1-21-2015

The Daily Gamecock, Wednesday, January 21, 2015

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock_2015_jan

Recommended Citation
https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/gamecock_2015_jan/7

This Newspaper is brought to you by the 2015 at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in January by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact dillarda@mailbox.sc.edu.
Benjamin makes Columbia’s promise

Lauren Shirley<br>SPECIAL TO THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin spoke of the city’s advancements in 2014 to a nearly full ballroom Tuesday night.

“Columbia has seen an extreme cut in total crime over the past four years, he said in the annual State of the City Address, and police salaries have been increased.

Ranging from expanded youth and city sports to extending full employment benefits to same-sex couples, the advancements Benjamin spoke of weren’t just economic, but also community-based, as well. He talked about budget cut money being spent on addressing the city’s advancements in 2014.

The night didn’t start off well for South Carolina in the Gamecocks struggled on offense against Tennessee’s zone defense. Ten of South Carolina’s first 14 possessions resulted in either a turnover or a missed three-pointer.

Meanwhile, the Volunteers shot an outstanding 44.4 percent from three-point range in the first half, and led by as many as eight points.

However, South Carolina freshman point guard Marcus Stroman injected some life into the Gamecocks off the bench.

Benjamin laid out his plans for his next year in office, promising education and jobs to Columbia citizens.

Benjamin’s plans included:

- An economic development plan to attract new businesses.
- A plan to improve public transit in the city.
- A plan to improve public safety in the city.

Benjamin’s plans were met with mixed reactions from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts.

In conclusion, Benjamin’s plans were met with a mixed reaction from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts. However, Benjamin’s plans were a step in the right direction for the city.

From microscope to camera: student exhibits ocean beauty

USC student Julia Bennett was awarded an exhibit at CMA for winning USC’s Portfolio Photography Review.

Benjamin laid out his plans for his next year in office, promising education and jobs to Columbia citizens.

Benjamin’s plans included:

- An economic development plan to attract new businesses.
- A plan to improve public transit in the city.
- A plan to improve public safety in the city.

Benjamin’s plans were met with mixed reactions from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts.

In conclusion, Benjamin’s plans were met with a mixed reaction from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts. However, Benjamin’s plans were a step in the right direction for the city.

From microscope to camera: student exhibits ocean beauty

USC student Julia Bennett was awarded an exhibit at CMA for winning USC’s Portfolio Photography Review.

Benjamin laid out his plans for his next year in office, promising education and jobs to Columbia citizens.

Benjamin’s plans included:

- An economic development plan to attract new businesses.
- A plan to improve public transit in the city.
- A plan to improve public safety in the city.

Benjamin’s plans were met with mixed reactions from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts.

In conclusion, Benjamin’s plans were met with a mixed reaction from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts. However, Benjamin’s plans were a step in the right direction for the city.

From microscope to camera: student exhibits ocean beauty

USC student Julia Bennett was awarded an exhibit at CMA for winning USC’s Portfolio Photography Review.

Benjamin laid out his plans for his next year in office, promising education and jobs to Columbia citizens.

Benjamin’s plans included:

- An economic development plan to attract new businesses.
- A plan to improve public transit in the city.
- A plan to improve public safety in the city.

Benjamin’s plans were met with mixed reactions from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts.

In conclusion, Benjamin’s plans were met with a mixed reaction from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts. However, Benjamin’s plans were a step in the right direction for the city.

From microscope to camera: student exhibits ocean beauty

USC student Julia Bennett was awarded an exhibit at CMA for winning USC’s Portfolio Photography Review.

Benjamin laid out his plans for his next year in office, promising education and jobs to Columbia citizens.

Benjamin’s plans included:

- An economic development plan to attract new businesses.
- A plan to improve public transit in the city.
- A plan to improve public safety in the city.

Benjamin’s plans were met with mixed reactions from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts.

In conclusion, Benjamin’s plans were met with a mixed reaction from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts. However, Benjamin’s plans were a step in the right direction for the city.

