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House passes bill lowering interest rates on student loans

Reduction for need-ed aid helps college pay tuition costs faster, cheaper, easier

Jim Riechmann

WASHINGTON — The Democrats-controlled House voted to cut interest rates on nearly all undergraduate student loans Wednesday, stealthily evading its own prohibition on such a move as part of the strong bipartisan support in the House for the measure.

In addition to lowering student loan rates, the measure also grants the president the authority to cancel student loan debt if he deems it necessary for the national economy.

The House legislation, which is expected to be signed into law by the president, would lower interest rates on most student loans from 6.8% to 3.4%.

Those with student loans say they see the measure as a “game changer” for many families and students.

“With the interest rate at 6.8%, it’s a significant burden for many families and students,” said Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn.

“Many families and students are struggling to pay off their student loans, and this measure will help to alleviate that burden,” said Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., who chairs the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

However, the measure faces opposition from some Republicans, who say it will only add to the national debt.

“While it’s important to provide some relief to borrowers, we must also be mindful of the long-term impact on our national debt,” said Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va.

Despite the opposition, the measure is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law by the president.

#Politics #Education #StudentLoans
Columbia’s homeless tell stories of hope

Area men living on streets describe past experiences, generosity of USC students who help them get another chance at normal life

Michael Stevens

The Daily Gamecock

As the cool evening air wafts the scent of food, the sound of music, and the giggles of children, the homeless population in Columbia, especially in Five Points and downtown, is finding themselves reminded of their past. The presence of the homeless is inescapable, and the reason for their homelessness seems to be the same: addiction.

“Too many cracks everywhere, that’s the problem,” said Smith as he tugged at his torn red t-shirt. “It’s hard to find work.”

One of the streets they generally passed upon is the streets that the use of crack endures, but the homeless population, which knows the credibility of those who aren’t addicted, has seen the changes. "Half of these people out here don’t even want to get off the streets,” said David Williams, a 49-year-old man who has been homeless for years. "David said he bears no animosity toward the city’s failed efforts to quell homelessness, because he believes a lot of people on the streets would not take advantage of the programs anyway.”

"If you’re going to panhandle, you're a bum.” said Darrell Arthur, another local homeless man, carefully articulates each conversation like a veteran public speaker. "If you want to panhandle, you’re a bum.”

The positive view the students are due to their reputation for generosity giving when "being panhandled.”

Columbia Police Sgt. Florence McCants is sympathetic to the students want to help those in need.

"Panhandling is a misdemeanor. For this reason, any giving of money while being solicited on the street is greatly discouraged,” she said.

"Many of these "street-dwellers" have a strikingly positive attitude and a love for God that would put any parishioner to shame. This upbeat attitude allows them to dream of how they can one day escape their woeful condition.”

"I’m a painter by trade, so I have to believe that one day God will put those skills to use for me,” Probel said.

In spite of their optimism, many say they are desperately praying for a hero who will help fight off the villains of addiction attacking their minds.

"Right now, all we have in this whole world is God,” Smith said, as he tugged at his torn red t-shirt. "Other than him, who else do we have to help?”

"I couldn’t ask for any better.”

David Williams is trying to get off the streets, with or without help.

One of Columbia’s many homeless men shares his struggle with addiction and spending the nights in community shelters.

Cirrus rolls into Columbia for weekend of childhood fun

Ringling Bros. bring back nostalgic memories of life before adult responsibility

"USC students looking for some entertainment this weekend have the opportunity to see The Greatest Show On Earth.” Ringling Bros. Amel Barnum & Bailey’s Circus of Dreams is hitting downtown through the weekend.

"With no big sporting events in town this week, it would be better to do than nothing else.”

Got a girlfriend? Perfect, now you have something to treat her to than some crappy movie or night in front of the TV.

You can bet you won’t be asked to pay for yet another night of the same old thing. Ringling Bros. has decided to go with an open performance area with a giant LG screen at one end of the floor to help tell the story of the show.

But among things that haven’t changed are those classic circus animals. Horses, zebras and yes, elephants will be there to make you smile and feel like a kid again.

"If you’re like me and get freaked out by clowns, have no fear; Ringling Bros. clowns are as harmless as a rubber chicken. If you come on, they make you animals out of colorful and go to great lengths.”

Crowds are growing now also part of the show, helping shows with their acts. But be sure to stick close if you want to be selected.

Ticket prices begin at $16 and go as high as $66. You can bet you won’t be asked to participate in the show when paying only for the cheap seats though.

