SG, BGLSA poll students; USC says it hasn’t made plans

Third Moore
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Do you think USC should have gender-neutral housing? Student Government and USC’s BGLSA group want to know.

The two groups are conducting a joint survey to see what students think of gender-neutral dorms and bathrooms, which supporters say would make the campus safer and more welcoming to gay and transgender students.

“We’ve asked for gender, male or female, and several very important decisions are made based on that — who you roommates can be and what your living environment’s going to be — and there’s a lot of students who don’t feel comfortable with that choice,” said Brandon White, Student Government’s secretary of organizational outreach. “People cannot learn if they do not like where they’re living.”

White, who doubles as BGLSA’s chair of advocacy initiatives, said he hopes to take the results to student senate, the house of delegates and the Residence Hall Association next semester in hopes of gaining their endorsements.

But a gender-neutral plan would need top university administrators’ approval, said Kirsten Bennett, USC’s director of University Housing.

In theory, the survey could be USC’s first step toward designing some suites or halls as gender-neutral, meaning students’ gender and sex wouldn’t be considered in their room assignments.

In practice, however, gender-neutral housing doesn’t look to be coming to USC any time soon. University spokesman Wes Hickman said in an email that USC has no plans to add gender-neutral rooms. The university gets between one and three requests for special accommodations out of 9,000 students each semester.

Outage takes out Internet, phones

USC experienced outages in telephone and Internet service Thursday afternoon because of a break in service at the university’s offices at 1600 Hampton St.

As of 4 p.m., university technicians were working to solve the issue. UTC did not return a request for further comment.

The outage affected various campus-wide systems, including wireless Internet networks and telephone service, according to the UTS website. Those systems were unavailable Thursday afternoon.

Compiled by Hannah Jeffrey, Assistant News Editor

Photography show brings visitors to McMaster Gallery

Students showcase work; Chicago professor speaks

Khadijah Dennis
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For Christina Smith, a fourth-year studio art student, and Julia Bennett, a third-year marine science student, winning the Pop-Up Show meant more than an award. It meant furthering their passion for photography.

“The experience was new for a lot of us,” said Smith, the first-place winner. Meg Griffin, a photography professor at USC, said students came together and decided to put on the Pop-Up Show and frame all of their own photographs. Griffin also helped students organize the event.

In conjunction with the USC Photography Festival, the Pop-Up Show featured 26 pieces of student artwork. Dennis Kiel took on the task of judging the photographs and chose the first-, second- and third-place winners.

“It wasn’t easy to narrow it down, it was some great work,” Kiel said. Bennett, who won second place, said that upon arriving at the university, she didn’t know that the photography department existed and now calls her professors her mentors.

Holiday-themed fair takes Main

Trendy market sets stage for vendors and shoppers searching for artsy gifts or simply wandering with friends at the latest installment of the monthly arts celebration. Also among the First Thursday revelers were ice skaters at the Boyd Plaza skating rink outside the Columbia Museum of Art.

For S&S Art Supply on the 1600 block of Main Street, Thursday night was one of its last chances to welcome the public before it closes later this month.

Eight local artists’ works were on display above their near-empty shelves, and the Pleasure played outside the storefront. The store — which added half of its remaining merchandise to a single buyer earlier in the day, owner Eric Stockard said — has hosted local artists at First Thursdays every month since its move to Main Street in June 2011.

First Thursdays on Main was started in 2009 by Frame of Mind owner Mark Plessinger, who began hosting monthly art shows at his specialty eyewear store.

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Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa and an anti-Apartheid activist, has died. He was 95.

“He is now resting. He is now at peace,” South African President Jacob Zuma said following Thursday’s announcement, according to The Associated Press. “Our nation has lost its greatest son. Our people have lost a father.”

Mandela was sentenced to prison in 1964 after being convicted of treason and remained in the Robben Island Prison until 1990. In 1993, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work, and a year later, he became South Africa’s first black president during the nation’s first free elections. — Natalie Pita, Staff Writer

“This program really inspired me a lot,” Bennett said. “I fell in love with the photography department, and photography is one of the only things that I know how to communicate with.”

