

THE TIGER

Celebrate
Nirvana Day
in style.
D8



EST. 1907. SOUTH CAROLINA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER ROARS FOR CLEMSON

Inside NEWS



Do you know where you can see Clemson's oldest Tiger?

A3

TIMEOUT



Stallone's newest movie is not the hit everyone expected.

D1

OPINIONS



This is not a matter of being liberal or conservative; it's a matter of having eyes, ears and a brain.

-RYAN WILSON
ON TALKING IT OUT

B3

SPORTS



Tigers outscore Boston College by 17 points in second half.

C2

WEATHER



FRIDAY: Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY: Partly Cloudy

Hi 61 Lo 37

SUNDAY: Sunny

Hi 55 Lo 30

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Secrets of the Brotherhood

Get to know your local secret society.

EMILY SPARR
MANAGING EDITOR

CAROLINE RASH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What is the one campus organization that boasts President Jim Barker, three Board of Trustee Members and many other high-ranking officials and students in its membership? Tiger Brotherhood (TB), an honorary organization of which many students are not aware, is considered Clemson's version of Yale's Skull and Bones—a professional, albeit very covert, networking, service and social fraternity of people connected to Clemson.

The organization was founded in 1924 after a mass cadet walk-out in response to substandard campus dining and the expulsion of a popular football captain. Professor John L. Marshall rallied two hundred of the displeased cadets to join together in an organization as a means of camaraderie, but the organization deteriorated quickly. In 1928, it reformed as an invitation-only club and thereafter consistently announced new inductees each semester. However, sometime in 1993, the Brotherhood disappeared from Taps, the school yearbook, and became an intensely secret organization.

This week, Feb. 4-8, marked the Brotherhood's recruitment period in which they "tap" potential new members after a period of surveillance. New members are chosen based on affiliation with current members, "love of Clemson," leadership qualities and freedom from certain vices. Last semester's cub class (current members) included Hamp Bruner (Honorary), Tim Fowler (Honorary), Jim Burnham, Casey Graham,

Kevin Hackett, Paul Halphen, Garland Jaeger and Jonathan Trammell. Women are allowed in the organization and approximately one joins each recruitment period. Tiger Brotherhood has fourteen active members, but as a fraternal organization it has countless alumni and community members who attend meetings.

Most members are high-profile in one way or another, but particularly well-known people include University President Jim Barker; three Board of Trustees members (Chairman Bill Hendrix, Joe Swann and Tom Lynch); Marvin Carmichael, assistant to president/chief of staff; Brian O'Rourke, director of development and alumni affairs; Undergraduate Student Body President Josh Bell; Harrison Trammell, CUF president/CEO of Advancement Finance and Administration; Jerry Reel Jr., University historian; John Seketa, athletics coach and event promoter; Katie Spearman, head of Tigerama (heads of Tigerama traditionally are invited); Michael Reidenbach, law enforcement officer; Matthew Watkins, alumni development manager; Stephen Robbins, associate vice president of student affairs; Wil Brasington, academic program director; alumni relations; Yerna Howell, associate vice president and executive director of housing; Van Hilderbrand, athletics coach and administrator; and Kirby Player, director of college relations. CAPLIS Dean's Office. Other members can be found on the Clemson Wiki Web

Policy to help, not harm

Amnesty awarded to the responsible

MELISSA WHITSON
NEWS EDITOR

It is well-known that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21. For college students across the country, however, this long-awaited age does not come soon enough and thousands choose to illegally consume alcohol underage.

The decision to do so, however, is not without consequence. According to the Clemson University Student Handbook, "the illicit or unauthorized manufacture, use, possession, distribution or dispensation of alcohol or illegal drugs on University property or as part of any University activity is prohibited" and any student who infringes on this policy may face punishments of "admonition, censure, probation, restriction of privileges, eviction from University housing, suspension, expulsion and referral for prosecution" depending on the severity of the violation.

While universities have created such policies to enforce minimum legal drinking age laws and to control alcohol use and possession, these policies may have negative consequences. Some students, in an effort to avoid getting in trouble with law enforcement, the university and their parents forgo calling for emergency medical services in dangerous situations where large amounts of alcohol are consumed.



Fortunately for Clemson students, Undergraduate Student Government Vice President Callie Boyd has been dedicated to getting a Medical Alcohol Amnesty Policy (MAAP) established on campus to protect those students calling for medical assistance in serious alcohol-related instances. Boyd described MAAP as an "early intervention and education policy concerning high-risk, alcohol-related behavior."

The primary purpose of MAAP is to remove the "fear barriers" that keep students from seeking professional help when alcohol is involved. For instance, if an incidence arose where an underage student consumed too much alcohol at an on or off campus location, a call for help could be made without the caller or the ill student

see **AMNESTY** page A7



DAVID STEWART/staff

Sisters of Clemson's Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority prepare to celebrate the organization's centennial anniversary.

Sorority turns 100

Alpha Kappa Alpha plans week of service events to honor its history.

LEAH WORTHY
STAFF WRITER

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc., was the first Greek letter organization founded by African American college women.

Its establishment was accomplished in the face of resistance during a time when opportunities available to women and minorities were few and hard to come by. In 1907, Ethel Hedgeman, a faculty member at Howard University in Washington, D.C., was inspired to jumpstart the effort after her future husband, George Lyle became a charter member of Howard University's chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first Greek letter fraternity for African American men.

During 1907, Hedgeman and the nine

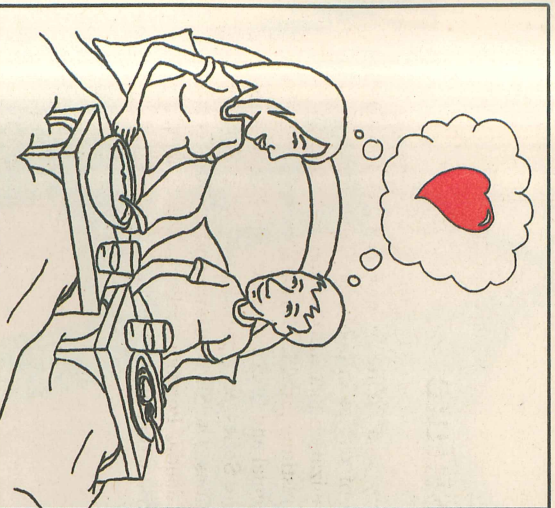
founding sisters recruited potential members, wrote the sorority's constitution and motto and chose its colors (apple green and salmon pink).

On Jan. 15, 1908, the women were granted their charter and recognized as an official organization at Howard University.

The sorority existed only at Howard until Jan. 30, 1913, when they were recognized as a national organization. Shortly after, the Beta chapter was chartered at Chicago University. Since then, the sorority has expanded to all corners of the globe. In addition to the 975 chapters in the U.S., there are AKA chapters in Germany, Japan, Liberia, South Korea, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Jamaica and Canada. The

see **SORORITY** page A6

It's Valentine's Day...
 What will your morning after be like?



Emergency Birth Control Pills can prevent pregnancy up to 3 days after unprotected sex.

The South Carolina
Emergency Contraception
 Initiative

www.morningafterinfo.org

Advocates for Change

Mr. Splashy Pants, Hyperion and a quilt aim to aid those in need.

CHELSEA REIGHARD
 GUEST WRITER

The environmental activist group Greeppeace tracks the journey of Mr. Splashy Pants, a South Pacific humpback whale threatened by the Japanese whaling industry while "Squadron Supreme: Hyperion vs. Nighthawk" employs an unusual backdrop for a comic book series—the conflict zone of Darfur, Sudan—to raise money for organizations supporting peace in that region.

Furthermore, in Atlanta, The AIDS Memorial Quilt, comprised of more than 40,000 individual panels, celebrates the lives of loved ones who died of AIDS-related causes.

Needless to say, these real-life scenarios all illustrate some form of advocacy. Whether you agree or not with the underlying motives, these examples represent the modern-day approach to enacting political and social change.

In the past, advocates took a more conflict-oriented stance against broader social and political issues; however, today many of these methods appear extreme and dated. Emphasis is now placed on the ingenuity and consensus-building qualities of social action, especially as issues have fragmented into specific policy silos.

The word advocacy is frequently interchanged with the terms education and awareness, yet neither term completely encompasses its true meaning. Advocacy without inspiring change is not truly advocacy. While education and awareness give citizens vital information regarding issues, they do not turn this

knowledge into action. Furthermore, if citizens and lawmakers do not view a problem as relevant or understandable, then the concerns never reach the floor of the House or Senate.

Timing is perhaps the most important aspect of advocacy. Ideally, groups hope to be involved with an issue from the beginning to influence its framing and definition.

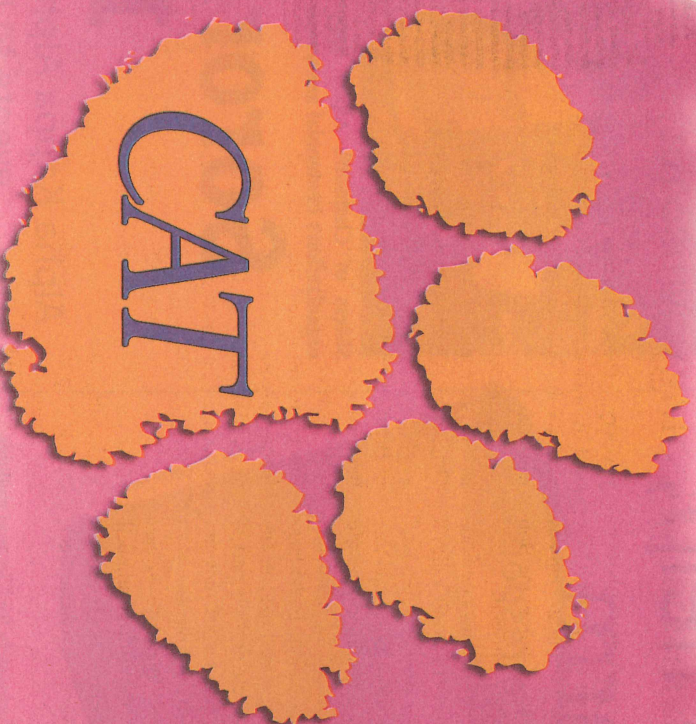
Although the majority of advocates enter later in the policy process, they still have opportunities to influence choices before decisions are made or to reverse already enacted legislation.

A common misconception about advocacy is that individual efforts do not make a difference in the long-run. Just look at historic movements such as abolitionism, civil rights, women's suffrage, disability rights and gay rights, where the actions of individuals of all ages and backgrounds led to unified community action and eventually to legislative change.

Political and social advocacy does not have to be expensive. Letter writing campaigns, meetings with civil servants and elected officials, and creative displays and demonstrations are all examples of how concerned citizens can enable others to action and get their voices heard—all on a limited budget.

In the coming weeks, fellow campus advocates will be writing about current and burgeoning policy issues and how you can get involved. I encourage you to participate in the continuing dialogue of these pressing concerns so you too can become an advocate for change locally, nationally, and globally.

Happy Valentine's Day from

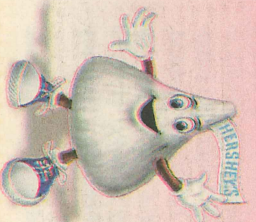


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 14th

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Don't know much about...

By Louise Goodman



DAVID STEWART/staff

Strom Thurmond Institute

The Strom Thurmond Institute located directly behind the Cooper Library, is a Public Service Activity (PSA) of Clemson University that was established in 1981. The PSA conducts research of service in public policy in local, state, regional and national levels. It is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy organization that incorporates the expertise of Clemson University faculty, staff, students and scholars around the world. The institute provides forums, lectures and presentations for students and local visitors on current social, economic, environmental and financial issues. On Feb. 14 from 7p.m. to 8 p.m., as part of the Strom Thurmond Institute's Globalization Lecture Series, vice president of the U.S. China Business Council Erin Ennis will be lecturing on U.S.-Chinese Economic Relations. The Strom Thurmond Institute is also home to a collection of historical galleries, including The Graen Yates Presidential Portraits Gallery, The Kate Salley Palmer Gallery of Political Cartoons of Senator Thurmond and The Strom Thurmond Photo Gallery.

Cooper Library Rooms

Discussing interesting, unknown places at Clemson University, the student body must be introduced to a wonderful local secret known as the Cooper Library. Only kidding, but on a more serious note, very few students are aware of the lobbies within the library. Most likely you have seen them, assuming you have visited the library at least once in your Clemson career, on the fourth floor, located immediately to the left and right of main entrance. To the left of the main entrance is the Edgar Brown Room. The room's name is deep rooted in South Carolina and national history. Edgar Brown was a former S. C. state representative, Speaker of the House and S. C. senator. Brown later became a Clemson Life Trustee; the room was dedicated in his honor in 1971.

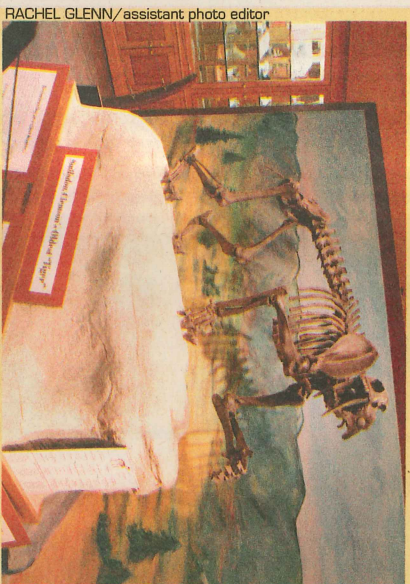
To the right of the main entrance is the James F. Byrnes Room which consists of rich political history, perhaps even more interesting than the textbook you went there to read. If you do decide to skip out on the studying you intended to do, you will find the lobby was dedicated to former South Carolina Governor, Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Secretary of State, James F. Byrnes. Byrnes was also a Clemson Life Trustee. The room, which is open during regular library hours, includes chronicles of Byrnes's career that emphasize his long-standing commitment to South Carolina and his deep passion for government policies.



DAVID STEWART/staff



DAVID STEWART/staff



RACHEL GLENN/assistant photo editor

Bob Campbell Geology Museum

Aside from providing lush scenery and year-round recreation, the South Carolina Botanical Gardens has another treasure within: the Bob Campbell Geology Museum.

The museum contains rare finds that include a piece of Death Valley's own "Howard's Rock," 450-pound amethyst geode from Brazil and fossilized shells of 400-million-year-old sea creatures. One of the museum's most prized possessions is the largest topaz crystal ever found in the United States. These are only part of the collection; in total the museum holds 5,000 individual pieces.

Aside from the rare stones and minerals, the Bob Campbell Geology Museum is home to Clemson University's oldest tiger, even older than some of our plus-year seniors.

Smilodon, a saber-toothed cat, is an ancient relative to the tiger. This creature last roamed the upstate grounds between one million and eight thousand years ago.

Also on display at the museum is a wide variety of handmade

jewelry. These treasures are created by students who volunteer and work for the Bob Campbell Geology Museum.

The museum's roots aren't quite as old as some of its occupants. Originally, Clemson University's small rock collection was displayed in Brackett Hall. Robert Campbell, the owner of many South Carolina rock quarries, and his wife, Betsy Campbell, dedicated the time and funding to construct a geology museum in the South Carolina Botanical Gardens. The museum opened in September 1998.