The circus has three shows on Saturday and two on Sunday before the circus train moves on to the next one-horse town.
Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

year accounting student who participated in the project, said it was an excellent way to reach out. “I know a few people who have been to Iraq,” Lane said. “I know how lonely it can get.” Headley was surprised by the students’ results. “I told them I would pay the postage,” Headley said. “They collected a lot more than I expected; it was about $150 (in postage).” The students sent games, DVD’s, snacks, cookies and even some Gamecock gear to Iraq. “In the picture they sent us there was actually a Gamecock flag hanging in the background,” Headley said. Headley, who had 42 students working on the project, was proud of their participation. “I think they initially thought of it as another thing they had to do,” Headley said. “Through the process they learned to be thankful they don’t have to be over there.” Lane said even though a few other students weren’t initially excited about the project she thinks it went well. “In the end it all came together,” Lane said. “We did work hard. It’s a good way to do community service.” Mandy Gassen, a first-year business student, took Headley’s U101 class and participated in the project. Gassen, who said that she appreciated Headley’s easygoing nature as a teacher, said that she thought the project was especially appropriate for fall semester. “Considering the holiday season, (soldiers) always come to mind because they’re always left out,” Gassen said. “I don’t think the troops get the respect and attention they deserve.” As soon as Headley got the thank you e-mail, she forwarded it to her former students. “I was proud of what they were about to accomplish,” Headley said. “I knew they would feel proud when they opened it.” Gassen said she was happy to get the e-mail. “It lets me know they appreciate our gesture,” Gassen said. Headley, who will be teaching new sections of University 101 in the Fall 2007 semester, said her students would once again be able to design their own community service.

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FRATERNITY SPRING RECRUITMENT
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Stop stacking and start saving!
Soon enough Columbia might be competing with southern California over something other than abbreviations, and that is something coffee shops. The Searle horn chair Starbucks plans to open what they’re hoping is the largest store in the Southeast on Gervais Street in the Vista. That means Columbia will be home to the biggest cities like Charlotte, Charleston and Atlanta as home to the largest name- brand coffeehouse. Columbia is finally making the jump.

The Vista Starbucks will be a great place forcustomer students to stop before hitting on-campus traffic. It’ll be a place to stop by after dinner at Mellow Mushroom or night out at Club RA.

Students don’t have to turn to Five Points for all their entertainment needs with the Congaree Vista. That means something is coffee shops. This is a step toward more options for students that are bored, procrastinating their entertainment needs with the Congaree Vista.

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A new year is beginning along with another semester to conquer and fresh resolutions begging to be broken.

As I began to informally survey my 20-something friends, I discovered a trend towards resolutions dealing with the infamous word—love.

Regardless as to whether the issue concerned making the best of their current relationship, finding a new relationship or “settling” down with a special person, not a single person was completely content with their current love situation.

I wanted to scream at what a horrible resolution this is! Are my friends oblivious to the reality that it is biologically determined that men and women will never be fully satisfied as they seek validation in the other individual? Evolutionary demands have shaped our wants, needs and desires, but unfortunately the two ends of the spectrum do not always coincide.

No, I am not bitter or cynical, just slightly perceptive. I believe one can find love, but it is quite evident and proven by various experiments, that men and women’s needs are not the same and are often glaringly contradictory.

Society and the media constantly remind us that men are stereotypically more sexual than women. Relatively speaking, sperm is cheap.

In accordance with a www. .com prediction that the maximum daily sperm production reaches over 154,000,000, it seems obvious that generally Biology could explain failed resolutions.
**Yoga Continued from 5**

Top of your shoulders. Firm your shoulder blades against your back, then widen them and draw them toward the upper arms; don’t let it hang.

**Step 1**

Kneel and keep your back straight.

**Step 2**

Step forward with your right foot until the foot is a little forward of the knee and your upper leg is parallel with the floor. The left foot (the one at the back) rests on the floor with its toes and your lower leg on the mat. You can increase the stretching of your leg muscles in the front part of your left leg by bending your front leg more and more.

**Step 3**

Raise both arms, and hook both thumbs together. At the same time you stretch your arms upwards and you pull the thumbs slightly apart. Then raise your knee at the back so that your weight is now equally divided between the leg in front and the leg at the back.

Look forward and focus your attention on one point. This helps you to maintain your balance. If you find this easy, you can also look up or even backwards instead of looking in front of you.

