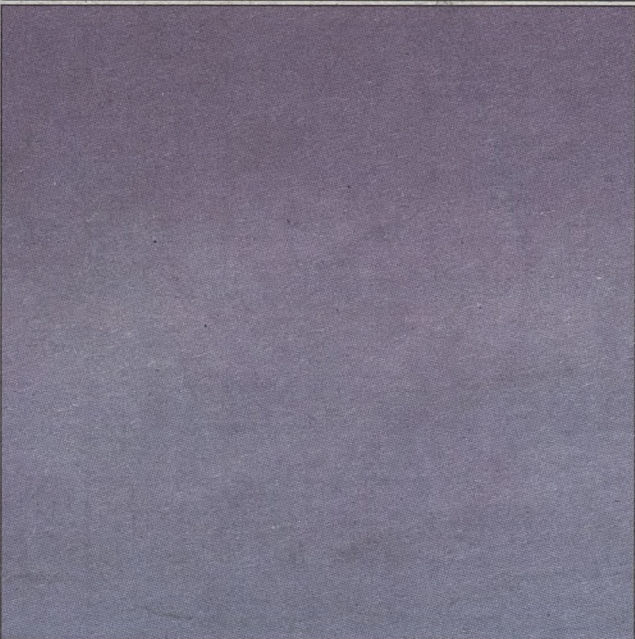


**housing**  
**special**  
**2001**  
February 6, 2001





# Before signing the lease, careful inspection is necessary

► Students must follow their lease carefully to avoid an unpleasant experience.

HEATHER BUXTON  
special to The Tiger

After a couple of years of living in on campus housing, many students decide to venture into the world of monthly bills and rent payments. But before signing that 12-month lease, there are several important details that prospective tenants need to keep in mind.

Unlike university housing contracts, apartment leases come with many responsibilities that are not always immediately obvious to the novice renter. Students should make a list of personal preferences before beginning their search, such as whether they want a May or August lease or if they plan to have a pet.

The majority of leases in the Clemson area last for 12 months beginning in August. Several May to May leases are also available as well as the occasional December to December lease. Tenants are responsible for rent payments for that entire period. If they do not

plan to remain in town over the summer, they must find someone to sublease the apartment.

When a tenant sublets an apartment, the original signer of the lease is still ultimately responsible for the rent. Any damages incurred during the sublet period are also the responsibility of the leaseholder.

"That's up to you to find a good subtenant," said Wallace Martial, property manager for Advantage Property Management.

Renters must understand that landlords cannot help tenants find subleases.

All conditions of the initial lease are still binding, even if the property remains unoccupied.

"(The original tenants) find the body, we have the forms," said Jane Brown, rental property manager for Carolina Real Estate.

Financial responsibility is also an issue to consider when choosing roommates. Room changes are not guaranteed as with university housing.

"You live with someone and things become different," said Brown. "That's the one big factor that people don't realize."

Leases are binding to all tenants, not each individual. If one room-

mate leaves unexpectedly, the remaining roommates must still cover the outstanding rent.

"You can be wholly responsible (if one roommate leaves), and that's governed by South Carolina law," Martial said.

In extreme cases, however, individuals can be taken to court to reclaim unpaid rent.

To avoid financial heartache, students should think carefully before choosing roommates. Friendships can change quickly under the strain of living together.

"The biggest thing I get across my desk is roommate conflict," said Martial. "It's almost like getting a husband or a wife."

Property managers vary on whether or not they accept independent signers.

Advantage Property Management does allow tenants to sign leases without preset roommates while Carolina Real Estate does not.

"We do not put together roommates," said Brown. "They have to come together."

Even when the landlord helps to bring roommates together, the lease is still fully binding on all tenants.

Beyond the standard South

Carolina lease, each landlord may have its own regulations that tenants need to know. Martial stated that students should be knowledgeable of each landlord's regulations.

Most landlords require students to maintain a minimum level of cleanliness, particularly when moving out. Some even require professional steam cleaning, such as Carolina Real Estate. Careful inspection of the property and a detailed description of any preexisting damages can help tenants avoid fines later on.

