Tommy Preston, a fourth-year political science student and student body president, sat in an empty room Wednesday morning reflecting on his administration’s term in office.

“I never expected to be student body president,” Preston said.

Preston’s term will come to a close today when incoming Nick Payne, a fourth-year economics student, takes the oath of office.

Looking back over his administration’s accomplishments, Preston is proud of the work he put into the new grade forgiveness policy adopted by the Student Government.

The policy is the only student led initiative ever passed by the faculty senate.

“This summer it got to be passed, we worked on it for a year and a half,” Preston said. “One faculty member told me the only reason it passed was because of Student Government.”

What Preston is most proud of is what Student Government’s performance during his time in office, he acknowledges many times a lack of the necessary means to keep students on campus.

Preston said.

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Students, mostly living off campus, are forced to find alternate routes to class daily because of the trains causing traffic delays at several different intersections.

Trains cause traffic back up

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Students cause traffic back up

Off-campus commute made difficult with excess railroad delays

Elizabeth Segrist

Students living off campus often find themselves stuck in traffic due to the trains. Ben Baldwin, a second-year law student, lives near the stadium and crosses the tracks several times each morning on the way to campus.

“Moms like at least once a week I get caught behind one. I can’t understand why they have to run them during morning rush hour,” Baldwin said.

Kevin Blackmon, a third-year pharmacy student, said the trains on Rosewood and Assembly often make him late for class.

“I live out by the stadium and try to take the quickest route to Bull Street Garage every morning. I’ve been late to class more times than I can keep up with, and if I don’t leave the apartment 40 minutes in advance, I never make it to class,” Blackmon said.

Students have found some shortcuts to avoid waiting for the trains.

Karenalya Blair, a fourth-year public relations student, lives in University Oaks and often uses shortcuts on her way to work around 9 a.m.

“1 catch the trains on Assembly, then I turn around and go down Bluff. If I catch the one that is on Upper, then I catch through the Greek Village,” Blackmon said.

Kenneth Barton, a fourth-year political science student, said several shortcuts around Columbia to avoid the delays from the trains.

“The only shortcut I know is by Capital City Stadium and most of the trains in that in the shuttle, but so long, they block those off, and you can’t do it. The only one I’m proud of is the Towers and the delayed opening date for the new honors residence hall, Housing will be short to come in by the fall. Preston has warned Board of Trustees: “We can’t get into the business of knocking down buildings and not replacing them.”

The demolition of a least one section of McBryde residence hall is also planned to make room for a new wing on the Thomas Cooper Library that will house rare books and special collections.

“We need to find ways to keep students on campus,” Preston said.

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Alcohol, medication abuse reaches new high

Police, USC officials urge students to be careful, responsible

Kathleen Kamp / Staff Writer

A study from Columbia University shows that binge drinking and prescription drug abuse among college students is on the rise. The study, which analyzed data from 1991 to 2005, said that 3.8 million (49 percent) full-time college students illegally use prescription drugs or regularly drink five or more drinks at a time.

Larrell Wilkinson, director of USC’s Alcohol and Drug Programs for USC, said that about 60 percent of full-time binge drinking at USC is compatible with the study and that about half of students regularlyhape to drugs. Wilkinson is a counselor with about half of students regularly drinking to excess. “What happens on college campuses is the same as what’s happening in the general public,” Wilkinson said. “In that case, when you think about the general public, certainly those problems are going on here at USC.”

The study also showed that prescription drug abuse is up 9 percent since 1991, with 275,000 (35 percent) illegally using stimulants such as Adderall or Ritalin and 3.1 percent of college students abusing prescription painkillers.

A doctor prescribes a drug or substance, it’s probably to help you, and sometimes through some kind of condition. A lot of drugs have great purposes, Wilkinson said. “It’s when they’re taken in a way that those problems happen.”

