



Inside

NEWS



Do you wanna be a
rock star?

A2

OPINIONS

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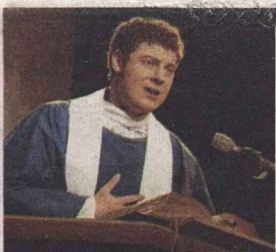
...that awesome
power that
brainwashes its
members, exploits
them for money and
in some cases even
kills them.

—KEVIN NIEHAUS
ON SCIENTOLOGY

”

B2

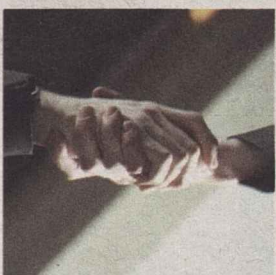
TIMEOUT



Theatre festival brings
groups to campus.

D1

CAREER FAIR



Need a
job or
internship?

Check out
The Tiger's
Career Fair
insert!

WEATHER

FRIDAY: AM Showers



SATURDAY: Partly Cloudy
Hi 60 Lo 35

SUNDAY: Partly Cloudy
Hi 63 Lo 43

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Obama rallies for change

Thousands attend speech by presidential candidate.



DAVID JARRETT/staff

LOUISE GOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

A crowd of nearly 4,000 cheering supporters welcomed Illinois Senator and presidential candidate Barack Obama Friday evening, one of the senator's final stops on his campaign trail before the South Carolina Democratic Primary held Jan. 26. The crowd was composed mainly of Clemson students but was also well represented by faculty, staff, parents and local residents.

The cheering crowd filled the campus amphitheater, and extended out as far as the Carillon Gardens. The senator kicked off the "Stand for Change" rally

just before 5p.m., though dedicated fans lined up for prime seating before 2p.m.. Fans were subjected to tight security measures, passing through a metal detector before entering. Despite the long security lines, and the 35-degree weather, Obama was well received by the crowd.

The presidential candidate's speech touched on a range of topics from environmental issues and the Iraq war to health care and social security. Serious talk about change was balanced with some comical jabs at the current administration.

The Illinois senator wrapped up the speech by explaining just how important the vote of young people will be in this election. The Obama campaign accredits

much of its success in the Iowa caucus to the support of students who normally did not make up a large percentage of the voters.

The senator engaged the predominantly student audience by not only emphasizing how crucial their vote was in the election but also how crucial their elected president would be to their future. Obama proceeded to explain his future plans for alternative energy, the new jobs that would be created and the independence it would bring from conflicts in the Middle East. The senator received roaring applause when he announced the innovative changes he hopes to make to social security in order to restore confidence in savings and

retirement programs.

Aside from announcing future plans that would affect the vote of young people, Obama recognized how cynical young people are of politics and hopes to restore the confidence of people in their national government.

The large turn out of the event suggests the students were pleased to have the presidential candidate at Clemson. "Students have been especially affected by two candidates: Barack Obama and Ron Paul because of their message of change," said Andrew Baker, a student majoring in history. "It has been very hard this year for

see **CHANGE** page A7

Students charged

Three indicted in relation
to student's death.

MELISSA WHITSON
NEWS EDITOR

Three Sigma Nu fraternity brothers have been charged with alcohol-related misdemeanors associated with the December death of freshman Sigma Nu member Benjamin Garrison Sprague.

Jetin Patel, 19, of Spartanburg, has been charged with purchasing beer with a fake ID, underage possession of beer and transfer of beer to a person under age. Matthew Rinckel, 20, of Lynchburg, Va., faces charges of transfer of beer and transfer of liquor to a person under 21 while Addison Kerr, 21, of Atlanta, was charged with transfer of liquor to a minor.

Sprague attended a party at Sigma Nu's off-campus lake house the night of Dec. 9 where he consumed an excess amount of alcohol that raised his blood-alcohol level to nearly 0.38 percent—an amount five times above the legal threshold for driving according to Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis.

Prosecutor Chrissy Adams said Sprague was not forced to drink at the party. "Ben made choices that night to consume alcohol, and he consumed alcohol in excess, and that led to his death," said Adams. "These boys made a mistake by providing the alcohol and having it available at a fraternity party to underage drinkers."

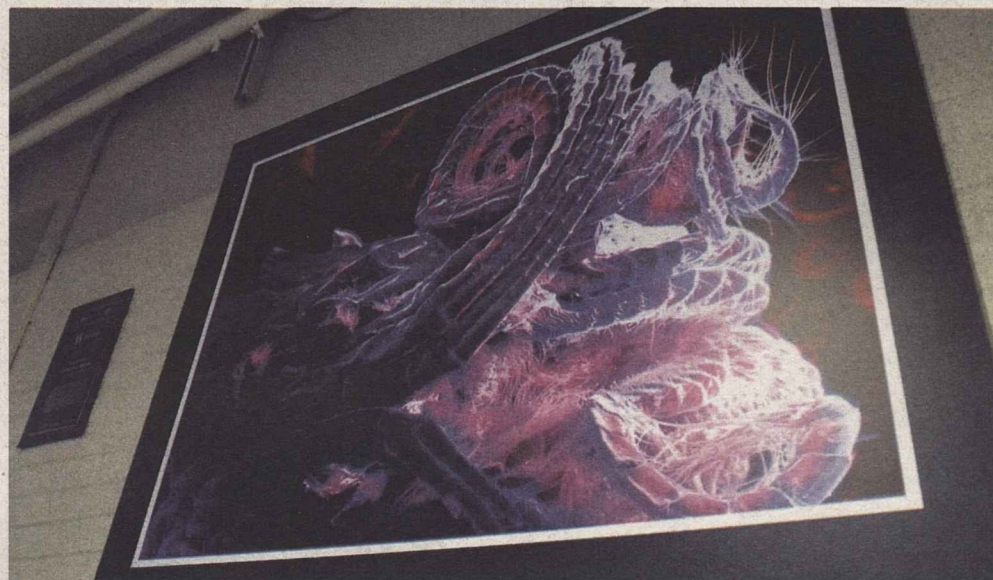
Both Clemson University and the national fraternity has placed Clemson's Sigma Nu chapter under interim suspension since Sprague's death. Clemson has yet to decide whether Patel, Rinckel and Kerr will be suspended from the University.

Greenville attorney Mills Ariail is under the impression that the Sprague family did not want to press charges against the University, Sigma Nu or any of the fraternity members.

If the students charged are not awarded pretrial intervention, they may face punishments up to one month in prison.

Science and aesthetics collide

Unique artwork conveys a scientific perspective.



MAX THOMASON/staff

Using powerful technology, such as electron microscopes, contestants create an assortment as images, like "Goddess of the Sea" featured above.

COHEN SIMPSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

For the past two years, "Science as Art" (SAA) has challenged Clemson University students, faculty and staff to share stunning, diverse visual imagery produced in laboratories, classrooms and various workspaces throughout the campus.

SAA attempts to celebrate the connection between scientist, artist and the general public when a visual representation of science or technology has an unexpected aesthetic appeal. The program was spearheaded by and is the brainchild of Dr. Lisa C. Benson

of the department of engineering and science. As a bioengineering and engineering and science professor, one might not expect Benson to have such an artistic eye. But Benson proved to be quite the contrary.

"A combination of art exhibit and competition," is how Benson describes her program that champions the goal of drawing "people into the captivating images in order to learn about the science behind it."

Benson wants to use her program as a launch pad for the establishment of the communication of science to a broad audience. According to Benson, the

see **ART** page A7

Rocking out in the 21st century

Video games Rock Band and Guitar Hero allow players to take on the world of rock music.

RACHEL CARTER
STAFF WRITER

Those who still foster youthful reveries of belting out bass-heavy tunes or rocking out on highly-priced guitars should not abandon those ambitious dreams just yet.

In fact, all closeted rock stars have to look no further than the local Wal-Mart for a copy of "Guitar Hero" or "Rock Band," two musical video games that have become the latest craze in electronic entertainment.

Video games such as these have become overwhelmingly popular since their release in 2005 and 2007, respectively, and sales show no signs of slowing any time soon.

"Guitar Hero," developed by Harmonix Music Systems for PlayStation 2, features a controller in the shape of a guitar and allows players to "play" songs by pushing various buttons on the controller.

Players simultaneously "strum" the guitar with one hand while pressing various colored buttons that correspond to the colors displayed on the screen. Players can compete against one another, form a multiplayer team or play individually.

The game incorporates both clas-

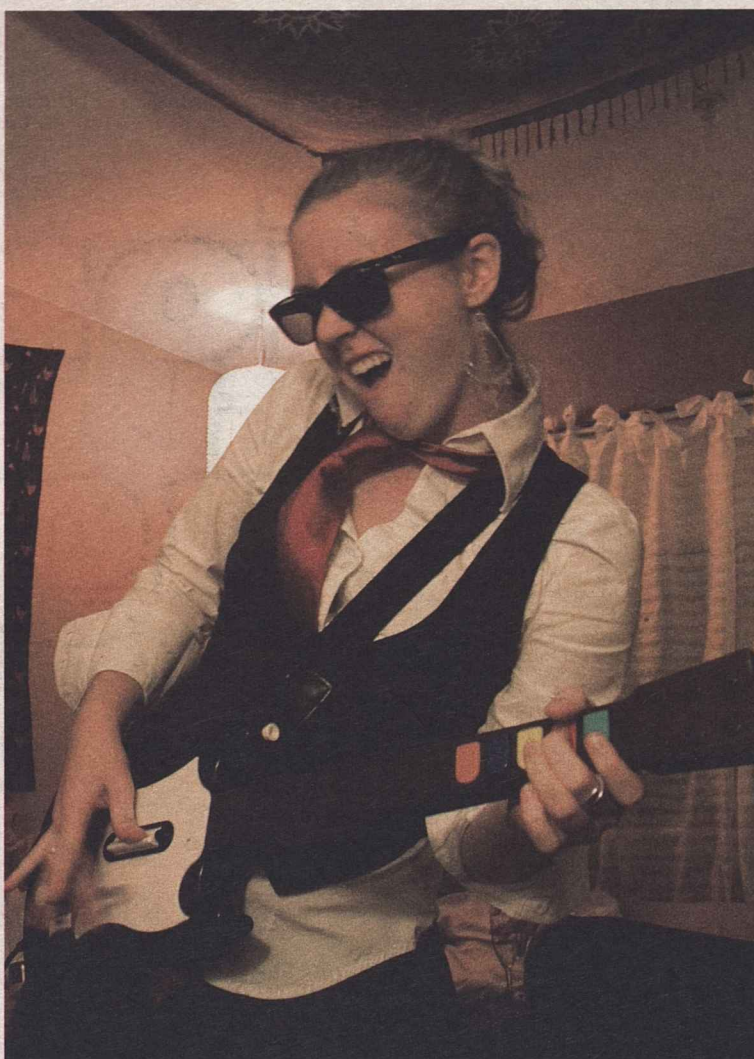
sic and modern rock songs including "Take Me Out" by Franz Ferdinand, "Spanish Castle Magic" by Jimi Hendrix and "Bark at the Moon" by Ozzy Osbourne.

Besides the original version, "Guitar Hero" has released three other games, "Guitar Hero II," "Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" and "Guitar Hero Encore: Rocks the 80s." "Guitar Hero III" is even available on mobile phones.

"Guitar Hero" is not the only interactive video game helping consumers live out their rock star dreams. If guitars aren't the forte of choice, "Rock Band" includes a guitar, bass, drums and a microphone enabling players to simulate an entire live band. Similar to "Guitar Hero," players must "play" their instruments in sync with the notes scrolling down the screen.

"It most definitely is addicting, especially if you're really into music," said Samantha Dohmeier, a sophomore who owns "Guitar Hero." "I like it because you can compete against your friends or play with them in co-op mode."

Dohmeier was first attracted to the game at a Wal-Mart where she and her friends often played until she finally bought it.



Junior English major Elizabeth Hunter demonstrates her rock star potential while playing the popular interactive video game Guitar Hero.

The recently released "Rock Band," also created by Harmonix Music Systems, was originally created for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, although a version compatible with PlayStation 2 is available now.

Anyone remotely familiar with the realm of video games would agree that "Guitar Hero" has flooded the pop culture mainstream.

Now a fixture at many parties, it has been featured in television shows

such as "South Park" and "Gossip Girl," and has garnered its very own "Guitar Hero nights" in living rooms and bars alike.

Not only that, Dohmeier believes the game's popularity stems from boredom consumers may have with other video games. "I think [video games] are popular because they appeal to music lovers," said Dohmeier. "They're new and interesting. People were getting tired of

the same old kind of games they've beaten numerous times."

Freshman Amanda Wenzell owns both "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band."

"A friend brought it over one day this past summer and I've been hooked ever since," said Wenzell.

"Both games take you to another dimension, one where the dream of becoming a rock star comes true," said Wenzell. "It's pure magic."

Jared Stokes, a freshman majoring in computer engineering, also owns both games.

"It's a challenging game with a unique style of game play that hasn't been done before," said Stokes. "The game appeals to pretty much everybody out there because everybody loves music."

Because "Rock Band" was not released until this past November, it has not yet achieved the mass popularity of "Guitar Hero." However, it is well on its way to reaching the status of its musical predecessor.

"I prefer 'Rock Band' because it offers more instruments to play and has awesome support in the way of downloadable songs," said Stokes.

Wenzell was already unable to choose between the two video games. "That is an impossible decision," said Wenzell.

"I mean, they are on two separate levels of genius. That's like picking a favorite child or choosing between food and air."

Clemson's Only Waterfront Student Community



Hart's Cove

*Comfort
Serenity
Seclusion*



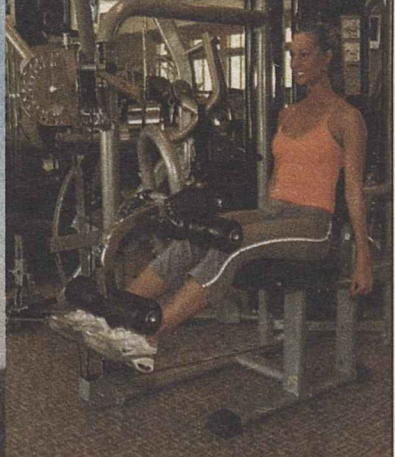
Voted Best Off-Campus Housing! —The Tiger

2 Miles from Campus and a World Away

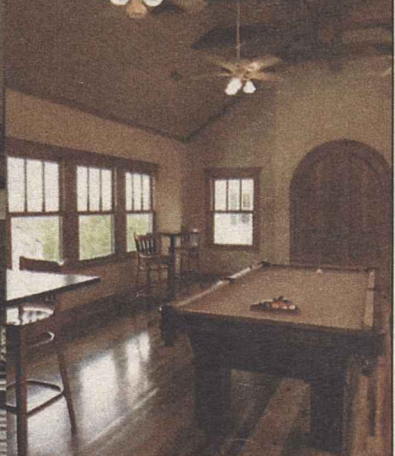
- 2, 3, & 4-Suite Condominiums
- Private Baths
- High Speed Internet Available
- Computer Labs
- On-Site Management
- Washer & Dryer in each unit
- Enhanced Sprinkler Protection
- Volleyball Court
- Basketball Court
- Pool & Fitness Center
- Tanning Bed
- Barbeque Picnic Area
- Lighted Common Areas
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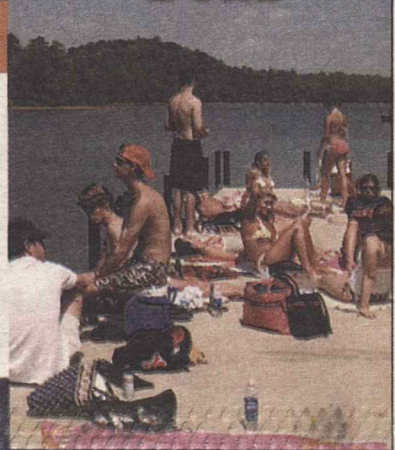
Fitness Center



Club House



Docks





Food for a thought



By Caroline Rash

Photos by Rachel Glenn

Most people want to make the world a better place, but do local businesses have that same conscience?

Many of the area churches, Boy and Girl Scout troops and individuals contribute time or money to Clemson Community Care. These organizations are expected to give back to the community and do not fall short of those expectations in most cases, but how do regular businesses-for-profit measure up?

If you wanted some direction to your grocery store loyalty, cross humanitarian concerns off the list. The four major area grocery stores—Bi-Lo, Bloom, Food Lion and Ingles all contribute back to the community.

Bi-Lo hosts food drives and raffles and offers Boosterplus, a program in which people with a Bonuscard can choose up to three non-profit organizations to receive one percent of the participant's spending at Bi-Lo.

Enrollment in this program is as easy as getting the non-profit you wish to support to call 1-800-768-4438 or visit www.bi-lo.com to request an application. More information is available on the Web site or in the store itself.

Food Lion donates their overrun (perishable items such as meat, produce or bread which are almost past the expiration date) three or more times a week to Clemson Community Care (CCC).

Though complete reports from Bloom and Ingles were not available immediately, Bloom donates its overrun to Seneca charities, and Ingles hosts food drives. For more information, request

an interview with a store manager.

Meanwhile, the most mouth-watering regular donation comes from Panera Bread of Anderson. Every Wednesday morning, CCC receives a "Doughnation" of the previous night's extra bread.

Many organizations (such as the Post Office and Clemson's fraternities, sororities and Schilleter dining hall) host food drives, particularly during the Christmas season; however, Denise Kennard, executive director of CCC, notes that the lag in donation generally occurs in the spring. Therefore, continual contributors are essential to maintaining their resources.

CCC welcomes all canned goods or volunteers, but imperishable items such as flour, sugar, cereal and pasta are the quickest to run out, according to Karen Ellers, CCC program director.

A Boy Scout troop recently came up with the idea of birthday packages for children, so toys, clothing and cake mixes also are accepted.

Opportunities to help other people are easily accessible, but sometimes crazy class schedules and extracurriculars keep us from seeing the people in need who work on campus or live among us.

In fact, you do not even have to leave your house to help; many students and community members choose to donate a few dollars through the "Share the Warmth" program, where people donate on their power bill and Duke Power matches the donation. A similar program is available for city water bills.

No excuses.



Weekly World Update

National Report

■ Patients in California can now buy legal medical marijuana through a vending machine at an herbal nutrition center in Los Angeles. Starting this week they will go through security, submit their prescription, pay and pick up their drugs. Employees call it a safe, fast way to order prescriptions. The state will start with two prescription vending machines offering medical marijuana.

■ Tuesday, Jan. 29, marked the 15th anniversary of the policy that came to be known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The policy relaxed the outlaw of gay men and women serving in the U.S. military. About 12,000 service members have been discharged from the military since the law took effect, including Arabic speakers whose skills are of high demand since the advent of the war on terror. While the number discharged for their sexuality has fallen from 1,273 in 2001 to 612 in 2006, Pentagon officials state they are applying the law as fairly as ever. Gay-rights advocates disagree, suggesting the military is willing to ignore sexual orientation when recruiting becomes difficult due to the unpopular nature of the war. A CNN poll found that 79 percent of Americans feel that homosexuals should be allowed to serve. However, a 2006 opinion poll of Americans in the armed services by the independent Military Times newspaper showed that only 30 percent of those surveyed think openly gay people should serve, while 59 percent are opposed.

■ Last week, Rep. Henry Waxman revealed the extent of the archives allegedly missing from several executive offices which includes a total of 473 days from 2003 to 2005. However, Anne Weismann, chief counsel of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), said the Democratic congressman's analysis focuses only on days of no e-mail records, omitting weeks for which there was a significantly low volume of e-mail. An informant told her group that the White House typically logs as many as 100,000 e-mails a day but there were days when as few as five were archived. CREW has sued the White House over the missing e-mail. The Presidential Records Act requires preservation of all White House documents and messages, including e-mail. According to one official analysis, there were 12 days without archived e-mail from the president's inner offices, from December 2003 to February 2004, when it became clear that the keystone of the war — the presence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq — had collapsed. The dozen days are a part of a large body of records that White House technical experts had reported missing last fall in a closed meeting with the staff of Waxman's House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

■ An article by the Associated Press and Time Magazine's Jeremy Herron attempts to shed light on the economy as it relates to Britney Spears. According to OK! Magazine publisher Tom Morrissey, Spears drives newsstand sales, helping the magazine's ad revenue more than double to \$51 million in 2007. The U.S. version of Britain's OK! has taken significant interest in Spears, putting her picture on the cover 54 times in the 103 issues since January 2006. Francois Navarre, founder of the paparazzi agency X17, said an exclusive shot of the star would sell for about \$10,000 in the U.S. and generate thousands more in residual profit. In contrast, the average celebrity shot will yield \$125 to \$700, according to Scott McKiernan, founder of ZUMA Press photo agency. According to McKiernan, residual fees on an exclusive photo can push the value of a unique Spears shot well past \$100,000. Overall, newsstand sales for magazines moved one percent higher in the first half of 2007 to a total of \$2.39 billion.

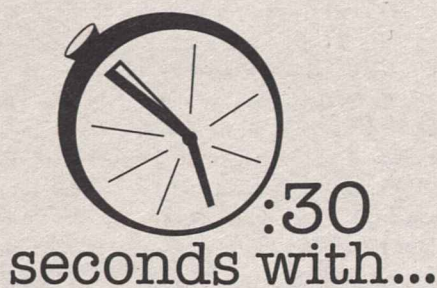
World Report

■ Reports indicate that sometime as early as February an unnamed U.S. spy satellite weighing 7,000 pounds may fall to earth. Launched in December 2006, no one can say exactly where on Earth it may crash. However, there is no rational reason to worry. The satellite reached orbit with no hindrance but then suffered a breakdown that caused ground controllers to lose communication with it. Without infrastructure, the satellite will collide with the atmosphere at 17,500 mph. However, the atmosphere helps ensure that any given individual stands very little chance of danger by being struck by this craft or any other incoming debris. Scientists are now estimating that the earth is surrounded by a belt of more than 900,000 lbs. of flying debris that has the potential to fall to the planet's surface.

