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## THE MIX

“We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of the dream.”

ARTHUR O'SHAUNESSEY  
POET

# At the Center of things

## Colonial Center changes Columbia from Old South to cultural hot spot

BY MEG MOORE  
THE GAMECOCK

The Capital City, decidedly Old South yet continuing to expand in new cultural directions, can now promote itself as a popular stop for some of the country's biggest concert tours.

“Rock stop of the South” might be a bit too presumptuous to ever be adopted as Columbia's slogan, but the largest city in South Carolina is finally getting its dues as a market for live music.

The bands might have come slowly at first, but we built it —

the Colonial Center — and they have kept coming. This spring, a steady lineup of top acts is slated to play USC's new arena. The city formerly ignored by touring artists is now playing host to the artist formerly — and now once again — known as Prince.

With its modern façade and sleek Web site, the Colonial Center is running a world-class operation fit for the kings (and queens) of popular music. Not only are some exciting basketball games unfolding on the arena floor, but a slew of big name music makers will be making stops at the Carolina

Center this spring.

Next Friday, the arena will open its doors to Winter Jam 2004, a concert tour hosted by New Song and featuring Audio Adrenaline, Relient K, Todd Agnew, Jacyln Maria and illusionist Brock Gill. Only \$10 at the door, the show not only brings several big names in Christian rock to Columbia, but it does so at a bargain price.

The world famous Bette Midler will be performing at the Center March 7 as part of her “Kiss My Brass” tour. Although she appeals to an older audience, the Colonial Center lineup also has its youth appeal. Britney Spears will be storming the arena stage March 24. And for those classic rock fans, a few of music's legendary heavy-hitters are also in

the eclectic spring lineup. Aerosmith and Cheap Trick will be playing a double bill on April 7, and Prince comes on April 21. Country stars Kenney Chesney and Keith Urban will be playing the next night, and Shania Twain follows on April 28. It has also just been announced that Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band will be returning to the Colonial Center on April 29.

For those looking to get the scoop on upcoming events, the Colonial Center has a slick, easy-to-navigate Web site, [www.thecolonialcenter.com](http://www.thecolonialcenter.com). Event listings, directions for out-of-town visitors, seating charts and other information are all accessible online.

With its 18,000 seats, the arena

## Catch 'Em Live

For ticket information, call:  
Box office 576-9200  
Ticketmaster 783-2222  
[www.thecolonialcenter.com](http://www.thecolonialcenter.com)

Feb. 27 Winter Jam 2004 with New Song  
March 4 Bette Midler  
March 24 Britney Spears  
March 26 The Gaithers Homecoming  
March 30 Yanni  
April 7 Aerosmith, Cheap Trick  
April 21 Prince  
April 22 Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban  
April 28 Shania Twain

has the capacity to play host to any top-selling artist the music world can turn out. And as shown by the spring lineup, those blockbuster stars are beginning to take notice. Columbia is a capital city, a college town and now a concert

tour hotbed. Soon enough it might be hard to remember a time when we weren't so fully immersed in the up-and-coming.

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## Cell phone users annoy students, professors

BY BRITTANY BULLINGTON  
THE GAMECOCK

Surviving the daily trek around campus requires two things: a book bag slung over the shoulder and a cell phone glued to the ear. Cell phones undoubtedly are a great invention. They are compact and lightweight, so they can travel everywhere.

But do they belong everywhere? Is there such a thing as inconsiderate use of a cell phone?

First-year elementary education student, Sally Stephens thinks so. “People don't turn them off in quiet places” she said. Amanda Newman, a first-year business student, said that in quiet places people “still carry on, their own conversations without considering other people's feelings.”

However, many feel it's completely acceptable to carry on a conversation wherever and whenever the need strikes. “Before I had a cell phone, I thought it was

rude; but now that I have one I realize I'm doing the same thing,” Jason Reynolds, a second-year electronic journalism student, said.

Although cell phones make communication much easier, there are some things to consider before using your phone. Journalism professor Kent Sidel said that people “must remember that the world around you has ears.”

When you are in public on a cell phone, you have an audience. Stephens said that the “profanity, affection and gossip” should be kept private. Newman added that not everyone wants to hear “who did what with who this weekend” while walking to class.

Another thing to consider before talking on your cell phone is location. Not every place is appropriate for phone conversations. Sidel said there is no appropriate place for cell phone use, because “there are people around trying to do other things.”

Newman, Stephens and Reynolds agree there are some public places where cell phone use is acceptable, but it is best to keep cell phones off during class. “It annoys me. You're trying to concentrate, and your concentration is ruined by an inconsiderate person,” Newman said.

Professors find such distractions to be “a slight bother but really more embarrassing to the receiving party, because all around are annoyed,” Sidel said.

