USC alumni, students advocate for bond bill

Brittany Franceschina

Supporters of USC, including alumni and students, attended the annual Carolina Day event to advocate for the passage of a bond bill for higher education. Participants addressed elected officials — including the newly installed governor — to push for this legislation that would provide funding for the state's deteriorating educational facilities and a new campus for the School of Medicine.

Tommy Preston, USC student body president for the class of ’09 and alumni association president, stressed the importance of the bond bill:

“I think the bond bill is certainly the most critical piece, to make sure that we continue to keep our infrastructure affluent in some regards,” Preston said.

As a millennial, he also empathized with students struggling with rising prices for higher education.

“Tuition costs are impacted based on what the state of South Carolina gives us. The more we talk about that the more we talk about that the more we get legislators connected to the University of South Carolina and to the higher of community of for his entire career so he understands our issues,” Preston said. “He's been a huge advocate for us in the past. If his past actions are any indication of what kind of governor he's going to be for us, I think we all should be looking forward to some great things ahead.”

I would say I'm guardedly optimistic that we’ll get in the discussion we hope to go in.”

Members of Student Government also attended Carolina Day to push for legislation that will benefit the university. Natalie Pita, student body president for the state's Student Government, will be a huge supporter of the university during his time in office.

“So at this point, were just here showing how much of an impact USC has on the state and how important a bond bill is for us and why we think it should happen this year,” Pita said.

Pastides praised Student Government for their recently released student higher education report and honor roll that promotes increased student involvement in state government.

“I think they handled it very professionally, and it made today a little more tangible with respect to what we're trying to accomplish,” Pastides said.

Notably, Gov. Henry McMaster on his first day as governor spoke at the event and took pictures with those in attendance. Many believe McMaster, a former Gamecock, will be a huge supporter of the university in the future.

“He has been deeply connected to the University of South Carolina and to the higher of community of for his entire career so he understands our issues,” Pastides said. “He’s been a huge advocate for us in the past. If his past actions are any indication of what kind of governor he’s going to be for us, I think we all should be looking forward to some great things ahead.”

Unveiled:

Wedding class says “I do” to lucky couple

Kenna Coe

Tuesday night the University of South Carolina's Wedding Planning class revealed the couple selected to have their entire wedding planned by students. After narrowing down five couples, the class decided on John and Nicole Dozier, particularly because of their interesting backstory.

Michael Vinzani, the chapter's chaplain and one of the founding members, said that of the fraternity's main goals is growth.

“I really want those pledges to come in and be like, ‘Wow, I’m a part of something bigger than myself,’ first-year biochemistry student Vinzani said.

Vinzani talked about BYX’s special focus on brotherhood, namely through “cell groups” — small groups of 4-6 brothers who gather for personal discussion and fellowship.

“The guys share life and do life together,” Vinzani said. “That’s what makes us brothers under USC.”

And soon, they might be brothers under USC.
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 are not the university’s. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for $1 each from Student Media.

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“Great prosperity and happiness will be ours and we will serve as a beacon of inspiration for others. We will do our best and we will be our best.”
— S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster on becoming governor

“A nation without borders is not a nation. Beginning today, the United States of America gets back control of its borders.”
— President Donald Trump

“I’m folks back home... they said ‘senator, you committed to us that you’re going to stay in the senate where you were for the re-election,’ and of course, I can’t break that commitment.”
— Sen. Hugh Leatherman, who avoided becoming Lieutenant governor by resigning Tuesday night, just before Gov. Henry McMaster was sworn into office

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Center for Graduate Studies of Columbia, SC
In an age of polarization, Donald Trump was an incredibly divisive candidate. He called his opponent the devil and threatened to jail her were he to win. His antagonism extended not just to Democrats but to just about anyone who stood against him, including trade allies like Mexico and fellow NATO member Turkey. This likely pleased probably the smallest proportion of America’s population since the “Cigarette Bargain” of 1828 installed John Quincy Adams in place of the popular Andrew Jackson. (Note: Russians do seem to be thrilled with Trump’s victory, which means they’re probably the smallest proportion of America’s population since the “Cigarette Bargain” of 1828 installed John Quincy Adams in place of the popular Andrew Jackson.)