Besides basic common sense, however, most landlords do not require actual maintenance work to be done unless the damage is a direct result of mistreatment by the tenants.

As for the external appearance of the property, most landlords do not have any specific rules.

"Just be a good neighbor," Brown said.

Some complexes like Tillamook Place and Daniel Square may have their own regulations, though, of which students need to be wary. Homeowners' associations may have guidelines to preserve the appearance of the complex, such as no kegs or laundry on decks, no trash around the property, and specific parking assignments.

"Everyone moving in should

definitely know all the homeowners' association rules," Martial said.

Landlords may also have rules concerning pets. Most apartments in the Clemson area do not allow pets, and if they do, an additional, non-refundable pet fee may be required. If a pet is found where they are not allowed, tenants may be subject to the loss of all or part of their security deposit.

The best time to find an apartment is at the beginning of March. Tenants must decide whether or not they plan to stay in their current apartment by the end of February, and any open properties become available immediately afterwards.

Due to the high demand for off campus housing, many property managers often have students camp out the night before leases become available.

Advantage Property Management, which has over 450 rental properties, follows this first come, first serve policy.

Carolina Real Estate is instituting a lottery system this year to prevent students from camping out for its 300 properties.

To determine which lease is best for them, students should talk to multiple agencies or individuals soon. May and August leases will be available starting March 1, and the top choices will go quickly.

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#### Disadvantages

- Parties in dorm rooms? Forget it.
- You want to study. Your neighbor wants to hear Korn. You lose.
- Living with vandalism performed by drunken idiots (fire extinguishers in bathrooms, damaged elevators).

### Off Campus

#### Advantages

- A room to yourself.
- More living space.
- Access to parties and apartment facilities.
- No RA's or University housing regulations.
- It's a lot harder to go skinny-dipping at Fike.
- Dogs and cats.
- Don't have to walk far to get to your car.

#### Disadvantages

- Cost: rent, bills, damage deposits.
- Bad landlords.
- Safety is compromised.
- Having to find a parking space to go to class or waiting for the CAT bus.
- Grocery shopping gets more expensive.
- Having to buy/find furniture.
- Blazer Cop at Cross Creek Apartments.



# Beware! A communist could be living right next door.

**Rob:** I think my neighbor is a communist.

**Phillip:** Oh yeah? Why's that?

**Rob:** Well first of all he claims to be an economist, and everyone knows all good communists practiced under the guise of economics.

**Phillip:** Like going on and on about Ronald Reagan and stuff, right?

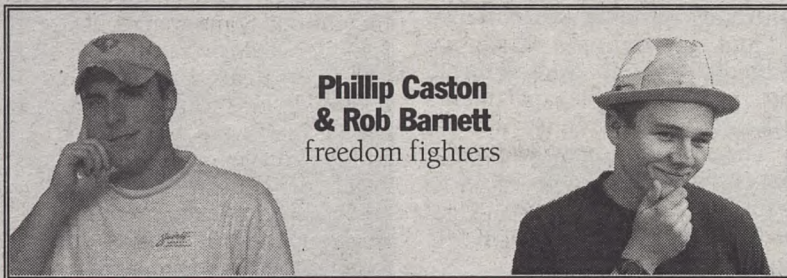
**Rob:** An incurable obsession with Reagan is just an early stage. This guy constantly plots to undermine the free market society with what he calls a "big black dildo."

**Phillip:** God! That's scary. People like that are obviously a little too messed up on several substances when they sign up for their Ameri-Trade account. I bet he's a horrible karioke singer.

**Rob:** What sounds to you like a big load of trashy old noise is, in fact, the brilliant work of a communist. He doesn't feel pleasure. He doesn't feel pain. His life is based on contempt, fashion, style, elitism, Satanism, and

everything that is rotten about communism.

**Phillip:** Evil can lurk everywhere, even right next door. You know, that reminds me of another communist I know. He fools people with his pretty eyes, but



**Phillip Caston  
& Rob Barnett**  
freedom fighters

the evil is there. He'll brag about not throwing up from beer, then he'll puke on your carpet. Next thing you know, he's whipping out the drinking Jenga to get girls naked. He's a dangerous specimen.

