

Orientation  
2004

# THE TIGER

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Volume 97 ■ Orientation

**SPORTS:** University traditions remain strong long after their origins, **B2**

**OPINIONS:** Columnists offer advice for freshmen, **C1**

## Officials hope new posts deter fans

*After fans tear down numerous posts, department purchases collapsible style.*

**CAROLINE STONE**  
Editor in Chief

Tearing down the goal posts is a symbolic tradition to some and an embarrassing and unnecessary practice to others. However, both sides will have to be content with knowing that last year's downing of the posts after the Florida State game was the last in Clemson history.

In an attempt to restore fan safety and preserve the University tradition of allowing fans on the field after football games, officials announced last year the decision to purchase collapsible goal posts for the 2004 Fall season.

Associate Athletic Director Katie Hill explained the University considered the change after the 2002 Carolina/Clemson game. After the game, fans tore down the goal posts, and, among others, Anderson County deputy Homer Booth was injured. He suffered a broken collarbone and several broken ribs.

Hill noted that after the incident, a University-wide task force was developed to deal with safety concerns. Subsequently, officials reduced the number of fans



**UPROOTED:** Fans remove the goal posts and head towards the reflection pond after last year's win over Florida State.

allowed onto the hill, increased the number of security personnel present at games and implemented measures to reduce fans' alcohol consumption.

She said the task force decided not to purchase the collapsible goal posts out of "a hope that we wouldn't need to take it to that level ... that the changes we had

made would be sufficient."

Additionally, at the beginning of the 2003 season, officials developed "Gathering at the Paw." The initiative allowed fans to interact with the coaches and players on the field after the game while the Tiger Band played the Alma Mater.

According to Terry Don

Phillips, director of athletics, "Gathering at the Paw" was intended to "enhance the fan-friendly atmosphere that Clemson is known for."

However, after the Tigers defeated Florida State, Clemson fans failed to simply "gather." They rushed the field, and in the process of removing the goal posts, several individuals were injured.

Hill pointed out that, while these injuries were "not as severe" as the ones fans incurred at the previous season's Carolina game, the fan safety issues raised at the FSU game helped move officials in the direction of collapsible goal posts.

Schools including Kansas University and the University of Iowa, have experienced success with similar posts; in particular, the University of Iowa has been using collapsible goal posts for over a decade.

Clemson officials are considering several styles of posts including one style that can be folded down and secured with a clip.

Hill said that the cost of these new posts higher than the previously used type. But at approximately \$5,000-a-pair, in the past two years the University has spent

SEE **POSTS**, PAGE A6

## Chili's brings campus options

*Located beside Harcombe dining hall, Chili's too offers students new entrees.*

**RENEE PELTON**  
**COREY GREENE**  
Staff Writers

Students' dining options diversified last year when a "Chili's Too" opened in January in the space that L.J. Fields restaurant had occupied for the last ten years. Patrons did not encounter the normal Chili's experience, however, because this Chili's Too has a Clemson twist.

According to Director of Dining Services David Raiger and Dining Services Manager Jeff Hall, Chili's Too has been a very exciting move for dining services.

This restaurant is the second of its kind on a college campus, and it brings students quality food at decent prices with quick service. The first on-campus Chili's opened at Baylor University and became a very popular casual dining option on campus.

Chili's Too is set up so that students order in the front of the restaurant, seat themselves and have their food brought to them. According to Raiger, this ordering process allows Chili's to serve students three times faster than with the traditional ordering system. Faster service makes it possible for students to fit a meal in their busy schedules.

The menu is not be a standard, full menu, but according to Raiger, it still has the most popular items, including Baby Back Ribs, Southwestern Eggrolls and Chicken Crispers. Chili's also offers a to-go menu and party platters.

Foods are similarly priced to a standard Chili's restaurant.

Chili's Too is owned and operated by Aramark, the University's dining services contractor, but the restaurant accepts tiger stripe, paw points and credit cards.

Although the restaurant has no bar, it serves beer, wine and margaritas. The University now boasts both the first and second on-campus facilities that sell alcohol in the southeast.

A partnership with Aramark made it possible for Chili's to come on campus, but the restaurant is not run by dining services. It is held to the same standards as any other Chili's restaurant. The revenue

SEE **FOOD**, PAGE A6

## Housing ensures residents' success

*Programs directed towards freshmen promote higher grades, smoother transitions.*

**CAROLINE STONE**  
Editor in Chief

Ensuring the success and well being of the University's freshmen through specialized programs has been a priority in the Housing Department for over a decade. Now referred to as FYE for First Year Experience, the multi-faceted program places the University as a frontrunner in provid-

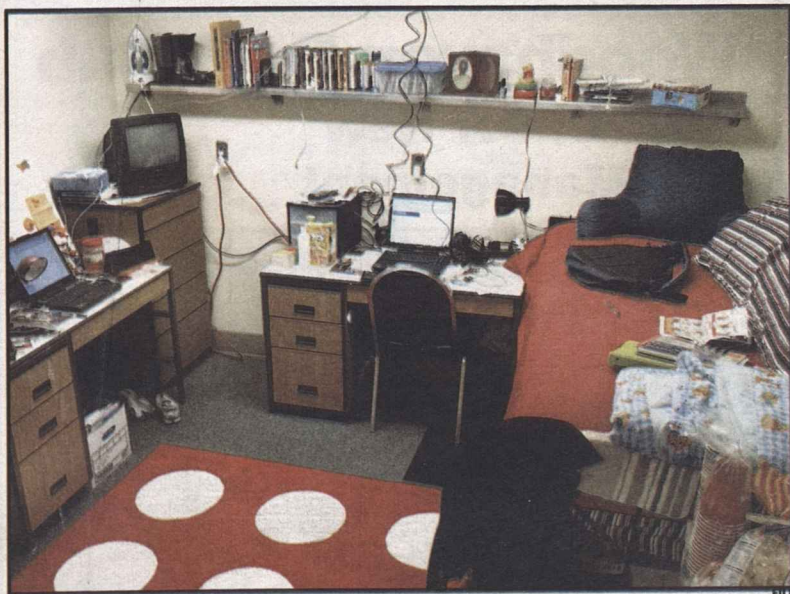
ing quality service to its on-campus students.

Kim Jones, associate director of residential life for University Housing, noted that the program has been through a series of changes that led to its current focus.

She noted that "initial efforts date back to the mid-to-late nineties" and in 2000 the current program "evolved" from past efforts and "incorporated an academic focus."

Additionally, some of the major

SEE **FYE**, PAGE A7



**RESIDENCE:** As the housing department makes changes to its first year programs, residents continue to enjoy their homes away from home.

## Leaders plan for year

*After a close run-off election, Hammond and Bayless emerge as winners.*

**ISAIAH TRILLO**  
News Editor

Amid the often raucous campaign for president of the United States, Clemson held its own smaller election, for both student body president and vice president. The race for the presidency originally held four candidates: Adam Hammond, Danny Higginbotham, Cooper Ellenberg and Daniel Perry.

Hammond and Perry emerged from the primaries for a runoff, which was held on March 9, with Hammond ultimately winning the election.

"To be honest I didn't expect to hear my name called that night," said Hammond. "This has already been a very humbling experience."

The vice presidential race was a contest between Charlie Walls and Katy Bayless, with Bayless claiming victory.

Hammond said he knew from his first day at Clemson that he would one day run for student body president. Similarly, Bayless had a career in student government in mind from the beginning of her college experience.

"One of the first things I wanted to do ... was get involved in student government," she said.

As a freshman, she had lunch with the student body vice president and ever since then, she has wanted

to take that position.

According to Hammond, Bayless and he both were involved in the "creation of a statewide association for the preservation of higher education."

He explained that the South Carolina State Student's Association (SCSSA) officially convened on April 3 and 4 in Clemson. Over 50 students from 13 different public, private and technical schools were a part of the conference.

"The weekend's theme, 'Mission Possible,' framed the educational seminars facilitated by Emily Francis, our consultant from the Student Empowerment Training Project (SET Project) ... I am proud to say that Clemson not only planned the conference, but is the leading force behind this initiative as well," Hammond emphasized. "Be prepared for an amazing year as Clemson University student government will engage students at Clemson like never before."



**ADAM HAMMOND**



**Katy Bayless**

### SPORTS



Sports legend and announcer, Jim Phillips, served the Clemson family for many years before his death last fall. Read about his legacy, **B1**



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# Safe Zone provides safe haven for students

*Project organizers hope to bring unity and acceptance of alternative lifestyles to campus.*

**CAROLINE STONE**  
Editor in Chief

University administrators are currently working with members of Clemson's Gay Straight Alliance on a new program called Safe Zone. They hope to "educate the university and provide an environment for people where they can talk about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) issues," said Angelo Colon, former resident director for Benet and Sanders residence halls and a Safe Zone committee member.

Project Safe Zone provides training on issues that affect members of the LGBT community.

"It offers definitions and dispels myths regarding sexual orientation. It also allows opportunities for participants to share thoughts, discomfort, concerns and personal stories about how Clemson can be a more supportive environment for all students and employees," said Dean of Students Joy Smith.

After the training, participants sign an agreement outlining how they will provide a "safe zone" to others. The participants also receive a sticker which they place in a visible area to show others that they have received training.

Smith provided the details of the Safe Zone agreement.

It states that the participant will display "the program sticker and respond to the questions it may prompt ... educate (himself or herself)

about LGBT issues ... monitor (his or her) own prejudices and stereotypes ... be sensitive to any of (his or her) own language and actions ... welcome and listen empathically to any LGBT person who chooses to share ... vigilantly respect and protect the confidentiality of any LGBT person who chooses to share ... be sensitive to institutional practices that might negatively impact LGBT people and work to change them ... (and) be visible and support LGBT-positive activities."

Smith explained how she benefited from the training. "I learned what bisexual and transgender actually mean, and I confirmed my impression that sexual orientation is much more about accepting who one was really born to be than about choosing to be a certain way," she said.

In addition to around 25 University faculty and staff who have been certified as trainers, approximately 60 students have already received the training which began in the Fall of 2003.

Currently the committee is planning to offer several sessions each year and "listen to our students to know what (else) they need," Smith said.

She also noted that the coordinating com-

mittee is working on a website listing the people who have received Safe Zone training for students and employees who are interested.

The Safe Zone project was modeled in part after programs that other universities such as the University of Georgia have already implemented. After sending out requests to these universities for information and conducting academic and community-based research, Safe Zone committee members have compiled a resource manual to be used in the training process.

According to Safe Zone committee member Jeff Brown, Georgia's program has been "very instrumental" in the formation of Clemson's Safe Zone project.

He noted that the idea of a support group for members of the LGBT community was brought to light several years ago by a resident director in the Bryan Mall area who envisioned the program as residentially based.

University administration, however, felt that the program would better serve students if it was "universally based," encompassing all facets of the university.