**Source:** http://www.abc-of-yoga.com/yoga-practice/source-post.asp

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**Recipe of the Week**

**Fresh Fruit Salad**

**Ingredients**

- 2 firm bananas, peeled and sliced
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, halved and pitted
- 2 cups fresh blueberries, halved and pitted
- 2 cups plain or vanilla nonfat yogurt
- 1/2 lb. Bing cherries, halved and pitted
- 2 cups fresh peaches, sliced

**Prep Time:** 5 minutes

Servings: 4

**Toss and transfer to serving bowls. Serve with yogurt. Makes four portions. — linda.com**

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- Thurs., 1/19 @ 6:30 p.m.

**LSAT**
- Weds., 12/7 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs., 12/8 @ 6:30 p.m.

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**Phone:** 803-777-8444

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**BIO & Continued from 5**

**SPEAKING, SPERM IS DEADLY.**

In the evolutionary scheme of things, the survival of the species of any organism is dependent upon replicating the genetic material of the particular species.

Female’s strategy encompasses every aspect of mating with a male that will contribute to the survival of her offspring, in contrast to the male mate to mate with many females to secure a lineage. Whether this description has found a place in our modern society is questionable.

Many of our familiar and recognizable behaviors may be related to evolutionary pressures that have little connection to life and relationships in college.

Men have minimal investment: easy production of sperm.

The responsibility of females who produce only a single ovum every cycle extends not only to carrying and delivering the offspring, but also to initial food production and delivering the offspring.

In fact, since the egg supplies genetic material, cellular enclosing, and nutrients, the sperm would appear to take advantage of the material contribution made by the egg to the zygote.

Ever wondered why women seem more picky or often have higher standards, boys? Blame it on their genetically motivated energy investment requirements.

This original theory of Darwin encompassed more details and described the influence of male competition.

Since women must be selective in an evolutionary sense to who will fertilize their egg to produce viable offspring, males must compete against one another to prove their worth.

Ladies, does fraternity flag football make forever? These fundamental biological differences don’t account for sexual tension, needy girls, promiscuous boys and general confusion and inability to understand the opposite sex.

Can we overcome our differences?

Biologically speaking, no. But by striving to understand and to appreciate the opposite sex’s biological origin and genetic imperative and balancing the ever-changing needs of each, the ideal love may be easier to grasp.

New Year’s resolutions are not always effectively applied. Maybe all one needs is instead to be a good biology class to recognize that boys will be boys and girls will be girls.

**Write for The Mix!**

Contact us at gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

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**A class of students at the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center do the basic “Downward Dog” position. A variety of yoga classes are held at the Strom weekly.**
Classes throughout South Carolina were canceled or delayed Thursday as a cold front brought rain, sleet and ice to the Palmetto State. The front will be short lived.

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Crossword
Brought to you by: Wayne Robert Williams 1/19/07

DON’T FAKE IT
...using an altered driver’s license can cost you...

30 DAYS IN JAIL

TONE:
1. Surname
2. Honnor’s “Taxi” ride
3. Old flyng letters
4. Churred as if rolling
5. Notice
6. Orion
7. Delegate
8. Plaza
9. Feast
10. Inflected
11. Certain short-waves
12. Actor Roberts
14. Cool
15. Whip
16. Certain
17. Confidence
18. Customer
19. Brought to you by:
20. Designer Head
21. Cozy
22. Part 2 of quote
23. Opp. of WNW
24. Parts of feet
25. Some sheer fabrics
26. Waves
27. Kuwaiti leader
28. Jamaican music
29. Forgo
30. College credit
31. Silents actress
32. Scoffing laughs
33. Switch ending?
34. Deadpan
35. Fr. woman’s title
36. Flintstones’ pet
37. Appendage
38. Part 4 of quote
39. One in Madrid
40. Ready to turn in
41. Lubricate
42. Arizona tribe
43. Parts of fast
44. Compass dir.
45. Snooze
46. Continental
47. Nameless
48. Joanne of “All the King’s Men”
49. Atmosphere
50. Ukr. or Lith.
51. “Christ Stopped at ___”
52. Rainbow fi sh
53. __ firma
54. Stackable snacks
55. Cutting remark
56. Scottish Gaelic
57. Silent assents
58. Soft, soggy
59. Chicken caller
60. Raceway layout
62. Gridiron meas.
63. Scotch whisky
64. End of quote
65. Cutting remark
66. Continental cash
67. End of quote
68. Reaches
69. Orison
70. Notice
71. Branch of science: suff.
72. Tiny opening
73. Of what?
74. Polyblend
75. Fabrics
76. Opp. of WW
77. Some shear fabrics
78. Old French coin
79. Forge
80. College credit
81. Sirens across Negro
82. Scuffling laughs
83. Switch ending?
84. Deadpan
85. Fr. woman’s title
86. Cool, objective analysis
87. Rush to conclusions.
88. Abundance of data, but don’t rush to conclusions.
89. Peers
90. Pros
91. Rebound
92. Opp. of alligator
93. A person who has more experience than you. Not only is it disrespectful to do that, it’s also pretty stupid.
94. Step up to the challenge and admit the others rely on you.
95. As you clean up your workspace, you’ll be amazed. New opportunities will beckon from several new directions.
96. Your emissary is moving into a good position to lend you assistance. Your efforts have not been in vain.
97. Your fitness determination makes the most of these conditions. Continue to push yourself now and you’ll be amazed at what you accomplish.
98. Your full attention is still required to get things moving correctly. From then on, it looks like the process will proceed smoothly.
99. Consult your most revered advisors and your well trusted friends.
100. It’s not only what you know, it’s also who you know, of course. In this case, who you know really matters.
101. It’s also pretty stupid.
102. Don’t argue with a person who has more experience than you. Not only is it disrespectful to do that, it’s also pretty stupid. Horoscopes