**Rob:** I agree. Alcohol and communism are not a good combination. Last night I wrestled two communist friends of mine over poetry. I later washed their hair as an act of reconciliation.

**Phillip:** Excellent. I hope those damn beaus show up for the bodywash. Damned Sylvia Plath fans. I bet they like Harry Potter like most communists do. They probably drink Zimas while reading about him and that damned Quidditch crap, or whatever it is.

**Rob:** Communism is often discussed by evil writers, dilettantes and heartless manipulators. Speaking of communism, my other neighbor is a fairly prominent socialist. She is a big believer in social welfare.

**Phillip:** Oh really? Is she one of those "your beer is my beer" kind of people?

**Rob:** She is more along the lines of "my children are your children" kind of person. It is quite scary really. There are certain things you just don't share.

**Phillip:** Babysitting is a capitalistic venture, it in no way should involve sharing. Hey, at least she didn't go running to your landlord and complain that you had a harmless puppy like one of my neighbors did. I should have shared some of my puppy's deposits with her and then see what she thought of social welfare.

**Rob:** Absolutely. Communists are not to be trusted.

**Phillip:** Of course, we all know who the worst communist neighbors are: the ones who call the cops on your parties. They believe that everyone is supposed to be having a bad time all at

once, so if you're having a good time at your apartment, and they're not, you can guarantee they'll try to shut you down.

**Rob:** That is not true completely. I have called the cops on my communist neighbors. They were in some sort of fraternal order.

**Phillip:** Ah... an organized communist party. All you were doing was fighting evil. It's much different from stopping someone from just having fun.

**Rob:** Fighting evil is a way of life for me. I sing the national anthem at the top of my lungs every morning just to let my communist neighbors know what country they are in.

**Phillip:** I wave the American flag at them while I dump out their bottles of Zima and beer in plastic bottles.

**Rob:** Zima is a communist drink. They could not afford to add any flavor.

**Phillip:** That's how you can tell a communist in the grocery store. They're the ones buying several bags of Jolly Ranchers.

**Rob:** My communist neighbor keeps a full stock of Jolly Ranchers. I think he uses them to lure women in.

**Phillip:** Yeah, that whole thing with him and the "big black dildo" is scary. I would highly recommend that guys never introduce their girlfriends to him. He'd probably somehow trick them into cheating on their boyfriends with him. So how do you avoid living near someone who is a communist, and what do you do if it's too late?

**Rob:** It is pretty hard to avoid living near a communist. Many communists - or at least people with latent communist tenden-

**Rob:** "Fighting evil is a way of life for me. I sing the national anthem at the top of my lungs every morning just to let my communist neighbors know what country they are in."

cies - live amongst us. Living well is generally an affront to communism. Enjoy your life and check your credit at the bank often.

**Phillip:** And don't let em anywhere near your beer.

We want all our neighbors, past and present, to know that we have no idea what we are talking about, so don't take any of this to heart. We love most of you... the rest of you better stay the hell away from our front doors.

**Phillip Caston and Rob Barnett** are specialists in the field of political theory. They fight communism and you should too. E-mail comments to [letters@tiger.clemson.edu](mailto:letters@tiger.clemson.edu).

**Phillip:** "I bet they like Harry Potter like most communists do. They probably drink Zimas while reading about him and that damned Quidditch crap, or whatever it is."

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One of the most common questions asked about THE TIGER is "Are you hiring any new students right now?" The answer is always YES! THE TIGER is always looking for new junior staff writers and photographers. Call one of the listed numbers to start working today. Look for more info concerning our senior staff elections in March to learn how you can become a part of Clemson's award winning newspaper.

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# Off-campus living offers many options

► *Moving from on campus to off-campus can be a confusing process.*

JIMMY HOGAN  
staff writer

Springtime is right around the corner, and classroom conversations switch back and forth from Spring Break plans to housing plans. That's right, the dreaded apartment search season is upon us, and many students are contemplating whether to venture off-campus or stick to the rigors of dormitory life.

In the next couple weeks friends, perhaps even random strangers, will gather together to sort out roommate options, financial limitations, and of course the big question: "Where do we want to live?"