■ January 28 saw the 50th anniversary of the famed toy company Lego. At 1:58 p.m. on Jan. 28, 1958, then-Lego CEO Godtfred Kirk Christiansen filed a patent for the iconic plastic brick. Since its commencement, the company has ushered forth 400 billion Lego elements, or 62 bricks for every person on the planet. If the pieces were to be stacked on top of one another, they would form 10 towers reaching all the way from the Earth to the Moon. Ole Kirk Christiansen, son of Godtfred Christiansen, founded the Lego Company in 1932, naming the company after an amalgamation of the Danish phrase "leg godt" meaning "play well." The basic eight-stud red Lego brick was first sold in Denmark in 1949, but it took a further nine years for Godtfred Kirk to file the patent for the versatile "Automatic Binding Brick" with its interlocking 2x4 studs. The Lego Group is the world's fifth largest toymaker in terms of sales, after Mattel, Hasbro, Bandai and MGA Entertainment. The anniversary will hail a special edition of its 1950s-style Town Plan set with three gold bricks and a worldwide building contest culminating with a grand finale at Legoland Billund.

■ Preliminary charges have been filed against Jérôme Kerviel, the trader blamed for huge losses at French bank Société Générale. According to Société Générale, Kerviel's actions cost \$7.2 billion. Kerviel will be brought under investigation for breach of trust, falsifying documents and breaching computer security — but not fraud. Kerviel's lawyer, Elisabeth Meyer, called the judges' decision a "great victory" as Kerviel was released on bail. Under French law, a formal investigation does not automatically guarantee that a trial will follow. Société Générale and Paris prosecutors pushed for a more serious charge of fraud but judges investigating the case threw out accusations.

■ New statistics indicate that deforestation in the Amazon for the last five months of 2007 was 1,250 sq. miles (about the size of Rhode Island) a rise from the previous year's figure. Results are alarming due to deforestation rates normally dropping in the final rainy months of the year. An alert from another government agency warned the true figure is closer to 2,700 sq. miles. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva brought together several ministers to discuss measures designed at halting the destruction. Lula called for a complete ban on deforestation in the 36 municipalities at a critical level and said next month he would send 800 federal police officers to ensure the moratorium is respected. Lula also stated that landowners would have to register their properties and prove they comply with existing environmental legislation, which is something very few landowners currently do. Those found not to be in compliance with regulations will be ineligible for government credit or prohibited from selling their property. Measures will also be introduced to stop non-compliant businesses from selling their produce.



Alex Bushroe
Clemson Sports Fanatic

Melissa Whitson: What do you enjoy most about Clemson sports?

Alex Bushroe: I enjoy the camaraderie and the sense of community associated with Clemson sports. Since Clemson is such a tightly-knit community, there is a greater level of pride (for my friends and me, at least) that comes with being a true Clemson fan. And we're not one of those snobby schools that think they have a divine right to win, like North Carolina or Florida. When we win, we appreciate and enjoy it that much more.

MW: If you could play a varsity sport at Clemson, what sport would you choose?

CT: Football, for sure. It is an event unlike any other. Plus, Clemson football players have celebrity status around here.

MW: What was the most exciting CU sporting event you've attended?

AB: If I had to pick one, I'd probably pick the 2006 football game against Georgia Tech. To be able to showcase our campus, stadium and talented team to the entire nation and generate a national buzz unlike any I had ever seen before was pretty incredible.

MW: Where did you get that ridiculously large and very vintage CU basketball jersey?

AB: I got it at an Adidas outlet store in Orlando. It was the last one left on the rack, and it was marked down from \$170 all the way to \$20, so I had to buy it. I think it has found its niche...

Nominations for Outstanding Women Awards

The President's Commission on Women at Clemson University is accepting nominations to recognize and honor women who have made significant contributions to promoting the status of women at Clemson University. Nominations are invited from persons who wish to recognize individuals for the following categories: Faculty, Staff, Graduate Student, Undergraduate Student, and Distinguished Contributor. The Distinguished Contributor could include Alumni, senior administrators, staff, faculty, major gift donors, and others who have made a significant contribution to improving the status of women at Clemson University. To nominate an individual, complete a nomination form found on the web

http://www.clemson.edu/womenscommission/2008_OWA_nomination_form.doc or contact Linda Tindal at 864-656-1532 or ltindal@clemson.edu.

Nominations must include vita, resume, or summary of career activities, and two letters of support to: Women's Commission, 603 Strode Tower. Mrs. Barker will recognize honorees at a reception March 12, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the Self Auditorium, Strom Thurmond Institute. Deadline for nominations is February 15, 2008.



Deadline for nominations
is February 15, 2008

TIGER BRIEFS

Dee Stegelin, a professor of early childhood education at Clemson University, has been elected president of the South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC). SCAEYC is the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the largest advocacy organization in the United States for young children. Stegelin said she hopes to increase the visibility of the organization through collaborative efforts with other professional organizations. Stegelin advocates legislation and policy issues for young children and their families and is working toward raising standards in

all childcare, public school and other early childhood learning settings. Stegelin will serve a two-year term.

On Friday, Feb. 1, The EUREKA! Relay for Life team will host "Dance for the Cure." The musical even will feature music of the Shag, Disco, '80s and Swing genres. It will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Hendrix Center Ballrooms. Advanced tickets are \$3 and are available at the Calhoun Honors College Office at Tillman Hall. Tickets may also be purchased for \$5 at the door. For those unable to attend, donations will be accepted by EUREKA!

Clemson University officials become tangled in lawsuit filed by the former Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees Eugene Troutman. Troutman has alleged that the University has in its possession \$80 million of unused funds with no known purpose, money that largely is a result of years of unnecessary increases in tuition. President James F. Barker, Provost Doris Helms, General Counselor Clay Steadman and

several members of the Board of Trustees are among those mentioned in the lawsuit filed on Jan. 9 with the Richland County Clerk of Court.

An e-mail firefight erupted over questionable campaign tactics related to Undergraduate Student Body Vice President Callie Boyd. Thursday an e-mail written by Boyd's supporter Pedro Ildefonso was sent to several students in an effort to garner support for Boyd's upcoming campaign for Undergraduate Student Body President. The e-mails have become the center of debate after Boyd's plans to run for CUSG president were announced before the legal date to do so as outlined in official CUSG documents. Additional questions concerning tactics used by supporters of Boyd's presidential campaign have recently arisen by student government members. However, Boyd has not been linked to any unethical behavior.

Candidate's Corner Election '08

By Jonathan Yongue

John McCain

Republican Senator from Arizona

Bio: John McCain was born Aug. 29, 1936, at the Coco Solo Air Base in the Panama Canal Zone. Both his father and grandfather have distinguished reputations as admirals in the United States Navy. As a consequence, McCain spent his childhood and adolescents moving between bases both in America and abroad. In 1958, McCain graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis where he trained as a Navy pilot. He married Carol Shepp, his first wife, in 1965 and adopted her two children from a previous marriage; they had one daughter together. With the beginning of the Vietnam War, McCain flew attack planes on bombing runs against the North Vietnamese. McCain's plane was shot down in October of 1967, and he spent 5-and-a-half years as a prisoner of war, where he was beaten, tortured and spent 3-and-a-half years in solitary confinement. After nine months of rehab, he attempted to return to flying duty but was unsuccessful because of his injuries. In 1980, he married his second wife, Cindy Hensley, and moved to Phoenix, Ariz.

Political Experience: McCain started his political career in 1977 when he became the Navy's liaison to the U.S. Senate. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in Arizona in 1982 and after two terms was elected to the U.S. Senate from Arizona in 1986. He quickly earned the nickname "The Maverick" for his willingness to sway from some Republican ideals on several issues. McCain lost to George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential primary. The "Maverick" emerged again when he worked with Democratic Senator Russell Feingold on a controversial bill, especially with Republicans, that restricted the use of soft money. He also drew Republican criticism when he was one of seven Republicans to vote against a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and when he supported an immigration bill many Republicans considered "amnesty."

The Issues

Immigration: McCain believes the government has failed in its responsibility to secure the borders. He wants to tighten border security and also screen cargo at ports and points of entry. He wants to create strong allies with Mexico and those Latin American countries that reject authoritarianism. He recognizes the importance of the assimilation of immigrants and wants to improve the teaching of English, American history and civics to migrants.

Environment: McCain believes that climate change is related to human activities and that our reliance on foreign oil creates a vulnerability for the United States. He would pursue a market-based cap and trade system as president to limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. He would diversify the nation's energy mix to reduce dependence on foreign oil.

Capital Punishment: He is a supporter of the death penalty for federal crimes. He supported the prohibition of the use of racial statistics in death penalty appeals as senator in Arizona. He has said he would consider expanding capital punishment for other crimes besides acts of terrorism.

Healthcare: McCain's healthcare plan includes tax exemptions for people to use to purchase health insurance. He wants to increase competition between insurance companies to decrease prices. He also advocates the use of generic drugs, more imported and affordable drugs and caps on medical malpractice suits.

Abortion: McCain is a supporter of overturning Roe v. Wade and advocates banning abortion except for cases of rape, incest or threat to the life of the mother.

Same-Sex Marriage: He believes states should regulate the marriage law but also believes that marriage should be between a man and a woman. However, he did oppose a federal amendment to ban gay marriage.

Iraq: McCain has been a strong supporter of both President Bush's policies and his decision to go to war. He has criticized how the war has been managed, but he believes it would be a major mistake to pull out of the region.

"Religion and Science—A Variety of Views"

A program to help clarify your views of the Bible and Creation of Science and Evolution Insights of four panelists each evening from several denominations (including young earth believers), Jewish and Unitarian congregations, and Clemson science professors

Mondays February 4, 11, and 18
7:30 to about 9:00

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
(across from the soccer field)

No charge for students
\$10 for all others for the entire program

Sponsored by the Clemson Area
Congregations In Touch

News By Numbers

10

age of a Mexico City boy who glued his hand to his bed after attempting to evade his return to school after a break.

3,323

square feet in the world's largest swimming pool. It holds 250,000 cubic meters of water and covers about 20 acres.

171,525

dollars that Stephen Colbert's "WristStrong" bracelets have raised since the mock talk show host began selling them as part of his "wrist awareness" campaign, started shortly after he broke his left wrist last June. Proceeds to the Yellow Ribbon Fund, a charity that assists injured service members and their families.

90,000,000

mobile telephone numbers offered to the public by Intelius Inc. of Bellevue, Wash. The company charges \$14.95 per number.

CRIME

ARRESTS

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
FRIDAY, JAN. 18 TO SUNDAY, JAN. 27.

Jan. 26

1:11 a.m., Andrew Avent, Public Disorderly Conduct, Byrnes Hall, officer: Lehman

Jan. 27

1:48 a.m., Robert Schisgall, Disorderly Conduct, Calhoun Court, officer: Durham

CRIME REPORT

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
FRIDAY, JAN. 18 TO SUNDAY, JAN. 27.

Jan. 25

3:23 p.m., Auto Breaking, Fike Recreation, officer: Hughes
10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

10:49 p.m., Minor In Possession, Bradley Hall, officer:

Lehman

FIRE/RESCUE

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
FRIDAY, JAN. 18 TO SUNDAY, JAN. 27.

Jan. 20

8:32 p.m., Electrical Fire, Hwy 93/Central, officer: CUFD

Jan. 24

3:53 p.m., Capsized Boat, Rowing Facility, officer: CUFD

Jan. 25

2:49 p.m., Fire Alarm, YMCA, officer: CUFD

Jan. 26

12:34 a.m., Fire Alarm, Geer Hall, officer: CUFD

In the January 25 issue of The Tiger, the following errors were made. In the article "Huckabee enlists Norris and Flair to corral young votes" Mike Campbell was incorrectly identified as chairman of the S.C. Republican Party. Katon Dawson is the current chairman. Also, in the feature "In loving memory," the date Ralph Nathaniel Pinnock Jr., passed away was incorrect. It should have read Dec. 8, 2007. The Tiger regrets these errors.

On this day in History

1790 – In New York City, the Supreme Court met for the first time in United States history.

1865 – The 13th Amendment is approved by President Abraham Lincoln, ending slavery in America.

1954 – The first American soap opera "Secret Storm" premiered on television.

1972 – The HP-35, the world's first scientific hand-held calculator, was introduced to the market at a price of \$395.

2003 – The oldest NASA space shuttle Columbia disintegrated while attempting to reenter the earth's atmosphere after a sixteen-day mission in space. All seven members of the crew died.

2004 – Janet Jackson's infamous "wardrobe malfunction" occurred during her halftime performance at Super Bowl XXXVIII.

Fitness center to enhance CU-ICAR campus

St. Francis Heath System invests \$500,000 to promote healthy lifestyles.

MELISSA WHITSON
NEWS EDITOR

Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) campus in Greenville, S.C., will soon benefit from a sizable monetary investment by Bon Secours St. Francis Health System.

The \$500,000 gift will go toward building a fitness center within the CU-ICAR's Innovation Place as well as fund health education opportunities and programs that encourage a healthful lifestyle at the CU-ICAR campus.

The Greenville-based St. Francis Health System provides healthcare services through its cancer, diabetes, treatment and rehabilitation centers and plans to construct a new facility on the Millennium Campus adjacent to CU-ICAR.

With St. Francis' investment, the fitness center facilities will include 11 cardio equipment machines, nine strength-training pieces and an area designated for stretching. Separate men's and women's locker rooms complete with showers and lockers are also included in the plan.

In a statement made earlier this month, University President James F. Barker acknowledged the value of St. Francis's investment and extended his appreciation to those who have given their time to promote healthy behaviors and exercise.

"CU-ICAR is all about systems integration – not only integrating the systems of the automobile but integrating the various aspects of the human experience in order to compete

successfully, whether it's working, learning or maintaining a strong and healthy body," said Barker. "Our friends and colleagues at St. Francis recognize and practice the integration of health and fitness into this community, and we are very grateful that they are investing in the people of CU-ICAR."

Accompanying Barker at the announcement was Valinda Rutledge, CEO of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System.

Rutledge said that St. Francis' half a million dollar investment highlights the level of dedication the organization has reached in advocating community health improvement.

"This campus reflects a new way of looking at the automotive industry and a new way of looking at community," she said. "In addition to the individual benefit of personal health and fitness we plan to promote here, we are very pleased to provide a life fitness center where that kind of interaction can occur."

Employees from the Clemson University Campus Recreation Services will serve as administration for the St. Francis Life Fitness Center. Membership at the center will be open to CU-ICAR partners and their employees as well as to the faculty, staff and students who use the CU-ICAR campus.

Rutledge also explained the fundamental reason for the facility's additions.

"We understand that one goal is to provide opportunities for university and industry partners to interact on an informal, individual basis," she said.

Creative Inquiry team awarded

Environmental project recognized.

JENNIFER SALANNE
STAFF WRITER

Creative Inquiry (CI) courses continue to grow in popularity and demand at Clemson University, but one group of CI students and faculty just received the Bootsie Manning Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award for their research.

Formerly known as undergraduate research, creative inquiry places emphasis on providing an unforgettable, meaningful experience to undergraduate students.

The idea of allowing undergraduates to do this sort of intense, goal-oriented research "promotes reasoning and critical thinking skills, ethical judgment and communication skills as well as a deep understanding of the methods of scientific and/or humanities research," as stated on the Clemson University Web site.

The CI team, made up of students, faculty and alumni, started their research in the fall of 2006. Doctor Webb Smathers and Diane Smathers co-teach the CI course. Dr. Smathers is a natural resource and wildlife economist in CALFS. His expertise is in subject matter.

Smathers is a professor of family and youth development and director of the Emeritus College at Clemson. Her expertise is in intergenerational relationships.

Student members of the CI team include Alli Cryns, Victoria Luke, Carson Funchess, Olivia Pearman, Cassandra Smith, LaCrystal Foreman and Sean McCashin.

The team constructed a back yard habitat on Clemson's campus, housing several species of birds, butterflies, bees, squirrels and other animals typically found around campus.

The first semester of the project was spent getting University approval for a site. The team worked in an area of land near the Strom Thurmond Institute and developed a suitable living environment for wildlife.

This area has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat. A Backyard Wildlife Habitat provides the appropriate food, water, shelter and places to raise young that the wildlife need to survive.

"Although all the persons with whom we worked were very helpful, it took a lot of time to get through the hoops," Smathers said.

The team's idea for the project

developed from Smathers' involvement with state and local conservation organizations.

"He was aware of the Back Yard Habitat project through the South Carolina Wildlife Federation," Smathers said. "We knew that although South Carolina leads the nation in back yard habitats, there was no habitat on Clemson's campus."

There are no expertise requirements required for students to become members of the CI group. According to Smathers, the current student team members come from a variety of majors.

"Interest and a willingness to dig in the dirt is what you need," Smathers said. "Many of the students are knowledgeable about plants and habitats but some are not."

LaCrystal Foreman, a junior studying English, is one team member that brought a different perspective to the team.

"This project was a different experience for me because I don't dig in the dirt and I don't hang out outside that much," Foreman said. "But this project is also about building relationships and building something on the Clemson campus, about being a part of something that we hope will last."

Along with the birds, butterflies, bees and squirrels is a duck box that was put up by the Clemson University student chapter of Ducks Unlimited. There is also a groundhog.

The project is jointly sponsored by the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) and the Emeritus College, and Emeriti faculty were invited to be involved in the CI project.

"There are over 600 retired faculty at Clemson University, and several of these retired faculty members served as mentors and teachers in the project," Smathers said. "I think it is important that students have the opportunity to interact with older persons and develop intergenerational relationships."

One alumnus helped seek site approval through the university channels, another served as a consultant on native plants, another lectured to the class on insects and one emeritus was instrumental in planting.

The Bootsie Manning Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award is given by the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

The award was presented at the federation's annual conservation banquet in Greenville on January 12.

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CHANGE from page A1

any establishment candidate to get youth support and it not only looks good to have youth support but many times people in the community come out to attend the event in as high of numbers as the students."

Clemson University was one of the final stops on the presidential hopeful's campaign before South Carolina's Democratic Primary that took place the following day on Jan. 26. If the approximately 4,000-person turnout at the Clemson campus was not evidence enough of Obama's popularity in South Carolina, the senator's clean sweep in the election most certainly was. The Illinois senator claimed 55 percent of the vote, receiving more votes than his two biggest opponents combined.

Despite the conclusion of the South Carolina Democratic Primary, as well as the S.C. Republican Primary, won by Arizona Senator John McCain last week, Clemson's out-of-state students still have an opportunity to take part in the race by submitting an absentee ballot.

ART from page A1

picture is the bait that draws the viewer in. Entries into the competition have a whole array of topics. From lysing cancer cells to nanocrystalline material, the works entered hail from an eclectic mix of disciplines and fields.

Two particularly creative and aesthetically profound works are "Goddess of the Sea" (featured on page one) and "Curious Eye." "Goddess" is a pseudo-colored scanning electron micrograph depicting the presence of chloride transport epithelium involved in the salt balance of the feeding apparatus of an adult barnacle.

"Curious," which was obtained with a Hitachi 7600 transmission electron microscope and colored in Adobe Photoshop, shows the highly regular binding of phospholipids, the major component of cell membranes, to single-walled carbon nanotubes, which are synthetic nanomaterials with many potential applications. The barren middle of the work features naked carbon nanotubes in isolated form or bundles.

Once viewers are ensnared by the images, attention is to be directed to the explanatory card accompanying each piece. Benson stressed the fact that the explanatory card holds just as much importance as the photo itself as to the worth of the entry, echoing the program's

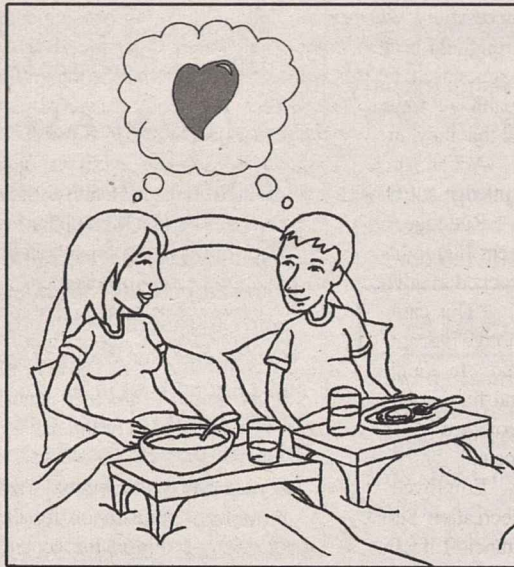
goal of communicating science to an expansive base in an interesting and easy to understand fashion.

Both individual and team productions are acceptable entries and multidisciplinary collaboration is encouraged. Entries will be judged on visual impact, effective communication, freshness and originality.

A panel of artists and scientists from the community will judge entries. Judges for 2006-2007 include Medical Illustrator and artist from Greenville Jeanet Dreskin, Program Director for Cultural Visions of the S.C. Arts Commission Tom Bryan, Bobby Martin of Martin Microscope Company and Dr. Andrew Graciano of the University of South Carolina Department of Art. All judges will be invited back for the 2008 competition.

A "People's Choice" award will be given based on a campus-wide poll of the entries. All entries will be displayed in the library during April, and the top winners of five categories will be honored at the Sigma Xi spring banquet on Tuesday, April 9.

More information and entry forms may be found at the department of engineering and science education Web site. Deadline for submitting an entry in the 2008 competition is March 7.

