



ONLINE POLL
Did USC make the right decision not to go to a bowl game? Go to www.dailygamecock.com to vote. Results posted Friday.

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IN OUR OPINION

Research campus stuck at the start

On Tuesday USC held a pep rally for its heralded research campus, a hybrid of similar campuses at North Carolina State and the University of Texas, where private companies partner with a public university to build space for research and business. USC officials announced this plan last year in a similar media event, with quotes all around about how great the campus will be.

And, for the most part, we agree. The research campus, if it fulfills expectations, will revolutionize the university, Columbia and possibly the state. The campus would provide jobs as well as keep some of the brightest students in state after graduation.

Tuesday's rally was just a glorified reiteration.

However, Tuesday's rally was just a glorified reiteration. Nothing new came from Tuesday's event; it was just providing USC officials with a platform to broadcast their vision for the university, as well as the city.

We still don't know what businesses will partner with the university, where the buildings will be built, what they will look like and how they will be organized. The only new development officials announced Tuesday was a groundbreaking ceremony set for Dec. 15 — a month later than originally planned — for the so-called Hardee's block off of Blossom Street by the Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center.

USC has had some bad publicity recently with the decision to forgo a joint baseball stadium with the Capital City Bombers in favor of building its own stadium in the Vista. So with USC leaving a bad taste in some business leader's mouths, USC officials decided to have this event to try to win them over for the research campus. After all, it's been a year since the initial announcement and with no new developments, there has been nothing to report.

But that's going to change, according to USC officials like Harris Pastides, vice president of research. He says that starting now, there will be a new research campus development every three to six months, whether it be a groundbreaking ceremony or announcements about building specifications. The first of such updates will come at the Dec. 15 groundbreaking, when officials will release information about the buildings. And looming in the distance is the Life Sciences Bill, which gives USC permission to forge cooperatives with private businesses. The bill is before the South Carolina Supreme Court right now, and if it is struck down, USC will have to go before the state legislature again, a process which could significantly slow campus development.

But we enjoyed the show. It's good to be reminded about good things, even if they haven't happened yet.

GAMECOCK CORRECTIONS

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

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CARTOON COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

I'm still holding out for the pizza

Everybody wants me to write about them, but this column's for me



DAVID STAGG
FOURTH-YEAR MEDIA ARTS STUDENT

There's this friend of mine named Christian Fisher who represents a lot of people I know. Occasionally, these ambiguous friends of mine get brilliant ideas and say to me, "Hey David, you should write about —" and then they fill in the blank with some random — usually ridiculous — subject, like why Jaleel White never had another good acting job since portraying Steve Urkel, despite demonstrating his pristine acting ability in morphing seamlessly to his alter ego, Stefan Urkelle.

Well, Christian (or as I like to call him, Christian) was very persistent about one subject: himself. I believe it went something like, "Hey David, I've got an idea for a column."
"Yeah? What's that?"
"Me."

And he was holding out for it. He saw no logical reason why I should not be writing a column about him. I'll be the first to admit, he's hilarious, a good conversationalist and I'm sure a lot of dudes have man-crushes on him.

To me, that just wasn't enough-until I thought about the things I'm holding out for, and how they deserve as much attention as, well, Christian.

I'm holding out for an SEC Championship in football. I'm holding out for Air Spurrier (and not Let's Run The Draw Every Play, Especially When There's One Minute Left in the Half

and There's Still an Actual Opportunity to Score) and for a move to the spread offense with a quarterback who can hit one of five receivers. I'm holding out for the same quarterback to throw when he's under pressure, and not just duck and run.

I'm holding out for at least five more multiple-storied parking garages (we're talking a minimum of 10 floors here, Parking Services), for a decrease in parking fines or for at least just a personal parking spot in front of the Russell House.

I'm holding out for the day we can hold NCAA Basketball Tournament championships in town, for people in politics to stop thinking they know better than those who aren't for the complete disintegration of the bow tie.

I'm holding out for the savior of hip-hop, or for at least Lil' Jon to give me one more solid catchphrase before the New Year. I'm holding out for a detectable change in seasons, for the return of the board game Guess Who?, for someone to sublease my apartment.

I'm holding out for the day when the drivers in this city will drive a little faster, for the day when any team from

Houston wins a professional sports title or for at least just Carlos Beltran and Roger Clemens to make a return to the Astros.

I'm holding out for getting a job at the top of the ladder just because I was in the right place at the right time, for a sorority girl to show interest in me (because I have a secret crush on all of them), or for at least just a girl with a Southern accent.

I'm holding out for another growth spurt, for my beard to stop growing in patchy on the right side, or for at least just a good haircut. I'm holding out for the invention of teleportation so I can bring all my friends back home with me.

I'm holding out for more people to stop watching television, for beer to actually help you lose weight or for at least just eating after midnight to be healthy.

I'm holding out for at least two new decent clubs in Columbia, one for dancing and one for bands. I'm holding out for a new 'N Sync record, for spinners on my car, for the Cajun Chicken Pasta at Chili's (you can hold the tomatoes and chives), for graduation ceremonies to be shorter than eleven billion hours.

I'm holding out for a town in South Carolina to hit one million people, for the GMP to serve pizza at all times (including breakfast), for USC to finally admit it's an urban campus and stop worrying about greening everything.

But I'm going to go ahead and hold off on growing up. And I'll hold on to that until I die.

