SC Black Pride Week combats inequality

Carroll W. Berkowitz

It is again time for South Carolina Black Pride Week which, starting Wednesday, will celebrate the African-American LGBT community through a myriad of family-friendly, political and entertainment events for “the most vulnerable and underserved within our community,” as described on the SC Black Pride website.

South Carolina Black Pride is hosted by SC Black Pride, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to benefit all LGBT persons and celebrate their beauty and individuality, as they “share their stories in the journey to equality,” according to the SCBP website.

Pride Week incorporates the organization’s “6 Pillars of Pride” — education, youth and adult education, health and wellness, community involvement, political awareness and support through advocacy — in each of its events. Black Pride Week’s 2015 theme is “Primetime 4 SC Pride — 10 years of Standing in Our Truth” to celebrate a decade of being for and against equality and acceptance of the African American LGBT community in South Carolina.

Black Pride Week’s biggest event is the Expo, to be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at Meadowlark Park, will also offer free and confidential HIV testing by Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services. As an educational event, several workshops hosted by the Human Rights Campaign, SC Equality and SCBP will take place from 11 to 5 p.m. at the Elk Club. Other events include a Sunday picnic, men’s entertainment night and “Blacklight” prom.

For gay African Americans, who represent the highest proportion of the LGBT community in the U.S., the journey to equality is ongoing. In a 2012 study the Black Youth Project found that 41 percent of black gay adolescents have contemplated or attempted suicide and 26 percent are targeted in anti-gay bullying.

One USC computer science student, who chose to remain anonymous, is more worried about the public reaction of the flag as a de facto statement on new ideals rather than to respect and remember the South Carolinians who gave their lives defending their legislators and homes from a brutally violent invasion and occupation of the South by the Union during the Civil War.

“I can see why this issue will come to a head concerning the event in Charleston this week, but I don’t see a reason to take the flag down or take measures to ensure our public safety. I think that while the flag is a symbol of slavery and has no place in our modern-day South Carolina, it is one of those places in history that even though some people may want it to remain, it is necessary to honor the past and the African American community in the U.S., the proportion of the LGBT black community in South Carolina is one of seven states with laws against positive portrayal of gay men perceived as such often draw a negative reaction from family. According to his studies, Michael LaSala, a social work professor and researcher at Rutgers University, attributes much of this to his family’s rejection.

Not all students feel this way, however.

For gay African Americans, who represent the highest proportion of the LGBT community in the U.S., the journey to equality is ongoing. In a 2012 study the Black Youth Project found that 41 percent of black gay adolescents have contemplated or attempted suicide and 26 percent are targeted in anti-gay bullying.
Sen. Pinckney’s public viewing set for Wednesday

A public viewing will be held for the late Senator Clementa Pinckney on Wednesday in the South Carolina Statehouse, according to WLTX. Pinckney will be delivered by horse-drawn caisson from Leevy’s Funeral Home and is expected to arrive at the Statehouse around 12:30 p.m. The senator’s casket will be taken to the rotunda where the viewing is planned to begin at 1 p.m. and last until 5 p.m.

No photography or videotaping will be allowed at the viewing, and people are also encouraged to leave backpacks, electronics and anything sensitive to metal detectors in their vehicles for the viewing.

Senator Pinckney’s funeral is scheduled for June 26 at 11 a.m. at the TD Arena at the College of Charleston, 80 Meeting Street, Charleston. Those wishing to attend can begin lining up at 9 a.m.

--James Stewart, New Editor

SCE&G donates $100,000 to Mother Emmanuel AME

On Tuesday, SCE&G announced that it had donated $100,000 to the Mother Emmanuel AME Church, according to WIS. The donation was made in order to help aid the healing process of those affected by last Wednesday’s shooting which claimed nine lives.

In addition to the initial $100,000, SCANA also said it would match its employee donations dollar-for-dollar.

“SCANA and SCE&G employees grieve for our neighbors impacted by the tragic events at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston,” said Kevin Marsh, chairman and CEO of SCANA. “In an effort to give back to those who have given so much, SCE&G is pleased to contribute $100,000 to promote healing, lift spirits and contribute to the role this historic congregation will continue to play in South Carolina’s future.”