Although a project similar to the Safe Zone has been in the formative stages "for some time," Georgia's progress has aided Clemson's

efforts. "They're an institution that we benchmark ourselves against," said Colon.

In Aug. 2003, a trial run of the training program was conducted with the National Coalition Building Institute. NCBI has worked with diversity training programs in the past and recently provided feedback about potential improvements for project Safe Zone.

Colon added that training housing employees, "specifically resident assistants" is a priority for the committee because those students "will be able to reach the most students and provide an immediate, accessible resource."

Part of the reasoning behind the voluntary nature of the program and the strong commitment that will be required is the "desire to attract people concerned with the well-being of the LGBT community, people without agendas of their own that they are trying to present through the Safe Zone," emphasized Colon.

Colon also stressed, "the important thing to remember here is that members of the LGBT community and those who would like to be more informed about the community will be able to recognize people who can assist them by answering their questions, providing a listening ear and creating a safe environment that excludes any form of judgment."

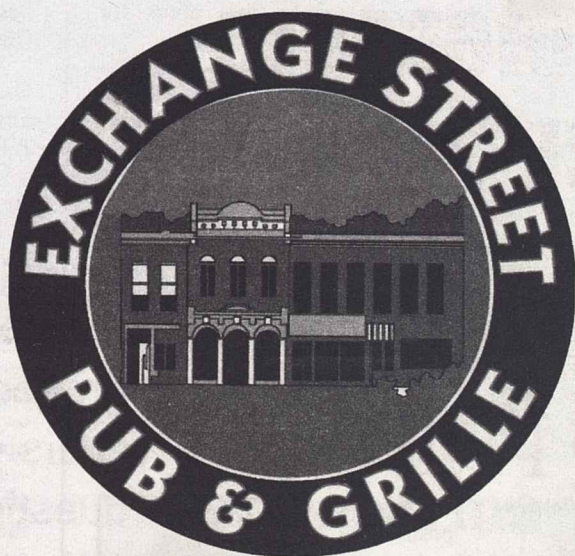
While Smith stressed the positive nature of the program, she also pointed out that ideally, Clemson would "be such a supportive environment for all students and employees that we wouldn't need 'safe zones.'"

"Our goal is to have no oppressed minority populations at Clemson but to have a campus where respect for each other ... supercedes our differences," Smith said.

**"Our goal is to have no oppressed minority populations at Clemson but to have a campus where respect for each other ... supercedes our differences."**

**Joy Smith**

Dean of Students



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## Study cites school's influence in state

*As Clemson strives for Top 20 goal, students face tougher qualifications.*

**CAROLINE STONE**  
Editor in Chief

President Barker has said that the character of the University resembles a state institution. Character, when grouped with personality and values, may seem to some as a more abstract concept. Enrollment percentages, however, show disparities with Clemson's student body, those who constitute the actual characters attending the University, and the residents of South Carolina.

The State's per capita income in 2001 was \$24,840. This figure is almost \$5,500 lower than the national average and approximately equal to two semesters' in-state total costs for a full-time student at the University. Additionally, in 2004, every entering freshman at Clemson will be required to own a laptop computer.

Some have suggested that, in part, Clemson is "publicly accountable" by fulfilling its public service mission. According to Aims McGuinness and Rich Novak who co-authored the educational reform plan for South Carolina released Dec. 4, accountability is defined as answering, among other questions, "Are South Carolina's citizens and economy benefiting?" and "Are South Carolina's colleges being more efficient ... and working in collaboration with each other?"

Novak also pointed out how programs such as Clemson's literacy initiative improve state-wide education. Barker emphasizes that the University also serves through research and economically stimulating ventures. The question remains, however, whether or not the move to produce Top 20-quality is at the expense of representing the public of South Carolina.

Sophomore Martha Norris has lived in Florence, South Carolina all of her life. During the year in which she applied to Clemson, her SAT score was approximately 100 points above the state average and 60 points above the national average.

She had always been enrolled in upper-level classes in high school, but when it came time to apply for college, she began to doubt her chances of success.

She doubted whether or not the school that had received approximately 30 percent of its previous yearly operating budget from taxpayers such as her parents would even accept her. Her concerns were warranted. She applied in October was deferred. Finally, in May of her senior year, she was accepted and ready to go to Clemson.

While she found attaining admittance to the University to be a precarious situation, Martha Norris did not ever stop to question whether or not she would achieve academic success at Clemson.

She is currently in her fourth semester and has a 4.0 cumulative average.

According to the University's enrollment figures for Fall 2003, approximately 65 percent of the student body is from in-state. Comparatively speaking, at 44.6 percent, the Citadel has one of the lowest percentages of students from in-state. The student body at the University of South Carolina, however, is comprised of 88 percent in-state students.

The average SAT score of Clemson's entering freshman class, 1204, was the highest-ever in 2003. And while the state public-high school seniors' average score was up ten points to 994, the disparity remains.

# Nader addresses audience in Tillman

*The former Green Party candidate speaks in Tillman about corporatization.*

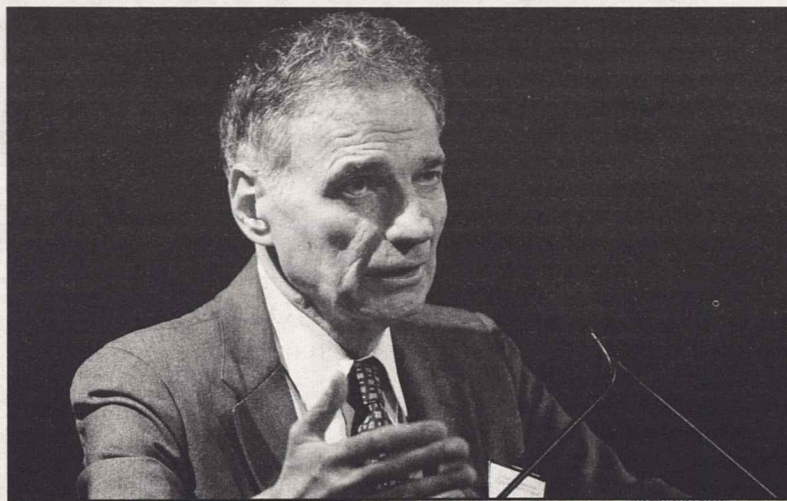
**ISAIAH TRILLO**  
News Editor

Ralph Nader is not a name one hears on a regular basis on the Clemson campus. For the nearly 500 people who paid to see him speak in Tillman Auditorium on January 23 who waited patiently even though his talk began a half hour late and who traveled off campus to area bar "The Joint" for a more intimate meeting following his talk, his name cannot be mentioned enough.

Nader made his entrance onto the national scene in November of 1965 with the publication of his first book, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, which exposed the dangerous design flaws in automobiles, specifically the Corvair, that were responsible for thousands of deaths each year. The following year, President Lyndon Johnson invited him to the White House for the signing of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the first real regulation of the automotive industry.

As a result of Nader's work on this book, basic safety components that are taken for granted in vehicles — such as the seat belt — became required features.

Since then, Nader has worked continuously as a consumer advo-



**GREEN:** During his speech, Ralph Nader dispelled the accusation that he was a "spoiler" in the 2000 election and has since announced his candidacy.

cate, championing the rights of the individual and forming hundreds of grassroots organizations nation-wide.

In 2000 he abandoned his long-held desire to not become a political candidate when he accepted the Green Party nomination for president of the United States. He received nearly 4 percent of the national vote in that year, just short of the number necessary to receive matching federal campaign funds for the next election year.

Many Democrats who are unhappy with President Bush's tenure in office place blame on Nader, dubbing him a "spoiler" who gave Bush the election.

Nader will have none of it, though.

"Why should I be the spoiler?" he asked when a student questioned him about the subject after his talk. "I should be able to say 'Gore spoiled my campaign.'"

According to Nader, it is nearly impossible for a third party to enter into the political arena and compete against the Democratic and Republican powerhouses. Third parties are seen only as the "spoilers" and not as equals.

His talk in Tillman focused on the role of corporations in the United States. According to him, the "cen-

tralization of power" in major corporations has resulted in a "control of the wealth" of the people which is leaving Americans out in the cold.

Nader does not believe that corporations, which are legally defined as artificial entities, should have the same rights that are given to humans.

"Would you give these rights to a robot?" he asked.

Another problem with corporations, according to Nader, is that they no longer consider themselves as part of America, even though they were born from government-issued charters.

"They built their fortunes on the backs of the American worker," said Nader. "When they were in trouble, they came to Washington for hand-outs."

According to Nader, they are no longer loyal to America, sending "capital and labor" overseas in order to increase profit. Nader has not yet decided if he will make another run at the White House this election year. To help him make the decision, he has formed the Presidential Exploratory Committee to gauge manpower and monetary support for the campaign.

Members of the South Carolina Green Party present at the talk expressed a desire for him to once again run as their candidate.

Nader said he was unsure if he would run. At the time, he said he would make the decision in "two to three weeks."

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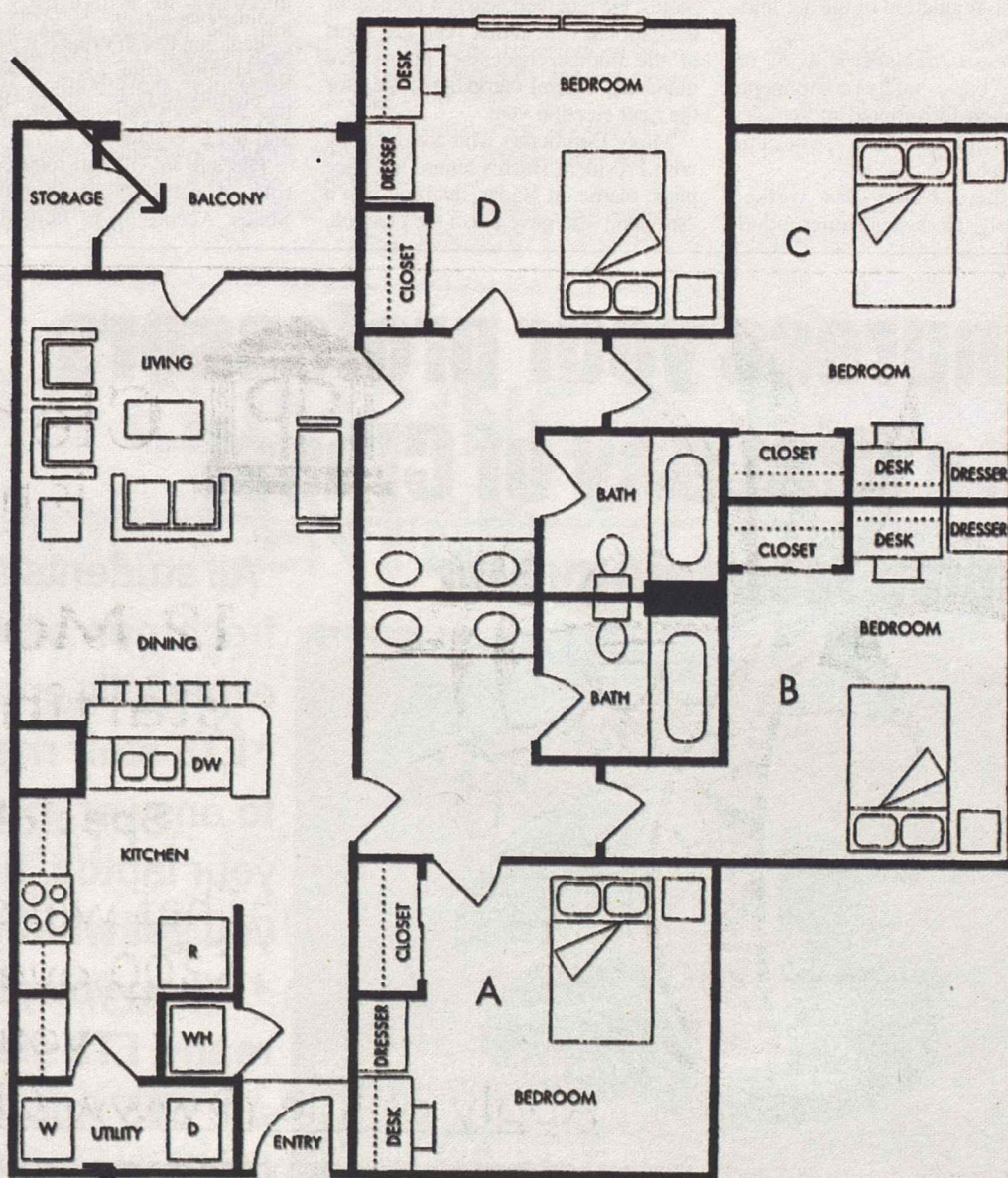
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# Pi Kappa Alpha loses fraternal privileges

