

EXTENDED FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
High 42 Low 24	High 45 Low 32	High 48 Low 39	High 47 Low 40	High 62 Low 34

2

Look for The Gamecock online Tuesdays and Thursdays.

STATE

New bill might make tougher seatbelt law

Adult drivers could be stopped for not wearing seat belts under a bill nearing key approval in the Senate.

Current law allows police to stop unbelted adults for other violations, but not solely to enforce the state's mandatory seat belt laws. Police can stop adult drivers if they see unrestrained minors in the car and can stop minor drivers if they aren't wearing belts.

Opponents of the legislation waged a losing battle Wednesday to amend the bill to have stiffer fines. The legislation imposes a \$25 fine.

House panel clears environmental bill

Companies that dump chemicals or do other damage to the environment could face faster prosecution under a bill that cleared a House Judiciary subcommittee on Thursday.

The legislation gives the state attorney general authority to use grand juries to investigate those crimes and bring charges.

The legislation grew out of a February 2000 incident at defunct Tin Products Inc. that was one of South Carolina's worst environmental spills.

NATION

Broken oil pipeline spills 63,000 gallons

CARROLLTON, Ky. — A pipeline broke and spilled an estimated 63,000 gallons of crude oil into the Kentucky River early Wednesday, creating a 12-mile-long slick that crews were racing to contain to keep it from contaminating drinking water.

It was not immediately clear what caused the rupture of the pipeline, which carries about 180,000 barrels of crude daily from the Gulf Coast to refineries in northwest Ohio.

Workers battled the slick by deploying a boom across the north-flowing Kentucky River to divert the oil to a confined area where the goo could be skimmed from the water.

SBC in talks to buy telephone company

NEW YORK — SBC Communications Inc. is in talks to acquire America's once-dominant telephone brand, AT&T Corp., for at least \$15 billion, according to published reports.

Any deal would likely mark the demise of AT&T, the 120-year-old telephone icon — Ma Bell — that handled the nation's telephone calls before it was broken apart 21 years ago.

An AT&T acquisition would give San Antonio-based SBC, the nation's No. 2 regional phone company, a company that still has a sizable list of government and corporate clients for long-distance and other telecommunications services.

WORLD

Johanns urges Japan to lift U.S. beef ban

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns pressed the Japanese ambassador to the United States on Thursday to set a date for Japan to resume buying U.S. beef.

Japan agreed last October to lift the ban it imposed after the December 2003 discovery of the United States' only case of mad cow disease. But negotiations have slowed over the issue of how to determine the age of cattle.

Japan was the most lucrative foreign market for U.S. beef before the ban, accounting for about \$1.7 billion in sales in 2003.

Insurgents blow up Iraqi polling place

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Six Iraqis and one U.S. Marine were killed Thursday as insurgents clashed with U.S. troops and blew up a school slated to serve as a polling center, pre-election violence that followed the deadliest day for U.S. troops since the war's start. Another U.S. soldier died in an incident.

The Marine was killed and four others wounded when insurgents launched mortars at their base near Iskandariyah, about 30 miles south of Baghdad.

Leaders, rock star speak up for Africa

DAVOS, Switzerland — The world's richest man, one of its most visible social activists and Britain's leader put a sharp focus on the horrors facing Africa's poor on Thursday, saying the planet's indifference to the suffering has been scandalous.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the continent's plight is "a scar on the conscience of the world" and questioned whether the global community would allow such poverty to persist anywhere else in the world.

"I almost think if what was happening in Africa today as we speak was happening in any other part of the world there would be such a scandal and clamor that governments would be falling over themselves to do something about this," Blair said at the second day of the World Economic Forum in Davos, a Swiss ski resort.

Bill Gates, who has amassed an estimated fortune of \$48 billion as founder of Microsoft, said most of the disease and despair on the continent would be easily preventable if resources were applied.

"Millions of children die in Africa who shouldn't die, who it would be very easy to save," he said. "The fact that we don't apply the resources to the known cures or to finding better cures is really ... the most scandalous issue of our time."



MICHEL EULER/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates gestures while speaking during the 'G8-Africa' plenary session at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday.

Gates recently put more of his money where his mouth is, pledging \$750 million to support immunization programs in developing countries.

Bono, social activist and lead singer for the rock band U2, praised both men, saying they were "getting it right." Of Gates, he said: "He is a brainy man and he thinks extreme poverty is stupid."