For many students, off-campus housing is not an issue. They either simply can't afford it, they like what campus life has to offer or they refuse to be convinced that having extra bills and headaches each month is really worth having your own room.

However, for those "independent" students who are dying to be on their own or just want a place

they can call their own, then off-campus housing is for you. Yet, at the rate that Clemson is growing, decisions about where to live are getting harder.

Starting March 1st is when most leases will be signed, however putting your name on a list or talking to a realtor isn't such a bad idea for right now. Quite a few companies feel that their prime realty will be snatched up quickly based on experiences from recent years.

Two major realtors that accommodate Clemson students are Foothills Property Management, located in the REMAX building next to the Health Center on Highway 123, and Carolina Real Estate, which can be found across the street from the Astro movie theater.

Combined they manage almost all of the popular apartment complexes that are close to campus. Foothills manages University Place, University Terrace, and University Ridge, to name a small portion of their total properties. And Carolina Real Estate manages Tillman Place, College Heights, and Daniel Square. Carolina also manages many other properties, but for both realtors, these are the most popular.

Getting into these places can be

hectic. So hectic in fact that Carolina Real Estate has had to go to "a lottery format" for all of their properties, according to Judy Elrod, part-time manager at the College Avenue office.

According to the guidelines submitted by Carolina, students can fill out applications, which are individually numbered, and then a lottery for available apartments will be done on March 1st.

There are more apartment complexes that perhaps may not be as "happening" as the aforementioned sites, yet they still offer great off-campus living.

If luxury is what you are looking for, then Jefferson Commons, Berkeley Place, Clemson Place and The Summit at Cross Creek offer comfortable living at a lofty price tag. Each one of those complexes comes complete with all major appliances. The Summit allows tenants to either rent a furnished or unfurnished apartment, whereas the other three only come furnished.

Wait, there's more. Heritage Hills and Heritage Point offer "luxurious living at affordable prices," according to their advertisement brochure. They maintain properties that are exclusively one and two bedrooms.



**TAKE YOUR PICK:** The Summit at Cross Creek, located off Hwy. 93 in Central, is one of the many places to live around Clemson.

Before going to see apartments or sign a lease, one must be aware of the money that is needed up front. Most places have security deposits which usually equals out to one or two month's rent.

Once the lease term is up, any damages or cleaning needed to be done to that apartment will be taken out of your deposit, but most of it will go back into your pocket. Some companies may even apply the deposit to the last month's rent.

Also, almost all of the apartments in the area do not come with utilities, although there are some exceptions. Water, power, and cable hook-ups are the tenants' responsibility.

According to Jennifer Ott, the property manager of Clemson Place and Berkeley Place, "The best way to pick a place is to come and see it. Not all your questions can't be answered over the phone."

## On-campus options increase in 2001-02

► *Living on-campus is more exciting this year with two new places to live.*

KIMIAIRIS TOOGOOD  
staff writer

It is that time again Clemson, time to choose next year's roomie and the location of your on-campus housing. The University offers 19 residence halls, four apartment complexes and Clemson House for on-campus living.

If you are currently not enrolled at the University due to things such as co-op or a semester abroad, you need to contact the Housing Office in 200 Mell Hall at 656-5442. If you are enrolled at Clemson University, you will be offered first choice at housing assignments until March 9. After this date, priority shifts to incoming freshmen.

Apartment sign up dates were Feb. 7 and 8, so if you let these dates slip past you, you must sign up for residence hall slots which will be on March 6, 7 and 8.

The Clemson on-campus living experience is one that you do not want to miss. There are private rooms, limited to Clemson House, Thornhill Village or the new east campus apartment complex. If you are not a smoker or have certain health ailments that could prevent you from enjoying your living situation, there are smoke-free housing complexes available.

Sanders, Geer, Byrnes, Holmes and McCabe are all smoke free. If you are an exercise fan, Byrnes is the place for you. Space is limited, so act fast if that is the residence hall for you. There is also graduate housing available, but you must call Mell Hall for more information.

There are multitudes of housing options available, but you must be made aware of some facts. If you are determined to receive an apartment styled way of living, units of four people are assigned according to the priority system. Those of you who have no preference of a roommate are considered last priority.