From microscope to camera: student exhibits ocean beauty

USC student Julia Bennett was awarded an exhibit at CMA for winning USC’s Portfolio Photography Review.

Benjamin laid out his plans for his next year in office, promising education and jobs to Columbia citizens.

Benjamin’s plans included:

- An economic development plan to attract new businesses.
- A plan to improve public transit in the city.
- A plan to improve public safety in the city.

Benjamin’s plans were met with mixed reactions from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts.

In conclusion, Benjamin’s plans were met with a mixed reaction from the audience. Some people were excited about the new initiatives, while others were concerned about the city’s budget cuts. However, Benjamin’s plans were a step in the right direction for the city.
Man convicted of attempting to fly drone into prison sentenced to 15 years

Branton Lee Doyle was sentenced to 15 years in jail after he pleaded guilty to using a drone to smuggle contraband into Lee Correctional Institution, a high-security South Carolina prison, according to The State.

In April 2014, officers found the drone crashed in the bushes outside of the prison walls. Officers found phones, tobacco, marijuana and synthetic marijuana — all items prohibited in the prison.

Correction officials began to install new surveillance towers in December as a response to the threat of drones. In an attempt to decrease contraband at the prison, thermal imaging cameras were installed around the compound.

—Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

DSS reaches settlement in child-support lawsuit

South Carolina has paid $75 million in fines and will receive $90 million in order to settle a lawsuit regarding the unfinished computer system for collecting unpaid child support from the Department of Social Services, according to The State.

The $79 million could go towards the next stage in developing the child support enforcement system if lawmakers approve it. The program could take up to four more years to complete.

It was announced Tuesday that the Department of Social Services reached a settlement with Hewlett-Packard, a vendor recently hired to finish the system. The system has been under development since 1992 after Congress passed a law requiring states to build a statewide system to enforce the collection of child support payments.

Fines have been rising up since 1998.

—Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

Garden commemorates late West Columbia city council leader

A garden was commemorated to Abbey Bray, a late West Columbia city councilman, Tuesday in Lexington County, according to The State. Bray played a large role in adopting a no-kill policy for stray animals in Lexington County and helped inspire the city council to take action.

Bray died in May 2011 after serving as a city leader for little more than a year. His goal was to improve the city’s parks, and his ambition convinced the other members of city council to take on the issue.

The garden is located near the Congaree River at Cawway Park. The playground equipment was provided by county recreation officials, and officials at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden created the garden’s design and greenery.

—Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor
Benjamin spoke to an almost-full ballroom Tuesday night for the State of the City.

Benjamin said that 2015 would be a time dedicated to the citizens of Columbia. He imagined a future where the people of Columbia could choose a better life, as he voiced his concerns about homelessness, poverty and wages in the city. Benjamin was adamantly, saying he believes a person shouldn’t work full time only to continue living in poverty — in 2015, he plans on raising the minimum wages for city employees to exceed the current $10.00 threshold.

“I ask you to help me fulfill Columbia’s promise because right now in Columbia over 24 percent of our fellow citizens live in poverty and nearly a quarter of them are children,” he said.

Benjamin recognized the poverty issue both within Columbia and across the state and urged the city to help him change it.

“Let us make this promise today — Columbia’s Promise — that if you’re willing to work hard, contribute to your community and respect others you deserve a quality education, a good job and a living wage,” he said, “that your circumstances should not determine your success and that, regardless of whatever past sins you carry with you, if you’re looking to change your life for the better, we will do everything within our power to help you reach your goals.”

Benjamin urged the audience to stand with him on this platform to support the people of the city of Columbia through 2015 and beyond.

“One hundred and fifty years ago this city was burned to the ground. But we have risen from the ashes and we will continue to rise. Because we are a great city,” Benjamin said. “We are Columbia. And our time is now.”

