

2017

## The Daily Gamecock, Wednesday, July 26, 2017

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# DOUBLE DIP

Project manager Blake Langland routed grant money to self, company, says Attorney General

Mike Woodel  
@GETHISDOGONETOO

A state agency project and employee training for a private company were among the items USC inadvertently paid for with university money, according to the indictment of a USC employee released last week.

The South Carolina State Attorney General's office announced July 18 that Blake Langland, a College of Engineering and Computing project manager since 2004, was indicted on

five counts of stemming from efforts to pad his full-time salary with grant money. In all, Langland faces three counts of receiving anything of value to influence action of public employee, one count of use of official position or office for financial gain and one count of acceptance of rebates and extra compensation.

The trail followed by the State Attorney's office is immense, stretching back seven years and

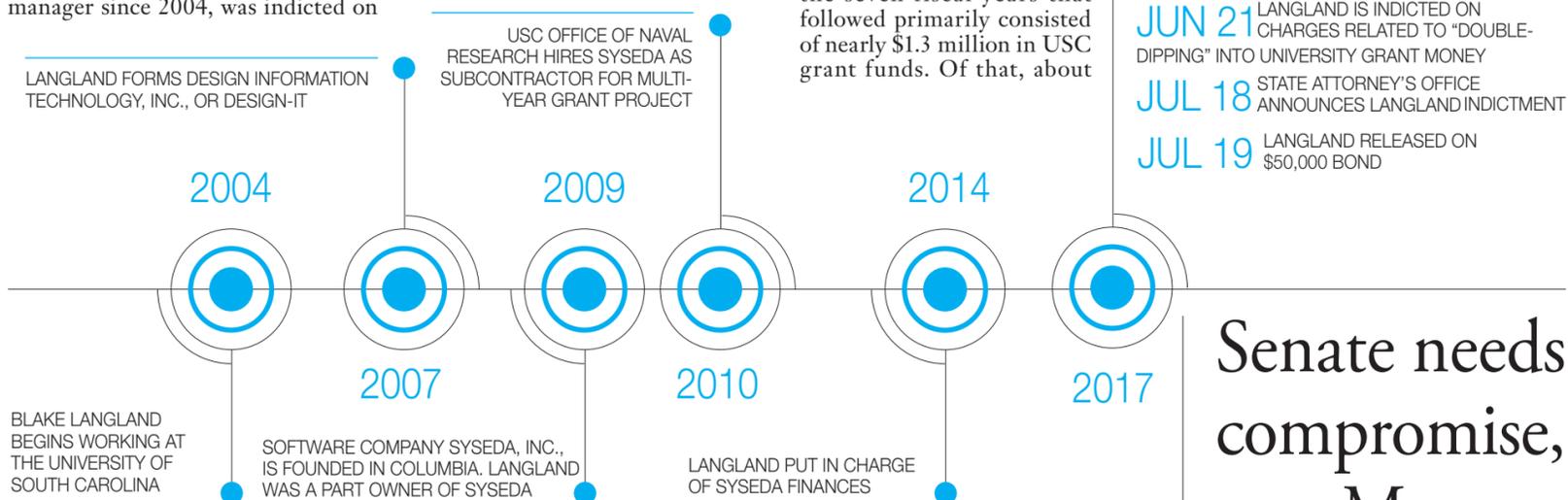
over \$1 million in university grant funding. The story begins with the 2009 founding of Columbia-based software company SysEDA, Inc., which was owned in part by Langland.

In July 2010, SysEDA was hired as a subcontractor for a "multi-year grant project" funded by USC's Office of Naval Research (ONR). According to the indictment, SysEDA's income over the seven fiscal years that followed primarily consisted of nearly \$1.3 million in USC grant funds. Of that, about

half eventually went to Langland or Design Information Technology, Inc., a company Langland owned. From this he took an "effective kickback" of \$420,000.

The indictment says that SysEDA's partners decided in May 2014 that the company was "unable

SEELANGLANDPAGE4



## Law professor takes on labor law, Supreme Court in third book

Mike Woodel  
@GETHISDOGONETOO

USC law professor Joseph Seiner takes on the Supreme Court's ways of regulating workers' rights in his latest book, "The Supreme Court's New Workplace."

Seiner taught at Georgetown University Law Center before arriving in Columbia in 2007. A former attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, his teaching interests include civil procedure and labor law. Published by the Cambridge University Press, "The Supreme Court's New Workplace," is his third book on workplace law and his second in 2017.

In "The Supreme Court's New Workplace," Seiner analyzes how the composition and procedural law of the Supreme Court will directly affect workplace law. The Court has seen change under the current administration with the death of Justice Antonin Scalia and his succession by Justice Neil Gorsuch, and could see more with potential for retirement for current justices such as 84-year-old Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

According to Seiner, in the 1960s and '70s the Supreme Court was much clearer in its intent when deciding cases affecting workplace law. Now, procedural rulings, or those governing how the Court governs the procedures by which cases are heard and designated, are used to "undermine" the rights of workers.

"It's eroded worker rights but in a way where people aren't even

cognizant of the fact that it's taking place, because the decisions themselves are so much more dry," Seiner said. "What this book does is it brings together a lot of those decisions and demonstrates exactly how these technical rulings have undermined the protections of workers."

Seiner said many of the rulings occurred under Chief Justice John Roberts, appointed by former President George W. Bush in 2005.

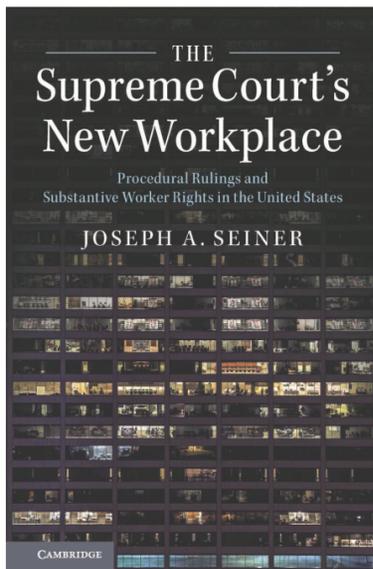
To advance his thesis, Seiner cited the decision in the case of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes, in which the Court reversed a district court decision to certify a class action lawsuit. In the case, plaintiff Betty Dukes of California accused Wal-Mart of sex discrimination after an advance to a position with a higher salary. When the case advanced to the U.S. District Court in San Francisco, Dukes's suit included over one million women who had worked in Wal-Mart stores prior since 1998.