What if you change your mind? What if you decide not to live on campus after all? Cancel your reservation by June 1 and you will forfeit only \$50 of your housing deposit advanced payment. Between June 2-25, you may still cancel your reservation, but you will forfeit the entire \$150 deposit. After July 25, your contract is binding and you are required by the University to pay rent for the entire academic year.

When do you find out where you have been assigned? Residence hall housing assignments will be posted online at <http://housing.clemson.edu> after 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24. Hard copy lists will be available at Mauldin Hall, the seventh floor of the Union or Mell Hall.

### New for 2001-02

Two new dorms are opening. **The East Campus Apartment Complex** is opening near Lightsey Bridge (it will share the Lightsey Commons Building). The second is **The West Campus Residence Hall**, located across from Death Valley. Both new housing options boast 4-person suites with each person having their bedroom.

**Johnstone E, F, and F Annex is closing.** Johnstone Sections A and A Annex will remain open and will be co-ed floor by floor

**Byrnes Hall will become all-male residence hall next year.** Men in the First Year Experience and Tiger Fitness Programs will be on designated floors. The only place for continuing students would be for those in the Tiger Fitness Program.



# Short-Term Leasing Non-Existent in Clemson

*Students find it difficult to locate only six-month leasing around Tiger Town,*

**JIMMY HOGAN**  
staff writer

Kelly McGowan plans on graduating in December, but only if she can find a place to live. Her apartment lease runs out in August and she is having a hard time finding a place that will let her lease for a six month period.

"My current real estate agent won't renew my lease because he can't afford to swallow that kind of money, fearing he won't be able to find someone to pick up the second half of the lease" McGowan said. "He's offered to let me sub-lease one of his other properties, but they aren't currently occupied by anyone and need tons of renovations."

According to an office worker at Foothills Property Management, many real estate agents and property managers work for either private owners or large companies and their main objective is to fill every vacancy possible with full-year tenants.

"These private owners have bills they need to pay also, and they'd like to see all of their units filled with 12-month leases."

Students needing only a short-term lease are forced to search for places that are looking for sub-leasers. Sub-leasing is the act of taking over a former tenant's lease, accepting all responsibilities until the end of the lease.

Judy Elrod, part-time manager of the Carolina Real Estate office said they do not offer short term leases, but accommodations can be arranged.

"If the student is already leasing with us, and they intend to graduate in December and don't wish to pay the full year, then we will allow them to sign a short-term lease," said Elrod. "Just as long as we aren't under serious demand to fill that apartment."

Foothills said they typically wait out the initial lease-signing rush to see what vacancies they can offer short-term leasers, however, they do not list their vacancies until the beginning of June, which may be bad timing for many students.

"I'm surprised most places don't offer short-term leases, especially around here," said sophomore management major Kris Lewis. "And who wants the hassle of signing a full-year lease and then trying to find someone to sub-lease the other half, on top of graduating, resumes and interviews for jobs."

Students who currently lease from Clemson Place, Berkeley Place or Jefferson Place do not have to worry about the sub-leasing hassle. These complexes offer individual leases by the room. Therefore, if a student is graduating early or leaving school for any reason, that individual is responsible for the rent owed for the room and it is not the responsibility of the other people

in the apartment to find another roommate.

Carrie Shumpert currently resides in Berkeley Place. She didn't hesitate to renew her lease, signing on for one more year. Only one of her roommates did the same, leaving two bedrooms vacant. She is not

worried though.

"Prospective residents are required to fill out a profile sheet, that way people with vacancies can get matched up with and meet them," said Shumpert.

Individual leasing seems to avoid the obvious problems of sub-

leasing, and Shumpert thinks it is the way to alleviate problems.

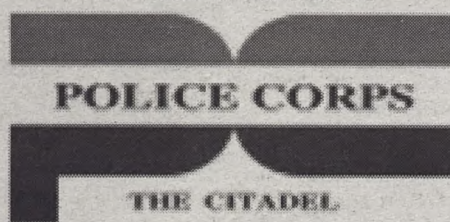
"Yeah, I think it's a good idea. If someone backs out, it's not my responsibility to fill the void."

