8-22-2008

The Daily Gamecock, FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Phi Kappa Sigma to hold activities next week, seeks national charter

Here’s a message to students that want to join a fraternity but didn’t rush this week—it’s not too late. Phi Kappa Sigma, the newest fraternity on campus, will hold its rush activities next week as it looks to become the 15th on campus. The group is currently only a student interest group, as it hasn’t yet secured its national charter.

Nick Stoltman, the president of Phi Kappa Sigma, said the fraternity is looking for quality instead of quantity in its members. Unlike many of the larger fraternities, Phi Kappa Sigma only plans to have 10 to 40 members following this year’s induction.

“We’re just looking for guys with good character that are willing to do a lot of service and that are passionate about Greek Life,” Stoltman said. “Finding a core group is what we’re trying to do right now.”

The 15 current members, all pledges from last spring, are just not asked, Stoltman said. “This new fraternity will bring plenty of new ideas to the table.”

For new pledges looking to join, community service will be key to membership. Phi Kappa Sigma, a nationwide fraternity with over 60 active chapters, promotes community service through Habitat for Humanity and other organizations around campus as well.

While the group hopes to be official soon, the process for joining the Greek community isn’t easy. Phi Kappa Sigma presented its plans last year to the university, and must acquire a charter from the national organization within two years. In addition to the charter, Phi Kappa Sigma must recruit members and find housing.

Greek Life Director Ron Binder said plenty of students will want to be involved. “We’re hopefully going to get a core of our group,” he said. “They should be proud of themselves.”

For new pledges looking to join, community service will be key to membership. Phi Kappa Sigma, a nationwide fraternity with over

The newly initiated members of Phi Kappa Sigma read their membership handbooks after initiation at a hotel in Columbia. The fraternity will rush new members next week.

Phi Kappa Sigma to hold activities next week, seeks national charter

Josh Dawsey
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008 VOL. 102, NO. 12 W SINCE 1908

Cocky’s Caravan Kicks Off More than five years of hard work paid off for the Student Government Association on Thursday night as Cocky’s Caravan, the shuttle bus implemented to improve student safety, took its first ride around campus.

Students from the association held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the first ride, complete with a spirited rendition of Carolina’s fight song as the bus pulled up in front of the Russell House.

Student Body President Andrew Gauckle was excited about the start of Cocky’s Caravan. “They started trying to get this off the ground before I came here, and I’ll be a senior this year,” Gauckle said. “It’s been a long time coming.”

The bus, which travels a separate route from the Student Village around 9 p.m. and will conclude its run around 2:30 a.m. It will make stops at the Vista, The Colonial Life Center, Five Points, Russell House and various dormitories around campus. Schedules for Cocky’s Caravan will be posted around campus.

-Copied Josh Dawsey

Obama keeps VP secret Democratic candidate to host announcement Beth Fosley and Nedra Pickler The Associated Press

EMPIRIA, Va. — Barack Obama said Thursday he’s chosen his running mate, but could not keep all the details to himself as he campaigned with one leading contender and planned a major rally to present the Democratic ticket Saturday in Illinois.

Obama refused to say whether he’d notified his pick or when exactly he would send cell phones buzzing with the answer delivered via text message. He seemed to relish the frustrations of scores of reporters following him this week in anticipation of the announcement.

“Wouldn’t you like to know,” he said with a grin when asked by an Associated Press reporter when the next would be sent.

“I made the selection, that’s all you’re gonna get,” Obama said as he rested a store-selling meal at Virginia panini as nonchalantly as any other day campaigning in a battleground state.

Obama planned to appear with his pick Saturday at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., where he introduced his presidential campaign in February 2007.

Obama then planned to travel to the battlegrounds of West Virginia and Montana before arriving in Denver to accept his party’s nomination Thursday.

One person who had been-varied for the position told The Associated Press there had been no contact from Obama or his campaign about the decision.

The Illinois senator was widely thought to be considering Sens. Joe Biden of Delaware and Evan Bayh of Indiana along with Gws. Tim Kaine of Virginia and Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas. None of them gave anything away—at least not much.

Obama spent part of the day with Kaine, who reportedly told a colleague Wednesday that he believed he was on the short list. West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin said Kaine told him although he hadn’t heard anything from the Obama campaign on where he stands at the time, “he really thinks he has a chance at the short straw.”

But Kaine may have had more information Thursday after he campaigned with Obama, including a private meeting between the two men and Kaine’s staff for 15 minutes at a Richmond hotel. Afterward, Kaine said he would let the Obama campaign speak about whether the candidate asked him to be his No. 2.