*University officials sentence the chapter to remain inactive until May of 2005.*

**CAROLINE STONE**  
Editor in Chief

In the Fall semester of 2003, the University's Eta Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was suspended from campus until May 2005 by judicial services for incidents that occurred at the beginning of the semester, according to Travis Watts, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity president.

Watts noted that upon learning of the occurrences, the fraternity made contact with its academic and chapter advisors who then corresponded with University officials.

However, Watts declined to comment on the nature of this most recent violation. He did note that the fraternity chose not to contest the University's initial sanctions and opt for a hearing.

Prior to this semester's incidents, the fraternity had previously been on a period of probation for approximately one year, and after notifying officials about its current situation and hearing the University's proposed sanctions of suspension until May 2005, the fraternity members decided to accept the sanctions.

Paul Kittle, associate director of Greek Life and associate director of student media asserted that the fraternity turned itself in to judicial



**ASKED TO LEAVE:** After learning of improper behavior, local alumni of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity took receivership of the charter.

services after "becoming aware of internal problems." Kittle added that he did not know the specifics of the incidents surrounding the suspension. He explained that the Greek community often has to deal with the "rumor mill" and the negative consequences associated with "gossip."

While he stressed that he expected

to eventually be informed of the details, if the incidents involved hazing, "he would rather not know."

"I can't tell you how many hear-say, anonymous phone calls I receive each semester in reference to hazing. But with hear-say and people who aren't willing to say their names, there is not much that my office can do," Kittle

said. "Just because someone makes an allegation doesn't make it true."

He noted that the best way for the fraternity to deal with a suspension is to "work through their problems internally," something Watts also emphasized that the fraternity is currently attempting to accomplish.

The local alumni have currently

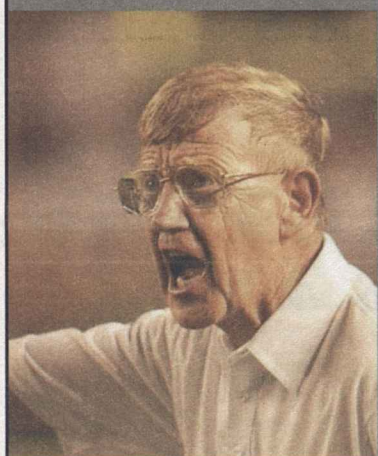
taken what Kittle referred to as "receivership" of the fraternity's charter. He explained that while the fraternity is suspended, receivership will allow the alumni to take charge of working with the current brothers to "strengthen and improve" their current situation. According to Kittle, the fraternity will question themselves to determine what they "have to do about this to make sure it never happens again." Additionally, he noted that suspension can often be a "very positive" thing for a fraternity, allowing the members to improve their group and return to campus "ready to make a positive contribution."

Former Student Body President Angelo Mitsopoulos echoed Kittle's sentiments about suspension saying, "I think that when a fraternity is forced to examine itself that it has an opportunity to refocus itself back to what its values are and therefore can experience a positive change," he said. "Being a part of a fraternity is about being part of something greater than they are, part of that is owning up to their actions."

Mitsopoulos' fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, was formerly suspended from campus and returned to campus in 1997.

Kittle said "on the assumption" the fraternity ceases all philanthropy, recruitment and organizational parties, they can petition the IFC and the University to be re-admitted after the period of suspension.

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## POSTS

FROM PAGE A1  
roughly \$10,000 replacing the previously torn-down posts.

In reference to the purchase of the posts, Hill emphasized that cost is not high on the athletic department's list of concerns.

She stressed that "safest and swiftest to get down" will determine which style of posts are eventually purchased.

Hill also pointed out that the plan might not guarantee safety on the field.

She noted that after last season's Carolina/Clemson game,

University officials were concerned that fans would still try to tear down the collapsible goal posts and, in the process, incur more severe injuries.

This possibility, while taken into consideration, was outweighed by officials' concerns for safety.

"Without the change," Hill noted, "field safety will continue to be at risk."

Former Student Body President and football player Fletcher Anderson expressed his desire

that the football program would "get to the level ... that we expect to beat everyone on our schedule." At that point, Anderson feels that a win would "never warrant this destructive act of celebration."

The footage from last season's Carolina/Clemson game, the implementation of "Gathering at the Paw" and the footage of fans tearing down the posts at this past season's Florida State game were featured in a special on crowd safety by ESPN's investigative show "Outside the Lines."

## FOOD

FROM PAGE A1  
remains on campus with profits going to dining services, and royalties to Chili's.

Inside Chili's Too, students find the same atmosphere and décor of any Chili's restaurant but with University influences such as artifacts, pictures and paws.

Dining services hopes that a Chili's Too will fit the college

lifestyle.

"It doesn't matter what we (dining services) like, it's what you (the students) like," stated Raiger,

He added that Chili's Too is a nice complement to other dining and activities on campus and gives students a place to spend time in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

Senior Just Ballenger said, "I like Chili's Too because it can open the door for more casual dining to come on campus."

Chili's Too also houses a new University Club, open during normal operating hours for Clemson faculty and staff.

The University Club, furnished with leather sofas and chairs, TVs

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**FYE**

FROM PAGE A1

freshmen-focused changes in residential life began to take shape in the Fall of 2003 according to Daniel Karns Assistant Director of Residential Life.

Young, Geer, Johnstone A section, the 4th floor of Mauldin, and the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 10th floors of Manning began to solely house freshmen students instead of a mix of freshmen and upperclassmen.

Among the 2003 changes was a lowered student to resident assistant ratio of approximately 25/1 which Karns said "increases the amount of intentional positive interactions between resident assistants and students."

Additionally, the changes included an overhaul in the residence halls substance use policies. Karns pointed out that Lever, Byrnes, Benet and Johnstone A section were originally the only non-alcoholic residence halls, but in 2003, freshmen living areas — Geer, Young and Manning — were added to the list of alcohol free living areas. At the time, all residence halls also became designated as non-smoking.

"We made this move towards substance-free living areas in an effort to increase student satisfaction and student performance," Karns said.

Many students seem to express satisfaction with the freshmen-focused living areas. In October of 2003, Manning, a mostly freshmen building with three floors of sorority women, was voted best place residence hall by the readers of The Tiger.

When asked how she felt about living in Manning Hall, freshman Elliot Jenkins responded, "I've gotten to meet some of the upper-class women from the other floors and still build close relationships with the other freshmen on my floor. There is something about Manning that makes it feel like home. I think it's the people. Everyone is really open and friendly."

The housing department views the Fall 2003 changes as a success and has development some additional

plans for the 2004-2005 school year. The plans center around an "expansion of the FYE program" according to Jones.

Jones also explained that part of the program's goal is to promote "the services that are crucial to a student's academic and personal success" including "social activities for students to meet one another," "on-site" academic support and educational programs within the residence halls "on topics that are relative to the freshman year."

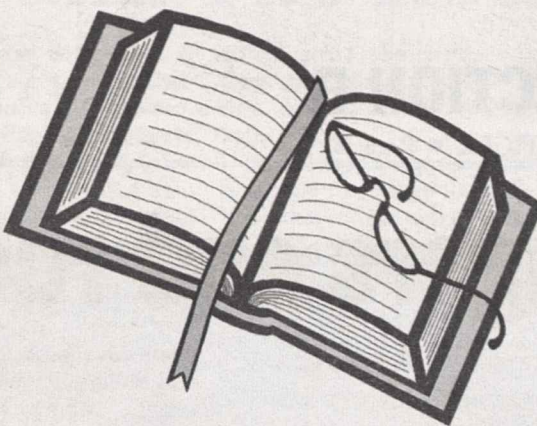
To achieve these goals, Jones explained that the FYE program, which originally began in Byrnes and Lever, will be implemented in all freshmen areas in the Fall of 2004. The areas that became all-freshmen in the Fall of 2003 were designated as first year initiative (FYI) areas at the time.

While the freshmen were able to live in a substance-free environment with their peers and have a greater number of resident assistants on their halls, they did not yet have access to on-site tutoring, fitness equipment and some of the other benefits of being classified as FYE.

This coming year, however, the FYE program will extend to every freshman who comes to the University. In addition to on-site help, they will have access to the Academic Support Center, Student Development Services and the Writing Center. Jones and others are currently working to bring additional modes of academic support to this list.

"I am excited to be a part of the FYE program at Clemson," Jones said and she noted the progress the housing department hopes to have in the future. "We will continue to build upon the program each year. We hope to increase our academic living and learning communities ... outstanding ways for students to connect with their area of study both in and outside of the classroom. Peer mentor, service learning, and hopefully increased faculty involvement will all be a part of the program."

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# Tigers end rocky year with string of victories

*Amid calls for Bowden's resignation, the Tigers win their last four games*

**ROY WELSH**  
Sports Editor

There is nothing quite like 81,000 fans at Death Valley on a Saturday afternoon. And with the Tigers coming off of their best season since the 1980s, this upcoming season could be a special one for students to enjoy.

Last summer, the Tiger faithful were looking forward to the Georgia game, the most anticipated home opener in recent Clemson history. The Bulldogs brought a Top 10 ranking into Death Valley and Tiger fans thought they smelled a possible upset.