Russell Haber, a counselor with USC’s Counseling and Human Development Center who regularly counsels students, said that he sees a lot of students medicating with drugs and alcohol. “Once you’re drinking, once you’re taking prescribed drugs, just to get drunk, you’re already going off into some kind of problem.”

“People are obviously physically impaired and need medical attention, safety always comes first,” Grabski said. “How about asking questions?”

Haber also said that since Adderall is one of the most commonly abused prescription drugs among college students, the Counseling and Human Development Center is very careful when prescribing it.

“Most patients with attention deficit problems definitely have often a long history of the problem before college, so we require extensive past medical history [before we will prescribe drugs],” Haber said.

David Singer, a first-year biology student, said that while most of the students he has seen that alcohol consumption crosses the line from safe to irresponsible when students decide to drive while intoxicated.

“I have a big problem with students driving drunk,” Singer said. “That is the one thing I can’t stand.”

Major Eric Grabski, deputy director of field services for USC Law Enforcement and Safety, said that students should know they have other options to get home safely, including the APO bus, the FARE bus, a ride home shuttle and, as a last resort, calling USC police.

Grabski said that, while their mission is to protect students, each situation is different and he can’t guarantee that intoxicated students will get out of punishment.

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Wilkinson recommended that when drinking, students do so safely by eating a full meal before consuming alcohol, limiting consumption to one drink per hour and arranging a sober driver who would force the publisher to disclose textbook prices to the presentation made her aware of the specific niche in Charleston's history and some students from Charleston say they were not familiar with it. Wilkinson recommended

**GOODWIN** Continued from 1 always went to," Goodwin said.

Goodwin works for USC Housing and spends her days on the 15th-16th floor of the South Tower Dormitory, except during the summer when she helps with other dorms. Goodwin usually wakes up around 5 a.m. in her home in West Columbia. Around 7:30 a.m., she boards the bus in order to get to USC around 7:45 a.m.

Then, Goodwin heads to Patterson Dormitory to retrieve her South Tower keys from the lobby. By 8:30 a.m., Goodwin is hard at work. Goodwin works to keep the bathrooms clean, as well as the kitchens. She usually starts the day by taking the trash out and making sure everything is in order in the hallways and stairwells.

**Preston** Continued from 1 USC, met with members of the House Education Subcommittee to discuss the issue. Members of the panel told Preston they were drafting a bill that would force the publisher to disclose textbook prices to the professor before ordering the book.

While in the nation’s capital, the delegation also met with Sara Martinez Tuckier, the U.S. Under Secretary of Education to discuss ways to help students pay for college. Preston had worked with state lawmakers and the governor to try and cap tuition increases. Gov. Sanford and Preston disagrees on how to fund higher education in South Carolina. Sanford has pointed out that South Carolina is seventh in the nation when it comes to the percentage of the state budgets spent on public education. Between that and the state’s scholarship programs, Sanford says the state is doing what it can. "French people can’t say the ‘th’ sound either, but no one calls them stupid, backwards or illiterate," Brown said. Critics, Moore, four-year pharmacy student, said the presentation made her aware of the broad extent of the Geechee experience.

"I grew up with more of an accent. It's a different way of saying the same thing, just with more of an accent."

When people call you Goochey, they automatically know where you’re from, Ransom said. "It’s a symbol of hometown pride. However, it has a bad association in the professional world because there is a certain way to speak and Goochey is not included." Geechee culture fills a very specific niche in Charleston’s history and some students from Charleston say they were not familiar with it. "I grew up with a predominantly white neighborhood and went to a private white school. I knew of the Gullah culture, but I wasn’t personally exposed," said LaTanya Johnson, fourth-year history student. Brown pointed out how some students called Gullah people were crazy or ignorant because of the way they talked. Gullah people were seen as stupid because they are not able to pronounce the "th" sound. Brown said. He compared the Gullah language to French, which also has no "th" sounds.

"It's a different way of saying the same thing, just with more of an accent."