4 MILLION JOBS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE!
MAYBE IT’S TIME TO GET HELP ONLINE.

Put yourself in truly elite company from day one.
In the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Officer Cadetate (NUPOC) program, get up to $158,300* in financial support as a student. Enjoy an impressive salary, extraordinary benefits, as well as world-class technical training. Command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, a stealth submarine and teams of Sailors. Ready to gain experience beyond your years? Learn more now.
Since time immemorial, people have revered the Sun — giver of light, bringer of morning. My career, achieving a smooth flow of songs without the range of sounds I find myself drawn to any given moment, musical choices, trying its best to cover the overflow of energy and there are so many layers of energy and color, one can barely make out the lyrics of the songs. The story and message trying to be communicated becomes lost and the song is solely an interesting mix of sounds instead of a melodic narrative. The Surrealist dream-like melodies can be attributed as a unique characteristic of Panda Bear's sound. This is ideal background music for any trippy adventure. Despite the exclusive focus to the songs, many of them aren't memorable; either because they are not worth remembering or because few of the lyrics are heard and retained. The melodies are repetitive and muffled by all sorts of samples, drum cuts, and other instruments. One of the weaker songs is “Bitchin' Baker Candle Stick Maker” which is painfully redundant. There are only four verses that are repeated over and over again. “Lonely” “Junkie” works in the same way. Genuine sadness cannot be communicated through the static burst of sounds and sappy melody. Another repetitive song is “Acid Wash” that gets old very quickly. The lyrics are

Panda Bear meets the Grim Reaper

Release Date: Jan. 13
Artist: Panda Bear
Label: Domino
Duration: 51 minutes

Liam Gillick
PNP, VBS

Music lovers tend to associate dub step and electronic music with beat drops, harsh synthesizers and explosive lyrics, but Panda Bear (Noah Lennox) has proved to be the psychedelic slow jam of the electronic world. Experimental musician Panda Bear’s solo, studio album “Panda Bear Meets Grim Reaper”, which celebrates death, dropped January 9. It’s suppose to sounds like a mixture of the last two albums a little bit,” Lennox said at an interview with the music blog The Surrealist dream-like melodies can be attributed as a unique characteristic of Panda Bear's sound. This is ideal background music for any trippy adventure. Despite the exclusive focus to the songs, many of them aren't memorable; either because they are not worth remembering or because few of the lyrics are heard and retained. The melodies are repetitive and muffled by all sorts of samples, drum cuts, and other instruments. One of the weaker songs is “Bitchin' Baker Candle Stick Maker” which is painfully redundant. There are only four verses that are repeated over and over again. “Lonely” “Junkie” works in the same way. Genuine sadness cannot be communicated through the static burst of sounds and sappy melody. Another repetitive song is “Acid Wash” that gets old very quickly. The lyrics are...
The museum offers student admission for $5 and free admission on Sundays.

“I would like to give students the advice to not be afraid if they are interested in two seemingly opposite things, to bridge them,” Bennett said. “You shouldn’t be afraid to go after things ... You don’t have to pick just one interest.”

Release in January, “Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper” is Panda Bear’s fifth album.

The standout song from this album is definitely “Mr. Noah”. This trippy, fast-paced track is one of the album’s redeeming qualities. So many different elements are pieced together to produce an interesting collage of sounds. “Tropic of Cancer” utilizes a sample of a harp from “The Nutcracker” which adds a light, refreshing burst of authenticity in the track. “Crosswords” is very catchy and the song most likely to make you get up and dance. This is very much a niche album for the psychedelic soul that overlaps different music styles, prerecorded samples, and raw music to create Panda Bear’s unique sound. While it may not be loved by everyone, his intricate song-constructing technique can be appreciated by everyone.

The standout song from this album is definitely “Mr. Noah”. This trippy, fast-paced track is one of the album’s redeeming qualities. So many different elements are pieced together to produce an interesting collage of sounds. “Tropic of Cancer” utilizes a sample of a harp from “The Nutcracker” which adds a light, refreshing burst of authenticity in the track. “Crosswords” is very catchy and the song most likely to make you get up and dance. This is very much a niche album for the psychedelic soul that overlaps different music styles, prerecorded samples, and raw music to create Panda Bear’s unique sound. While it may not be loved by everyone, his intricate song-constructing technique can be appreciated by everyone.

The museum offers student admission for $5 and free admission on Sundays.

