

2016

The Daily Gamecock, Monday, February 15, 2016


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Softball finishes opening weekend on high note

ALLEN MARCUS HARTER
@ALLENMHARTER

The South Carolina softball team traveled down to Tampa, Florida, over the weekend to open up the 2016 season in the University of South Florida Wilson DeMarini Tournament. The Gamecocks finished the tournament going 3-1 over the weekend.

SEESOFTBALLPAGE8
Jessica Wood / THE DAILY GAMECOCK



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016 VOL. 106, NO. 15 ● SINCE 1908

Student becomes first from USC to win Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Mary Ramsey
@MCOLLEEN1996

Eric Bringley has been named one of 35 American students to win the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Bringley, a fourth-year chemical engineering student, will pursue a doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Cambridge.

He was one of more than 4,500 students from around the world competing for approximately 90 total awards. The scholarship program was created in 2000 with a \$210 million donation to Cambridge from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the philanthropic organization run by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife.

In a statement, University President Harris Pastides expressed his excitement over the announcement.

“We are so proud that Eric has earned Carolina’s first prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship. His intellect, leadership and commitment to improving the lives of others are hallmarks of the Carolina experience and epitomize the qualities sought in Gates Cambridge Scholars,” Pastides said. “I am delighted that he will have this tremendous opportunity to expand Carolina’s global reach through his study, research and collaborations at Cambridge.”

Mayor, radio host join to promote steadfast faith



T. Michael Boddie / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Cory ‘Coco Brother’ Condrey prays with Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin before he speaks.

T. Michael Boddie
@THEHUMANBODDIE

Hip hop and gospel radio host Cory “Coco Brother” Condrey visited Columbia for a prayer rally Saturday evening. Christian pastors, community leaders and citizens joined Condrey and his wife, Joann, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center for an evening of music, worship and prayer. Aside from radio, Condrey is the president of the Condrey Evangelistic Association and the founder of the “STAND Campaign,” which promotes the following of Jesus Christ. Condrey was master of ceremonies and spoke at the event with his wife, singer and minister Joann Rosario Condrey. The purpose of Condrey’s tour of worship and prayer is to promote Jesus Christ and to advocate for citizens to stand up for their own faith. Condrey said to his audience,

SEEPRAAYERPAGE3

Dates to know

February

16

Student Government elections begin

17

Student Government elections end

Wind Down Wednesday
Russell House Room 315

18

Mental Health Screenings
Honors Residence Hall

Deadline to submit 2016
Celebration of Excellence
Award applications

See page 3 for candidates in town

USC Dance Company breaks classical boundaries

Hannah Quire
@HANNAHQUIRE

The USC Dance Company, amid flowing fabrics and strong instrumental melodies, rehearsed Saturday afternoon for their showcase “Breaking Boundaries,” premiering Monday evening. The showcase is directed by assistant professor Thaddeus Davis, featuring original contemporary choreography contributed by assistant professor Tanya Wideman-Davis and Stephanie Wilkins, as well as work developed with dance education students by Stephanie Milling. Along with the faculty of USC, special guest Arturo Fernandez from San Francisco’s Alonzo King LINES Ballet will present a piece he choreographed, “Counterpoint (Revisited).” The performance was powerful in its simplicity and appearance of being effortless; dancers lift and release each other with such ease it is as though the other is simply weightless. Though it was a dress rehearsal, the emotion was palpable even from the last row.

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Camden homeowner charged in death of 17-year-old

The State reports that a Camden man was denied the “Stand Your Ground” defense and charged with voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of a 17-year-old who was allegedly burglarizing the man’s truck. Kershaw County officials said that the death of Brandon Scott Spencer was not self-defense on the part of Jimmy Joe Methe because Spencer was fleeing the scene at the time of the incident. The “Stand Your Ground” law only allows for deadly force in cases where an individual or the individual’s family is facing an imminent threat of death or harm. Methe is being held at the Kershaw County Detention Center and will have a bond hearing Monday.

- Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor

Local fire captain charged with assault of fellow firefighter

City of Columbia Fire Department Capt. Jeffrey D. Rich turned himself to CPD Friday and faces charges of second degree assault and battery following an October incident with another firefighter, according to WIS. Rich, who has been with the department for 16 years, is accused of touching a co-worker without permission while working at Department Station 11. The victim reported the incident to CPD in January. Rich faces an investigatory suspension from the department and up to three years in jail with fines up to \$2, 500 if convicted.

- Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor

Woman attacks husband with knife on Valentine’s Day

The State reports that a Richland County woman was charged with criminal domestic abuse after attacking her husband with a knife on Valentine’s Day morning. Deputies arrested Vivian Jeffrey after she stabbed her husband multiple times in the upper body. The husband was reportedly trying to slash the women’s tires. The husband was treated for non-life threatening injuries at Palmetto Health Richland.

- Compiled by Mary Ramsey, News Editor

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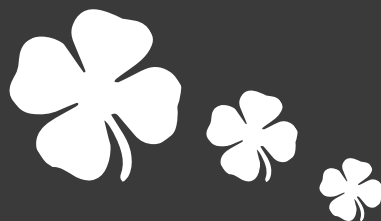
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CRIME BLOTTER

The blotter comes from police reports released by the USC Division of Law Enforcement and Safety and doesn't include crimes reported by city or county law enforcement.

On Saturday around 12 p.m., officers responded to an altercation on Gadsden Street. The victim, a 54-year-old woman, told police that she was yelling and waving a stick at her neighbor's dogs after they got out because she was afraid they would attack stray cats in the neighborhood. She said that her neighbor, the 50-year-old male suspect, approached her and threatened to attack her for yelling at the dogs. A witness approached both of them and confronted the suspect. The suspect told police that he was upset because the victim was trying to hit his dogs with the stick, and he didn't think this was necessary. He also said that the witness threatened him and admitted to replying that he would fight the witness. The victim told police that she wanted to go before a judge because the situation with the dogs was an ongoing problem between herself and the suspect.

— Compiled by Emily Barber, News Editor

On Thursday around 12:30 a.m., an officer responded to a call from an apartment complex on Tremain Street, where he found a car driven partway off a ledge near the apartments' parking lot. Several residents of a nearby apartment were waiting outside their door, and one of them, 33-year-old Antonio Alston, identified himself as the person who drove off the road. He told police he turned off the road thinking that it was the exit. The officer observed that Alston was unsteady and slurring his speech, and after administering the appropriate tests for drunkenness, Alston was documented for driving under the influence.

— Compiled by Emily Barber, News Editor

PRAYERPAGE1

“Before we were Christians, we were followers of Christ.” In teaming up with ministers and people of Columbia, Condrey put forth effort to bring a surge of Christian faith to the community. The rally served as a part of those efforts through music, public speaking and prayer. “No matter what city official is doing what, no matter what president is doing what, there's somebody higher. And he's a king. And that king is soon to return. And his name is Jesus ... We must call America to pray,” Condrey said. Joann Rosario Condrey both spoke and sang at the rally in support of her husband and his campaign. She spoke to the people

in attendance about the need for people to pray. “He said, ‘If you seek me, then you will find me,’...We have to participate in this process. We need [God] in this state. We need [God] in our nation,” Joann Condrey said. As she finished speaking, she led the audience in singing “hallelujah.” Cory Condrey invited the mayor of Columbia, Steve Benjamin, to speak at the rally. He briefly touched on both his faith and his love for Columbia and it's people. “The reason I do this job ... is because I wanted every single child in this city to know God's love the way my children do,” Benjamin said. Mayor Benjamin is a Christian, and values his own faith and

prayer in the way he leads the community. Benjamin said to the audience, “Keep praying for this great city.” After Benjamin spoke, Cory Condrey led the audience in prayer and spoke again about the importance and purpose of his campaign. “Yes, it's going to be hard. But there's a Jesus that will come through every time ... So we prayed for the sick. We prayed for the mayor. I got a chance to speak from the heart. We're all sinners saved by grace,” Cory Condrey said. For one evening at the Convention Center, citizens of Columbia, pastors and public figures joined together to embrace both their own faith and their community.



The Daily Gamecock

on



Presidential candidates campaign in Columbia

Many presidential candidates and their campaigns will be present in Columbia this week. Senator Tim Kaine, the former governor of Virginia, will be speaking for Hillary Clinton in the Hollings Special Collections Library on Monday at noon. Bernie Sanders will be speaking in the Russell House Theater

on Tuesday, according to USC Campus Coordinator for the Bernie Sanders Campaign and second-year political science student Megan Taylor. Doors will open at 10 a.m. and the event will start at 11:30 a.m. The event is hosted by the USC College Democrats and the Bernie Sanders Presidential Campaign. Students must have a

CarolinaCard to enter, and due to limited seating there might be an overflow area for students to watch on a live stream. Ted Cruz will be holding a rally at the Columbia Armory on Tuesday at 3 p.m. He will be joined by Governor Rick Perry and representative Jeff Duncan.