The Bob Campbell Geology Museum is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., with the exception of holidays and home football games.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children. Every third weekend of the month admission is free. Group tours are available. For more information call (864) 656-4600 or visit the museum's web site online at bcgm@clemson.edu.



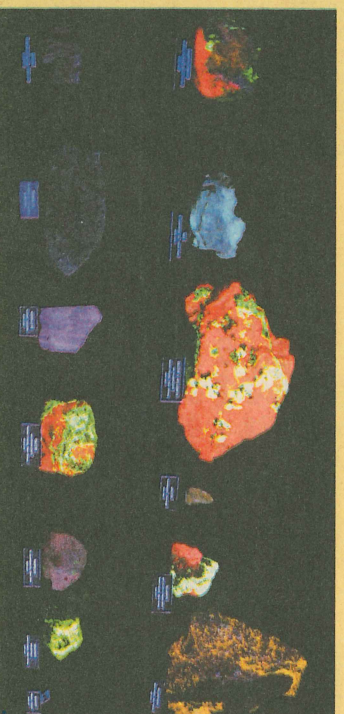
RACHEL GLENN/assistant photo editor



RACHEL GLENN/assistant photo editor



RACHEL GLENN/assistant photo editor



RACHEL GLENN/assistant photo editor

Weekly World Update

National Report

■ **Boy Scout held in family's murder after staging the revelation of their death.** According to police, a 15-year-old Boy Scout was charged with killing his parents and two younger brothers. He reportedly shot them as they slept and returned a day later after spending time with friends to stage the discovery of their deaths. Officials believe the teen, Nicholas Browning, had shot his father, mother and brothers with one of his father's guns Friday. He then tossed the handgun in some bushes and left the home. Authorities said friends dropped Nicholas off on Saturday, and soon after, he came out of the house to say he had found his father's body on the ground floor. Police said Nicholas confessed early Sunday and was charged as an adult with four counts of first-degree murder.

■ **Thomas S. Monson was introduced Monday as the 16th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** Monson, 80, succeeds Gordon B. Hinckley, who died in January at age 97. Out of respect for the deceased president, the Mormon Church never names a successor until after funeral services. Hinckley was buried Saturday and the new president was announced two days later. The church relies on a pattern of apostolic succession in selecting a new president. Since the early part of the 20th century, the position has always passed to the most-senior member of its Council of Twelve Apostles, the second-tier of church leadership. Monson was formally chosen Sunday. Monson named as his two top advisors First Counselor Henry B. Eyring, 74, and Second Counselor Dieter F. Uchtdorf.

■ **In a letter obtained by TIME, Bush's Environmental Protection Agency moved to block a \$220 million Army Corps of Engineers flood-control project in the Mississippi Delta.** The move set the foundation for the first EPA veto of an Army Corps project since 1990. The project would build the world's largest hydraulic pump to protect a sparsely populated area dominated by soybean fields from Yazoo River flooding, and it would drain or degrade enough wetlands to cover all five boroughs of New York City. Authorized by Congress 67 years ago, the so-called Yazoo Pump is a relic of an era when wetlands were considered wastelands, and nothing was done to protect them. The pump, designed to move as much as 6 million gallons of water per minute, "would impact aquatic ecosystems on a massive scale," the EPA's Lawrence Starfield wrote in the letter. The Army Corps acknowledges that it would damage 67,000 acres of wetlands; the twelve Corps projects the EPA has vetoed in its history would have damaged a total of less than 8,000 acres. Scientists say the pump's actual devastation would be more like 200,000 acres.

■ **Several outbreaks of ciguatera fish poisoning have been confirmed in consumers who ate fish harvested in the northern Gulf of Mexico, the Food and Drug Administration said Feb. 5.** The FDA said that fish such as grouper, snapper, amberjack and barracuda represent the most significant threat to consumers. They feed on fish that have eaten toxic marine algae. The toxin is stable in the tissue of living fish and does them no harm. But larger carnivores have higher concentrations of the toxin in their tissues. As a result, the greatest risk of poisoning for humans comes from the largest fish. Symptoms of ciguatera poisoning include nausea, vomiting, vertigo and joint pain. In the most serious cases, neurological problems can last for months or even years. Several outbreaks of the illness were confirmed in Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, the FDA said. Overall, there have been at least 28 reported cases across the country, with the first case being reported in late November.

World Report

■ **Feb. 4 saw Iran launch Explorer-1, a research rocket, and unveil its first major space center.** The space center will be used to launch research satellites, as reported by the state-run television agency. The report said the rocket would be the first launched by Iran "into space." However, analysts have expressed doubts about similar technological achievements announced by the country in the past. Iran launched its first domestically built rocket last February, but the craft did not reach orbit level. The report did not specifically state the altitude reached by Explorer-1. Space is considered to begin at 60 miles above ground. The lowest flying satellites orbit between 100-300 miles above the Earth, while communication, weather and global-positioning satellites fly between 250-12,000 miles up. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad issued the launch order.

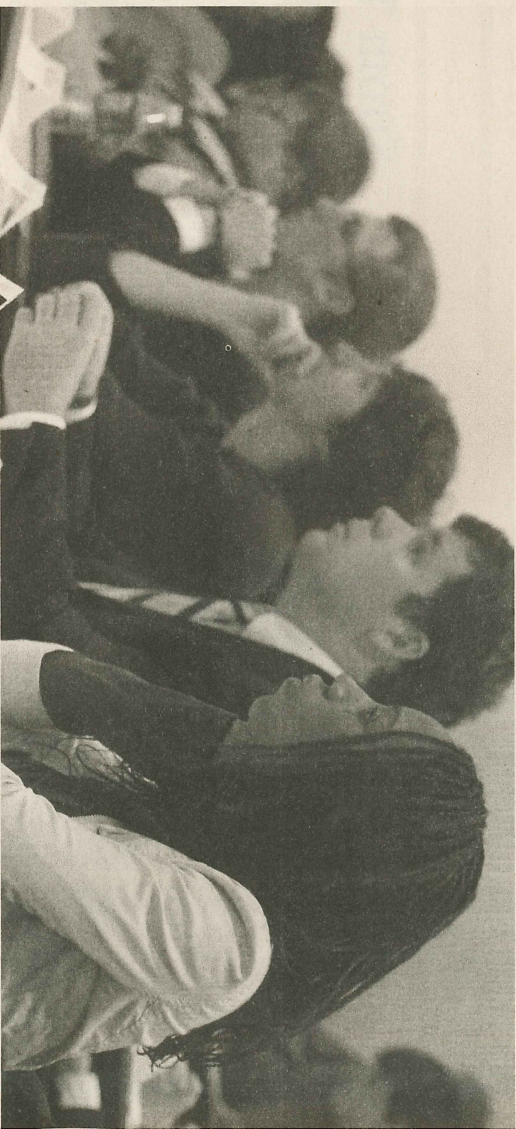
■ **The Philippines will commence plans to phase out incandescent bulbs by 2010 in favor of more energy-efficient fluorescent globes.** Acknowledging similar moves by Canada and Australia, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called for a ban on incandescent bulbs in order to help cut greenhouse gas emissions and household costs. The Asian Development Bank, a technical advisor at the Philippine Energy Summit, championed the Philippine plan as a first in Asia. It said the most effective way to reduce the demand for electricity and greenhouse gases was to use available energy more efficiently. Fluorescent bulbs need just 20 percent of the electricity that incandescent bulbs use to produce the same amount of light. They also last six to 10 times longer than the average incandescent bulb. The Asian Development Bank said the switch would cut household lighting costs by as much as 80 percent—as the amount of electricity used by the nation's people would drastically decrease—and reduce the Philippines' annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2.2 million tons starting in 2010.

■ **British scientists say they have created human embryos containing DNA from two women and a man.** The research was presented at a scientific conference recently but has not been published in a scientific journal. The process aims to create healthy embryos for couples to avoid passing on genes carrying diseases. The genes being replaced are the mitochondria, a cell's energy source, which are contained outside the nucleus in a normal female egg. Abnormalities in the mitochondria's genetic code can result in serious diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, strokes and mental retardation. In their research Patrick Chinnery, a professor of neurogenetics at Newcastle University, and colleagues used normal embryos created from one man and one woman that possessed defective mitochondria in the woman's egg. They then transplanted that embryo into an emptied egg donated from a second woman who had healthy mitochondria. Research is funded by a British charity, the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

■ **On Feb. 1, Exxon Mobil Corp. posted the largest annual profit by a U.S. company —\$40.6 billion.** Exxon also set a U.S. record for the biggest quarterly profit, posting net income of \$11.7 billion for the final three months of 2007, beating its own mark of \$10.71 billion in the fourth quarter of 2005. Exxon Mobil's revenue rose 30 percent in the fourth quarter to \$116.6 billion from \$90 billion just one year ago. For the year, sales rose to \$404.5 billion from \$377.64 billion in 2006 marking the highest increase ever for the company based in Irving, Texas. As the world's biggest publicly traded oil company Exxon Mobil produces about 3 percent of the world's oil. The U.S. is the primary receiver of the oil conglomerate's efforts and contributes the majority of the company's revenue.

Student Senate prepares for new semester

Google Apps, student fees and sex education among issues to be discussed.



Clemson University Student Senate members listen attentively during a meeting earlier this semester. The legislative body of Student Government has several goals for the upcoming semester.

LINDSAY SWAN
STAFF WRITER

With each new calendar year the Clemson University Undergraduate Student Senate prepares to complete their goals and plan for the future, and this spring semester is certainly no different for the legislative body of Clemson's Student Government.

Current Senate President Seth Vining said his intentions for the Senate are focused on hearing what students have to say.

The Senate is "the representative voice of the Undergraduate Student Body at Clemson University," said Vining. "[It exists] to act as a liaison between the students and the administration."

In September of last semester, the Senate was successful in acquiring Google Apps Education for stu-

dents. Google Apps for Education includes email, Google Talk, Google Docs and Spreadsheets, and a Calendar service and allows students and employees to use Google's web-based email, Google Mail, with their Clemson.edu email address.

The Senate has also created a spreadsheet that breaks down tuition and student fees in an effort to make payment requirements more understandable for students.

Among the issues tackled on the table are tuition, the final exam schedule and loss of parking space due to construction.

Student senators are also discussing the funding of student events and how the building of a new student union will affect Clemson's campus.

The Finance and Procedures

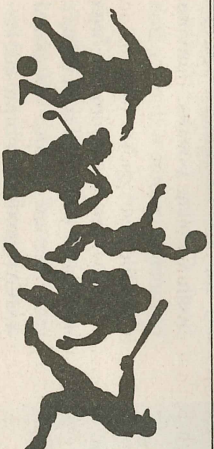
committee of the Senate has been working on getting the kinks out of football and basketball ticket distribution for next year to make the process easier for students to pick up tickets for sporting events.

This committee has also taken on the challenge of keeping up with University fees.

The Board of Trustees will determine student fee and tuition increases at their annual spring meeting. The Student Senate is determining that student voice be heard before this takes place.

In an effort to bring about student advocacy group to campus students on the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee is planning on handing out condom flyers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the student union for sexual responsibility week.

Need Physical Therapy?



CLEMSON
Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation

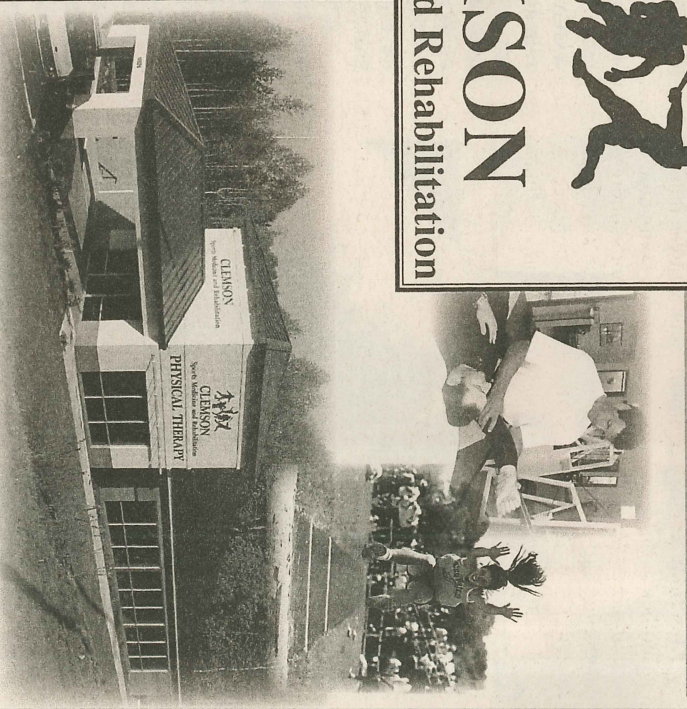
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TIGER BRIEFS

"Tosca," Giacomo Puccini's three-act opera, will appear at the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts Thursday, Feb. 21. Performed by Teatro Lirico D'Europa, "Tosca" will be in Italian with English supertitles. Tosca is the story of a famous opera singer by the same name who harbors deep religious and spiritual ideals. Set in Rome during the midst of political upheaval, "Tosca" opens in the Church of San Andrea where Cavaradosi promises to help Angelotti, a political prisoner, evade the authorities. When Tosca enters the sanctuary, her resentful rage is immediate, believing that

Cavaradosi is seeing another woman. Tosca's deep passion allows the sadistic Scarpia to trap her and Cavaradosi. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students. Tickets and information are available at www.clemson.edu/Brooks or by calling the box office at (864) 656-7787 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

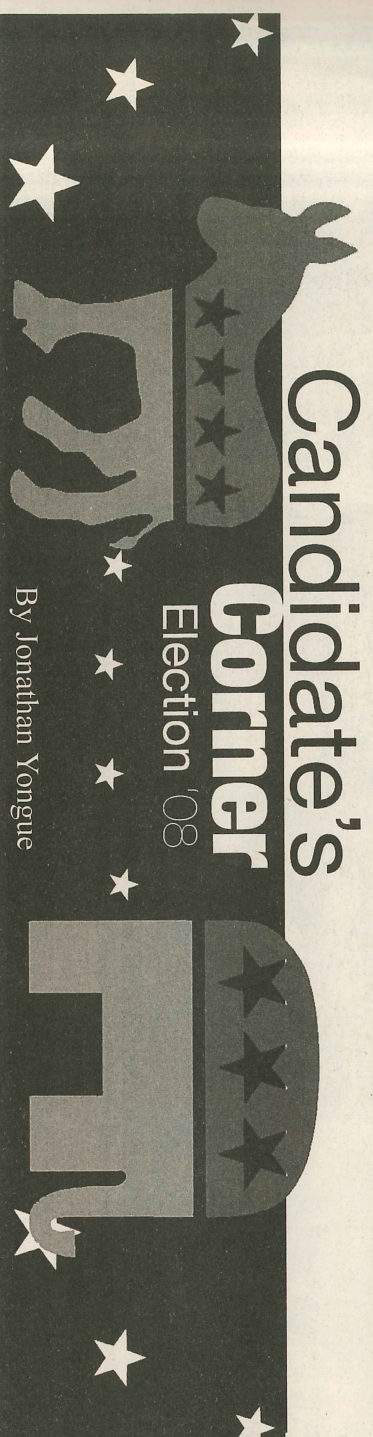
Voting for an amendment to the Supreme

Constitution of the Student Body will start Feb. 8th. Both the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Senates approved amendments that must now be approved by a concurrent majority of the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Bodies in order to take effect. The proposed changes will enable the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Senates to pass concurrent legislation on matters that concern the entire Student Body, hold joint sessions and more thoroughly define the Judicial Branch, clarifying that graduate students are eligible to hold office in the Judicial Branch. Voting

will begin at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and will close at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday.