--James Stewart, News Editor

Following the controversy around the Confederate battle flag in front of the South Carolina Statehouse this week, petitioners have begun to rally to remove a similar symbol found on the Mississippi state flag, according to WLTX.

A petition on moveon.org has called for the removal of the Confederate symbol from the corner of the state flag, which is found prominently on all government buildings throughout Mississippi.

As of Monday, the petition had received 2,000 signatures.

Jennifer Gunter, originally from Jackson, Mississippi, who is pursuing a doctorate in American History at the University of South Carolina, started the petition Saturday.

--James Stewart, News Editor

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.
Carolina are deeply rooted in racist ideals."

Mike Paul, a fourth-year economics and political science student, worries that the response from both Governor Haley and other prominent politicians is simply to appeal to voters’ sentiments. 

“My fear is that [Haley’s press conference] is a simple political move,” Paul said. “Now, politicians can say they supported the issue prior to anything but when nothing changes, they can blame the reaction on ‘legislative hurdles’ and not actually have to change their base. The legislative session has to be extended prior to any debate on the repeal of the statute. But my problem is that none of the politicians decided to stand up in the name until the pictures from the ‘last Rhodesian’ (Dylann Roof’s website) were blown up on the media. I just want people to know this isn’t exactly the victory the media touts it as.”

At the rally both anti-flag and pro-flag supporters came out in force. Justin Young, an employee of the South Investment Commission, was bothered by the reactionary nature of the call for the flag’s removal. “It’s a shame that it took a tragedy like this for our leaders to take action,” Young said.

Mike Anderson wore a grey Civil War-era soldier hat as he stood next to the Confederate solider monument where the flag flies. “I think that the Governor’s been putting sort of a spin on anything where she had no other choice to do, in my opinion, what she’s doing,” Anderson said. “But this is the wrong time to jump on the Confederate flag issue. First, I think it’s a complete disservice to his service. The legislative session has to be extended prior to any debate on the repeal of the statute. But my main problem is that none of the politicians decided to stand up in the name until the pictures from the ‘last Rhodesian’ (Dylann Roof’s website) were blown up on the media. I just want people to know this isn’t exactly the victory the media touts it as.”

Of course, said: “I think it’s a shame what happened, and I’m very proud of the people in our state for reacting the way they have and coming together, but I think that Haley’s reaction was a little emotional. Frankly believe that symbols are symbols, but we took it down from the top of the Statehouse fifteen years ago which was OK, but, what’s next?”

Moses Ush, a local physician, was taking pictures of the flag after the rally had started to disperse. “I’ve lived here for about 30 years, I went to school here at USC,” Ush said. “It’s not the flag small, but what people use the flag to do. The flag, at its best, could be used by different people for different reasons, but now it has become a symbol of hatred that people can wrap around themselves and do things to other people they find different. So, I think South Carolina is a good state, but for us to move forward it’s time for this flag to come down.”

Lauren, a mother who chose to be identified by her first name only, was snapping pictures of her baby daughter clad in American Flag-patterned overalls as the toddler sat a few feet from the flagpole, next to a sign that read “Our lives begin to end the day we become SILENT about things that MATTER. -MLK JR #TakeItDown.”

“I feel like the reason being this past week’s events is sad that it had to come to that to take it down, but I just believe it belongs in a museum, not on the Statehouse grounds,” Lauren said.

Leslie Pearson, who works for the University of South Carolina, does not like the idea of the flag flying while Senator Pinckney’s body is being displayed inside the capitol, which is planned for tomorrow. “As soon as I got off work, we decided we both wanted to come down here hoping that if we waited out a few hours, the State Legislatures might have a few comments, because more than anything, I think it’s really important that tomorrow when [Senator] Pinckney is laying in the Statehouse that he’s not laying in a building that’s in front of the Confederate flag. That, to me, is a complete disservice to his service to the state. So, we’re hoping that by this evening this whole situation can be rectified, in order to honor him properly tomorrow.”
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summer, The Daily
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once a week. So more
than not, we miss
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tell you all about
some of the awesome
events going on in
Columbia and how
they happen.
This week, we
decked out a few
of this weekend's
events in advance
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eventually get
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for this weekend!