There are other options for students like McGowan, who hopefully plans to move in with a friend,

but the idea of having to sign another full-year lease irritates her.

"I've been here five and a half years, I know everyone I need to know. I don't have the time to put up signs and get all the paperwork settled for a sub-leaser. I'm ready to get out of here."

SOUTH CAROLINA



## \$30,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

The South Carolina Police Corps is currently offering educational scholarships of up to \$30,000 to qualified college students who are seeking a baccalaureate degree. Currently, only sophomores and juniors who attend college on a full-time basis are eligible for application. This is a reimbursable scholarship, so students may apply for funds to cover expenses they incur to obtain their degree's (freshman through senior years).

South Carolina Police Corps participants will undergo 16 weeks of challenging police training while earning \$250 per week. This training will be conducted during the summer months on the campus of The Citadel, between the spring and fall semesters.

Those chosen to receive the scholarship will be required to serve as law enforcement officers in South Carolina for a period four years.

The four-year commitment begins once the student receives a bachelor's degree and their police corps training has been successfully completed.

For more information, contact the South Carolina Police Corps

171 Moultrie St.  
MSC 67  
Charleston, SC 29409

Phone: 843-953-6908  
Web site: [www.Citadel.edu/scpolicecorps](http://www.Citadel.edu/scpolicecorps)  
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# Jefferson Commons and Berkely Place offer students luxury at a

► *Clemson has a wide variety of places to live, depending on tastes and pocketbooks*

SANDI OWENS  
staff writer

Are you tired of dorm life? Looking for your own place to call home away from home? If you are like most college students, at some point you and your friends will want to move into an apartment off campus.

Two of the newest and most modern apartment buildings found close to Clemson's campus are Jefferson Commons and Berkeley Place. These apartments stand apart from others in that they have different policies for renting and numerous added features, most of which are included in each month's rent.

Berkeley Place is implementing a policy by which it rents each room in every apartment separately, which is a new method for renting apartments around Clemson. The leases extend from August to August, and the only procedure that someone must do in order to live in Berkeley Place is to fill out an application. However, there are fees that must be paid up front, such as a \$35 application fee and a \$300 deposit that must be received within 14 days of processing the application.

Although Berkeley Place is an equal opportunity housing development, the majority of its resi-

dents are college students. With such a large number of college students living there, the rent must be somewhat affordable for those who pay for their apartment themselves or for those whose parents pay for it. Whichever is the case, money is always an important issue.

At Berkeley Place, a two-bedroom apartment on either the first or second floor is \$350 and a two bedroom on the third floor is \$360. The four bedroom apartments are less expensive. A four-bedroom apartment on the first or second floor is \$300 while a four bedroom on the third floor is \$310.

According to Lee Johnson, assistant manager of Berkeley Place, "We offer a lot of extra features. Each resident has the opportunity to get the Internet in his or her own room, but it is an extra cost. We also have a pool, a fitness area, two tennis courts, a volleyball court, and a club house that has both a pool table and a foosball table."

"We are one of the buildings that is farther away from campus. It just depends on how you look at the situation as to whether or not that is a good thing. One positive aspect about living farther away is that you do not have all of the traffic to go through like you would closer to campus, especially when there are things going on during the weekend such as football games," Johnson said.

Another choice for a new apartment building is Jefferson Commons which is located right past Berkeley Place.



**SO MUCH TO DO:** Places like Jefferson Commons, located just past Ingles on Hwy. 93, offer students many perks such as single thier own rooms, excersice facilities, and computer labs.

"We are located right on Highway 93, out on display so that everyone sees us as they drive by. Since we are right out along side of the road, it is hard to miss us as it may be for those apartments that are found a little off of the highway behind trees," said Heather Rudolph, Manager of Jefferson Commons.

Before renting at Jefferson Commons, people must go through a credit check and most require a guarantor if their monthly income is not three times the amount of a month's rent.

"These apartments are designed for the student in mind, but anyone can live here. However, most of our residents are

students," said Rudolph.