In 2011, the Supreme Court decided by a 5-4 margin that the plaintiffs did not constitute a class, and that a class action suit could not proceed. This decision, Seiner said, made it far more difficult for a group of workers to bring a workplace

claim to court.

Aside from the ability to file class action lawsuits, Seiner analyzed in his book the Court's effect through procedural rulings on seeking damages and navigating the initial litigation involved with filing a lawsuit, even for an individual. In keeping the book topical, Seiner set aside a chapter of the book to how procedural rulings affect workers in the "modern technology sector," including cases involving transportation companies Uber and Lyft.

SEESEINERPAGE4



Courtesy of Joseph Seiner and the University of South Carolina  
"The Supreme Court's New Workplace," now available as an e-book, is Joseph Seiner's second book of 2017.

## Senate needs compromise, says Moore professor

John Warrington  
@JMDUBS6

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to proceed with debating and amending the healthcare bill passed by the House on May 4. This amendment process will allow modifications to any part of the bill within the budget reconciliatory rules, turning the Senate into a "wild west" scenario, according to Senator Bob Corker (R-Tennessee). Vice President Mike Pence provided the tie-breaking vote.

Even with this minor victory, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is stuck between a rock and a hard place. The conservative and moderate sides of his party have stymied his efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Each time he tries to appease one faction of Republican senators, he loses the support of the other.

Despite having voted over 50 times to repeal and replace the ACA under the Obama administration, Republicans are finding it much more difficult to pass new legislation now that this healthcare entitlement has been established for seven years.

Faced with rising premiums and just one insurer on their exchanges in many parts of the country, including South Carolina, the votes to repeal and replace the ACA are simply not there.

As of now, there are two competing options for McConnell and the Republicans. The first would be to pass the Republican version of healthcare reform. The second option would be to repeal the ACA now and allow for a two-year adjustment period to find an alternative plan. The Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan government agency tasked with forecasting the effects of major legislation, has predicted that a repeal without a replacement plan would lead to 32 million people uninsured over the next decade.

President Trump has proposed a third option: to let Obamacare fail under its own weight. Dr. Robert Hartwig, an expert on the ACA and finance professor at the Darla Moore

SEEHEALTHCAREPAGE4



HOW HIGH CAN GAMECOCKS FLY IN 2017? PAGE 7

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## IN BRIEF



*“He did not share in the event. He shared of himself.”*

— Former Eagle Scout Robert Birkby, author of three editions of the Boy Scout Handbook, speaking to the Washington Post about President Trump's Monday speech at the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia

## BU researchers study brains of 111 ex-NFLers, find CTE in 110

Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine and the VA Boston Healthcare System found the neurodegenerative disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in 110 of 111 brains of former NFL players, according to a study published Tuesday.

In all, researchers studied 202 donated brains of ex-football players at all levels and found that 177 (or 87 percent) had CTE. The study showed some correlation between the development of CTE and the level of football a player had played at; only 3 cases were found in the brains of the 14 individuals that did not play past high school, while 48 cases were found in 53 brains (91 percent) of college football players and 7 of 8 (88 percent) in former Canadian Football League players.

The study was published only a day after the sudden retirement of Washington Redskins defensive back David Bruton, who sustained six concussions in his eight-year NFL career.

## Top basketball prospects Williamson, Ball to face off at Vegas tournament

The basketball gods will smile Wednesday as Spartanburg's Zion Williamson leads Adidas Uprising Gauntlet squad SC Supreme against LaMelo Ball's AAU team, Big Ballers, at Bigfoot Hoops' Las Vegas Classic.

Though yet to see 18 years of age, both players have already achieved Internet stardom, Williamson for an unending series of high-flying dunks and blocks and Ball for a scoring prowess which helped him to games of 72 and 92 points in his sophomore season for Chino Hills (California) High. According to ESPN.com, the 6'7" Williamson has already received offers from 27 D-I basketball programs (including South Carolina) and is considered one of the top prospects of the high school Class of 2018. Ball verbally committed to UCLA in 2015 at the age of 13 and is considered a top guard in the Class of 2019.

Big Ballers made headlines this weekend when video surfaced of head coach LaVar Ball, father of LaMelo and Lakers draft pick Lonzo, forfeiting a Saturday game in Anaheim by pulling his team from the floor after receiving a technical foul from a referee.

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LANGLANDPAGE1

to commercialize licensed technology” as intended. Langland apparently took control of the company’s finances soon after.

From there, Langland began inappropriately billing USC for supposed consultation work done on SysEDA projects. SysEDA invoices sent to the university would include fees for a consultant unnamed in the indictment, but the identity was “merely an alias” for Blake Langland. In doing so, Langland made SysEDA “essentially ... a pass-through entity for [Langland] to route grant money from USC” to his own company, Design-IT.

In submitting invoices for consultation

performed by Design-IT, Langland was able to receive money from the university for work he and other employees had already performed on the university, ONR-funded project. SysEDA partners were apparently unaware of the amount of money flowing into Design-IT from the university.

The indictment states that USC was billed for one item Langland and Design-IT employees worked on which was entirely separate from projects the university granted funding for and did not benefit the university in any way. Referred to as TEAMS, Langland sold the project to the South Carolina Department of Transportation, which at the time employed a “close family member” of his. Langland also

billed the university, through SysEDA, for time he spent training Design-IT employees.

Though the indictment did not reveal exact numbers, it says that Langland paid his subordinate and student employees “very little” despite billing the university at a significant mark-up for their work.

Jeff Stensland, USC’s associate director for public relations, confirmed that Langland is suspended indefinitely without pay. According to The State, Langland’s indictment was handed down in late June but not announced until last week.

The State reported July 19 that Langland was freed on a \$50,000 bond the day after his indictment was announced.

HEALTHCAREPAGE1

School of Business, said, “[This] is simply not an option. It would be a huge strategic error on the part of Republicans.”

