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University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Famed writer speaks at USC

NY Times reporter comments on situations concerning Iraq, war-zone journalism

Brandon Cooper

George Packer, staff writer for The New Yorker and recipient of the 2004 National Book Award for "The Assassin's Gate: America in Iraq," spoke in Gambrell Hall Wednesday night about the news media's experience in Iraq.

Packer's talk was part of the second annual Walker Institute Forum on U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security.

"Iraq has been a deadlier war for reporters than any other in history," Packer said.

He believes this has been caused at least in part by a new type of warfare being fought across the Middle East, which he calls an "information war," a trend that focuses on using the Internet, media and hacking to convey their message.

Packer said insurgents take out a Hum V not because it is a symbol of the American occupation, but so that reporters will be killed during the war.

"How can you fight an invisible enemy?" Packer said.

The number of reporters and journalists has skyrocketed in the past two years, but the risk has also increased.

"Reporters are prime targets as well as the information war," Packer said.

Iraqi political leaders, Packer said, also share the isolation enjoyed by reporters in the "green zone.

This separation leads them to be increasingly out of touch with the programs capture reporters so much, it may show the reporters' anxiety and fear to the world.

"How can you fight an invisible enemy if you don't talk to the press?" Packer asked.

The number of reporters killed during the war has had a chilling effect on news coverage in Iraq, Packer said. Most reporters have left, and those who remain are afraid to leave the "green zone," a heavily guarded area in Baghdad where American occupation authorities reside.

The result is the American people don't know what's going on in Iraq in order to cover events taking place in the war, reporters need assurance that it is safe to travel, Packer said.

These assurances usually don't come from Americans, insulated in the "green zone," butrather from the Iraqis who are employed to provide this sort of intelligence. However, many of these Iraqis have been threatened and killed and have therefore discontinued their services.

Packer said the number of Iraqis working at the American embassy has decreased by half.

"Jordanians have largely filled the positions left vacant by intimidated Iraqis," Packer said, but Jordanians are less in touch with the situation in Iraq, therefore, the U.S. knows less about what is going on in Iraq.

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"How can you fight an invisible enemy if you don't talk to the press?" Packer asked.

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Cronkite warns against drive for greater media profit

Former CBS anchor calls current cost-cutting practices threat to American democracy

"In this information age with our overdependence on the sound bite culture that turns political campaigns into a media event, I'm afraid we're losing the very complicated nature of democracy. It is freedom. It's not just the journalist's job but the job of every citizen to be involved in the political process, to be informed, to take an active role in the future, to talk to other people. It's a responsibility. It's American democracy. It is freedom the nation was built on," said Tom Rosenstiel, a former political reporter for The Washington Post and executive editor of The American Journalism Review.

Rosenstiel was one of four former journalism fellows who spoke to the Columbia School of Journalism's 44-year-old-year student, Tom Schlicting, who has been elected to the president of the Columbia graduate student society. He told the students that they should be more involved in the political process and use their education to help others.

"The problem is most of the journalists are not voting or getting active enough in the political process," he said. "That's a real concern. We need to do more with ever less."
of the debate that’s been raging in Lutheran church for the last few years on the issue of gay clergy.

The ELCA considered changing the policy in 2010, but the measure was voted down by delegates at a national meeting. The change would have affirmed a church ban on ordaining sexually active gays and lesbians but allowed exceptions for candidates in committed relationships.

Mark Chavez, who heads up WordAlone, an ELCA group that supports upholding the ban on homosexual clergy in relationships, said the church’s current policy adheres to scripture.

“The word of God—in the Old and New Testaments—clearly states the boundaries for sexual relationships,” said Chavez, a Lutheran minister.

He said some church leaders are trying to keep the issue alive in hopes of changing the policy, but movements like WordAlone are fighting that change.

The denomination needs to return to its foundations and the scripture, Chavez said.

Laura Crawley, president of the St. John’s Synod, said congregation, said she is pleased the committee wants the denomination to revisit its policy on gay clergy.

Crawley said synod members are hopeful the policy will change and Schmelning will remain unbound by the church.