Visiting Columbia College Chicago professor and photographer Myra Greene said she would like to reach out more to students and the community with her work. She described her work as conceptually based and said the ideas she comes up with drive her pictures.

“I felt that coming here was a nice opportunity to see what students are doing,” Greene said in her keynote address.

Greene asked the audience about what people see when they look at photographs, saying that her goal is always to recognize the different layers involved.

Jessica Christine Owen, a graduate student photographer, hosted her own show entitled “Amour Propre” at McMaster Gallery.

“This project is about the difference between where love lies and self-obsession,” Owen said. This project was a side project of her thesis that dealt with the early Western civilization’s standards of beauty and how they have changed over the past five centuries.

“The idea of the current beauty standards has constantly been a driving factor [in my work] with society’s idea of this is what you have to be; it’s pushed on us in the media,” Owen said.

Over time, Owen was able to open up more about her work’s meaning, and she credited her adviser, who helped her to “cross some lines” and allowed her to “be confident in her own skin.”

“I want to get out to a larger audience and find myself in academic roles, so I can start showing my knowledge and giving it back to the community,” Owen said.

Former South Carolina first lady Jenny Sanford is seeking a seat on the board of the Charleston County Aviation Authority, The Associated Press reported.

Sanford is one of seven candidates seeking the position and is joined by five other women, according to The (Charleston) Post and Courier.

Jordan Scott Pace, a field representative for Sanford’s ex-husband, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, is also running for a seat.

The seat opened up after a board member accepted a position on the board of the Medical University of South Carolina. Charleston County’s legislative delegation is expected to decide next week who will fill the open seat.

If Jenny Sanford is picked for the position, she will earn a wage of $35 per meeting. — Sarah Martin, Staff Writer

The rejection of a strong-mayor referendum held Tuesday owes to the combination of heavier turnout in two higher-income City Council districts and large numbers of African-American voters staying home, according to an analysis by The State.

In nine precincts, the strong-mayor measure failed by 100 or more votes. These precincts, which are represented by City Council members Mos Baddourah, Lorna Plaugh or both, provided 1,400 of the 1,629 votes that put “no” voters over the top.

Voter turnout was below 10 percent in 21 precincts and supporters of the new form of government for Columbia won 17 of the precincts.

According to officials on both sides of the issue, African-American voters didn’t vote because they were not motivated by the issue or they were concerned about offending their neighbors or black leaders, who were also divided on the issue.

— Natalie Pita, Staff Writer

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— Natalie Pita, Staff Writer

Visitors look at students’ photographs at Thursday’s Pop-Up Show, which featured photographs from USC students at the McMaster Gallery.

“Please consider sending a cheerful email to someone who needs cheering up. Thank you.”

The Daily Gamecock

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In the Southeastern Conference, only Vanderbilt offers gender-neutral housing, though others, including Missouri, are considering the idea. “There other SEC (schools) that are doing it, and they’re not bursting into flames. There are other schools that are considering this,” White said. “This is a time when USC can be a trend-setter.”

The focus of one of the survey’s questions — adding unisex bathrooms — is already happening, Kennedy said. Housing has so far made 35 single-person bathrooms unisex, and 21 more are on the way. The process began a year and a half ago.

The survey also includes a question about adding “gender identity” to USC’s non-discrimination policy. “That’s not something that should be debated,” White said.

Puppies relieve stress

Meredith Austria / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Students on Davis Field de-stressed with dogs Thursday in preparation for next week’s final exam schedule. The event was hosted by Campus Wellness and PAALS.

Second-year student Hollin Cleenmear was de-stressing Thursday afternoon, putting aside her classes in favor of puppies. “I have a dog at home, and I miss him so much,” Channommele said. “So just this kind of brings back home and makes me excited to just power through finals and then just get back.”