Hartwig continued: “The idea of just letting Obamacare fail as the president has stated, is not something that I think is going to resonate with voters. Voters will say you have had two years with control of the House, the Senate and the White House and you have had a total of a decade to develop an alternative and you are going to say that you

can’t do anything about it?”

Neither legislative option seems to have enough support in the Senate to pass. Republicans may have to fend with the understanding that they will be held accountable for premiums continuing to rise and insurers continuing to fall out of the exchanges. Keeping the 2018 midterm elections in mind, the Republicans may have to work with Democrats to negotiate reforms to the ACA.

In an increasingly partisan era of politics, a compromise may

sound odd, but this is how legislation has been historically developed in this country. The ACA was put together with very little Republican input and now, it seems, both sides are going to have to come together and work out the issues that everyone sees as problematic.

“I think we’re fast approaching that the only option is going to be for Republicans and Democrats to sit down together and to develop a workable solution that addresses the problems in the Affordable Care Act,” Hartwig said.

SEINERPAGE1

As for how the Court’s procedural law would affect workers just entering the labor force, Seiner simply said, “It makes it tougher.”

“The requirements and the direction the Supreme Court has proceeded under for the last 10 years and direction that it appears to be heading in the future, given the current makeup of the Court, makes it far more difficult for somebody entering the workforce

to bring these types of claims,” Seiner said. “And it’s always more difficult for a new worker, because you’re just getting your career started and if you’ve been harassed or you’ve been discriminated against, you might have some reluctance to bring these claims.”

Released Friday as an e-book, “The Supreme Court’s New Workplace” will be available in hardcover and paperback on August 31.

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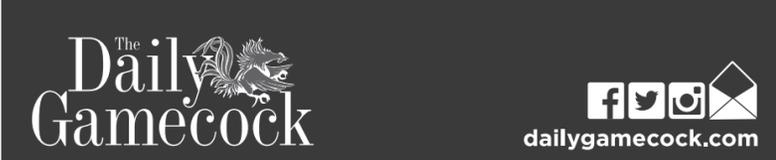
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Courtesy of Universal Pictures

## Reel Talk: Feminism falters in face of unoriginality, sexism

### “Atomic Blonde”

**Director:** David Leitch  
**Runtime:** 1 hour 55 minutes  
**Release Date:** July 28

C+

Rachel Pittman  
 @RACHELCPITTMAN

“Atomic Blonde” opens with one of American history’s most famous moments, setting the stage

for filmic ‘80s mayhem with Reagan’s 1987 Berlin Wall speech. Just after the iconic “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall,” though, the screen goes dark, and text marked

with rebellious green spray paint informs the audience that “Atomic Blonde” is not “that story,” attempting to separate the tale of the “atomic” and blonde MI6 agent Lorraine Broughton (Charlize Theron) from that of the Reagan doctrine, the Cold War and ‘80s conservatism.

Structured as a series of flashbacks, most of the film is devoted to Broughton recounting the triumphs and failures of her mission to save

a critical list of double agents from Communist hands and detailing her involvement with British station chief David Percival (James McAvoy) and French agent Delphine (Sophia Boutella). Listening to her complicated tale of intrigue are her MI6 superior (Toby Jones) and a CIA head (John Goodman). After Broughton finishes her narrative, the film’s timeline becomes linear for a third

SEEATOMICPAGE6

## Theater celebrates legendary director

**What:** “Stop Making Sense” // Sound & Vision  
**Where:** The Nickelodeon, 1607 Main St.  
**When:** July 29, 10:30 p.m.  
**Tickets:** \$11

Jenna Schiferl  
 @JENNASCHIF

Jonathan Demme was the iconic filmmaker responsible for the creation of many American cult classic films, including “The Silence of the Lambs,” “Philadelphia” and “Rachel Getting Married.” He also produced numerous documentaries highlighting artists such as Justin Timberlake, Bruce Springsteen and Kenny Chesney.

The Nickelodeon Theatre is paying tribute to Demme’s life and career in conjunction with a nationwide Art House Theatre “Celebrate Demme” event. The latest installment of the Sound & Vision series will feature one of Demme’s lesser known films, “Stop Making Sense.” The documentary follows The Talking Heads in 1984 just after they reached major commercial success with the album “Speaking in Tongues,” featuring the wildly popular single “Burning Down the House.”

Marketing coordinator at the Nick, Pauline Arroyo, explained why the film was selected to be included in the Sound & Vision series.

“Stop Making Sense, the legendary Talking Heads concert film, was chosen for our Sound & Vision series partly because of its iconic status as a film that defined a genre and partly in honor of the passing of the film’s director, Jonathan Demme,” Arroyo said. “The Sound & Vision series aims to screen films that exemplify the marriage between music and film, and we felt that Jonathan Demme and especially Stop Making Sense fit that theme to a T.”

On July 29 the Nick will screen “Stop Making Sense” with a performance from Columbia-based, experimental punk band Ugly Chords.

“The Ugly Chords are strongly influenced by Talking Heads and are an active and inclusive band in the Columbia Music scene,” Arroyo said. “One of the cornerstones of the Sound & Vision series is to give a platform to these types of local bands and to demonstrate the ongoing connection between different artists across eras, genres, and location.”

Upcoming films to be included in the series are: “Madonna: Truth or Dare,” “Decline of Western Civilization Part 1” and “Soul Power.”

## The ultimate road trip playlist



Courtesy of Kacie Tomita

Zoe Nicholson  
 @ZOENICHOLSON127

Road trips. They can be the stuff of nightmares: flat tires, irritable car-mates, and constant bathroom breaks. But road trips can be great, they can be filled with laughter, guilty pleasure gas station snacks and winding conversations that last for hours — and it all has to do with music.

A great road trip playlist is crucial to the whole “journey not the destination” logic behind days-long trips across country or a necessary drive

to school. Many types of playlists exist, you can go the nostalgia route with lots of 90s rock tunes and hip hop from the 2000’s that transport you back to middle school dances, you can go the existential route, where soft ballads and broody grunge dudes lull you into a philosophical state that helps the dull hours in the car pass by.