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation

has honored the Clemson Forest Activities Club with the 2007 Forest Conservation Award. This award was given on the basis that the club promoted the preservation of wildlife and local culture in a unique area of South Carolina. Clemson Forest Activities Club was created in August 2007 to improve and increase student awareness of the forest. The club promotes the recreational, educational and cultural opportunities available on the forest. Within one semester of becoming an organization, the club has gained 79 student supporters and members. Members have set up displays at organization fairs and the Cooper Library Bridge, hosted a forest picnic for students that have never been to the forest and participated in forest clean-up days. The club has also received over 250 student signatures in support of improving the Clemson Forest by



By Jonathan Yongue

Mitt Romney

Republican Governor from Massachusetts

Bio: Mitt Romney was born on March 12, 1947, in Detroit, Mich., and was raised in Bloomfield Hills. He was born Willard Mitt Romney, his first name after his father's best friend, J. Willard Marriott, founder of the Marriott hotels, and his middle name from his father's cousin and Chicago Bears' quarterback, Milton Romney. Romney went to prestigious Cranbrook School prior to receiving his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young in 1971. He then received both his law and M.B.A. from Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School in 1975. His father, George Romney, was the 43rd governor of Michigan from 1963 to 1969 and also ran against Richard Nixon for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968. Mitt married his wife, Ann, in 1969, and they have five sons.

Political career: Romney began his political career in 1994 when he ran against incumbent Edward Kennedy for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts (in which Romney failed). Romney successfully gained national attention in 1999 when he became president of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. He prevented a fiasco with the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games when he fixed its financial woes and lead it to success. Using this experience, Romney was elected governor of Massachusetts in 2003. He served one term, after which he announced his bid for presidency.

The Issues

Immigration: Romney believes in the importance immigration plays in the nation's success. However, he recognizes that the United States must reform its current immigration system so that the borders may be secured. He supports the implementation of a "mandatory biometrically enabled, tamper proof documentation and employment verification system," according to his Web site.

Environment: Mitt Romney believes the United States must become independent from foreign oil. He wants to do this by combining conservation and efficiency measures, increasing use of alternative energy sources such as biodiesel, ethanol and nuclear sources. He also supports domestic sources of oil such as ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

Capital Punishment: Romney is a supporter of the death penalty. While governor of Massachusetts, he filed a bill to reinstate capital punishment in the state. It would have included those who commit deadly acts of terrorism, killing spree, murders involving torture and murdering law enforcement. The bill also included the regulation that there must be DNA evidence in order for someone to receive the death penalty.

Healthcare: Romney believes, as many of the Republicans do, that the nation's health can be improved by extending coverage to all Americans through market reforms and not through federal programs or new taxes. Individuals would be responsible for their own health care.

Abortion: Romney is pro-life and believes that abortion is not the right choice to be made except in the cases of incest, rape and to save the mother's life. He also supports states being able to make their own decisions concerning abortion laws.

Same-Sex Marriage: Romney does not support same-sex marriage. He believes that marriage is "first and foremost about nurturing and developing children," according to his Web site. To Romney, a mother and a father are essential to a child's development.

Iraq: Mitt Romney is a strong advocate of success in Iraq and Afghanistan. As president, he would not leave Iraq behind as a safe haven for Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups that can finance and train and launch attacks on America and other countries.

News By Numbers

54 people killed in tornadoes that hit across the Southern U.S. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

108 age of Harry Richard Landis who enlisted in the Army in 1918. Landis died at the age of 108 and was one of only known surviving U.S. veterans of World War I.

3,000 people displaced by Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano after it shot columns of ash miles into the air Feb. 6.

97,500,000 fans tuned into the 2008 Super Bowl making it the second most-watched show in US TV history, according to official figures.

44,600,000,000 dollars Microsoft Corp. has offered Internet icon Yahoo Inc. for an unsolicited takeover in order to challenge Google Inc.'s dominance of the lucrative online search and advertising markets.

putting tuition dollars toward trail maps, signs and trail maintenance. The founding officers of the club are sophomores Jordan Hinson, Rahul Karanth and Elizabeth Tempel. The club advisor is Dr. Ben Sill.

Clemson's TAPS yearbook received first place with special merit at the 2007 Scholastic Yearbook and Magazine Awards hosted by the American Scholastic Press Association. TAPS was the only collegiate yearbook to be awarded first place with special merit. The publication was among a plethora of yearbooks considered for the award ranging the entire United States. TAPS is Clemson's official yearbook and has been a Clemson tradition for 100 years. Since its commencement in 1908, the primary goal of TAPS has been to capture Clemson life and experiences throughout the year. TAPS is hosting a fundraiser at The Rook. On Friday Feb. 8 students can get their photo taken at Howard's Rock outside of Death Valley from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Photos cost \$3 apiece.



"I'm not a Wall Street Republican, I'm a Wall-Mart Republican."

-MIKE HUCKABEE, Republican presidential candidate, comparing himself to rival candidate Mitt Romney.

"If Barack Obama was a state he'd be California."

-MARIA SHRIVER, wife of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, after becoming the third Kennedy this week to endorse Barack Obama.

"There are 5,700 deaths a day from HIV-AIDS — that's the equivalent of an Indonesian tsunami hitting the shore every day."

-DR. WARNER GREENE, director of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco, after a research team in Texas used a common antiretroviral drug to prevent the transmission of HIV in lab mice.

"I fear for the future of Pakistan. Please continue the fight against extremism, dictatorship, poverty and ignorance."

-BENAZIR BHUTTO, assassinated Pakistani opposition leader, in an October letter explaining what political decisions should be made in her stead if she were to be killed before the elections.

"I was trying to shed a little light on the number one problem in Mississippi!"

-JOHN READ, Republican representative, on sponsoring a bill that would ban restaurants from serving food to obese customers.

On this day in History

1693 — William and Mary became the second college to be chartered in the United States.

1837 — Richard Johnson was chosen by the Senate as the first Vice President.

1910 — William D. Boyce founded The Boy Scouts of America in Chicago.

1926 — Walt Disney Studios was formed.

1968 — Police killed three students protesting at South Carolina State University in what became known as the Orangeburg Massacre.

1998 — Women's ice hockey debuts as an Olympic sport: Finland beat Sweden 6-0.

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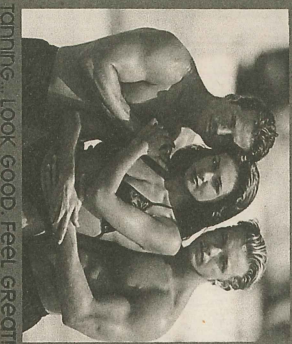


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Engineering and Science Week comes to Clemson

Tau Beta Pi plans a variety of educational opportunities.

COHEN SIMPSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

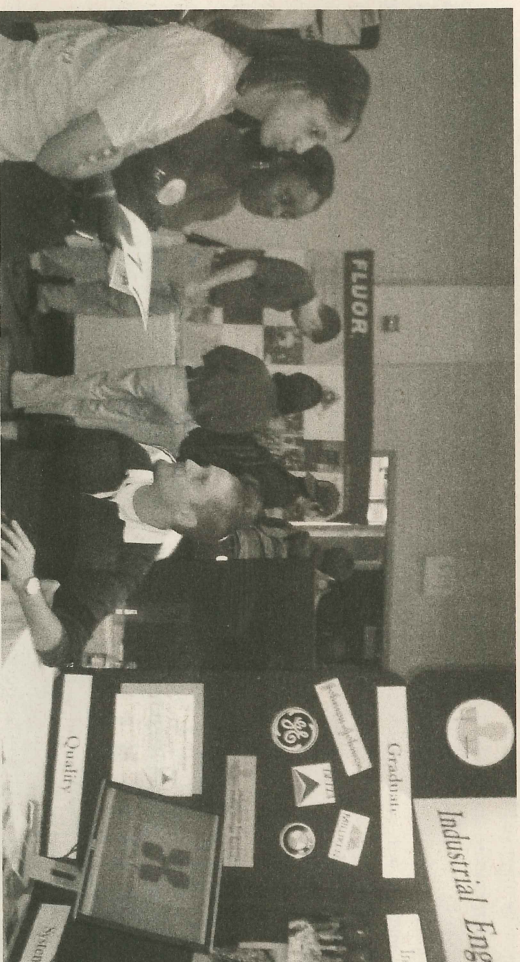
During the week of Feb. 18 Tau Beta Pi, Clemson University's general engineering honor society, will host the annual Engineering and Science Week.

Hosted for the third consecutive year, Engineering and Science Week coincides with the National Engineer's week, taking place from Feb. 18-22.

This year a plethora of events are set to take place on campus, engaging the student population in the pursuit of a greater understanding of the science of engineering. The week commences with a canned food drive on Monday, Feb. 18, and last for the entirety of the week.

Traditionally the drive was intended to be a competition between the engineering and science departments to see who can raise the most canned food. However, hoping to see more involvement, it has been opened up to the entire university. "Think how much food we would have to donate if everyone just donated two cans, which is exactly what general engineering did last year," said Engineering and Science Week Co-Chair Marie Long.

A trivia night will be held at Rockhopper's



Students learn about science and engineering opportunities in the working world during last year's week of events.

Bar and Grill on Feb. 19 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is being sponsored by Fluor and CH2M Hill corporations.

Teams are being limited to five people, and winners are eligible for prizes such as gift certificates to local restaurants. It is free to attend and open to all students and faculty.

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, Trina Baldwin, a

professional engineer who works for Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, will speak about the year she spent in Antarctica and the challenges of engineering in harsh climate.

This event is also sponsored by Fluor and is open for all to attend. It will occur at Strom Thurmond Institute from 6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21, will see the beginning



A student conducts static electricity for a hair-raising experience.

of the Engineering and Science Expo. This event, historically held for local middle school students, is being enlarged to include some high school and elementary students.

Its purpose is to encourage interest from students in the engineering and science disciplines by allowing them to interact with college students who are actively involved in engineering and science organizations.

The week will come to a close with the Engineering and Science semi-formal, hosted by Theta Tau, on Friday, Feb. 22.

Tech Center upgrades

CCIT improves University programs to accommodate growth.

ISABEL WORTHY
STAFF WRITER

Last week several members of Clemson University's Student Government got to see firsthand the transformations taking place at the ITC.

Located in the Clemson Research Park in Anderson County, Clemson's Information Technology Center (ITC) houses the main data centers for the University, including the Network Operation Center (NOC).

This system houses computer applications such as the Blackboard Course Management System and all e-mail and data storage system for Clemson University.

According to Jim Pepin, CCIT's Chief Technology Officer, "We are making significant upgrades in our power and cooling capacity to accommodate our growing large-scale computing needs."

The work we are doing will enable Clemson to match and even exceed our peers."

Some of the upgrades that have taken place are the installation of a dual UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) systems and a chilled water plant.

"By replacing the existing 20-year-old UPS system, we are now much better positioned to support the vast power requirements of our academic and administrative systems as well as our new High Performance Computing Systems," said Pepin.

The installation of these systems ensures that the power outages that have been affecting Blackboard and the University e-mail will become obsolete.

The NOC provides monitoring around the clock of the network and operations and has been fully operational since Nov. 7, 2007.

"The NOC is truly a world-class technical facility from which CCIT

can monitor and manage data networks and systems for Clemson University, regional research networks and other customers," Vice Provost and CIO Jim Bottum said.

This tour comes on the heels of a meeting held by CCIT's Network Service and Telecommunications on Feb. 7 at the Student Senate Chambers.

Those present were updated on the progress made to the campus network as well as the regional and national connectivity.

According to Clemson University Web site, CCIT is "the primary supplier of computing and information technology services to Clemson University."

CCIT also maintains an outreach program that supports the computing activities of various state and federal agencies, educational institutions and private companies.

CCIT supports research activities, across the University, as well as internal projects."

Besides the NOC facility there are vast improvements occurring in the technology of the University. One of the most recent additions is a network known as C-Light.

This network provides research, academic and economic advancements that were not viable for Clemson. Specifically it allows faculty members to collaborate with colleagues and use resources on a national and international level.

This new technology not only offers the University high speed connectivity but it also is attracting businesses that need this type of network to advance and prosper in their industry, in turn bringing economic growth to the Upstate.

These benefits are not a burden to state budget because the equipment was donated, and it is a cooperative venture between Clemson and Charter Business.

SORORITY from page A1

Lambda Theta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha was chartered at Clemson University on May 2, 1977. It was the first predominantly black Greek organization for students at Clemson. From its conception, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha have used their Greek membership to make a difference in the lives of many.

The sorority is credited with creating the first congressional lobby for minority civil rights, the National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and Democratic Rights (which was later renamed the National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs). AKA also established the National Health Office in New York City, an organization which works to promote healthcare programs within the metropolis.

In 1965, the sorority was granted \$4 million to operate the Cleveland Job Corp, making AKA the first sorority entrusted with the operation of a federal job-training center. Four years later, the sorority established the Educational Advancement Program, which provides financial aid to those seeking a degree or the means to conduct research. The sorority has also founded pro-

grams like the African Village Development Program to aid poverty stricken villages in Africa and worked in accordance with the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help to build 10 schools in South Africa and supply them with computer technology.

According to Barbara A. McKinzie, International President, "At its core, service is the bedrock of our Sorority. It was true in 1908, it is true today."

This year marks the organization's 100th anniversary. To commemorate its time-honored commitment to service, the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha at Clemson are participating in a week of service projects.

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, the sisters served hot chocolate on the library bridge while taking donations for Relay for Life, which raises money for the American Cancer Society.

On Thursday, the sisters volunteered their time at Clemson Community Care, a local non-profit human services agency, and on Feb. 9, they will be hosting a Valentine's Day party at Allterra Nursing Home in Central, S.C.

BROTHERS from page A1

being held in a university account without stipulations on the use. The contract between Tiger Brotherhood and Student Government stated that "Following a two-year period after the signing of the contract (two callenders created and two allocations made to Clemson funds), any remaining funds will be accessible to Tiger Brotherhood."

Meanwhile, Ammons assured, "After the sales are complete and we have received interdepartmental orders, the money will go to an account where it can only be used for future calendars and the student memorial."

Is the calendar project comparable to other student government funded ventures?

Former Tiger Brotherhood president and current student body president Josh Ball stated, "Student government puts its money toward many capital improvement projects as well as toward philanthropies that other organizations might be heading up on campus."

Our focus is to make the campus and community better anytime that we choose to fund a project. Those projects change from year to year based on the priorities of our leaders."

However, as many sources have confirmed, Tiger Brotherhood is known more for the intensity of its rituals and secrecy rather than the service projects. As TB President Amanda MacDonald

says, "Tiger Brotherhood's mission is to serve Clemson, not to be recognized or applauded by it."

In 2006, the Brotherhood became enmeshed in controversy over its violation of the University's hazing policy. Tiger Brotherhood was found in violation of four student regulations including harm to person, hazing, student organization conduct and violation of federal, state or local law. After a semester of probation, TB regained its full organization status.