If Kaine had good news when he appeared with Obama at a discussion of the economy in Chester, Va., he hid it well. The governor barely spoke as he sat slumped and expressionless, and Obama acknowledged him only in passing.

As he waited for news of the vice presidential choice.

Sen. Biden is believed a choice as Sen. Obama’s running mate. Obama keeps VP secret

BETH FOSLEY AND NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Sen. Barack Obama isn’t just inspiring black voters to register in large numbers as he gets closer to winning the Democratic presidential nomination. Evidence indicates that he’s motivating some black Republicans to switch parties.

The only three states that track voting registration by party and race show black Republican registration dropping slightly since the beginning of the year.

Florida has 81,512 more blacks who have left the Republican Party in 2008 compared to a loss of 784 black Republicans in 2004. Florida has 34,325 more black Democrats, while the number of black Republicans dropped by 907, North Carolina saw 92,166 more black Democrats and 2,850 fewer black Republicans.

While the number of blacks who have left the GOP for the Democratic Party can’t be pinpointed, it’s not hard to find voters who have made the switch.

“That’s happening in a lot of places,” said Ronald Walters, a University of Maryland political scientist who tracks racial trends.

In Florida, it’s happening at a time when the state Republican Party has made black voter recruitment a priority — one that is more difficult with Obama’s success.

The biggest impact could be in Florida, where polls show a tight race between Obama and Republican John McCain. President Bush carried the state by only 537 votes in 2000.

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Three South Carolina men accused of stealing millions through fraud may get 20 year sentence.

McQueen holds up a sign for victory outside courthouse.

South Carolina's governor, comptroller general and top legislators thought they voted last week on a health insurance by $25 per month for state employees and dependents.

Smithers, said the new price tag for smokers, leaving some of the state's most powerful officials — who usually don't agree on much — scratching their heads in confusion.

The agreement was staff was going to go ahead and implement this Jan. 1, 2010.
White House officials forecast pulling forces out by December 2011

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice shakes hands with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

U.S., Iraq discuss military withdrawal

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Also new this year are rankings based on a survey of high school guidance counselors, a group that has often criticized the magazine's mathematical formula.

The survey was sent to counselors at about 1,600 high schools, and about one-quarter responded. Respondents put many of the same schools at the very top of the list, with Harvard, MIT, Princeton and Yale in the top five.

"We have worked and we have softened it to make it hard to enhance the academic environment and serve more students," he said. Since 2000, he said, the program has added freshman seniors (which had 3,300 students) and more than 100 tenure- track faculty members, and the average body size has stayed about the same.

While U.S. News noted the changes but clearly continued to use the same math formula, many schools thought they got most of the attention, they rarely change much from year to year.

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National guardsmen arrive to bring aid to Floridians affected by Tropical Storm Fay’s fury and flooding this week.

Tropical storm carries other dangers, upsets Florida homes

**Brendan Farrington in St. Petersburg; and
Brian Skoloff in Tallahassee**

The threat of alligators, snakes and other creatures is one more problem confronting weary residents as they clean up their waterlogged homes. At least two alligators were captured in residential neighborhoods, and several others were spotted near homes.

In Cape Visto’s backyard in Indianatill, outside of Melbourne, snakes were swimming around in 4 inches of water. “It looked just like a jolly pond,” she said.

Florida peninsula with tropical storm intensity three separate times. The most recent hurricane was Donna in 1960, according to Daniel Brown, a specialist at the National Hurricane Center.

Police said an Indiana tourist drown after going swimming in rough waters churning up by the storm at Necapane Beach. To the south in Volusia County, authorities reported a second woman also drowned in Fay-generated waves.

Flood weaving was also possible in Georgia, where the southern half of the state’s Atlantic coastline was under a tropical storm warning. Some parts of Georgia could get up to 6 inches of rain.

In the town of St. Marys, Mary Neff watched the rain from the Spencer House Inn, which she owns with her husband.

“We’re pulling in our plants and porch furniture, making sure we have our supplies and gas for the generating, said Neff, who had three couples cancel weekend reservations. “I still think we all need to stay on our toes.”

Fay hovered for hours just off the Florida coast Thursday. At 5 p.m. EDT, the storm was located just west of Flagler Beach and moving west at about 5 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. It still had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph but was forecast to gradually weaken.

A tropical storm watch was posted for the Gulf Coast of Florida from the Suwannee River to Florida Bay, in case the storm emerges over water again.

With the rain moving to the north, the sun began to dry out some Florida neighborhoods hit by flood earlier in the week. The wind was considerably brighter for many residents who were still fighting to get out of their homes.