The following playlist is a bit different, songs that make you want to do that arm wave thing out of the window and imagine you’re in an indie film from five years ago. I hope you enjoy and I hope you listen:

TITLE	ARTIST
+ Bob Marley	Grizfolk
+ Young Dumb & Broke	Khalid
+ Sedona	Houndmouth
+ leaves	Miguel
+ Reverend	Kings of Leon
+ So Young	Portugal. The Man
+ County Line	Susto
+ Mixtape 2003	The Academic
+ Springsteen	Eric Church
+ Carolina	Harry Styles
+ Alaska	Maggie Rogers

PLAYLIST CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

ATOMICPAGE5

act in which the agent untangles the complicated plot and saves the day. The resolution makes way for a twist finish that drives home a pro-America, anti-Red posture not too far off from the worldview of the '80s conservatism that the film's opening disclaimer seemingly eschews.

On the surface, David Leitch's graphic novel-based spy movie is as cool as the Berlin air that surrounds its main characters. The icy-yet-sensual leading lady, excessive closeups of lips on cigarettes and tumblers of vodka — Soviet brand Stolichnaya vodka, to be exact — and constant moody blue lighting make for a sophisticated vibe that lives up to the highest expectations of the secret agent genre. An all-eighties soundtrack plays through the film without rhyme or reason, adding a continual, impersonal, synth-pop sound to Broughton's escapades.

In terms of both scene construction and cinematography, the technical skill of the film's many fight scenes is as cutting edge as the mise-en-scène. Due to Leitch's former career as a stunt double and partial direction of "John Wick," the greatest strength of "Atomic Blonde" lies in the sequences when characters come to blows. The fight choreography and Jonathan Sela's camera work combine to give fight scenes a visceral feel. The use of unique settings and weapons keep audience members engaged, and it's just plain entertaining to watch Broughton's capers on the big screen. Regarding the various elements of filmic style, "Atomic Blonde" is not quite the '80s, but is instead a sleek and advanced version with heightened cool.

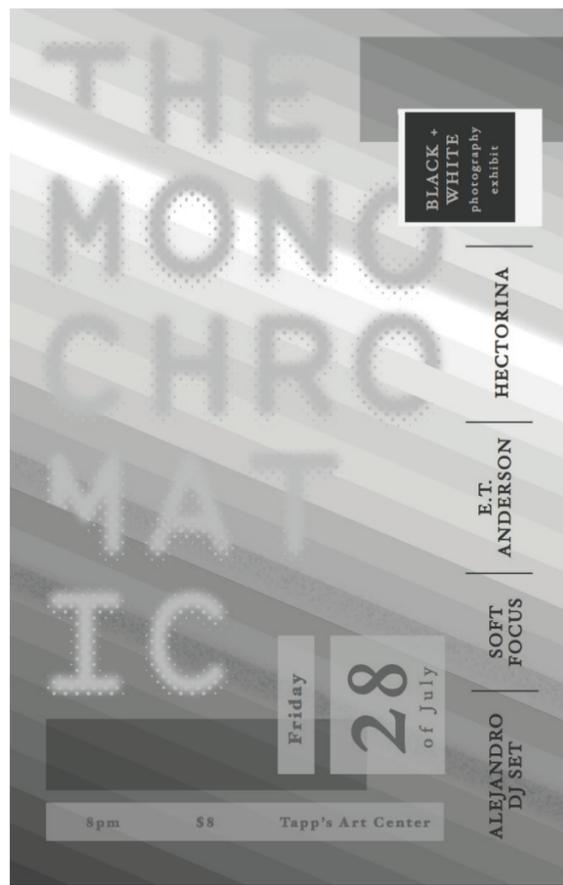
Taking a look at the values behind "Atomic Blonde," however, yields a different — and more dated — result. In the end of the film, it's Agent Broughton (who may be more of an American girl than it seems at first appearance), Goodman's CIA chief and the good old

U.S.A. who are victorious. While the film briefly nods at anti-authoritarianism with McAvoy's punkish character and a scene with Public Enemy's "Fight The Power," overall it's a nationalist film, attempting to bring the hyper-patriotism of many conservatives in the '80s into 2017. In short, "Atomic Blonde" sees the world from the perspective of the middle-aged conservative viewer — one who voted Reagan-Bush and who still believes that America reigns supreme over other nations' attempts to either aid or destroy its red-blooded soil.

In addition to nationalism, there is another criterion of this imaginary '80s conservative from whom "Atomic Blonde" draws its inspiration — heterosexual manhood. The film is as pro-male as it is pro-America in terms of worldview, thanks largely to the blonde centerpiece of its title. Often objectified, Broughton is a sort of Bond Girl who also manages to knock out some bad guys and eventually save the day. Rather than focus on Broughton's capabilities as an agent, the film focuses on her infinite collection of lacy lingerie, her penchant for using sexuality to do her job and a fling that she has with a fellow female agent — male-gaze-dominated sex scene between the two included. Unlike male secret agents of similarly-made films, Broughton encounters numerous setbacks and accidental, unnecessary casualties, and is nude or scantily clad for one too many scenes. The presence of a female lead in "Atomic Blonde" does little to cancel out its sexism, coloring the film with a dangerously subtle misogyny.

Viewers can see this film for the smooth tunes and action scenes, or stay home and skip the dated worldview. "Atomic Blonde" looks good on the surface, but suffers internally from hyper-Americanism and sexism that stays decades behind its smooth-as-silk exterior — making its impact on this summer's blockbuster lineup somewhat less than atomic.

# Tapp's to experiment with color in exhibit



Jenna Schiferl @JENNASCHIF

A long-time venue for many artistic outlets, Tapp's Art Center will continue to live up to its eccentric reputation this weekend as a "laboratory for social engagement" by hosting The Monochromatic.

Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased online through Tapp's Art Center; the event begins at 9 p.m. According to organizer and showrunner Lee Garrett, The Monochromatic is an "immersive art live music environment." It will be an evening of lucid experiences in a setting devoid of color.

"The feeling for the evening, an absence of color, attempts to remind us how little it takes to excite an active imagination," Garrett said.

Garrett has organized similar events in the past while managing Scenario, a Columbia arts collective. Last year, the group ran eight shows and two galleries.