**ACCORDING to Wilkinson from 1 illegal prescription drug use is never a good idea. "There’s a responsible and mature way to consume alcohol," Wilkinson said. "Understanding, first, that you don’t need alcohol to have fun." Wilkinson recommended

**GOODWIN** Continued from 1

"I'll go wherever the wind takes me," he said.
Italy trades terrorists for national integrity

Apparently you can't spell team with Italy and Italian officials confirmed Wednesday that an Italian journalist who was being held hostage by the Taliban was freed in exchange for five Taliban prisoners, The New York Times reported.

What happened to: "we don't negotiate with terrorists," this common sense policy all world powers should follow, not just an unfounded United States guideline. By trading with terrorists, Italy has set a precedent that puts it in a putrid category, not just journalists, in a war zone in more danger.

Let's just hope the world doesn't see a sudden shortage of reporters.

Italy just upped the ante now that terrorists know they can barter with people's lives. Taking this kind of attitude sends the message that opposing forces can talk into and the dangers that constantly surround reporting from unstable areas.

Let's just hope the entire terrorism community knows what journalists' heads are worth. Italy's prime minister said the country wanted to save a life because life is precious, but now that five more terrorists are walking around Afghanistan, how many more people will be killed?

When reporters take the challenge of covering war zones, they know they are getting themselves into the dangers that constantly surround reporting from unstable areas.

Italy trades terrorists for national integrity

Last week, thousands of college students packed into their hammers, Land Rovers or personal fighter jets and took off to exotic islands under the sun and blue skies with beaches littered with beautiful, badly toasted and golden-skinned Abercrombie model and most important, tequila.

I crammed into my tiny rental little Civic and drove two hours north into the simple, conservative countryside and comparatively frigid mountains of North Carolina to a small town listened with less-sharp beautiful (median age: 67), fullness into a quiet, serene and wrinkled AARP models who sweat prune juice.

And some people say Tim Robbins are only good for the movies where they get that idea.

Having found myself in the dry and intensely wooded mountains, laying out on the beach and salmon belly, I met a woman wasn't on my list of people I'd choose to hang out with. I chose accordingly.

Accordingly, I chose much more to climb a freakin' mountain than just make sex.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2007

next band Cobra Starship won was exciting the stage.

band tossed guitar picks and lurched to the middle as the lyrics out loud. The crowd such as “The Great Escape” when the Boston-based group between the soothing sounds of Coldplay and ramified lyrics of Daphne Loves Delays.

The anticipation for the next group Boys Like Girls was evident as the crowd pushed forward and chanted andoredly for the set-up crew.

The roars were deafening when the Boston-based band took the stage. Catchy hits such as “I’ll Be Waiting” and “Hero/Heroine” were a thrill as everyone who were able to shout the lyrics out loud. The crowd surged to the middle as the band and band pins while the crowd was rocking with enthusiasm.

Despite expectations, the next band Cobra Starship won the race for concert enthusiasm and stage presence. They are known for their sound “Bring It” from the cutesy videos “Sticks on a Plate,” which they also performed. This band’s eclectic blend of sounds (including a keytar synthesizer) allowed them to perform their upbeat, lyrically humorous songs, the entire crowd swayed and stirred to the music. (Although no one seemed to know the majority of the lyrics, the band encouraged participation by designating times for the crowd to raise their fists and scream “Hey! Hey! Hey!”) Their exhilarating performance successfully pumped up the crowd even more for Cartel. After nearly four hours, Cartel took the stage, and immediately began performing hits from their album, “Chrome.” The crowd sang along to such hits as “Say Anything (Eh)” and “Honestly.” Along with

Light: Josh Pepper played the stage piano. Cartel performed songs from their latest album “Chrome.”

Above: Cartel members Will Pugh, Josh Pepper, Nic Mudford, Kevin Sanders, and Jeff Lott make pop and punk music.


The ink of a scholar is worth a thousand times more than the blood of a martyr.” — Leo Victor

In Xbox 360’s “Crackdown,” players act as police officers attacking gang activity in the dangerous Pacific City.