“Just about every street,” said Barbara Johnson, 44, of St. Lucie County.

“Try being dry land, somewhere to hide,” said Lenny Salter of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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Man accused of raping girls brought back to trial for gun charges

SC Football Vault Signing with author Elizabeth West
August 29, 2008 2:00-4:00pm Barnes & Noble Russell House Bookstore
September 12, 11:00-2:00pm Addams University Bookstore
September 20, 1:00pm, Walmart on Harbison
September 28, 2:00-4:00pm Richland Mall Barnes & Noble
December 13, 2:00-4:00pm Richland Mall Barnes & Noble

Few schools in the country have such a devoted fan base as the University of South Carolina, and no other book captures the history of their beloved Gamecocks football like the University of South Carolina Football Vault™: The History of the Gamecocks. As much a scrapbook as it is a history book, opening the vault is like getting a guided tour through your own personal South Carolina football museum.

Author Elizabeth Cassidy West cut her teeth on Gamecocks football from an early age by attending games with her father, Joe West, the University of South Carolina archivist, mixes great game coverage with behind-the-scenes anecdotes and personal stories to present a view of South Carolina football that you won’t find anywhere else.

The book combines fascinating tales of Gamecocks legends — Billy Laval, Rex Enright, Paul Dietzel, Jim Carlen, Lou Holtz, Joe Morrison, Steve Wadiak, “Deacon” S. Basketball, Bobby Bryant, Alex Hawkins, Jeff Grantz, George Rogers, Sterling Sharpe and more — with never-before-published historic photographs and replicas of unique memorabilia tucked inside the pages.

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Southern voters don’t care where VP choice hails from, survey says

While most Southern voters say a presidential candidate’s choice of running mate is important, they don’t care one iota if the pick is from the South, according to a Winthrop University/ETV poll released Thursday that gave John McCain a substantial lead in the region.

“The most important issue is the economy,” said Scott Huffmon, a political scientist at Winthrop and the poll’s author. “About 20 to 30 percent of people I know — dozens of people — they’re watching the talks.”

A hundred years ago, the idea of balancing a presidential ticket with somebody from another region was relevant and important, but we’ve really been moving away from that for quite awhile,” just over 87 percent of likely voters in 15 Southern states told pollsters it made no difference whether a vice presidential candidate was from the South. However, nearly 71 percent said the No. 2 person on the ticket will be a somewhat or extremely important factor in whom they vote for in November.

As regionalism goes, Southerners identify most strongly with their area of the country, Huffmon said. “Still, they don’t care whether the person is from the region, so I say we can put that to the back,” he said.

However, a vice presidential candidate can still help a nominee win a particular state. That’s why Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, for example, is widely believed to be on Democrat Barack Obama’s short list of possible vice presidential candidates, Huffmon said.

The Winthrop/ETV poll was conducted by phone Aug. 1-17 and included 1,086 registered voters in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, who said they’re very likely to vote in November. Its margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Of those polled, 51 percent said they were more likely to vote for Republican McCain, compared with 33 percent for Obama.

While most voters say it’s somewhat or very important that a presidential candidate have military experience, Huffmon said it’s not at all important. Among important qualities for a candidate, honesty was top in voters’ minds at 26 percent, followed by experience, at 23 percent, and “exhibits values similar to yours,” at 20 percent.

The economy was the issue most voters’ minds, with 16 percent putting it at the top of their list. That’s compared with 12 percent who said Iraq and 6 percent who said the price of gas.

Asked whether McCain or Obama has a clear plan for solving the country’s problems, 33 percent responded “not sure,” though that wasn’t an option, Huffmon said.

Asper asked who would do a better job on the issues, Southern voters gave McCain a double-digit lead over Obama on tackling terrorism, the “situation in Iraq,” taxes, and illegal immigration — an issue that plagued McCain during the primaries due to his push for last year’s failed immigration reform bill.

Voters rated McCain and Obama about the same on the economy, as long as there is need. “We anticipate staying as long as there is need and helping to set up the economy, because it’s very important that the economy begins to take on its normal aspects,” but it depends on our ability to do full assessments throughout Georgia,” Henrietta Fore, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, told reporters Thursday in Washington.

Poll measures candidate criteria

According to a survey, voters care less about regionalism than they do the issues.

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GEORGIA  Contended from 6

“We are waiting ... for the Russians to respect their word,” Kouchner told reporters before Paris. “We waited twice with dashed hopes. This time, it appears that there is at least the beginning of a fulfillment.”

Outside the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, several ethnic Georgian villages were burning Thursday — many days after fighting ended — and bone evidence of destruction from looting. Some Ossetians said they were not prepared to live alongside ethnic Georgians anymore.

