

The Gamecock

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OUR OPINION

Sale of condoms necessary, good

When David Beasley interferes with DHEC and prohibits condom distribution, SHARE steps in with a one-week save. The student-sponsored program Sexual Health and Rape Education will be selling Condomgrams this week in lieu of Valentine's Day Friday, when more attention is being given to relationships.

Many relationships come with a sexual relationship. Unlike Beasley, who continuously wishes to stick his neck into the sand and ignore anything to do with human sexuality, SHARE is addressing this issue. Moreover, these students are trying to help promote safe and healthy sex.

As we all know, abstinence is the safest guard against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. To recognize the wise choice of some students to abstain from sex, SHARE is also selling Caregrams, which include a chocolate kiss and messages declaring how much it means

to wait.

In offering a choice of cards, the students behind SHARE have acted responsibly on two accounts. One, they recognize the very real fact that students are sexually active.

In trying to make condoms available, they are helping their fellow students.

Two, in offering a non-sexually presumptuous card, they are recognizing the religious and moral values other students have and are supporting this difficult decision in the face of current social trends.

It is comforting to know that in people's formative years, they are already facing facts and not shying away from controversial subjects.

With more people interested in properly dealing with teenage sex, less problems will arise with unwed mothers, STDs and HIV.

If the leaders in our life, like our governor, cannot help protect the youth of this community, then we had better help each other out.



In every newspaper in America there's something about your basketball team ... to me that's positive, but outside of that, I don't care.

Eddie Fogler, on the Gamecock's national team ranking.

Term limits not necessary in S.C.

Term limits is a touchy topic. In some respects, it's a good thing. It's almost like a weapon against a political monopoly. Term limits oust those who may have worn out their use in a governmental body.

And, in some respects, it's a bad thing. Term limits can keep out useful and extremely beneficial politicians who can have a dramatic effect on a given community.

The issue of term limits has been heavily discussed on a national level, but little attention has been given on a local level, such as with members of the S.C. Legislature.

Currently, South Carolina doesn't have term limits for any of its state legislators. But, according to a recent article in *The State* newspaper Sunday, South Carolina doesn't have too much of a problem with veteran legislators — unlike U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond.

The article reports just 17 of the 123 S.C. House Members have been in office 12 or more

years. In the Senate, 17 of the 46 members have been there for 12 years.

21 states have already restricted the number of terms lawmakers can serve in state legislatures. *The State* article says that public opinion polls show that voters across the country want to continue the trend. But is this really necessary? No, it isn't.

South Carolina shouldn't impose term limits for its state legislators.

Obviously the voters of South Carolina have been exercising their rights to oust or keep state legislators, thus supported by the small number of returning Congress members.

Term limits have benefits, but they also seem to interfere with a person's right to vote for whom they want to serve them. Returning Congress members should be able to run for as many terms as they want—the voters are the ultimate determining factor in determining their political fate.

Nearly two years. Two Valentine's Days. Hundreds of dates. Several "fights."

One love.

Maybe I am not a veteran, expert or otherwise, but I know what I know. And it keeps my life going and happy day after day.

Some people consider Valentine's Day make-or-break time. I used to worry if I would have a valentine or what I should do for my valentine. Most of the time, the day wasn't too happy. But now, I do whatever I can do to make everyday happy.

Now this applies to all. No matter whether you have a significant other or not, you want to be happy. And many, if not all people, find happiness through love, whether it is loving someone or being loved by someone.

So, what have I learned through love to keep me happy? A few simple things, and none of them are too difficult if you want to keep or win

ADAM SNYDER
columnist

your love.

Communication is the key. That's the big one. The mother-load of all relationship advice. If you and your loved one can't communicate openly and freely with one another, you might as well pack it up before somebody gets hurt.

Some people just talk too much while others have a lot of trouble expressing how they feel. You need a balance of both.

Once you say how you feel, you have to shut up for awhile so your partner can let you know what is on their mind.

For those of you who are working on having a significant other, talk to them. Let them know how you feel. I had feelings for my girlfriend for over six months before we finally went out. She liked me for just about

the same amount of time. Do I hear the Eagles "Wasted Time" playing in the background?

Part of compromise is promise. So you have communicated, that's a start. Now, work it out through compromise. Be willing to concede, rework, reschedule, and redo whatever it takes to keep both sides happy. Then, stick to it.

If you promise or at least agree to do something, do it. Make sure that you keep your word when it comes to an agreement you made with your partner.

By keeping your word, and being willing to compromise, your partner will be more willing to do the same. If you are just starting out, make sure you show a willingness to compromise from the outset.

Faith in fate: don't rush a relationship. If it is meant to last, it will. Just take it one day at a time (cliche, yes, but true). Relax and enjoy yourself and enjoy your partner.

It is love, it is life, drink it up.

But don't relax too much to the point where you become lackluster. Shake things up every now and then. Keep him/her off guard with surprise phone calls, mail or flowers. Give them an extra reason to smile every now and then with something they might not expect. Being unpredictable will keep the spark going in your relationship.

And it could get a relationship going by surprising the one you are after. Show them you can be more than what they see in everyday life. Be exciting and be excited to be around them.

Friday is just another day though. Don't make it out to be the pinnacle of your relationship or the trench of the lack thereof.

But if you can, do something special for the one you love, whether they realize you love them or not.



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Student Media • Russell House • USC • Columbia, SC 29208

Chris Dixon
Editor in Chief
Stephanie
Sonnenfeld
Viewpoints Editor
Karen Layne
Jennifer Stanley
News Editors
John Lyons
Kelly
McPherson
Features Editors

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