End of pledging?

T. Michael Boddie

Potential ban raises concerns

University of South Carolina

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The possible ban was initially discussed because of the majority of violations of fraternities and sororities. USC officials have proposed an end to pledging periods and sanctions the university chapters of fraternities and sororities. Fraternity chapters’ ability to conduct themselves without policy violations is called into question because the majority of them have been either suspended or placed on probation within the last three school years. In the 2015-16 school year, eight fraternities were sanctioned for misconduct, and in the year prior, a pledge died of alcohol poisoning. The State reports.

Most violations are alcohol-, drug- or hazing-related. This year, for instance, was one that attempted to address the health risks and even the deaths of certain students pledging for health and safety reasons. Thepledging periods can last for several weeks — up to three months. Fraternity members can dedicate the allotted time to having their pledges engage in various activities that are in violation of conduct codes or harmful to the pledges. Jerry Brewer, associate vice president for Student Affairs and Academic Support, hopes to keep future pledges from hurting or risking their safety in the process of becoming a fraternity brother. He also believes that if USC implements the ban, it could be an act of leadership for at least the rest of the Southeastern Conference.

The SEC, on a time, we can solve some things because the SEC has the same prominence with fraternities and sororities as it is with athletics — we might lay a big egg. Brewer said.

Tuition increase highest in 5 years

Caroline Colbert

The Board of Trustees approved a tuition increase of 3.25 percent on Friday, which is the largest increase the university has seen in five years. For the 2015-16 academic year, with a median residency in South Carolina paid up to $11,482 in tuition fees, and non-South Carolina students paid up to $34,294. Starting in the fall of 2016, resident tuition will cost $11,481 and out-of-state tuition will cost $31,283. This is a $1,080 increase for out-of-state students.

The State reported that other private four-year colleges in South Carolina have approved similar tuition increases. Clemson increased tuition by 1.34 percent for in-state students and a staggering 4.7 percent for out-of-state students, who make up about one-third of the student population.

College of Charleston and Coastal Carolina hiked up tuition by 1.5 percent and 3.29 percent, respectively. State funding for USC and other public higher education outlets has steadily decreased since the 1980s and took another big hit after the Great Recession. In 2007, funding from the state accounted for 35 percent of USC’s budget — over twice as much as the merger between USC and the University of South Carolina.


Clyburn helps lead sit-in protest in US House

Ben Turner

After being ruled out of order twice by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan for bringing up gun legislation, U.S. Representative Jim Clyburn (D-SC) decided it was time to try a different strategy. Last Wednesday, he helped lead a group of Democrats in a sit-in protest on the floor of the House that lasted over 24 hours. The move was designed to protest Ryan’s decision to not allow the House to vote on gun control legislation after the largest mass shooting in U.S. history took place in Orlando.

“We started the week asking the question, ‘When can we get a vote?’ and were shouted down,” Clyburn wrote, “F or ‘ doing the right thing, though not following the rules.’” Clyburn says that USC’s response to violations and student safety concerns is one that is correct in its desire to change for the better, but is also one that does not necessarily admit any guilt in the situation. Considering the lack of support of certain students pledging for Greek organizations, Bryson stresses that all involved in Greek life must lay a big egg. Brewer said.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are the author's and not the University. The Board of Student Publications and Communication makes the decision to publish The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper's parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is sponsored by a paid staff of students. One copy per reader. Additional online sites may be preluded by the E-mail from Student Media.

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Wednesday, June 29, 2016

Inbrief

Benedict president responds to petition

The president of Benedict College responded to an online petition with his own five-page response. WIS reports that the letter, directed towards the student who created the Change.org petition to “Take Back Benedict” in response to a tuition increase, criticized the move. President David H. Swinton argued that the move was necessary to keep the school going, and rejected the idea that a “lack of fiscal discipline” created the need, claiming that a decrease in funding over recent years has left the school in financial trouble. Swinton also said that the student who created the petition should have taken to social media before taking to social media. Swinton did take the time to acknowledge the student’s passion for the school.

— Compiled by Mary Ramsey

Staley, Tanner reflect on Coach Summit’s passing

Following reports on the death of Pat Summitt, former University of Tennessee women’s basketball coach, USC’s own coach Dawn Staley looked up to the SEC leader as a mentor. "I am a huge fan of anyone whose footsteps I would want to follow other than hers," Staley said. Staley’s former coach Dawn Staley was a mentor to her and other players during her college career.

— Compiled by Mary Ramsey

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who in 2014 pressed the general assembly to account for a 3 percent increase in tuition to no avail, told the state that this year’s tuition hike is a small increase. He noted that more than all of the 3.25 percent would account for the pay raise going to faculty and staff this school year.

For in-state students, a 3.25 percent increase would mean paying $373 more than the 2015-16 school year. But for out-of-state and international students, that percentage results in a much greater burden of nearly $1,000.