Today, the ritual induction is as follows: After being placed on a watch list, the new Cub class is voted on by Tiger Brotherhood members. Cubs are tapped, or invited to a preliminary meeting at the home of a prominent community member without knowing exactly what they are attending. They then socialize extensively with TB members and receive Clemson history lessons from professors or members.

The history lesson in the past has been given by Jerry Reel, Clemson Historian, but due to internal controversy, last semester the lesson was given by a group of Tiger Brotherhood members.

The Cubs must make a key that they defend "physically and spiritually," according to a TB guide for Marshalls, an overseer position created after the hazing violation.

Though the Brotherhood complies with University regulations they do

yell at and verbally confront the Cubs with great intensity, during the carefully choreographed and staged final obstacle, known only as "The Jungle," which tests each Cub's "character" in the face of adversity.

This initiation process "has been reviewed and approved by a committee formed by VP Gail DiSabatino and chaired by Dean of Students Joy Smith," according to MacDonald.

Other traditions include a walk through the Quad, a cemetery visit, the sounding of the bells and a surprise unveiling on the 50-yard line. Meetings take place in The Tiger Brotherhood room, located next to Harcombe and the Blue Key room. Alternate locations include the Masonic Lodge, the President's house and Lehotsky auditorium.

While researching the organization, The Tiger interviewed many people who chose to remain anonymous because of fear of social or political repercussions. Some members of the Brotherhood have refused to acknowledge their membership, although members replied to a 2003 editorial in The Tiger with comments such as, "We keep no secret of who we are and what we do."

Tiger Brotherhood surrounds itself with rumor and secrecy, although its members are some of the most public on campus. "All for the love of Clemson."

Celebration honors historic scientists' birthday

Afternoon of events offer evolutionary evidence as well as education.

NICHOLE BENNETT

STAFF WRITER

Members of the Clemson community will have the opportunity to learn more about evolution and ask questions of scientists about this often controversial topic.

Evolutionary biologists on the Clemson faculty along with graduate students and undergraduates from biological sciences will host a public educational display in the Hendrix Center Atrium from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. to honor the birthday of Charles Darwin, born Feb. 12, 1809.

The event, first held last year, is sponsored by the undergraduate Biological Sciences Club, the Biological Sciences Graduate Student Association and the department of biological sciences.

The display will feature biographical sketches of evolutionary biologists, computer simulations and fossil evidence of the evolutionary process, provide the public with information about evolution and explain some of the controversies associated with Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection.

In addition to displays, the event will feature an "Ask a Scientist" panel of faculty and students from a wide range of campus departments who study evolution and will answer questions from the public about evolution.

According to Margaret Pracek, an evolutionary biologist in biological sciences, "the purpose of this event is to provide students and other members of the public with information

about evolution," she said. "We hope that people who attend will gain a better appreciation of the importance of Charles Darwin's ideas to our understanding of natural processes, from the formation of new species to the origins of new microbes and diseases that affect humans."

Michael Childress, a behavioral ecologist in biological sciences and faculty advisor to the Biological Sciences Club, will be one of the scientists manning the display.

"This is a great opportunity for students, faculty and members of the community to ask evolutionary biologists any questions they have concerning evolution and natural selection," said Childress.

Childress explained that many of the arguments against evolution are false, and he hopes that this presentation will put to rest some of these misconceptions.

"Much of what we know about the natural world makes sense only in the light of evolution," said Childress, paraphrasing the geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky, who extended Darwin's theory of natural selection by providing a genetic mechanism for adaptation.

Daniel Toms, president of Clemson's Biological Sciences Club, hopes that people will put aside conflicting beliefs and listen to what the panel has to say about evolution.

Toms and Childress both agree that the traditional evolution/creation debate does not have to exist; in fact, the two ideas can coexist.

"Understanding how evolution can result in the formation

of new species does not preclude one from believing in God," said Pracek.

Indeed, many of the scientists on the panel are members of various religions (including Pracek). "In my evolutionary biology class, we have great respect for individuals' belief systems; we merely focus on the scientific mechanisms of evolution and explain why other ideas such as creationism or intelligent design are not science," Pracek said.

"There's a lot more to evolution than the majority of the public realizes, and once you sit down and look at the factual information and experimental results, the pieces fall into place," Toms said. "Darwin Day will be a good chance for us to help educate the public and remove some of the negative feelings towards evolution," he added.

Pracek emphasized that people of all beliefs will be welcome, and she hopes to provide an opportunity for informed discussions.

"People are welcome to express their opinions freely, and we're not trying to change anyone's mind, merely educate people on the marvelous process of evolutionary change," Childress added.

The legacy of Darwin's great idea is alive and well, and the public is invited to learn more about his contributions during the event on Feb. 8.

"An understanding of the mechanisms of evolutionary change is of great importance to many aspects of human health and agriculture," said Pracek.

AMNESTY from page A1

worrying about getting in trouble with authorities.

Amnesty would be granted to both parties—the student who is in need of medical attention as well as the person who calls for help. However, while "amnesty" does imply that no official record of the alcohol-related incident will follow anyone who uses the policy, the policy does not aim to undermine the authority of police personnel. Also, there is a limit to the amount of times a person can receive amnesty. Currently, the threshold is set at two times during a student's time at Clemson University can the policy be used to avoid punishment recommended by the law. "We don't want students playing the numbers game," said Boyd.

Clemson University would certainly not be the first to implement such a policy. In fact, the majority of universities comparable to Clemson have official alcohol amnesty policies designed to "increase the likelihood that students will call for help in alcohol-related medical emergencies and increase the likelihood that students treated for alcohol-related medical emergencies will receive a brief psycho-educational intervention" like Cornell University's Medical Amnesty Protocol.

Boyd's MAAP aims for similar goals. After receiving medical treatment, a student would undergo an alcohol-safety educational program approved by the university Office of Community and Ethical Standards. No mentioning of the incident would appear on the student's official judicial record. Letting the student body about the policy is a major necessity, said Boyd. "Knowledge is key; if we don't educate students about the policy no one is going to use it," she said.

Graduate Student Body President Tom Richey agrees. "The problem is not the policy," he said. "The problem is that people will misunderstand the policy."

Currently, in order for MAAP to become an official policy on campus, the approval of Vice President of Student Affairs Gail DiSabatino is needed. Boyd, whose six months of researching the effectiveness of MAAP lead to an understanding of the necessity of such a policy, said she hopes DiSabatino passes the policy. "I would urge [DiSabatino] to act quickly with taking the time to look at the policy," said Boyd. "There is a need for this policy to come into action soon."

"It's a no-brainer," said Richey. "Drunk guy or dead guy. Which one do you want?"

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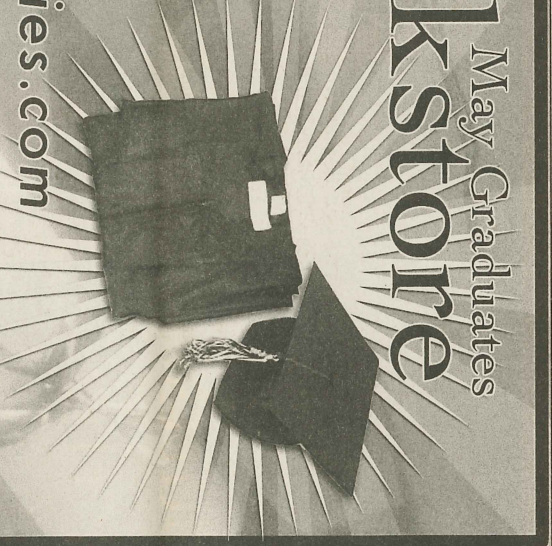
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Science and Community:

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Instructions, resource materials and more information are available at
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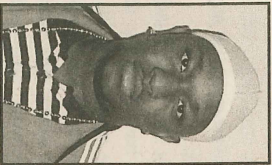
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For additional information send email queries to DJONES1@clemson.edu



Do you think that U.S. citizens miss out on more important news due to their obsession with the lives of celebrities?

"Yes, because too many citizens base their lives on what celebrities and reality television show. This gives many false impressions on the real world."



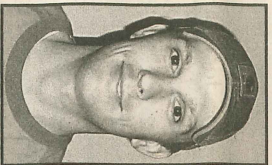
Adrian Nkwocha
graphic communications sophomore

"Yes. They pay more attention to headlines than anything else."



Christa McNeillie
sociology sophomore

"Yes, I think that the local news wastes too much time on celebrities when they should be focusing on the community's problems."



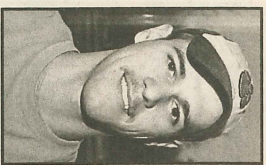
Nathan Rogers
horticulture junior

"No, I feel that people sometimes pay attention to the celebrities, but when it comes down to it they keep up with current news more."



Hillary Mixon
psychology junior

"American celebrities are more entertaining than politics."

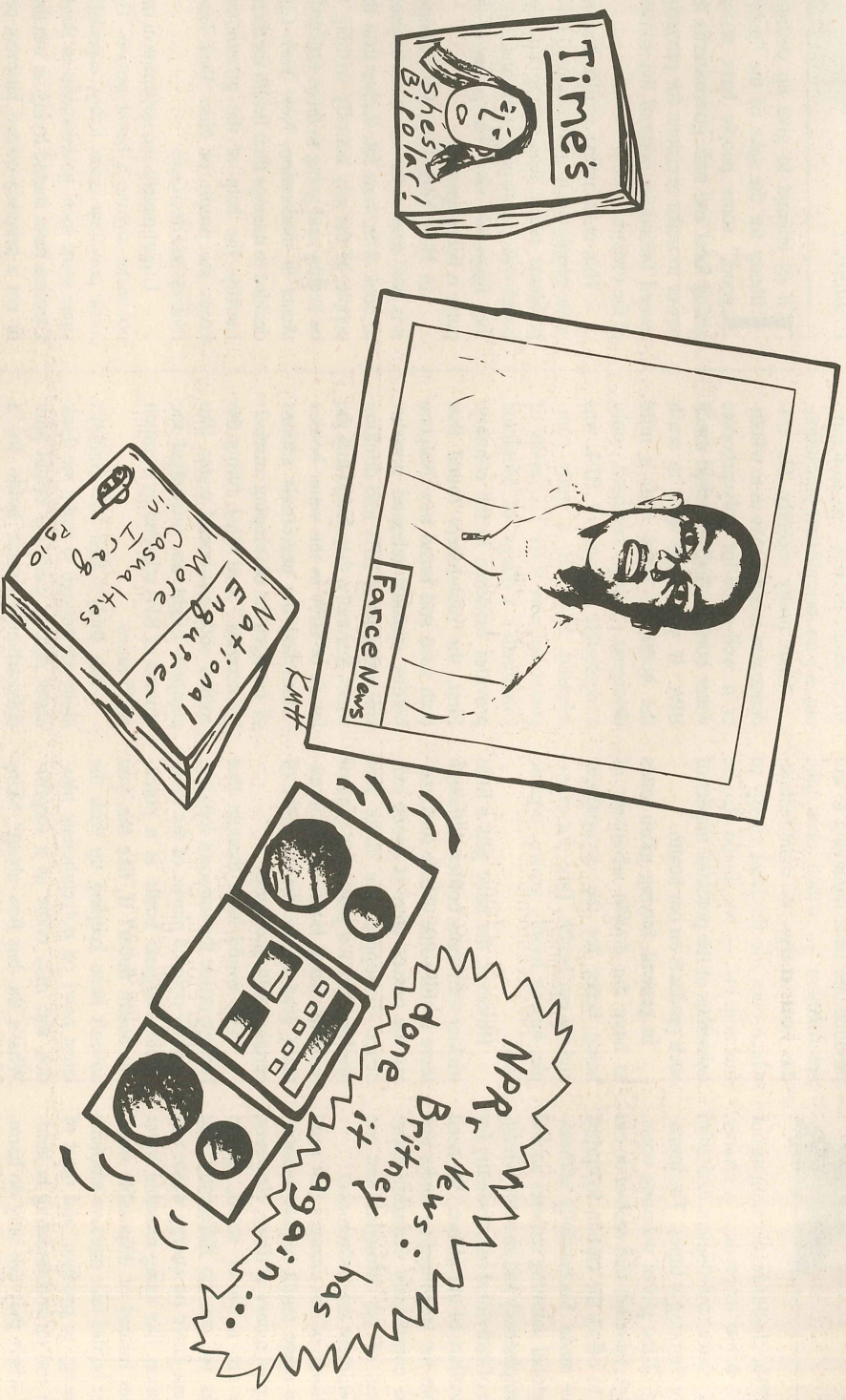


Craig Miller
pre-business freshman

"Yes! Celebrity news is quicker and easier to see than real news."



Beth Wachna
language and international trade sophomore



The news on Britney Spears

A celebrity crazed nation raises concerns about getting real news.

If you couldn't resist reading when you saw "Britney" in the headline, I think you'll enjoy this editorial. It's pretty hard to miss the obsession that this country has with celebrities. The inspiration for this column was found as I was perusing CNN's Web site, looking for interesting and relevant international news. The site offered plenty of international news, but right there next to a headline about rebel forces trying to reclaim power in Chad was another one about Britney Spears' child custody case. It was odd to see it there, sandwiched between two obviously more serious and important stories, but there it was anyway. And CNN isn't the only media outlet making news out of celebrities by any stretch. Try picking up any magazine or newspaper or visiting any news source online — they will undoubtedly be keeping you up-to-date on all sorts of celebrity news. It would almost be a surprise to see any sort of news that lacks a word about Brad Pitt's latest fling or Angelina's baby news or, our favorite, Britney's breakdown.

It is not the objective of this article to tear down the value of entertainment. Certainly, it is a valuable tool for occasionally escaping the problems of real life and following the lives of celebrities can be very entertaining. The phenomenon that needs to be addressed is that of entertainment becoming news. Now, what is meant by "entertainment" and "news"? Entertainment includes things like watching a movie or going to see a play or listening to a concert. There can be valuable things involved in entertainment, but it is separated from news by its general intent to entertain. News has traditionally not been created to entertain (at least we hope not) but rather to inform about facts, without adjusting any of the facts for entertainment's sake.

It is interesting that what would be considered entertainment by our standards is slowly making its way into news sections in pretty much every form of media. It's a random example, but think about all those airline magazines you've flipped through — when's the last time you saw a cover story about an international peace conference or global warm-

ing policy issues? For my part, the last three covers I noticed were focused on Tom Brady, Matthew Perry and Michael Stipe. When it comes right down to it, it seems pretty odd that we are so willing to push aside the stories that affect our world in favor of fairly trivial ones, but it really is not that surprising.

You've probably heard at least a few people talk about an "intellectual decline" in our country, and maybe that is what's happening here: we don't appreciate real news because it doesn't have the same entertainment value as stories about Britney. Maybe it's a little more comforting to watch those stories unfold than others about more serious subjects. Whether there is an intellectual decline happening in this country is debatable, but whatever the case may be, it's a concern that entertainment stories like Britney's seem to be more popular to many people in this country than what's happening in news.