“If Aug. 15 comes and Bradley (Schmelning) is off the roster, then we’ll have a chance to think about where St. John’s goes,” Crawley said. “We want to stay in the ELCA and we want Bradley to be our pastor.”

Warrren said in a statement posted on the ELCA’s Web site that his decision to seek Schmelning’s removal was “difficult because of my deep respect for the pastor and the congregation at St. John’s.”

“As this church continues prayerfully to consider the issue of clergy who are gay or lesbian in committed relationships, both the synod and I will continue to work on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our Disagreements,” Warren said in the statement.

The Lutheran’s aren’t the only mainline Protestant denomination grappling with the issue of gay and lesbian clergy.

Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians have all faced debates over gay clergy members.

Under the agreement, the post will go to an independent, because Hamas and Fatah were each reluctant to see the other faction hold the ministry. Hamas must propose the candidate for approval by Abbas, and it didn’t appear that the two sides have settled on a name.

Under the agreement, Hamas will get nine Cabinet posts, including the prime minister position. Fatah gets six, and other factions get four. Besides the interior minister position, all independents will get the foreign ministry and planning ministry.

“There are many details that still need to be worked out after this agreement, including the interior minister and marketing and the agreement to the international community,” said Abdel-Rahman Zaydan, a member of the Hamas delegation. “The Saudis will be part of this effort.”
When Colorado resident Danny Ledonne decided to create “Super Columbine Massacre RPG,” an online game that lets players take on the roles of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold from the infamous school shooting in 1999, he has done it as the bad idea it is. Columbine was a real event that involved real people and held our nation in disbelief one April afternoon. This game has no point. It may be shocking, but it still captures a nasty taste in the back of players’ mouths.

School shootings are a reason. They cross the line. Moments like Columbine live on in the memories of those who were there and in the hearts of the people everywhere, and making a game to exploit that is the worst kind of bad taste - right up there with simulations of flying planes into the World Trade Center or pretending to be Nazis at concentration camps.

Ledonne said, “Games that genuinely challenge social taboos or confront real cultural issues are nearly non-existent.” But games like this don’t show up on store shelves for a reason. They cross the line. The reason is because the original “players” did a mere eight years ago with their simulation of “Doom.” Let’s hope that doesn’t happen to us.

Students should learn to think for themselves, give themselves room to grow, and not get too hung up on stupid things. It is your right to choose to voice your opinions, but you should realize that you are the only ones who know you well enough to realize what is right and what is wrong.

Growing theocracy in need of protest

Students should learn to think for themselves, give a crap about big issues like abortion rather than just their views on the color of a video game. Let’s be honest, I, along with 90 percent of the 20-year-olds reading this column, have never had one or two (thousand) beers in my pre-21 life.

We’re told that the reason you have to reach a certain age before you can drink is so that you’re mature enough to use alcohol responsibly. A good start, but I figured I would break down the first 20 years of my life and further explain why drinking underage just makes sense.

According to Ledonne, “Their simulation of ‘Doom’ would have helped out during hardships of youth. We’re told that the reason you have to reach a certain age before you can drink is so that you’re mature enough to use alcohol responsibly. A good start, but I figured I would break down the first 20 years of my life and further explain why drinking underage just makes sense.

First nine months are a no-brainer. It would have been awfully hard to crack-open a nice refreshing Bud Light (I’m zoning in on my fiancé, FYI) while still nursing my mother’s womb. No problems here.

For the 1st 10 years, like many children, was afraid to drink anything that didn’t come in a box with a straw glued to the mouth. It makes more sense to me, it seems like it when you’re 1,000% more mature than I am.

Everyone knows that a nice, cold, refreshing Bud Light is housed in a new aluminum bottles that keep your beer cold 75 percent longer than regular glass bottles. From ages 11 to 16, we were jealous, but with a straw glued to the mouth.

As for me, I’ll be furious.

For more information or to comment on this article, please visit: www.dailygamecock.com

**Corrections**

If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

The SC Touchdown Machine

The DA STOUDENMIRE CODE

12 years spent waiting for Bud Light

This month marks two years since the most violent and deadly school shooting in history. It is a crime that no one should ever have to experience, and yet here we are, still dealing with its repercussions.