Palmetto Animal Assisted Life Services and Campus Wellness partnered up to bring puppies to students, giving them the opportunity to de-stress before finals. PAALS works to empower children and adults with physical disabilities and social needs. Campus Wellness’ program coordinator, Michael Crowley, said that the partnership has provided great benefits to both organizations.

“The program really helps students. They see the biggest thing is the homesickness,” Crowley said. “Late in the semester, you’re constantly stressed out from your last wave of papers and exams before you get your final exams, and so that stress kicks into homesickness and one of the biggest things they miss are their pets.”

The event also provides relief to PAALS therapy dogs. Crowley said that the organization has even had parents that donated towards their organization because of how much it really has helped their children.

“It’s been a great partnership and we all benefit from it,” Crowley said. “The program is expected to start back up in January.

Puppies are a good way to relieve stress, according to studies. Puppies can lower blood pressure, increase happiness, and reduce stress hormones. They can also provide a sense of companionship and reduce feelings of loneliness. Puppies can also be a good way to get students to interact with each other and make new friends.

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Students are being polled on gender-neutral housing.

**OUR STAND:**

It’s up to us to keep a long road ahead.

Finals week is always a brutal reminder how hard college can be. This week marks the end of semester, fittingly, and hopefully, your grades are still intact, but you’ve got that last stretch of papers and exams before the stress is over. Throw in a job, internship, or other exam, and you’ve got the makings of a difficult time.

For most of us, that stress is wrapped in our friends and roommates, who we can lean on and who make our apartments and dorms a comforting place. For many, including those in the LGBTQ community, that escape isn’t always so easy.

USC’s housing policies in many cases require them to live with someone of a gender they don’t identify with or someone who doesn’t understand or accept them.

We’re glad that USC works with students who ask for special accommodations, but in our opinion, the process they go through to find a roommate they’re comfortable living with shouldn’t be harder than the process most students follow.

That brings us to a survey being done by the USC Office of Government and USC’s BGSQSA, which asks students if they think of creating gender-neutral housing here. Doing so could make USC a trend setter — in South Carolina, the Northeastern Conference and the South overall.

Students and administrators are ready to make this change. It think we’re ready.

This isn’t a move to lump everyone into a single category. Instead, it’s a move to change the system for the majority of students, instead of the few.

"College is hard enough as it is, but having to switch gender norms and peers, most of us are happy to say it’s worth it.

Let’s make sure the same is true for all of our students. Period."

Cramming, caffeine staples, but unwise

It’s the most ominous week of the semester, characterized by multiple cups (or pints) of coffee, stray pillows, sleep deprivation and the occasional, most notably — a swamped stomach.

Virtually all students, regardless of major, will face the dread finals week standing between them and Christmas vacation. While we all strive to make our time here count, exams can be particularly stressful for grad students, whose exceptional grades in finals may not always be recognized in final class standings and major averages.

But what strategies can be used to help you keep your collective stress levels down?

For starters, know what you’re γ-gamint — theology for a lot of caffeine. While caffeine is high in energy, it can impede sleep for the semester, students tend to take consumption up a notch during finals. Additionally, in coffee, students drink as much as 480 (milligrams), and can lead to significant side effects with severe caffeine overdose, a study said.

And that’s just caffeine. Put this in perspective, a cup of coffee contains anywhere from 200 to 300 milligrams, depending on the brew, and a 12-ounce soda contains roughly 35 milligrams.

What drinks help some stay alert for a longer period of time? Energy drinks are the best option if you plan to consume more than usual. Caffeine increases your energy, and heart rate and lead to a feeling of euphoria.

During my final final, I had to wake up twice. When I returned later due to a panic attack I experienced. I am the first to get the eight cups of coffee I drank the night before, which led me to a panic attack.

We hope USC’s "allnighters" at the library and in the substation.

Another important part of surviving finals week is knowing the best way to study, and allowing yourself a break.