“Tskhinvali no longer exists,” said the mayor. “It’s not the people, it’s the land that’s not the same. It’s the terrain, it’s the soil. It’s not the same anymore.”

“We want everyone to know the truth about the terrible events in Tskhinvali and the city that used to be there,” the mayor said.

“The concert begins to take on its normal aspects. But it depends on our ability to do full assessments throughout Georgia,” Henrietta Fore, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, told reporters Thursday in Washington.

Non-economic criteria are important, but the U.S. Agency for International Development plans to do full assessments throughout Georgia, Fore said.

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TROPICAL TAN

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DINE-IN

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Officials: Threat sent to McCain office

Envelope containing letter, white powder found at Colorado campaign center

Mary Hudetz
The Associated Press

CENTENNIAL, Colo. — A threatening letter containing an unidentified white powder was sent to a John McCain campaign office in his south Denver suburb Thursday, authorities said. No injuries were immediately reported.

A second letter sent to a McCain campaign office in New Hampshire initially was reported to contain threatening language and white powder. Authorities said that it was a false alarm and there was no powder in that envelope.

At least 19 people were examined at hospitals or were quarantined outside the Colorado office while authorities tried to determine whether the powder was hazardous.

Andy Lyon of Parker South Metro Fire Rescue Authority said the return address on the envelope listed the Arapahoe Detention Center and the name of an inmate. He didn’t release the name.

Lyon said the first line of the letter used threatening language. He refused to give any details.

Malcolm Wiley, a Secret Service spokesman in Colorado, said there was no powder in the New Hampshire envelope. He said he did not know about the content of the letter, which had a Denver return address. That alarmed staff in Manchester, who had heard about the Colorado incident.

Jim Barnett, McCain’s New England campaign manager, said it’s unusual for the New Hampshire office to get a letter from Denver.

“That was really the only suspicious thing about the letter, and our national headquarters advised, out of an abundance of caution for our staff and volunteers, that we have the authorities check it out,” he said. “We did and it was deemed safe.”

A government official familiar with the investigation said the New Hampshire letter was a false alarm. The official said authorities believe the Denver letter was a hoax because it appeared to have been sent from a jail.

Both the New Hampshire and Colorado offices were evacuated.

Lyon said about 40 people were evacuated from the Colorado building, but he did not know how many people had been in McCain’s office.

Seven people drove themselves to Sky Ridge Medical Center, but none showed any symptoms of exposure to a toxic substance, hospital spokeswoman Linda Wynn said.

Twelve people were quarantined outside the Colorado office, including three police officers and two firefighters, Lyon said.

“There were maybe a couple of grains of something inside an envelope and they had to kind of work to get a sample,” he said.

Associated Press writers P. Solomon Banda, Judith Kohler and Holly Ramer in Manchester, N.H., contributed to this report.

After discovering a threatening letter, McCain officials took precautions by quarantining 12 people and securing the area.

The Associated Press

RAPE ● Continued from 7

“If anyone has any doubt after reading this motion that McMaster has a controlling (sic) hand in this trial all one has to do is look at June 5 document enclosed to see that they are trying to punish me for a trial that I was found not guilty by a twelve member jury,” Hinson wrote.

“But to Hinson, who is setting to have Meetze removed as his attorney, their testimony would represent a miscarriage of justice.

“How can McMaster be involved in my state trial and federal trial when he had stood from the start that I was innocent (sic) yet still went forward with a very expensive trial for his own political gain.”

Hinson wrote in a letter, filed Tuesday in federal court. “I feel that I am not getting justice.

The case attracted national attention when South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster said during the manhunt that Hinson could have been indefinitely committed to a state program for sexually violent predators after serving his nine-year sentence. But a judge disagreed and set Hinson free.

“If anyone has any doubt after reading this motion that McMaster has a controlling (sic) hand in this trial all one has to do is look at June 5 document enclosed to see that they are trying to punish me for a trial that I was found not guilty by a twelve member jury,” Hinson wrote. “How can McMaster be involved in my state trial and federal trial when he had stood from the start that I was innocent (sic) yet still went forward with a very expensive trial for his own political gain.”
Russian author leaves void in art

PAUL BOWERS

art history major

Valentine's Day is a special day for lovers everywhere; it is also the anniversary of the Day of St. Valentine. On this day, beloveds express their love for one another with gifts, cards, and heartfelt words. In ancient Roman times, Valentine was a priest who opposed the Roman Emperor's marriage laws and was eventually executed. His death became a symbol of love and devotion, and his feast day was later adopted as a celebration of romantic love.