However, Georgia quickly crushed those hopes and throttled Clemson by a 30-0 score. Just three weeks later, Clemson beat Georgia Tech 39-3 on the Flats in the Tigers' largest margin of victory over the Jackets since the turn of the twentieth century, when John Heisman (who later coached at Tech) was coaching at Clemson.

Nothing could have prepared the Tiger fans for the Wake Forest game, though. Clemson went up to Winston-Salem in search of a conference victory and instead came home with a 45-17 loss, a defeat that sent shockwaves through the

Clemson fan base, some of whom had already begun to call for head coach Tommy Bowden's job. With perennial ACC powerhouse Florida State looming large, the road did not appear to look any easier.

The next week, however, the Tigers emerged as a different team and beat Florida State in front of a Death Valley crowd of 83,000 by a score of 26-10. The Tigers led the game and took a commanding 23-3 lead into the fourth quarter. It was Clemson's first win over Florida State since 1989. The team went on to a string of impressive victories, beating Duke 40-7, South Carolina 63-17 and No. 6 Tennessee 27-14 in the Peach Bowl on Jan. 2.

If Clemson hopes to build on last year's success, they will have to do it in an improved ACC, as Virginia Tech and Miami enter the conference. The Tigers will play some tough road games this season at Virginia, Miami and Florida State.

On defense, the Tigers will look to replace starter John Leake, Donnell Washington, Khaleed Vaughan and DeJuan Polk. Washington, who was recently selected by the Green Bay Packers in the third round of the NFL draft, was invaluable on run protection and did a great job plugging up holes in the middle. Former offensive line-

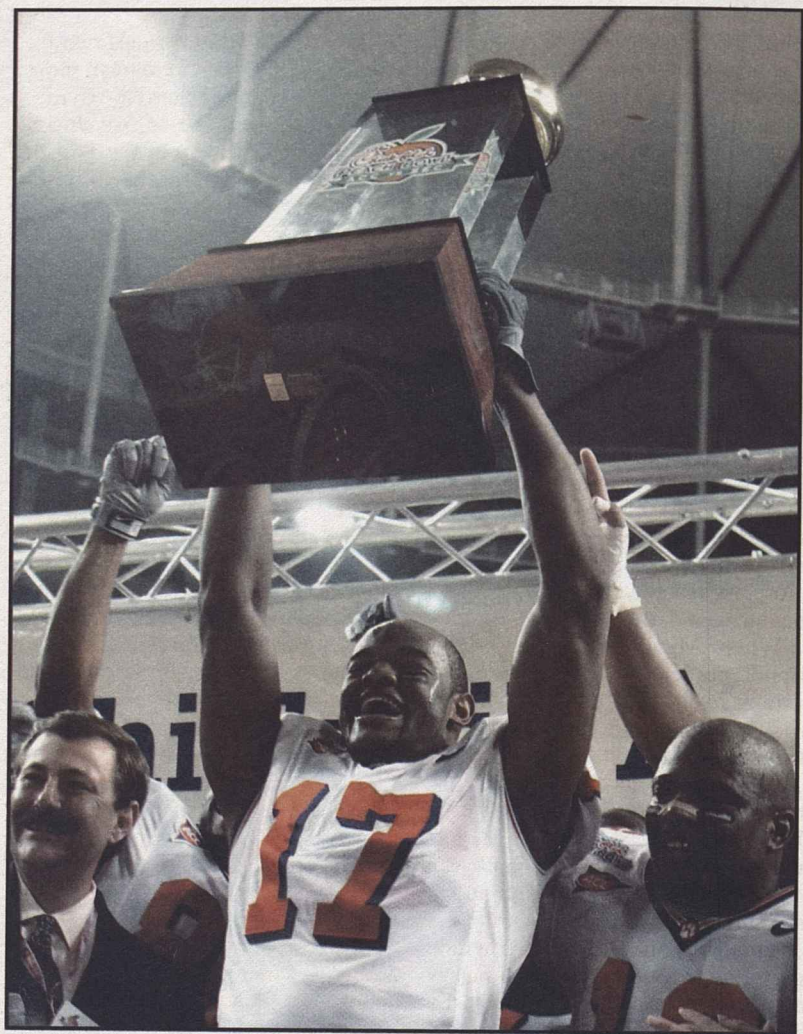
turned-defensive line coach Ron West will have the challenge of making sure the Tigers' losses go unnoticed.

On offense, the Tigers lost offensive tackles Greg Walker and William Henry in addition to receivers Derrick Hamilton and Kevin Youngblood. In Clemson's passing offense, receivers coach Dabo Swinney will look to sophomores Kelvin Grant and Chansi Stuckey to step into starting roles. Another sophomore Curtis Baham could show promise as a possession receiver.

But perhaps the most important task for Clemson's coaches is the offensive line. With the Tigers losing Henry and Walker, offensive line coach Brad Scott will look to a fairly young, but deep line to give quarterback Charlie Whitehurst some time.

Whitehurst is already becoming known as one of the nation's top quarterbacks, and if the front five can give Whitehurst enough time to find receivers, it could make life difficult for opposing secondaries.

Regardless of the success of this year's Tiger football campaign, Clemson football is an experience not to be missed. Incoming students should take it all in: the tailgating, the crowd and the stadium. It is a part of the Clemson experience enjoyed by all who are a part of the University.



**VICTORY:** Wide receiver Kevin Youngblood hoists the Peach Bowl Championship trophy after the 26-14 win over the Tennessee Volunteers.

## Sound of silence: Jim Phillips, beloved voice of Tigers, passes

*Legendary broadcaster passes away from surgical complications.*

**GEORGE HOLMAN**  
Staff Writer

Clemson University lost a legend in the early morning hours of September 9, 2003. Jim Phillips, the voice of the Tigers, died during surgery for a ruptured aorta. The 69-year-old Phillips drove himself to the hospital that Monday evening after complaining of lower back pain. He was treated and stabilized at St. Francis Women's and Family Hospital before being transferred to Greenville Memorial for further care.

A legendary figure in the Clemson Athletic Department, Phillips broadcast his 401st and final Clemson football game on Saturday in what ended fittingly as a win for the Tigers.

A rarity in an age where many schools hire separate broadcasters for each sport, Phillips' voice filled Clemson's airwaves as he broadcast nearly every University athletic event for over 36 years.

For many, Jim Phillips' voice was as synonymous with Clemson as Howard's Rock or Death Valley.

"Jim Phillips captured a large scope of Clemson history because of his 36-year experience," said Senior Athletics Director Bill D'Andrea. "He was truly the dean of all ACC broadcasters because he did almost every athletic event at Clemson."

Legendary football coach Frank Howard hired Phillips to broadcast Clemson games. Phillips, an Ohio native, came to Clemson from Kent State and immediately fell in love with the Tigers.

IPTAY Executive Director Bob Mahony shared the booth with Jim Phillips for over 13 years, calling more than 500 baseball games.

"When I first started with Jim, it was a bit intimidating," said Mahony. "He was a legend and it was hard to get used to hearing my name associated with his."

For Mahony, Phillips was the consummate professional in the booth.

"He helped make me a better broadcaster. He corrected you to make you a better broadcaster, but he would also complement you when you needed it the most. (He) was the anchor of the broadcast. It was nice to have him there at first because you knew he would carry the broadcast."

Mahony also spoke endearingly of Phillips' love for Clemson.

"Jim quickly became a part of the Clemson community. He developed a relationship with Clemson people and that's one of things that made him so special to this community."

D'Andrea said Phillips shared a true love for every sporting event at Clemson.

"Jim was a fan of Clemson ... very loyal, yet he was still able to analyze perspective on things from the broadcast booth. He was a Tiger through and through; he bled orange."

Phillips remains a legend not only to Clemson but also to the rest of the nation. Dick Vitale, an ESPN basketball commentator, included Jim Phillips on his list of the top basketball commentators in the country in 2001.

"Jim was a real artist in the sense that he could paint the picture of the football games through his voice," D'Andrea said.

Phillips made his mark on the

SEE **VOICE**, PAGE B4



**MEMORIES:** Phillips' fans placed flowers at the top of The Hill at Death Valley in memory of the broadcaster.

## Lady Tigers win ACC

*The team wins their first division championship since 1986.*

**ASHLEY WASHINGTON**  
Staff Writer

The Lady Tigers tennis team began the weekend with a blowout score of 6-1 over the UNC Tar Heels this past Saturday. This win over the Tar Heels posted the Tigers outstanding record to 18-3 overall and a spectacular 7-0 in the ACC. In doubles play, the Tigers started with an upset from the Tar Heels when Alix Lacelarie and Julie Coin were beaten by UNC's Aniela Mojzis and Kendall Cline 9-7.

But the Tigers made an awesome comeback by defeating the number two and three doubles teams of Chapel Hill. Daniela Alvarez and Maria Brito posted an 8-3 win, followed by the team of Karen Rombouts and Richele LeSaldo with an 8-4 defeat.

In singles action against UNC, Clemson totally dominated by crushing the Tar Heels in five out of six matches. Alvarez, who currently ranks No. 84 nationally, started the Tigers' defeats when she took on Lee Bairos. Lacelarie defeated UNC's Caitlin Collins with scores of 6-3, 6-4.

In the number four singles, Clemson's Maria Brito disappointed UNC's Sara Anundsen with the scores 6-4 and 6-4. With the scores of 3-6, 6-0, 7-6(4), Clemson's Ioana Paun captured a defeat over Jenna Long. This defeat over UNC led the Tigers to just one win away from an ACC title.

On Sunday, the Tigers went on to hang tight to their undefeated record in the ACC by facing the Duke Blue Devils. The Tigers visited the No. 4 Blue Devils on their senior day which turned out not to be a very happy occasion. Although none of the Tigers doubles teams were successful on Sunday, the singles play was monumental in the upsetting defeat. The number one doubles team of Julie Coin and Alix Lacelarie took the first upset from Duke's Amanda Johnson and Saras Arasu, 8-5. The second upset of

doubles play for the Tigers came when Daniela Alvarez and Maria Brito faced Duke's Tory Zawacki and Julia Smith with the score 9-7. The last upset in doubles play was the number three team of Richele LeSaldo and Karen Rombouts who lost 9-8 to Katie Blaszk and Jennifer Zika.

With a 1-0 scored leading into singles play, Duke may have believed that their win was captured, but the Tigers quickly took control of the match. Tiger Ioana Paun started the singles play by being defeated by Duke's Sara Arasu, 6-1, 6-2. Daniela Alvarez brought the first singles defeat for the Tigers with scores 6-4, 6-3 over Tory Zawacki. Maria Brito joined in the victory by defeating Julie Smith 4-6, 6-3 and 6-0. Following the first two defeats that the Tigers brought to the Blue Devils courts, Clemson's Karen Rombouts showed no mercy when defeating Duke's Kate Blaszk 7-6(3), 6-1.