"Crackdown" offers little fun

Tylor McLeiy The Daily Gamecock

"Crackdown," released on Feb. 20, is one of the first Xbox 360 games in what feels like months that is actually worth playing.

You know, just the usual. However, unlike “Grand Theft Auto,” “Crackdown” has no story whatsoever. The game begins, you’re informed of people you need to kill, you proceed with said killing, and eventually the game ends once everyone’s dead. Don’t worry about character development or talking to supporting characters. Who wants to talk to a cop who could somehow come to your death anyway?

The above ridiculous assumption of skills doesn’t start off their peak, though. Instead, you start off pretty basic and weak, but as you complete certain actions, corresponding skills will increase. For example, if you keep running over gang members, your driving skills will increase. True, that doesn’t seem very reasonable, but they’re all kind of like that.

A better example is probably that shooting and aiming skills increase with every gang member you shoot. For those of you ethically troubled by the premise of rewards for killing and maiming, you just get rewarded for killing “evil” gang members. Killing innocent civilians deters points and slows progress. That makes everything, better, right?

By now, you can probably imagine that there’s not much to “Crackdown.” If you’re not killing or leaping from rooftop to rooftop, then you don’t have much else to do. There are a few cars and rooftop foot races littered throughout the city to diversify your attention, but they don’t take too much time.

If you know what you’re doing and devote some time, you can beat “Crackdown” in a couple days. All in all, it’s probably only worth noting. If you only plan to play a little bit every now and then, you can probably get some mileage out of it, but if you really sit down to play, expect to see the credits roll pretty quickly. “Crackdown” is a great game, it just so happens that there isn’t very much of it. That doesn’t seem like it makes sense since there’s an entire city to run around, but there just isn’t a lot of variety. “Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas” probably set the bar too high in terms of big city wasting, and it’s probably not fair in comparison to the two games. Still, the comparison is inevitable and makes “Crackdown” look all the more shallow.

In all fairness, "Crackdown" is a fun game with pretty, comic-book style graphics and hours of vibrant entertainment. It’s not going to suck your life away with ferocity, but, while it lasts, “Crackdown” is more fun than any other game that’s come out in a good while.
over the past decade. Oberst has come to know and love personality Bright Eyes fans that this is the familiar and reassures the listener to confide or trust in others. This consistent lack of ability to be alone with those of the stray dog. This points to Oberst’s being away. Oberst tactfully applies his own choices to be at stake.” Oberst tactfully off because “his freedom was humans feed him, he runs of freedom. After caring and risks starvation for want of — an amazing show.

Continued from 5

CARTEL CONTINUED FROM 5

Talven ● CONTINUED FROM 5

Huma Grauz, the curator at Chicago’s River North art house Gallery 415, where an exhibit of Yalcin’s designs were displayed, first met Yalcin in Istanbul last summer. She found the designer’s story inspiring. Yalcin’s mother was a seamstress. At age 6, Yalcin began sewing clothes for her dolls. She never studied fashion, never went to college, had not even seen a runway show when she first launched her line of clothing in her own village. The real gem of the album, however, is the final track, “Fourier Trap.” This slow and mournful acoustic melody has terrific percussion that reminds the listener of a horse trotting along a dusty path. Lyrically, it paints a picture of coming home after a long time of being away. Overall, there are four or five fairly solid songs on this release, even if they are not as catchy as previous efforts. It will be exciting to see what Bright Eyes has in store for us when “Cassadaga” is released on April 10.

Continued from this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2007

Muslim couture fashion designer Rabia Yalcin creates clothes for women of all faiths.