On July 28, The Monochromatic will feature local bands including Soft Focus and E.T. Anderson, as well as Charlotte-based, progressive indie group Hectorina.

In addition to live music, The Monochromatic will include projections, art installations and a black and white gallery featuring three local photographers.

"Creativity is an intersectional study," Garrett said. "We're connecting the pieces to make photography feel like music and sound like installation art. We believe inspiration is a state of being, and by exposing diverse media to a curious and excited audience, hopefully we can all start cross-pollinate each other's ideas."



## PLAYLIST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

TITLE	ARTIST
Raising Hands Raising Hell Raise 'em High	The Wind and The Wave
Redbone	Childish Gambino
Rollercoaster	Bleachers
Cold Little Heart - Radio Edit	Michael Kiwanuka
The Less I Know The Better	Tame Impala
American Girl	Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
Left Hand Free	alt-J
Drifting In and Out	Porcelain Raft
Supercut	Lorde
Sprawl II (Mountains Beyond Mountains)	Arcade Fire



## Top-5 scorer to visit Carolina

### Frank Martin looks to expand squad with a potential elite transfer from Southern Utah

Adam Orfinger  
@AORFINGER

With one scholarship open for the 2017-18 season, the South Carolina men's basketball team has a chance to add one of the country's elite scorers.

According to a report from FanRag Sports' Jon Rothstein, Randy Onwuasor, who averaged 23.6 points per game last season at Southern Utah, will visit South Carolina on Aug. 4. Rothstein was the nation's fifth-leading scorer as a redshirt junior in 2016-17.

Onwuasor could become the second graduate transfer to join this South

Carolina team, along with FAU transfer Frank Booker.

The 6-foot-3, 210-pound wing had the third-most field goal attempts (619) in the nation last season, though Southern Utah struggled, finished 6-27. Despite the high usage rate, Onwuasor averaged 3.2 assists per game, to go along with 6.6 rebounds and 1.5 steals.

Onwuasor spent his first two seasons at Texas Tech coming off the bench. In his final season in Lubbock, Onwuasor recorded 4.2 points and 2.7 rebounds per game while averaging 18.2 minutes.



Yangxing Ding / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

## How high can Gamecocks fly in upcoming season?

Adam Orfinger  
@AORFINGER

The goal, of course, for every college football team every season is to win a national championship, but that's more reasonable for some programs than others.

Unfortunately for the

Gamecock nation, we can't expect that for South Carolina this season. The Gamecocks are looking to put together their first winning regular season campaign since 2013 and build upon a surprising bowl appearance last year.

While a 15-0 season and a

national title appear to be out of reach, USC is expected to take the next step this fall in Will Muschamp's second season at the helm.

But what's the ceiling?

SEEGAMECOCKSPAGE8

## USC anticipates first evening opener since 2015



South Carolina's home opener gained even more hype Tuesday when the SEC announced that the Gamecocks matchup against Kentucky will kick off at 7:30 p.m.

In the conference's release, it was announced that the game will be broadcast on the SEC Network. USC's first two games of the year will be shown on ESPN and ESPN2, respectively.

This will be the first night home opener since 2015, when the Gamecocks suffered a 26-22 loss to Kentucky. USC will be looking to snap a three-game skid against the Wildcats.

— Compiled by Adam Orfinger

Sarah Stone / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

## Muschamp claims 4 recruits, including first from class of 2019



Adam Orfinger  
@AORFINGER

The Gamecocks won't be able to secure their first true win until September, but Will Muschamp certainly won on the recruiting trail over the last week.

Muschamp got commitments from four players, including South Carolina's first pledge for the 2019 class.

It all started Saturday with 2018 offensive tackle Jesus Gibbs. A Virginia native, Gibbs picked the Gamecocks from his final 10, which also featured Clemson, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Boston College, Maryland, Rutgers, Connecticut, West Virginia and Navy.

Gibbs told The State that he was impressed by all aspects of USC, from "the campus to the academics to the football to the atmosphere and to the coaching."

Gibbs is the fifth offensive lineman in the Gamecocks' 2018 class, joining Chapin's Hank Manos, Lugoff's Wyatt Campbell, Tennessee's Maxwell Iyama and Georgia's LaMarius Tenssee.

Even with the 2018 class in the works, Muschamp's brought attention to the 2019 class Saturday as well, thanks to the commitment of linebacker Ahdarrious Gee.

Gee, a Georgia native, recorded 208 tackles during his sophomore season last fall, earning him offers from other SEC powers in Kentucky and Auburn. The

Leland McElveen / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

SEERECRUITSPAGE8

GAMECOCKSPAGE7

With the explosive potential of Jake Bentley and all the weapons around him, no particular opponent (not even the defending national champions) feels 100 percent unbeatable for the Gamecocks, at least before we see the team take the field. However, fans can't expect USC to take down Clemson, Florida and Arkansas at home in addition to topping Texas A&M, Georgia and Tennessee in enemy territory.

It is, however, reasonable to expect the Gamecocks to improve in 2017, now that Bentley has gone through an entire offseason as the starter and Muschamp has been given more time to implement his system and get his guys into the locker room.

USC does have a shot in what is expected to be a wide open SEC East, but success can be measured in different ways. Several players have appeared on preseason award watch lists, and no Gamecock has won a national award since Jadeveon Clowney in 2012.

USC can also hope to move up a tier in bowl games. The Gamecocks' last two bowl appearances have been at the Independence (2014) and

Birmingham (2016) bowls, the least prestigious bowls that feature SEC teams. A step in the right direction would be an appearance in the next tier, such as the Liberty, Music City or Gator bowls.

But to do that, it'll be about the Gamecocks' record.

As was the case last season, starting 4-0 isn't out of the question. Though USC will face three Power 5 opponents in the first four weeks, they come in the form of NC State, Missouri and Kentucky, who combined for an 18-20 record in 2016. The Gamecocks didn't start 4-0 last season however, turning in anemic offensive performances in road losses to Mississippi State and Kentucky on the way to a 2-2 month.