IN YOUR OPINION

Tree lighting story only shows one side

As a team leader for the Holiday Outreach Committee in the Office of Community Service Programs, I was disappointed by Justin Chapura's article ("Students say lighting ceremony too dull," Monday).

It would have been considerate, even professional, of Mr. Chapura to contact the Office of Community Service Programs before writing his slanted story.

At the very least he might have interviewed someone who has actually attended the event. Maybe then he could have written a well-developed, impartial newspaper article. Unfortunately, such thorough work requires journalistic integrity, something The Gamecock often lacks.

As an office that focuses primarily on serving the needs of our community, we are allocated a minimal budget by the university. We use these funds to support our service projects rather than prolific advertising. We use every available resource to publicize our events.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony, scheduled for Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. on the Horseshoe, is a celebration of religious diversity and the commitment to community service at USC. Contrary to Mr. Chapura's article, there are students who care about this event; they have invested their time and

energy to make it a success.

This month, students, faculty and staff have donated 3,500 pounds of food to Harvest Hope, adopted 25 area families in need and filled 750 stockings for Salvation Army. Sadly, there has been no story to document this overwhelming generosity.

It would be nice if, for a change, student endeavors were publicly supported rather than criticized. Perhaps we should be grateful; this is the most publicity we've received from The Gamecock in years.

MEGAN KRAFT
Third-year psychology student

USC players acted on instinct in brawl

Before everyone starts calling the fight on Nov. 20 an embarrassment, let's look at a few things. The beginning of the fight was caused by a Clemson player pushing Syvelle Newton's head into the ground after the play was over. Being a past football player, teammates, especially offensive linemen, do not take their quarterback being punished lightly. The camaraderie of a football team is too strong for something like that to go unnoticed. No, the benches should not have cleared, but let's remember that ours did not leave until after half their team was on the field. I'm sorry that Lou Holtz has to leave with his bowl game being stripped from him

and having this as his last memory of coaching at USC, but I know as a player I would have done the same thing in the situation.

The football team is like family. And as far as many others and I are concerned, blood runs thicker than water. Would you not help your family, if they faced a similar situation? Or would it be too embarrassing?

RYAN SNIPES
First-year engineering student



Submission Policy

Letters to the editor should be less than 300 words and include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. E-mail letters to gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu. Letters will be edited. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

Clarifying my faith in terms of politics

Conservative values and Christian beliefs are not mutually inclusive

I am a conservative. I am a Christian. You see, I say these statements separately because all too often, the two are used interchangeably as if political ideology and religion were one and the same concept.

And while I am both, I certainly recognize that my God is not a God of partisanship toward any particular political ideology, but rather a God who being holy and absolute in nature, is a God of truth as it exists both within and as a result of his own character.

My political affiliation is hence a result of my choice between imperfect political ideologies — none of which truly and holistically reflect my beliefs nor the requirements of my God.

I write this column as an apology, in both senses of the word. As moral issues have taken a more prominent stage in public policy lately, there seems to have been a polarization between the "Bible thumpers" and the "dirty heathens." As "conservative Christians" are being bashed, I feel inclined to speak up in defense of my faith.

As far as the issues of abortion and gay marriage are concerned, as a conservative Christian, I am against both. I don't take issue with a woman's right to choose what she wants to do with her own body; however it is my personal conviction that abortion affects the body of another life, which is also entitled to certain inalienable rights.

Regardless of political affiliation, I'm sure we can all agree that innocent lives do not deserve to die. The question then is whether a fetus is alive. As surely as you're entitled to your own opinion, I'm also entitled to mine. I'm under the conviction that the fetus is a living person. It is this point that we are committed to disagree upon — not a woman's right to choose.

As for gay marriage, as a conservative Christian I have certain convictions about the religious sanctity of marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman that reflects a heavenly relationship between Christ and the Church.

This isn't to say I'm against equal rights for gay couples pursuing civil unions — I do not believe it is the role of Christians to force non-Christians into outward compliance of standards which they have not accepted; rather the role of the Christian is to point toward the truth of the gospel message, and allow it to transform those who would accept its message.

However, given my beliefs about marriage, I have to say that gay marriage lies outside the parameters of what I believe should be permissible as it reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church.

I do, however, recognize that given Christians' attitudes toward unwed mothers and homosexuals, we only have ourselves to blame for these issues. For too long, the Christian attitude has been one of seclusion rather than outreach. Too often, we crawl into a Christian "heathen-free" safe house where we tell people "come to church, and we'll clean up your act;" rather than genuinely loving those we minister to and recognizing that it is Christ who restores, not "conservative Christian" standards.

As a receiver of the gospel of Christ, I am a recipient of immeasurable grace, and I have to admit that many times my actions and attitudes fail to reflect the grace I've received.

Allow me to be the first to apologize for not loving you as Christ has loved me.

WINNERS AND SINNERS

STEVE SPURRIER The Ol' Ball Coach lands at USC, ready to start winning.
FOOTBALL DIETS Spurrier announces that fried chicken and fast food will now be a no-no.
FLORENCE JUDGE James Spencer to become first-ever black chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

EXAMS The bane of every college student's existence rears its ugly head once again.
SUSPENDED PLAYERS Unfortunately, Clemson player Yusef Kelly, caught in a photo kicking a USC player, is graduating and cannot be suspended.
KEN JENNINGS The "Jeopardy!" uber-champion finally meets his match and is defeated by a \$1 margin.

TO PLACE AN AD

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