“I would like to give students the advice to not be afraid if they are interested in two seemingly opposite things, to bridge them,” Bennett said. “You shouldn’t be afraid to go after things ... You don’t have to pick just one interest.”

Release in January, “Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper” is Panda Bear’s fifth album.
Benjamin's vision for Columbia: vague on university's role in city

Morality not dependent on religion

Ben Crawford
Second-year
English and Russian student

French cartoonists that offend the truth isn't a huge logical step. Posture difference between our two stances is that Mr. Burgess believes religion is "used" for evil, while I hold that anyone that is able to believe, with certainty, that they possess the final revelation is also capable of overcoming our inborn human decency to protect that revelation. In this way, the stepfather toward function is look like a concise religious thinking. An inborn tendency toward evil taints the entire enterprise of religion.

Mr. Burgess then suggests turning to the religious texts themselves, and to the actions of its believers, to find the moral pulse of each religion. I will be the first to say that all religions of thought are unnecessarily morally bankrupt (although I could list many, many instances). But, as everyone knows, religious texts can be followed or not followed at any time. The various modern Christian denominations show a pick-and-choose mentality when it comes to the word of God. Notice how every religious denomination are built on the backs of people like Baruch Spinoza, John Locke, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and many others. The founders of our government simply did not need theological parallels of Jesus or the envisioned rantings of John. They didn't need to consult any world religious leaders, who, by Mr. Burgess's logic, would know morality best. All they needed were their own forefathers and a corporate state.

Thinkers, not priests, built the kind of society that we are in today. The so-called "turning cheek" doctrine of religion is "very susceptible to treachery, violence, usury, prison and death." Mr. Burgess says the city offers. The reason we remember him is a quote printed in front of the statue. What is not well known is that anything is justified in working towards its survival. As Mr. Burgess says, religion is "very susceptible to being used for nefarious purposes because it claims to have the ultimate source of power and truth." I would suggest that claiming to have the ultimate authority over all others (in inherent religions talk) no matter what ideology or group one may say, is a thought that will always lead to violence in the long run. When one has the truth in hand, the murder of the one who has the truth.

This is a response to Mr. Terry Burgess's letter in the Editor that ran on Jan. 14, 2015. The sooner we recognize what we are up against — the difficulty poor students might face in paying the cost of higher education — the better. But the basis of Western society, the origins of the "turning cheek" doctrine of religion is "very susceptible to treachery, violence, usury, prison and death." Mr. Burgess says the city offers. The reason we remember him is a quote printed in front of the statue. What is not well known is that anything is justified in working towards its survival. As Mr. Burgess says, religion is "very susceptible to being used for nefarious purposes because it claims to have the ultimate source of power and truth." I would suggest that claiming to have the ultimate authority over all others (in inherent religions talk) no matter what ideology or group one may say, is a thought that will always lead to violence in the long run. When one has the truth in hand, the murder of the one who has the truth.
Lovely condo at Place on Greene
Lovely 2 bdrm, 2 bath available for lease. 5 min walk to campus. 850 sf. 4 person fully equipped with W/D for 1st year. Utilities included. No pets. 2nd floor, first floor are also available. Contact: 803-777-6611. Email: info@teamountain.com

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is looking to recruit 10-15 volunteer trained students to assist with recruitment this fall. Calling all prospective students, admitted students, or parents who should possess strong written communication skills, enthusiasm for USC, good work ethic, professionalism, and a passion for recruitment is strongly encouraged. Volunteers work through phone calls, emails, and social media. Students are recruited to sit as a member of the team two nights per week during the month of August through October Monday through Thursday. Volunteers would be working hand in hand with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and staff on a 1:1 recruit. This is a great opportunity to play a part in student recruitment while you still have the opportunity to be involved in the college application process. Applications should come from enthusiastic students and their parents. Applications should show a strong interest in USC, good work ethic, enthusiasm for USC, and a passion for recruitment. If you are looking for volunteers to assist with Admissions events and recruitment training meeting for fall volunteers, you can fill out the application today! Positions are available in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions on the Homestead or in the Laptop Cafe, Applications deadline: Monday, January 15, 2015. Application deadline: Monday, January 15, 2015. For more information, please call Alexandra Scovel at 803-777-5633. www.teamountain.com

Taurus
Review old material for new ideas over the next few weeks with Mercury retrograde. Review your resume. Old promises could come back to haunt you. Double count the numbers. Advance your career by finding new ways to make it more joyful.

