECs and nationals, and riders usually have different horses for every competition. “They literally pull out of a hat who will ride what horse and then they’ll do the same for the other school. So, one girl from Georgia will ride Frank and one girl from USC will ride Frank and then whoever has the higher score will win the point,” Barton said. Even after the day’s practice is complete, Barton’s scene doesn’t change. She lives in an apartment at the barn and has a view of all 27 horses. “I tell everyone that they’re my children,” Barton said. “Them being out here, standing on a beautiful day without any blankets, and actually getting to be horses and enjoying it just makes my heart happy.”

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## Excused absences should not hurt students' grades

Halfway through the semester, there's fair chance you might not have closely reviewed a syllabus in a few months. However, upon glancing at several syllabuses and the university bulletin, you may be reminded of the odd policy concerning attendance.

According to university policy, "absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions, whether excused or unexcused, is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences." Although it is a fair assertion that students should be present for 90 percent of classes, applying this rule to excused absences can easily become problematic for students, especially if a grade penalty is enforced.

More specifically, this penalty can hurt the students who are academically conscientious. Missing class will — more than likely — affect a student's grade, so why should excused absences further harm that grade? Students recovering from surgeries or illnesses often complain that this policy puts them at an unfortunate disadvantage. Kicking them while they're down, so to speak, as they aim to learn any material missed in class. Excused absences are not a sign of academic irresponsibility, but of an unforeseen circumstance.

Likewise, this policy can possibly prevent students from getting the rest and recovery needed while sick. Illnesses and injuries don't magically go away once a student misses that

third class of the semester. Although the policy permits professors the opportunity to show grace to a student who misses class, it — more importantly — gives them free reign to unfairly penalize a student who may already be struggling with their physical or mental health.

Additionally, those excused absences, which are anticipated, are likely to be beneficial to the student. The policy can discourage students from participating in university-approved trips for fear of lowering their grades. Clubs and other extracurricular activities can provide both experience and professional connections through multi-day conferences and trips. Students' attendance of such events, in attempt to make themselves more knowledgeable and marketable, should not be inhibited for fear of lowering their semester GPA.

Ultimately, extending the attendance policy to those with excused absences is hurting the wrong people. Sure, penalize the ones who decide bingeing Netflix is more desirable than going to their class lecture. However, don't further hurt the students who might miss class through sickness, injury or even attending events and conferences outside the university. The difference between skipping class and missing class is a significant one, and the two should thus be treated separately within university policy.

— Stephanie Allen, first-year art studio and English student

## University policies do not always translate to real life



**Christopher Lorensen**  
Second-year journalism student

University and classroom policies are among my favorite things to analyze. They seem to be misguided and exacerbate situations they aim to fix. As a result, taking the rules of college life and applying them to the rest of the world yield some interesting results.

If you don't show up to class enough times you get a penalty towards your grade. This is a class you paid for. You are already missing the benefit of getting the material first hand, yet the the fines continue to pile up. Imagine paying \$800 for a plane ticket and hotel rooms and then not going on the trip. Since you missed more than 10 percent of your flight and stay, you get charged \$80. This is the same concept as missing a portion of class time and getting penalized by going down a letter grade.

Occasionally someone needs to leave during class. I've been a student for a while and I've gotten good at tuning out the sound of the door. And if I really don't want to be distracted, I sit in one of the ever-empty front row seats. Once a semester, however, there seems to be one teacher that halts class every time to call out how disruptive that noise was. This is similar to when I see someone leave during a movie at the cinema. I also like to stand up in front of the screen and let everyone know just how distracting that was and how much better I am for not drawing attention away from the show.

Whenever the university goes on vacation, it has a habit of kicking students out of the residence halls. When I was living in Texas, I rented out the spare rooms of my house. I guess I should have been kicking my tenants out every time I went on a road trip.

The university also seems to prefer the "use it or lose it" policy when it comes to meal plans. This seems to be forcing students to buy food and drinks they don't actually need or watch their money go to waste. I guess if other consumable services such as electricity or water followed this same plan, I'd be forced to leave my lights on and water running so I didn't waste anything.

When we consider that students are paying customers, most policies become tragically misguided. And aside from credit cards, I'm having a hard time coming up with services that penalize me for a lack of participation. The university should take a closer look at how it prepares students for the outside world. Not everything works as implied.