Jefferson Commons offers many added features, most of which are included in the cost of rent. There is an Ethernet connection, an intrusion alarm monitor, two pools, a game room, a fitness center, a tanning bed, an exercise/aerobics room, a computer lab with six computer terminals and computer lab monitors who are available seven days a week to help with technical support, study rooms, and a video rental service. According to Rudolph, they will soon begin construction on a basketball court.

The cost of Jefferson Commons apartments is slightly higher than

that of Berkeley Place. A two bedroom, two bathroom apartment is \$386, and a four bedroom, two bathroom apartment is \$337. There are initial costs such as a \$35 application fee and two refundable fees: a \$275 security deposit and a \$75 administration fee.

After looking at both of these new apartments, their new methods for renting, and all of the added features that are included in their rent, it is easy to see that Berkeley Place and Jefferson Commons are both top choices for Clemson area college students since the majority of residents at each of these apartment buildings are students.

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## Finding your Clemson home can be tough

► *Locating the right off-campus place will require some compromise.*

CLAY ST. JOHN  
special to The Tiger

Most students never fully realize just how many factors are at play in deciding who will live where every year, and they do not understand the reasons behind the availability and price of the property in which they are interested.

Wallace Martell of Advantage Property Management breaks down the average decision process for most students.

"Mainly, people assign a budget they want to work under, and then look at what their choices are from there," Martell said.

Cost is often the most prominent limiting factor in the search for a place to live, but what determines the rental fee for a property?

"Proximity to campus, maximum occupancy, condition and the amenities contained are the things that have the most influence on the value of the property," said Martell.

Being within walking distance from campus and downtown is a primary concern for a number of students, and now more students have access to this convenience

than ever before.

"Walking distance used to be anything on the campus side of 123, but not with the Clemson Area Transit service, walking distance has expanded greatly," says Paige Lee of Foothills Realty.

While it is safe to assume that the closer one gets to campus, the more one may expect to pay, proximity to campus is not nearly as much of an issue once outside the range of apartment complexes like University Ridge, Daniel Square and Foy Creek, according to Lee.

"Price is based more on the investment and what the facility offers than on location alone."

Newer facilities such as Berkely Place and Jefferson Commons are endowed with various amenities that are unavailable in most older complexes, such as: tennis courts, pools and game rooms - all of which come at a price.

Each individual must think about what is important to him or her in an apartment, and usually

will have to compromise on some points.

Mary McKoy used to live in Heritage Pointe and felt alienated by the distance from campus, but she is now more satisfied as a resident of Tillman Place.

"I like it because all the people living in the complex give it a good sense of community, the pool is great, and we're close enough to downtown to be able to walk if we have to."

To make things even more difficult, there is also the option of living in a house, but that is made less probable due to a number of factors.

There are not as many houses as apartments for students to live in, and even the ones

available usually have restrictions of three or four to a house, making the rent prohibitively high.

Still, houses remain an attractive option for those who seek sanctuary from the loud noises that come with living in close proximity to others, as well as to those who make a good deal of noise themselves.

"Proximity to campus, maximum occupancy, condition and the amenities contained are the things that have the most influence on the value of the property"

WALLACE MARTELL  
Advantage Property Management



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654-1000

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646-9636

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# Courtesy can go a long way with roomies

► *A level head and kindness can solve most conflicts with living partner.*

BRANDON SMITH  
special to *The Tiger*

When it comes time to move on in life and find some place to live, there is one thing that some people forget, when you move in with somebody, you better get along or it might just ruin your life and friendship, at least until your lease is up. I came here in 1995, I know I am old, and found myself thrown into a situation. A person was living in my room with me, it was odd but it is something that as students we must get used to. After four years I have discovered a few things that might just help some of you out in the coming months, of both finishing out this semester with a roommate and also with picking the ones you want to live with in the coming year.

Roommates are just that. They share the room, or space in which you live making them equal partners in the household. Do not hide things from them. By hiding either your feelings or your last package Kraft Macaroni you have started to sever the bond roommates need to have.

If you have not discussed the food arrangements, like who is buying this weeks groceries, who is cooking tonight, or even what food is off limits, do it now. Eating the last of someone's chips can be more detrimental then dropping a toothbrush in the toilet. Simply asking may avoid many rifts in the household.