— Compiled by Brittany Franceschina, Senior News Reporter

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'How to be Single' brings fresh take, laughter to theaters

"How to be Single"

Release Date: Feb. 12
Production Company:
New Line Cinema

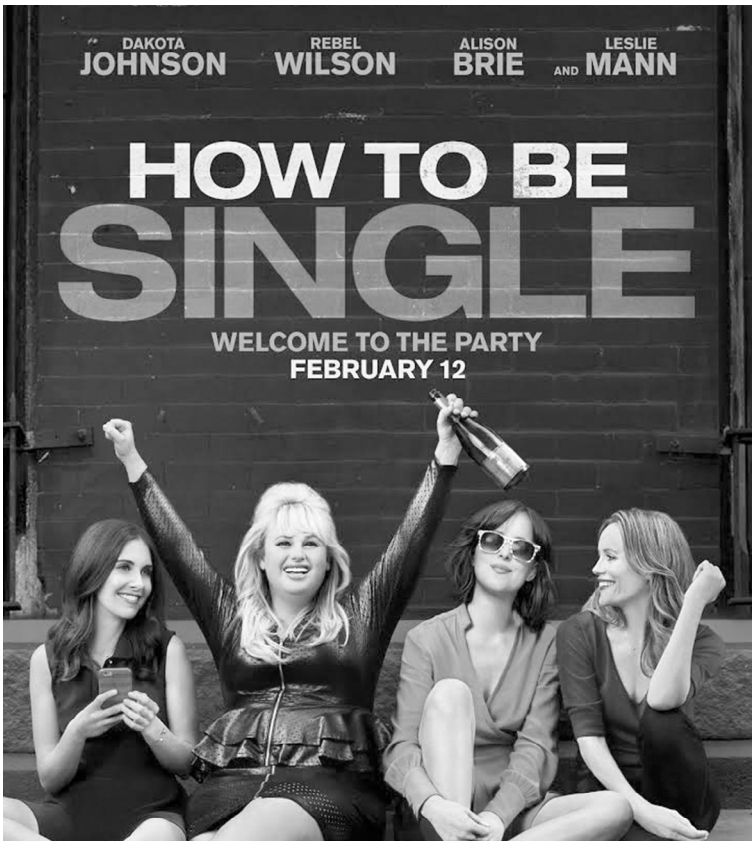
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Meagan Blakesley
@TDG_ARTS

You may have seen advertisements for this February flick while swiping on Tinder, or cleverly placed between segments of ABC's "The Bachelor." Well, it finally snuck its way into theaters Friday, making sure to remind you of your unattached relationship status, or to perhaps give you some last minute advice on what not to do around your special someone, before the dreaded Feb. 14.

Rebel Wilson ("Pitch Perfect") and Dakota Johnson ("Fifty Shades of Grey") fall into the familiar roles of the confident party girl and the not-so-confident romantic. Additionally, the movie follows the characters portrayed by Alison Brie ("Community"), the classic overbearing girlfriend, and Leslie Mann ("This Is 40," "Knocked Up"), a workaholic who has a date with the sperm bank in hopes to raise a child on her own.

Despite the fairly common archetypes, the film delivers a fresh twist on the lives of singles. Going into the movie, one would expect a lighthearted journey through awkward social interactions and constant gushing over the opposite sex. However, the characters instead experience a great deal of personal growth. Some learn to not depend so heavily on a man, while others open their hearts to new experiences and romantic opportunities. So rather than fostering wallowing in singleness, the film inspires individual empowerment.



Courtesy of New Line Cinema

While not the comedy of the century, audience members are sure to let out frequent laughs, and even those who did not jump on the "Pitch Perfect" train will fall in love with Wilson's quick wit. Although other characters can't deliver the same one-liners as Wilson, who effortlessly combines her humorous persona with her spunky Australian accent, they are truly relatable in their attempts to understand the dating scene and find the answers to critical questions like "Should I or should I not include an emoji in this text?" and "Is it too early in the relationship to make us a couple's photo album?"

For those of you perplexed by your single status, here are a few tidbits of insight taken from the film:

That couple's photo album after several weeks of dating is, in fact, not okay. Unless you

hope to speed up the ending of a relationship, a more casual Christmas gift of socks — or, if you feel like spicing things up, an ornament — is recommended. For the record, emojis are not acceptable either.

That decision you made to cut off your sink's water in hopes of ridding your apartment of unwanted guests might come back to bite you.

If your girlfriend starts to look as though she's pregnant, you might want to ask her before you find out coincidentally while she's shopping for baby products. Though perhaps this was not the lesson to be learned.