Cell phones are great additions to mobile communication. However, users must remember that not everyone in the surrounding areas needs or wants to know their business.

In the words of Sidel, “Private conversations should remain just that.” So before making your next phone call, consider two things: location and content. You never know who might be listening.

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## Movie Review

### No one's calling after 'First Dates'

“50 FIRST DATES”  
★★ out of ★★★★★

BY LESLIE DENNIS  
THE GAMECOCK

Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore attempt to rekindle their on-screen chemistry six years after their blockbuster hit, “The Wedding Singer.” And already their second try is, financially, a success.

Topping the box office in sales over Valentine's weekend, “50 First Dates” is bringing in the big bucks. But for fans, the movie is a disappointment and an inferior follow-up to the romantic hilarity of “The Wedding Singer.”

Following the trend of movies like “Memento” and “Finding Nemo,” “50 First Dates” centers on a character with short-term memory loss, chronicling its effects on others.

Beginning with tales of Henry Roth's (Sandler) sexual conquests of Hawaiian tourists, the movie sets Henry up as a love-'em-and-leave-'em type of guy. A veterinarian at a Sea

World-type animal nursery, he gets moral support for his type of lifestyle from his unhappily-married friend Ula (Rob Schneider, a familiar face in Sandler movies).

But one day, when Henry walks into a restaurant for coffee, he meets Lucy (Barrymore), who makes him change his womanizing ways.

After successfully grabbing her attention, Henry scores a second date for breakfast.

Henry doesn't know, but the next day Lucy, who lost her short-term memory in a car accident, will not remember him or the events of the day before.

Once Henry realizes Lucy will never remember him, he devises elaborate plans to make her fall in love with him again every day. If patience is truly a virtue, Henry becomes a saint through his persistence and drive, despite the obvious ob-

stacle. The trailer presents the movie as a comedy, but the only funny parts are those in the trailer. There is simply no more humor to find.

Barrymore's usual perky, quirky on-screen personality shines through her portrayal of Lucy. She perfectly portrays Lucy's naïveté and easily displays Lucy's emotional range.

Sandler, on the other hand, fails to show the usual comic wit he became famous for. Instead, he comes across as a more emotional, romantic type of guy.

The acting isn't the problem; the issue is the lack of plot. The film becomes a monotonous cycle of overused plot twists. “50 First Dates” begins to parallel “Groundhog Day” after Henry's first couple of attempts to make Lucy remember him.

“50 First Dates” has the potential for a sturdy romantic comedy but falls flat with stale plot twists and sour jokes.

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## Film role changes little in Afghan's life

BY LIZ SLY  
KRT CAMPUS

Afghan film director Siddiq Barmak will never forget the moment he first caught sight of the grubby little street girl who would go on to star in his Golden Globe-winning movie “Osama.”

It was in downtown Kabul on a bitter winter's evening, and Barmak was searching for street boys to take supporting roles in his film. He had already looked at more than 3,000 girls for the lead, and none had seemed right. But time was running out; filming was just four days away; and he was going to have to choose one. His mission now was to concentrate on finding boys.

As he scoured the dusty sidewalk for suitable faces, he felt a tug at his sleeve, looked down and found himself staring into the biggest, saddest eyes he'd ever seen.

He knew instantly that this was the girl he had been looking for.

“Her eyes told me the stories I wanted to tell in the movie,” he said. “Her eyes told the stories of pain that are the stories of Afghanistan.”

Barmak's instincts were right. He had to beg her to agree, but Marina Golbahari, then 12, finally overcame her suspicions that appearing in a movie would require her to undress, and she won worldwide acclaim for her performance as the girl who dresses as

a boy to circumvent the Taliban's ban on female employment.

“Osama” was Afghanistan's first feature film since the Taliban regime was toppled, and in January it became the first Afghan film to win a Golden Globe, for best foreign film.

For Marina, it was a life-changing event, though perhaps not as life-changing as might have been expected for an illiterate girl picked at random from the streets and catapulted to movie star fame.

“Osama” tells the story of a girl whose widowed mother faces destitution after the Taliban prohibits women from working. So she dresses as boy and goes out into the streets to find work, taking the name Osama to scare off the boys

who taunt her about her questionable gender. Eventually, she is conscripted by the Taliban to attend a religious school, where her identity is discovered with tragic consequences.

For the first four days of filming, Barmak began to wonder if he had made a mistake. Marina was terrified of the camera, which she took for some kind of weapon, and she shrank in fear whenever he pointed it her way.

But after Barmak convinced her that all she had to do was relive her own life, the role came easily.

“There's a part where I am taken to the Taliban police station, and he told me I have to cry,” she



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS  
Marina Golbahari, 13, peers from her mud home in Afghanistan; she is the star of “Osama” but her family is still poor.

♦ ‘OSAMA’, SEE PAGE 6