Rohan Bhandari, a first-year international business student from India, will be at USC for the whole four years. For him, the tuition increase is heavier than it is for most students.

"Even one percent hike is so much for us," Bhandari said. "The population is increasing, and as the population increases they should decrease the tuition.”

Fourth-year English student Zoe Henrikson was unimpressed with the tuition hike in relation to the ever-growing population of students at USC.

"You’d think if we’re adding so many students then it wouldn’t be necessary to raise tuition that drastically," she said.

Pastides told The State that the increase in student population, questioned by Bhandari and Henrikson, is what keeps tuition from being bumped up even higher.

In addition to a tuition hike, USC will increase dining, housing and parking fees. Housing fees will cost 4 percent more than last year, averaging about $5,130 per student. As for parking, students will pay $80 more for garages and $10 more for surface lots for a full year. According to USC, the increased parking fee will account for an improvement in parking facilities, such as better lighting, more cameras and repainted lines.
Podcasts have been steadily increasing in recent popularity, and there are thousands to choose from that cover a wide range of topics. One of the biggest benefits of podcasts over radio is the specific audience to thrive, content directed towards a very niche audience. The Comedy Button is a comedy podcast hosted by five guys from various entertainment companies, who use their wit and experiences to make a hilarious improv show.

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The entrance is modest, and although admission to the park is free, the collection of shells and wildlife is not permitted. Botany Bay, open from sunrise to sunset, is home to one of the top beaches for sea turtle nesting, as well as nesting areas for threatened bird species. The park provides maps complete with directions to the beach and for a driving tour of the property. Ruins of the old plantations are labeled and described in short narratives on the map. The property contains a few fields of crops such as corn, as well as an abundance of sunflowers.

From the parking area, a beautiful half-mile walk along a gravel path, through stunning grasslands and palm trees, leads to the oceanfront. The beach itself is covered in shells—many are hanging from palm trees thanks to other visitors that found and displayed the shells, since they were unable to take them home.

Swimming is not easy as the current is strong, and old roots and shells reside beneath the surface of the water; however, the water is warm and perfect for a brief, ankle-deep escape from the heat. Skeletons of old trees are scattered across the beach, providing excellent photo and climbing opportunities. Besides a few groups taking family or engagement photos, the beach is quiet, and it’s easy to find a secluded location among the palm trees and branches.

Although a slightly longer drive from Columbia than Isle of Palms or Sullivan’s Island, Botany Bay is a guarded treasure of both the history and the wildlife of South Carolina. Visitors will be charmed and awed by the quiet, natural beauty of Botany Bay—as long as they remember not to take the shells.

Evaluate your major:

Is underwater basket weaving really going to give you the career you want?

Summer is also a good time to evaluate the major you have. Figure out if your current path is fulfilling now and will continue to fulfill you in the future. Is your GPA tanking? The major you currently have might be too difficult for the time you are willing to give it. Perhaps there is another major that will help you achieve the same end goals, or maybe those end goals have changed. Without the load of classwork hanging over your head, now is a great time to really be honest with yourself.

Take a last-minute road trip.

Go to that one place you’ve always said you’d go to but have never gotten around to visiting. With all the tips for getting a head-start on preparation for the fall, there is still plenty of time to take that day trip to the beach, the mountains or that one city that you and your friends have always wanted to go. Now is a great time to travel and make memories without the pressure of classwork.
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Alt-right legitimizes bigotry, threatens American progress

The far-right American movement, which has rebranded itself as the Trump campaign and has since become the Tea Party or the Party of Reagan, are the alternative right (alt-right). This movement popularized by Donald Trump has been essentially a conservative movement that thrives on nationalism and xenophobia while questioning foreign policy and fiscal responsibility. While many have written articles regarding the bigotry of Donald Trump, I believe that distinction is less concerning than the legacy of his followers. As many others have said, even if Donald Trump is no longer the foremost topic (or race, or sex, or a Kleinman or a neo-Nazi) he is certainly the No. 1 candidate of those who are.

Trump's alt-right movement formed early in the primary season as a result of his anti-establishment rhetoric and his insistsence on funding his own campaign. The immediate result was a whim that turns up in his movement and that rests all over the country. As the divide intensifies, particularly after the debate, the alt-right picks up more aligned, more disenfranchised Republican voters. As the post of voters supporting the alt-right increased, so did the number of mainstream characteristics in and out of it. The alt-right, right-wing, and those who support it are a broad coalition of voters ranging from moderate Republicans who prefer Trump to Hillary Clinton to radical nationalists in isolationism instead of nationalism. Within this range of middle ground, there are many no-kill shelters that are free of allergies, live in peace with others, and can afford the upkeep — adopting a dog can be beneficial for many men.