The Tigers also received yet another accolade after last week's perfect performance when Alix Lacelarie was named ACC Women's Tennis Co-Performer for the Week. Lacelarie was successful in singles competition over both UNC and Duke this past weekend.

At Duke, Lacelarie defeated Jennifer Zika who was ranked 92nd in singles play. This win is what helped the Tigers claim an ACC regular season title last weekend. Lacelarie follows fellow Tiger Julie Coin with this honor for the season. Coin has claimed the reward three times previously this season.

Last year's outstanding performances mark the first ACC title for Clemson's Women's Tennis since the 1986 season.

The Tigers travel to Raleigh this weekend where they will compete for the ACC Championship. During last year's ACC Championship tournament, the Tigers fell in the semifinal round to the Tar Heels of UNC; but they are eager to face all of the teams again to contend for yet another undefeated record in conference play.



# Tiger traditions continue: The Hill and The Rock

*Long time traditions make Clemson football some of the most exciting in the nation.*

**HEATH MILLS**

Sports Editor Emeritus

"When the Clemson Tigers run down The Hill, it's the most exciting 25 seconds in college football." — Brent Musberger, ABC Sports

Clemson football is synonymous with The Hill and Howard's Rock. The sight of 85,000 orange clad fans clapping and yelling at the top of their lungs as the Tigers stand at the top of The Hill and rub The Rock is enough to intimidate any visiting team in Death Valley. The sights and sounds after the cannon fires and the Tigers storm down The Hill to "Tiger Rag" is even more imposing.

Opposing players and coaches praise the traditions as two of the best in college football.

The aura that surrounded Howard's Rock impressed Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer so much that he went back to try and create something similar in Blacksburg. Still, what makes the tradition even more impressive is the very humble beginnings that it stems from.

When Memorial Stadium was first completed to house football games in 1942, the Tigers locker rooms were still in Fike Field House.

The closest point of entry to the stadium was the gate along Williamson Road. The Tigers would cross the street and run down the hill on the east side of the stadium for part of their warm-ups.

This continued to be the method of entrance for the Tigers for nearly a quarter of a century without any sort of fanfare.

The next big step in the evolution of the trademark of Clemson Tiger football was when Clemson alumnus S.C. Jones made a trip to Death Valley, California in 1964 or 1965. Memorial Stadium had received the nickname "Death Valley" 17 years earlier when former Presbyterian College coach had been quoted in the media saying that he was taking the Blue Hose to play Clemson in Death Valley, due to PC's horrible record there.

While Jones was in Death Valley, he found a white flint rock that he decided to take back to give to the Tigers head coach at the time, Frank Howard. The 1919 graduate presented the rock to Howard claiming "from Death Valley, California to Death Valley, South Carolina."

Howard found no immediate use for the rock, and it sat on the floor in his office for at least one year. Upon realizing the rock was still there one day, Howard told the executive secretary of IPTAY at the time, Gene Willimon, to "take the rock and throw it over the fence, or out in the ditch — do something with it, but get it out of here."

Willimon, for one reason or another, decided to save the rock. From there the story becomes legend.

Coach Howard began to use the term "Death Valley" to describe Memorial Stadium himself in the 1950s. From that point on the name stuck.

Then on September 24, 1966, the Rock was placed on a pedestal on the top of the hill.

That day the Rock showed its first magic powers in the eyes of Tiger fans, leading Clemson back from an 18-point deficit midway through the third quarter to defeat Virginia.

Almost exactly one year later, players started rubbing the Rock before running down the hill and Coach Howard spoke the infamous words still instilled in players today before they are allowed to touch the stone. "If you're going to give me 110 percent, you can rub my rock," Howard said. "If you're not, keep your filthy hands off of it."

Though all the events were in place for the tradition to continue unchanged, Coach Howard's retire-

ment brought a short end to the Tigers running down the Hill.

When Hootie Ingram became the head coach for the 1970 football season, the locker rooms had moved to their current location in the west end zone.

Ingram decided to not bother with the hassle of getting the players around to the east side of the stadium to make their entrance from the Hill.

The Tigers did not run down the hill for the 1970, '71 and most of the '72 season. The team had a dismal home record of 6-9 during that span.

Finally, the team asked to be able to enter via the Hill before the season ending game against USC in 1972. Following a nail-biting 7-6 victory, the tradition began again.

Today the Tigers perform their warm-ups before heading back into the locker room for last minute preparations. Then, the team boards buses to cart everyone to the gate on Williamson Road.

As the players swarm around Howard's Rock, the band breaks into Tiger Rag and the crowd builds its excitement.

The cannon fires and a stream of orange helmets flows down onto the field, following the Tiger mascot and a Tiger Paw flag. The crowd erupts, thousands of orange balloons are released into the sky and the band plays the final stanza

of Tiger Rag.

"I have been around some pretty nice, high profile programs, and I've seen that Clemson's running down The Hill is unique to college football," said head coach Tommy Bowden. "Florida State's got a

horse, and Michigan State's got a horse, Texas Tech's got a horse that they ride on. You've got Boston College Golden Eagles, Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, and even with there being the LSU, Auburn, and Clemson Tigers you

notice some similarities in traditions such as mascots. But, nobody runs down a hill in college football.

So, Clemson has something that is unique to college football, and I think that's what makes it special."



**MOST EXCITING SECONDS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL:** Screaming fans look on as Tiger players stream down The Hill at Death Valley prior to a game.



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**VOICE**

FROM PAGE B1

University's student-athletes as well.

"Jim was very close to the student athletes," D'Andrea said. "He often rode the bus with the team or visited with the kids. He was a very personal, affable Clemson athletic family member."

"In baseball, when you take a three game roadtrip you get to know the people," Mahony said. "We'd all stay at the same hotel and Jim loved meeting the families of the athletes and spending time with all the kids and fans. Sometimes I think meeting all the people meant more to Jim than broadcasting."

In honor of Phillips, the Clemson football team wore the initials "JP" on their helmets for the following game against Middle Tennessee State. Whether it was a cold, windy Saturday afternoon at Bobby Dodd Stadium or a wild Monday night at the Dean Dome, listeners across the South could count on Phillips to give

them a description of how the Tigers were faring.

"I think the beautiful thing about Jim Phillips and the Clemson community is that Clemson always appreciated Jim. It wasn't one of those things you look back on and say 'oh if we only realized what a gift we had.'"

Clemson always realized what a gift we had in Jim Phillips," said DeCarvalho. At the request of Phillips' family, Clemson sports information director and long-time friend of the family, Tim Bourret gave the play-by-play for the game against Middle Tennessee State the following weekend.

Bourret shared the booth with Phillips as a color analyst for basketball games before taking his current position in sports information. Rodney Williams, who worked with Phillips for years on Tiger football games also returned to the booth in Phillips' honor.

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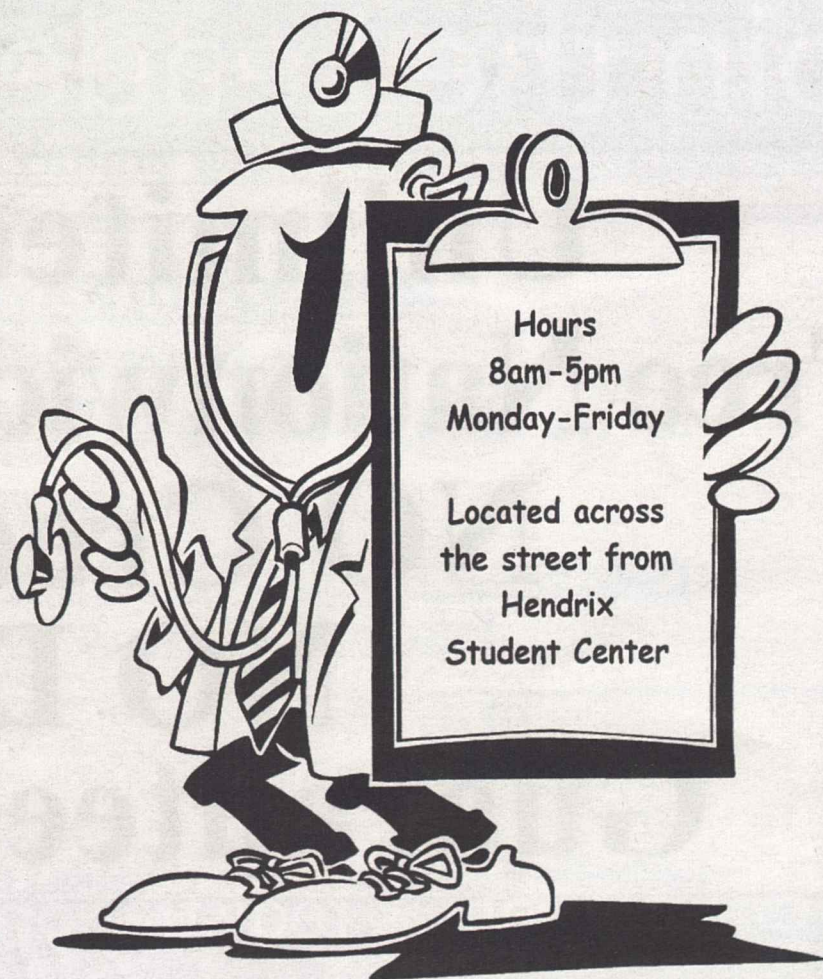
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[STAFF EDITORIAL]

# Clemson Family unites when under fire

Some concepts are better in theory than they are in practice: Communism, Gathering at the Paw or winging it on finals, for instance. This past Spring, everyone found out that the concept of the Clemson Family will never fall into this category.