One concept that was discussed at some length by the Tiger staff was that of making news more relevant. Many times a news story can be self-explanatory, especially at the local level. However, in order to make news more approachable and thus more popular, it's time to make it more obviously relevant to our daily lives. When CNN reports on the various conflicts, economic crises and natural disasters that are happening everyday, Americans need to be made to understand the relevance of those stories to their lives. We would, of course, hope that the implications were fairly obvious to begin with, but for pragmatic reasons it can't hurt to expand on them for the viewer's sake. There will undoubtedly be those who suggest that this is simply a form of "dumbing down" the news, but in many ways it would be just the opposite — giving people a more detailed breakdown of the ways in which news matters would give news more depth and, probably, a more committed following, kind of like the one Britney's child custody case contains. ~~The majority of the~~ *expressed in the above editorial are written by the opinions editor and represent the majority opinion of The Tiger editorial board. In representing the majority view, the staff editorials may not represent the individual view of any particular member.*

COMMENTARY

What's in your water bottle?

AMY BICKETT
Columnist



The challenges of changing our habits to produce a cleaner, safer environment can seem pretty daunting at times. The immediacy of the global warming crisis, though, demands that each of do our part to offset the carbon footprints we've made. Successfully addressing global warming requires an end to complacency and an acknowledgment of individual responsibility for the welfare of our planet. We need to join the tree-hugging ranks and begin consciously changing those aspects of our lifestyles that are damaging to the environment.

Some of the changes that need to be made might require sacrificing convenience at times. However, there are a lot of small, simple things we can do differently that can cut down on energy waste and pollution, like using reusable water bottles instead of disposable ones. Water bottles take massive amounts of energy to produce, and most of them end up accumulating in landfills, where they can only do harm.

"Making all of the bottles for the US requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually," according to the Earth Policy Institute. "That's enough to fuel 100,000 cars."

which means making the effort to learn about buying green. However, in addition to being aware of which products are least damaging to the environment — which ones take the least energy to manufacture, which ones use the least energy to function, etc. — we should also be conscious of the potential impact of such products on our health.

In general, buying green tends to have the double advantage of being better for the environment and for our health. Take, for example, buying locally grown, organic food.

However, the issue gets a little trickier with water bottles. Although there is still some debate surrounding the matter, there is strong evidence to support the claim that drinking from a particular type of reusable water bottle could eventually lead to the development of certain health problems.

Who would have thought that lurking inside the innocent-looking, brightly colored plastic of the ubiquitous Nalgene bottle is a potential health threat? If, like me, you haven't been keeping up with the latest news on polycarbonate plastics, this may come as a surprise. What's the big fuss about? Many Nalgene bottles, and plenty of water bottles made by other companies, are composed of polycarbonate plastic, which is known to leach BPA into the drinking water it holds. BPA, or Bisphenol-A, is an endocrine disruptor that can increase risks of cancer, fertility problems and obesity.

Now, there are a few important things to clarify. We're exposed to BPA and other endocrine disruptors from more than just water bottles, so you can't blame health problems solely on water bottles. Neither can you control much of your exposure to BPA without the implementation of new environmental regulations. However, switching your

polycarbonate-made Nalgene for a healthier alternative is one measure you can take to decrease your overall exposure to BPA, and, as it turns out, it's no insignificant precaution.

Until pretty recently, the evidence was inconclusive as to whether a well-cared-for polycarbonate water bottle actually leached much BPA. If you made sure to wash the bottle by hand with a mild detergent, many assumed, only a negligible amount of BPA was released. However, a study completed last year at the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine provides evidence to the contrary.

First, the researchers found that both used and brand new Nalgene bottles steadily released measurable amounts of BPA into drinking water. Secondly, they found that the levels of BPA in the water bottles "mimicked the neurotoxic actions of estrogen in developing cerebral neurons." And third, filling the bottles with just-boiled water, like campers might do, multiplied the amount of BPA released by as much as 55 times.

The study's first two findings alone are enough to make me think about putting aside my bright pink polycarbonate water bottle for a less risky alternative. Nalgene and other companies known for their polycarbonate plastic bottles also manufacture some products made from safer plastics (usually HDPE plastic). They're harder to find than the polycarbonate ones, but they're out there. If you'd like to get away from plastic altogether, lightweight stainless steel and enameled aluminum bottles are also a good idea. You won't have to worry about BPA with any of these options, and they generally cost about the same as their toxic cousin.

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I think the statistics speak for themselves. When it comes to disposable versus reusable, it isn't a difficult choice. I would guess that a majority of Clemson's student population owns some kind of reusable water bottle. Apart from being environmentally friendly, using a reusable bottle is a lot cheaper than continually buying bottled water, and often more convenient.

As we're taking increased measures to protect the environment, we also need to be wise consumers,

polycarbonate-made Nalgene for a healthier alternative is one measure you can take to decrease your overall exposure to BPA, and, as it turns out, it's no insignificant precaution.

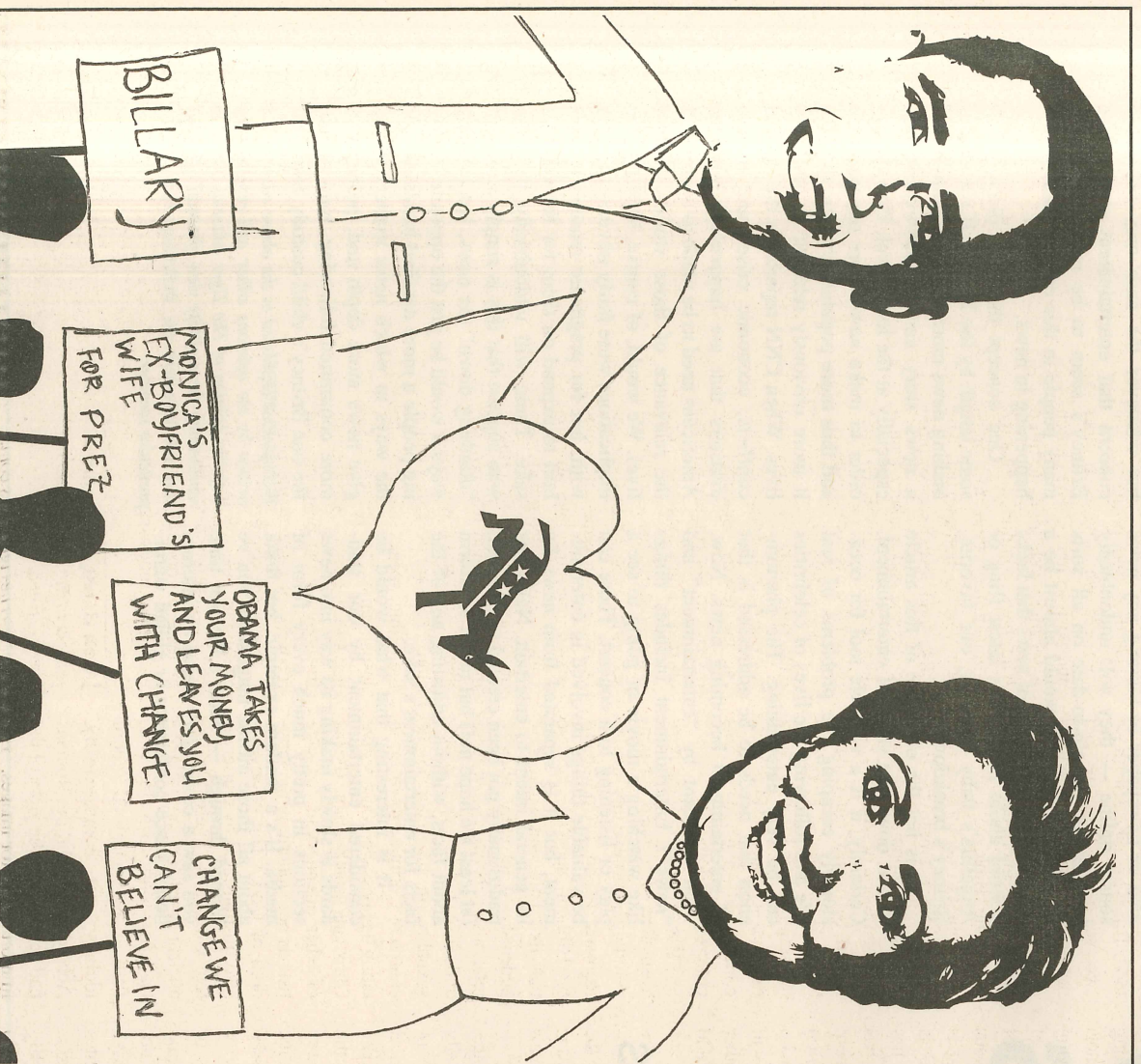
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Political Cartoon

Hershall Mathers



AMY BICKETT is a senior majoring in English. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

Liberty above all

BRYAN COCKFIELD
Columnist



In an attempt to give up essential liberty for the sake of the "public good," some people have started giving local and state governments the power to make decisions for privately-owned businesses without the consent of the owners.

This is occurring mostly because some people run to government to solve problems rather than taking up their issues with the owners of the businesses they frequently visit. The power of the purse is being ignored.

In New York City, for example, it is now against the law for a business to cook with trans fat. Rather than the people of the city actually wishing to be healthy and going to those establishments in moderation, New York City decided to manage their health for them. Luckily, the help of the government keeps the people of New York from making bad decisions.

Unfortunately, the government can not make anyone a better person. The most prevalent issue today, especially since some local governments in South Carolina have started trying, is whether or not a privately-owned business can allow smoking.

Apparently, the trend seems to be that people like having the government tell them that they are not smart enough to choose whether or not to go into a restaurant that allows smoking. They claim that the government has the obligation to make lifestyle choices for its citizens.

Unfortunately, if the government could solve all of our problems, the Soviet Union probably would have done a little better. In our society, however, the free market ends up taking care of our problems much better than government intervention will.

Part of this problem is a desire for instant gratification. Rather than waiting for the invisible hand of the free market to take care of the best interests of a bar or restaurant, people seem to like the

immediate yet ultimately destructive government bans. This seems like a horrible idea, especially since the only government agency to ever turn a profit was NASA.

North Carolina recently struck down a state-wide ban on smoking in part because tobacco is such an important industry to the state but mostly because many private businesses had already made the good business decision to ban smoking. Since there are fewer bars and restaurants that were smoke free, bars could choose to corner the non-smoking market.

The North Carolina General Assembly saw no need to punish the private businesses that were already doing the right thing. They realized that there is more of an incentive to ban smoking from the free market than the government, at any level, will be able to offer.

On the other hand, the restaurants that don't ban smoking are well within their private property rights to serve whomever they wish. If too many bars and restaurants in any given area become non-smoking, it will become more profitable for businesses to start serving smokers again.

Of course, it isn't an instant fix. Bars and restaurants will open, close, change clientele and might even allow smoking. But people are ultimately responsible for themselves, and if they feel that their health is in danger, no one forces them into a restaurant that allows smoking.

South Carolina would do well to follow the example of its neighbor to the North, even though it is rare for North Carolina to use common sense to solve a problem while South Carolina is left floundering.

For now, cities and towns like Greenville or Sullivan's Island violate private property rights and even put some bars and restaurants out of business by making blanket business choices for them, against their will.

To more socialistic city governments like the Sullivan's Island Town Council, or even to state governments like the New York General Assembly, it seems like private businesses only have the rights that the government lets them have. This flies in the face of the ideals that this country was founded upon: Governments are instituted to protect liberty, not to protect health.

BRYAN COCKFIELD is a senior electrical engineering major. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

An 18-year-old giraffe living at the Oakland Zoo is having a jacket custom-made to keep her warm in her old age. She also has weekly visits from a chiropractor and masseuse.

A Connecticut man found out the hard way that Craigslist, an online classifieds page, isn't the best way to sell marijuana. An undercover cop responded to the ad and arrested the man a few days later.

A Florida golfer got his first hole-in-one at age 92 last Friday. Making the occasion even more special was the fact that the golfer, Leo Fiyalko, is blind. That's not your average ace.

Dutch inventors showed off a \$111,100 car-fueling robot on Monday that they claim is the first of its kind. It works by registering the car as it arrives and is able to detect what type of fuel cap and fuel is required.

A heads up to any of you planning on going to Mexico for Spring Break—a new law in Monterrey will make it illegal to put on lipstick, shave or carry a pet while driving.

A chain of retail stores in the U.K. has withdrawn the sale of beds named "Lolita," which were designed for young girls, after parents expressed concern that the name suggested sexually active pre-teens.



COMMENTARY

Seriously, there's a better way

RYAN WILSON
Columnist



If you're out and about on Thursday nights, you may notice a big white van rampaging all over campus and downtown like it's being driven by a crazy idiot who prefers sidewalks to asphalt. That's me. I'm the crazy idiot. I spend up to five hours delivering these newspapers with my partner, Emily, every Thursday until about 3 a.m. Why would I do this? Well, mostly because they pay me — but in addition, it's always a guaranteed adventure.

I am not a staff member at The Tiger — I just do the fun part and distribute. I've never written an article or column for the paper, but now I feel I must break that commitment to tell everyone the story about last week's eye-opening delivery adventure.

After dropping some bundles off at the library and Daniel Hall, I was hitting Schlitterer, and Emily was hitting some of the dorms. While doing so, she overheard an interesting conversation between a boy and a girl. The boy asked the girl if she was going to Barack Obama's speech in the amphitheatre on Friday. She responded, "No! He doesn't even deserve to be president!" The boy pointed out that plenty of people seemed to think he would make a good president. "Why doesn't he deserve to be president?" he asked, paused, and then said, "Wait, is it because he's black?" She didn't hesitate to respond with an assured and direct, "Yes."

Really? Really? Are people still operating on this level? Did she think that Obama didn't deserve to be in office because he would only really be three-fifths of a president? These were the thoughts running through my head. I could understand if she didn't

agree with his politics, but to dismiss him at face value because his face happens to be (half) black is, dare I say, very "backwards." I feel dumb even pointing out something so obvious. Plus, this comment was made only three days after we had a holiday to commemorate the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and some people on campus were still wearing pins in support.

Sometimes I feel dumfounded and helpless in the face of the ruthless persistence of ignorance, especially when it comes from supposedly educated people on a college campus. What good is it to learn accounting, calculus or chemistry if you still have the same narrow view of the world you had before you spent a small fortune on an education?

This leads me to the next adventure. While delivering papers downtown, Emily jumped out to hit a restaurant. A guy was walking by with a girl on his arm, yet his eyes were following Emily. He was not checking her out, but rather checking out the newspapers hanging in bundles from her hands. Seeing that she was holding The Tiger, he felt the need to loudly let Emily and I know that we were "Liberal Scum."

As an aside, I feel compelled to point out that The Tiger is Clemson's most balanced newspaper. I have read it weekly for about five years, and I know there are sometimes "liberal" opinions, but on the same page can be found just as many "conservative" opinions. I'm not on staff at the paper, but I know many staff members, and I find that there is a good mix of viewpoints represented. These people with differing opinions work together every week to put out a product in the interest of getting information to the people — a key part of democracy which is protected by the very first amendment to the Constitution. This paper only seems "liberal" when compared to Clemson's self-avowed "conservative" paper, the

Tiger Town Observer. Anyways, after this guy's comment, I found myself feeling dumfounded once again. I was wondering what sort of person he had to be to insult someone he didn't know and call her "scum" because he assumed she had liberal opinions. She was just delivering newspapers — she wasn't bothering him. I couldn't wrap my mind around what kind of bitterness and meanness was in this guy's heart, and who or what had put it there — and why he let it rule him so much that he had to ruin other peoples' nights.