Adopting a dog instead of buying one saves a dog's life and improves students' emotional health and some of responsibility. There is no doubt that there are many animal shelters that kill and — in fact, 1.5 million dogs are euthanized each year. However, in many ways, regardless of the death that occurs at shelters that does euthanize can save the lives of dogs that are euthanized. In comparison to those in other parts of the country, there are many no-kill shelters that are free of allergies, live in peace with others, and can afford the upkeep — adopting a dog into your life can be a great experience.

Students benefit from adopting dogs

Grace Batton

On any given sunny Saturday afternoon when you go for a walk on campus, you will most likely find a pup and owner enjoying a stroll along on the lawn of the student dorms. Many in the student population either have or are in want of a dog of their own.

For students who want a dog in college and are capable of the responsibility, adopting an animal is a great option. Many students are free of allergies, live in peace with others, and can afford the upkeep — adopting a dog can be beneficial for many men.

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Linden Atleeck

If you’ve followed news in the last week or two, you’ve probably heard a little bit about the UK. I believe that the decision made by the British government in June to leave the European Union is different from the little-understood, binary-opposition that became the British used to voice their concerns in the first place.

This is not to say that there is no danger. Certainly, it is the first time that the far-right population in Europe (see: Germany, Freedom Party, Greece, Golden Dawn, the UK Independence Party, Greece, Golden Dawn, etc.) doesn’t bode well for the future of a recognizable political order. Or the world. It is not to say that it is not a serious disaster that could happen. As John McCain put it, “This is the will of the people can take you by surprise if you don’t pay enough attention, and, when you pay attention... how to do... over.”

This isn’t an automatic in for Trump on election day. While many of his fans may think that the Brexit was a success for Trump, reality is a bit more complicated. In fact, the world is better off with a stronger, more stable, and less dangerous world, but it is not as simple as that.

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Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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Aries
You’re wondering whether love is even worth it anymore. Venus is making you a hot grumpy. This negative energy is just temporary, so don’t panic. Pretty soon, you’ll be falling in love again, or you’ll revitalize wonderful feelings of connection with a long-lost sweetheart.

Leo
You’re trying to sort out your feelings for someone. Venus is creating some melodrama, and it’s probably hard for you to find your way at the moment. Don’t make any huge decisions. You need more time to get balanced. Avoid giving in to paranoid.

Virgo
You’ll want to take care of someone as Venus makes you feel tender and nurturing. Maybe your honey is going through a rough time, and he or she would appreciate a nice massage and a homemade dinner. Or perhaps a good friend you could use a Libra
A movie opposition is creating some sexual tension for you and something you can’t quite figure out. This person could be your complete opposite, or perhaps he or she holds contrasting political views to yours. You could enjoy an enticing and seductive dance.

Scorpio
Jupiter is reminding you of connection with a childhood sweetheart, perhaps someone you can’t quite touch with this person again. Maybe you’re thinking about a former flame from your college years.

Cancer
Your psychic abilities are enjoying a surge. Venus amplifies your sensitivity. You could pick up on something difficult your radar is powerful. You could pick up on your instincts and dreams through. Pay attention to your sweetheart is going super strong as Venus amplifies your sensitivity.

Sagittarius
You’ll have loads of charisma as Saturn brings you some powerful vibes. You’ll want to take a leadership role of some type at home or at work. You’ll have a great sense of vision, and you’ll know exactly what to be done to make things right.

Capricorn
Venus is bringing up some memories from the old days. Maybe you’re thinking about your childhood sweetheart, considering getting in touch with this person again. Or maybe you’re thinking about a former flame from your college years.

Aquarius
You could develop strong feelings for someone out of the blue. You haven’t fallen in love for a while, so this could be an unusually intense time. Or maybe you’ll just fall in love, and you’ll experience intense physical attraction to someone.

Taurus
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You could develop strong feelings for someone out of the blue. You haven’t fallen in love for a while, so this could be an unusually intense time. Or maybe you’ll just fall in love, and you’ll experience intense physical attraction to someone.

Taurus
You’re trying to sort out your feelings for someone. Venus is creating some melodrama, and it’s probably hard for you to find your way at the moment. Don’t make any huge decisions. You need more time to get balanced. Avoid giving in to paranoid.

Capricorn
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Position preview: Breaking down offensive weapons for 2016 season

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS were hard to come by for the South Carolina football team in 2015, and there is a cloud of uncertainty at the skill positions yet again this season. No receiver returns for 2016 with more than 100 yards receiving, and the leading returner in terms of rushing yardage is quarterback Lorenzo Nunez, who is not expected to be under center much in 2016. There will be plenty of freshmen in prominent roles in the Gamecocks offense this fall, so we’ll get to know a little more about some of the players trabajing with experienced receiver of the SEC’s worst offenses.

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