On this day, we remember Valentine and his legacy of love. Let us honor his memory with acts of kindness and compassion towards those we love. Happy Valentine's Day!

About the Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is produced by students for students, and aims to provide high-quality journalism on campus and in the community. The Daily Gamecock is a valuable resource for staying informed about the latest news and events at USC and beyond.

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. If you have a tip or a story idea, please let us know by contacting us at dailygamecock@usc.edu. We appreciate your feedback and are committed to providing accurate and informative journalism.
It calls into question the very reality of film and how modern actor drays become defined by their performances. This team sends up action films—particularly the kind of brutal, emotional war epic most epitomized by “Platoon” or “Saving Private Ryan”—with a sickening smirk and a touch of silliness that recalls Stiller’s “Zoolander.”

Ben Stiller, center, and Robert Downey Jr., right, star as actors in the comedy summer hit, “Tropic Thunder.”

Though imperfect and often hit-and-miss, the satire bites. By toss ing out one over-the-top, raunchy gag after another. By mixing low-level humor with thoughtful satire, Stiller may occasionally miss his mark, but the film almost feels more intimate because of it.

“The Tropic Thunder” is consistently all the way, as full of unnecessary excess as the genre it seeks to blow apart. It is ultimately the individual performances and the way each actor e mulates a specific brand of Hollywood cliché that makes the film so consistently funny.

Gett ing back into the swing of things at school can be a stressful time. Finding the perfect reading lamp, a small alarm clock or a small bedside table may not be a problem to any space you need to fill. Great for building your own system of organization, they could be used as the hooks you design and have the unique potential to be the perfect solution to your specific storage needs — ideal for oddly shaped dorm rooms and cramped apartment living where all space must be maximized.

Ben Stiller, center, and Robert Downey Jr. in Tropic Thunder.
The Nick was founded in 1979 when two USC Media Arts students rented the vintage Main street theater. The theater has occupied the space ever since. The lack of black-and-white movies, and hosts the Indie Grits film festivals. It holds an important place in the independent film world, as it serves as a cultural anchor on Columbia’s revitalized Main Street. With a grand new lease, greater rental opportunities and, of course, nightly screenings of films rarely seen outside of much larger metropolitan areas, our new theater will mean that we can bring a lot more to the needs of USC students, as well as to our community.

Local restaurants offer cheap options for students without sacrificing variety, taste

Martin Madden
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The start of classes has made two things clear: students at USC are hungry for an education, and they are even hungrier for good food. After all, man cannot live on books alone. Thankfully, with a cell phone and a little night and your wallet, Columbia certainly has an answer. Thanks to the expertise of a number of our hungry peers and the help of my friends, Columbia certainly has an answer. Thanks to the expertise of Grill Teriyaki has always been a favorite among students. With everything from tempura to Hibachi steak to sushi, which is far better than anything the Russell Vista. The dishes are petite and made to be shared, but are of an unforgettable quality despite their small size. All in all, the restaurant is definitely one of the classiest Mediterranean restaurant is made even more appealing by its late-night delivery service—as late as 4 a.m. some nights.

The best variety of food in Columbia, however, unquestionably comes from Germain and Vice, a tapas bar located in the Vista. The dishes are pain and made to be shared, but are of an unforgettable quality despite their small size. All in all, the restaurant is definitely one of the classiest.
Inside the Box

**THE SCENE @ USC**

**TODAY**

CAROLINA AFTER DARK
Russell House Theater
10 p.m., free

HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY
Russell House Theater
6 p.m.

SPEED RACER
Russell House Theater
9 p.m., free

HOT LAVA MONSTER, THE FIRE TONIGHT, THE TRANSMISSION FIELDS
Headlines, 700 Gervais St.
8 p.m., $7

MARRY A THIEF, THE DECADENCE, DIVIDED BY FRIDAY
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.
8 p.m., $5 over 21 / $7 under

**TOMORROW**

SYVELLE NEWMAN, SEVEN MILE SCREAM, JOB TUCKER AND THE CLASS OF 99½
Headlines, 700 Gervais St.
7 p.m., $20

BRICK LANE
Nickelodeon Theater, 917 Main St.
6 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., $6.50

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**THE WHITEBOARD**

**LEO**

When you’re in charge, you have to make sure the job gets done. You don’t have no reason now to do any Capricorn stuff. Don’t worry about the worry, go ahead and plan. Special time spent with loved ones justifies a special treat. Get the strawberry and rocky road as well as vanilla.