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Ringling Bros. circus makes last visit to Columbia

SC native nominated for Oscar

Review: Flaming Lips album not for everyone

Oscar Milady

Release Date: Jan. 13
Artist: Flaming Lips
Label: Warner Bros
Duration: 57 minutes

Jonathan Franklin

Oklahoma-based band The Flaming Lips have never been known for taking on conventional projects. In a lot of ways, they are innominate. In many more, they are just odd. Their newest record, “Oczy Mlody,” is a mixture of both.

Released on Jan. 13, “Oczy Mlody” is the latest in a discography of over 20 albums stretching back to 1986, and it is difficult to say whether the work is a step in progression or just another space for the band to find its own worldview. Whatever the motive, “Oczy Mlody” is not for everyone.

The first track opens with a rather pleasant bass line that blossoms into the mournful “How?” This second song aims at being transcendant, and upon listening, one can actually find themselves lost within the music—if they are willing. This highlights a theme present throughout: One’s own inclination towards the melodies is dependent on his or her own effort in listening. Unless someone is eager to put forth that effort and allow themselves to experience the music as something entirely new, the album won’t have an impact on them at all. Half-glimpses just won’t do.

And perhaps this is where the album finds its biggest fault: It must be dissected, it must be actively listened to, it must be experienced. The latter part of the post reads, “We would like to thank the hundreds of Skittles that were scattered across a highway last week. The Skittles were all red and yellow and the smell ‘W” to them, but Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schmidt said he recognized them as Skittles because of the smell. The Dodge County Sheriff’s Department later posted on Facebook that the Skittles had fallen off a truck. However, it’s the last part of the post that makes this story particularly true.

For this addition in The Daily Gamecock’s quest to find the weirdest possible news to bring your way, we travel to Wisconsin, the land of cheese, snow, Aaron Rodgers, and, of course, rainbow cows.

Our story begins in Dodge County, where hundreds of thousands of Skittles were found scattered across a highway last week. The Skittles were all red and yellow and the smell “W” to them, but Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schmidt said he recognized them as Skittles because of the smell. The Dodge County Sheriff’s Department later posted on Facebook that the Skittles had fallen off a truck. However, it’s the last part of the post that makes this story particularly true.

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WEIRD STORIES: Eat Mor Skittles

SC native nominated for Oscar

Viola Davis is a native of St. Matthews, South Carolina. She was recently nominated for an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her role in “Teresa” Davis is the first African-American woman to score Oscar nominations. She is known for her roles in “The Help,” “How To Get Away with Murder” and “Snatch Squad.” Davis was born in South Carolina, but her family moved to Central Falls, Rhode Island, where she was only two months old.

She studied theatre at Rhode Island College. Davis was named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2012. She is one of six actresses to win an Oscar nomination for less than 15 minutes of screen time. She has said that she prefers performing on stage to screen acting.

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WEIRD STORIES: Eat Mor Skittles

Review: Flaming Lips album not for everyone
SKITTLING

Thousands of red Skittles traveling on a truck to be eaten by cows.

According to a report from CNN, farmers have been using the practice of feeding rejected candy to their cattle for years in order to supply “cheap carbs.” Ki Fanning, a livestock nutritionist with Great Plans Livestock Consulting, told CNNMoney that “(it) is a very good way for producers to reduce feed cost, and to provide less expensive food for consumers.”

Apparently farmers have been doing this for decades, but the practice really kicked off in 2012 following an unexpected path starting from CNN. “It is a viable way to get nutrients in these cattle. The alternative would be to put the candy in a landfill somewhere.”

The plot grew even thicker once it was discovered that Mars Inc., the company that makes Skittles, doesn’t know how the Skittles got there. According to the Associated Press, Linda Kurtz, a corporate environmental manager at Mars, said they sell their unused candy to processors who mix them with other materials to make cattle feed. However, she also said that the plant from which these Skittles came is not one that sells products for animal feed. “We don’t know how it ended up as it did and we are investigating,” Mars told the Associated Press.