The Columbine High School shooting took place on April 20, 1999, in Littleton, Colorado. Two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, opened fire with a shotgun and two pistols, killing 13 people and injuring 24 others before turning the weapons on themselves. The tragedy was the deadliest high school shooting in American history at the time.

Since then, the aftermath of the Columbine shooting has been felt throughout the nation. The media has covered the event extensively, and it remains a fixture in the cultural consciousness.

The impact of the Columbine shooting on the community of Littleton cannot be overstated. The town has struggled to come to terms with the tragedy and has worked to provide support for those affected.

In the years since the shooting, Littleton has become a place where people can talk about their feelings and seek solace. The town has held events to remember the victims and to honor the memory of those who lost their lives.

The Columbine shooting was a turning point in the way that people think about school violence. It was a wake-up call for the nation, and it has led to increased efforts to improve school safety and to prevent incidents like this from happening again.

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Fashion Week
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2007
New York
fall 2007 collection in New York.
Presentation of Badgley Mischka's
A model walks the runway in a platinum gown during the
A model wears a mink minidress from Michael Kors' fall 2007 collection. Fur was a hit at Fashion Week.

Fur runway regalia rules
Rachel Ray, Kelly Ripa among celebrities who walked the catwalk to raise heart awareness

Red runway regalia rules

Rod Stafford Hagwood

NEW YORK - It probably comes as little surprise that much of the action during fashion week, which got under way on Friday, happens off the runways. Here's what's going on as the week got going:

THE FIRST FASHIONISTA
Front-row regular Laura Bush ... that's right, I said front-row regular. And then I said Laura Bush. And I meant it.

Two years ago, she was the first first lady to attend a Bryant Park fashion show. Like then, this time around the president's much, much better half attended The Heart Truth's Red Dress Collection, where designers and celebrity models team up to raise awareness about heart disease among women. As you might have guessed, everyone sports red. Which is sometimes good and sometimes bad. But always interesting.

Biggest applause? Billie Jean King dancing down the catwalk in a Gustavo Cadile pantsuit to Billie Jean by Michael Jackson. That's right, I said Billie Jean King.

Hottie of the day? Katherine McPhee hit a high note in Daniel Swarovsky's beaded mini mini-dress.

Best catwalk prow! Kelly Ripa turned it out, y'all ... and in Diane von Furstenberg no less.

Other famous faces on the catwalks included Angela Bassett, Lauren Hutton, Rachel Ray (who is practically "60" with Bush) and Paula Zahn.

AN EVENINGS WITH EVE
It's been five months since the house of Calvin Klein staged a soiree in the penthouse of World Trade Center, the first office building to be rebuilt in lower Manhattan.

During this round of shows, the Italian design house Miss Sixty staged its 1990s redux runway spectacular on the 56th floor with a panoramic view of Manhattan.

Creative director Wicky Hassan said something about the World Trade Center and the '80s being perfect for his collection, which was heavily '80s-inspired, but who could tell?

Paper and actors Eve was blasting her way through a blistering 10-minute set onstage after the catwalk show and no one could be heard save for Miss Eve herself. No matter. You didn't need words to see how much Adrien Brody and Pink were enjoying themselves.

Metallics, faux fur key to fall fashions
Samantha Critchell

NEW YORK - It used to be that fur was an almost unattainable luxury, reserved for the wealthiest women who would then cherish their mink coats for many, many years. But on the runways of New York Fashion Week, fur has turned into a must-have item for fall, even if it's just a subtle trim on a collar or cuff, or, as seen at Marc Bouwer, really proud-looking fur.

Michael Kors, at his Wednesday runway show, went so far as to make a mink minidress.

"If the past two falls have been about jewel-encrusted clothing, this fall will be all about fur-enhanced clothing," said trend analyst Tom Julian of ad agency McCann-Erickson. "From outwear to knitwear, from red-carpet gowns to skirts, fur is becoming the trim that women will have to have as part of their wardrobe — real or fake.