Well, because I was having an adventure, I decided to make it more interesting. I also wanted to throw the insult back in his face and let him know what it felt like to be on the receiving end. So, I got out of the van and yelled back at him what seemed like the only appropriate phrase at the time: I told him, in more succinct terms, that I thought he was a very low caliber of a person, perhaps that might have intercourse with his mother, and I told him what particular male genitalia he could put his mouth on. He just yelled back something incomprehensible, and that was that.

Emily felt better, but I was let down. I wanted a confrontation. What I really wanted, though, was for the confrontation to turn into a discussion. I wanted to know why he thought we were liberal scum. I guess I was hoping if I could get a response out of him, then I could actually get to talk with him and I might learn why he felt the way he did. I wanted to get past the mud-slinging that so often is called "politics" and learn something. My greatest fear was that there would be nothing there to learn; that he had no good logical reason for believing what he did.

There is a difference between opinions and prejudices. An opinion usually comes from examining the extant facts

and deciding what you think is right based on the evidence. Prejudices are unexamined biases that make people hate each other for no good reason, and as such, they are only harmful in a society that seeks to become more just and prosperous. My experiences on that distribution night showed me two people with serious prejudices. No, I wasn't under the illusion that prejudices didn't exist; I know we all have some — I have my own (mostly pertaining to music), but I try not to let them rule me.

People with differing opinions can still work together, because they understand that someone may not hold the same opinions. But people operating on blind hatred and prejudice will only work with the like-minded (or maybe like-skinned), as few and far-between as they may be. Though I am just the newspaper distributor, I would like to think that for the future of this world people will eventually start working together instead of spending their time and energy hating each other — especially if for reasons they aren't even sure of. I had started to think we were moving past that, but these people last Thursday proved to me that we still have a lot of work to do.

This is not a matter of being liberal or conservative, it's a matter of having eyes, ears and a brain — and putting them to use. Whether or not you agree with others' opinions, lifestyles or race, it can't do any good to pretend they don't or shouldn't exist. What does that solve? Please e-mail me at helix711@gmail.com and tell me what that solves. And if you are one of the people I referred to in this column, please e-mail me as well, and maybe have a conversation with me.

RYAN WILSON is a super senior majoring in psychology. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

also to condemn homosexuality. Some scholars believe that the passage forbade such behavior because such acts were believed to be associated with idolatry or the worship of other gods—not God. But why adhere to those two verses of Scripture and not follow the entire holiness code found in Leviticus? This is selective interpretation and using the Bible to say what you want it to say for your own agenda. For example, the Bible was used to support slavery and the submission of women. Jesus healed, befriended, gave life to, accepted, and loved those that the scriptures and the so-called religious scholars, the Pharisees, condemned—and Jesus was criticized for doing so.

Passages found in the New Testament often cited for condemning homosexuality include Romans 1 and 1 Corinthians 6. Biblical scholars believe that that Paul was addressing pederasty, a sexually abusive relationship between a teacher and his student—not homosexuality, in his letter to the church at Corinth. However, in citing that passage, conservative Christians usually ignore the list of other offenders the passage lists as not "inheriting the kingdom of God." The passage is also mistranslated by conservative Christians. There was no ancient word for homosexuality. In his writing to the Romans, Paul was concerned about idolatry, not homosexuality. According to Paul, the Romans had "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images." But

through misinterpretation and selective interpretation, homosexuality is perceived as the primary sin in Romans 1.

Adultery and divorce have long been bigger threats to marriage than two people of the same-sex who love each other and wish to marry. The church is far more welcoming to those who have committed divorce and adultery than to someone who is homosexual. The Bible (and Jesus) speaks more to divorce and adultery than it does homosexuality. Even Jesus did not discuss homosexuality.

One or two issue politics is dangerous politics. Focusing on just one or two issues and ignoring the rest is neglectful and divisive to our country and her citizens. Politicians use "one issue politics" as a means of securing votes. Once the elections are over, issues of homosexuality, marriage and abortion will be seldom mentioned again until the next election. Look at the world around us—poverty, illness, starvation, war, oppression. These are the issues which the Bible speaks about most. Jesus came "to preach good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." If we are true followers of Jesus, to do anything other-wise is not following Jesus.

JASON RANKE is a graduate student in the department of history. E-mail comments to letters@TheTigerNews.com.

Jesus is not a Democrat...or a Republican

JASON RANKE
Columnist

I am writing in response to Stephen Pinerot's article in The Tiger, "Who Would Jesus Vote For?" published Jan.

25. In his article, Mr. Pinerot's was concerned that one's vote in this election season should "not [be] at the cost of Biblical statutes." The primary issues he was concerned with were abortion and homosexuality and whether Jesus "would vote for someone who supports the murder of innocent children or the lauding of the homosexual lifestyle." Jesus is not a Democrat or a Republican, contrary to what political candidates in both parties would have people to believe.

If we are to consider "Biblical statutes," the Bible does not directly speak on the issue of abortion. Conservatives look typically to the sixth commandment given by God to Moses, "you shall not murder"

found in the 20th chapter of Exodus and verses from Psalm 139 which discuss God has the One who "created my inmost being..."[Who] knifed] me together in my mother's womb" for supporting "pro-life" issues — God is the creator and giver of life. However, what is your definition of life? Does life begin at conception, or does life begin when a child is capable of sustaining life independent of the mother at birth? Does being "pro-life" also include being against the death pen-

alty and war? If we are to be truly "pro-life," there should be consistency in our position, not merely opposition to abortion.

I do not know anyone who is truly for abortion, and I can only imagine how agonizing that decision is to make. Ethically, com recently reported that a mother's economic concerns as to how she will be able to raise a child play a major factor in her decision to get an abortion. According to the article, "the Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that three-fourths of the women who have abortions say they cannot support a child."

If we are going to support life, what kind of life would a child born into poverty have? Perhaps being concerned about the economy and health care are not bad issues to be concerned about at all. These are not just important issues for a young child, but for all Americans and our quality of life from birth to death.

While some who are "pro-choice" may make a case such as that, a lot of people simply do not want the government telling them what they can or can not do to their bodies. This is a prime example of politics and religion mixing, and the outcome can be very dangerous. If there is no separation of church and state, then which religion do we choose to believe? Christianity? Contrary to popular belief, the Founding Fathers were deists or agnostic — not necessarily Christian. What about those in this country who are not Christian but

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INSIDE
Track leaps
ahead, C2

SPORTS

Men and women whip Duke

Ladies finish with a winning season as the men achieve their 12th win.



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

Senior co-captain Peg Carter finishes sixth in the 200-yard butterfly. The women defeated the Blue Devils 162.5-133.5 and finish 8-7 (3-5 in ACC).

SARAH PORRI STAFF WRITER

The Clemson men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed in their final home meet of the season this past Saturday in McHugh Natatorium. The Clemson Tigers dived the Duke Blue Devils in the men's meet, 156-116, and the Clemson women secured a winning record this season, beating the Lady Blue Devils 162.5-133.5. The Lady Tigers move up to an 8-7 record and 3-5 in the ACC, while the men complete their regular season with a 12-2 overall record and 6-2 in the ACC. These six conference wins set a new Clemson record for most ACC wins in a season for the Tigers. This also marks coach Christopher Ip's

fifth winning season for the women in his six years at Clemson. "I think this class had made a quantum leap in pushing this program forward," said coach Ip of this year's senior class.

The meet began honoring the 14 seniors who make up a large part of this year's Clemson swimming and diving teams. Flowers and hugs from parents along with a few tears made this time special for those who had devoted four years of their life to competing in this sport for Clemson University.

"It was exciting to know that my last dual meet would be swum in Clemson," said senior Taylor Thompson. "I have had so many great experiences and memories in the past four years with this team,

and to swim my last dual meet in Clemson just made the overall experience that much better."

After all of the seniors were introduced and the parents returned to their seats, the meet started in full swing. The 200-yard medley relay of Michelle Parkhurst, Carmen Groenewoud, Alex Allen and Lauren Sindall touched the wall first almost a second ahead of the Lady Blue Devils. This momentum was carried into the 1000-yard freestyle with Cassy LaRussa. Summer O'Donnell, Sarah Smith and Mandy Snell taking second through fifth, respectively. LaRussa and O'Donnell would come back just a short while later to place second

see **SPLASH** page C6

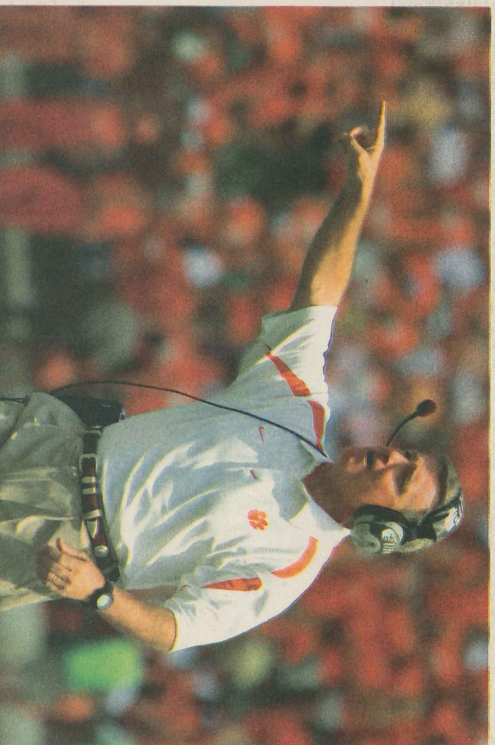
Bowden signs greatest class yet

Jamie Harper and Dwayne Allen are signing day gems.

ADAM CRISWELL STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday of last week, the Clemson Tiger football coaching staff signed a landmark recruiting class that will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on the field next year and many years down the road. National Signing Day saw 19 letters of intent signed and faxed to an ecstatic Clemson coaching staff led by head coach Tommy Bowden and recruiting coordinator Billy Napier. These 19 future Tigers will join six other members of the 2008 class who graduated high school a semester early and are currently enrolled at Clemson. The three Signing Day commitments of Under Armor All Americans Jamie Harper, Antoine McClain and Dwayne Allen recently launched this recruiting class to a number two ranking nationally by ESPN and number 10 by Scout.com.

While loaded to the gills with talent at almost every position, this



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

While many fans were hoping for a top 10 recruiting ranking this year, Clemson's incoming class is arguably the No. 1 in the country.

2008 recruiting class will satisfy some glaring needs for the Tiger depth chart. The departure of one man wrecking crew and future NFL draft pick Phillip Merling leaves a big hole at strong side defensive end for the 2008 season. Clemson

fans can rest assured that this hole should be easily filled with the massive 6-foot-4-inch, 270-pound physique of ESPN's number one ranked recruit in the nation, DaQuan Bowlers. Hailing from Bamberg-Ehrhardt high school, this former teammate

of Ricky Sapp should be one of college football's highest impact freshmen when he settles in on the opposite side of his good friend wearing number seven. Delivering an outstanding performance in ESPN's Under Armor All American Game, Bowers was named the MVP for the Silver Team. The highest ranked prospect to ever sign for the Tigers, Bowers finished high school a semester early and is currently enrolled at Clemson to participate in spring ball and get a head start on the 2008 season.

Adding more depth to the strong side of the line will be JUCO transfer Jarrett Crittenton. At 6-foot-7 inches, 270 pounds, Crittenton moves fearlessly well, and with two years of experience against collegiate talent at North Dakota State Junior College, he should be ready to step in and contribute from the moment he arrives on campus. Rounding out the defensive line

see **SIGNEES** page C7

18 and no



RYAN LAUNIUS
staff writer

When I was given my assignment for this week's issue I was extremely excited about it because this was the first time I had ever been told to write about whatever is on my mind concerning pro sports. I was finally going to break away from the doldrums of spending hours scanning over box scores and statistics that seemingly only confirm the dominance of the New England Patriots this year and move on to an article about baseball, hockey or the soon-to-be season of basketball. I have easily written at least five articles in the past four months that have merely honored the resilience of the Patriots, and before the Super Bowl started I decided that I could not afford to exert any more of my energy towards censoring my annoyance with the New England franchise in yet another issue of this newspaper.

But as the clock ticked its final second and a water-eyed Tom Brady walked off of the field from the first Super Bowl loss he has ever taken, something awoke inside of me only to stir up feelings that I had not felt since the first time my fingers touched the keyboard to talk about the 7-0 unbeatable Patriots so many weeks ago. I finally felt genuinely excited to write an article about the NFL again.

My sudden frenzy to write an article about the game had nothing to do with a congratulatory acknowledgement for the fans of New York or some sort of concealed love for the G-Men. No, I believe this exciting epiphany has been building up for years, and a release was triggered when the time expired on the Patriot dynasty.

New England has always been like that guy who has an extremely beautiful girlfriend but still likes to dabble around and keep other women at his heels. They win Super Bowls and then refuse to share the next year as they just keep on winning.

Throughout the years of the Patriot's crowning achievements they have amassed a fan base that can only be described as nauseating, objectionable and repugnant. The fan base consistently amazed NFL viewers by speaking of the Pats post-2002 success while retaining little to no knowledge of the franchise's pre-2002 history. These "fans" did not seem to follow the ordinary and unspoken rules of pro sport fandom which requires you to have some sort of roots in the city of the team that you love as seemingly no New England fans were ever from Boston anymore. In fact, I could even name five Patriot fans I am personally acquainted with who could not tell me who Drew Bledsoe is, much less tell me about his heroics in the 1996

see **DEFEATED** page C3

TIGER SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday 2/10
North Carolina
6 p.m.
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Thursday 2/14
Georgia Tech
9 p.m.
Clemson, S.C.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday 2/13
Duke
7 p.m.
Clemson, S.C.

MEN'S TRACK
Friday 2/8
Hokie Invitational
5 p.m.
Blacksburg, Va.

WOMEN'S TRACK
Friday-Saturday
2/8-9
Hokie Invitational
TBA
Blacksburg, Va.

MEN'S TENNIS
Friday 2/8
Loyola Marymount
8:30 a.m.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Friday 2/8
USC
1:30
Los Angeles, Calif.

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Friday-Sunday 2/8-10
USTA/ITA National
Indoor Championships
All Day
Madison, Wis.

C.J. sets the mark

Spiller runs a 6.58 in the 60-meter.

TYRONE GAYLE
STAFF WRITER

The men's track and field team used their week off to their fullest advantage by getting in valuable workouts in the weight room and on the track. The results paid off in heavy dividends. Look no further than sophomore C.J. "Lightning" Spiller, and his breakthrough performance last weekend at the Carolina Classic in Chapel Hill, N.C. First, Spiller blasted out of the blocks in his preliminary round to a scorching time of 6.69 in the 60-meter dash, a solid time that improved upon his personal best by .02 second. However, that small improvement wasn't enough for the Lake Butler, Fla., product as he dropped another 0.1 seconds, a huge margin in sprinting and ran 6.58 in the 60-meter final.

With his performance, he joined teammate Travis Padgett as one of only three sprinters to automatically qualify for the NCAA Championships in this event and moved himself up to fifth on the Clemson all-time list.