And so the mystery behind these read Skittles continues on, and the whole ordeal brought out a variety of responses from light-hearted like our Stuart Goldman’s article in The Huffington Post, “It keeps fat out of our diet,” Waller told Live Science. “It keeps fat material from going out in the landfill, and it’s a good way to get nutrients in these cattle. The alternative would be to put the candy in a landfill somewhere.”

Regardless of the reaction, this story certainly took an unexpected path starting with candy being found on a highway in Wisconsin and ending with the nation learning about a strange animal feeding process for cows. And while eating Skittles might not actually make cows into rainbow cows, at least they will be able to taste the rainbow instead of boring old corn all the time.

Mysticism” sold well and have garnered quite the fanfare without feeling too otherworldly, too unfamiliar.

In the end, a listener consumes music to feel something that resonates with him, and it seems any effort towards resonance has been lost on this album. It’s almost too unique. If they’re ahead of anyone’s time, it is most notably their own. For this reason, the album earns a C.
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Aries
Take on new responsibility, and your status rises. Things may not go as planned, and fast and false beliefs. Secure the ground taken with help from friends.

Taurus
Travel is a distinct possibility. You’re so spurro to motion; virtually or physically, either one. You’re making a good impression. Business may interfere with romance.

Gemini
Changes necessitate budget cuts. Mull it over. Consider your partner’s view when making decisions. Stand up for what’s right. Physical exercise reduces stress.

Cancer
Speed time with someone attractive. Avoid silly arguments. Someone attractive. Let go of the small stuff, and stay in communication. Friendship and love are more important.

Leo
Dig into a big job, and take care with the details. Use your imagination. Flex your creative muscles. Emotional energy drives you.

Virgo
Take care out of fun with friends and family. Relaxations leads to romance. Your sympathy calms another’s anxiety. Soothe and comfort the ones you love.

Libra
Family matters have your focus. Collaborate on a project. Don’t forget an important job. Family. Relaxation is a must. Your sympathy calms another’s anxiety.

Scorpio
Practice your creative skills. Don’t gamble with the project’s vision in any hurry.

Sagittarius
Pass on being a party animal. There’s extra stuff, and stay in communication. Family relaxation. You're not always working. Each mistake leads to deeper understanding. Do the groundwork for untangling success.

Aquarius
Slow down, and take time to contemplate your next move. Gathering with loved ones is highly recommended. Check and balance your memories. Remember what’s really important.

Pieces
Adjust to changes with a group effort. Remain steady, and assume new responsibility. Invite participation. Keep the project’s vision in mind. The groundwork can details together.

Burrito Battle
Poll: Which Tex-Mex chain can claim the best burrito?

Chipotle: 33%
Taco Bell: 6%

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Phone: 803-369-8274
Fax: 888-748-0990
Martin said on the changes he do what he could to aid his senior against the Tigers he made sure to during the past three games. enough shots to get into a rhythm struggles, citing him not getting of the blame for Notice's recent at first glance. Downey was an that seems like an odd comparison guard Devan Downey. Admittedly, footing with three-time All-SEC Thornwell is probably on similar the intermediate era. Specifically, Thornwell doesn't compete with the program's stars in hang from the rafters of Colonial seems destined to have his number McKie, Thornwell isn't a guy who players of that era. Unlike Alex as favorably to the most dominant Thornwell doesn't compare quite with Frank McGuire at the helm, history, back to the golden years Carolina has been of a different stock. Thornwell's career at South Carolina has been of a different stock. Martin's team's haven't showcased an auxiliary piece to Williams and Carrera and Brenton Williams, Thornwell has clearly been the most impactful player of the Frank Martin era. As a freshman he stepped on to a team that won just first conference games and averaged 11.4 points a game. At times he's been the focal point of the offense, but for most of his first three seasons he functioned as an auxiliary piece to Williams and Carrera. This is unquestionably Thornwell's team now. If you move way back in program history, back to the golden years with Frank McGuire at the helm, Thornwell doesn't compare quite as favorably to the most dominant players of that era. Unlike Alex English, he doesn't even more recently R McLee, Thornwell isn't a guy who seems destined to have his number hanging from the rafters of Colonial Life Arena. But Thornwell has a case to compete with the program's stars in the intermediate era. Specifically, Thornwell is probably on similar footing with three-time All-SEC guard Devan Downey. Admittedly, that seems like an odd comparison at first glance. Downey was an electrifying talent during his three seasons in Columbia after transferring from Cincinnati before 2007. He averaged over 16 points per game in each season, including 27.1 points per game in final season. He was twice named an honorable All-American. For three years, South Carolina basketball was simply the Devan Downey show. Thornwell's career at South Carolina has been of a different stock. Martin's teams haven't showcased a primary scorer. Points are earned during his collegiate career, but he also hasn't had the same opportunities. Downey averaged 6.4 more field goals per game while at South Carolina. When Thornwell needs to take over an offense, he can. Against Kentucky he essentially ran the offense at the point while also swaying down to the three and four, finishing with 17 points. Against Auburn Thornwell scored 25 points, but allowed Duane Notice to have a career night. He can score when he needs to, but he doesn't have to, and shouldn't be penalized for not being part of a system that inflates the numbers of a complete player. Thornwell is poised to lead the Gamecocks to their first NCAA births since 2004. Don't wait until then to appreciate his impact on the program, he might just be the greatest player yet of this millennium.
Thornwell among greatest of millennium