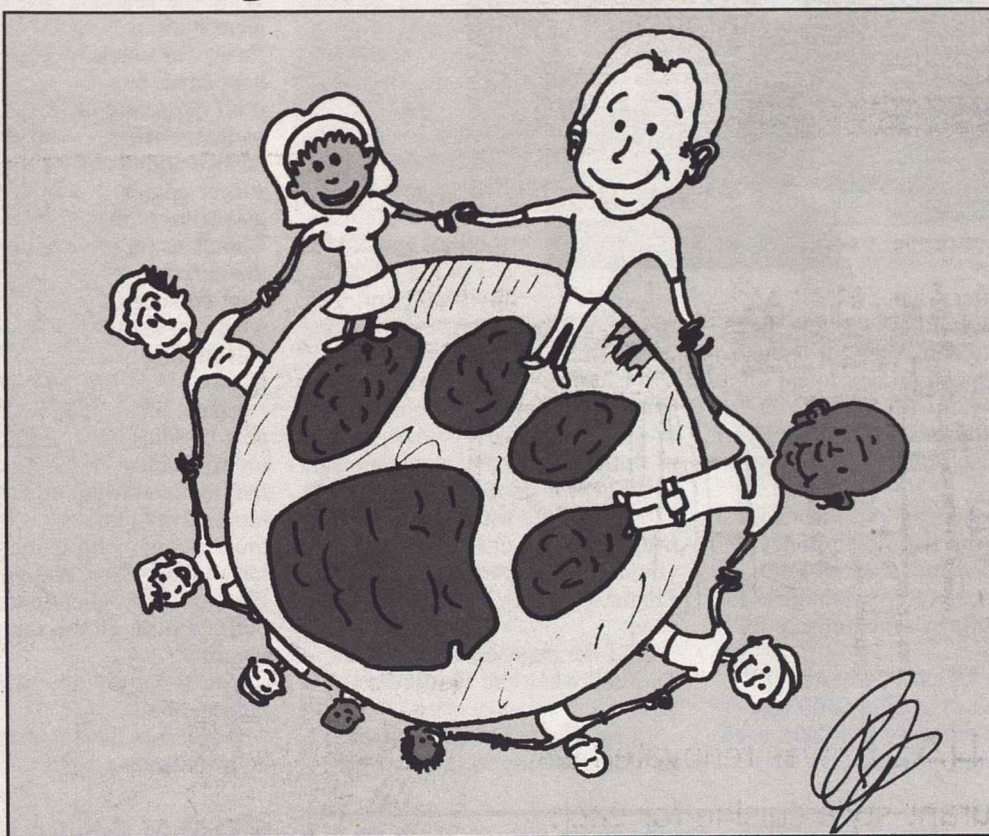
Too often students tend to be critical of the constant talk of community and familial care here at Clemson. In fact, sometimes the idea can become clichéd because people use it so often.

But when fire destroyed University Ridge apartments on Feb. 25 and left around 140 students and community members without homes and without most of their belongings and other essential items, the often discussed idea became a reality — a reality that had a huge impact.

Some national businesses certainly made significant contributions to the relief efforts, and these should not be discounted. But for the most part, the local Clemson community stepped forward and had just about everything covered. Individuals and businesses in the local area supplied everything from food, clothes and housing to money, books and laptop computers.

Relief came from campus organizations, downtown businesses, University departments and countless individuals who volunteered time and resources. University administrators, faculty and staff, the Student Body President and hundreds of student volunteers all pitched in to help out the victims of the fire.

Perhaps the most vivid demonstration of the true nature of the Clemson Family was the concern expressed by Clemson



alumni across the nation. Calls were coming into The Tiger office and many students' cell phones within an hour after the blaze started and news outlets began picking up the story. Alumni from Florida to California and everywhere in between wanted to know how things were going back in Tiger Town and how they could

provide assistance to the victims.

Isn't that what community should be about anyway? America in general has become increasingly isolated and individualistic in recent years. People have learned to stay out of other people's business, and fears of loneliness consistently rank high in national surveys.

But people need community, especially when difficult circumstances arise, as they did this Spring.

People have to help each other out and come together to support those who need assistance. Unfortunately, this seems to be the exception rather than the rule these days.

Especially in a college town, which naturally is home to thousands of people who are away from their families, the community really should function as a surrogate family at times like this.

This is in no way saying that it should replace the family one has left at home, but when emergencies happen, the love and care needed immediately and consistently should also come from the local community.

That's what's special about Clemson. Current and past students, as well as community members who have never attended the University, take pride in the fact that they are a part of the Clemson Family, and they want that family to be unique. The recent outpouring of concern and assistance was just one more example of this fact.

Residents of University Ridge were — and still are — dealing with very difficult circumstances and facing very trying times ahead of them.

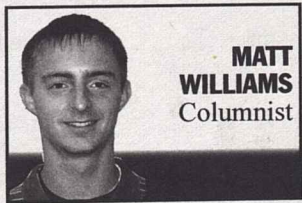
They needed more than simply some help; they needed consistent support from a family. And that's exactly what they got.

*The opinions expressed in this 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

### The real deal: answers for freshman year

Incoming students, welcome to Clemson! It seems like just yesterday I was in your shoes, mindlessly bumbling around campus during orientation, finally free from high school repression and eager for the excitement of life as a college student. Now, three years later, I'm older, wiser and still completely unable to wash my own clothes or navigate the difficulties of cooking. But despite my shortcomings, it is still my duty to share my wealth of knowledge with you so that you, too, make it to your senior year at Clemson.



**MATT WILLIAMS**  
Columnist

*Help you I must. Compiled questions I have. Teach you I will.*

**Q: So give me the lowdown — what do I really need to know about college life at Clemson?**

A: Club and Greek recruitment (RUSH) typically mean free food, and the first lesson of college life is free food equals good food. Warm, sunny days mean girls sunbathing on Bowman field. The best bathroom literature is in Cooper Library. Beer before liquor, never been sicker. The phone number for Papa John's is 653-PAPA. And most importantly: Don't toy with the squirrels, because they're the ones really running Clemson.

**Q: Can I bring my pet dog/cat/orangutan/pachyderm/sperm whale?**

A: According to Clemson's housing guide, only pets that can be kept in aquariums are allowed in dorms and on-campus apartments. In other words, sperm whales are more than welcome.

**Q: What is there to do in Clemson?**

A: Whether your passion is thumping Bibles or beer bottles,

Clemson is the place for you. With eleven million million clubs and activities to choose from, you could be jumping out of airplanes, waltzing, shooting guns or having sex with complete strangers before the end of your first semester! (Parents: I just want you to know that by "having sex with complete strangers" I actually mean "making really, really close friends with complete strangers of the opposite sex.")

**Q: Can I bring my car to campus? Where can I park?**

A: Absolutely!

New students are the single greatest source of revenue for Clemson Parking Services, affectionately referred to as those "##%@!^& Nazis." These holdovers from the Third Reich are just itching to ensure that you only park in approved locations such as R-01, R-02, and R-03 — better known as Mars, Alaska, and the Czech Republic. Check out a world map for details.

**Q: Is it hard getting along with a roommate?**

A: The key to getting along with roommates is communication. In other words, be sure to leave a star or some other symbol on your door when it's "unsafe" for your roommate to enter. This is the key to ensuring that you and your roommate are close, but not too close.

**Q: What if I just can't get along with my roommate or people living on my hall?**

A: One method that always works when dealing with dorm disagreements: QUIT YOUR WHINING!

**Q: What is dorm life like?**

A: During my two-year stay in Holmes Hall, I saw a dorm flood, shaving cream fights, hall golf, a milk gallon challenge, 3-D

Twister, a Dr. Mario tournament, hall sleeping, an iguana and an entire room filled with newspaper — just to name a few exciting occurrences. In other words, it's ... interesting.

**Q: What is a Tiger1 account?**

A: Your Tiger1 account is like a black hole tied directly to your university ID. You simply deposit money into the black hole, whether online (<http://tiger1.clemson.edu>) or at the office in Fike, and then you can quickly and conveniently spend every dime on overpriced university goods and services! Yeah!

**Q: How is the food?**

A: Students with meal plans know that the term "PhD" doesn't refer to an advanced degree — it stands for the infamous "post Harcombe dump." You'll understand soon.

**Q: I've heard that when I get to college I can party all the time and never attend class! Is it true? (Please, please let it be true!)**

A: Absolutely! Class attendance and schoolwork are completely optional, provided you don't mind enrolling at Moron Tech next year.

**Q: What should I bring with me?**

A: There are a variety of items that college students should always have on hand, including a swimsuit, a bottle opener, air freshener, an alarm clock, a white board, a refrigerator and, of course, a jig-dancing monkey named Chester.

**Q: Why Chester?**

A: What other name is appropriate for a dancing monkey? Gladys?

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you looking completely and totally lost in the fall just like I was my first year.

*Matt Williams will be a senior and a regular columnist in the Fall. E-mail comments to [letters@TheTigerNews.com](mailto:letters@TheTigerNews.com).*

## COMMENTARY

### Do as I say, not as I did

I remember coming to Orientation at Clemson almost like it was yesterday. In fact, it was three years ago now. One memory I have was getting lost on the way back from Edgar's to the high rises, ending up out on Perimeter Road. If you're at all familiar with the campus layout, you'll realize I was a tad off course.

I wish I could say that I am happy with all of my time spent over those three years, but I'm not.

I was what some people would call a "nerd." No, it's all right; I'm OK with it now. It took a while for me to come to grips with this realization, but I have.

I spent a good deal of my first two years here at Clemson sitting in my dorm room in Holmes, playing computer games or, occasionally, working on homework.

Everyone always talks about college being the best time in your life. If they told you it was high school, they were dirty, dirty liars. I look back on my first two years here and very much regret not taking advantage of all the great things that Clemson has to offer.

Sure, it may look like a tiny town overflowing with bars, fraternities, sororities and a football stadium, and ... well, it is. But hovering just beneath the surface of all of that is so much more. Did you know that Clemson has a sky diving group? Or how about the Bioethics Club? WSBF, the student-run radio station? The point is, whatever it is you're interested in, there's a group for it.

At the end of my second year, I made a promise to myself that I would get out there and be more involved. And I'd like to think I have been, though at the expense of any semblance of normal sleeping habits. I joined the newspaper staff, started going to several different clubs, helped bring Ralph Nader to

campus and several other things. And you know what? It was the best year of my life.

Clemson makes many efforts to introduce new students to the Family, and you should take advantage of all of them. The first will be right here during your Orientation, at the Organizations Fair. You won't have a huge amount of time,

but get your name down on some e-mail lists, grab some free stuff and meet some new people.

Many people are tempted to treat college as "High School: Year 5: The Reckoning,"

but I'd like to encourage you to see it as something more than that. Sure, you can spend all your time face down in a keg, or with your face pressed against the computer screen, but hopefully you'll find some other things to do. That isn't to say that those things are bad and shouldn't be done (I have some fond memories of playing video games with friends, and some fuzzy memories of the first one), but they shouldn't be the sum and total of your experience here at Clemson.

Lastly, newcomers tend to spend all their time with people they already know. That's great and all, but, and believe me on this, you'll start to hate them after a while. I'm sure you don't want that, so head it off at the pass and get out there and meet new people!

The theme of this whole thing has been pretty easy to see, I suppose. I screwed up and wished I hadn't. But, I'm in the position now to warn you about doing the same thing.

Welcome to Clemson University. Your time here will be what you make of it. Don't mess it up.

*Isaiah Trillo will be a senior next year and wants to encourage everyone to write for The Tiger. E-mail comments to [letters@TheTigerNews.com](mailto:letters@TheTigerNews.com).*



**ISAIAH TRILLO**  
News Editor



## COMMENTARY

## Some advice after my first year: don't worry, you will be fine

In Christopher Plummer's words (roughly), it was a "little over a year and a lifetime ago" when I ran into one of my best friends who had just returned from the Far-Off Mystical Place known as "college."

"Oh it's great," Jane the Seasoned Ancient College Student said, "but remember, you have to go to class. You're still going to school."

Oh.  
If any of you were like me, you looked at academics and thought, "wow, that class would be fun to take."