"Fashion previews for next season continue through October." Michael Kors. Michael Kors makes clothes that people want to wear. On another bitterly cold winter day, models splayed themselves in a wraparound caftan made of caftan-colored cashmere and a super-soft turtleneck sweaterdress topped with a beaded jacket.

He embraced the yin and yang of fashion, pairing an olive-green plaid coat with sable fur collar and cuffs with cashmere sweaters, and an elegant champagne-colored tunic with a cozy cashmere pullover. "Delicious dichotomy," is how the designer described it in a statement.

"This was for a glamorous urban woman," stylist Mary Alice Stephenson said after the show, "It was stunningly beautiful, one of the most interesting collections I've ever seen, worldwide, glamorous, elegant and edgey." A lot of that edge came from his accent colors — a bright orange, new to the runway this season, and electric blue. For a coat dyed that blue certainly was a statement piece.

And when Kors did metallic, certainly a trend for fall, he did it full force, including a gold fringe dance dress and gold choker-patchwork dress.

Kors, one of the judges on TV's "Project Runway," offered few red-carpet looks, focusing more on daytime outfits, but there was a champagne-colored chiffon evening dress with a twisted halter-top that was outstanding.

Proenza Schouler: Designers Lazaro Hernandez and Jack McCollough touched on many of the season’s trends — fur, chunky knit, patchwork, metallics, slim shapes and corsets — but they put their own edgy spin on them.

For fans clad in slim-knit sweaters, as did a great olive-colored denim jacket that was worn with black trousers with full legs. A cherry-red bustier with matching pants and a plaid jacket, complete with an insignia, had a cross-shoulder strap. Many of the coats, however, had short sleeves, which lends itself to the layered look that Proenza’s younger hipster fans love to wear.

Red runway regalia rules
Rachel Ray, Kelly Ripa among celebrities who walked the catwalk to raise heart awareness

A model walks the runway in a platinum gown during the presentation of Badgley Mischka’s fall 2007 collection in New York.
ACROSS
1. Wide open
6. Bud holder
10. Carry by hand
14. Diet guru Jenny
15. Gambling city
16. Lost traction
17. Famous last words?
20. Novelist Umberto
21. Writer Easton Ellis
22. Delicately pretty
23. Democratic mascots
25. Skunk’s defense
26. Too tolerant
27. Coming up
28. Explorer Heyerdahl
32. Porky Pig’s nose
35. Electropositive element
37. Kid’s concoction
38. Famous last words?
41. Gallery showing
42. Crystal set, e.g.
43. Had in mind
44. Word with camp or out
46. Quick escape
47. Flapper’s scarf
48. Huck’s vessel
50. Halter cousin
54. Aid
57. Honey bunch
58. Pugilists’ org.
59. Famous last words?
62. Estrada of “CHiPs”
63. Molokai neighbor
64. Losing efforts?
65. Gentlemen
66. Checked out
67. All atwitter

DOWN
1. Hurt all over
3. Spelling of TV
4. Chart type
5. Meringue-making tool
6. Kilmer poem
7. Adam of “Batman”
8. Cozy stopover
9. Bargain
10. Souvenir buy
11. Lena of “Chocolat”
12. Delicate color
13. High-strung
18. Gemsbok
19. Lao-Tzu’s ideal
24. Supermodel Heidi
25. Trump, maybe
27. Wranglers’ material
29. Merry sounds
30. Host of Valhalla
31. Recuperate
32. Heavyweight champ
33. Shade of blond
34. Milanese eight
35. Upset with
36. Soft drink
39. Regrouping period, in sport
40. Warp-resistant wood
41. Plays for a sucker
45. Culinary directive
47. Soft touch
49. Helper
50. Sad
60. Set (down)
61. Actor Diesel

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 2/09/07
Brought to you by: Solutions from Thursday

Two Dudes • By Aaron Warner

“Don’t you see, Lisa?
If you don’t give in to romance, the terrorists win.”

Sudoku

Level 1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

6 3 8 9 7 5

9 8 4 7 3 1

2 8 5 1 4


How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold) contains each digit 1 to 9.