ILLUSTRATION BY ROSE HOLSTEIN/ THE GAMECOCK

## Street harassment makes campus unsafe



**Clara Bergeson**  
First-year public relations student

I don't think I ever understood what catcalling was until I came to USC.

Back at home, I had never been yelled at from passing cars or "moored" at by groups of grown men, but here, it's happened more than I thought

possible. Almost everyone I know has stories of people screaming unwelcome sexual comments or offensive slurs, and that does not translate into a comfortable

and welcoming school environment.

The debate on whether catcalling is synonymous with harassment has become tiresome. Catcalling, in every sense, is a form of sexual and verbal harassment, and its commonality on campus is worrying.

I like to think that I'm the safest I could be when I walk to my residence hall after a long night at the library, but when I hear footsteps or a random voice, I am immediately paranoid. It doesn't help that it has already been proven to me that anyone could come along and immediately make me feel unsafe with one quick sound. I thought, as per usual, maybe I was just being a bit over-dramatic. But, upon further

investigation, it is more common than I believed.

Already, women are afraid to walk alone at night, and while USC assures students that there are "law enforcement professionals working diligently around the clock to provide a safe, secure campus environment," it is hard to believe them when people are constantly proving it wrong.

I don't mean to put this on the law professionals of Columbia, but it certainly doesn't help that according to the Daily Telegraph, "those who report street harassment are regularly ridiculed in the press and depicted as over-reacting," making it less likely for people to come forward about street

harassment. However, even with the lack of court cases surrounding the harassment, I feel like we have known that catcalling is a problem for quite a while. Still, nothing substantial has been done to combat it.

For students, we have AlcoholEDU and Sexual Harassment Prevention, but it doesn't cover the absurd amount of verbal harassment that happens to women on campus. Sure, some people are able to simply brush it off as rude comments, but why should they? It shouldn't be their problem to deal with harassment. It is time for us to hold the people who make campus feel unsafe responsible for their actions.

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**Aries**  
The open road is calling. Where to explore? Try something new. Educational opportunities invite you into another point of view. Discover fresh inspiration.

**Taurus**  
Strategize about the budget with your partner. The next two days are good for financial planning. Take care not to provoke jealousies. Sell something you made.

**Gemini**  
Together, it's easier to navigate obstacles and barriers. Your perspective is wider. Diversity provides strength. Another's skills take over where yours leave off.

**Cancer**  
Your attention is in demand. Increase the pace as much as is safe, guarding your health and energy. Others may want quick action. Postpone non-essentials.

**Leo**  
Relax, and enjoy the scenery. Keep someone special in the foreground. Find yourself drawn magnetically toward love and kindness, beauty and goodness.

**Virgo**  
Focus on domestic matters. Clean, sort and organize. Resolve a family issue by listening and avoiding automatic reactions. Let go of a preconception. Prioritize love.

**Libra**  
You're especially brilliant. Creative projects flower. Write, broadcast and publish your views. Express your feelings through art, music or dance. Share what you love.

**Scorpio**  
Conserve resources while generating income. Less is more. Simplify your needs for greater financial freedom. Provide value, charge a fair price and keep track.

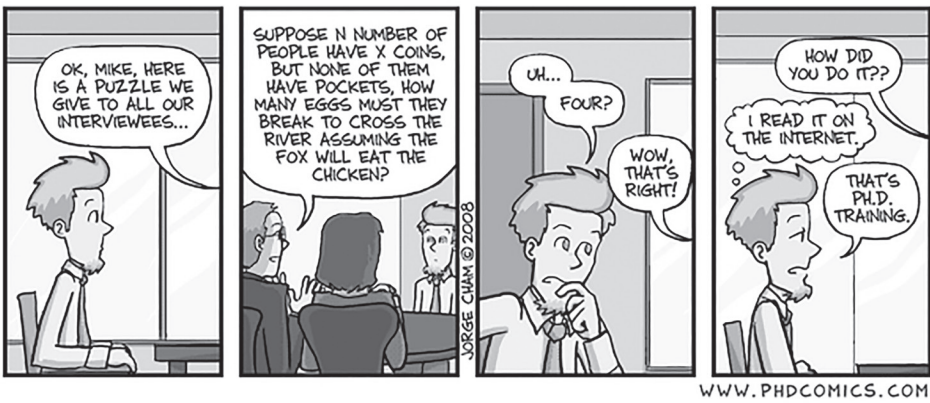
**Sagittarius**  
Advance a creative vision or dream. You're especially strong, and you know what you want. Put another check on your bucket list. Enjoy a personal moment.