But whether or not you feel enlightened when walking out of the theater, you are sure to have enjoyed more than a few laughs and whispers between you and your fellow single comrade over how the film so accurately depicts your daily strife.

Dress like an ICON

Alexa Chung



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Rachel Pittman
@RACHELCPITTMAN

At only 32 years old, fashionista Alexa Chung has already established a place as a popular and sarcastic television host, wrote a book, designed lines of clothing for AG and other brands, become a successful model and rocked the fashion world with her tousled and tomboyish style.

Famous for her daring fashion choices, retro vibe and devil-may-care attitude, Chung's style is the perfect mix of new and old. Chung's wardrobe is easy to wear, versatile, comfortable and unique. Here are some tips for adding influences from this fashion it-girl to your closet.

Retro pieces

Chung is famous for her unique wardrobe additions that are reminiscent of an earlier era. She often includes pieces in her look that hark back to the 1960s and '70s, such as short mod shift dresses, striped turtlenecks and kitten heels.

It's easy to add retro elements to your own wardrobe with a few simple items. Ringer tees are cheap, comfortable and perfect for a groovy 1970s feel. Vintage silhouettes can be achieved by wearing high-waisted jeans or a circle skirt with a button-down tucked in or tied at the waist. Thin neck scarves, round-frame sunglasses and Peter Pan collars can all give a look a retro feel.

Edgy textures and touches

Although feminine and retro, Chung's style is most notable for its rockstar vibe. Chung effortlessly pulls this off by including edgy textures and touches.

Try pairing an everyday floral sun dress with a leather jacket or heeled suede bootie. In winter, an oversized faux-fur coat adds instant glamour. Leopard print pieces and miniskirts in corduroy, denim, sequin and leather also do the trick.

Denim

Perhaps the most prevalent element of Chung's style is denim. Chung is regularly seen wearing denim overalls, cut-off shorts and button-down miniskirts.

Pair skinny jeans with low-heeled Chelsea boots to copy Chung's denim look. Change up your denim routine with a pair of flare-leg or bootcut high-waisted jeans for a unique old-school look. Denim rompers, jumpsuits and overall-style dresses are great denim pieces for a night out or an option other than your basic everyday jeans.

Minimal makeup

Chung's makeup centers on the eyes, with a glamorous eyeliner look. To achieve Chung's dewy, natural look, first apply concealer over trouble spots and under the eyes. Next, smooth a sheer foundation or BB cream over your skin. Apply a light taupe eyeshadow over the lid and work a chocolate brown shadow into the crease. Finish with a sweeping of peachy blush over cheekbones, a light coat of brow gel and a thin line of liquid eyeliner that finishes with a cat eye flick.

To amp this look up for evening, add bright red or orange-red lip stain and a dusting of sparkly eyeshadow over the lid.

Tousled locks

The final touch to Chung's signature style is her playful bedhead. It is easy to achieve Chung's messy, chic hairdo. Simply dampen hair and work in a sea salt spray or curl custard while hair is still wet. Avoid brushes and heat products and let hair air dry, leaving natural waves. To fully embrace Chung's hairstyle, go to a stylist and ask for choppy, blunt-cut bangs over the forehead.

For fancy occasions, try retro starlet waves, achieved by wrapping medium-sized sections of hair around a curling iron or curl stick.

Be yourself

The main element of Chung's style is her who-cares attitude and unique closet. Whether wearing shorts on a red carpet, disco dresses or funky graphic tees, Chung always lets her personality shine through her wardrobe and dresses for herself. Whether in designer or thrift store clothing, wear your look with pride like Alexa does and always be yourself.



Courtesy of Jason Ayer

"Breaking Boundaries," USC Dance Company's first show of the semester, is packed with emotion and power.

DANCEPAGE1

The collection was an interesting combination of pieces, with no two close to the same. While one was an emotionally-charged slow number, another featured a myriad of dancers taking part in blink-and-you-miss-it choreography that portrays a sense of power and strength. Despite their obvious differences, the pieces still retained a cohesive quality. The dancers across the board possessed an incredible degree of talent and fluidity in their movements. It was impossible to focus on just one person, because each dancer held his or her own within every piece.

The motivation for most of the pieces is "an exploration of movement," according to second-year dance performance

student Maia Charanis, a dancer in the showcase.

Each dance is intrinsically different; one is influenced by 1950s and 1960s showgirls, and another by 1970s disco.

The dancers have been rehearsing since the very beginning of the semester, a process that required about two hours of work per day for the dancers.

When asked about her favorite piece of the show, Charanis said, "Picking a favorite...I'm not sure I could be honest. Each piece offers so much to the dancers and the audience."