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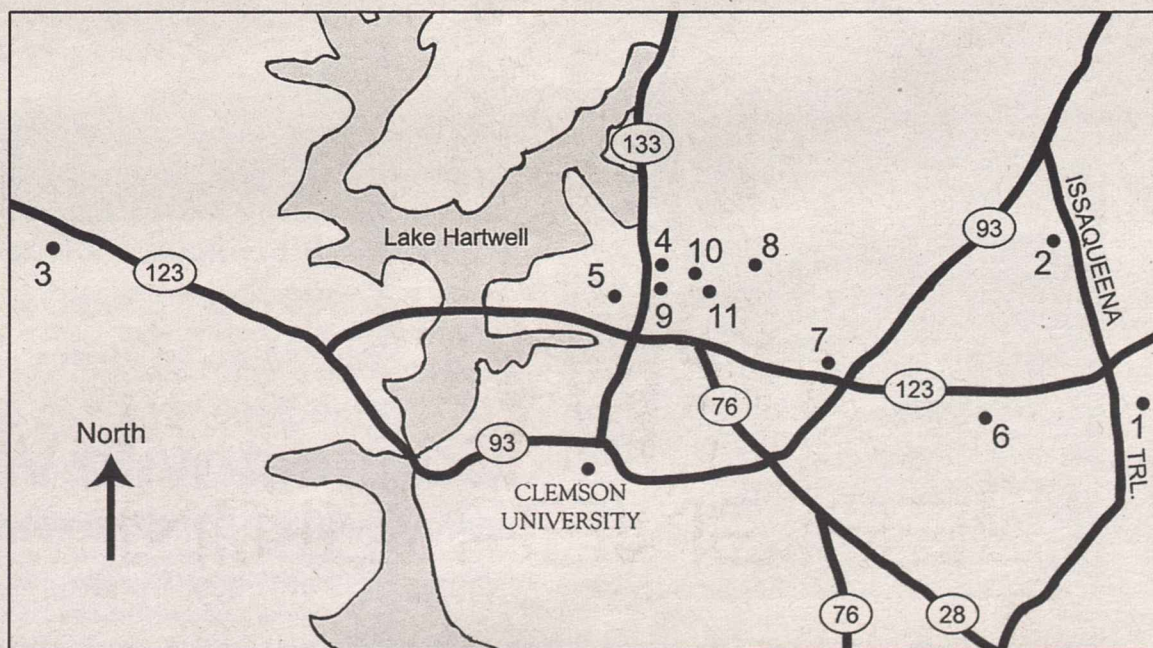
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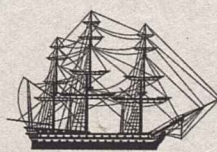
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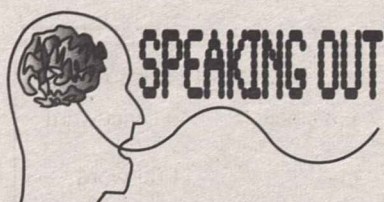
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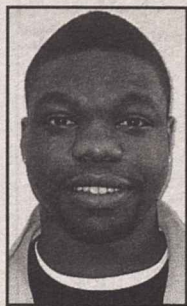
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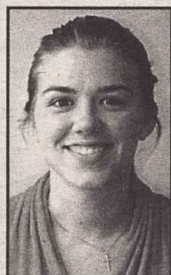
Should the U.S. control who can and cannot have nuclear weapons?



Joshua Brown
graphic communications
senior

"No, America only has jurisdiction to govern its own people."

"I don't think that the U.S. should decide that. Foreign opinion of our country is already low for how we control other countries. There should be some control on nuclear weapons, but we shouldn't decide who can and can't have them."



Marie Long
graduate student



Chas Coker
secondary education
junior

"Yes. We should because it's important for someone to keep track of nuclear weapons so they don't get in the wrong hands..."

"No, no one should have them."



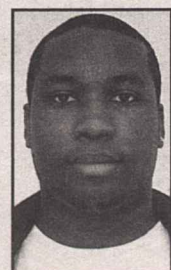
Whitni Evans
financial management
junior



Chase Paterno
graduate student

"While the U.S. is a world power and has a security interest in deciding which nations should have nuclear weapons, I think the international community as a whole needs to do a better job in policing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

"No, because we'll still have nuclear weapons even if we tell them not to have them."



Travis Hill
computer science
freshman



Pakistani nukes raise questions about U.S. policy

U.S. should act as a member of the world community when making decisions about nuclear weapons.

Last Saturday, a top official in Pakistan's Strategic Plans Division, a department which oversees the country's nuclear arsenal, gave a press conference assuring the world that Pakistan's nuclear weapons were safe. Over the past few weeks, Pakistan has experienced increased militant violence along its border with Afghanistan and, as a result, increased security measures have been taken to secure Pakistan's nuclear weapons. Needless to say, the U.S. is also eager to know that the weapons are secure. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States helped Pakistan secure its nuclear arsenal to the tune of \$8-10 million in aid. "You are always responding to threats, the last six months is no exception," said the Pakistani official, Khalid Kidwai. Some 10,000 troops have been deployed to protect the weapons, and Kidwai expressed total confidence that they were absolutely secure.

However, the U.S. is apparently taking steps to insure that the weapons stay in friendly hands. Concerned that al-Qaeda is reforming along the Pakistani border with Afghanistan, various media reports have indicated that the Pentagon is constructing plans to seize control of Pakistan's nuclear facilities should they fall into the wrong hands. When confronted with this news, Kidwai responded by calling plans to seize the facilities "irresponsible talk."

But is it irresponsible? What is the U.S. supposed to do? Stand by and hope that Pakistan can keep it together? The question of what the U.S. should do will be addressed later, but what they will do seems inevitable. No country wants to let its fate rest in the hands of some other country, and the U.S. just happens to be powerful enough to make things (or at least try to make things) more to its liking around the world. That is, if the U.S. sees fit to seize Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, it will seize Pakistan's arsenal.

This brings out the central question: at what point, if ever, is the U.S. justified in demanding, either through diplomacy or direct military action, that another country surrender its nuclear arsenal? The simple answer is that the U.S. is justified in taking some other country's nuclear weapons when something like world security seems to be at stake. Now, on the other hand, this is the sort of answer that the U.S. can and certainly would abuse. If left to its own devices, it seems obvious that the U.S. would try to become the only nation on earth that had nuclear weapons of any sort, and I do not doubt that it would deem any number of situations a "threat to world security" in order to achieve that end.

It is not the case that the U.S. should never have cause to strip a country of its nuclear weapons, however. One can imagine

any number of cases in which a threat was imminent, such as a coup by a militaristic group in an unstable country. In that sort of situation, it seems to me that the U.S. and/or the UN would be justified in seizing any nuclear weapons in that country. But then we're forced to consider that some nations are already under the control of what are essentially militaristic groups with crazy leaders and questionable intentions (North Korea, for instance). In these cases, the threat that a particular country posed would have to be evaluated and weighed with the cooperation of the rest of the world, after which more appropriate action could be taken.

What we as U.S. citizens have to keep in mind is that every country has slightly different interests, and, as we are aware, it's not always easy to determine whose interests are best—thus the world's history of war and conflict. The U.S. has to approach the issue of nuclear weapons very gingerly, because it currently has a bad reputation for expecting the world to surrender its nuclear weapons while it keeps all the warheads that it wants. It's unreasonable for us to expect that the world will cooperate with us if we refuse to cooperate with them. What we need is a level-headed approach and cooperation with international bodies like the UN to address those countries that have nuclear weapons and let them know where we stand.

Ideally, our stance would be a relatively clear, reasonable one that we could pitch in a straight-forward manner to leaders of other countries. It does not seem unreasonable to think that we could talk rationally with those countries about how we feel about their nuclear weapons and what we think should be done with them. Demanding that they surrender them is just like asking for a fresh plate of let's-hate-the-States. For the majority of cases, it's out of the question. Instead, the U.S. should explain to the world that it will revitalize its efforts to be a respectful country in this world and that its policy toward nuclear weapons will be based on the safety of all the world's citizens, not on some grand scheme to spread "American" ideals around the world in what is increasingly being seen as an imperialistic fashion. We are not the only voices in the world, but we happen to be one of the strongest. It's a tricky task, but we must strive with all of our might to act on the world's behalf and with the world's understanding in order to become a truly great nation.

The opinions expressed in the above editorial are written by the opinions editor and represent the majority opinion of The Tiger editorial board. In representing the majority view, the staff editorials may not represent the individual view of any particular member.

COMMENTARY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

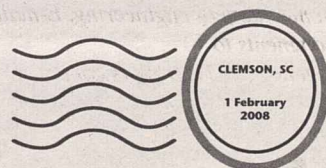
What an interesting and diverse set of opinions The Tiger published recently, regarding the "How Should I Vote" dilemma we face as Americans. On one hand, Mr. Pineros ("Who Would Jesus Vote For") suggests we should vote with our moral, Christian values (and I am a Christian, Mr. Pineros) because generally Democrats are Pro-Choice and do not see the need to legally condemn same-sex marriages. Jesus would, of course, never vote for someone who supports this stance. But wait—Damon Andrews ("Universal Healthcare") comes along on the next page and tells us to forget these two "moral" issues and vote with your wallet—Democrats will ruin our quality of healthcare and our economy if elected. As Mr. Andrews states, "Under this system (universal healthcare), the Democrats boast equality for all people regardless of your economic status, how dire your need is, how long you've been waiting for treatment..." and then compares this horrible visual to communist philosophy.

Mr. Pineros used The Tiger as a platform to pick out issues and then equate a vote for Democrats as a vote against moral values. Based on my understanding of the New Testament, I think Jesus might just agree with Universal Healthcare and choose to ignore the Marxist undertones as long as people are benefiting and getting healthier. Every church I have attended certainly advocated giving donations to the

poor and sick, or giving to others just for the sake of giving. I guess if I did not consider this argument was so ridiculous I would believe Jesus' vote would be cast for someone like Obama or Clinton, based on this issue. While I disagree with Mr. Andrews, I at least respect Mr. Andrews—he expressed his opinions bluntly and without masking his intentions behind some absurd notion that a vote against universal healthcare might get you a pat on the back from the Lord.

Jeff Willey
Postdoctoral Fellow
Bioengineering

Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Feedback from our Web site may also be considered for publication. Submissions must include the author's name, number (or e-mail address), hometown, class and major. All submissions will be checked for authenticity and may be edited for clarity and grammar. Space considerations may result in submissions being held for later publication. THE TIGER reserves the right to print or edit all submissions.



PAWS UP, PAWS DOWN

Two Indiana boys got their tongues stuck to a frozen flagpole after trying to imitate a scene from famous holiday movie "A Christmas Story."



A New Jersey man's girlfriend was upset after he failed to buy her a pair of jeans in Atlantic City. On a return trip to buy the jeans, the man won \$800,000 on a slot machine.



A self-proclaimed tantric master set the world record for full body ice contact in New York by engulfing his body in ice for an hour and 12 minutes, beating his previous record by four minutes.



Babygirl, a five-legged cat from Pennsylvania, will have surgery this week to remove her extra limb and another crippled leg, leaving her with three legs but a better quality of life.



A grandmother, her daughter and several granddaughters attempted to rob a Target store in California of over \$900. An 8-year old and 5-year old were among those detained.



An archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church had his crown stolen in Texas. The crown was stolen from his car while he was eating dinner. It has an estimated worth of \$6,000-\$10,000.



The President

LAYNE MADDEN

Columnist



It is said that Queen Elizabeth II begins her day by browsing through the London news over tea and crumpets while looking out her Buckingham Palace window onto the common lives of the common people below. This ritual is followed by the royal foot massage performed by silent guards with dead animals on their heads as the Queen reads over her endless fan mail. The rest of her day is spent performing honorary duties and presiding over meaningless events that could only be made more banal by the presence of an impotent monarch.

According to many journalistic accounts, a day in the life of the American President may not be that much different (with the exception of reading the news or receiving fan mail). Waking early to a nice 5K followed by an expertly prepared breakfast and a scan of the newspapers (for the funny pages, mind you), followed by the Today Show/Price is Right double header. By the time noon rolls around there are dignitaries to get some classic mouth-half-open-quizzical-look photo-ops with. The mid afternoons are most certainly spent doing presidential business like signing stuff to send more teenagers overseas to get car-bombed, and then in the evening the President likes to spend his time with a nice cold O'Doul's and the Sportscenter Top 10.

I don't necessarily buy the argument that says that the President is living the good life, and I'm surprised that one or two of them of late haven't pulled a Britney Spears and shaved their heads and shown photographers their Presidential jewels. If the interest in the current Presidential campaign is any indication, Americans consider the office of the President as important as ever before. This enthusiasm is at once encouraging and ironic.

People discuss Presidential politics as if it is the executive branch of the government that writes

and verifies laws. However, the seat of the office of the President gets its name from the fact that it has the power of "execution" of the law. One may imagine the elected head of the executive branch as a glorified Walker Texas Ranger without the Dodge Ram. When Walker himself graced our humble campus with his presence two weeks ago, the response was hysteria. In the same way, the American obsession with the office of the President goes hand in hand with our well known obsession with sex and violence.

Being President is ultimately about being sexy and killing people. As the Stud in Chief one does not actually write laws, but sets the "tone" for Congress. If he has good sex appeal, his policy agenda will be well received by a love-struck Congress who wants to impress the best looking guy at Capitol Hill High. A charming President also has the ability to woo foreign ambassadors and dignitaries and he (or she...some day...perhaps) is essentially the profile picture of America's Facebook account.

When the President isn't getting tagged in Facebook pictures or calming down those trigger-happy Middle Eastern oil moguls, it is his (for all intents and purposes, the masculine pronoun is sufficient for now) job to keep Americans safe. When sexy doesn't work to achieve this goal, heads are gonna roll. The Grim Reaper-in-Chief has some tricky cost-benefit analysis to perform when it comes to busting caps. The ultimate goal is to minimize the number of American casualties. However, to secure peace, and high profit margins for ExxonMobile and Haliburton, the President must come to terms with the fact that you have to be in it to win it. Fortunately, military lives don't count as much as civilian lives and enemy lives only count when you're figuring up how many soldiers you need to run the waterboarding stations. So when you add up 3,941 American soldier deaths and \$36 billion in profits for ExxonMobile, the Presidential cost report should give you a big thumbs up. Maybe President Bush will be able to get a job selling Total Gyms.

LAYNE MADDEN is a senior in Mechanical Engineering. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

Scientology inspires activism

KEVIN NIEHAUS

Columnist



Scientology. Ah yes, that wonderful thing we have all come to know and love through the faces of Tom Cruise and his wife Katie Holmes. Yes sir, the amazing religion built by a former self-help guru. Yep, that awesome power that brainwashes its members, exploits them for money, and in some cases, even kills them.

Ah yes, Scientology indeed.

In case you've spent the past 50 years living life in a cave, Scientology is one of the newest religions on the block. Some might say that Scientology is the new, cool religion on the block. You know, the one with all the cool toys and video games. Heck, Scientology even has some nice refreshing glasses of Kool-Aid for you to drink. He's awesome!

Anyway, according to the Wikipedia article on Scientology, Scientology was founded in 1952 by L. Ron Hubbard. The articles states: "Scientology encompasses a spiritual rehabilitation philosophy and techniques, and covers topics such as morals, ethics, detoxification, education and management" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientology>). Unfortunately, the same Website also happens to mention the many ongoing scandals that seem to characterize the church. Perhaps the most prominent of these scandals is the "accidental" death of one of its former members, Lisa McPherson.

Now, I am not personally against the religion of Scientology. I think that all religions have a right to be practiced freely with accordance of the law. I actually think it rather cool that a man could create a religion out of thin air and brainwash people into believing it.

As equally impressive as creating a religion, however, are the extreme measures to which the Church of Scientology has resorted to in order to keep bad

press from circulating. Scandals such as "Operation Freakout," in which an author whose writings the church disagreed with was publicly and privately harassed, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Freakout) are somewhat frequent throughout the church's history. The church has even gone so far as to attempt to steal government documents that speak ill of the church (see Operation Snow White). Until now, it seems little has been done to curb the many instances of outright boorishness that characterize the church's dealing with the public in general.

That is, until now.

The Internet group known only as "Anonymous" has laid down the proverbial law against Scientology, declaring both through a media release and a YouTube video that the members currently have plans for a wide scale protest of the acts of Scientology on Feb. 10.

As an American citizen, and as a member of the Generation Y, this makes me proud.

Before tackling this point, however, I have a disclaimer. First of all, the group Anonymous is not exactly known for its sparkling record, and it is not Anonymous that I support; it is their plan to boycott what they see as unjust.

Now, I am proud that someone of my generation is taking a stand. "Why," you might ask, "why do you care Kevin?" Well readers, I care because I do not want to see a world drawn into apathy. In the America we live in today, where civil rights are constantly in danger (a.k.a. Patriot Act), and where the media constantly criticizes the youth of today for holding a severe apathy to the world and its politics, I am glad to see someone standing up and proudly proclaiming "I disagree."

It is important that the generation today not be bullied into believing that the evils of the world are okay to let slide. It's vital that teenagers and young adults learn that civil liberties and security can go hand in hand.

We can stand up and fight for what we believe in, be it for a better grade on a test, more cookies at cookie break, or even a boycott against the ridiculous antics of a social organization.

We can.

KEVIN NIEHAUS is a sophomore majoring in English. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

COMMENTARY

Is becoming a top twenty school as good as it sounds?

NOAH WELSH

Columnist



Clemson is on a quest to become one of the nation's top public universities. At the rate we are moving, we will be among the top twenty on the US News and World Report's list of public institutions in just a few years. This sounds like good news, but in truth it means nothing, as the criteria used to rank schools in this poll do not make any sense.

Fifteen percent of a university's score is based on its selectivity. The selectivity score comes from SAT and ACT scores, the university's acceptance rate, and the high school class rank of incoming freshmen. This logic is absurd. Qualifications required for acceptance into an institution have nothing to do with how good the institution is. Take a group of geniuses and lock them in a room with a bunch of textbooks, and they can teach themselves anything. On the other hand, show me a university that can teach basic integration to a chimpanzee, and I will show you the best educational institution in the world.

The second ranking component, the average school spending per student, accounts for 10 percent of the school's final score; the more a school spends the better. This simply encourages fiscal irresponsibil-

ity. Could this have anything to do with why our tuition rates appear to be going up faster than the population of a group of rabbits on Cialis? Lab fees anybody?

Twenty-five percent of a school's score comes from its freshmen retention rates, six year graduation rates, and how those graduation rates compare with previous predictions of graduation rates. This is the perfect way to become a great school. Make it easy so nobody fails out. The Navy SEALs are fantastic soldiers because of laid back training schedules that create low drop out rates from the program, right? This ridiculous system rewards schools for putting unqualified students into the work force.

A second 25 percent of the score is based on reputations among provosts and presidents at other academic institutions. Now, if you are going to base the score on reputations, how about base it on reputations that matter, such as those of employers who hire Clemson grads. What do school principals think of our teachers, architecture firms think of our architects, and hospitals think of our nurses? Instead, we are worrying what some provost at the University of Maine thinks about Clemson, despite the fact that until last week he thought it had a "Z" or a "P" in its name because that's how the guy on ESPN pronounced it.

Twenty percent of the score comes from a faculty resources component. Faculty pay, one of the main parts of this category, is an absolutely ridiculous way to

measure an institution. The tenure system makes it nearly impossible to fire horrible professors after they have worked for a given number of years. Experience means higher pay checks. Now we are encouraging the ironic stupidity of this aspect of the tenure system.

Class size is also one of the gauging tools that falls under the faculty resources component. Small classes tend to steer teachers away from standard lecture techniques for more modern liberal teaching methods, such as group discussions.

Why would you want to listen to a professor with years of accumulated knowledge talk about his specialty when you could hear the cute redhead next to you give her opinion?

On the other hand good arguments can be made that small classes are beneficial, but here things get irrational. Instead of calculating a score from average class sizes, scores are based on percentages of classes with less than 19 or more than 50 students. Adding an additional student to a 49 person class clearly will make learning much harder. Now Clemson proceeds to cap class sizes showing what they really care about: the rankings, not the actual quality of education.

Alumni donations is one of the more logical methods that is used to measure schools, however it only makes up the final five percent of the score. It is a decent way of gauging how students feel about their Alma Mater. On the other hand, maybe alums' donations reflect the fond-

ness of their memories of Woody Dantzler and their first time shot gunning a beer in Johnstone rather than the quality of their education.

We are now on a crusade. Barker is our king and he will lead us to become a top 20 school, and he will do it by the divine word of the US News and World Report (a ranking system that makes about as much sense as my five year old cousin's explanation of the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle). We are about to burn down Jerusalem. Why rely on some poll to tell us what is good for Clemson? Attack individual problems rather than worrying about a ranking given by some arbitrary test. Hire TAs who can speak English, stop professors from missing class day after day for conferences, and give engineers a better foundation in calculus.

People need to stop caring about our reputation. We need to do what is good for us. I don't care what people at UNC and UVA think of us. They can keep their Nobel Prize winners along with their fondue and chardonnay. After all, it's Friday and I have a frozen pizza and a twelve pack of Pabst Blue Ribbon at home. I am happy, because I attend Clemson University, where the guys are down to earth and the girls are the most beautiful women on earth; I am getting a good education whether it is top 20 or not.

NOAH WELSH is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

What's the real state of the union?

WILL GARRISON

Columnist



In his state of the union speech, George W. Bush said that "from expanding opportunity to defending our country, we've made good progress." Oh, really? When? Was I asleep during all of this progress? Thankfully the president was happy to enlighten us, first by bringing up his saves-the-day stimulus package. Bush proposed (and slid past the House) an economic stimulus package worth \$146 billion. Dubbed by the Washington Post as a "shot in the arm for the nation's ailing economy," the package is George Bush's answer to the torrential downpour of economic hardships drowning the U.S. The proverbial band-aid on our sinking ship. According to the U.N., the price of food has risen by almost half since the year 2000 thanks to skyrocketing petroleum prices. The U.S. dollar has dropped by almost half in the meantime, being surpassed by both the Euro and the Canadian dollar. We double-tax social security, college tuition has exploded, and it all seems to be compounding upon itself exponentially. It's understandable that the first point the president would cover in his state of the union address would involve the economy, but is a stimulus package really the answer?