Gemini
The travel bug has bitten you this week. Breaks and delays provoked by Mercury's retrograde don't seem to be much of an issue. It doesn't need to be expensive. Allow extra time for interesting detours. Get advice from those who've been there. Study English and explore Italian culture.

Cancer
There is no shortage of opportunities this week. Apply for them. Ask for what you want. Do the paperwork carefully to avoid breakdowns. An opportunity window is open now that could benefit your family. Do the numbers.

Leo
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Sagittarius
Establish new channels of communication this month, and keep them clear and operational with vigilance. Resolve misunderstandings as they occur. Check in frequently with social accounts and update accounts immediately if you got the gift of words, otherwise you will get engulfed.

Capricorn
There's plenty of money to be made, and opportunities abound. Keep good books. Records. Review financial statements to come up with conclusions that could arise with Mercury's retrograde. Take time and materials to communicate this clearly. Respond to all inquiries.

Aquarius
Mercury retrograde this month is a tough act but if we can't put our confidence through you off the street. Don't pay attention to self-doubt. Remember your own accomplishments and a new skillset. Create a new house song. Stop this month. Power and leadership this month.

Pisces
For about three weeks with Mercury retrograde, revisit your old meditations or yoga program. Enjoy natures and introspection. Dance to old songs you never heard. You're losing your wisdom. Think, plan and review your objectives. Prepare for uncharted territory.

Aries
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Taurus
Review old material for new ideas over the next few weeks with Mercury retrograde. Review your resume. Old promises could come back to haunt you. Double count the numbers. Advance your career by finding new ways to make it more joyful.

Gemini
The travel bug has bitten you this week. Breaks and delays provoked by Mercury's retrograde don't seem to be much of an issue. It doesn't need to be expensive. Allow extra time for interesting detours. Get advice from those who've been there. Study English and explore Italian culture.

Cancer
There is no shortage of opportunities this week. Apply for them. Ask for what you want. Do the paperwork carefully to avoid breakdowns. An opportunity window is open now that could benefit your family. Do the numbers.

Leo
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Sagittarius
Establish new channels of communication this month, and keep them clear and operational with vigilance. Resolve misunderstandings as they occur. Check in frequently with social accounts and update accounts immediately if you got the gift of words, otherwise you will get engulfed.

Capricorn
There's plenty of money to be made, and opportunities abound. Keep good books. Records. Review financial statements to come up with conclusions that could arise with Mercury's retrograde. Take time and materials to communicate this clearly. Respond to all inquiries.

Aquarius
Mercury retrograde this month is a tough act but if we can't put our confidence through you off the street. Don't pay attention to self-doubt. Remember your own accomplishments and a new skillset. Create a new house song. Stop this month. Power and leadership this month.

Pisces
For about three weeks with Mercury retrograde, revisit your old meditations or yoga program. Enjoy natures and introspection. Dance to old songs you never heard. You're losing your wisdom. Think, plan and review your objectives. Prepare for uncharted territory.

Aries
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Taurus
Review old material for new ideas over the next few weeks with Mercury retrograde. Review your resume. Old promises could come back to haunt you. Double count the numbers. Advance your career by finding new ways to make it more joyful.

Gemini
The travel bug has bitten you this week. Breaks and delays provoked by Mercury's retrograde don't seem to be much of an issue. It doesn't need to be expensive. Allow extra time for interesting detours. Get advice from those who've been there. Study English and explore Italian culture.

Cancer
There is no shortage of opportunities this week. Apply for them. Ask for what you want. Do the paperwork carefully to avoid breakdowns. An opportunity window is open now that could benefit your family. Do the numbers.