This is the USC Dance Company's first show of the season. Packed full of emotion, power and incredible choreography, the showcase is destined to be a fantastic start to the semester. The diverse works

are tied together under the label of "contemporary," whether that be ballet or modern themes, making the show an interesting juxtaposition of influences and performance styles.

The show, premiering Monday, will run through Thursday. Each show begins at 7:30 p.m. in Drayton Hall Theatre, directly across from the Horseshoe. Ticketing information can be found on the USC Dance and Theatre website.

"Dancing up on stage can become a very personal, subjective experience. But across the board, it's always nice when the audience comes open minded. We're performers," Charanis said, "and it really makes a difference when the audience is present and engaged."

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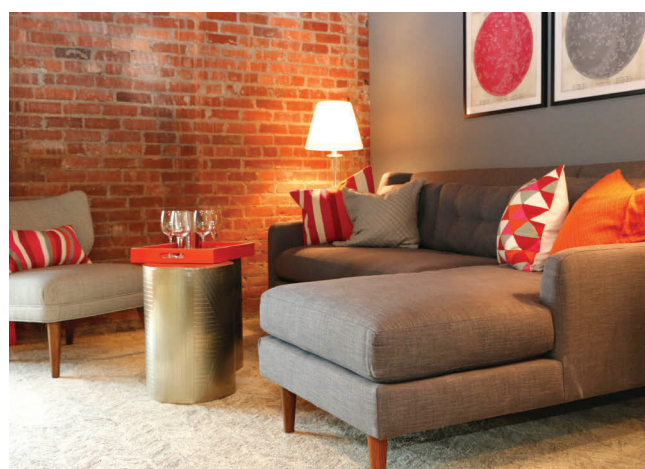
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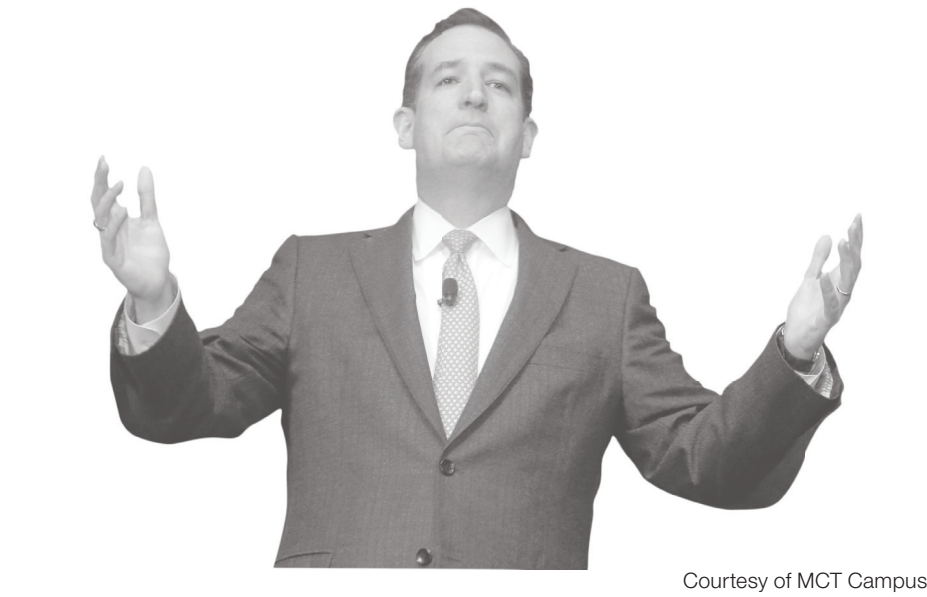
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Courtesy of MCT Campus

Ted Cruz

Birth date: Dec. 22, 1970
Home State: Texas
National polling average: 19.7 percent (Huffington Post)
South Carolina polling average: 21.1 percent (Huffington Post)
Odds of winning Republican nomination (Predictwise): 12 percent
Gifted debater and public speaker
Advisor for George W. Bush’s 2000 campaign
Junior senator since 2013

Oftentimes, when you think of a presidential candidate, you think of the person rather than his or her campaign. In my experience working on Ted Cruz’s presidential campaign, however, I have learned that it is about much more than just the candidate, but the people standing behind him as well.

One day, when I was in the campaign office, a man wearing a baseball cap and a backpack walked in. He explained that he wanted to write us a check, and he asked who to make it out to. Once we figured it out and told him, he told us that he’d fought in the Vietnam War, and that he was now homeless, and was looking for a job. The check he wrote for Cruz was for ten dollars, and it was probably all that he could possibly donate.