We are currently in the middle of a war that has, to date, seen 4,000 of our soldiers dead and another 60,000 wounded. It has cost us almost five hundred billion dollars, or over 4,000 dollars per U.S. household. That's three and a half stimulus packages. It has created around 4 million refugees and claimed the lives of anywhere from 30,000 to 700,000 Iraqis depending on whose statistics you believe. It has depleted our armed forces to the point that no single unit is considered combat ready. So much for making progress in defending our country. Not to mention that, thanks in part to the war, expenses have been at an all-time high. As of 4 p.m. on the 30th, the national debt of the United States was nine trillion, two hundred and six billion dollars or \$30,000 per person; the national debt has increased at an average of 1.43 billion dollars per day since 2006.

Hey George, how about instead of spending 1.5 billion dollars that we don't have and driving our debt up and the value of the dollar down, you end the war that's helped put us in this recession in the first place? Why didn't you rein in the federal reserve before they extended mortgage rates and allowed sub-prime lenders to bleed our economy dry? George didn't answer either of those questions in his address. I don't think he could answer them with any of the "dignity" we're expected to have before we withdraw from Iraq. No matter how much I try to believe the bleached-white smile and those

shining fatherly eyes, George will always be the kind of guy that can't find cash to insure underprivileged children while spending billions on military prisons. It seems all this progress is just another contrived lie aimed at lulling citizens until he can flee the oval office next year.

Now I know a few of you are thinking, "But Will, what about No Child Left Behind? Last year, 4th and 8th graders achieved the highest math scores on record." Well, Bush did mention exactly that in his speech. In fact, he said that no one can deny the results we've seen under NCLB. Phew, at least we've got something going for us, right? We can all take comfort in the fact that our children have been trained to pass a test. Seriously, anyone young enough to have a fresh memory of standardized tests knows how big of a joke they are. For those more fortunate that have not endured the public school system in the last twenty years, standardized testing is merely a facade. The curriculum actually changes to teach kids how to do well specifically on the tests administered. Doesn't that kind of defeat the purpose? I would definitely say so, unless of course you want your kids to have fertile careers as test administrators.

Alright, so I've done a lot of "mud slinging" in this article. Nudged the handle of the old muck rake, if you will, but not without reason. We sit on the verge of a new presidency. An election is in the works which will by and large determine the course of

the next four years and beyond. Isn't an honest attempt to avoid the snags and pitfalls of recent history the least we can do for ourselves? So what's the solution, then? Do we vote in another conservative that promises to cut spending, cut taxes, and save our economy, or do we vote in a liberal to salvage our foreign policy and restore civil liberties? It's the cynical conclusion that the liberal will spend us into oblivion while the conservative will start World War III. Ah, but when has cynicism given us more than a smile, eh? We have to hope that no matter how set things seem to be on ruin, our best judgment will yield a tomorrow more pleasant than today.

George W. made a lot of promises coming into office that he did not keep. From his flamboyant spending habits to his complete disregard for the constitution, the fact that he hasn't yet been jailed or at least impeached is a source of constant amazement. Regardless of who you choose to support in this election, be sure to hold them to their claims. Don't let the next four years bring another legacy of lies and deceit. Voltaire said, "He who has the power to make you believe absurdities has the power to make you commit atrocities." Wake up, America. We've got to wash the blood from our hands before we start praying again.

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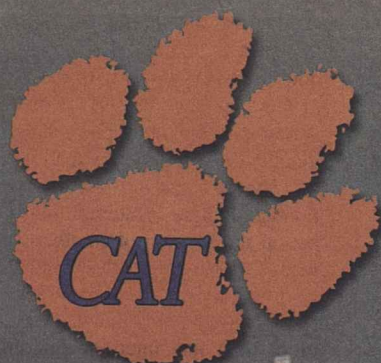
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CENTRAL MAVERICK ROUTE

HOURS OF OPERATION: 6:20am - 6:20pm		
Location	Times after/hr.	First / Last Bus
leave HENDRIX CENTER	:22	6:22a / 5:22p
CENTRAL WAL-MART	:35	6:35a / 5:35p
DOWNTOWN CENTRAL	:40	6:40a / 5:40p
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	:44	6:44a / 5:44p
DOWNTOWN CENTRAL	:48	6:48a / 5:48p
arrive CENTRAL MAVERICK CROSSING / CENTRAL WAL-MART	:53	6:53a / 5:53p
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INSIDE
Women's tennis
starts off strong,
C4

SPORTS

SECTION
C

Tigers fall on the road

Clemson comes up short against Miami.

ADAM CRISWELL
STAFF WRITER

With only four home games remaining on their schedule, Coach Oliver Purnell's Clemson Tigers took to the court on Jan. 27 in Coral Gables, Fla., looking to grab a valuable ACC win on the road against the slumping Miami Hurricanes. A win would have given them the sole ownership of the third spot in the ACC standings and momentum leading into their home standoff against a strong Boston College team. Unfortunately, the task was proven too hard due to the loss of their top rebounder and second leading scorer, Trevor Booker, after he went down with an ankle injury early in the first half. Despite a valiant effort, the loss of Booker proved to be too much to overcome as the Tigers (15-5, 3-3) were edged out by the Hurricanes (15-4, 2-3) in a 75-72 loss.

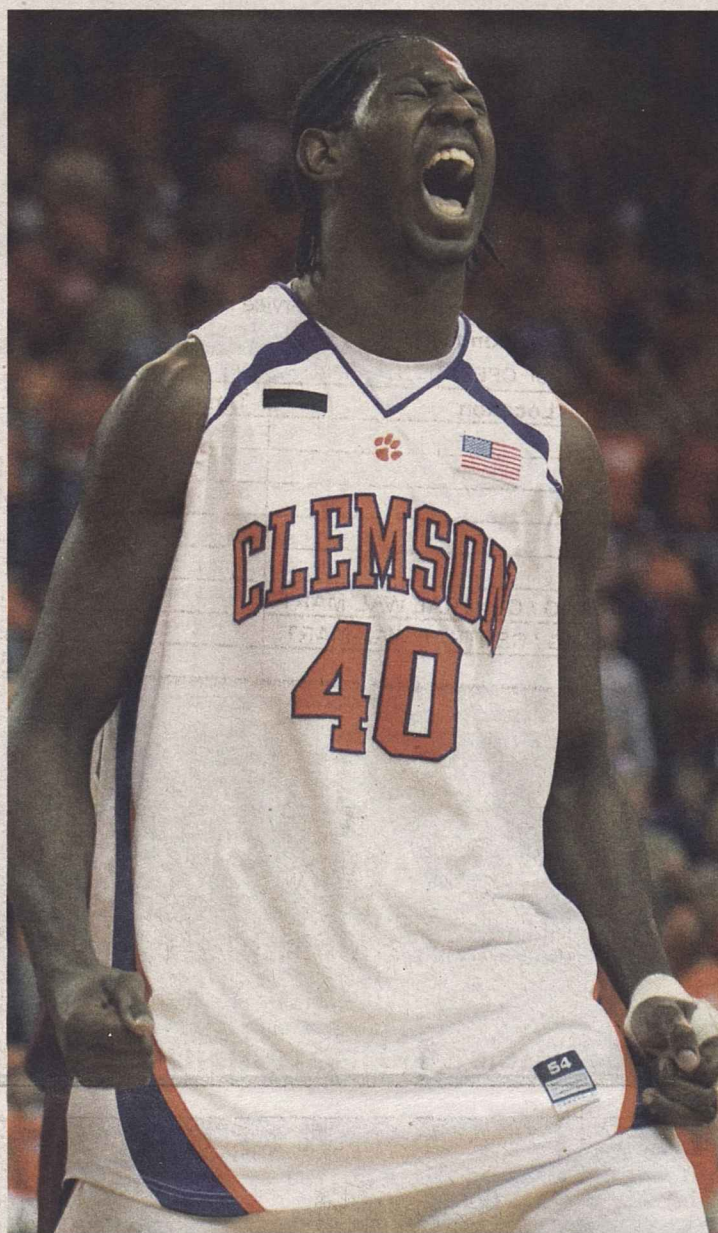
The story of the game was Miami's dominance in the paint as they out-rebounded Clemson 53-37, denied scoring from the post and scored a large number of easy layups and dunks. The Tigers were forced to shoot from the outside, and more times than not, a miss would end their possession with offensive rebounds coming at a premium for a team without the help of big number 35.

Miami led for a majority of the first half as Clemson could not find its shot and seemed to have no answer for the Hurricanes' play down low. Outstanding offensive play by K.C. Rivers and Raymond Sykes swung the momentum back in the Tigers' favor as they took a 30-29 lead, capping off an 18-4 run. Purnell's press defense also was finally

able to generate pressure and cause some turnovers after little success earlier on. Going into the half, however, Miami's Brian Asbury sank two free throws to reclaim a lead of 37-35.

The second half of play started off slow for the Tigers. The production of Rivers and Sykes on the offensive side of the court completely disappeared as neither put up a single point after the run from the previous half. James Mays stepped to fill the scoring void down low with 12 of his 14 points. After falling six points behind the Canes, Terrence Oglesby, who did not have a great night shooting, drained a three and took back the lead. Along with Mays, Cliff Hammonds and Demontez Stitt maintained their strong, consistent play to hold off the Hurricanes until late in the game.

One reason the Tigers were able to stay in the game for so long was Miami's poor shooting from the outside. The Hurricanes seemed content to settle for bad shots from far outside the arch and were simply not hitting much, going 3-18 from 3-point range with three minutes left in the game. At this point, however, the Canes' leading scorer, Jack McClinton, got hot on three straight possessions to pull up and drain a three. McClinton single-handedly turned a 63-57 Clemson lead into a one point advantage for Miami that they would refuse to give up for the rest of the game. Although free throw shooting was finally not a problem for the Tigers (15-20, 75percent), the trouble was Miami's proficiency as they drained 9 out of 10 in the last



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

James Mays lets out frustration with an intimidating yell.

see **HOOPS** page C6

New league for fans



CRISWELL CURTIS

assistant
sports editor

For a true football fan, this Sunday's Super Bowl is the last opportunity to watch any meaningful competition for the next seven months. We get to witness history as the next chapter of Super Bowl lore is chronicled into the annals of our memory. We will receive a climactic finale for the season that was, but not all history is about endings.

During the months of August and September, we fans usually usher in another football season with the departure of summer and the arrival of autumn. A new group is attempting to buck that trend with the help of football fanatics.

The new and upstart All American Football League is attempting to capitalize on the passion of Southern football fans to provide professional football from spring to early summer. That's right. Spring football will now include more than just inter-team scrimmages and arena football.

With the dissolution of NFL Europe, the NFL had no viable option for developing players in a "farm league." Yet the AAFL is more than just a filler league. There is a distinct difference here that has not been seen in previous attempts to foster professional football outside of the NFL. The AAFL is catering its very existence to fans.

The initial teams are meant to draw from the support of football crazed fans in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, Tennessee and Texas. The funny thing that I've noticed is the reciprocal nature with which the AAFL is supporting their soon-to-be fans.

The AAFL's selection of players, coaches and stadiums are all stemming from fan interest and appeal. For instance, the Florida team has recently drafted and signed Chris Leak, the 2006 national champion QB of the Florida Gators. Teams are actually encouraged to draft with their fans in mind. As a Clemson fan, I now have the opportunity to see Woody Dantzler play QB for more than just a Circuit City commercial for TV sets. In fact, Dantzler will start for the Tennessee team whose coach, Andy Kelly, played QB for the Vol's from 1988-91.

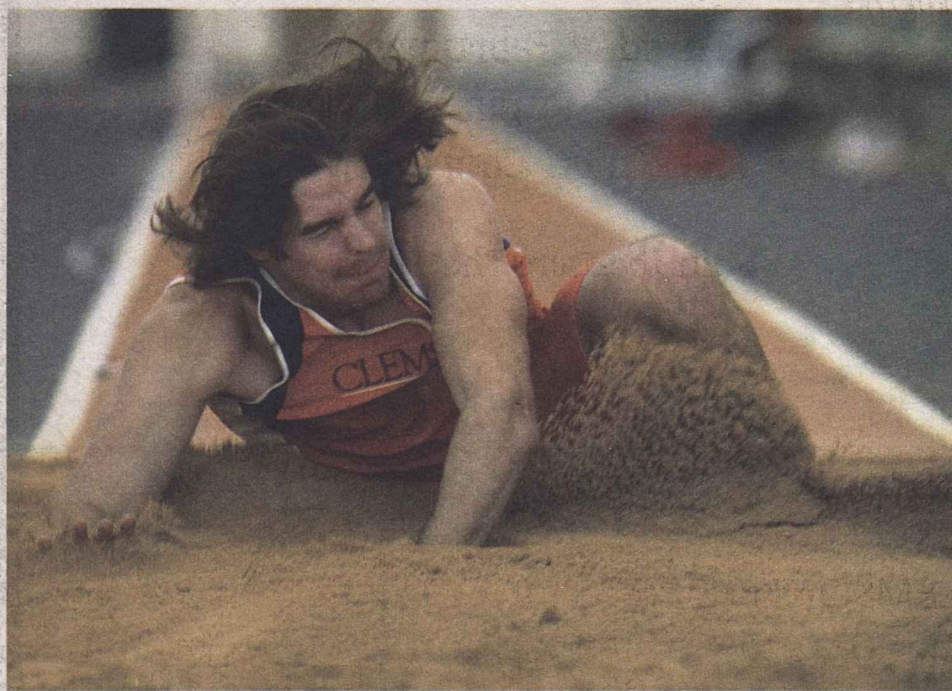
The AAFL's draft protects teams, such as the Florida team securing all players from Miami, Florida, Florida State and others. Now, instead of having a new league with new teams forced upon you, the AAFL is luring fans with the players they already know and love.

When reading the schedule for the Florida team, a video of Danny Wuerffel speaks directly to Florida fans saying that "the players you love" are suiting up

see **AAFL** page C3

Men rest; Women run

Four compete in men's events while women set personal bests.



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

Joey O'Rourke gets dirty after his long jump attempt at last weekend's meet.

TYRONE GAYLE
STAFF WRITER

All but four members of the men's track and field team were resting up this weekend in preparation for the final stretch of the indoor campaign. The four that did compete put themselves through a grueling challenge of seven events ranging from the 60 meter hurdles to pole vaulting to the 1000-meter run.

Redshirt freshman Miller Moss fell just short of an NCAA qualifying mark but scored enough points to win the heptathlon title at the JRF Multi-Event Challenge.

It marks the first time the heptathlon title has been claimed by a Clemson men's athlete in the five-year history of the meet. While he didn't qualify for nationals, he did post the fourth best mark in the event for a Clemson athlete.

This is a pretty impressive feat for a guy who came in having to learn the majority of the events during his redshirt season last year.

Redshirt-junior Mike Feathers came in second with a solid score of 4,979, only 205 points behind Moss. Freshman Conner Webb and junior Joey O'Rourke finished seventh and eighth, respectively, out of the 12

see **TRACK** page C6

TIGER SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday 2/2
Boston College
8 p.m.
Clemson, S.C.

Thursday 2/7
Virginia
7 p.m.
Charlottesville, Va.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday 2/3
Wake Forest
2 p.m.
Clemson, S.C.

Thursday 2/7
North Carolina
7 p.m.
Chapel Hill, N.C.

MEN'S TRACK
Saturday 2/2
Carolina Invitational
10 a.m.
Chapel Hill, N.C.

WOMEN'S TRACK
Friday-Saturday
2/1-2
Carolina Invitational
TBA
Chapel Hill, N.C.

MEN'S TENNIS
Friday 2/1
Tennessee
5 p.m.
Knoxville, Tenn.

Friday 1/25
Texas A&M
5 p.m.
College Station, Texas

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Saturday 2/2
Purdue
11 a.m.
Clemson, S.C.

Sunday 2/3
Virginia Commonwealth
10:30 a.m.
Clemson, S.C.

Swimming dives in

Men's and women's swimming hosts first home meet with a victory and a loss.

SARAH PORRI
STAFF WRITER

The Clemson men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed in their first home meet against nationally ranked Florida State this past weekend at McHugh Natatorium. For the women, it was a close fight all afternoon as the Lady Seminoles barely scraped by the Lady Tigers with a final score of 150.5-149.5. The Clemson men had another impressive showing against a ranked team as they trudged past FSU 174-126. The Lady Tigers are now 6-7 overall and 2-5 in the ACC, and the Tigers move up to 10-2 for the season and 5-2 in the ACC.

"I think we brought to a realization how strong our team is and helped them feel very confident so they would know the true potential of what they can do," said coach Christopher Ip of his women's team preparation.

The meet for both the men and women started out with a bang. The 200-yard medley relay of Ashley Clay, Katrina Obas, Alex Allen and Lauren Sindall out swam the Lady Seminoles to a win with a time of 1:45.81. In the distance events, the trio of Cassy LaRussa, Summer O'Donnell and Sara Smith took the top three spots in the 1,000-yard freestyle. The three girls would return in the 500-yard freestyle and place second, third and fourth, respectively. The Lady Tigers would use their depth in the 200 freestyle with Michelle Parkhurst placing first and O'Donnell, fresh off the 100-yard freestyle, and Rachel Hesler taking third and fourth. These third and fourth place points played a major role in keeping the meet close for both teams. Parkhurst would go on to swim the 100-yard backstroke and gain another victory for the Lady Tigers in this event as well as the 200 yard backstroke with an NCAA "B" time of 1:59.93.

"The day before the meet our

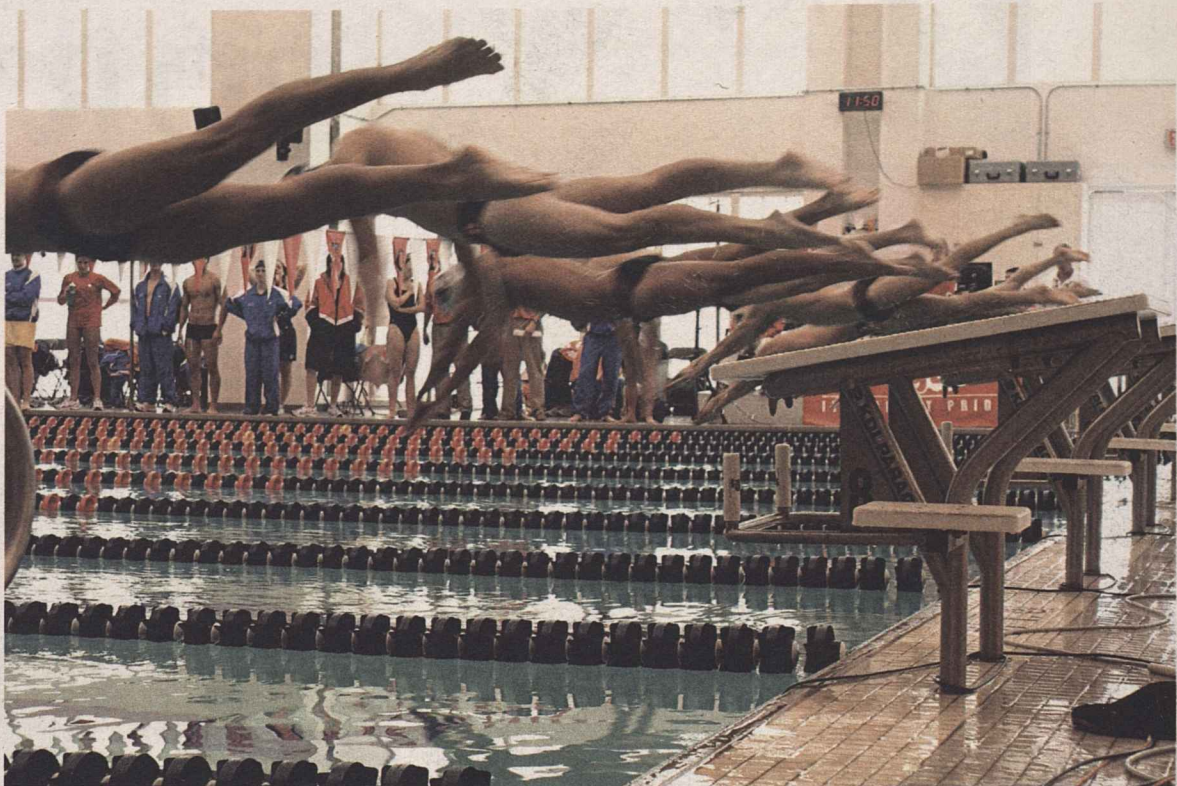
whole team and our coach met to talk about the awesome opportunity we had in front of us," said Co-Captain Ashley Clay. "We decided that we wanted to set the tone from the beginning of the meet and control each event. I would say that we were much more focused and prepared for this meet as a team than we have been for others in the past."

In the breaststroke events, Obas teamed up with fellow sophomore Carmen Groenewoud and freshmen Elizabeth Savage. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Obas was out touched by the Lady Seminoles' Georgia Holderness. Groenewoud and Savage would place fifth and sixth. Obas returned in the 200-yard breaststroke, but was again out-touched by four-tenths of a second by Holderness.

Every single event for the Lady Tigers was close all afternoon. Freshmen Meggie Mizelle fought back and scored a win for Clemson in the 200-yard butterfly, finishing just two-tenths of a second in front of her opponent Tiffany Elias. Junior Rachel Regone and teammates Sindall and Allen placed first, second and fourth in the 50-yard freestyle. The trio would come back after a quick break and place first, third and fifth, thus adding major points for the Lady Tigers in the sprint events.

The Lady Tigers had to rely on their depth and team atmosphere to pull together going into the final events. Florida State had closed the gap after the diving events and the 100-yard butterfly where they placed first, second and third. Obas returned for her final event again with Groenewoud. Obas would take this event with a time of 2:05.80 and Groenewoud took fifth.

After calculating the scores, the Lady Tigers needed to place first and third in the final relay to win the meet. In a close battle, the Clemson women placed first and fourth, losing the meet by a one point margin. The last time



A men's race kicks off the blocks with teammates looking on at last Saturday's meet.

RACHEL GLENN, assistant photo editor

these two teams met earlier this year, FSU crushed the Lady Tigers by over 80 points.