While it works for some students to plow through all material at once, this may cause memory retention issues for others. Waiting a couple of hours is an option to be sure to take a break for yourself each day. Working out at the gym is a great outlet for all week. "Adorning and eating consistently and getting a lot of sleep are probably the most important things," She said.

College is hard enough as it is, but having to switch gender norms and peers, most of us are happy to say it's worth it.

Let’s make sure the same is true for all of our students. Period.

**WHAT’S YOUR TAKE?**

Do you want your opinion voiced in The Daily Gamecock? Contact viewpoint@dailygamecock.com for more information.

**THE DAILY GAMECOCK**

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to provide a forum for open discussion in the University of South Carolina community. Students, faculty and alumni are encouraged to provide logical, thought-out opinions that contribute to the dialogue throughout The Daily Gamecock.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to submit columnists to meet the following criteria:

- Original works, no more than 800 words
- No more than two submissions per week
- Columns must be submitted to viewpoints@dailygamecock.com

Letters and guest columns should be limited to 300 words in length, not including graphics. Submission of the letter indicates permission to publish in The Daily Gamecock.

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Editorial: Memorable moments mark newspaper

**Patterson reflects on 4 years of working for The Daily Gamecock**

Right now, I’m sitting on the couch in The Daily Gamecock’s newswroom. People that have known for years and people that I’ve known for only months are sitting around me, discussing today’s paper, their classes and how we’re going to get the paper done before deadline tonight. I’ve been complaining for three hours about how I have no idea how to write this column, and I still don’t about that deadline…

Trying to sum up a year and a half of this crazy, wonderful experience into a mere 500 words is nearly close to impossible. I think. There are so many things I could say about how much this paper means to me, but I have no idea where to start, where to finish or what that could possibly mean.

There was never a time you stayed up all night trying to send the paper to print, even eventually, I had to leave for my 8 a.m. class.

There was that time my staff turned everything in my office upside down as a prank. That included the desk, which must have weighed a hundred pounds, and all of the pictures and newspapers hanging on the wall.

There were all those times we celebrated the last day of production, and tonight, when we’re going to Waffle House because IHOP was knocked down. A trip that we’re likely to regret due to drinks, gender-neutral housing, despite breaking news and unconscious sorority care.

I’ve been trying to sum up my college experience in the newspaper. The week we’ve spent those closed hours with before become my full time. And if I graduate in May and do… something, that we’ll be the thing I miss the most of my college career.

I’ve never seen passion and talent in such large quantities as I have in The Daily Gamecock. Everyone I met at some point that people that make the right 12 pages you pick up every day (or some like that) are the most wonderful people I’ve ever met. They don’t mind staying up until 3 a.m. I am, an 8 a.m. class, just to make sure every Oxford is made up. Student Newsroom has a leg lined up just right.

They don’t stand on my incessant harping on grammar and AP style. Or, maybe, they did, but they do it anyway.

My staff has worked so hard, and I couldn’t possibly complete a farewell column — which, to you, I as supposed to sum up my experience to everyone — without thanking them for everything they’ve done.

So thanks, guys. You’ve been the best staff I could have ever asked for.
Feelimg overwhelmed? Break up everything that needs to get done into small tasks with little rewards upon completion. When facing the daunting task of a 10-page paper with no end in sight, get motivated with something small like an M&M after finishing each paragraph. Little rewards like this have been shown to increase productivity.

Stop by the Student Success Center. Located on the mezzanine level of the library, the SSC offers many test-taking strategies. From true/false tests to essays, the SSC has the resources to help you conquer your finals. It also offers peer revision of papers. Bring in an essay with questions or concerns, and the trained students will help fix typos and errors to help you turn in your best work.

It is OK to take breaks. A five-minute break for every 20 minutes of studying reduces procrastination and allows the brain to rest and process all the information that’s going in. Every hour, take a 10-minute break, get up and walk around. By taking breaks, there is no need to feel cut off from the outside world. It is simply unable to get off Facebook and Twitter, download the program SelfControl. It blocks you from accessing your favorite websites for however long it’s told to, allowing you the freedom to study for that English test.