This incident was extremely inspiring to me, although it was also a little frightening. One of the men who fought for this country is now living on the streets in the cold? When Cruz is elected, he will not allow things like this to happen.

It’s also very inspiring to see some of the other volunteers who come into the office. One day, I was sitting next to

the most enthusiastic woman I’d ever met — she was phone-banking with us and was almost yelling into the phone: “There’s only one man for the job!”

It was truly awesome to see how strongly our volunteers felt about his candidacy.

I am supporting Cruz because I truly feel that he is the best candidate for the job. He strictly interprets our constitution as our founders intended it. In addition, he is a godly man with great morals and family values. Also, Cruz’s flat tax plan is the only plan that could possibly get our country out of debt. Ted’s tax would implement a 10 percent tax on everyone, that way everybody is paying their fair amount. Cruz wants to completely abolish the IRS and make it so that Americans can simply complete their taxes on a postcard.

I believe that Cruz is absolutely the best candidate to be President of the United States. He is the only person who could get our country out of our economic and moral bankruptcy that has afflicted us since the beginning of Barack Obama’s presidency.

— *Danielle Repass, second-year international studies student*

History of senatorial presidential candidates

Presidential candidates are often career politicians, so it’s not infrequent that they hail from our legislative branch. After all, those positions comprise most of the elected positions in the federal government. However, these candidates rarely make it to the presidency: since 1913, only three presidents have emerged from the U.S. Senate, the most recent example being Barack Obama, formerly an Illinois legislator, who won the 2008 race for the White House over Arizona fellow senator John McCain.

Senators run frequently — see Rick Santorum, Joe Biden and John Edwards, to name a few — but are generally beaten by governors to the nomination, or, if they manage to make it past the primaries, to the Presidency. Before President Obama, the last senator to ever attain the title of Commander in Chief was John F. Kennedy, 48 years before Obama won his first race.

In the 2016 primaries, only three senators remain: Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders. It remains to be seen if any of them will be able to jump the primary hurdle on the road to the presidency.



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Marco Rubio

Birth date: May 28, 1971
Home State: Florida
National polling average: 15.7 percent (Huffington Post)
South Carolina polling average: 14.6 percent (Huffington Post)
Odds of winning Republican nomination (Predictwise): 24 percent
U.S. Senator since 2009
Known as a “rising star” in the Republican party
Considered for a spot as Romney’s running mate in 2012 campaign

Marco Rubio has been hailed as “the Republican Obama,” a young, eloquent and impassioned candidate with a capable of attracting marginalized minorities. In some ways this label rings true. Rubio rides the tailwinds coming off of a two-term presidency of the other party, as did Obama. Also like Obama, Rubio is running at a time when his party has captured positions of power but has been stymied by an opposition president. Perhaps most tellingly, however, Rubio enters the field at a time when partisanship and gridlock in government has reached unprecedented levels, which Obama claimed to be able to fix in his 2008 bid.

Unfortunately, he instead presided over the most partisan era in recent political history and a drastic splitting of our country down party lines. Rubio, on the other hand, has showed throughout his political career that he is a principled, but still pragmatic statesman who is able to compromise in order to get things done.

He has not emphasized this aspect of himself as much of late during the cutthroat attempt to out-conservative the next man that has marked the GOP primary. Despite looking moderate this election cycle next to an unabashed populist, Donald Trump, and an unbending zealot, Ted Cruz, Rubio actually places fourth-highest in a ranking measuring the conservatism of Senate Republicans.

However, he has distinguished himself from radical Republicans by his willingness to make concessions to conservative principle in order to accomplish larger goals. Unfortunately, while he proposed much potentially momentous legislation during his five-year Senate career, the Washington stalemate has stifled attempts to enact them. To more accurately judge Rubio’s talent for making constructive concessions in order to advance his aims, one must look a little further back, to his stint

as state representative, then House speaker, of Florida.

Following his rapid rise to prominence in his home state, Rubio used his position to spark new ideas for bettering the lives of his constituents and struggled against Florida politics to achieve conservative goals. However, during his time in the Florida legislature, Rubio also joined Democrats to support legislation to give in-state tuition to the children of undocumented immigrants, promote Florida’s formal apology for slavery and advocate the promotion of literacy and mentoring for black children.

Dan Gelber, who served as the Democratic leader in the Florida House of Representatives during Rubio’s time as House speaker said of him, “While I think he is a true conservative, I don’t think he is a reflexive partisan ... He respected our right to engage in the debate, and we worked together even when we disagreed. Which was often.”