**Capricorn**  
Fine-tune your domestic environment. Rest and recuperate from recent adventures. Peace and privacy allow for thoughtful consideration of what's next. Make plans, and organize.

**Aquarius**  
Stay connected with friends. Participate with community groups and people who share your interests and commitments. Benefits come through your inner circle. Support your team.

**Pisces**  
Crazy dreams seem possible. Unexpected circumstances could preempt your schedule. Adapt on the fly. Be prepared for inspection. An influential person is paying attention.

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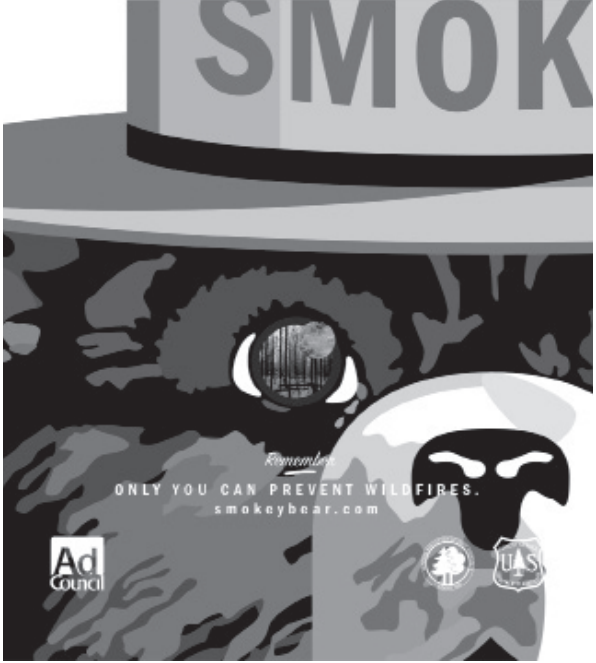


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Sudoku By The Mephram Group 03/25/19  
Level 1  
How to Play  
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.  
Solutions to today's puzzle  
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ACROSS  
1 Super bargain  
6 Effective on  
10 Ed.'s backlog  
13 Bisect  
14 "Good Morning America" co-anchor  
15 Boarding site  
16 Sellers of build-it-yourself furniture  
18 Mythical monster  
19 Delt neighbor  
20 Mets' home before Citi Field  
22 Enemies  
23 Puts up, as a skyscraper  
24 Climate-affecting Pacific current  
27 Citrus-flavored soda, on its labels  
29 Minnesota's state bird  
30 Final Four org.  
32 Eye-boggling work  
35 \_\_\_-di-dah: pretentious  
36 Five-armed ocean creature  
38 "I'll pass"  
39 Decree  
41 Wander about  
42 Warehouse gds.  
43 East Asian home of Acer and Asus  
45 Like partly melted snow  
47 Merkel of Germany  
49 Molecule component  
50 Leaves-catching brewing sieve  
53 Drag to court  
56 Witty Bombeck  
57 Arabian Peninsula region, and what 16-, 20-, 36- and 50-Across literally have  
59 Done with  
60 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"  
61 Wheel connectors  
62 Mario Bros. console  
63 Ruby and scarlet  
64 Suspicious (of)  
DOWN  
1 Cruise vessel  
2 Box office income  
3 Monthly util. bill  
4 "Selma" director  
5 Classroom session  
6 Soothing medicinal plants  
7 \_\_\_ Lee cakes  
8 Mine extractions  
9 Make secure, as a seat belt  
10 "Presto!" sticks  
11 Peacock's gait  
12 Appears to be  
15 Try for a long pass, in football lingo  
17 Romantic ideal  
21 Fervent feeling  
22 Dolphin feature  
24 Vogue competitor  
25 Laundry batch  
26 Pitching masterpieces  
27 Bricklayer  
28 "Ciao!"  
31 Irene of "Fame"  
33 Poison ivy symptom  
34 Rock music's \_\_\_  
36 Prop for a clown  
37 Dutch beer brand  
40 Ides of March victim  
42 Tight-lipped  
44 Not as cold  
46 Parent of Maybelline  
47 Used, as china  
48 Chutzpah  
49 South American mountain range  
51 Staff assistant  
52 "Look what \_\_\_!": "Yay me!"  
53 Bargain hunter's delight  
54 App downloader  
55 Site for handmade art  
58 Application file suffix

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