"I feel like I've improved so much from this point last year till now," said Spiller. "Last year was my first time ever running indoors, and now I'm really seeing all the work I put in last year pay off." Spiller also picked up the ACC Track and Field performer of the week award for running what is currently the fastest time in the nation, collegiate or pro. Other Tigers had solid contributions in Chapel Hill as well, including sophomore Chris Spear, Spear, who was fourth last year at the Indoor ACC Championships in the pole-vault, continued his strong second year campaign taking the meet title with a clearance of 16 feet 4.75 inches.

Only the sprinters and field event athletes competed this weekend with the distance squad staying in Clemson to get in workouts. The men will be in full force this weekend at the Virginia Tech Elite Meet in Blacksburg, Va., along with a strong portion of other ACC teams including Duke, Georgia Tech, Miami and Wake Forest.

The Lady Tigers competed at the Carolina Classic as well and came away with a good indication of how they are progressing at the mid-point of the indoor season. Freshman April Sinker, a high school All-American last year, continues to impress as she won the collegiate division of the long and triple jump. The three-jump-threat Stafford, Va., native currently finds herself ranked in the top five in the ACC in the triple, long and high jump events. Polly Hardy and Krystal Baringer both had productive days in the 60-meter hurdles as they placed third and sixth, respectively.

Rochelle Kokayko and Catherine Porter finished third and fourth in the weight throw invitational. Kokayko recorded a top distance of 52 feet 8 inches, a season-best for the junior native of Canada. Porter was right behind with a mark of 52 feet 0.5 inches, also a season-best in the event for the senior.

Freshman Abby Iselborn led a three-woman contingent in the mile run with her 10th place finish as she recorded a time of 5:10.56. Also competing in the mile run were freshman Jill Yandle, who placed 28th, and sophomore Maggie Bernard who finished 35th overall. For the second consecutive week, the women will compete at the same meet as the men and make the 300-plus mile trek to Blacksburg, Va.

Tigers blast BC 78-56

Five Clemson players score double digits against the Eagles.



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

Maintaining his high field goal percentage this season, Raymond Sykes hit three of six shots last Saturday.

MIKE MYLAN
STAFF WRITER

The Clemson basketball team dominated the Boston College Eagles on Saturday night at Littlejohn Coliseum. From the opening tipoff Clemson took control of the game, never trailing the Eagles.

After a tight loss against Miami and falling outside the AP's Top 25, Clemson looked to get back on track facing Boston College. Clemson had lost four of its last eight games after dropping just one loss in their first 13.

The Eagles came into the contest with a 12-7 record including 3-3 in the Atlantic Coast Conference. However, their record might not show how strong a team they are. They had been one of the more impressive teams in the

country, hosting a 12-4 record. During ACC play, however, they have been bested in their past three appearances.

The Coliseum was deafening, as usual, at the start of the game. The Tigers got off to a fast start and were able to consistently work the paint. They jumped to an early 23-14 lead after three consecutive layups by sophomore Trevor Booker. Booker had an impressive performance of 10 points and seven rebounds.

Clemson's defense and rebounding were sound throughout the night. Clemson owned the glass, outrebounding Boston College 29-18. Booker and senior James Mays made their contributions to that statistic turning in seven rebounds each. The Tigers were also able to come up with 10 steals that helped add to the Eagles' 18 turnovers. Towards halftime Clemson began to falter as Boston College went on an 11-4 run to tie the game at 29. The Eagles' junior Tyrece Rice led the team with 17 points. Rice, however, did not have much of help from the rest of his team; the next highest scorer, Biko Paris, came off the bench to make just nine points.

After the half, the Eagles seemed out of sync. It took them nearly five minutes into the second half to come up with any sort of points. Clemson, on the contrary, came out strong in the second half outscoring the Eagles 42-25.

Raymond Sykes and David Porter made important contributions during the second half. Coming off the bench, they combined for 17 points. Porter tied his career high of 11 points on Saturday. Chris Hammonds had a huge performance in the second half as well, coming up with 11 of his 14 game points. K. C. Rivers was able to finish Boston College off scoring seven of Clemson's last nine points.

One thing that stood out that may have impressed Clemson fans was that the team was finally able to make free throws. Recently, the team has been struggling to make the easy points at the foul line. Against Boston College, though, they were able to shoot 90 percent from the line, making eight out of nine shots. This brings up their season average to 63.5 percent.

Clemson finished the game winning 78-56 in a rout. The Tigers will attempt to become more consistent in ACC play as they finish the season with eight more conference games. Their next game takes place on Sunday, when Clemson travels to Chapel Hill, N.C., face off against the North Carolina Tarheels.

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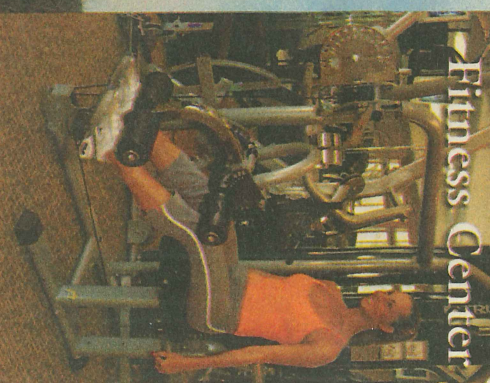
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Docks



DEFEATED *from page C1*

AFC Championship game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

But even with the shortcomings of the dolish devotees aside, New England has earned the disgust of non-Patriot-fan NFL viewers worldwide with their winning ways. Since not making the playoffs in 2002 despite being in a three way tie for first place in the AFC East due to tie-breaking procedures, the Patriots have posted an amazing 77-17 record that includes eleven playoff victories, five straight division championships and two Super Bowl titles.

And yet with all of their previous accomplishments, including an 18-0 record this season, the Patriots fell just short of inscribing their names into the history books as the greatest team of all time.

After all, that debate is reserved for an exclusive group of teams consisting of 42 past Super Bowl Champions. This year's New England Patriots may have an argument for best regular season team of all time, but on this past Sunday in Arizona they fell three points shy of ever being in a debate for the all-time best.

How did this happen? The Patriots were double digit favorites. Their offense broke records all season while their defense played well enough to keep the coaching staff from even breaking a sweat about most games. Not to mention they were seemingly matched up against the bottom of the barrel when it came to the NFC's elite.

The Giants were a pitiful 1-5 against playoff teams in the 2007 regular season, while only posting a 4-4 record in the second half. The wide receiving corps of the G-Men recorded more dropped passes than any others in the NFL, and the defense seemed to crumble at inopportune times in big games. The Giants regular-season schizophrenia can best be described by their 41-17 home loss to the failing Minnesota Vikings following their big win on the road against the revitalized Lions.

But the Giants were an enigma in both the regular and post-season as they posted only a 3-5 home record while going 11-1 on the road. In fact, the only road loss that the Giants suffered was at the hands of the Dallas Cowboys on Sept. 9 - their first game of the season.

Going into the game it was generally agreed that the Giants would have to play nearly a perfect game on defense and supply some miracle on offense to spark themselves to a win over their heavily favored adversaries. The defense most certainly did not disappoint this past Sunday as their line recorded five sacks on Tom Brady, an extremely high number compared to his average of being sacked only 1.2 times in his first 18 games.

The barrage of sacks was led by defensive end Justin Tuck, who tackled Brady twice in the backfield and forced a fumble as well. The forced fumble was recovered by Osi Umenyiora, who was a key player in rushing into the Patriot backfield and recorded many of the 20 hits that the "Big Blue Wrecking Crew" laid upon Brady in Arizona.

The miracle play on offense was a completely different thing though. For the first three quarters it seemed that the Giants could move the ball just enough to not put points on the board, yet in the fourth quarter New York managed to put a touchdown on the board and take a 10-7 lead with only eleven minutes left.

It was not long though before the Pats offense drove down the field in classic Tom Brady fashion to take a 14-10 lead with only two minutes and forty-two seconds left on the clock of a Randy Moss TD reception. At this point I had the feeling that I have had watching every other Pats game this year and in past postseason games. After all, the Patriots have been there. It always has been those situations in which New England thrives and shuts their opponents down once and for all.

But then, when the Giants were facing a third and five with time running out, something happened that seemed to shift the alignment of the cosmos itself--the miracle.

Eli Manning dropped back on a third and five only to find himself face to face with almost the entirety of New England's defensive line. Adalrus Thomas grabbed a fistful of Manning's jersey and almost had the sack that would end Super Bowl XLII and secure his place in history. But somehow Eli escaped and threw a desperation shot downfield that seemed to hang in the air for an eternity. But when the ball finally came down it

Tigers suffer setback

Clemson falls to VCU without Ani Mijacic

BRANDON BOATWRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Clemson ladies' tennis team split a pair of matches this past weekend. The Tigers dominated Purdue on Saturday but fell to the Rams of Virginia Commonwealth the following Sunday. The team is now 3-1 on the season and has fallen from a No. 9 national ranking to No. 16 in the latest ITA poll released on Tuesday.

The Tigers swept every match against the Boilermakers on Saturday. The ladies won every doubles match for the third time in the season and dominated the singles matches as well. This marked the first time during the season that the Tigers had won every match in a contest.

Clemson was led by doubles tandem Carol Salge and Federica van Adrichem who convincingly defeated their opponents 8-1.

Despite an impressive showing on Saturday, the Tigers struggled against VCU on Sunday, losing the match 4-3. The Tigers dominated doubles play, winning all three matches for the fourth time this season. Carol Salge and Federica van Adrichem defeated VCU's Viktoria Konstantinova and Olena Leonchuk by an 8-3 margin in the number one



BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

One loss and one win this week puts Clemson at 3-1 this season.

doubles position. This elevated the tandem's record to 6-1 overall on the year. Alexandra Luc and Ina Hadziseimovic moved up to the second flight and squeaked past Tatsiana Uvarova and Kateryna Yergina, 8-6. Luc and Hadziseimovic have now won five

straight doubles matches for the Tigers. For the third doubles match, Clemson paired sophomore Estefania Balda with Laurianne Henry

to defeat Laura Burns and Kateryna Malakhova, 8-3.

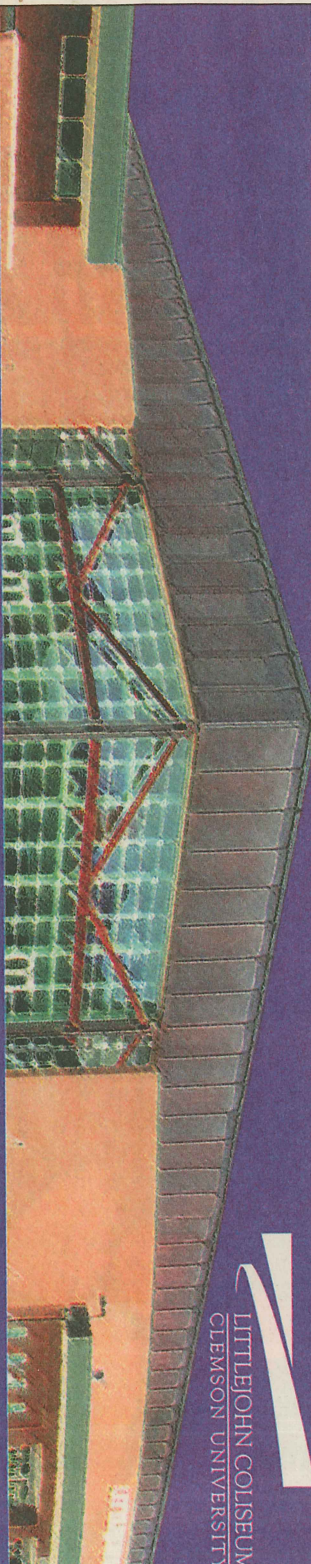
Despite impressive doubles work, the Tigers were outplayed by the Rams in singles matches. Clemson was only able to win two of the six singles matches. Estefania Balda and Laurianne Henry were the only Tigers able to record victories against VCU; Henry won by default. Balda is now 4-0 in singles matches this spring.

Carol Salge, ranked 85th nationally, fell in the first flight to the thirty-fifth ranked Tatsiana Uvarova (6-2, 6-1). Ina Hadziseimovic, Federica van Adrichem and Alexandra Luc were also defeated in singles matches on Sunday afternoon.

The Tigers lacked the services of Ani Mijacic, the No. 4 player in the country, who was injured this week.

Even though Clemson dropped in the polls, the ranking marks the 24th consecutive poll in which the Tigers have been listed among the top 25.

The ladies hope to keep that streak going as they compete in the USTA/ITA National Indoor Championships in Madison, Wis., this week. They faced the No. 4 California Golden Bears in the opening round that started yesterday.



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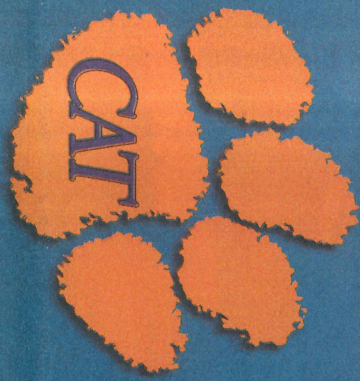
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 Monday - Friday

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DOWNTOWN SENECA - RAILROAD PARK	:20	6:20a / 6:20p
LIBRARY	:23	6:23a / 6:23p
SENECA SOLUTIONS	:25	6:25a / 6:25p
SL OAK & SHERARD	:28	6:28a / 6:28p
MAIN & 6th STREET	:29	6:29a / 6:29p
GOODE COUNTY THEATRE	:31	6:31a / 6:31p
GOODARD & WELLS	:32	6:32a / 6:32p
WELLS & WALNUT	:33	6:33a / 6:33p
WALNUT & 6th STREET	:37	6:37a / 6:37p
OAK & NORTH 1st STREET	:38	6:38a / 6:38p
6th STREET & OAK	:38	6:38a / 6:38p
arrive @ DOWNTOWN SENECA - RAILROAD PARK	:40	6:40a / 6:40p
BUS CONTINUES TO BUSINESS LOOP (see below schedule)		

SENECA BUSINESS LOOP
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 Monday - Friday

Location	Times after/h	First / Last Bus
DOWNTOWN SENECA - RAILROAD PARK	:40	6:30a / 6:20p
OCCONEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	:48	6:30a / 6:20p
MAGNOLIA PLAZA	:47	6:37a / 6:27p
WALNUT	:50	6:30a / 6:20p
DOODWOOD PLAZA	:52	6:32a / 6:22p
RAIROAD STATION ROAD - DMV MOTOR VEHICLES	:53	6:33a / 6:23p
REZORNE VILLAGE	:54	6:34a / 6:24p
COMMONS SQUARE	:59	6:39a / 6:29p
BILO & WIGLES	:59	6:39a / 6:29p
arrive @ DOWNTOWN SENECA - RAILROAD PARK	:50	6:30a / 6:20p
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WILL MCCAMERON
STAFF WRITER

CLEMSON AT

NORTH CAROLINA



Right now, the Clemson Basketball team is well into rollercoaster mode as it has already seen its fair share of extreme highs and lows only midway through the conference schedule. One thing is certain. UNC is an extremely good team. So good in fact that the regular season championship as well as the ACC Tournament championship will probably come down to either Duke or the Tarheels. On the other hand, Clemson has shown flashes of brilliance and hope balanced by terrible form and lack of concentration. That balance must tip in Clemson's favor for the Tigers to win, breaking their 0-52 losing streak to North Carolina.