Don’t be afraid to sit down with a professor. Most professors want to help and want students to succeed. Don’t be afraid to go to their office hours or to ask about problems, the final or the possibility of doing extra credit work.

Get some sleep. Brains commit facts to memory during sleep. While spending 14 hours huddled up in Thomas Cooper cramming for chemistry might seem like a great idea at the time, it can actually be detrimental to your ability to remember information once it’s time to take the test. It’s better to walk into a final rested and ready to go than bleary-eyed with a venti, triple-shot coffee.

Know where printing is available. Thomas Cooper isn’t the only place on campus that offers printing. Get copies made at Quick Copy in the baseiment of Gambrell Hall or print for free in the Russell House lobby during finals week.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help. It’s OK to cry. Finals week is a very stressful time, and sometimes, it can seem like too much to handle. If you’re feeling overwhelmed with work, the Counseling Center offers free walk-in appointments between 2 and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Talk to one of the licensed therapists about ways to reduce stress or manage your test anxiety.

The jazzy, laid-back “Shadows” coexists with the energetic marathon that is “The Party,” just as the dark, moody “No Exit” lives side-by-side with the chillwave-inspired “Flight of the Navigator.” The Biggest Troll,” featuring a trippy beat as Glover philosophizes about how we hide ourselves, lose connect with others. Not every song on the album track of our identities and find ourselves unable to manage our test anxiety.

Childish Gambino’s new album, “Because the Internet,” opens with “Crawl,” a strangely compelling fusion of harsh beats, scaring vocals, woozy background and verses that are both energetic and laid back. "Because the Internet," which will be released on Tuesday, however, he has more on his mind than just himself. Themes of disconnection, loneliness and the search for romantic connection permeate the album. The buoyant “Swampy” is the closest thing to classic Gambino on the album. On the other songs, he’s heading in new directions, which isn’t to say he lacks his old energy; he’s just more sparing with it, which lends each earnest moment far more power.

Because the Internet” closes with the song “Life: The Biggest Troll,” featuring a trippy beat as Glover philosophical about how we hide ourselves, lose track of our identities and find ourselves unable to connect with others. Not every song on the album shares the same thoughtfulness, but most do.

For anyone involved in the rap game that previously dismissed Glover as a comedian playing rap styling — “gut n***as, so Kurt Vonne,” “girl why you Mufasa” — seem out of place alongside the depth of other verses. Making all of these styles work requires technical skill, and Glover steps up to the plate. His rapping pays off musically but hurts it as an album. The problems. It lacks cohesion by design, a choice that was made to add to the album’s strength. Nearly every song on this album works, despite their differences.

Because the Internet” shows off new sound

Childish Gambino will officially release his new album with creative lyrics and stand-out songs on Tuesday.
December releases may be best of year

Star-studded films to dominate box office this month

Jonathan Winchell

Inside Llewyn Davis (limited release today wide release Dec. 20)
Joel and Ethan Coen's black comedy film, which won rave reviews at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, follows Llewyn Davis (Oscar Isaac) as he tries to make a name for himself in the Greenwich Village folk music scene in the early 1960s. The Coen brothers,"The Big Lebowski," "No Country For Old Men" are two of the greatest filmmakers of the last 30 years. When they have a new film out, serious filmgoers must see it. Carey Mulligan, Adam Driver and F. Murray Abraham co-star in the film.

The Unknown Known (released Dec. 13 in New York)
Displayed is a documentary with former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld sitting and talking into a camera sound wonderful? Well, it should, knowing that Errol Morris directed it. Morris won an Oscar for Best Documentary for his 2003 film "The Fog of War," in which he interviewed another former defense secretary, Robert McNamara. Morris has been making devilishly provocative documentaries for 35 years. What he has been making devilishly provocative documentaries for 35 years. What he describes as having the grin of a Cheshire Cat, should be fascinating. Although it did not make the Oscar shortlist for Best Documentary, its release late in the year should make it eligible for other awards. Many of his previous films are available on Netflix streaming, including "Vernon, Florida," "The Thin Blue Line" and "Tabloid."