What impressed Grauz about Turkey’s ban on the hijab, or head-covering, in Turkey is that, despite Yalcin’s mother was a “sensual,” rather than sexy. Her faith, she says, does not need to be reflected in dress codes. “Only her dress at a party of female friends. At a party of female friends. So the religious woman doesn’t mean she doesn’t have the same passions and desires that I have,” said Grauz, a native of Turkey who chooses not to follow strict Islamic dress codes. “Only her dress can wear in public,” Yalcin explained, saying the need for modesty is 

SDM 506: - Arguing Science and Nanotechnology

This course evaluates arguments in and about science, nanoscience, and technology; it involves applied learning with discussions and debates.
Welcome to Falling Rock National Park

Dr. Sanjay Sinho from CARE speaks at the Arnold School of Public Health’s panel discussion, “TB Anywhere is TB Everywhere,” on Thursday afternoon. Check out our slideshow of this week’s pictures at www.dailygamecock.com.

HOROSCOPES

Aries
Invest in your own education first and travel the world later. In other words, don’t go until you know what you’re looking for.

Taurus
Think fast to get the best deal without spending an extra cent.

Gemini
The urge to fully express yourself may be overwhelming. Don’t do it, unless you’re prepared to fight the battle alone.

Cancer
Along with your regular chores, there’s pile of extra stuff to clean up. You’ll have to be more efficient.

Leo
To be an excellent leader, first you must learn to follow. For you, that’s the most difficult part. Meanwhile, relax with friends.

Virgo
You should be in a pretty good mood. Your work is attracting attention.

Libra
If you and your playmate share expenses, you’ll have a better time. You’ll get a whole lot farther.

Scorpio
New affiliations lead to higher expenses. Don’t deplete your savings on something that won’t last for long.

Sagittarius
Your work leads to make new alliances. Basically, you need a partner who can help with your advertising. Support system will soon come up with a plan. Don’t wait until all the bugs are worked out. Get started, as you can find them.

Aquarius
It’s difficult to discuss your ideas with people who don’t understand. It confuses them and wastes valuable time you could spend doing research instead.

Pisces
Turn down invitations to go out this weekend, even for business meetings. You need some rest and relaxation in the privacy of your own home. If you must go, get back home as soon as you can.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
3/20/07

ACROSS

1. Paris’s male: 5 Letters
2. Laugh heartily
3. Merle T’s descendant
4. Visa alternative
5. Ted’s fan
6. Sound
7. Command of Apollo’s
8. Light weight
9. Lier’s lawn
10. Jingle
11. Singer McGraw
12. Transparent
13. Gangster’s gal
14. Dutch oven pasta
15. In what way?
16. Choice music
17. Hang on sloops
18. It’s a distance
19. Section end go
20. Good title for this puzzle?
22. Pinge header
23. Appear to be
24. Impatience for us
25. It’s a go
26. Novalular sign in music
27. Long for joy
28. T. I. will
29. 66 sea cow
30. Atmosphere
31. “Norma...”
32. Aphrodisiac
33. First flight to fly solo around the world
34. Norms of age
35. Luminous and Towel
36. Narrow margin
37. Get under way
38. Sound unit
39. Twenty

SOLUTIONS FROM THURSDAY

1. It’s an explosion of flavor
2. The Daily Gamecock
3. The Daily Gamecock’s
4. T. D. G.
5. The Daily Gamecock
6. T.D.G.
7. The Daily Gamecock
8. The Daily Gamecock
9. The Daily Gamecock
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31. The Daily Gamecock
32. The Daily Gamecock
This day is truly a great day. For all of you who have gathered here to celebrate, this is what we can be proud of. A day to remember. I realize that there is a good chance that some of you will believe it when you read this. This is a day to come and celebrate with me. This is a day for my own mother, who is in the gallery. It's the first training day, and I want you to sit down now. The Gamecocks get in shape for their Saturday scrimmage at Williams-Brice Stadium.

This weekend, the Carolina Gamecocks (19-5, 2-1 SEC) will face senior right-hander Blake Cooper on Saturday, and freshman right-hander Harris Honeycutt on Sunday. Both players are expected to be starters.

The Gamecocks hope to make a statement of their own in the SEC East standings. The Mississippi State Bulldogs (13-4, 2-1) will look to cash in and make a statement of their own in the West.