"I think that looking back now we have all come to see this meet not as a loss, but as a major turning point for our team and as a victory," said Clay.

On the Clemson men's side, the 200-yard medley relay carried the momentum from the women's relay to their own victory and a pool record. Seniors Jay Crout, Andy Bergren, Adam Farnham and Mark Vahle completed the relay sweep with a time of 1:30.77, almost a half-second faster than Florida State. Teammates Sean Geary and David Gordon placed third and fourth in the 1000-yard freestyle, taking more points for the Tigers. Gordon would return later in the meet to finish first in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:38.51, a full second faster than the Seminoles Ian Rowe.

"We are trying to build up that hunger by saying we have done this before and we can crack into the Top 25," said Ip of his men's team.

Bryce Harrington teamed up with

Dan Mengerling and Brian Posse to finish first, second and fifth, respectively. The Tigers continued to push away from the Seminoles in the 100 backstroke, taking first through fourth with Jason Chatlosh, Jay Crout, Taylor Thompson and Tom Recko.

The Tigers have been solid all year in the backstroke events. Recko returned a short while later in the 200 backstroke, this time winning in decisive fashion with a time of 1:49.77, a full two second ahead of FSU's Ian Powell.

Seniors Attila Ruzska and Bergren placed first and third in the 100-yard breaststroke as well as second and fourth in the 200 yard breaststroke. Going into the first diving break, the Tigers were beginning to shut the door on the Seminoles.

Senior Adam Farnham had a solid meet for the Tigers. He won the 200-yard butterfly and the 100-yard butterfly, as well as being a part of both winning relays. This performance earned him the honor of ACC Performer of the Week. Farnham marks Clemson's first swimmer to earn this credit so far this season.

"We have lots of confidence in our ability to swim with the best teams out there," said co-captain Jay Crout.

The Tigers fought hard in both sprint events. Seniors Matt Balderston and Vahle tied in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.81 seconds. Balderston competed again in the 100-yard freestyle with fellow senior Stephen

Russell. The two finished second and third, respectively. Russell then swam the 100-yard butterfly with teammate Farnham. They gave the Seminoles the one-two punch, completely shutting the door on any Seminole hopes of a win.

"To beat a team like FSU once is great, but then to take them down twice, especially the way we did, is something we can be proud of," said Crout.

Ruzska swam his final event of the afternoon, the 200-yard individual medley with sophomore Matt Angelini. The two finished first and second, adding more distance between the Tigers and FSU. The final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay was won in true Tiger fashion. Balderston, Farnham, Harrington and Russell combined to defeat the Seminoles by over four seconds. Teamwork together with an everlasting spirit gave the Tigers the edge over the FSU Seminoles.

Both the men's and women's teams return to action February 1st as they travel up to Gardner-Webb. The final home meet of the season takes place on Saturday as the Clemson swimming and diving teams takes on Duke. This will also be the final meet for the senior class in their home pool. The meet begins at 1 p.m. at McHugh Natatorium.

"It's a building stone for both teams," said Ip. "We are a very cognitive team. Now it's time to dial in and really see what we can do together."



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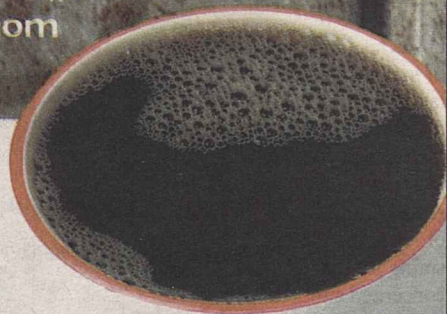
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Trevor Booker receives a pass under the basket against N.C. State.

Athlete Spotlight:

Trevor Booker

ASHLEY SWOAP
SPORTS LAYOUT EDITOR

For the week of January 14, Clemson's sophomore center Trevor Booker was named ACC Player of the Week. "[The award] is a huge honor to get because there are so many great players in the ACC," said Booker on receiving the award. This marked the first time Booker has been given this honor, and it is a nationwide recognition of the dedication and work that Booker puts into Tiger basketball.

Booker hails from Whitmire, S.C., where he graduated from Union High School in 2006. He played for the AAA school's basketball team as a post player. Contrary to one might think of his 6-foot-7-inch frame, Booker played point guard before he hit a growth spurt in high school. Clemson recruited Booker through a travel basketball league, where they approached Booker in Houston, Texas. The University of South Carolina, and Tennessee were also interested, but Booker, who has been playing basketball since elementary school, chose Clemson because he had always wanted to play in the ACC. Since then, Booker has not only become part of a team but part

of a family. My favorite part of playing Clemson basketball is having fun with the guys," said Booker. "Everybody is a clown, cracking jokes all the time." The team unity is evident on the court as the players work together to win basketball games.

Booker's mother influenced his decision to play basketball. She also played for Union High School and was part of a team that went 26-0 and won the AAA state championship her senior year of high school. Booker and his mother aren't the only ones who play basketball in his family. Booker's three younger brothers all play hoops. Devin Booker, a 6-foot-8-inch junior in high school, plans on coming to Clemson in 2009 to play basketball.

One of Booker's major advantages on the court is his strength. At 240 pounds, Booker is the smallest center in the ACC. He has to muscle up when he goes against taller guys and use his strength to take shots and get rebounds. When asked what he thought his biggest weakness on the court was, he replied "my outside shot, but it's coming along." He also mentioned that he stays after the two hour practices to work on those shots. Playing for Coach Oliver Purnell has been a good experience for Booker,

who describes the coach as "a great motivator." Booker also mentioned the leadership of teammate Cliff Hammonds, the senior point guard who is majoring in architecture. "Cliff Hammonds leads by example, on and off the court," said Booker. "He's the hardest working guy on the team."

Booker certainly has the talent to go onto the NBA after playing college basketball but isn't putting his focus solely on basketball. Majoring in sports management, Booker has maintained a GPA over 2.5. Right now, if professional basketball doesn't pan out, he plans to establish basketball camps that assist college players in preparation for the transition from college basketball to the pro leagues.

Booker's favorite game so far this season was the overtime victory against Florida State, where he went 10 for 12 in FG attempts, three for three in 3-point attempts, and six for nine in free throw attempts supplemented by five rebounds. Booker has grown from a freshman with zero college basketball playing time to a confident experienced powerhouse sophomore whose dedication to the game is evident each time he steps on the court.

AAFL from page C1

for the AAFL's Florida team. The league is pulsing with a nostalgic sense of fond memories, providing a means for fans to see their favorite players in action once more.

Another intricate novelty deals with the team names. The league will forego team names and mascots, instead emphasizing the regional support of the likes of Team Texas. This regional support lends itself to college football fans more so than professional.

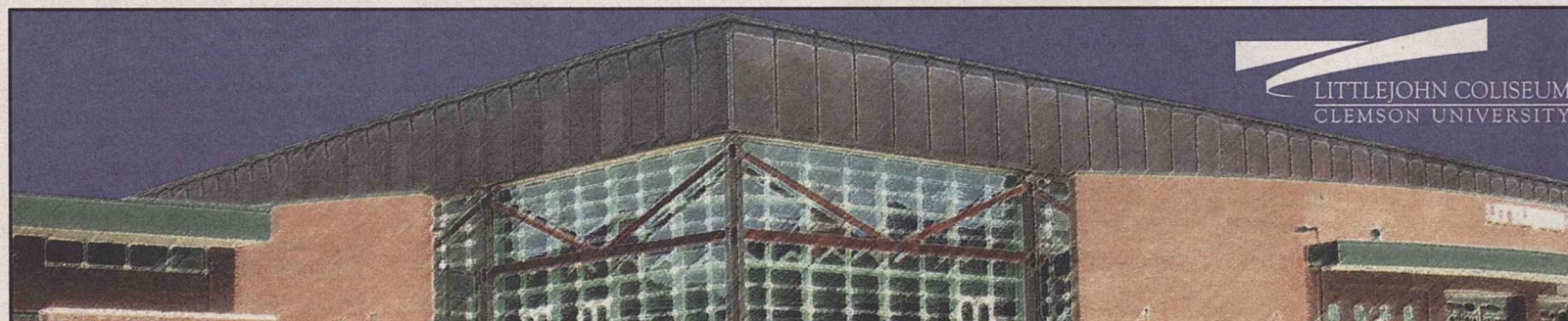
The league is intent on feeding off of regional support. That may seem like stating the obvious, but look at the matter a little closer. The premiere rivalry in MLB is the Yankees—Red Sox series, not New York—Boston. Our rivalry with that loathsome crowd from Columbia—can we really keep terming domination as a rivalry—is referred to by the names of the institutions, Clemson—Carolina, not Tigers—Gamecocks. Professional teams move around from time to time, so, while amateur sports are loyal to their respective regions, professional sports are loyal to their franchises.

These are not the owners' teams. These are the fans' teams. In an effort to increase exposure, the teams will play at any university stadium that fields a D1 program. The Florida team will play home games at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville, Raymond James Stadium in Tampa and Jacksonville Municipal Stadium in Jacksonville. Other universities can even apply to host games if the fan interest is large enough to warrant.

The applications aren't just limited to hosting existing teams either. The web site has a field to ask fans for future teams. "Want an AAFL team in your state? Let us know!" All you or I have to do is submit our name, e-mail, phone number and geography/team of interest to begin rallying support for a Team South Carolina. If the support grows large enough, the league will attempt to establish a team here that could play in both Clemson and Columbia.

Obviously, the All-American Football League must overcome a number of obstacles in order to maintain any level of success. Needless to say, the heat of late spring and early summer is not conducive to regulation football games. The AAFL will also have to establish itself in a market that includes the NFL and Arena Football, but, if the University of Alabama can cater 92,000 fans for a spring football game, I would not be too concerned about fans attending 5 games held before the fourth of July. I, for one, can't wait for mid-April to arrive.

The All American Football League is attempting to utilize a strategy not currently used: the fans. It's about time someone figured out where the heart of professional sports truly lies.

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Lady Tigers ranked No. 9

Women's tennis opens season with wins.

HUNTER KNOWLES
STAFF WRITER

Clemson's women's tennis team got things started off right with dominating wins over Troy on Saturday and Furman on Tuesday. The Lady Tigers were a preseason top 10 team and proved that they belong early in the year. Over the weekend, the Lady Tigers won 10 of 12 singles matches and were undefeated in six doubles matches. No. 4 Ani Mijacika won both her singles matches in the minimum number of sets for the Lady Tigers.

The team kicked things off last weekend with a crushing 6-1 victory over visiting Troy.

The Salge-Federica Van Adrichem pair from Clemson defeated Barnes-El Sisi 8-4 for the closest doubles victory. Other doubles winners for the Tigers were the Estefania Balda and Ani Mijacika pair and the Alexandra Luc and Ina Hadziselimovic pair.

Clemson also dominated the sin-

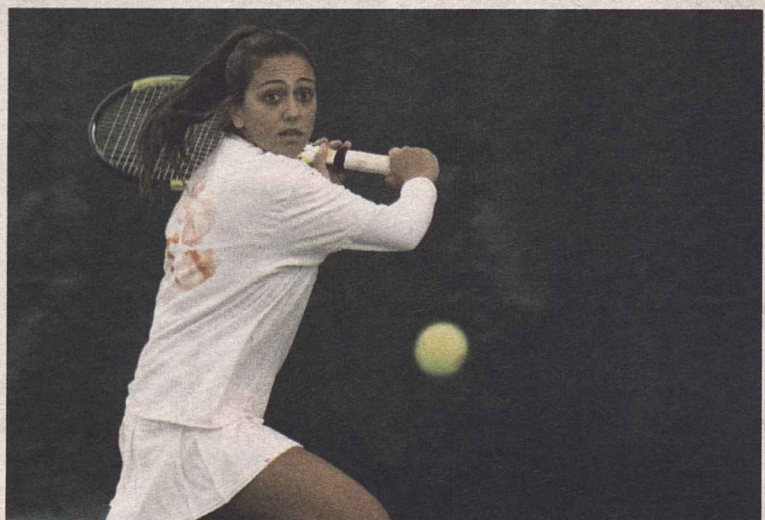
gles matches, with five of six wins. Singles winners were Carol Salge, Estefania Balda, Ani Mijacika, Ina Hadziselimovic and Alexandra Luc. The only winner on the day for Troy was Caroline Jounia.

Following the victory, Clemson traveled to Greenville, S.C., on Tuesday to play Furman on the road. However, the Lady Paladins also proved to be no match for the Lady Tigers.

All three doubles pairs handled their matches easily again.

The Clemson women managed to win five of six singles matches again. The winners from the singles matches against Furman were Balda, Mijacika, with Hadziselimovic and Luc winning their second match of the week. Laura Gioia was the only victorious Lady Paladin. The win puts Clemson at 2-0 on the year.

After the two big wins, Clemson moved up to No. 9 in the latest polls. The Tigers will look to continue their perfect start on Saturday against the Purdue Boilermakers.



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

Lady Tigers win 10 of 12 singles matches over the weekend.

Pros lose sight of sport



BRANDON BOATWRIGHT
staff writer

The only thing professional sports are good for is fantasy leagues. Think about it. In a fantasy league, players don't hold out for contract extensions, criminal allegations don't arise, there are no substance abuse policies and (ironically enough) the players are just there to be a part of the game. Quite the "fantasy" indeed, compared to modern day professional sports.

Over the past decade, professional sports have taken a media-friendly turn for the worse. The NBA's brawl in 2004, the NFL's growing list of employed felons and MLB's recent Mitchell Report (just to name a few) have all tarnished the games they represent. It's pure, unadulterated naivety on the part of commissioners, owners, players and fans alike that have let our national pastimes turn out this way.

However, each league, in its own right, has integrated steps to improve their sports' image. NBA players now have to wear suits to games. MLB players are now subject to random drug testing. That's progressive thinking if I've ever seen it.

It's stupidity like this that makes college athletics so much more respectable, now more than ever, compared to the professionals.

There are several outstanding reasons that compelled me to write this column comparing college sports to the professionals. To me, it's a very clear distinction between the two, with college sports easily dominating the pros in pretty much every category.

For example, professional sports are much more individualistic than collegiate athletics. Money is the driv-

ing force for many professional athletes. Free agents will go to the highest bidder. When some feel as if they aren't being compensated enough for their talents, they either leave or hold out for a new contract so they can buy that second beach house in Miami. This just shows how much money will make athletes that much more conceited. They are more concerned about their own economic and social status that they put their teams second.

On the other hand, college athletes, coming out of high school, want to go where they feel at home. They go to the place where they feel content to play their sport and be a part of something. These are still the kids that are satisfied with seeing their name in the newspaper and not on the deed to a multi-million dollar mansion (yet). They play for love of the game, and for an education. As the NCAA commercials state, "just about all of us (college athletes) will go pro in something other than sports."

Also, traditions and rivalries are exponentially better in college than those of the professionals. The rivalries between the Cowboys and the Redskins and the Red Sox and the Yankees just aren't that exciting to watch. There's not nearly as much passion surrounding them as the major collegiate rivalries around the country. Unless both teams are very good and competing for playoff position, there's really nothing special about the matchups.

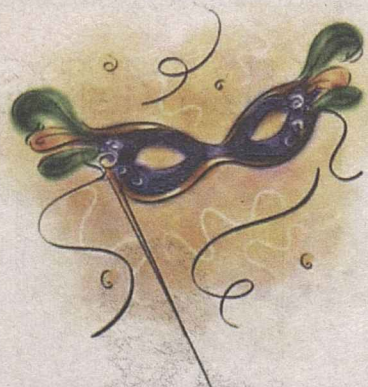
However, the rivalries between Ohio State and Michigan, Duke and North Carolina and Clemson and Carolina are different. Year in, year out, whether the teams are winning or not, loyalists to either side of a college rivalry come out in droves to make life for the opposition a living hell. It may be because the histories and traditions of the individual rivalries run much deeper than any of those at the pro lev-

el. Or maybe it's that college rivalries don't play each other nearly as often as professional rivals do. Typically, college football rivals play each other once a year for bragging rights, but it's common for NFL rivals to play twice or even three times (playoffs) which takes away from each rivalry game's significance.

The one tricky part in comparing college to professionals is the playoff systems. Clearly, college football needs a playoff system much like the NFL. The BCS just is not effective. To be perfectly honest, when Hawaii matches up against Georgia in the Sugar Bowl, you have to think something may be flawed with the system. When, not if, but when college football adopts a playoff system and finally ditches the BCS, there will be no hesitation in this decision. But despite the BCS and all its flaws, I still give the edge to college athletics based on one very big reason: March Madness. Perhaps the most grueling, exciting and frustrating month in all of sports, NCAA tournament basketball in March is one of the most incredible competitions in all of sports.

Sixty-four teams all battle it out for one spot that clearly establishes them as the best in the country. It's competition in its purest form. There's no one complaining about how they have to practice and nobody holding out for contracts. It's just athletes playing a game. It's hard-working, determined and goal-oriented teammates working together to accomplish a universal goal of being the best.

Somewhere in between brawls, arrests, contracts and steroids, I think the professionals lost track of that train of thought. So to all of the overpaid, egotistical, self-absorbed and pretentious professional athletes out there, do me a favor and stay out of trouble long enough so I can earn some bragging rights with my fantasy teams.



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DANIEL TAYLOR
SPORTS EDITOR

CLEMSON

VS. BOSTON COLLEGE



BRIAN SCHNEIDER / photo editor

AP TOP 25

1. Memphis
2. Kansas
3. Duke
4. North Carolina
5. UCLA
6. Georgetown
7. Tennessee
8. Michigan State
9. Washington State
10. Texas
11. Indiana
12. Butler
13. Wisconsin
14. Stanford
15. Xavier
16. Drake
17. Marquette
18. Pittsburgh
19. Vanderbilt
20. Florida
21. Saint Mary's
22. Kansas State
23. Texas A&M
24. Mississippi
25. Baylor



Standings

School	Conf.	Overall
Duke	5-0	17-1
North Carolina	4-1	19-1
Boston College	3-2	12-5
Virginia Tech	4-3	13-8
Clemson	3-3	15-5
Wake Forest	3-3	13-6
Georgia Tech	3-3	10-9
N.C. State	2-3	13-6
Maryland	2-3	12-8
Miami	2-4	15-5
Florida State	2-5	13-9
Virginia	1-4	11-7

As college basketball closes the books on the month of January, a number of ACC schools are disappointed in their current position. Nine schools have at least three conference losses, and only two schools are currently ranked in the top 25. The two tobacco road teams, No. 3 Duke and No. 4 North Carolina, have remained in national spotlight, while the rest of the conference has ripped each other apart.

The great number of overtime matches and buzzer-beater finishes has made for exciting basketball, but also knocked many teams out of the national rankings. Considering the parody of the ACC conference, finishing with a winning conference record is a worthy goal for most teams.

Tomorrow night, Clemson and Boston College will clash in Littlejohn Coliseum as both teams fight to stay alive against the brutal ACC schedule.

In the last few years, Boston College has become a bitter rival with the Tigers. The schools have a natural urge to hate each other with one being a private Northern institution and the other a Southern land grant school. Boston College's recent successes against Clemson, both on the football field and the basketball court, have only added to the rivalry.

In their last seven games, the Clemson Tigers have found themselves in a struggle nearly every night. After rolling through their non-conference foes and amassing a 12-1 record, the Tigers have entered the heart of their ACC schedule and the few victories have come in knock-down, drag-out fights. Since losing their heartbreaking conference o

penner, where the Tigers fell to No. 1 North Carolina 90-88 in overtime, Clemson has only managed three victories. Two of those wins came in overtime matches at home versus Florida State and Wake Forest. The 70-54 win against N.C. State two weeks ago has remained Clemson's only complete victory in conference play.

Boston College enters the game attempting to break a two-game skid. The Eagles opened their ACC schedule on a high note, defeating Maryland, Wake Forest and Miami. However, a brutal loss 84-66 to Virginia in Charlottesville gave Boston College their first conference loss. Seven days later, the Eagles dropped their second game to Virginia Tech, falling 81-73 in overtime.

A critical point for the Tigers will be managing without big man Trevor Booker. Booker, who turned his ankle in Clemson's last contest against Miami, is questionable for a start

against the Eagles. Experts have constantly cited Clemson's edge in size against other teams in the ACC.

With Booker's high ankle sprain, Raymond Sykes will be seeing more playing time. Sykes has looked much better offensively than previous years. While Sykes is only averaging five points per game, he is choosing his shots well. The Clemson junior is currently fourth in the ACC in field goal percentage (59.7).

Coach Oliver Purnell may ask Sykes to take more offensive opportunities against the Eagles. With Booker out, the Eagles cannot be allowed to focus all energy on James Mays down low. Of course the three-point shooting ability of K.C. Rivers and Terrence Oglesby will also help spread the defense and take pressure off the Clemson forwards.

The three-point line could be a potential exploit for the Tigers. Rivers, Oglesby and Hammonds all have made more threes than anyone on Boston College's team.

For Boston College, guard Tyrese Rice is the player that the team revolves around. The six foot one guard has been giving everyone fits. Rice averages 20 points per game — second only to North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough in the ACC. Rice also distributes the ball, averaging five assists a game. One bright spot for the Tigers is that Rice has turned the ball over 55 times this year, third in the ACC. With Clemson's ability to create turnovers, Rice's ball handling will be critical aspect tomorrow evening.

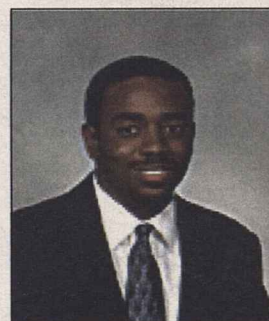
While Rice has shown he can take over a game, he cannot defeat the Tigers alone. Versus Virginia Tech, Rice was able to score 27 points, but the Hokies still pulled out the victory.

Instead, Shamari Spears will be the man that can potentially win the game for the Eagles. His 11.2 points per game is first among the Boston College big men. While this isn't an eye-popping number, the Eagles only have three players that average over 10 points. Clemson, by comparison, has five. Any offensive production from anyone but Rice will be welcomed by the Eagles. Spears also leads the squad with 7.5 rebounds per game.