**SCORPIO**

Ignore what you’re doing well, and go for mastery. You can be a very busy person. You’ll have fabulous wealth. Let them think you don’t have to tell anybody, you don’t have to tell anybody, you don’t have to tell anybody.

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**Puzzled About Where to Go for Lunch?**

**Levi**

1. Yawn
2. Gardiner report
3. Read length
4. Equestrian leather workers
5. Stakes
6. Little hooters
7. Pantyhose
8. Immaculate
9. Stinks
10. On the peak of

**Solution for 8/22/08**

6 8 2 3 4 6 2 1 7 8 6 5 4 3 2 1 9 7 5 3 8 9 4 1 2 3 6 5 7 4 8 9 7 6 8 1 9 2 7 6 5 8 3 7 8 1 6 9 5 3 7 8 9 8 7 6 9 2 1 5 7 4

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**Crossword**

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

**ACROSS**

1. On the peak of
5. Firefighter’s upper
14. Theater section
15. Balio or Calerno
17. City horse-to-be?
19. Canonical hour
20. Printing guide
21. Serving no purpose
23. “Nana” writer
24. Had dinner
26. Some roof ends
31. Lip

**DOWN**

1. Money for mendicants
3. 3rd partner
4. Hammer part
5. Greek sun god
7. Command to Cup
8. Caesar’s penultimates
9. Narrow and elongated
35. Silrós
36. Player’s score
37. Snow
39. Smith
41. Call to arms
44. Pompeius fossil
47. Ready to be eaten
50. Look after
51. End of a switch?
52. Outer peel
53. Goldilocks of “Shrek”
54. Orange
55. Periodic note
57. Washing
58. Related
61. Of the ear
62. Pref. from US
63. Pref. from US
64. Of the ear
65. Periodic note
66. Playing fields
67. 3rd partner
68. Nervous
69. Preparatory
70. Workers’ strike
71. Preparatory
72. Ironworker
73. Pref. from US
74. Pref. from US
75. Sprinkler
76. Guess
77. Furniture
78. Periodic note
79. Equestrian leather workers
80. Stakes
81. Read length
82. Gardiner report
83. Yawn
84. Equestrian leather workers
Brettschneider ready for another successful season on the field

Drew Lattier/staff writer

This year, the Gamecocks hope to have another successful season on the field.

Michael Baumann/staff photographer

The Gamecocks are looking to have a successful season on the field.

Monteiro, lane senior, overcomes injury, prepares to take on leading role in pursuit of SEC championship

Danila Monteiro scored seven goals last season.

USC sophomore forward Blake Brettschneider stands head and shoulders above the competition.
Before I share my review of the preseason AP Top 25 college football poll, I feel I must offer a disclaimer. Despite the fact that I fully intend on ripping this list to shreds, I have to cast my vote that they shouldn’t even be a top-25 poll until at least the first week of October.

There is merely no way that anyone can judge who the best teams will be. Would LSU have even gotten to the BCS Championship game last season had it not been for a third place preseason ranking? Doublestuf.

Would any of the top-21 teams that were upset week after week last season even be in the position to be so-called “out” had there not been the 2005 NCAA season? Heck no.

Word of advice to members of the Associated Press football poll: give the season time to sort out the strong from the weak. It will make you look less stupid, which we all know is hard enough as is.

With that said, let’s crush this ridiculous list.

What better place to begin than where AP ranks No. 17? Georgia?

Forget the fact that Richt’s Georgia has to replace All-SEC quarterback Aaron Murray. Forgive the fact that Richt’s Georgia has to replace All-SEC running back Todd Gurley. Ignore the fact that Richt’s Georgia has to replace All-SEC tight end Orson Charles.

Instead, let’s talk about No. 12 Texas.

How about Texas coming in at No. 10? The Longhorns just got to run back Janimal Charles, who rushed for over 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns, and its top two receivers in Nate Jones and Quan Cosby, who combined to reel in over 1,400 receiving yards and 24 touchdowns. Couple that with a quarterback in Colt McCoy who is still trying to prove he can pass over the shadow that is Vince Young, and a brand new defensive coordinator in Will Muschamp and you have a team destined for a seven to nine win season.

While we’re in Texas, let’s talk about No. 12 Texas Tech. Call me when the Red Raiders find a defense or decide that they want to be consistently competitive against the Squadron division that is the Big 12 South, which features perennial powerhouse Texas and Oklahoma.

Going back to the eastern seaboard, I have to question Pittsburgh running out the list at 25. I don’t care that the Panthers are barely in it, they shouldn’t even be allowed to snuff this list. Whenever Dave Wannstedt decides that he wants to start coaching football again instead of sitting on the sideline in a daze, we can rehash this argument.