Leo
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Sagittarius
Establish new channels of communication this month, and keep them clear and operational with vigilance. Resolve misunderstandings as they occur. Check in frequently with social accounts and update accounts immediately if you got the gift of words, otherwise you will get engulfed.

Capricorn
There's plenty of money to be made, and opportunities abound. Keep good books. Records. Review financial statements to come up with conclusions that could arise with Mercury's retrograde. Take time and materials to communicate this clearly. Respond to all inquiries.

Aquarius
Mercury retrograde this month is a tough act but if we can't put our confidence through you off the street. Don't pay attention to self-doubt. Remember your own accomplishments and a new skillset. Create a new house song. Stop this month. Power and leadership this month.

Pisces
For about three weeks with Mercury retrograde, revisit your old meditations or yoga program. Enjoy natures and introspection. Dance to old songs you never heard. You're losing your wisdom. Think, plan and review your objectives. Prepare for uncharted territory.

Aries
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Taurus
Review old material for new ideas over the next few weeks with Mercury retrograde. Review your resume. Old promises could come back to haunt you. Double count the numbers. Advance your career by finding new ways to make it more joyful.

Gemini
The travel bug has bitten you this week. Breaks and delays provoked by Mercury's retrograde don't seem to be much of an issue. It doesn't need to be expensive. Allow extra time for interesting detours. Get advice from those who've been there. Study English and explore Italian culture.

Cancer
There is no shortage of opportunities this week. Apply for them. Ask for what you want. Do the paperwork carefully to avoid breakdowns. An opportunity window is open now that could benefit your family. Do the numbers.

Leo
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Sagittarius
Establish new channels of communication this month, and keep them clear and operational with vigilance. Resolve misunderstandings as they occur. Check in frequently with social accounts and update accounts immediately if you got the gift of words, otherwise you will get engulfed.

Capricorn
There's plenty of money to be made, and opportunities abound. Keep good books. Records. Review financial statements to come up with conclusions that could arise with Mercury's retrograde. Take time and materials to communicate this clearly. Respond to all inquiries.

Aquarius
Mercury retrograde this month is a tough act but if we can't put our confidence through you off the street. Don't pay attention to self-doubt. Remember your own accomplishments and a new skillset. Create a new house song. Stop this month. Power and leadership this month.

Pisces
For about three weeks with Mercury retrograde, revisit your old meditations or yoga program. Enjoy natures and introspection. Dance to old songs you never heard. You're losing your wisdom. Think, plan and review your objectives. Prepare for uncharted territory.

Aries
Teamwork powers your projects, so spend extra attention on clear communication with Mercury retrograde for the next few weeks. Things can get in your way. Review your work on a habitually. Speak what's in your heart, straight and unvarnished.

Taurus
Review old material for new ideas over the next few weeks with Mercury retrograde. Review your resume. Old promises could come back to haunt you. Double count the numbers. Advance your career by finding new ways to make it more joyful.

Gemini
The travel bug has bitten you this week. Breaks and delays provoked by Mercury's retrograde don't seem to be much of an issue. It doesn't need to be expensive. Allow extra time for interesting detours. Get advice from those who've been there. Study English and explore Italian culture.

Cancer
There is no shortage of opportunities this week. Apply for them. Ask for what you want. Do the paperwork carefully to avoid breakdowns. An opportunity window is open now that could benefit your family. Do the numbers.
**Gamecocks sweep spring season opener**

**All Notes Interim**

The No. 27 Gamecocks began their spring season by winning both matches of their doubleheader over No. 97 Elon and unranked Furman.

South Carolina completed a perfect day Saturday at USC's Fieldhouse, sweeping both singles and doubles.

In both matches, the Gamecocks (2-0) jumped out to a 4-0 lead to clinch wins before yielding a point. The strong start allowed the Gamecocks to cruise and get experience in before facing No. 50 Stanford this Saturday. However, head coach Josh Goffi said one room for improvement.

"We didn't play great, which is actually comforting," Goffi said. "We didn't have to play great — we just trusted our good stuff. That's really important for me to see as a coach. I hadn't seen that from a team this early in the season since I've been the coach here."