Facing a Democrat nominee of either an avowed socialist who wants to dramatically raise taxes on the richest Americans in order to significantly expand already insolvent entitlement programs or a dishonest and corrupt career politician who panders ingratiatingly to potential voters, the Republican party cannot afford to nominate extremists. Polls have shown that Marco Rubio handily wins a contest with Hillary Clinton, the likely Democrat nominee. A winning strategy for Republicans this election cycle is offering a principled candidate who can skillfully push the conservative cause while at the same time working with the other side to break the paralyzing deadlock on Capitol Hill. Marco Rubio is that man. Of all the current candidates, he is the one who can best heal our fractured nation and lead us confidently into the uncertain future.

— *Andy Wilson, first-year English student*

Letter to the editor

I am writing in response to the article about women in combat which ran Feb. 8 in an attempt to address several misconceptions and a historical bias that has been used to oppress women.

The first thing I would like to point out is that the standards used to determine fitness are gendered in two ways. For one, failure to meet the standards for males has often resulted in females being assigned non-combatant roles to start with. “Aha!” you think, “Proof that women fail to meet the male standards and present a danger!”

This is not quite true, as there is sometimes greater variance amongst women or men than there is between women and men. This means that the difference within groups is sometimes greater than the difference between groups. There are certainly women who are stronger and more physically capable than some men, meaning that there are women who can meet and exceed the minimum male standards.

Excluding a whole half of society based on their gender when they can meet the requirements is called discrimination.

Secondly, the standards are gendered in that they were created at a time where male biology was the norm for combat positions — the yardstick, as it were. Just as men and women have differences, they have different kinds of strengths and abilities. For example, women are generally more flexible than men, while men have greater upper body strength than women. Each has their own advantages and disadvantages.

Women and men can be equally fit, but if measured the same, they will score differently. It would be entirely possible to rewrite the standards in a way that women easily pass and men struggle — not that I am advocating for this, but just putting it forth as something to chew on.

Finally, the idea that women are so sexually seductive and arousing that men can’t control themselves around

them is both insulting to women and to men, and has historically been used to justify the oppression and subordination of women. It is not only ridiculous, but patently untrue.

Men and women work together all the time, and the world still seems to be adequately functioning. Women have been actively involved in 95 percent of military positions. And in a situation where life and limb is on the line, both men and women have more on their minds than men’s “nature” and “sex-driven” proclivities.

As for a brotherhood, men and

women have been in basic training together for over 20 years forming camaraderie and bonds of their own.

While not explicitly involved in the combat arm, women have been in dangerous fields and worked alongside men without any major issues. Women have provided dedication and support to many successful missions. You are right, social experimentation should not have a prominent place in the military of the U.S., but social justice should.

— *Amanda Rittenour, third-year women and gender studies student*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR REQUIREMENTS

Letters to the editor must not exceed 300 words. Students must include their full name, major and year. Faculty and staff must include their full name, position and department. Community members must include their full name and applicable job title. Verifiable statements of fact must include at least one source; if we cannot verify a statement of fact, your letter will not be published until the

writer implements necessary changes or provides reputable sources for any facts in question. Letters are edited for clarity, style and grammar. Email submissions to opinion@dailygamecock.com or mail them to The Daily Gamecock 1400 Greene Street Columbia, SC 29225



Jessica Wood / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks closed out their weekend in Tampa with three straight wins after losing the opening game.

SOFTBALLPAGE1

The season opener for South Carolina softball was Friday morning as the Gamecocks took on the No. 2 Wolverines. The runner-ups in last year's national championship took care of business — the Michigan Wolverines defeated the Gamecocks 15-3 in five innings. The Wolverines offense was on all cylinders as they scored in each inning, highlighted by a two-run home run in the second inning by Aidan Faulk and a Sierra Romero grand slam in the fourth.

South Carolina got on the board in the second as freshman shortstop Kenzi Maguire doubled to start the inning and crossed the plate after a bases-loaded hit-by-pitch. The Gamecocks also got on the board in the fourth as senior left fielder Alaynie Paige brought in a run with a sacrifice fly. The Gamecocks final run came in the fifth as senior centerfielder Ansley Ard hit a RBI single. Maguire and Ard played well for the Gamecocks in the season opener, as they both went 3-3 at the plate.

The Gamecocks returned to action that afternoon to face the tournament host South Florida. South Carolina got out to an early lead as junior designated player Victoria Williams hit a two-run home run to right center. After USF made it a one-run game in the second, the Gamecocks ran away with the game, scoring two runs in the fourth, one run in the fifth and two runs in the sixth. Junior pitcher Jessica Elliott picked up the win in her four-inning performance with three strikeouts and only giving up one run and four hits. Junior Nickie Blue finished it off with three shutout innings to get her first save of the season.