The first two weeks will be telling for USC, as the team's two biggest perceived weaknesses will be tested. In Charlotte against NC State, the reshuffled Gamecock offensive line will match up with a stout defensive front. The following week, the USC defense will face a tough early test on the road against Missouri, facing one of the SEC's most effective offenses, led by quarterback Drew Lock.

Playing both of those games

away from home certainly won't help — the Gamecocks won just one game outside Columbia last season, but it was the season opener. Fans can't ignore USC's neutral-site season-opening win over North Carolina in 2015, ahead of a 3-9 season. Winning the opener is obviously important, and it can set the tone, but we won't have all the answers by Labor Day.

However, the ceiling for the first four games is still 4-0, but it isn't as high after that.

The tough stretch starts with a trip to College Station to take on Texas A&M, a matchup that the Aggies have won every season since becoming USC's permanent crossover opponent before the 2014 season. The Gamecocks will return to Columbia to take on an underrated Arkansas team, led by possibly the best quarterback in the SEC, Austin Allen.

After a bye week, USC will head to Knoxville to take on Tennessee, a matchup that has provided thrilling games over the last several years. The Vols certainly have less talent than their 2016 team, but as Butch Jones tries to save his job and avenge last year's upset loss in Columbia, a trip to Neyland Stadium won't be

easy.

It's tough to imagine the Gamecocks taking all three of these games, and it feels like a three-week stretch that will likely feature one win. USC could be good for an upset, as was the case last season, but if it walks like 1-2 and talks like 1-2, the best case scenario is probably 1-2.

After the bye week, the Gamecocks will stay home to face Vanderbilt, who is expected to be in the SEC East cellar. Back-to-back big games follow, though, as USC will face Georgia on the road before returning to Columbia to take on the two-time defending division champion Florida Gators.

Once they get back from Gainesville, the Gamecocks will have what should be a win against Wofford (need I remind you of the 2015 Citadel game?) before the regular season finale Palmetto Bowl.

As I said earlier, no one is unbeatable, but it feels like USC is still one year away from getting over the hump against that team from the Upstate. Georgia and Florida are expected to be the division's top teams, and both beat the Gamecocks handily in 2016, but neither has a proven quarterback for the upcoming season.

At SEC Media Days, Deebo Samuel said he felt the Gamecocks could outscore anyone in a shootout, and it's good for USC that he might be right, as the defense is unproven. In a game against Florida or Georgia that could open up a bit, USC should be able to snag a win.

That brings USC's best case regular season scenario to 8-4, which would be another improvement for the Gamecocks. It would also put them into that next tier of bowl games for the SEC, while continuing to gain ground on the recruiting trail.

RECRUITSPAGE7

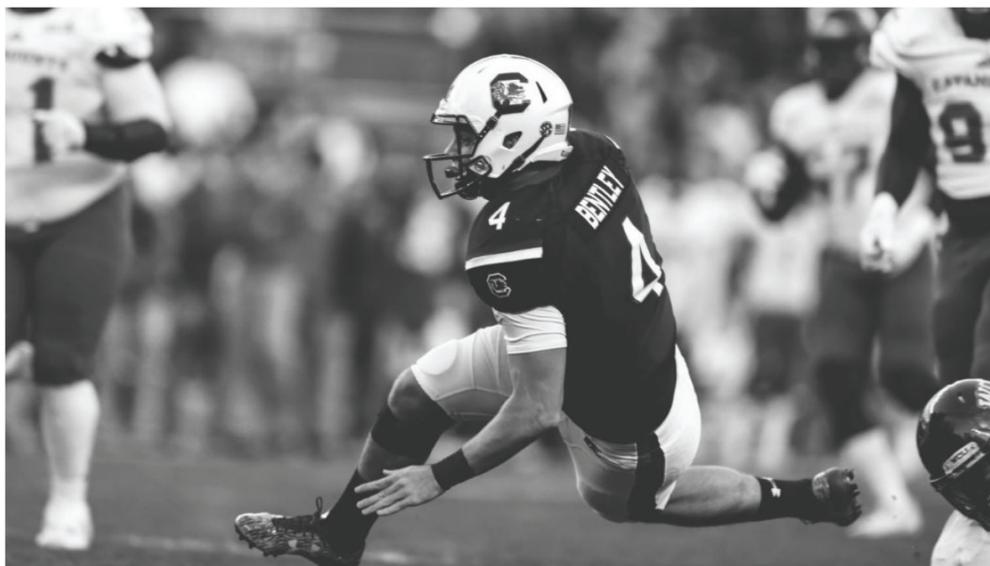
6-foot-1, 190-pound linebacker told The State he feels at home at USC, and that he's excited to play for Muschamp and defensive coordinator Travaris Robinson.

The Gamecocks picked up their third and final commit of Saturday at their Spurs Up cookout, where wide receiver Tyquan Johnson made his decision. Johnson was just offered by the Gamecocks in June, committing within a month despite strong interest in Mississippi State and West Virginia.

A Georgia native, Johnson racked up 822 yards and 13 touchdowns on 32 catches last season. Johnson's relationship with wide receivers coach Bryan McClendon was a big factor in his decision, as McClendon began recruiting Johnson, then a freshman, when he was still at Georgia.

The good news spread into the week too, as the Gamecocks nabbed junior college wide receiver and Irmo native Ronnie Jamison.

For Jamison, playing for USC is a dream come true, but the road wasn't easy, as the Gamecocks didn't recruit the local standout out of high school. Jamison played all over the field at Irmo before settling as a receiver at Highland Community College, where he caught 17 passes for 227 yards and a pair of touchdowns last season.



Lauren Simmons / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

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## Cutting IRS funding only helps tax frauds

**Dan Nelson**

Third-year public health student

Few people sincerely enjoy paying taxes.

At best, it's a begrudging understanding that not doing so will land you in a federal prison. It's money out of your paycheck that you could spend on other things. To help pay off student loans, to make rent for that month or maybe even buy a new TV.

However, taxes are undoubtedly an important facet of our nation and government. Taxes pay for roads, public schools, first responders and the military. Taxes, at the end of the day, help make this country what it is.

Still, many Americans harbor ill will against taxes and the requirement to pay them. Many feel that taxes are too high, and calls for "no new taxes" or lowering taxes are generally popular political moves.