The Wolf of Wall Street (wide release Dec. 25)
Leonardo DiCaprio stars in his fifth collaboration with Martin Scorsese ("Gangs of New York," "The Departed") in a morally bankrupt Wall Street banker based on the real Jordan Belfort, whose book the film is based on. Matthew McConaughey also stars, continuing his "McConnaissance." His recent film roles have shown he can do more than just play the shirtless romantic comedy leading man. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase.

The Last Face

The newest film by Jason Reitman ("Thank You for Smoking") is a morally bankrupt Wall Street banker based on the real Jordan Belfort, whose book the film is based on. Matthew McConaughey also stars, continuing his "McConnaissance." His recent film roles have shown he can do more than just play the shirtless romantic comedy leading man. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase.

Her (limited release Dec. 18 wide release Jan. 10)
Love in the modern world is explored in the latest film by Spike Jonze ("Being John Malkovich," "Where the Wild Things Are," "Adaptation."). Joaquin Phoenix plays a socially awkward writer who falls in love with a computer voice (Scarlett Johansson) that is programmed to please him. An interesting note: Johansson is getting Oscar buzz in the Best Supporting Actress category for her performance in "Her." She gets nominated, it will be the first time in Oscar history that someone received a nomination for a solely vocal performance. Amy Adams, Rooney Mara, Oliva Wilde, Chris Pratt, Bill Hader, Kristen Wiig, Beau Bridges and Spike Jonze co-star.

Labor Day (released Dec. 27 in Los Angeles; wide release Jan. 31)
The newest film by Jason Reitman ("Thank You For Smoking") is a morally bankrupt Wall Street banker based on the real Jordan Belfort, whose book the film is based on. Matthew McConaughey also stars, continuing his "McConnaissance." His recent film roles have shown he can do more than just play the shirtless romantic comedy leading man. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase.

"The Wolf of Wall Street" (wide release Dec. 25) Leonardo DiCaprio stars in his fifth collaboration with Martin Scorsese ("Gangs of New York," "The Departed") in a morally bankrupt Wall Street banker based on the real Jordan Belfort, whose book the film is based on. Matthew McConaughey also stars, continuing his "McConnaissance." His recent film roles have shown he can do more than just play the shirtless romantic comedy leading man. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase. The film is Scorsese's longest to date — 165 minutes — and he cut the film to avoid an NC-17 rating. Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a sex-and-drug-fueled orgy of excess and greed. The film is written by "Boardwalk Empire" creator Terence Winter and "The Sopranos" creator David Chase.
South Carolina gets back into action Sunday against the Charlotte 49ers (4-4) after a week off. Still undefeated on the season with a record of 8-0 and a top-10 ranking in the nation’s third-best scoring defense and the SEC’s second-most efficient scoring offense.

The 49ers, on the other hand, have struggled so far this season, particularly on offense; they rank among the NCAA’s worst in scoring. However, they’ve been a tough team at home, and coach Dawn Staley said she believes the 49ers are going to come out ready to play.

“They’re going to challenge us. They do play well at home. They’re pretty quick and athletic,” Staley said. “I think a lot of their strengths are our strengths.”

Looking to extend the team’s flawless record, sophomore Tiffany Mitchell, like her coach, seemed determined to make sure the team doesn’t get complacent.

“No, I don’t think we would let that happen and get a big head,” Mitchell said. “It really is just a number, and at the end of the day, we still have to play the game.”

This game also carries special meaning for Staley, who was born and raised in Charlotte; she said she’s looking forward to going home. “Yeah, I’m excited, getting to play in front of a lot of family that haven’t seen me play in a long time, so it’ll be cool,” Staley said.

Still undefeated on the season with a flawless season alive, sophomore guard Tiffany Mitchell (25) says the team is not going to overlook Ohio State, Florida State on collision course.

South Carolina readies for Charlotte