Senior Kyle Koch, ranked as the No. 103 player nationally, began the season strong going on an undefeated 4-0 in his matches. Koch played his two doubles matches from the top slot with fellow senior Things Pinheiro, ranked No. 71, as his partner. Koch and Pinheiro made quick work of Elon's top pair, winning 6-3.

Shortly after, South Carolina's duo of redshirt freshmen Harrison O'Keefe and Thomas Mayronne won their match 6-3 from the third doubles slot to clinch the point for the Gamecocks.

Later in the match, Koch won during the No. 3 spot in singles, 6-7, 6-3. O'Keefe also won his match 6-7, 7-5 from the No. 1 singles position. Sophomore and No. 89 ranked Andrew Schafer also made quick work of his opponent from the fourth position, winning 6-2, 7-5, and the match for the Gamecocks. Senior Andrew Adams also played well, winning a point from the No. 1 position, 6-0, 6-3.

Pinheiro had a tough day in singles. He lost a super tiebreaker in both of his singles matches playing in the top spot. However, he and Koch both played well in their doubles matches.

The Gamecocks only gave up four points total, winning both matches by a score of 5-2. Of the four points given up, three came in super tiebreakers. Against Furman, the Gamecocks won their doubles point easily. Koch and Pinheiro won 6-2 from the top slot while Adams and Schafer won 6-1 from the third spot.

In singles, Koch, Adams, Schafer and Mayronne all defeated their Paladin opponents in straight sets. Pinheiro and Mayronne each yielded points in close matches.

The team will have the week to prepare as they head to Gainesville, Florida on Jan. 24 for ITA Kickoff Weekend. They will play No. 10 Stanford on Saturday and either No. 12 Ole Miss or No. 11 Florida Sunday as they begin a grueling part of their schedule that includes four straight matches against ranked opponents.

South Carolina plays No. 22 Clemson Jan. 31.

**Women's tennis relies on youth at Michigan tourney**

The first day of play in the Alumni Classic was tough sledding for the Gamecocks women's tennis team in the singles department, where they lost four of five matches against No. 16 Michigan.

The loss was last weekend came from freshman Hadley Bell. She defeated Michigan's Mira Ruder-Hook 7-5, 6-3 in doubles against No. 31 Texas Tech. The Gamecocks were able to take two out of three with wins from redshirt freshman Britton Folland/Olivia Berg and Ximena Siles Luna/Caroline Dailey (7-5).

After his team's struggles in singles play, head coach Kevin Epley was less concerned with the team's margin of defeat and more concerned with just getting back on the court. "Michigan is a very good team. They have a lot of talented players," Epley said. "And I know people might look at that and say, 'Wow they got their butts whooped,' but we got a win out of Hadley Berg who is hope for her being a freshman. We also took them to three sets against their top three players. Also, that was our first match against real competition, so there's plenty of time for improvement. I'm not worried." Day two on the court was just the opposite, as the Wolverines took a clean sweep against South Carolina in the doubles setting while the Gamecocks took four victories against the Wolverines.

The final day of play featured a sweep in doubles by the Gamecocks over the Bulls with the top two tandems for South Carolina featuring Berg/Dailey and Folland/Looney taking 6-1 victories. In singles, the Gamecocks lost 3-2 to Texas Tech. The two wins, however, came against two of the Red Raiders' top three seeds, including No. 89 Sarah Dvorak, who was defeated by Hadley Berg, 6-3, 6-3. Britton Folland collected the other win (3-6, 6-2).

Epley said that he thought his team looked a little rusty, but he was encouraged his underclassmen's play.

"I thought a couple players were a little slow coming out of the gate, but you always expect that the first weekend of play," Epley said. "Like I said, I'm not worried. I mean, the fact that our top four out of our top five singles players are underclassmen and the fact that they're holding their weight is impressive enough, so they've got plenty of time to get better and I expect us to have a pretty good season."

South Carolina begins dual match play Friday in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with a doubleheader against Grand Canyon and Northern Arizona.