Because Clemson's forwards remain banged up, Spears's numbers could potentially explode.

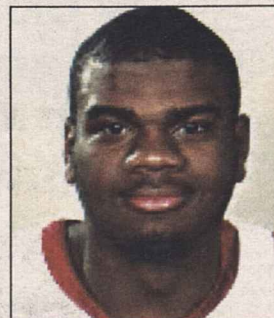
The Tigers will need to contain him on offense and also maintain the rebounding edge that they have held against most teams. Spears will be the man for Boston College that could most likely stop Clemson's dominance on the offensive boards.

KEY PLAYERS



K.C. Rivers

With Trevor Booker's ankle injury, Clemson needs someone to step up on the boards. Rivers is second on the team with 83 defensive rebounds despite the junior playing in a primarily outside role.



Shamari Spears

While not as lauded as Tyrese Rice, Spears will give the Tigers problems inside if left unchecked. The sophomore averages 7.5 rebounds per game and ranks fifth in offensive boards with 47 on the year.

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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 1

HOOPS *from page C1*

minute of play to seal the win.

In the loss, several players stood out for the Tigers. Stitt led Clemson in scoring with 15 points and continues to mature and improve as a freshman point guard. Hammonds added another 12 points but really made his impact crashing the boards, coming down with nine rebounds. Rivers was good for 15 points all in the first half, and Mays had 14 total with 12 of them after the break.

While Sykes did generate some offense in the first half with eight points, his one rebound on the game was disappointing for the 6 foot 9 inch center. Freshman Jerai Grant was strong in 10 minutes of spot play with five rebounds and two blocks.

The loss moves Clemson into a three-way tie for fourth in the ACC standings. Tomorrow, the third place team, Boston College, comes to Littlejohn for a huge game with the Tigers.

After watching the expression on Trevor Booker's face after twisting his ankle and his return to the court on crutches, Tiger fans probably did not expect to see his return to the lineup any time soon.

Booker shared in these sentiments but was soon relieved to hear some great news. "When it first happened, I thought it would be a serious injury because of the pain I was in," Booker said. "But [Monday] I got X-rays and everything came back okay. I will be back on Saturday."

TRACK *from page C1*

total competitors.

The women's team only took 22 athletes on their long bus ride to the University of Florida, but got quality performances all across the board. Valuable production came by way of Coach Gordon Thomson's distance crew as freshmen Stephanie Buffo and Jenna Baker walked away with news personal bests in the mile (5:03.18) and the 3000 meter (9:55.45), respectively.

Both times are currently among the top of the Atlantic Coast Conference. "It was nice to return home to my alma mater, and have my girls run so well" said the second year coach. Junior Candice Johnson scored her second PR in as many weeks running 2:18.13 in the 800m.

The Lady Tiger sophomores Patricia Mamona and Nakeisha Wineglass were successful in the jumps yet again and set personal bests and top marks in the ACC in the long jump taking ninth and 13th place, respectively.

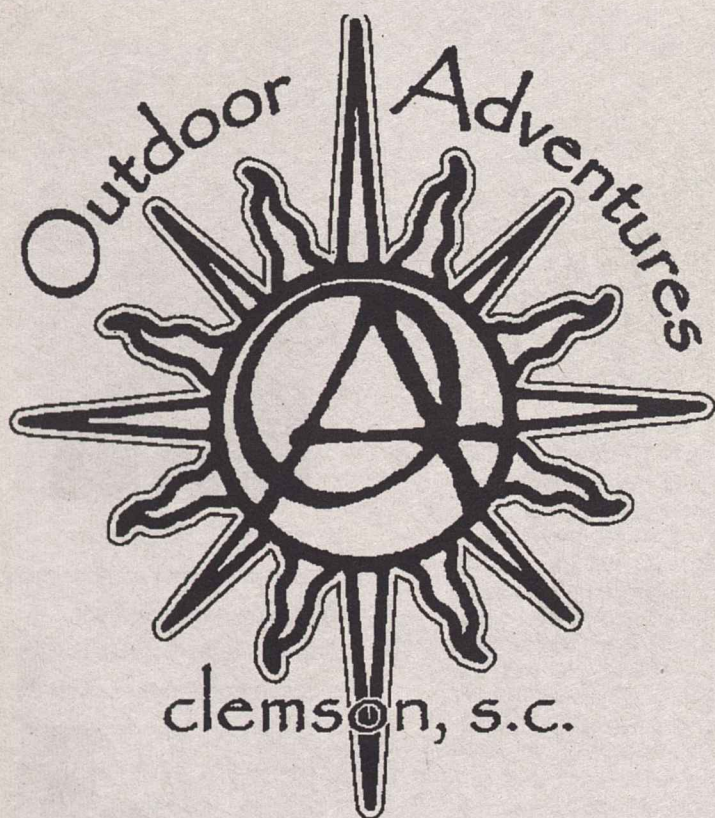
Anastasia Wilson and April Sinkler kept their momentum from the Clemson Invitational going as they

finished fifth and sixth in the high jump, respectively. Both cleared 5-foot-8-inches, a mark which ranks fifth in school history for the indoor high jump. Wilson's previous personal best was a 5-foot-6-inch clearance on two occasions. Sinkler cleared 5-foot-7-inches at the Clemson Invitational last weekend as well.

The men will take around 20 of their athletes to Chapel Hill, N.C., this weekend for the Carolina Invitational. Not among those athletes will be any members of the distance team as Coach Bob Pollock believes it would suit his squad better to use this week to get in more quality workouts, as opposed to racing.

"I don't feel like we are where we need to be right now," said the 18-time ACC Coach of the Year. "This week off from competition will allow us to perform better in our workouts, and look ahead towards the conference championship meet at the end of February."

The women will join the men in Chapel Hill with around half of their team.



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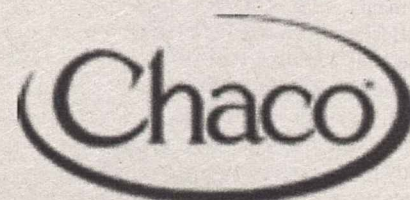
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Super Bowl XLII Preview

18-0 Patriots have one final test.

ny

RYAN LAUNIUS
STAFF WRITER

It seems like only yesterday that the entire NFL was full of hopes and aspirations for the '07-'08 season. The New England Patriots were fresh off of their AFC Championship loss to the Indianapolis Colts, the Miami Dolphins were looking forward to a season where they may be in contention for a wild card and the Falcons were excited for their new coach Bobby Petrino to utilize Joey Harrington for a productive offense. But those days are long gone, and 266 football games later we find ourselves with only two teams and one game left: Super Bowl XLII.

Yes, the Super Bowl is upon us yet again this year and the odds are that you will be watching the game whether it be for social reasons, comedic commercials or the game itself. This year's game pits the undefeated New England Patriots against the unexpected New York Giants who overcame all odds to beat veteran Brett Favre and the Packers in the near arctic weather of Lambeau Stadium just two weeks ago.

Both the Patriots and the Giants met up in the Meadowlands in week 17, when the world witnessed the Patriots become the first team to ever have a 16-0 regular season. Most people seem to remember the end result of the game when Tom Brady and Co. beat yet another team in the most dominant season the NFL has ever seen.

However, what is often forgotten is that the game itself was the closest call the Pats had all year. The week 17 Patriot game was the first time the world witnessed Eli Manning come out of his shell of mediocrity when he threw for four touchdowns and only one interception. Late in the third quarter of their final regular season match-up, the Giants led by as many as 12 points before allowing Bill Belichick's squad to score 22 straight and eventually win the game 38-35. The Patriot comeback was highlighted by two Laurence Maroney short yardage touchdown runs and a 65-yard reception by Randy Moss that put 6 more on the board and gave the Patriots the lead for good.

If you have been watching the media coverage for the Super Bowl over the past two weeks you probably realize that the news surrounding these two teams right now are about as dull as a stabilizing boot on a sprained ankle. But even though the news cannot seem to get past Brady's possible injury there is much more to this Patriots team than just one man.

Besides Tom Brady, the Patriot offense still has many stars. Lawrence Maroney is a running back who has been quickly rising on everyone's list of elites in the NFL this season. And despite Randy Moss' poor playoff performances (2 receptions for 32 yards in the postseason), he still had a career-high 23 touchdown receptions this season and has the physical ability to take control of any game. Also, should the Giants decide to double cover Moss, they are likely to leave either Donte Stallworth or Wes Welker open downfield. Welker, who is a former Texas Tech receiving star, was considered too small by most teams due to his 5'9" stature.

The Patriots love that they took a risk on him because he broke the New England franchise receptions record with 112 catches for 1,175 yards and he currently leads Patriot receivers in the postseason with 16 receptions for 116 yards, and a pair of scores.

The flashy Pats offense often overshadows the workhorses playing for a very diligent and effective New England defense. The success that this defense has witnessed starts with the linebacking corps, which consists of Mike Vrabel, Junior Seau and Teddy Bruschi.

Even though these men are aging (Seau is now 39 years old), they have managed to contribute with leadership

and key plays throughout the season.

Teddy Bruschi leads the team in tackles and is often considered the heart of the defense while Mike Vrabel has recorded twelve and a half sacks this season to lead Patriot defenders. Even the ancient Junior Seau is fourth on the team with 73 tackles. But perhaps the most impressive statistic that shows the intelligence of this defense is how they have performed as a unit when seeing teams for a second time in the season.

The Patriots have played four teams for a second time this season when meeting up against divisional foes like the Jets, Bills and the Dolphins in the regular season or playing the Chargers again in the playoffs.

When playing each team the first time around, they allowed the opposition to score an average of 16 points, while only allowing an average of just under 10 points from the opposition the second time around.

As the Patriots meet up with the Giants this Sunday it is hard to imagine that they do not have memories of their previous meeting fresh in their heads

that may likely help them shut down the Giants offense.

But the offense that the Giants bring to the table will be reluctant to give the game to the hands of the Patriot D. Since Eli Manning threw an interception in week 17 against the Patriots, the Giant offense has not turned the ball over once. It is impressive to play three games on the road against the great defenses of Tampa Bay, Dallas and Green Bay only to end every offensive possession with a punt or a score, but the G-Men have accomplished just that. Yet even with Eli Manning completing almost 63 percent of his passes and their offense not turning the ball over, the Giants will need to do even more to beat their adversaries in the Super Bowl.

I think it is fair to state that the San Diego Chargers and Jacksonville Jaguars have sufficiently proven that if the Patriots are to be beaten, it will not be through settling for red zone field goals. The New York Giants are going to have to lay it all on the line if they want to win Sunday which means that they should not settle for three points when seven is

a possibility. The Patriot defense ranks fourth in the NFL in stopping opposing offenses on third down but only twentieth in stopping fourth down conversions. The Giants will likely see many big third downs that they will not convert, and if they are in Patriot territory they will need to gamble on fourth down if they want to slay the Goliath that is this New England team. The second thing the Giants are going to have to do is ease up on their rushing defense and drop back into a stiffer coverage against Welker and Moss. This will allow Maroney more room to rush, but is still less likely to give up the big play than if the Giants were to load all of their defenders in the box.

But even if the Giants accomplish all of that, it still seems like they have little to no chance against the omnipotent Pats. Before the postseason started, there was next to nothing special about the Giants. They had a record of only 4-4 in the last half of the season and were a paltry 1-5 against playoff teams. Their defensive and offensive numbers were as mediocre and bland as a foot-

ball game covered by Brian Gumbel, while their identity was nothing short of schizophrenic. But something has happened in the past month that has caused the Giants to pull everything together at the right time to play smart and controlled football.

While the Patriots may be favored heavily in their fourth Super Bowl appearance in seven years (they won the first three), this game somewhat resembles the Super Bowl that started the Patriot dynasty when they were matched up against the Rams. Kurt Warner's high flying and flashy offense was taking on the little known upstart Patriots with the youngster Tom Brady at the helm. Nobody gave the Pats a chance, and yet they somehow came back to beat the Rams on a last second Adam Viniateri field goal. I'm not saying that the Giants are going to take down the juggernaut Patriots this Sunday, or even that the game will be close. All I am saying is that if Eli Manning and his Giants bring their new identities to Arizona they just might give us something more to watch than a few goofy commercials.

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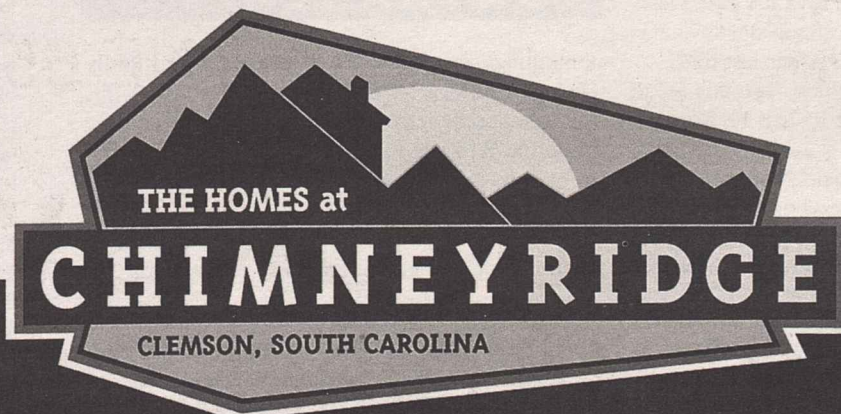
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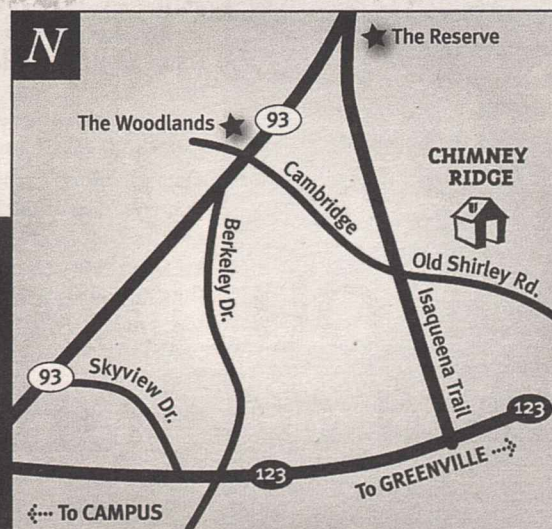
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Upstate

Calendar
of Events

2.1

Dance for the Cure, sponsored by EUREKA! Student Advisory Board. Hendrix Center Ballrooms. 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$5 at the door and \$3 in advance.

"As You Like It" at the Strom Thurmond Institute. 8 p.m. Free.

2.2

The Romeros at The Peace Center. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$48.

2.3

The Fashion Awards at The Peace Center. 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$13 for children.

2.4

Test Anxiety Workshop, sponsored by the Academic Success Center. 5:30 p.m. in 412 Daniel Hall. Free to all students.

"We Own the Night" at McKissick Theatre. 9 p.m. Free.

2.5

Tigergras, sponsored by CLEMSONLIVE. Union Courtyard from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free.

2.6

Co-ed Freshmen Dodgeball Tournament. Fike.

Have an event you want to see featured on the calendar? E-mail timeout@thetigernews.com.

Theatre Festival hits campus

Brooks Center presents a showcase of talent.



CONTRIBUTED BY MARK CHARNEY

CORRINA MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Clemson University is going to be a bit of a big deal next week. The University will be hosting the Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Hundreds of college actors, scenic designers, sound designers, theatre critics, makeup artists, playwrights and directors are assembling at Clemson University to showcase their skills and participate in this incredible theatre festival. University and colleges in the Southeast such as Mississippi, Florida, Virginia and as far away as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are sending participants.

The KCACTF festival was started in 1968 by Roger L. Stevens, founding chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts located in Washington D.C. and has grown into a network involving more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country.

Through KCACTF student artists and actors who have been nominated for their skills in their particular area showcase their skills for a chance to be recognized and receive awards and scholarships in playwriting, acting, criticism, directing and design.

Acting students are able to compete for regional scholarships and the

chance to perform in Washington as part of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions.

Irene Ryan was an incredibly famous and versatile actress who did everything from radio, film and television to vaudeville and Broadway. She is extremely well known for her portrayal of "Granny" on the long-time running TV series "The Beverly Hillbillies." Technical theatre students also have their fair share of prestigious prizes to compete for. Among them are the Barbizon Awards for Theatrical Design Excellence for Costumes, Sets and Lights, The KCACTF Marvin Sims Design Fellowships and the Alcone Company Makeup Design Fellowship.

Since its founding, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theatre students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. KCACTF puts on approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide attended by more than 16 million theatergoers.

This is Clemson's first time hosting the festival. More than 50 workshops in a wide variety of areas of theatre — playwriting, design, acting, directing — will take place along with a full schedule of national presenters. Clemson's director of theatre Mark

see **THEATRE** page D2

"Untraceable"
mimics society

Film carries moral message to crowd.

GREG BLANTON
STAFF WRITER

In an era when cinema has been judged more on financial success than value, this rare film transcends the stigma.

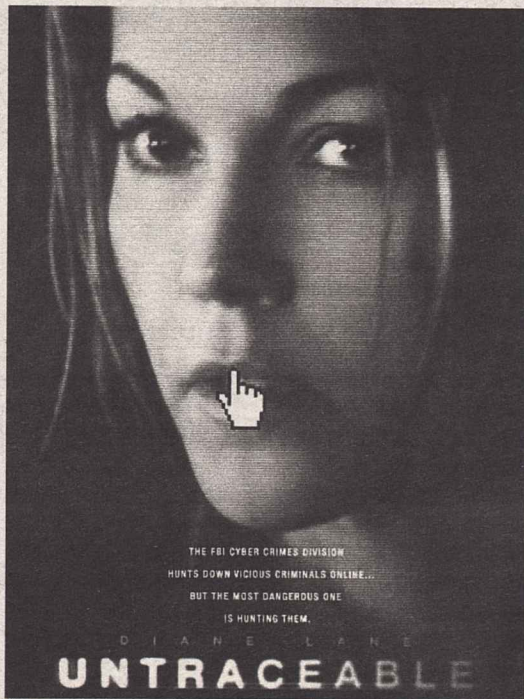
On Friday, Jan. 25, "Untraceable" was released in national theaters with relatively little hype. Overshadowing the film were two lesser films, "Rambo" and "Meet the Spartans." "Spartans" is the product of directors Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer, who are also responsible for spoof films "Date Movie" and "Epic Movie." All of these films have a common thread — they're dumb, they're entirely dependent on crude humor and they have no cinematic value whatsoever.

Before "Rambo" is dealt with, let it be known that the series of absurd action films is highly regarded by this writer as an institution of American film. That being said, "Rambo" is so over the top, so inane, so dumb that the films are absolutely hysterical. As if the series didn't inflate Sylvester Stallone's ego enough in the eighties, the man has come back at the ripe age of 61, admittedly pumped with human growth hormones, to kick butt for one last time.

Readers may scoff and think that this is all being taken too seriously, but it shall be admitted that there is a place for humor as well as a place for entertaining action. The issue, however, is that modern cinema has become oversaturated with these kinds of films. Films like "Rambo" and "Meet the Spartans" are of the kind that deserves the insulting title 'movie' rather than 'film.'

Also released on Jan. 25 was "Untraceable," a film that placed fifth on the list of the weekend's top grossing films; numbers one and two were "Meet the Spartans" and "Rambo," respectively. "Untraceable" is one of the few films that transcend the black hole that is modern day Hollywood.

"Untraceable" tells the story of Jennifer Marsh (Diane Lane), an FBI agent tracking a murderer who broadcasts his killings live on the Internet. The gruesome murders contain a catch. As more people log into the Web site to tune into the video,



the killings accelerate. The murderer, Owen Reilly (Joseph Cross), says that it is not he who kills his victims, but the tens of millions of people who log on to the Web site to watch the murders; if no one went on to the Web site to watch, the victims would not have died.

This circumstance is a grim statement on the current state of our society. Firstly, our world has become entirely too consumed with and dependent on the Internet. Between Facebook, pornography or YouTube, our generation's livelihood begins and ends with the Internet. Secondly, the fact that tens of millions of people cannot resist the temptation to watch people die, even though they know that their viewership is lending a hand to a murder is an unfortunate yet accurate assessment of society today.

"Untraceable" carries with it a strong moral message and an accurate portrayal of the state of

see **UNTRACEABLE** page D2

"27
Dresses"
delights

Film is predictable
but delightful.

CORRINA MILLER
STAFF WRITER

"27 Dresses" is the latest guilty pleasure for women. Boston Globe called it "a sporadically entertaining cupcake of a movie." While it is no Oscar winning, life changing, cinematic event, it is indeed a delightfully wonderful chick flick. It's been a while since the ladies of America have gotten a good dose of chick flick. We had "Enchanted" a month or so ago and now along comes "27 Dresses." It is a down right sexy, giggly, kissing in the rain, tall dark and handsome, chasing after the love of your life, happily ever after chick flick. Men, there is pretty much nothing for you in this flick. No boobies, not a lot of beer, no guns, nothing gets blown to smithereens. However, if you do have the guts to take your girlfriend and suffer through, you'll get lots of bonus points.

So here's the pleasantly predictable premise; "Plain" Jane (Katherine Heigl) works as a magazine assistant, has a secret, heavy duty crush on her eco-friendly boss, George (Edward Burns) and has been a bridesmaid 27 times because it is her "calling to make people happy on the happiest day in their life." Then George falls for Jane's spoiled, Barbie doll princess, self-centered sister, Tess. When the happy couple gets engaged, Jane becomes the maid of honor and is expected to plan her sister's wedding to the man she secretly loves. All the while she's being hounded by wedding reporter, Kevin (James Marsden), who finds Jane and her 27 brides-

see **DRESSES** page D4

THE ASTRO

Playing Feb. 1 through Feb. 7:

National Treasure 2 - PG 1:30, 3:45, 7:15, 9:40

Rendition - R 1:00, 3:30, 7:00, 9:20

Alvin & the Chipmunks - PG-13 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30

All seats are always \$2.
Matinees only play on Saturday and Sunday.