Solutions to Thursday’s Sudoku

1 2 8 9 6 7 3 4 5

7 8 3 6 9 9 5 1 2

4 7 5 9 2 1 8 9 6

1 9 5 6 3 2 4 7 8

3 6 4 7 8 1 2 5 3

4 5 2 3 6 9 8 7 1

9 1 7 8 4 5 3 2 6

5 9 6 4 2 1 7 3 3

8 7 3 5 6 4 2 9 1


The scene at USC

Hundred Year Storm

A couple of students relax in the afternoon by playing catch in the Horseshoe. The warm weather on Wednesday brought many students across campus outdoors.

Quigmans • By Buddy Hickerson

HOROSCOPES

Aries Use money to get money. This is not completely a gamble. It’s more like very well calculated risk.

Taurus A powerful partner is good to have, if you get to get the agenda.

Gemini Keep your communication channels open. It’s difficult, but if you don’t walk into an ambush.

Cancer You care so much for the ones you love, you’d give them anything. Exercise restraint.

Leo People feel free to tell you now, why whatever you’re doing is wrong. Don’t take it personally.

Virgo You’re becoming involved in a new skill, topic or puzzle to be solved. Proceed with caution.

Libra Use your life usually an open book, but that’s not a good idea now.

Capricorn Your life is becoming more complicated, but you’re a practical person. Remember to keep control of the purse strings and you should get past the temptations unscathed.

Aquarius Let the person who has all the money know how much you need. Have a nice presentation and you’ll be pleasantly surprised.

Pisces New opportunities pop up, but there are complications. Even worse, you may have to choose work.

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Wide open
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10. Carry by hand
14. Diet guru Jenny
15. Gambling city
16. Lost traction
17. Famous last words?
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33. Shade of blond
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35. Upset with
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40. Warp-resistant wood
41. Plays for a sucker
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47. Soft touch
49. Helper
50. Sad
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Solutions from Thursday

BROTHER SISTER, HUNDRED YEAR STORM, BETWEEN THE TREES, CAMPBELL New Brookland Tavern 122 State St. 5 p.m., $7 SUMMER HYMNS, FOLKLORE The (art) Garage 729 S. Edisto Ave. 7 p.m., $5 for students “DRIVING LESSONS” Nickelodeon Theatre 937 Main St. 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., $5.50 for students “FREEDOM TRAIN” Kogey Center for the Arts 1051 Greene St. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., $5.50 for students 2007 Mardis Gras Bustle, Downtown Charleston 10 p.m., $5 for students
Open season for baseball team

South Carolina looks to start back up strong rankings this weekend in Wilmington

Nick Story
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks were a 2008 NCAA Super Regional team last year, but head coach Ray Tanner will be the first to say that this team is taking aim at a spot in the 2007 College World Series.

"Last year, we didn't play particularly well in the second half at times," Tanner said. "But we were at the end of, and despite, some injuries, we were in a position to win the Gamecock world. That's what it's all about."

The season begins this weekend at the UNC-Wilmington tournament. South Carolina is scheduled to play Oklahoma, Western Kentucky and UNC-Wilmington.

"I know they are a great club that plays in a great conference and they have three games under their belt that we haven't played," said Tanner of the opener against Oklahoma. "Quite honestly, I'm more concerned with what we've done than anyone else." The Gamecocks have a lot of confidence going into the 2007 season. They are returning six position starters from last year's team. This year's recruiting class has been ranked No. 1 by Collegiate Baseball and No. 2 by Baseball America.

"The new guys have come in and it's like they have been here all along," said sophomore pitcher Mike Cisco. "They are stepping up and adapting to the quickness of the game, which was a big thing for me last year.

After a successful 2006 season, sophomore first baseman Justin Smoak is expected to improve with experience. Smoak earned spots on the SEC All-Freshman and Freshman All-American teams during his freshman campaign after hitting .301 with 17 home runs and 63 RBI.

Junior right-hander Harris Haley is also looking to improve on a successful 2006 season. Haley pitched for a 7-0 record and a 3.13 ERA. With a competitive class of pitchers, Haley will return to the rotation alongside junior left-handers Arby Lampy and the right-handed Casey proctor.