Yes, I know they feature a back-up quarterback in Tyrod Taylor and Sean Merling?

No, how could I forget? It’s the Atlantic Coast Conference. It doesn’t take much to win over there.

Lest we forget that Richt’s boys face one of the toughest schedules in the country, last arguably their most talented offensive line up at the most important position and they have more guys in handshakes than at a filming of “To Catch a Predator.”

If anyone should be No. 1, it should be Ohio State, who currently sits second. The Buckeyes play in a weak conference, that they’re almost assured to run through and return practically the entire starting lineup that lost only two in a season ago. It has nothing to do with whether the Buckeyes are the best team in the Big Ten, but had they lost two in a season ago they stand the most chance of retaining the ranking.

What about Florida at No. 15? Are we kidding me? Whenever Tim Tebow, who now performs triple bypas on game day at Ben-Hill Griffin Stadium, decides to finally lead his team to a fourth quarter comeback, or improve upon his record of 1-4 as a starter against top-25 teams, then Florida comes out.

However, my biggest beef comes with Clemson coming in at ninth. This ranking further proves the media’s fascination with skill position players. Clemson coach Tommy Bowden said it himself a few weeks ago in an interview with the local media.

Forget the fact that the Tigers carry a solid backfield and a perennial receiver in Michael Thomas. Whenever you have to replace four of five starting offensive linemen, your team is more than likely going to struggle in both protecting the quarterback and opening up holes for your running backs.

Did I mention that Clemson also has to replace all three starting tackles and four starting offensive guards? Or that Bowden has to replace pression ACC-All American defensive tackle Rashaad Corbin, who for at least half the season is Vince Young, and a brand new defensive coordinator in Will Muschamp and you have a team destined for a seven to nine win season.

Despite the fact that I fully intend on ripping this list, I have to cast my vote that they shouldn’t even be a top-25 poll until at least the first week of October...

Some say Clemson’s No. 9 ranking may be a bit high. Coach Tommy Bowden looks to prove the voters right.

Virginia Tech to creep up the rankings as the season progresses. They return two experienced quarterbacks in Tyrod Taylor and Sean Clenon and feature a Hokie defense that is consistently impressive under the tutelage of coordinator Bud Foster. The Hokies play in an incredibly weak division and should find themselves in Jacksonville come December.

Finally, I don’t know who they are, but I hope whoever has access to people who voted for these teams finds them a little less competitive in December...
Fall games to watch, week by week

Gamecock sports editor lines up fall football matchups you don’t want to miss

Michael Aguilar

Week One: No. 24 Alabama vs. No. 9 Clemson

If this game was up for a senior superlatives in high school, it would be something to the effect of “Game Featuring Two Teams Most Likely to Fail this Season.” The SEC is Richer than ever. They are Now.” With Alabama playing in the ever-jumbled SEC West and Clemson perfecting the art of choking, this just might be as high as either of these teams make it in the rankings. The Tigers’ offense/defense will be too much for coach Nick Saban’s Crimson Tide.

Week Two: No. 5 Florida vs. Miami (FL)

Miami coach Randy Shannon is trying to resurrect the once-great (if that’s the word you want to use) Hurricanes program. If the Canes want to prove that they are back on the national scene they have to at least give Florida a fight. The only thing UM has going against it is name recognition. Miami’s quarterback: Kyle “Has Hands That Fit Trey Wright.” Florida’s quarterback: Tim “Future Time Magazine Person of the Year” Tebow. Wait — Miami has a lot going against it, Florida rolls.

Week Three: No. 3 Southern California vs. No. 2 Ohio State

Ohio State is ready to make another unsung appearance in the BCS Championship. Southern Cal is desperate to do anything they can to keep from being shoved into the Rose Bowl yet again. This game will most likely decide one half of the Championship game storyline. After this game ends, the two teams play a combined five ranked opponents. Look out for Southern Cal to beat Ohio State and roll through the rest of its schedule.

Week Four: No. 10 Auburn vs. No. 7 LSU

The SEC West is up in the air this year, possibly more than ever before. Auburn and LSU are certainly the front-runners but it might make a bid for the division. Considering both of these teams play Georgia and LSU still has Florida on their schedule this game is of utter importance in the race for the SEC West crown. Watch out for a defensive slugfest that will see LSU coming out on top for the lead in the division.

Week Five: No. 22 Penn State vs. No. 20 Illinois

Week Five is possibly the slowest week of the season when it comes to big game potential. However, since Ohio State will watch its national title hopes slip away to Southern Cal this game may decide one of the challengers for the Big Ten title. Ever since losing fired from Florida, Ron Zook has been on a mission to bring the Illini to national prominence and show the impotent Gamecocks failure what they missed out on. This game will be one step in the right direction for Illinois.