Paul McCartney
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The Beatles, who
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Wednesday, June 24, 2015

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discusses sensitive subjects

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Race equates to continuum, not strict category

Emily Barber

How does one define “race”? The Merriam-Webster dictionary calls it “a category of humankind that shares certain distinctive physical traits.” The most common physical trait by which we categorize race is skin color. Rachel Dolezal, whose face has featured two different skin tones on the news, disagrees. Although she was born and grew up with pale skin and blonde hair, she identifies as a black woman.

The former NAACP Spokane chapter president has faced criticisms from her family and members of the public since the question of her race came to light. Dolezal says that she has seen herself as black since childhood, drawing her self-portraits with brown skin and dark eyebrows when she was five years old. This raises the important question of whether racial identity, like sexual orientation or gender identity, is an aspect that does not necessarily match a person’s appearance. One of Dolezal’s adopted brothers, whose father is partially black and mother is white, says that Dolezal “doesn’t know what it’s like to be black.” He says that she did not experience the challenges that come with being a black woman because she has only been seen as black in recent years. Dolezal says that she has faced harassment because of her race and her involvement in the NAACP. Should she recent experiences as a black woman determine her race? Or does her upbringing as a white child present her from seeing herself as actually black?

It seems like it should be simple to determine a person’s race. Race is a genetic and permanent trait. Or is it? Population scientists analyzed 186 million forms from the 2000 United States census, and they found that more than 20,000 respondents selected a different race in the 2010 census. When it comes to self-identity, race is much more complicated than appearance. Identity also includes ethnicity, which refines more to cultural factors than physical characteristics. While there are a handful of skin color categories, there are innumerable ethnicities around the world. Africa has hundreds of cultures, each with its own language and traditions. Russia recognizes more than 185 distinct ethnicities just within its borders.

Like sexual orientation or gender identity, racial identity is a continuum. But how gives users the option to enter a “Custom” gender on their profiles. Eventually this same flexibility might be applied to situations in which people must identify their race. And in a few generations, if the world continues to become a global melting pot, skin color might be irrelevant when it comes to defining race.

Rachel Dolezal identifies as a black woman. This article is not intended to devalue whether she is or is not. It only argues that her skin color — the color Dolezal is primarily identified as a black woman.

Race continues to be a contentious issue. Some argue that race is nothing more than appearance. Identity also includes ethnicity, which refines more to cultural factors than physical characteristics. While there are a few skin color categories, there are innumerable ethnicities around the world. Africa has hundreds of cultures, each with its own language and traditions. Russia recognizes more than 185 distinct ethnicities just within its borders. Like sexual orientation or gender identity, racial identity is a continuum. But how gives users the option to enter a “Custom” gender on their profiles. Eventually this same flexibility might be applied to situations in which people must identify their race. And in a few generations, if the world continues to become a global melting pot, skin color might be irrelevant when it comes to defining race.

Rachel Dolezal identifies as a black woman. This article is not intended to devalue whether she is or is not. It only argues that her skin color — the color Dolezal is primarily identified as a black woman.
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OPPORTUNITIES
ranks and it will be a difficult home slate. For a team that averages 2600 in home attendance, you would think they would play better behind a big crowd.

Another big focus for this season should be set pieces. Last season, the Gamecocks drew 242 fouls (12 per game), and while not all those would be in a position for an attempt on goal, the desire for 3.5 goals per game should be higher. To make matters worse, USC goofed on many a corner kick. Usually an average of 5.5 corners per game — nearly one more than the opponent — means that the shots on target should be well above average, but last season, South Carolina only averaged around 5.5 shots on goal per match. Set pieces and corner kicks means that the attacking team has an advantage as they have a play in mind and can direct the ball to presumably their best aerial attacker. An easy way to increase goals scored is to convert on set pieces.