Even so, regardless of tax rate, an agency must exist to enforce and collect taxes. The Internal Revenue Service fills this role and, for its trouble, it bears the ire of most Americans. Yet, cutting revenue for the IRS, as Republican politicians are doing, is not the proper way to express a dislike of taxes; in fact, such a move is costly to the American people. The IRS has no control over the tax rate, only tax collection. Cutting IRS funding harms honest Americans who pay taxes and inefficiently strips revenue from the government to the detriment of all.

Since 2010, Republican lawmakers have been leading the charge in cutting the IRS's share of appropriation from the federal budget. This makes sense, right? Wouldn't defunding the IRS cut taxes?

The answer is no, but it might help if you plan on committing tax fraud.

The IRS only functions to enforce tax code. It collects your taxes, but has no say in how much you pay. Let's look at it this way: When you go to the store for groceries and get upset at the price,

do you blame the cashier? No, because what do they have to do with the price of groceries? All the cashier does is make sure you pay the right amount for your groceries, they don't control the price tag. If the cashier messes up and charges you too much, the logical next step would be to ask a manager to help fix the issue.

You could also decide not pay and just walk out of the store, in which case the loss prevention officer might want a word with you.

The IRS functions in all of these roles: collecting taxes, working to fix mistakes and enforcing tax code. Cutting the IRS's funding will not lower your taxes, but it will lower government revenue and spending. The spending section in particular has enthralled congressional Republicans. Like sharks to blood, they love nothing more than cutting the spending of an unpopular agency.

However, this is not fiscal conservatism; this is fiscal idiocy.

The IRS estimates that for every dollar spent on the IRS, the IRS returns four to the government in revenue. Therefore, cutting IRS spending actually loses the government money to the tune of roughly "\$7-8 billion a year." In the words of IRS commissioner John Koskinen, "the government is forgoing billions to achieve budget savings of a few hundred million dollars."

This, believe it or not, should enrage you as an American taxpayer. That lost revenue is not coming from you — rather, it is coming from those who commit tax fraud. The IRS can and regularly does catch those committing tax fraud, yet it can only catch those whose taxes are properly reviewed.

With a lower budget, the IRS has to cut staff, and fewer staff means fewer people reviewing tax forms. This can lead to a slump in tax compliance, and even "a one-percent decline in the compliance rate translates into \$30 billion in lost revenue for the government." So, while you might be paying your share, others might be shrinking from this civil obligation — to their benefit and to your detriment. These cheaters benefit from the same public goods paid for by your taxes, while they keep the money that they should've paid.

There are other negatives to cutting the IRS budget, namely how it impacts their ability to provide support in filing taxes and fixing mistakes made by either them or the taxpayer. A 2014 Government Accountability Office report found that cutting the IRS's funding, as well as a few inefficiencies

within the agency, has led to an "imbalance between service and demand [that] has adversely affected operations."

To that end, the IRS has had trouble providing basic assistance to taxpayers, "while taxpayers waited an average of 10.8 minutes when they called the IRS seven years ago, that wait had grown to nearly 17 minutes in 2014." Furthermore, "the agency is so short-staffed it cannot answer nearly 40 percent of phone calls, and it has failed to meet its own 45-day deadline to respond to millions of letters per year from taxpayers."

This means that if you have issues with your taxes, you may not be able to receive the help you need and deserve. Nearly 90 percent of Americans receive some form of help filing their taxes already, meaning if you need to reach out to the IRS, you're probably already in a bad spot and out of other options.

With proper staffing proving impossible due to budget cuts, this problem will not be getting better anytime soon. If you thought it couldn't get any worse, though, look no farther than Trump's proposed budget, which would strip the already troubled agency of a further \$239 million dollars.

If you remember the IRS's estimated one to four ratio from earlier, would cost the government potentially close to a billion dollars in lost revenue. Even Trump's own Treasury Secretary disagrees with him on this cut.

Lost revenue aside, the budget cut would again hurt the agency's support system, somehow making what already amounts to a nightmare worse. This, combined with Trump's insistence in lowering taxes and drastically expanding the military budget, is part of the reason the Congressional Budget Office found that his plan would not, by any means, balance the federal budget.

In the end, this plan of further cuts would only increase the tax gap and decrease the ability of the IRS to help out taxpayers when issues arise. Regardless of your opinion of the IRS, "in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." As the IRS will be around as long as the government exists, it should be important to all taxpayers that it functions at peak efficiency. Otherwise, tax dodgers will continue to benefit from your hard work and your money.

We owe it to ourselves and this country to pay no more and no less than what we are required to; without a functioning IRS, this will prove impossible.

## Democrats need to refocus by 2018

**Bryce Wilson**

Second-year finance student

Senator Charles Schumer, the Senate minority leader and top Democrat in the country, had some harsh things to say to former Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Schumer commented on her election loss, stating: "When you lose to somebody who has a 40 percent popularity, you don't blame others—Comey, Russia-- you blame yourself."

The Senator continued on to say that his party lacked clarity on its platform: "People didn't know what we stood for, just that we were against Trump."

The Democratic party appears to be more out of touch with their base than ever before. Many Democrats are hopeful for the midterms as a way to turn back the red tide that has resulted in a Republican-controlled House, Senate and White House. But what do they stand for besides opposing Trump?

We know the Democrats vehemently oppose Trumpcare, as most Americans do — the bill only has a 17 percent approval rating. But that is not a party platform. It's just opposing the legislation of the opposite party. What is the official policy for the Democrats involving healthcare? Some of the more socialist members want the country to move to a single-payer system like those used in the UK and Canada, while others want the party to stand by the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare.

If the Democrats hope to make any headway in the 2018 midterms what they need most is clarity, and that clarity cannot come from just opposing the President. At times even the President's own party opposes him, so the Democrats can't stand out just on that. They need to reassure their base of the party's principles, and to do that they first need to figure out what they are.

The Democrats are going through a civil war of sorts: Classical tax-and-spend

Democrats such as Clinton and Schumer are the establishment, the old guard of the party, while millennials stimulated by Bernie Sanders' 2016 run represent a new direction for the party, a move towards socialism.