UNTRACEABLE from page D1

society. In addition, it is a quality and captivating film. The acting is impressive, there are no absurd or over-the-top special effects and the film deftly toes the line between drama, suspense and horror. In a word, the film is executed with well-calculated precision.

The only complaint a viewer would have with the film is its ending. It seems, though, that lately

there has been a rash of unsatisfying endings. However, a questionable ending to a film that is otherwise acés can be excused.

What is not excusable is society's dependence on the Internet and our cavalier attitude toward the way we treat our fellow man. Maybe what the world needs is a few more movies like "Untraceable" to get the word out.

THEATRE from page D1

Charney said, "Hosting the festival is a wonderful opportunity to expose the local community to the diversity of academic theatre. The festival showcases some of the best college technical practices and stage talent in this part of the country. I invite theatre practitioners, both professional and amateur, to take part."

As part of the Region VI Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival will have a wide arrangement of plays presented and performed by visiting university and colleges. The University of Alabama at Birmingham will be presenting "In the Blood" by Suzan Lori Parks and University of Southern Mississippi will be presenting "Doubt" by John Patrick Shanley, just to name a few. Along with these staged productions, a number of short productions will be presented including "This Side Up" by Clemson University's own Kendall Sherwood.

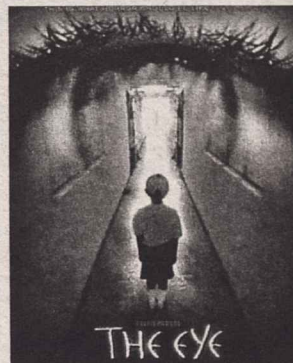
The festival runs Feb. 4 through Feb. 9. For event dates, times and prices please visit <http://www.clemson.edu/brooks/events/> or call the Brooks Center Box Office at 656-RSVP (7787).

PREVIEW

GREG BLANTON
STAFF WRITER

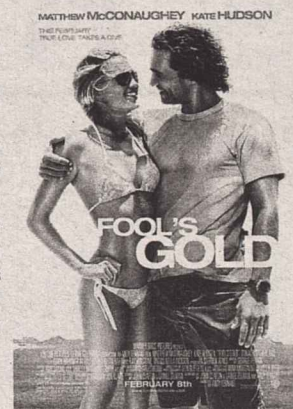
"The Eye" Feb. 1

When a blind concert violinist (Jessica Alba) receives an eye operation to regain her eyesight, what she sees is not pleasant. Frightening images begin to haunt the woman as she tries to figure out whether what she sees is a result of the operation, her imagination or actually real. Produced by Tom Cruise, "The Eye" looks to be a bone-chilling supernatural thriller.



"Fool's Gold" Feb. 1

Starring Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson and Donald Sutherland, "Fool's Gold" may be the comedy of the year. The film tells the story of Ben Finnegan (McConaughey), a young treasure hunter who has lost just about everything in his life, including his beautiful wife, Tess (Hudson). Ben looks to reverse his fortunes, though, with priceless treasure lost deep in the sea.



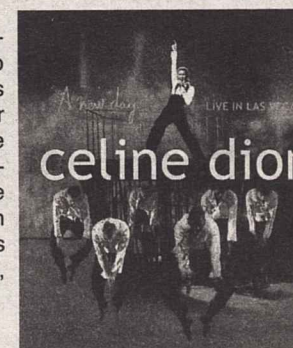
"Across the Universe" Feb. 5

The love story of Jude from Liverpool and American girl Lucy will now comfort torn lovers and Beatles fans alike within the comfort of home. "Across the Universe" follows the path of young adults during the 1960s and the anti-war movement, all to the tune of The Beatles. TimeOut is dying to know, can Lucy and her dock boy keep it together?



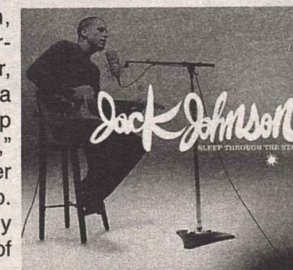
"Celine Dion: A New Day Live in Vegas" Feb. 5

America's favorite Canadian pop star (okay, besides Avril) has taken her show to Vegas. We all loved her sensual "Titanic" ballad, but can we handle Celine unleashed with showgirls? Apparently even Celine can't anymore, which is why she has ended her deal with Caesars Palace. Oh well, as least we will have the good ole days.



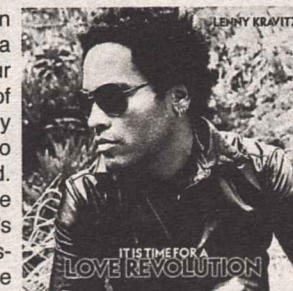
"Sleep Through the Static" Jack Johnson Feb. 5

Jack Johnson, America's favorite chill rocker, will be releasing a new album, "Sleep Through the Static," this Feb. 5. The former professional surfer has had two No. 2 records and another No. 3 record. Perhaps this year Jack will finally ascend that last spot and sit in the throne of the No. 1 spot on Billboard's Top 200 chart.



"It Is Time for a Love Revolution" Lenny Kravitz Feb. 5

This musician hasn't released a studio album in four years, but fans of the eccentric Lenny Kravitz are about to have their appetites for new music whetted. Kravitz is releasing his new album, "It Is Time for a Love Revolution" this Feb. 5. Kravitz's upcoming record is hailed as being a roots-rock and retro-sounding record — a departure from his latest pop efforts.



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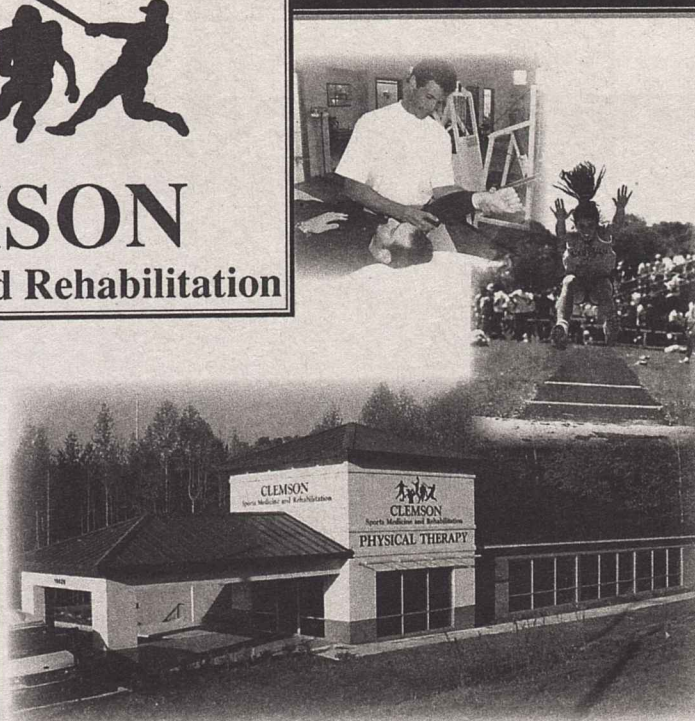
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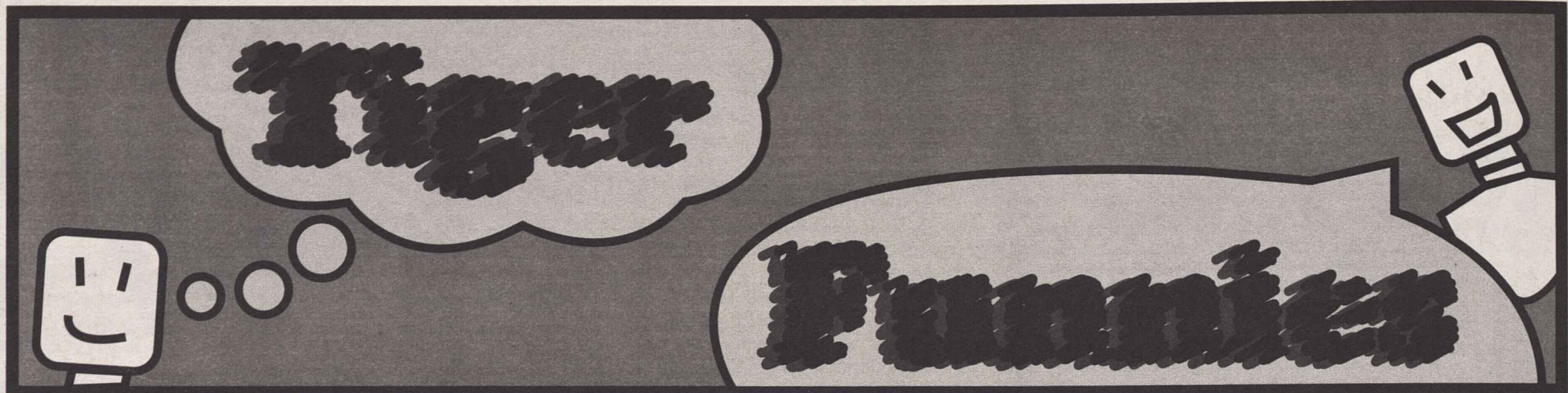
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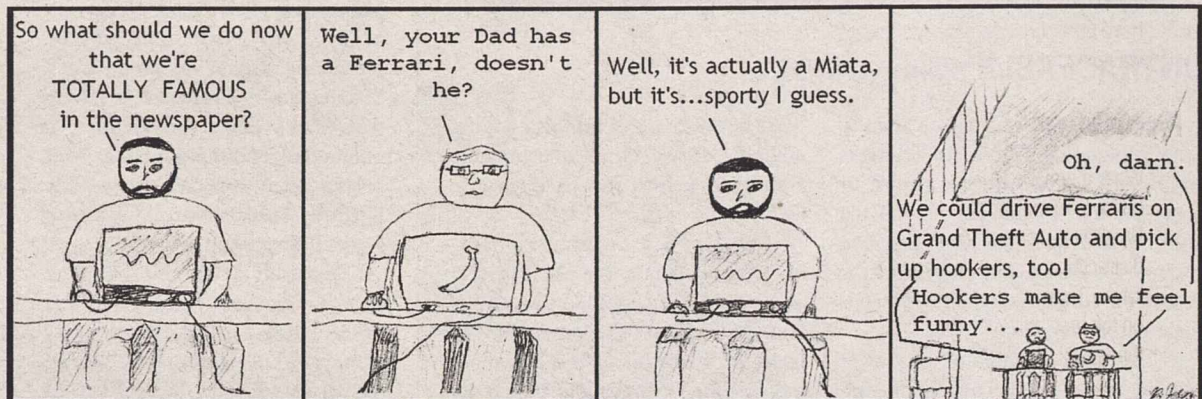
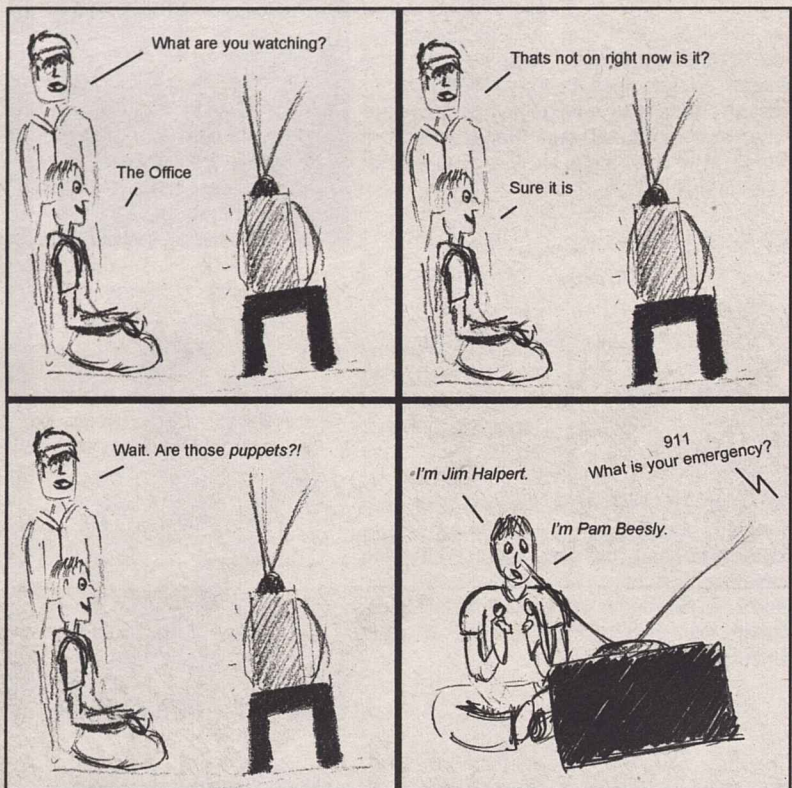


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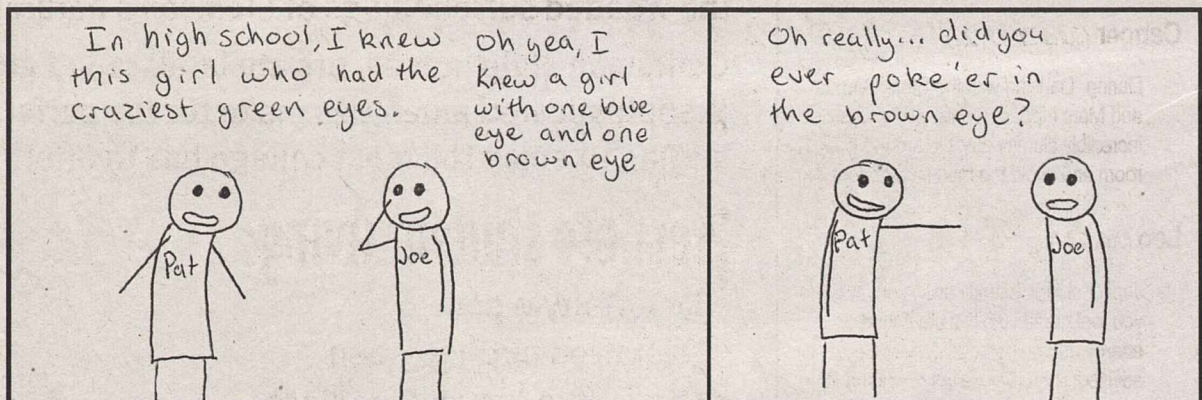
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J. Pino



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ACROSS

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- 4 Eight
- 9 Pop (plr.)
- 12 Santa call (2 wds.)
- 14 Announcer
- 15 Electrical current unit
- 16 Movie star
- 17 Dance
- 18 Otherwise
- 19 Rearrange
- 21 Relax
- 23 Bolus
- 24 Pea holder
- 25 Talk about, with "over"
- 28 Root vegetable
- 31 Prick
- 34 Tea
- 36 Ozone
- 38 Compact bundle
- 40 Branch of learning
- 41 Steal
- 43 Frock
- 44 Food and drug administration (abbr.)
- 45 Sticky black substance
- 46 Declining
- 48 Time periods
- 51 Bill
- 53 Allows
- 54 Sister for short
- 56 Compass point

DOWN

- 58 Con (2 wds.)
- 61 Aleut
- 66 Healing plant
- 67 Pat Sullivan's cat
- 69 Tramp
- 70 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
- 71 Car manufacturer
- 72 Young Women's Christian Association
- 73 Legume
- 74 Apexes
- 75 Fire remains
- 27 Distress call
- 29 One hundred of these makes a shekel in Israel
- 30 IBM Competitor
- 32 Wait for
- 33 Farm buildings
- 34 Clod
- 35 Time zone
- 37 Her
- 39 Tunnel
- 42 Cereal
- 43 Compass point
- 47 Type of cheese
- 49 Birch-like tree
- 50 Mr.
- 52 Central American country
- 55 National capital
- 57 Connection
- 58 Dozes
- 59 Fake butter
- 60 Italian boy's name
- 61 Short for aluminum
- 62 Scriptural your
- 63 State
- 64 The alphabet
- 65 Prophet who built the arc
- 68 Escudo
- 1 Make a whizzing sound
- 2 Leaf bud
- 3 Horse command
- 4 Happen
- 5 Singer Bing
- 6 Color
- 7 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 8 March
- 9 Receive votes
- 10 As well as
- 11 Thick soup
- 13 Elderly
- 15 World (German)
- 20 Common boys name
- 22 Goddess
- 25 Legion
- 26 Communion table

Solutions on D5

Horoscopes

Devined by
Madame Santango



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your stars indicate that you are going to use at least five sheets of paper today. If you had written smaller you could have used three, but no! You had to waste paper.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Wear a headband today because your hair will constantly get in your eyes. When you look down hair hits you, distracting you from what your teacher says. This means you won't know if it is on the test, and you will fail and it will be the end of the world!!

Aries (March 21-April 19)

A shadow appears on the moon, and you are going to experience a short temper. If you hit the library and find a person checking out the book on prehistoric fungi, do not beat them up.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Pluto is melting. This will truly screw up your internal clock so set three alarms when you go to sleep tonight.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Your star crossed with another, and love is in sight! Take care of that cold so you will be alert enough to notice!

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

During "Dancing with the Stars," Venus and Mars tripped, so you will have an incredibly clumsy day. Lie around your room and avoid too much movement.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Jupiter shines brightly upon you, and you feel great! Use this newfound energy and do something new. Be advised: if you have always wanted to swim in the library pond, now is not the time to try. Wait until it is warmer.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

According to your tea leaves, you are going to drink some nasty tea today.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are going to feel very productive today! Don't let this opportunity go to waste. Get all your work done so you have the weekend to be lazy! Only, beware of checking out the book on prehistoric fungi; find a different book.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

The position of Earth in relation to the rest of the universe is in your favor. This means you should get your tail out of Clemson for a weekend and go elsewhere.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Due to a chain reaction that started with a slight movement of Venus, which disrupted Jupiter which knocked over Neptune, which slapped Uranus, which knocked a star out of place, you are going to sneeze at 3:45 p.m. sharp.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

According to the phase of the moon, it is time for a change! Instead of going back to your room to watch TV, go to a friend's room and watch TV!

DRESSES from page D1

maid dress adorably intriguing while she simply finds him meddling and annoying.

While Heigl isn't exactly the plain Jane the movie attempts to make her out to be, it's the least of the audience's worries. Jane is a delightful heroine; she's cute, she's sweet, she's really freaking great at multitasking, she makes mistakes and doesn't always do the right thing. She's human and relatable; a great combination. And who doesn't love James Marsden; a man whose baby blues and charming smile make any straight woman's heart and loins quiver.

Scripter Aline Brosh McKenna

("The Devil Wears Prada") has created a somewhat predictable and occasionally cheesy script along with some very amusing wisecracks. It sticks to the chick flick formula.

Costume designer Catherine Marie Thomas deserves special credit for creating some of the most outstandingly heinous bridesmaid dresses — dutifully preserved in Jane's cramped closet. How horrifically ugly you ask? Well, for example, one is from a "Gone With the Wind" themed wedding. No, no, don't awww. This bridesmaid dress was no figure flattering, enchanting ensemble, but rather an icky, ill-fitting display of wilted yellow that could

also be called "depression," lace and way too many bright red bows. Oh yes, these bridesmaid dresses are heinous. They range from scuba gear to cowgirl to Vegas, and all are particularly fork-in-the-eye garish.

To sum it up, the movie is a wedding-oriented chick flick with a few plot holes, predictability, cheesy lines, cute guys and an awkward quest for true love in all the wrong places.

It's adorable with absolutely no value other than a good giggle with your girlfriends. If you're in the mood for a cheesy chick flick then that's exactly what you'll get!

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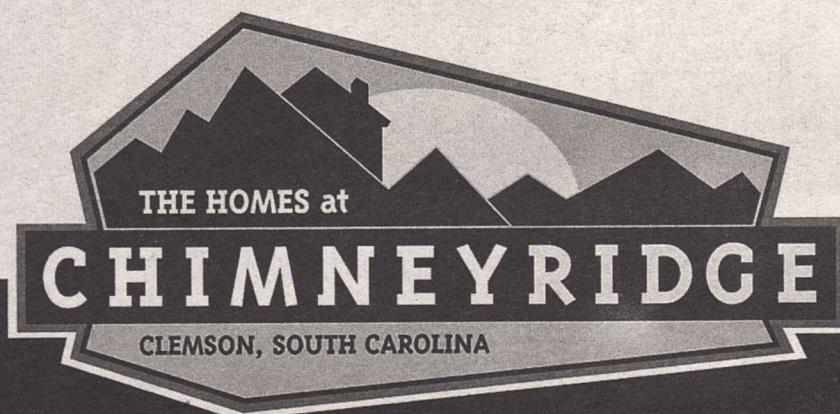
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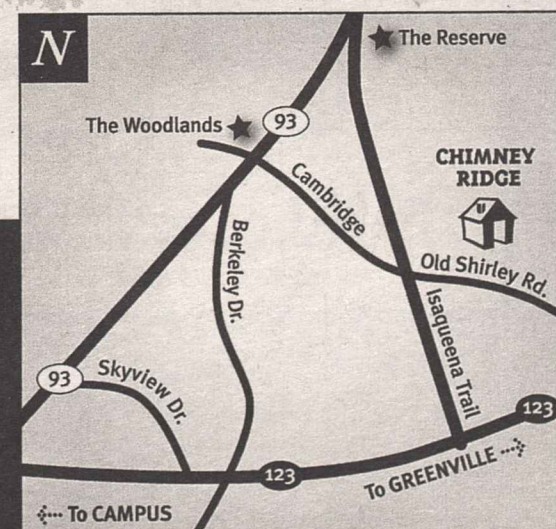
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Quick Cut-Out Italian Quiche in a Hash Brown Crust

by Kelly Croughwell

(Serves 2-4)

- 3 cups shredded hash brown potatoes (if using frozen, thaw and drain well)
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter, melted
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup half-and-half
- 1/3 lb. sweet Italian sausage (about 2 links)
- 1/2 cup mascarpone cheese (found in fine cheese aisle. can substitute with cream cheese)
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 packet Good Seasons Italian dressing mix (about 2 tablespoons)

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Press hash browns onto the bottom and sides of a 9 inch pie dish (disposable, aluminum works fine). Pour melted butter over and bake for 20 minutes, or until beginning to brown.
3. Cook sausage in a skillet lined with the olive oil over med-lo heat for 7 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drain over paper towels and cut into bite-sized pieces.
4. In a large bowl, combine eggs, half-and-half, sausage, cheeses, and dressing mix.
5. When crust is ready, reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees. Pour the egg mixture over crust and return to the oven.
6. Bake for about 40 minutes or until entire filling is puffed and golden brown.