Somehow, and it's probably because I'm really bad at math, the long nights, 40-page papers, and seemingly Endless Deck of Flashcards never entered the equation.

Not to intimidate you or anything, of course.

Now that a year at Clemson has passed and I am a Seasoned Ancient College Student, I have the same advice to offer as Jane.

You are, despite the hot babes lounging on Bowman, the 10pm Frisbee games, and the slight distraction that is Clemson Football, here to go to class and get that ever-elusive degree.

Like many others applying for college, I had looked at Clemson as an amazing, hallowed center of

learning where...

All right, alright, I give. Clemson was my safety school. It was instate and I got Palmetto Fellows, so the lure of a free college experience pulled a bit harder than the \$40,000 at my top choice. Plus, you didn't have to write an essay on the application.

In assuming that scholarships would render my brain-filling experience at Clemson free, I was making a terrible mistake.

College is *not* free, even if you have scholarships coming out of the Wazoo.

No matter what meal plan you have or how much you like to cook on your own, you will spend money to eat out (especially at Chili's).

No matter how many shirts you have, a new orange one is always in order.

Sororities often put their hottest members out to collect money. I guess fraternities do too, I dunno. I tend to lose focus when girls in swimsuits ask me politely for money.

Textbooks each semester will probably cost a good \$500 too, and you can rarely sell them back for even half price.

So while I was looking at the incredible lack of money in my accounts now as compared to all that graduation money, I figured that I spent about \$1000 - \$1200 at Clemson on books, food, clothing and other sundry items.

That doesn't count that brand-new laptop.

Clemson is a wonderful place, and I have a plethora of fond memories from my first year.

As I said before, Clemson was my safety school, so I had (gasp) never been to a Clemson football game.

Let me tell you, my blood definitely runs a bright orange now.

My first game I didn't know any Clemson fight songs or chants. Now, at the slightest hint of the Tiger Rag, my heart starts to flutter and I have a sudden urge to go grill myself a chicken.

In short, the football games are truly amazing, unlike anything you've ever experienced before. That's what they are, an experience.

And the experience starts on Tuesday when the first RV's arrive.

I hear Clemson becomes the third largest city in the state on

football Saturdays.

As slow as the year seemed to go at times, like when I had to write the last 10 pages of a 40-

page paper and stayed up most of the night rocking out to Disney and The Who, the year went by in a flash. So much happened, but it all happened so fast. Parties, frisbee and soccer games, gathering with friends to see the harrowing next episode of whatever show was on that night...

I have 55 new buddies on my Buddy list, and countless others I see in most of my classes — you know, those people who you always see but never talk to, and you feel like you know them because you both go through the same agony together?

You'll get to know what I'm talking about.

Professors have approached me on a first-name basis — many of

them I still talk to for advice or at parties or cookouts. Kind of weird at first, but the Clemson Family definitely exists.

In my last week at school, my friends and I started to panic. We would not be Where the Blue Ridge Yawns its Greatness for an *entire summer*, so we started to do everything in those last few days — wings at Explorer's, parties at the lake, late-night pizza eating at Todaro's downtown, frisbee golf (AKA swimming in the reflection

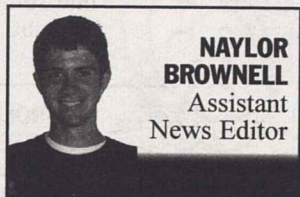
pond) and so much more.

Sheesh, I'm already getting nostalgic, and I still have three more years Where the Tigers Play.

But if you'll excuse me, I gotta go make a quick thousand dollars.

**Naylor Brownell** is a sophomore in biological sciences.

E-mail comments to [letters@TheTigerNews.com](mailto:letters@TheTigerNews.com).



**NAYLOR BROWNELL**  
Assistant  
News Editor

**"You are, despite the hot babes lounging on Bowman, the 10 p.m. Frisbee games and the slight distraction that is Clemson football, here to go to class and get that ever-elusive degree."**

**NAYLOR BROWNELL**

Assistant News Editor

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## COMMENTARY

## How UGA can make us all feel better

Leave it to the University of Georgia to make me feel like I attend Harvard. Apparently, three Georgia students decided that eating raccoon is a delicacy and had a barbecue.

Last December 12, three members of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity killed, skinned and ate a raccoon. It would be easy to put this incident off as just another rural Georgia episode, but there are more sordid details than meet the eye.

It was a boring night before exams. The fraternity house was dead, and sophomore Eric Zimmerman got an extreme case of the "munchies."

Dead broke, Zimmerman reverted to his rural North Carolina instincts: There had to be road kill around somewhere. Unfortunately, there was none.

Then Zimmerman spotted his prey: A convulsing raccoon was in the dumpster of the fraternity house.

Wielding a parking cone like a battle axe, Zimmerman put the raccoon out of its misery. His methods ineffective, Zimmerman grabbed his trusty pellet gun and killed the helpless rodent.

Zimmerman was still plagued by hunger. So he grabbed fellow fraternity member, Patrick Perry, who skinned the raccoon. Then the third suspect, Ivan Garcia, decided to use man's age old tool of fire to make the meat safe to eat. Garcia sampled a chunk of the barbecued rodent and determined that it needed a little Mrs. Dash.

The Athens Animal Control officers never knew what they were in for that night.

They arrived on the scene expecting another case of rabid raccoons that were plaguing the area.

Instead, they found a burnt animal carcass and three frat boys with guilty looks on their faces.

The story made news throughout Georgia, and the students returned from Christmas break to

face a flurry of accusations from animal rights groups. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Humane Society contacted the Athens Police Department. They want the students expelled for animal cruelty because they were not hunting.

UGA officials seemingly want to blow it off as just a normal night of over-exuberance in college.

They are taking a "hands off" approach and letting the fraternity discipline the students. Disciplinary action from the fraternity banned

the offending students from any fraternity event or function for a month. A mere 30 days seems rather trivial for all the negative press brought on the university and the fraternity. Animal cruelty is no laughing matter. Killing an animal for enjoyment should never be acceptable at any university.

UGA officials are frustrated with the negative press and the damage to their struggling academic reputation.

Fearing jail time or a fine, many UGA students have stopped eating rodents as well. The school cafeteria resorted to buying real beef for the first time in decades.

A boring night at the fraternity house turned into a violent maelstrom, effectively ruining the college careers for three students.

However, we can excuse these students on account of their attendance at the University of Georgia. We know that students don't go there to get an education anyway.

And if you ask me, there is a good chance that three transfer papers are already in the works at the student records office.

Just imagine trying to get a date after a girl finds out what you really mean when you ask her out for "dinner."

**George Holman** is a junior in political science. E-mail comments to [letters@TheTigerNews.com](mailto:letters@TheTigerNews.com).



**GEORGE HOLMAN**  
Columnist



## COMMENTARY

## Things I'll never forget

1) The Weekend Trips: Although their frequency has certainly dropped off I will never forget the many, many trips that were taken to the Appalachian Mountains in order to backpack, the rivers for fly fishing or Atlanta to take in a Braves games. Never again will I be in a place that is so perfectly positioned that I can easily make any of these trips on a whim.

2) Football Saturdays: All of you will certainly agree with this statement: it is hard to beat 80,000 screaming Clemson Tiger fans in Death Valley. I don't care who you are, if you witnessed the 2003 Florida State, South Carolina and Tennessee (Peach Bowl) games you can't help but be impressed.

My memories did not begin this season. It is hard to forget "The Catch" by Rod Gardner against the Gamecocks in 2000. I still get a good laugh at my Carolina friends who haven't gotten over it.

3) Friends: As generic as it may sound, I have truly made friends for a lifetime here at Clemson. I won't ever be able to recreate the time spent with these folks. I will certainly make great friends outside of this University, but there will always be a special bond between those of us who experienced this place.

4) Support of the "Clemson Family": Although it may seem like a terribly overused cliché, there isn't much else that I can think of that describes the genuine care and concern that the University and the surrounding community can show for one another.

Outsiders, and maybe even some insiders, may doubt that it is really a powerful and impressive thing, but the "Clemson Family" is for real. And it showed its true colors last week in the wake of the fire at The Ridge. Campus organizations, departments and community companies and establishments responded with lightning speed and provided relief for all of those who were affected by the fire.

Some of you might say that the same reaction could have taken place somewhere else. Maybe you are right. However, that is not my point. It happened here, and each of us is a beneficiary of it. I am impressed.

5) Nocturnal Tendencies: Before I came to Clemson, I did not realize that it was possible to almost completely reverse the timetable for your normal sleeping habits. It is safe to say that I will never again have a regularly scheduled three-hour afternoon nap!

6) Bowman Field: My favorite memory of Bowman Field took place in the middle of one night during the spring of my freshman year. It was somewhere around 35 degrees and pouring down rain.

Who knew that the combination of cold weather, water, mud, four friends and a moped could be so much fun?

To the grounds keepers: I apologize.

7) "Where were you when ...?": I have always asked my parents, "Where were you when John F. Kennedy was shot?" or "... when it was announced that Elvis died?" Well, I am certain that my

kids will ask me, "Where were you on the morning of September 11?" I was in Clemson walking back to Lightsey Bridge while talking to my mom on the phone. She had witnessed, on

television, the second tower toppling to the ground.

It was an odd time. I will never forget the conversations I had with friends and total strangers. Certainly the events that day have changed the course of contemporary history, and my experiencing that day will forever be linked with Clemson.

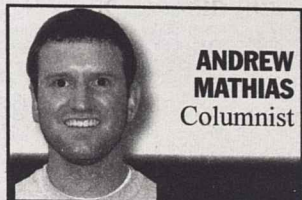
8) Clemson sunsets: Say what you want, sunsets in this town are amazing. I have seen the sun go down in a lot of amazing places, and I am still hard pressed to think of somewhere the colors are more beautiful. If you don't know what I am talking about, take a look this spring.

9) Clemson Tiger Baseball: Spring time in Clemson is severely underrated. Everyone talks about the fall and football season ... I agree that this is the best time to be in Clemson. However, spring is a close second (and not just because it is the only other major semester).

Although Clemson baseball creates a completely different atmosphere than does football, it is hard to beat a 72-degree afternoon spent watching the Tigers play and listening to your favorite Jimmy Buffet tunes between innings.

10) Lessons Learned: Clemson is truly a place for personal growth. Although some of the lessons I have learned came through successful ventures, some of them have come through trying, personal failures. Lessons learned with ease, as well as those learned with great difficulty, are much more effective when you are surrounded by those who have concern for your well being. I have certainly been taught my fair share about life while here at Clemson, and although I have much, much more to learn, I now feel better equipped to leave this place. To those who have surrounded me and taught me these lessons: I am forever indebted to you, and you will forever be tops in my list of Clemson memories.

Andrew Mathias is a senior in political science. E-mail comments to [letters@TheTigerNews.com](mailto:letters@TheTigerNews.com).