Saturday morning, the Gamecocks faced the

Virginia Tech Hokies. The Carolina pitching, along with key offensive contributors, were able to shut out the Hokies 6-0. Similar to the game against USF, the Gamecocks got out to an early lead in the first. Freshman right fielder Kennedy Clark hit her first career home run, and later in the inning, junior first baseman Kaylea Snaer hit an RBI double to make it a 2-0 lead. Snaer hit another double in the third, bringing home two runs for the Gamecocks. South Carolina would later add one in the fifth and one in the sixth. The combination of Elliott and Blue held the Hokies to only four hits, as Elliott picked up her second win and Blue her second save.

The Gamecocks faced Illinois State on Sunday to close out their trip to Tampa for the opening weekend tournament. After leaving the bases loaded twice in the first two innings, the Gamecocks were able to get on the scoreboard first with the help of senior All-American left fielder Alaynie Paige's first home run of the season to right center field for two runs. South Carolina added to their lead in the sixth, as Kenzi Maguire hit an RBI single. Nickie Blue got the start for the Gamecocks and only allowed two hits in her five-inning appearance. Jessica Elliott came in to finish the job by shutting out the Redbirds for two innings and picking up her first save.

The Gamecocks return to action Wednesday afternoon as they host North Carolina at 1 p.m. at the Carolina Softball Stadium at Beckham Field. The Gamecocks then look to host the Carolina Classic this weekend as UNC Greensboro, Ohio, Longwood and Winthrop come to town.

Column

Louisville basketball enters purgatory

Pete Helms
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In 2013, the Louisville Cardinals' athletic department had reached the pinnacle of success. The football team won the Sugar Bowl against the No. 3 Florida Gators, the baseball team beat the No. 2 Vanderbilt Commodores to reach the College World series, the women's basketball team made it all the way to the national championship and Rick Pitino led the men's team to a national championship over Michigan.

Fan bases and athletic directors alike dream of this kind of success for their school, and Louisville was able to achieve it. They were the envy of the country. Three years later, things are very different. Allegations have come out that recruits and players were given sexual favors by escorts who were paid by former men's basketball staff member Andre McGee. Now the athletic department is under the ominous shadow of the NCAA, and there are a lot of unanswered questions about the program's future.

On Oct. 2, 2015, Pat Forde of Yahoo Sports reported that the University of Louisville was investigating allegations made by Katina Powell in her book, "Breaking Cardinal Rules: Basketball and the Escort Queen." Powell claims

that she was paid to provide women to come to parties to dance and perform sexual favors for recruits and players on the men's basketball team.

McGee was identified as the member of the staff who organized and paid the female escorts for these dances and favors. In her book, Powell claimed that she was paid more than \$10,000 to organize performances over the course of McGee's four-year tenure at the school. Powell says that she has "hundreds" of text messages between her and McGee that include conversations about setting up the events, as well as pictures with the escorts, recruits and players.

The NCAA officially began their investigation on Oct. 27, 2015, when they sent officials to the school to interview members of the men's basketball program. After a few months of investigation, the school announced on Feb. 5 that they would self-impose a postseason ban in 2016 for the men's basketball season after its investigation found detrimental evidence that indicated violations had transpired. The hope is that with self-imposed penalties, the NCAA will be satisfied and hand down lighter sanctions and penalties.

Pitino continues to say that he was unaware of any of these actions happening. He



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Rick Pitino will continue coaching the Cardinals, despite Louisville's self-imposed postseason ban.

attempted to communicate with McGee, but McGee's lawyer advised him to remain silent for the time being.

Pitino and University of Louisville President James Ramsey held a press conference on Feb. 5 to announce the postseason ban and to answer questions from the media.

"This is certainly a night of extreme pain," Pitino said.

Louisville was projected to be a top seed in the NCAA Tournament with their

current record of 19-6. They will not be able to compete in that tournament or the ACC Tournament.

Now all the school and Pitino can do is wait for the NCAA to conclude their investigation. How long this will take is anyone's guess. Sometimes NCAA investigations occur quickly, such as the investigation of Cecil Newton Sr. that took several months, whereas others can last years, like the investigation of Miami's

football team.

Until this is resolved, a dark cloud will hang over a program that was on top of the world just three short years ago. Pitino's job security is on the line, and recruiting will be a challenge. This once proud program and coach are teetering on the edge of a steep cliff. If enough evidence is found against Louisville and maybe even Pitino, he and the basketball program could hit a low that takes years to recover from.