Do not steal from them. If you take something from them without asking just be sure to get it back to them before they notice, or even better leave them a note. Stealing from them will probable only lead to them snooping around your stuff looking and searching for their

stuff, while stumbling across heaps of yours.

If you have a problem with a roommate do not hesitate to bring it up with them. Yelling is the worst way to deal with it, talking over dinner or during Monday Nitro, a comfortable setting, might help ease the tension. The quicker the problem is solved the quicker the tension will leave your house.

A roommate is a friend, no matter how long you have known each other. By becoming a roommate, you have obligated yourself to lend an ear or a shoulder to those living with you. Sparing a little bit of time every now and then never hurts, and when it becomes your turn to need a listener, they will want to pay back the favor. Do not ever feel like you can not ask what is wrong. Sometimes it is better to ask and be told that everything is fine then ignore someone you know is in pain.

If you live in a place with a kitchen, do not take offense to doing the dishes a few times in a row. Someone has to be the mother, and if it is you then so be it. Just look at it like you have stepped into the role of the leader. If no one else is willing to take charge, then set an example.

Along the same lines though, if you feel like you are pulling to much weight then ask for help. There is no shame in asking.

Privacy is something that is hard to find when you live with three other people, or even just one. Try to be considerate of others while they are trying to have a moment of piece. I know that it hardly ever comes but when it is quiet in my house, you can hear the cars drive by a half a mile away. Along the same lines is the age old issue of the live in girlfriend/boyfriend, this can cause unbelievable tension among housemates. Bathroom, phone and personal time become a scarce commodity in the household. It is

important to remember that though you love someone, if they do not pay rent, they may not need to be taking up the space of those that are. Roommates can get just as jealous of someone hogging you as a girlfriend or boyfriend can.

I have met some people that find it hard to do one thing, leave messages, a crucially important thing. By leaving messages it shows that

you care about those around you, though subtle it can make a huge difference in such cases as getting the number of the girl you have been after for half the semester, or getting a nice loan from mom.

I guess the important thing here is that, everyone deserves to be treated with the same respect that you would like. It is an age old thing to say, but it is beautifully true.

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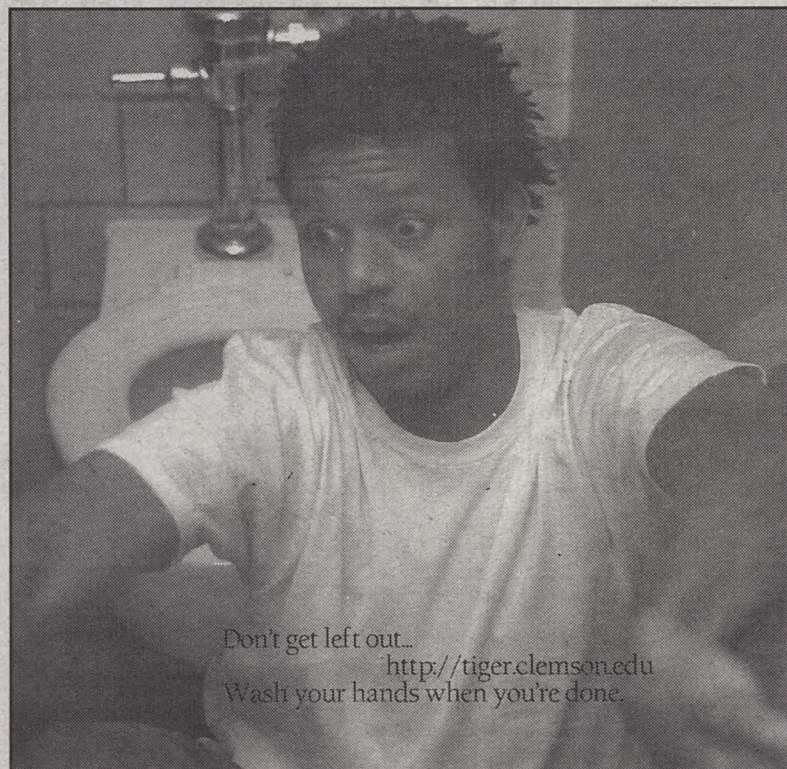
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