ANDREW MATHIAS  
Columnist

## COMMENTARY

## from the EDITOR'S desk

Barely into the third hour of endless note-card flipping and page-turning last October, I gave up on studying for my art and architecture exam.

I was in search of a distraction, something mainstream, something that wasn't five thousand years-old.

So I began to channel surf.

Even with all the glorified cable television that the university so graciously provides in Manning Hall, I could find nothing worth watching.

Then I realized what I was missing: my freshman year's reality television.

I desperately needed to be consumed by a much-too-perfect couple's blossoming romance, to sit wide-eyed in the floor of my dorm room, breathless as Trista tells Ryan (The Bachelorette for those who are unlightened) what my girlfriends and I have known all season, that he is "the one." (sigh)

ABC truly presented the total package with the *Bachelorette*. Each Wednesday night the world, or at least the world of college females, was put on hold for hour-long increments.

It was an extra-curricular, social, stress-relieving, escape.

And that is exactly the problem with reality television.

It holds a great power for addiction simply because the characters are "real" people.

At the end of the day, we can't ever randomly run into Rachel from *Friends* or Pacey from *Dawson's Creek*, but stories seem to abound of people who have pseudo-connections to characters from reality television.

Obsessing over these characters' personality flaws is even considered kosher.

We can complain about Leah's mood swings on *The Real World* and take sides between characters on *Paradise Hotel*.

In this sense, the shows provide people with a common-base of people that pretty much everyone "knows."

Run out of things to talk about? That's ok. Did you see Alton and Irulan's big fight last night on *Real World*? Did you hear about the new Colonial House Governor? You're set.

Not that we can't all learn something from a house full of whiney twenty-somethings.

Similarly, I'm sure the eligible

men and women of Clemson can relate to having to eliminate 25 eager suitors over the course of six weeks.

Really?? This is reality? Whatever.

It's staged, set-up, edited (however poorly), and most unfortunately un-scripted.

In scripted television at least we have the assurance that someone put some kind of thought, little though it often is, into what will be coming out of the characters' mouths.

Then the final product is brightly packaged and often topped-off with some type of

million-dollar/ engagement ring/ is-our-colony-going-to-make-it-type bow and placed before millions of viewers who have proven that they are willing to become engrossed by the next tasteless who-wants-to-marry-my-Siamese-twin based show to hit the viewing arena.

Not watching these shows during your freshman year may not help to deter the current decline of television quality.

Similarly, it probably will not immediately improve your capacity to be an interesting conversationalist.

However, it will definitely give you the opportunity to invest your most precious time in other pursuits.

Every minute during the oh-so-crucial episode of a reality television show, actual events in our world are taking place. They involve incidents and revolution that are much more difficult to comprehend than who should win *Hot or Not*.

Invest your time wisely, and make an effort to become more aware of current events.

And, if you do these things, you will find that the reality television shows eventually lose their appeal.

Replace the shows that once allowed you to be a passive onlooker with ideas that challenge you to think about your positions and your purpose.

Take action and have an opinion. Don't sell out by investing your time in someone else's televised-version of reality.

Get out of your room. Get involved. Get a life in the real world.

Caroline Stone is a junior in English. E-mail comments to [letters@TheTigerNews.com](mailto:letters@TheTigerNews.com).



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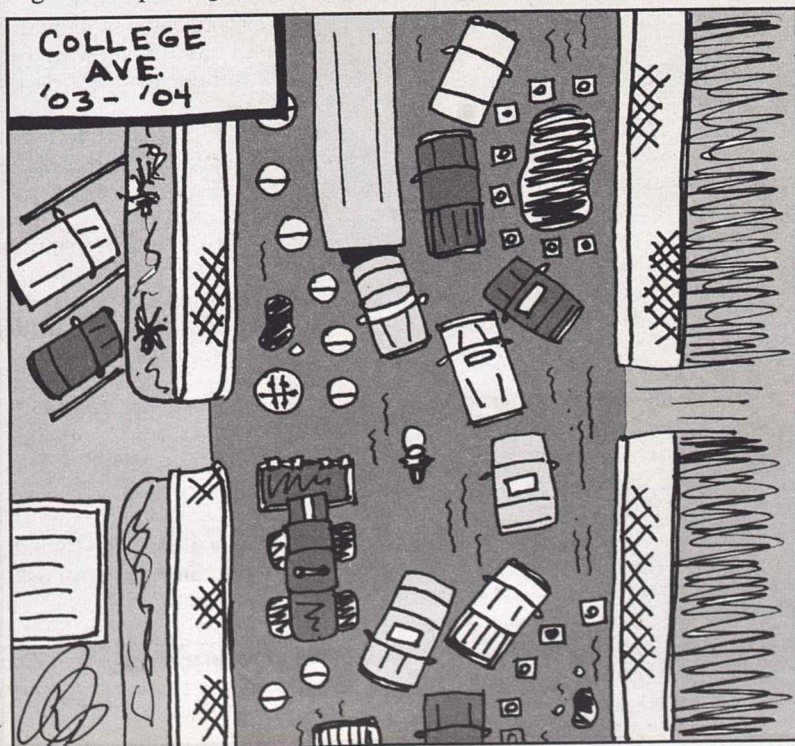
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## BRIEF PAWS

Watch where you are parking. Parking services does not play around with violators. Your car will be towed if you have three unpaid tickets.

Harcombe Dining Hall renovations rock the casbah! Try the fruit smoothies with your breakfast!

Kiss Fido and Fluffy goodbye. Only underwater creatures are welcome in housing.

Clemson's CAT Bus service is the largest free transit system in the country. If you don't feel like walking across campus, wait for a bus.

Worried you won't have enough strong people to help you move your things into the hall? Upperclassmen help with freshmen move-in.

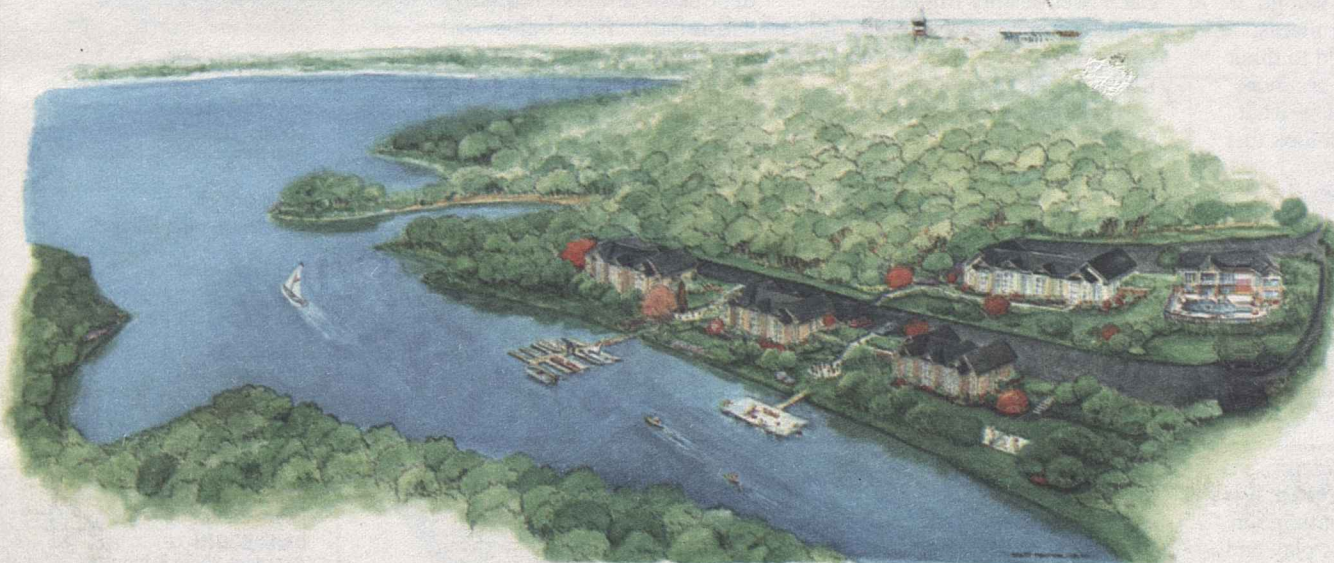
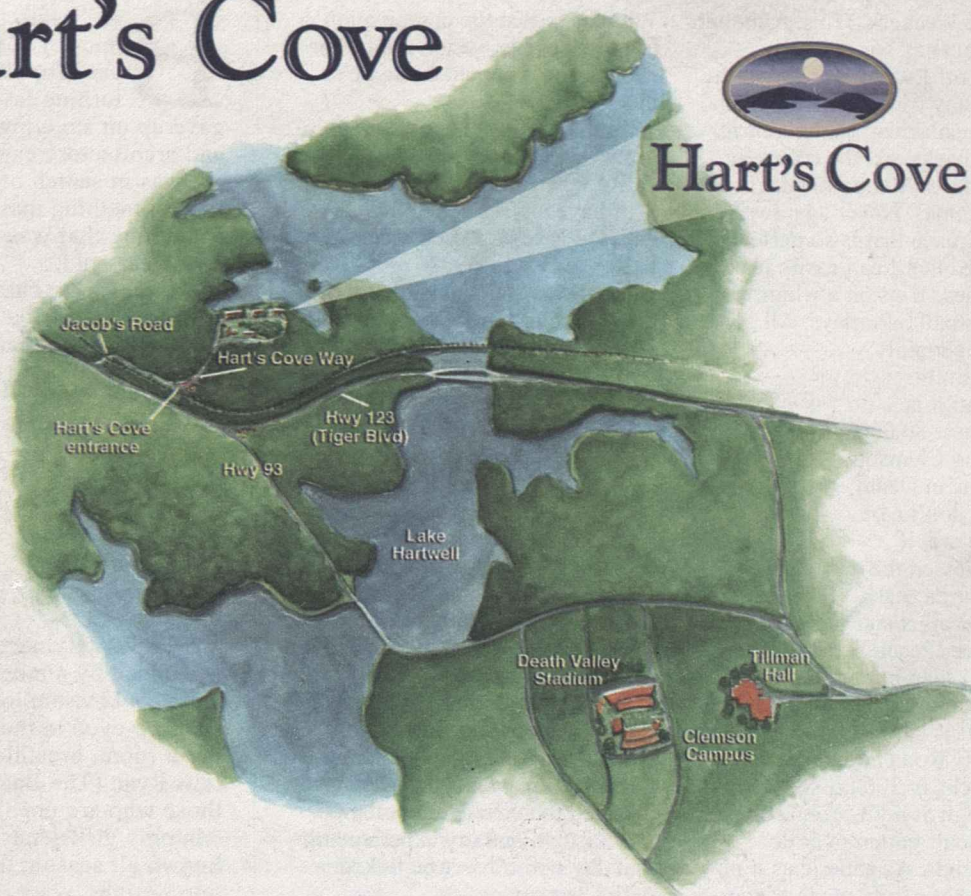


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