ARIES
Don’t argue with a person who has more experience than you. Not only is it disrespectful to do that, it’s also pretty stupid.

TAURUS
Step up to the challenge and admit the others rely on you.

GEMINI
As you clean up your workspace, you’ll be amazed. New opportunities will beckon from several new directions.

CANCER
Your emissary is moving into a good position to lend you assistance. Your efforts have not been in vain.

LEO
Your fitness determination makes the most of these conditions. Continue to push yourself now and you’ll be amazed at what you accomplish.

VIRGO
Technical issues demand your attention and you will have to fix things.

LIBRA
Conditions are changing in your favor, slowly. Continue to listen to what others want and take notes, so you don’t forget.

SCORPIO
You’ve acquired an abundance of data, but don’t rush to conclusions.

SAGITTARIUS
Cool, objective analysis is your next assignment.

CAPRICORN
It’s not only what you know, it’s also who you know, of course. In this case, who you know really matters.

AQUARIUS
Consult your most revered advisors and your well trusted friends.

PISCES
It’s not only what you know, it’s also who you know, of course. In this case, who you know really matters.
**Fourth time a charm?**

Gamecocks still seeking to end losing streak, first SEC win of season

Brian Sadil
Alex Riley
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks will try for the fourth time to earn their first conference victory this season as Carolina travels to Knoxville and take on Tennessee's Lady Volunteers on Sunday at Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Volunteers (11-4, 4-0 SEC) took control of the SEC this year, holding the game's scoring average at the first five minutes of play. Ole Miss held a 40-25 advantage at the half.

Coach Walvius credits the loss to lack of depth at point guard. Senior point guard Lea Fabbri missed the game due to a sprained right ankle sustained in last Sunday's game against Alabama.

“We talk a lot about our depth, but one area that we don’t have is in the point guard position,” Walvius said. “When Lea (Fabbri) went down, we ran Brionna (Dickerson) and Ashley (Awkward) at point guard.”

Back-up point guard Brionna Dickerson, who is averaging 9.1 points per game, ended the game with 12 points and five rebounds. Dickerson is third overall in the SEC in scoring at 17.9 points per game, good enough for statistical leader. The Lady Rebels (15-4, 4-0 SEC) also have a top 20 men.

The Gamecocks’ #37 ranked scoring defense was overmatched by a Lady Rebel offense that ranks third in the nation in scoring, as the games leading scorer. Ashley Awkward, scored 22 points, including three of the Rebels four 3-point shots.

“We thought (previously) we made great strides offensively in our execution,” Walvius said. “Our execution today was poor. Our cuts were soft, and we turned it over a lot. We talked about that at half. You have to credit the Mississippi defense because that’s very good. We gave up 37 points today and we’re not going to win.”

Due to an injury to starter Lea Fabbri, USC guard Lauren Simmons saw time at the point finishing with 12 points.

Comments on this story? E-mail: gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu

Women get rolled by running Rebels

Christopher Nolen
The Daily Gamecock

The Carolina women’s basketball team headed to the Magnolia State Thursday hoping to win its first win over a ranked opponent since last season. Instead, the Gamecocks lost four consecutive games this season to Cincinnati, Ole Miss, Georgia, and Mississippi State.

The 6-foot-7-inch, 310-pound defensive lineman was an Army All-American Georgia, Geathers switched to USC. The 6-foot-7-inch, 290-pound defensive lineman was an Army All-American.