The last big improvement the team needs to make is on the leadership side. Last season, seniors Mahamoudou Kaba and Braeden Troyer were the captains of the team, and they were stars of the team, especially Kaba. This season, two foreigners will have to step up, specifically on the offensive side. Sophomore Kurt Turner played in England for Barnsley FC in the FA Youth Cup before arriving at South Carolina, and he made a huge impact for the team. He started 35 games and played the fourth most minutes on the team. During the season, 44 percent of his shots were on target, scoring on three of them. His counterpart, Mikkel Knudsen from Denmark, leads the team in scoring with eight goals. At 6-foot-3, he stands out like a tree among bushes in the box. Therefore, most of the corners should be directed toward him. Overall, the two main offensive guys need to put the team on their backs and up the average goals per game.
This week in Gamecock sports

UNC transfer chooses South Carolina

Dawn Staley and her Gamecocks got another transfer on Friday. Allisha Gray, who will have to sit out from a year of play, earned first-team All-ACC honors while sitting guard positions. Gray led the team in points (15.2) and in an astounding 8.2 rebounds per game. At an even six feet, Gray is a big guard who can hold her own inside the 3-point line as well as outside of it. She shot close to 31 percent from downtown, which even though it was an 11 percent drop from her freshman year, is still not bad. When UNC lost to South Carolina in the sweet sixteen last season, Gray earned a meager 12 points and 1 rebound.

Three divers make the cut for the 2015 USA Diving National Championships

With the 2015 USA Diving AT&T National Championships date of August 1 creeping up, rising junior Marissa Roth and rising sophomore Marissa Roth and rising sophomore Marissa Roth and rising sophomore Marissa Roth and rising sophomore Mikkel Knudson have been invited to participate in the event in the 1-meter springboard, 1-meter springboard and 1-meter springboard, respectively. Lamendola, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, had her best 1-meter performance back in 2012 at a meet at College of Charleston with a score of 329.82. Roth’s best performance as a Gamecock was a 318.67 on the 1-meter. Gottes finished 16th overall in the NCAA Championships back in late March from the platform event.

Men’s Soccer needs to improve tactics

For one, they need to play better at home. Owning a below .500 record on your home pitch cannot be something head coach Mark Berson is content with. Behind a home crowd in Stone Stadium should be enough to boost a performance. Even so, the Gamecocks played six overtime games at home — half of which were double overtime — and lost three of them. While giving the crowd some free game is a courteous gesture, I’m sure the audience would like to have seen all those games end with a win after 90 minutes of play. And the home schedule doesn’t get easier for the Gamecocks this season. They will have to take on a traditional powerhouse team in New Mexico, in the league opener and Old Dominion, the squad that knocked them out of the Conference USA tournament last year and ended the season ranked No. 20. This will be the worst start to a year and ended the season ranked No. 20, later in the season. Tack on a solid Coastal Carolina team who finished No. 21 in the NCAA

Fall 2015: South Carolina Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Sept. 3</td>
<td>North Carolina Tar Heels</td>
<td>Bank of America Stadium, Charlotte, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 12</td>
<td>Kentucky Wildcats</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 19</td>
<td>Georgia Bulldogs</td>
<td>Sanford Stadium, Athens, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 26</td>
<td>UCF Knights</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Oct. 3</td>
<td>Missouri Tigers</td>
<td>Faurot Field, Columbia, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Oct. 10</td>
<td>LSU Tigers</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Oct. 17</td>
<td>Vanderbilt Commodores</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Oct. 21</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Aggies</td>
<td>Kyle Field, College Station, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Nov. 7</td>
<td>Tennessee Volunteers</td>
<td>Neyland Stadium, Knoxville, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Nov. 14</td>
<td>Florida Gators</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Nov. 21</td>
<td>Citadel Bulldogs</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Nov. 28</td>
<td>Clemson Tigers</td>
<td>Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 5</td>
<td>SEC Championship</td>
<td>Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA</td>
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