THE RINGING IN YOUR EARS

DAN UBILLA
STAFF WRITER



This is long overdue, but a topic of this magnitude should be allowed some punctual leniency. It is the pretty girl that Holden Caulfield can't get angry at for being late. At least I hope this column is a pretty girl. You see, I've traveled to the ends of the musical landscape for this one. I feel like Brad Pitt might feel after he spends his "Seven Years in Tibet," although to be completely honest, I've never seen the movie. I am Bruce Wayne returning from training in China to become the Dark Knight; I am Luke Skywalker returning as a complete badass in "Return of the Jedi." Today, I am here to present to you the best

albums of 2007.

When I sat down to first put this list together, I could name about four or five albums off the top of my head that deserved to make the Top 10, and I could come up with no more. After reviewing countless albums for the past month, I discovered that there were a bunch of records deserving of spots late in the countdown, so while the year wasn't top-heavy, 2007 was a good year for music nonetheless.

Can somebody give me a David Letterman drum roll?

10. Fall Out Boy: "Infinity on High"

In 2007, Fall Out Boy did the unthinkable: They released an album that didn't suck. This surprised most people over the age of 16. This was all perplexing because in 2003, Fall Out Boy was a very good, underground, pop-punk band. In 2005, they became a mediocre, popular, pop band.

As their popularity went up, their creative talent went down because, honestly, they could mail it in if they wanted (and they did with their sophomore album "From Under the Cork Tree"). Instead, young FOB enlisted the help of Babyface and Jay-Z and managed to write a rock album that infused just enough spark of hip-hop to end up completely fresh. In fact, "Infinity on High" didn't just bomb. It was the tenth best album of the year.

9. Ted Leo and the Pharmacists: "Living with the Living"

It's hard not to smile while Ted Leo cheerfully sings about how quickly the world is falling apart. By mixing buoyant melodies with shimmering, rhythmic guitars, Ted Leo is able to keep a sly grin while simultaneously lamenting problems and seemingly celebrating personal troubles personal. After a few listens, he'll have you happy just to be "Living with the Living." Regardless, if the rapture starts tomorrow, this is the record I'll be cueing up.

8. Radiohead: "In Rainbows"

When Radiohead released its album for the cost of a donation, it was hard to avoid the hype and press that came with the monumental move. To the band's credit, they delivered on all cylinders, creating an album that hops back and forth across the digital/analog divide, while writing and recording a cohesive vision. I read somewhere once that it's not the words Thom Yorke sings, but the way they sound. "In Rainbows," they

sound great.

7. Against Me!: "New Wave"

The Gainesville, Fla., band released their major label debut as a biography of sorts. Sometimes coming off as a plea to their underground fanbase and sometimes sounding like a rant against their new peers, Against Me! slowed things down and struck gold. In the end, we're left with an album that mixes the best of their best full-length, "Searching for a Former Clarity," and their unheralded 2002 EP, "The Disco Before the Breakdown." I dare you not to end up trying to harmonize with the chorus in "Stop!" on the first listen. Come on. Try me.

6. Limbeck: "Limbeck"

Limbeck's eponymous 2007 record brings the natural sound they've been honing in for the past few albums to a head. The band was so keen on making their album sound natural they literally recorded nature and added it to the final mix. Now that's commitment. Just when you think the CD's slowing down in the middle, the boys from Southern California pick things up with the aptly-titled "Let's Get Crazy". You'll wish you had a tambourine to play along with it.

Well, I'll give you a nice cliffhanger for the Top Five Albums of 2007. Next time, I'll delve into the Top 5 albums of 2007. If it helps, just imagine it like one of those '60s, campy Batman cliffhangers. Will our hero survive the clutches of death to finish his column? Yes, I will. Same Bat Time. Same Bat Channel.

Poetic Reviews

BRANDON BILINSKI
STAFF WRITER

"The Raven in Goliath"

With Mars Volta, there's a theory; each new album makes me leary; With too much noodling and distortion the album could be a bore; While I listened, so intently, the songs reeled me in quite gently, And then almost incidentally, big riffs shook my bedroom floor; "Man, this new drummer," I muttered, "Is rocking me to my core, And I long to hear some more."

Lyrics are still convoluted, for this album they're well-suited; They tell stories of mysterious and supernatural lore, Of a jinxed item that was found, it turned the band's good luck around, They got this toy in a small town, a toy they desired no more; Bad things occurred after they got this item from that little store, Quoth Mars Volta, "Ouija Board."

Sure that story is quite contrived, but I'm glad that the band survived, And I'm hoping they follow this album with a United States tour, Songs here are fast-paced and frantic, while the sound is quite gigantic, And following their semantics, you can surmise just what's in store, With "The Bedlam In Goliath" there are many tracks to explore, And I'll turn this album off - Nevermore!

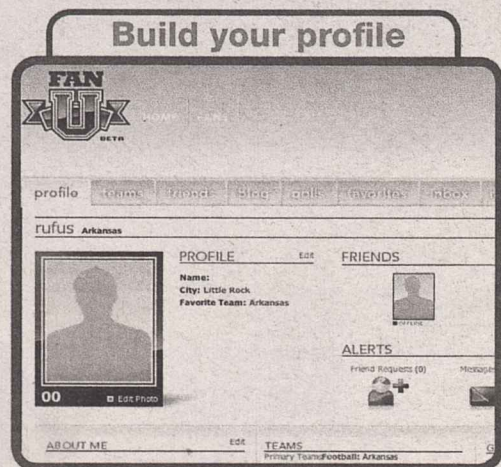
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Crossword

WNW	OCTET	PAS
HOHO	CRIER	VOLT
IDOL	CONGA	ELSE
READ	JUST	MELLOW
ORB	POD	
HASH	YAM	STAB
OOLONG	GAS	WAD
ARTS	MOOCH	SARI
FDA	TAR	EBBING
ERAS	TAB	LETS
SIS	ENE	
NOTPRO	ALEUTIAN	
ALOE	FELIX	HOBO
PENN	ISUZU	YWCA
SOY	ACMES	ASH

Sudoku

5	9	3	7	1	2	4	6	8
7	6	4	5	8	9	2	3	1
8	2	1	3	4	6	5	7	9
4	7	5	8	9	1	3	2	6
2	8	9	6	7	3	1	4	5
3	1	6	4	2	5	8	9	7
1	3	8	9	6	4	7	5	2
6	5	7	2	3	8	9	1	4
9	4	2	1	5	7	6	8	3

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Dining Divas

at 356

Katie is from the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and is a transfer student with one year left at Clemson University.

Amanda is from the suburbs of Atlanta and is a senior in her final semester at Clemson University.

The Pre-Game

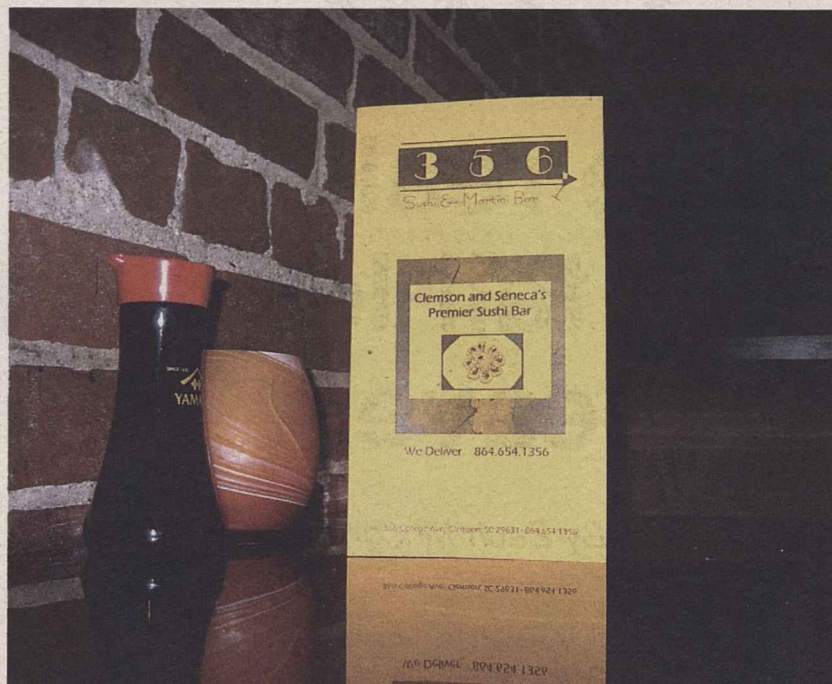
Katie: I was really excited to eat something other than subs, pizza or Mexican food that is so conveniently placed around the University. I love sushi and other exotic foods so I was eager to venture out to 356.

Amanda: I love subs, pizza, Mexican, Chinese and the occasional trip to a chain restaurant, but I have been at Clemson since I was a freshman. I wanted to explore more of what Clemson has to offer before I graduate. 356 is a popular spot for the downtown bar crowd, but we wanted to see what it had to offer as a restaurant.

The Scene

Katie: Spacious yet inviting. The bar lined the far wall and showcased many types of liquor and ended with a sushi bar. Booths and tables scattered throughout the restaurant welcomed the hungry and those wanting to try a martini (try the Sexy Martini, a mix of Peach Schnapps OJ and Cranberry juice). An elevated area in the opposite front corner houses Wii tournaments, live music or comfortable couches that are very city loft-ish.

Amanda: Walking in 356 immediately gives off a very chill and trendy vibe. Very spacious with booths lining the wall and tables scattered throughout the middle section. If you are lucky, you may be able to sit in the couches giving you a "VIP" feeling. The bar is always active with bartenders making drinks, and cooks in the back rolling up sushi made fresh to order.



A Look at the Menu

Katie: Offering more than just sushi, 356 also has tapas, salads and gourmet flatbreads (think fancy pizza). For those not too keen on eating raw fish, try the Ranchero or Spinach 'n Tomato (It's amazing) flatbreads.

Amanda: The menu features tapas, sushi, salads and flat breads. For those that are of legal drinking age, there are a variety of martinis and beer to choose from, as well as a nice selection of red and white wine.

The Taste Test

Katie: You can't go wrong ordering the California rolls, but if you want to be a little more adventurous try the Philadelphia Roll or the Seaside roll. Thursday nights is \$3.50 sushi night on select rolls with nicely priced Cosmos as well. If you are not in the mood for sushi and have already tried the flatbreads, try something from the tapas section. The seaweed salad (don't be thrown off by the name) was a great starter, as well as the spinach dip and hummus dip.

Amanda: Katie and I are always indecisive about choosing an appetizer because the hummus dip and spinach dip are equally delicious. The Spinach 'n Tomato flatbread is a favorite of mine, but I love spicy foods and sushi. So I just had to try the Georgia Bullfrog roll. And of course nothing else makes the experience better of eating sushi at a trendy restaurant than an inexpensive fabulous Cosmo in your hand.

Impressions

Katie: 356 is a great place to treat your taste buds in downtown Clemson, whether you are a sushi fiend or need a break from the ordinary. Don't forget to stop by late night to check out their drink menu.

Amanda: This is hands down my favorite restaurant in downtown Clemson. Thursday night is a great time to eat at 356 because of their sushi rolls and Cosmos during Happy Hour. This trendy downtown restaurant is perfect for a girls' night out or a date with that special someone. Now, if only they had a live jazz band during dinner on Thursdays nights.

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ON THE PROWL

by IVANNA JOHNSON

Why do girls make out with girls? Is it for the amusement of guys? Is it because we are all secretly lesbians? Or is it just good clean fun? As usual my topic is spurred by recent events. My roommate and our girlfriend, we will call her Ellen, made out the other weekend. But why? It seems the party atmosphere had taken away all of their insecurities and well, Ellen just wanted to experiment.

We have all seen commercials for "Girls Gone Wild," and possibly been to frat parties and have been to a strip club. Tiger Tails, anyone? It seems girl-on-girl action is the latest and greatest. I'm not talking about scissoring, just some innocent tongue.

When I was young, crazy and in Europe, I had my first girl kiss. Spurred by a dare, then a bet, and a lot of convincing, I decided to go for it. It was interesting, even pleasant, but since then I haven't tried again. But I find every time I turn around I see two girls making out.

Is it for the amusement of guys? Women do crazy things to attract men. We wax our special places, glob on make-up, laugh at unfunny jokes, wear push-up bras and basically do everything short of clonking them on the head and dragging them home. This leads me to postulate that maybe girls make out to attract guys. Often times it seems girl-on-girl make out sessions are in crowded public plac-

es, spurred on by the attention of drooling males. I have even heard girls getting cheered on, "Hook up! Hook up!" Why not? It's one of men's biggest sexual fantasies. It only makes sense to play into it. If so, then this center of attention attitude may lead to a short-term hook up, but I don't suggest this tactic for those in search of something more long-term.

Is it because we are all secretly lesbians? Probably not. Although many of us have wanted to throw in the towel on cocky jerks and start battling for the other team, that doesn't mean we're gay. So where does that leave the girl make out session, purely spurred by natural inquisitiveness? I will place these hook ups in the experimentation category. I'm a "don't knock it until you've tried it" kind of girl so I find it easy to understand hooking up out of curiosity. You know, get in there and see what all the fuss is about. If you are a virgin to girl-on-girl make outs, may I suggest that you light some candles, put on some Mariah Carey and then pucker up. No? Oh well, it's not for everyone.



Is it just good clean fun? My roommate and I don't make out on Tuesday nights just because we're bored, but maybe you do. There may be other motives involved that I haven't mentioned, but in general I'm going to rule out the good clean fun. If you're a habitual girl-on-girl maker-outer, you may just be bi-sexual. But then again isn't everyone now-a-days?

Whatever your reason or situation there is nothing wrong with two girls expressing their love, friendship or random meeting with a little tongue. And boys, it's rude to stare.

THE TOP 5

TV SHOWS TO WATCH DURING THE WRITERS STRIKE
BY ANNE SWIFT

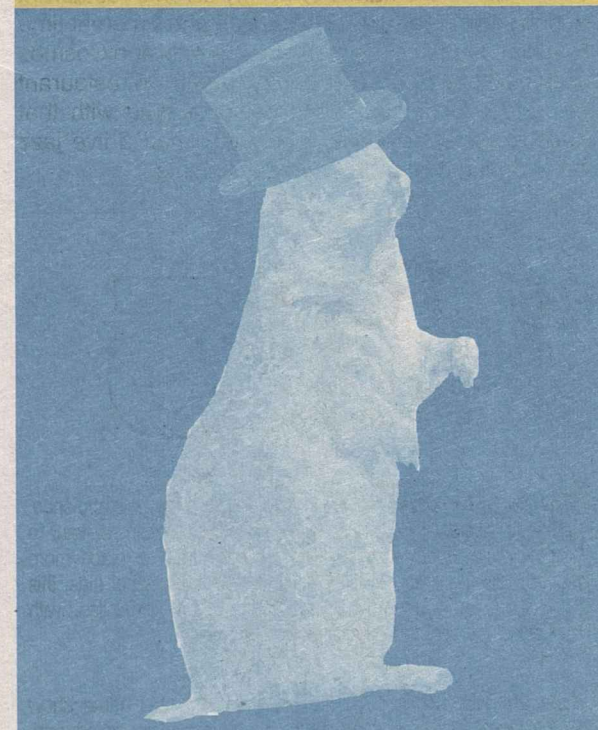
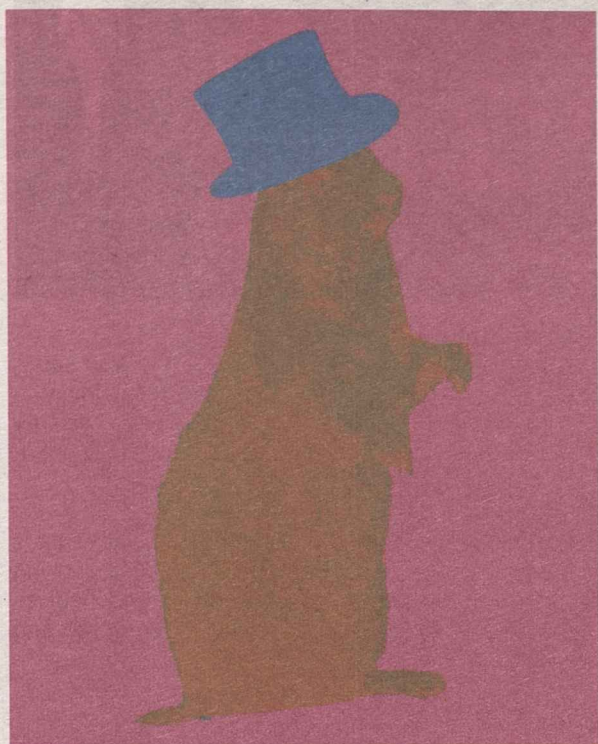
"Say Yes to The Dress": Though it doesn't attract a male audience, this show accurately conveys every possible emotion relevant to purchasing a wedding dress. The women seem to place more thought into the dress than they did into the fiancé, but alas, this is what makes for good television. Think of it as "Bridezillas," with prettier gowns and equally exaggerated brides.

"The Moment of Truth": Premiering on Fox, this game show poses hazardous questions, resulting in foreseeable melodrama. The contestants are grilled while hooked up to a lie detector, which causes great commotion. Questions range from public to private, and from humorous to just plain awkward. Though the validity of the game show may be in question, it still provides a good laugh.

"Jon & Kate plus 8": Despite the constant bickering between husband and wife (Jon and Kate, respectively), the show's documentation of their lives raising eight children is remarkably entertaining. With one set of twins and a set of sextuplets, Jon and Kate certainly have their work cut out for them. But the cuteness that is these children makes the show entirely worth watching.

"American Idol": And once again, Ryan Seacrest leads American hopefuls along the inevitably emotional journey to stardom! Though the show has a tendency towards predictability, it still provides a few good laughs, a more or less talented array of singers and questionable behavior from Paula Abdul's hair. It's no "Grey's Anatomy," but it works.

"Rock of Love": Ah yes, Bret Michaels has returned to the television screen in hopes of finding his one, true love. Not surprisingly, the only way to determine who his soul mate should be is through hooking up, raunchy dance contests and pornographic photo shoots. All of the aforementioned activities are what help Bret to form a "spiritual" connection with these prospective lady lovers. Needless to say, it does not get trashier, and therefore more amazing, than "Rock of Love."



Andy Warhol: Yet another repeat attendee of Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney

PUNXY PHIL:

The real deal or tail-less beaver?

By Zach Musgrave

There can be no day more rooted in American folklore than Feb. 2: Groundhog Day. It's a day when many normally science-worshipping Americans pay mind, however briefly, to a long-established folk tradition revolving around, of all things, an aged rodent named Phil.

The story goes that several centuries ago, Scottish and German immigrants to the United States brought with them a legend of weather lore, that on Candlemas the remaining days of winter could be predicted. Based on what? Clear or cloudy weather. If the day were clear, then six more weeks of winter would result, and if cloudy then spring would arrive early.

Somehow over the course of history this superstition came to involve groundhogs. Random? Perhaps. But of the dozen groundhogs across the country who claim to divine meteorology, the oldest and most beloved is Punxsutawney Phil. Every year on Groundhog Day, Phil emerges from his burrow and looks to see his shadow. And this might be surprising to many science majors: The records suggest he's actually right most of the time.

Phil is a legend in his own right: Residing in a remote town with an impossible-to-spell name out in the boonies of Western Pennsylvania, he's been predicting winter's end for 122 years now. One might ask how he's still booking around, since any other groundhog can't hope for many more than 10 years of life. The answer is simple: Groundhog Punch. Members of the secretive Inner Circle feed Phil a sip of this magical brew every summer, and as a result he's practically immortal.

The closest major city to Punxsutawney is Pittsburgh, about 100 miles away. Jefferson County easily has five deer for every person, and the borough of Punxsutawney has declined in population by about 40 percent in as many years. The whole region used to be dotted with coal mines,

but the industry's gone, the kids have moved away and the roads seem to get worse every year. Even still, every Groundhog Day the town sees tens of thousands of visitors, with people coming from all over the world to witness Punxy Phil emerge from his borough on Gobbler's Knob outside of town.

Standing out in the Pennsylvania cold at three in the morning, waiting to see if Phil sees his shadow at exactly 7:25 a.m. is an experience unlike any other. It may sound mundane or even silly, but witnessing the Inner Circle in their top hats and tuxedos bring Phil out into the open, then converse with him in the arcane language of "Groundhogese" to get his thoughts on that winter's forecast is America at its finest: a blend of showmanship and folklore, of modern media and historical superstition, all put together into something so real even CNN shows up to film. Bam Margera has attended in recent years, and one of Bill Murray's best films ("Groundhog Day," 1993) revolves around a weatherman living Feb. 2 over and over thousands of times, until eventually he improves himself and finds true love. Rent it — it's a great comedy.

One way or another, it matters not whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow this year. What matters is that people do still acknowledge the "old ways" even if they no longer believe them. Groundhog Day is a part of the American psyche that the Weather Channel could never begin to replace. Gus, the Pennsylvania Lottery's mascot, freely admits in advertisements that he's "the second most famous groundhog in Pennsylvania." Phil's still booking it.

As for me, I'll be missing out on Gobbler's Knob this year, but I'll still watch the festivities over the Internet. That way I'll know whether to keep wearing jeans or to break out the shorts and flip-flops. I think you'll agree: Punxy Phil really is the real deal.



Graphics by Ross Kucsera

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