“We are excited to have Clifton,” said USC coach Steve Spurrier. “He is a player who can play on either the offensive or defensive line. We think we will develop into an outstanding player for us. Jonathan Williams is a junior offensive or defensive line. We think he will develop into eligible for the spring game in mid-April.”

Both the USC men’s and women’s track and field teams enter the season ranked in the nation’s top 20.

Track and field ready for successful season

Frye, both Gamecock squads aim to finish strong among countries greatest programs

Michael Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

After the performance that the track and field team had last season, it is hard to expect more from the team.

The men’s and women’s teams advanced many athletes to the NCAA championships, and the showings there were more than superb. However, head coach Curtis Frye expects just as much, if not more, from his team this year.

“Indoors, we are shooting to be a top 10 women and a top 20 men,” Frye said. “We gave up 37 points today and we’re not going to win.”

Comments on this story? E-mail: plapro@gwm.sc.edu

Both the USC men’s and women’s team each ranked at No. 4 nationally.

The team is full of leaders to help it along the way to maintaining its status as one of the premier track and field teams in the nation.

Senior sprinter Thomas Hilliard leads the team and on and off the field with effort and performance. The second year captain, 4.0 student and former walker on and athlete with his personal best time in the 400-meter hurdles. His time tied him for the fastest time in the country.

“Heard it all before but you have to be a top 50 men and a top 30,” Frye said.

“We are excited to have Clifton,” said USC coach Steve Spurrier. “He is a player who can play on either the offensive or defensive line. We think we will develop into an outstanding player for us. Jonathan Williams is a junior college transfer who should be able to help us immediately over the defense line this season.”

Geathers, who attended Hargrave Military Academy last fall with fellow winter arrival Olufemi Ajiboye, was a four-star prospect out of high school. After committing to Georgia, Geathers switched to USC. The 6-foot-7-inch, 290-pound defensive lineman was an Army All-American.

A Georgia native, Williams last played for Mississippi Delta Community College for two years. Originally a Mississippi State commitment, Williams earned first team all-state honors for the Mississippi junior college system last season. He was a three-star prospect according to Rivals.com and a four-star player by Scout.com.

Alex Riley

The good news for early enrollees continues to come in for Carolina as Clifton Geathers and Jonathan Williams both enrolled for the current season, making them eligible for the spring game in mid-April.

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A Georgia native, Williams last played for Mississippi Delta Community College for two years. Originally a Mississippi State commitment, Williams earned first team all-state honors for the Mississippi junior college system last season. He was a three-star prospect according to Rivals.com and a four-star player by Scout.com.

Alex Riley

The good news for early enrollees continues to come in for Carolina as Clifton Geathers and Jonathan Williams both enrolled for the current season, making them eligible for the spring game in mid-April.

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Former Volunteer reveals hidden pride for standout guard despite love for USC

This weekend I will be making the four-and-a-half hour trip to Knoxville to watch the Gamecocks take on the Volunteers in basketball. As a former UT student and someone who has a handful of relatives in the Knoxville area, I regularly follow Tennessee athletics while still maintaining loyalty to South Carolina.

However, now that Bruce Pearl has taken the best position in college basketball, has taken over the head coaching position for Tennessee and turned its program from a joke to an emerging power, my interest in the Vols has peaked. Unfortunately this basketball season, I come to the realization of something slightly disturbing. Although I am a heterosexual male who is highly attracted to the many classless ladies roaming the campus here at USC, I must admit to a little secret that I’ve been harboring: I have a man-crush on Chris Lofton.

For all you readers that aren’t basketball followers, you might be wondering who this Chris Lofton fellow is, and why on earth I would have a man-crush on him. I’ll explain. Chris Lofton, who the Gamecocks refer to as “C-Lo,” is a junior guard from Maysville, Ky. and he’ll be wearing No. 5 for the Volunteers Saturday.

In the national picture, the leading Naismith Award candidates are Nevada’s Nick Fazekas, Wisconsin’s Alando Tucker, LSU’s Glen Davis, and UNC’s Tyler Hansbrough. They have combined for an average of 37.6 points per game this season. Six times this year an SEC player has scored 30 or more points. Lofton did this five of those times. That includes against Memphis and Texas, both top-25 teams.

In the SEC picture, the leading Naismith Award candidate is Tennessee’s Chris Lofton. He is the leading scorer in the conference and is the leading candidate for the award. He is averaging a league-leading 22.5 points per game which includes a league-leading 22.5 points per game which includes an average of 3.76 three-pointers made per game. Six times this year an SEC player has scored 30 or more points, none of which were against Memphis and Texas, both top-25 teams.

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