Week Six: No. 13 Wisconsin vs. No. 2 Ohio State

Wisconsin is the team to finally challenge Ohio State’s stronghold on the Big Ten and its BCS bid if Wisconsin can win this game then it may finally be a change of the guard in the Midwest. However, if the Buckeyes can recover from their loss to the Trojans and win this game, then just might be the lift they need to pull off the Big Ten title again. Ohio State will probably lay in overconfidence and make another run at the BCS Championship, much to the chagrin of... everyone.

Week Seven: No. 4 Oklahoma vs. No. 11 Texas

The Red River Shootout is one of those games that always seems to decide a BCS contender, last year being the exception to the rule. This is a duel between prology-quarterbacks in Oklahoma’s Sam Bradford and Texas McGowan. Although McGowen may have the name battle, Bradford and company have not too much talent on the field for the full-length Longhorns. The Sooners capture the game and, most likely, the Big 12 title.

Week Eight: No. 11 Texas vs. No. 6 Missouri

The week after its toughest game of the season Texas has to pick up the pieces and face a talented Missouri team. Missouri returns Chase Daniel at quarterback. Daniel is possibly the only player in college football with enough grit to challenge Tebow for the Heisman. With Daniel at the helm for the third straight year Missouri is one of the most experienced teams in football. The Tigers become Texas’ second straight loss and the beginning of the end of the Mack Brown era.

Week Nine: No. 8 West Virginia vs. No. 10 Auburn

West Virginia and Auburn meet in what will potentially be the biggest Thursday night game of the season. The same week nine rolls around Auburn will have fully implemented its spread offense. West Virginia may be the next Pat White but WVU’s defense is nonexistent. Auburn makes a case for an at large BCS bid with an upset win in Morgantown.

Week Ten: No. 5 Florida vs. No. 1 Georgia

At this point in the season both of these teams have a solid chance to be undefeated. If that is the case, then the teams could enter the game ranked No. 1 and No. 2. It would be surprising to see some rabid Tennessee fans show up to the game in Nashville. The Cocktail Party has never had so much meaning. Florida coach Urban Meyer will return the favor Georgia coach Mark Richt had last year by ending the Dawgs’ national title run.

Week Eleven: No. 19 Tennessee vs. No. 22 Alabama

Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer was subpoenaed at SEC Media Days for rating out Alabama and Missouri as the SEC’s “gay set.” It would not be surprising to see some rabid Tennessee fans show up to the game in Nashville. The Cocktail Party has never had so much meaning. Florida coach Urban Meyer will return the favor Georgia coach Mark Richt had last year by ending the Dawgs’ national title run.

Week Twelve: No. 10 Kansas State vs. No. 6 Missouri

Kansas State has never been better than co-conference champs and Top 10 teams are down in Manhattan. Missouri is the most talented team in the SEC and not many will look at this game as a chance for the Tigers to challenge the SEC title game and the losing team’s fans may burn Arrowhead to the ground. The World’s Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party has never had so much meaning. Florida coach Urban Meyer will return the favor Georgia coach Mark Richt had last year by ending the Dawgs’ national title run.

Week Thirteen: No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 2 Alabama

Georgia fans and players will still be reeling from their loss at the Cocktail Party and Auburn will still be flying high after a win at West Virginia. This game will be close, a lot closer than most will expect but Bama will pull it out; Auburn’s spread offense won’t have seen a defense like UGA’s and the Dawgs will be too much for Auburn.

Week Fourteen: No. 4 Oklahoma vs. No. 12 Texas Tech

By this point Oklahoma is on a roll towards the national title game. Texas Tech is not even a speed bump on the way there. The Red Raiders’ offense has never had much success in big games and this will be no exception. The Sooners will put the clamps on and make their way to the Big 12 title game.

Week Fifteen: No. 22 Alabama vs. No. 10 Auburn

The Iron Bowl is always the game of the week and this year will be no exception. Expect a lot of hype on the line for the teams that are playing for the SEC title. Alabama will be fighting for something vs. Clemens, Tennessee and LSU, Nick Saban will be exacting some form of revenge against Texas Tech, Mississippi State and LSU. Auburn will be fighting for something vs. coaching colleagues to Clemens, Tennessee and LSC, Nick Saban will be exacting some form of revenge against Texas Tech, Mississippi State and LSU. Auburn and Alabama’s Tide will probably be the ending of the end of his tenure at Auburn.