Junior right-hander Wynn Peery is expected to be the closer for the team. He has struggled to find a role for a Gamecock team that has played so well for so long. "We're very deep and have a lot of talented guys," said Haley. "It's going to be tough for the coaches to make the right decisions. I think we're lucky in that aspect. It's very competitive, and we're all grinding it out right now."" 

Coach Tanner announced that junior outfielder Steven Reinhold will join sophomore infielder Rance Havens, Hump and Humpcy as the captain for the 2007 season.

"One of the best things that happened for me in the preseason has been Steven Reinhold," said Tanner. "This guy's a consummate leader. Wynn Peery was the voting numbers, he was a unanimous selection by his teammates."

"When I heard that it was almost unanimous, it's a very prestigious honor," said Reinhold. "When you're elected by your peers for a leadership role like that, it shows that they put a lot of faith in you."

With players' roles now set, the Gamecocks look to stay competitive. The team has gone from having potential to being experienced, and it shows in the way that they are carrying themselves.

"They don't seem to be egos on the team," said Reinhold.

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

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The baseball team hopes to build on last year's success and ride the rankings all the way to Omaha, N.C., and the College World Series at the end of this season.

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Gamecocks going deep, take swing at Omaha

Men's squad hopes to mark end of Sarge Five Era on with championship experience

This year's baseball team must have their plans set on Oneonta, Ala., to chase their expectations for this season. There is no reason why it can't happen. Last year's team, which had the same expectations, fell short due to a lack of experience and finishing with a 21-25-1 record.

This year's Gamecock squad finished with a 41-25 record, and came just one win shy from reaching the College World Series. With head coach Ray Tanner needing to fill only two starting positions from last year's Super Regional team, the goal of playing in the College World Series this season is reachable.

Two infield positions, a relief pitcher and a centerfielder - those were the only spots that needed to be filled for the 2007 Gamecocks. Tanner, who embodied the heart and soul of every Gamecock team, will take over the closer role. Peery, a Hollis High School product, will start last season as a starter, reliever and closer. Andrew Crisp stepped up for Tanner last season. Michael Campbell went down to injury, Crisp, a freshman All-American, will compete in a deep outback five with J.W. Piersall.

The biggest question mark will be at the third base and third base. With Chris Brown and Neil Gardner having options in their pockets, Tanner recruited two fromes and Lonnie Chisenhall to fill the third base positions. Tanner took over second base duties where he won All-State Honors in the Florida JUCO system last year. The left corner might have a revolving door this season. Mike Bouchard's early-season opinion for Tanner are James Darnell, Lonnie Chisenhall and Adam Crisp. Darnell filled in at right field for the Gamecocks last season and looks to be headed back there. Chisenhall should be playing third throughout most of the season as a possible first baseman and a possible All-American when the Gamecocks face the University of Georgia.

Chisenhall also filled the void left by Raley-Ross to contain the opposing left-handed bats. He brings with him the heart of a Big 11th round draft pick from the Provincial Prospects Academy in Columbus this season.

With this being the last season played at Sarge Five Field, Tanner and the Gamecocks would love to close this historic chapter on a high note.
**Account Representative**

The Office of Student Media has an opening for an Account Representative for the Downtown/Vista area. Students with excellent time management and organizational skills are encouraged to apply. This position requires 15-20 hours a week and reliable transportation. Student Account Reps sell advertising for The Daily Gamecock, Garnet and Black and Discover Carolina. Interested students should come by the Office of Student Media and fill out an application. RHUU Room 343, Application deadline Feb, 18th.

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- Non-honors students who have at least a 3.5 GPA and three other criteria may apply by obtaining permission from Dr. Davis Bird, Dean, S.C. Honors College.
- Non-honors students should send a copy of their transcript (unofficial copy from V2P) and a letter from a professor who knows their work to Dr. Davis Bird, South Carolina Honors College, Harper College, USC, ATTN: Washington Semester Application
- It is advisable for the student to be competent in current events and public policy issues
- Students should be juniors or seniors during their internship; exceptional sophomores may be considered

Application deadline is Thursday, February 15, 2007. Application details can be found on the Washington Semester Program Website at: http://wpwpes.sc.edu/wsp/app.htm