The Gamecocks hit the road for Starkville, Miss. to play a game against the Bulldogs. After a winning season against LSU, the Gamecocks were able to take a pair of home games against UNC- Asheville and Wofford by a total margin of 22-3. The Gamecocks are currently ranked at No. 3 in Regional Baseball Rankings.

The story on the field this week for the Gamecocks has been their batting. Any of the opposing pitchers that have faced will tell you that it's been a hectic story to tell. The Gamecocks compiled 26 hits in their two midweek games against the 25, Sports Weekly/ESPN. The team hopes to continue running at the plate against a Miss. State pitching staff that currently holds a 5-13 record.

The Bulldogs will begin the season with sophomores right-hander Aaron Spurrier and right-hander Juan Blas. Weatherford has pitched well and holds a 3.42 ERA with 31 strikeouts in 26 innings.

The Gamecocks will face corner with junior right-hander Hunter Honeycutt. Honeycutt has been one of the top pitchers on the mound this season. He currently holds a 3.6 ERA with 35 strikeouts and 6 walks in 26 innings.

The Gamecocks have been working out your guest lists for tonight, please make sure that you don't invite any athletes. The Gamecocks are working out your guest lists for tonight, please make sure that you don't invite any athletes.
Attention Graduate Students:
Meet the President
and Provost
Friday, March 30, 2007
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
Russell House Room 322/326
(Senate Chambers)
All graduate students are invited to learn
about the academic and professional experiences
of President Sorensen and Provost Becker.
A light lunch will be served.
Please RSVP by email to gradstso@gwm.sc.edu.

Dr. Andrew A. Sorensen
Dr. Mark P. Becker

The No. 55 ranked
University of South Carolina Gamecocks
will welcome two SEC
Western Conference foes
to Columbia this weekend.
The No. 10 LSU Tigers and
the Arkansas Razorbacks
will face the Gamecocks
at the Sam Daniel Tennis
Facility. Carolina won its last
match, a 4-3 victory over
University of Nevada-Las Vegas on March 15. The
victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the
Gamecocks and was their first win on the road. The win
also improved their record to 10-6 on the season. USC
has won 11 straight matches that ended 4-3.
The tennis team welcomed back Yevgeny Supeko in Las Vegas. The Texas A&M
transfer had missed the previous two matches due
to a wrist injury. Supeko is 12-0 on the season and
will be looking to carry the team through this weekend against the Tigers and Razorbacks.
LSU (11-3) is coming off its most impressive victory of the season, a
4-3 defeat of sixth-ranked
Illinois on Tuesday. The
Tigers bring with them
three top-100 tennis players.
They are Ken Skupski (21st), Danny Bryan (37th)
and Kevin Dessauer (86th).
James Cluskey and Ken
Skupski combine to form the
No. 5 tandem while Danny
Bryan and Colt Gaston rank
at No. 9 in the country.
The Tigers have only
lost to first-ranked Georgia
and second-ranked Ohio State. They do have an
impressive three victories
over Texas schools as Texas A&M, Rice University and
Texas Christian University
have fallen victim to their
Louisiana neighbor. LSU
has not surrendered a point to a team ranked less
than 72nd.
Arkansas (6-13, 0-4) started their season strong,
with four victories, but since
then has struggled to stay on
top. The Razorbacks bring with them
a seven-game losing streak.
 LSU will be seeking redemption in Columbia
this weekend, since they lost the last time they visited the
Capital City back in 2005
by a 4-3 mark. Carolina has also taken four out of the last six matches from the Tigers.
The Razorbacks hold the
upper hand on the other
match. They beat Carolina
last season, although the
Gamecocks have won three of the last five.
Carolina faces LSU Friday
at 2 p.m. and the Razorbacks
Sunday at 1 p.m. All matches
are free to the public.

Juan Blas
THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Yevgeny Supeko hopes to maintain his perfect record.
To place a classified ad
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