This lack of clarity, principles and leadership have not only hurt the Democrats in the election this past November, but also in fundraising this summer. The RNC doubled the amount of money raised by the DNC in May. It seems that sometimes, although people may not be big fans of Trump, they prefer to donate to his party instead of the Democrats.

Whether it was Comey, Russian collusion or just the candidate being Hillary Clinton, if the Democrats hope to move past the election in November and bring about change in 2018 the party is going to have to decide what they stand for.

And come up with a better slogan than "Democrats: I mean, have you seen the other guys?"

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### Taurus

Things may not go as planned. Stay on solid ground. Family comes first. Listen to someone you love and respect. Share feelings. All ends well.

### Gemini

Exotic details beautify your home. Goodness comes from afar. Something you try doesn't work; don't force it, or risk breakage. Go for long-lasting quality.

### Cancer

Clever solutions arise through communications. Stick to practical objectives, despite breakdowns. Keep steady momentum without pushing too hard. Listen closely to your network.

### Leo

Make profitable connections. Social interactions lead to business buzz and new income. Adapt as you go. Pay attention to avoid errors that require retraction.

### Virgo

Creative expression flowers. Things may not end up as envisioned; flow with changes, and the results may surprise you. Have patience. Use a gentle touch.

### Libra

Contemplate long-term plans. Obstacles block the road, and force only makes it worse. Wait for better conditions. Rituals and comforts soothe your spirit.

### Scorpio

Teamwork binds like magical glue. Listen to each other patiently to resolve a breakdown. Don't push or you could trample someone. Find a long-term solution.

### Sagittarius

Envision your target, and let people know what you're aiming for. Advance your career through your networks and connections. Discuss possibilities.

### Capricorn

Travel and explore, either through personal experience or another's view. Discuss options and possible routes. Others have interesting perspectives. Reconnect with distant friends.

### Aquarius

Advance your plans for shared finances. Save for an investment or purchase. Discuss insurance or legal matters. Consider economic impacts to your family.

### Pisces

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Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

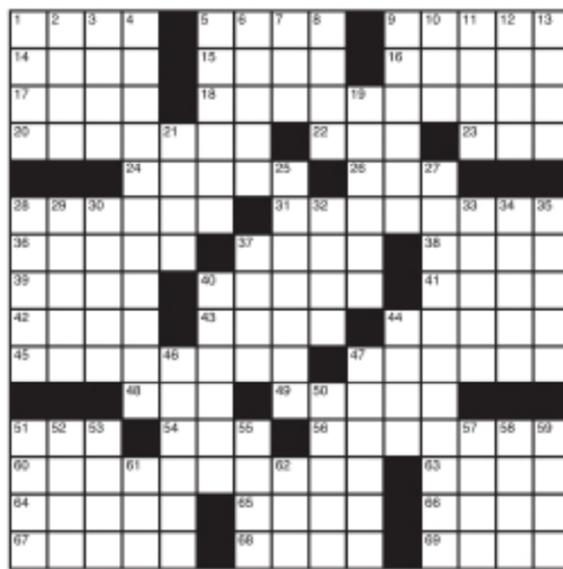
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### ACROSS

- Understand, in slang
- Greek liqueur
- Time-traveling TV character
- Strauss of denim
- Hair salon sound
- Setting for much of "Moana"
- Final bio
- "Too bad we have to throw out this uneaten food"
- Asian noodle dish
- Bro kin
- Earl Grey, e.g.
- Shrill barks
- Word with room or center
- Storied
- They may need breaking in
- Bitter-tasting
- Sioux City state
- Doing nothing
- Small IOU
- Muppet who loves this puzzle's four longest answers?
- Astronaut Armstrong
- With perfection
- Blueprint
- Chevy muscle car
- Condition caused by 31-Across, at times
- Snake warnings
- Darling of baseball
- Holey kitchen gadget
- Rooter for the Bulldogs
- Bro or sis
- Bennie's band, in an Elton John hit
- Hurlis competitive insults
- D-Day beach
- "I swear!"
- Lotion additive
- One of Emeril's New Orleans eateries
- Test one's metal



- Many a Punjabi
- Was positive

### DOWN

- Yucky guck
- First name in country music
- Roman poet exiled by Augustus
- Pet product also used for tire traction
- Disney's Lucky Rabbit
- Behind the times
- New Mexico tribe with a Sun symbol
- Goes (for)
- Searches for water
- Color TV pioneer
- Way to go, per Horace Greeley
- More than dislike
- Draft category
- Conflict with planes
- Listen to
- Ski resort vehicles
- Taiwan Strait vessel
- Trivia quiz fodder



- "There, there"
- Sicilian World Heritage Site
- Mekong River land
- Misfortunes
- Bikini tops
- Kind of collar or jacket
- Story
- "Pygmalion" playwright
- Bicycle maker turned automotive giant
- Baba
- Blessing preceder
- Prickly shrub
- McGregor of TV's "Fargo"
- "Golden Boy" playwright
- A-listers
- Tennis great Monica
- Iona, for one
- Christmas encouragement
- "... la France?"
- "Woman in the Mists" subject Dian
- [Snicker]



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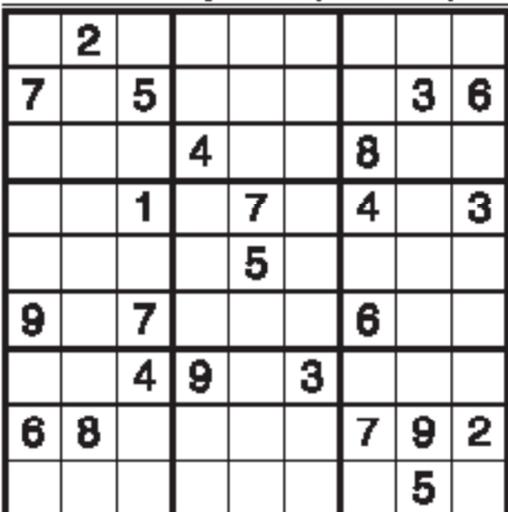


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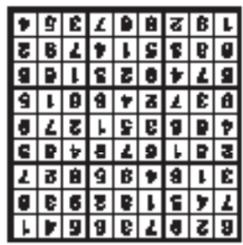
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