Blair and Bono joined former US President Clinton to exchange ideas on how to improve the plight of Africa, including allotting more money to fight malaria.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said the continent is ready to heal itself, adding "we just need a little bit of assistance."

DAY

Friday, January 28, 2005

MILLIONTH-FAN MARCH



Nine-year-old Christina Miller, center, receives tickets to the SEC Basketball Tournament among other prizes at Wednesday's men's basketball game. Miller was the one-millionth spectator to file into the Colonial Center since it opened in 2002.

Near the meeting center, about 50 Greenpeace demonstrators protested what they said was Dow Chemical Company's "refusal to pay compensation and clear up the affected area in Bhopal," India, referring to the 1984 cyanide gas leak from a Union Carbide subsidiary.

The annual meeting in Davos brings together 2,500 of the world's leading business, intellectual, political and social leaders. Business participants pay \$12,000 each for the privilege of attending five days of seminars on how to solve the world's yawning prosperity gap, the need to commit resources to fight AIDS and the threat of terrorism.

Kidman judge OKs restraining orders

SYDNEY, Australia — Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman has won temporary restraining orders against two freelance photographers.

Magistrate Lee Gilmore of the Waverly Local Court ordered photographers Jamie Fawcett, 43, and Ben McDonald, 32, not to approach Kidman at her home or go within 66 feet of her house.

The restraining orders will remain in place until at least Feb. 11, when the case returns to court.

Neither Kidman nor the photographers attended Thursday's hearing.

Photographers have been staking out Kidman's home since she arrived Sunday to begin filming her new movie. Kidman's security guards allegedly discovered a listening device earlier this week outside her residence.

Kidman's chief bodyguard, Neil McMaster, said Monday that surveillance footage taken from the house showed that the bug had been intentionally planted by someone seeking to intercept conversations among Kidman and her bodyguards.

Graham Walsh, a lawyer for McDonald, told the court Thursday

that his client "absolutely denies emphatically he has anything to do with planting any listening device anywhere near Miss Kidman's home."

Lawyer Roland Day, representing Fawcett, also said his client wasn't involved with the alleged planting of the device and said he was just doing his job.

Kidman, 37, won a best-actress Oscar for her role in 2002's "The Hours."

'Brady' actor's wife moves toward split

LOS ANGELES — The wife of former "The Brady Bunch" kid Barry Williams has filed for divorce, according to court papers.

Barry, 50, who played Greg Brady on the '70s sitcom, married Eila Mary Matt Williams in 1999. The couple formally separated earlier this month and have a 2-year-old son, according to the divorce petition filed Tuesday in Superior Court.

Williams requested sole custody of their son and asked that her husband have visits only with a nanny present, according to the petition.

Barry Williams works in musical theater, makes public speaking tours and wrote a memoir titled, "Growing Up Brady: I Was a Teenage Greg."

Williams was married to Diane Martin from 1990-1992.

Kid Rock changing publishing house

DETROIT — Kid Rock says he's parting ways with his publishing company, Warner Chappell's BMI-affiliated publishing company, Warner-Tamerlane.

"We've had a great run, and we'll miss many of the individuals at Warner's publishing company," Rock said Wednesday in a statement. "We wish them all the

"Well, I was actually considering not going to the game tomorrow night because of how bad the team was playing."

WRIGHT CULPEPPER
SECOND-YEAR BIOLOGY STUDENT ON ATTENDING WEDNESDAY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME, WHICH DREW THE COLONIAL CENTER'S ONE-MILLIONTH FAN.

COMING UP @ USC

TODAY
SPRING 2005 SEMINAR
SERIES: 3:45 p.m. Jones Physical Science Center 006
STUDENT ORGANIZATION BUDGETS DUE: noon, Russell House 227
LATE-NIGHT CAROLINA: 10 p.m. Russell House second-floor lobby

SATURDAY
BALLET EXHIBIT: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. McKissick Museum

TUESDAY
PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. McKissick Museum

WEDNESDAY
MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. ARKANSAS: 7:30 p.m. Colonial Center

THURSDAY
ALLEY BRUNSON JUNIOR VOCAL RECITAL: 4 p.m. School of Music Recital Hall
"NUCLEONS AT HIGH MOMENTUM TRANSFERS": 4 p.m. Jones Physical Science Center 409

FRIDAY
"THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR": 7:30 p.m. Keenan High School

USC BRIEFS

Theater to show Kushner drama

USC's Theatre South Carolina will present Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner's "The Illusion," directed by USC alumnus Tyler Marchant, Feb. 4-13 at Drayton Hall.