Bobby Dalbey
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Rolling out from a screen at the right elbow, Sindarius Thornwell received a pass at the top of the key from freshman guard Hassani Gravett, planting and shooting in one motion. With 2:25 in the first half, Thornwell sinks his fourth three-pointer of the night, giving South Carolina a commanding 42-25 lead over Auburn. There is a brief pause in the action for an official review, but the call stands. Last in the offensive outburst is the fact Thornwell passed Carlos Powell for the No. 7 slot in South Carolina’s all-time scoring leaders.

Thornwell has quietly been making his ascent up the list. He ranked outside of the top ten just a few weeks ago, and in South Carolina’s previous game against Kentucky he leaned two spots to pass Jim Slaughter and Art Whimsie.

Thornwell’s legacy is still developing in real-time, but even before his suspension, it always felt like he was in the middle of a historic senior season. He currently is tied with Georgia forward Yante Maten for second in scoring in the SEC behind Kentucky’s “Draper Dandy” Malik Monk. Depending on how

Notice made 9 of 13 field goal attempts in South Carolina’s win over Auburn. 

Sara Yang / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

2017 Recruits have serious commitment issues

ADAM ORPINGER
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

In the 2017 football recruiting cycle, the top 610 (and counting) players have decommitted from coaches and teams after announcing their verbal commitments. By the time you read this, that number could be to 650, or maybe even 700. That’s because high schoolers are dishonoring their pledges at an unprecedented rate this cycle, as was the case with the 2016 class.

To put it in perspective, the 2016 cycle saw 249 decommitments. Fast forward a year before, 120 players left their original schools, five times fewer than what we’re seeing now. In 2010, that number was just four.

Every recruit has the right to decommit, whether it be due to coaching changes or simply a change of heart. But commitments seem to mean a lot less now than they may have a few years ago. To many, when someone commits, he has the intention of attending wherever school he’s chosen. However, recruits are continuing to flirt with other schools after their commitment, which doesn’t really feel like commitment to me. This isn’t to criticize any one particular player, but in following South Carolina recruiting, I’ve seen a few examples of this.

This week, when four-star safety Hamshad Nazirildeen announced his decommitment from the Gamecocks and that he would sign with Florida State, Nazirildeen committed to the Gamecocks in August. But he took an official visit to Tallahassee during the fall.

With Nazirildeen out of the class, South Carolina has shifted its focus in its class’s top-ranked player, defensive back 

Thursday, January 26, 2017

COLUMNI

2012  2013  2014  2015  2016  2017

2013  110
2014  113
2015  120
2016  249
2017  631

TOP-RANKED PLAYER DE FENSIVE BACK

2012  2013  2014  2015  2016  2017

2013  18
2014  113
2015  120
2016  249
2017  631

DE COMMITMENT

2012  2013  2014  2015  2016  2017

2012  110
2013  18
2014  113
2015  120
2016  249
2017  631

DE COMMITMENT

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