Marchant, a 2000 MFA graduate, is associate artistic director of Primary Stages in New York City.

"The Illusion" was freely adapted from "L'illusion Comique," a 1636 play by Pierre Corneille.

The plot follows a father's quest for news of his son. He consults a sorcerer, who conjures three episodes from the young man's life.

Student tickets are \$10. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at Longstreet Theatre.

McKissick offers printmaking class

The McKissick Museum invites students to create their own works of art on Tuesdays and Thursdays through March 17 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The opportunity is offered in conjunction with the exhibition "Off the Stage & Onto the Wall: The Evolution of a Ballet."

The exhibition features screen prints produced by USC art students under faculty members Mary Robinson and Gene Speer.

Opera to perform 'Merry Wives'

Opera at USC will perform Otto Nicolai's comedic adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor" Feb. 4 and 6.

Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Sunday at Keenan Theatre on Pinebelt Road in Columbia. Student tickets are \$5.

mail message.
Reporting officer: A. Mitchell.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26

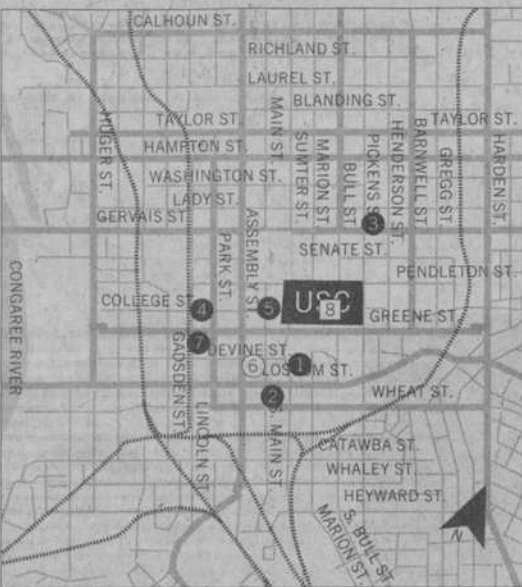
Disorderly Conduct, Colonial Center, 801 Lincoln St.
Subject was loud and using profanity in a public place, creating a disturbance. Subject was arrested and transported to the detention center.

Reporting officer: M. Gooding.

Simple Assault, 1400 Greene St.
Reporting officer: A. Mitchell

responded to a call of a fight in progress.

POLICE REPORT



Each number on the map stands for a crime corresponding with numbered descriptions in the list below.

DAY CRIMES (6 a.m.-6 p.m.)

□ Violent
○ Nonviolent

NIGHT CRIMES (6 p.m.-6 a.m.)

■ Violent
● Nonviolent

CRIMES AT UNKNOWN HOURS

■ Violent
● Nonviolent

Reports taken from the USC Police Department.

MONDAY, JAN. 17

1 Grand Larceny of Motor Vehicle, 1300 Blossom St., Blossom Street Garage

Officer M. Weiss reported that someone stole a 2005 Chevy Cavalier. Estimated value: \$10,000.

2 Grand Larceny, West Quad, 1216 Wheat St.

The victim said someone stole her Toshiba laptop and her roommate's laptop computer. Total estimated value: \$5,370.

Reporting officers: K. Adams and G. Kervin.

MONDAY, JAN. 24

3 Suspicious Activity, Senate and Pickens streets

The victim said someone approached him and threatened him with bodily harm if he did not stay away from his "turf." The victim said he did not know the suspect at all, but that he was driving a black "Caddie" with tinted windows. Suspect was

described as a black male wearing jeans and a blue shirt. Suspect had brown eyes.

Reporting officer: P. Jones.

4 Larceny of Purse, Nursing Building, 621 Greene St.

Someone stole a brown purse containing a wedding ring from an unlocked room. Total estimated value: \$889.

Reporting officer: M. Winnington.

5 Malicious Injury to Personal Property, Thomas Cooper Library, 1322 Greene St.

The complainant reported that someone peeled the top layer off the tables in rooms 309 and 312. Estimated damage: \$500.

Reporting officer: M. Weiss.

TUESDAY, JAN. 25

6 Illegal use of telephone, Evening Services Office, 1215 Blossom St.

The subject contacted one of his employees, leaving an obscene voice-