North Carolina's success in this series is as much a credit to mental challenges as it is physical match-ups. Clemson has never won a basketball game at the Dean Smith Center. The streak began before the formation of the ACC in 1953. It is more than a matter of coaching strategy and player performance. North Carolina expects to win this game. The Tigers expect to give it their best. The Tarheels have a mental edge in this game that can only be countered with the Tigers focus on another streak. One game. That's how many games are being played between Clemson and North Carolina this weekend. That's how many games it takes to break the Tarheels hold over the Tigers. As important as the mental focus is, there are more elements to the game that must be considered.

The keys to victory will be to do two things the Tigers have had relative trouble doing all season: make their free throws and not fall prey to the stab and pass offense. All season, teams have driven the ball inside only to hit a man wide open on the arch. UNC can shoot the lights out from that range and it's extremely important for Clemson to not leave them uncovered. Also, Clemson Basketball has been known for their poor free throw shooting percentage. That's one of the key points that Clemson has to address before they can actually expect to consistently beat teams as good as UNC.

UNC is a big and physical team that knows how to shoot from anywhere and, most importantly, knows how to draw a foul. The most recent time the Tigers faced UNC was at Littlejohn earlier this season and they dominated most of the game.

A big factor in that game was the Tigers, ability to play patiently, allowing Trevor Booker to be aggressive with Tyler Hansborough and get him off his game. The Dean Smith Center can be a very hostile environment, so the Tigers have to act quickly and make smart decisions and keep the Tarheel crowd a non-factor. You can fully expect the North Carolina to show up in their usual cookie-cutter national contender form, let's just hope the Tigers show up like they did back on Jan. 6th.

The game will take place on Feb. 10th at 6:30 p.m. in Chapel Hill and will be broadcast on Fox Sports Network (FSN).

AP TOP 25

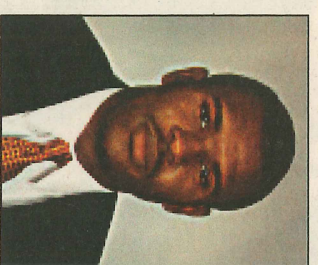
1. Memphis
2. Duke
3. North Carolina
4. Kansas
5. UCLA
6. Georgetown
7. Tennessee
8. Wisconsin
9. Stanford
10. Butler
11. Michigan State
12. Texas
13. Xavier
14. Indiana
15. Drake
16. Marquette
17. Washington State
18. Texas A&M
19. Connecticut
20. Kansas State
21. Pittsburgh
22. Notre Dame
23. Vanderbilt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



Standings

School	Conf.	Overall
Duke	7-0	19-1
North Carolina	6-1	21-1
Clemson	4-3	16-5
Maryland	4-3	14-8
Virginia Tech	5-4	14-9
N.C. State	4-4	15-7
Wake Forest	3-4	13-7
Boston College	3-4	12-8
Georgia Tech	3-4	10-10
Miami	2-5	15-6
Florida State	2-6	13-10
Virginia	1-6	11-9

KEY PLAYERS



Trevor Booker

During their last meeting, Booker was able to control the paint against UNC's Hansborough. Stopping him again will be key.



Tyler Hansborough

The highly touted Tarheel junior is the biggest scoring threat. Hansborough is averaging 22 points and 10 rebounds a game.

SPLASH from page C1

and third in the 500-yard freestyle with senior teammate Whitney Sandison placing fifth. In the 200-yard freestyle, Parkhurst along with fellow junior O'Donnell finished first and third.

Clemson and Duke even more.

"It's kind of a mix of emotions," said Sadison. "On one hand you have given most of your life to this sport, so it's kind of hard to picture yourself doing it day in, day out, but on the other hand it's excited to see what life outside of the pool is like."

Depth was the name of the game all afternoon with the Lady Tigers placing second, third and fourth in the 100-yard backstroke. Sophomore Catlin Seed teamed up with freshmen Elle LeClair and Rachel Sparks to round out the backstroke top four. Seed would have a busy afternoon, winning the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.48 seconds, and coming back after the diving break to place second in the 100-yard freestyle to follow sophomore Crina Aeschbacher. Aeschbacher also swam the 50-yard freestyle, tying for third place with a time of 24.86 seconds.

"Their average GPA is a 3.8," said Coach Ip. "With that they have also received the top level of internships, co-ops and honors programs. We have been able to attract higher levels of student-athletes because of them."

In the stroke events, the Lady Tigers came out strong. Freshman Meggie Mizelle placed second in the

200-yard butterfly with teammates Elizabeth Savage, Sarah Porri and Peg Carter close behind. Savage would win the 400-yard individual medley and also swim the 200-yard breaststroke later on in the meet with sophomores Katrina Obas and Groenewoud. Obas would take first in the 100-yard breaststroke and second in the 200-yard breaststroke. Senior Jen Grove showed her sprinting skills in the 100-yard butterfly, touching the wall first with a time of 58.34 seconds. Teammates Kelly Hendershot and A'gata Nowak were close behind taking third and fourth.

On the boards, sophomore Stephanie Fura qualified for NCAA Zones on three-meter with a score of 285.68. Senior Dani Kazilionis took third on three-meter and second on one-meter. The final relay of the meet was won by Lady Tigers Rachel Regoe, Sindall, Allen and Parkhurst, thus sealing the deal and a winning season for the Lady Tigers.

"I feel like I'm leaving a family of people I've seen at their best and their worst," said senior Sean Geary. "And even though I've only known my teammates for less than four years, I feel like I'm leaving a lifetime of memories."

The men's team came out strong from start to finish. The two senior 200-yard medley relays took first and second place, showing the Blue Devils that the Tigers are here to stay. Freshman David Gordon and senior Geary took first and second place points for the Tigers in the 1000-yard freestyle. Teammates Matt Angelini and Adam



6-foot 4-inch senior Atila Ruszka contributes to the Tigers' win over Duke last weekend in McHugh Natatorium.

BRIAN SCHNEIDER/photo editor

Farnham would keep the one-two streak going for the men in the 200-yard freestyle.

Seniors Thomson and Jay Crot didn't disappoint in the 100-yard backstroke with Crot out-touching Duke's David Hahn by five one-hundredths of a second.

Senior Andy Bergren lead freshmen Eric Lane and Kyle Shoemaker to a one-two-three punch in the 100-yard breaststroke with senior Pat Raisor rounding out the top five. Senior Atila Ruszka showed off his butterfly skills in the 200-yard butterfly, taking second with junior Brian Possee closely behind in fourth.

"It is amazing how four years becomes so short and how in such short time you develop relationships

line, loose-cannon-on-a-rolling-deck coaching staff for Clemson. I sought out coaches with certain characteristics and talents they might be able to better teach and rear our team of youngsters. This list can also be swapped for a super crime fighting force ala the A-Team, but I'd rather have them coaching at Clemson myself.

Defensive Line – Steve Latimer – Nowadays he's busy being a chain-saw-wielding psychopath (the actor also played Leatherface in the new

installments of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre) but back in the early 1990s his business was hitting people so hard that they got snort bubbles. If you've ever seen the movie *The Program* then you know what I'm talking about. Sure he had a few run ins with the NCAA drug testing officials, but I always say everyone deserves a second chance, or a third, whatever. Just don't get caught this time.

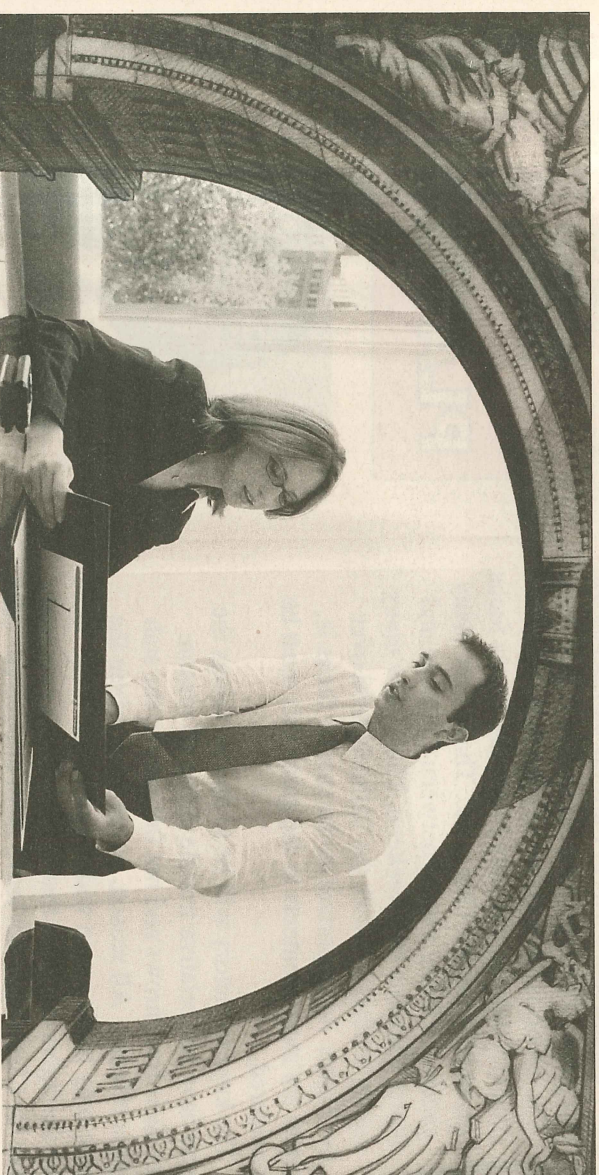
Linebackers and Defensive Coordinator – "Hacksaw" Jim Dug-

Hacksaw selected to coach, fight crime

Writer selects the greatest coaches from college football, Rocky movies and Street Fighter II.

WILL MCCAMERON STAFF WRITER

Throughout this year's whole pre-bowl coach swap drama in the college football world (not to mention our own brush with said drama), I sat back and thought about how awesome it would be to go back in time through different eras with wintun disregard for the space/time continuum as well as the lines of reality with boatloads of cash to create my own hyper-mascul-



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that will last a lifetime," said senior Stephen Russell of his time at Clemson University.

The 50-yard freestyle was a spectacle to see. All the top four spots were Clemson Tigers, and all are seniors. Mark Vahle, Farnham, Russell and Bryce Herrington combined to show the underclassmen what it means to win with style. It also stretched the air lead going into the first break, dashing any hopes of a Blue Devil victory.

"We have called the guys the 'Calvary' for the last four years. Since they were freshmen we've had to rely on them for their talent, but now we rely on them for their leadership," said Ip of his men's senior class.

Coming back, the Tigers exhibited some swimmers in order to

gan – Going with the energetic theme, I think Duggan would be the perfect addition. Granted, you can't understand a word he says, but just think about how riled up he gets people. Defense is supposed to be chaotic anyways. Perhaps not that chaotic, but still, can you imagine 80 thousand people chanting "USA! USA! USA!" and some Furman player going "But... we're from... America... too? These Clemson people are some crazy folks."

Defensive Backs – Apollo Creed – We're talking about speed, fast foot-work, hitting people with your hands and an arrogance/confidence hybrid. Who else would be perfect for the job? Let's just hope that there are no in-conference opponents that have wide receivers that are seven feet tall, from Russia, and have inhuman strength.

Also, Creed's entourage (to include a very drugged out James Brown constantly singing "Living in America," and that trainer that never really said anything till Rocky VI) would probably make things much more interesting and fun for press conferences and pregame activities.

Offensive Line – E. Honda – He is most known for his roles in the gaming series. I'll have to admit, he was not my first option for an offensive line coach. After contractual talks with the Juggernaut fell through, my administration was hard pressed to find a new candidate. Upon hearing that Mr. Honda was available and seeking a new job, we gave him a ring. Yes, he still has lightning fast hands, and yes, he still uses his body as a projectile to take out opponents.

Quarterbacks – Tommy Frazier – I was hard pressed as I had three candidates in mind. Jim McMahon would have been too drunk to stand, let alone coach ("I'm too drunk, you got me!"). Woody Dantzler was my next choice, but something told me to go with Tommy. There were a few reasons I chose Frazier: The first being that he did so well for life to turn around and feed him to the dogs. Seriously, if you look his name up in Merriam Webster, he's defined as being "simply unattackable." The second being my man needs a job now and that would be one less trip I'd have to take in my time machine (Duke Power's billing center thanks me for one less "Obscene Overuse Statement" that they would

allow other Tigers a chance to swim fast. Andrew Cunningham and Possee placed first and third in the 500-yard freestyle. Shoemaker and teammate Gordon took second and fourth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Shoemaker's time was 52.88 seconds. The final relay for the Clemson Tigers was memorable. The senior relay of Vahle, Bergren, Geary and Raisor placed third behind teammates Matt Balderton, Trey Charlton, Herrington and Thompson.

"I won't forget the last relay of the meet," said senior Vahle. "We were all having a great time before and during that race. It was like we knew that the race was going to be our last with some of our teammates and we wanted to enjoy every bit of it."

Now, the Lady Tigers rest for a bit before heading to Atlanta to compete in the ACC Championships Feb. 20-23. The Clemson men will also complete the following week in their ACC Championships, also in Atlanta, Feb. 27-March 1.

"The men's team is looking strong and confident," said senior co-captain Ruszka. "This season helped us realize what we are capable of and when ACCs come around we are going to open many people's eyes."

"In this situation, sit back. It's not so much looking to your coaches as much as it is looking to your teammates, your upperclassmen. Both the men's and women's teams have synergy; they have confidence to know where they are and look to each other for support," said Ip of the upcoming ACC Championships.

have had to file.) Lastly and most importantly, aside from Bowden, he's the most experienced person when it comes to embarrassing a Steve Spurrier coached team in a nationally-telvised game.

Running Backs – Tecmo Bowl Bo Jackson – Be honest, if you've ever played Tecmo Bowl back in the day, you knew that you were playing with the Bills because of Thurman Thomas, or the Raiders because of Bo Jackson. Perhaps he could teach our running backs of his secrets. Tired of the Bowden approach of trying to win/tie games at the least second via kicking an awkwardly spotted, distant prayer of a field goal — why not just expire the remaining time you would use on the final drive in one single running play culminating with a touchdown? Somewhere Danny Ford is enjoying an ice cold PBR and nodding with approval.

Receivers – Charlie Tweeder – Tweeder was an All-State receiver out of West Canaan, Texas, in the movie *Varsity Blues* that had a largely unknown yet stellar career at a small division I-AA school. Although he is probably the most reckless candidate out of any of the coaches we have on our list, his recruitment skills would be perfect to pick up where the current staff would leave off. I mean, come on. The guy steals police cars and drives them around whilst naked with a few open-minded young ladies in the back.

Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator – Danny Ford – This was a no-brainer, huh? I would go back to Jan. 19, 1990, and pick up Danny as he'd be the best version we could get. I would have a few stipulations he'd probably be more than willing to agree with. One of those would be to just get rid of tight ends all together and to recruit more fullbacks and linemen. The next would be to get back to Clemson hard-nosed football.

The third would be to try and get me a new Ford truck as well as a new Trane heating and air conditioning system for my house. Interesting factoid: Rumors and lore state that after a ball game if Coach Ford thought the officials did a good job, and if his team won he sent a few cases of beer over to the officials' locker room. Ah, the glory days of college football before political correctness. NCAA investigators and news media red tape got involved.

SIGNEES *from page C1*

class is defensive tackle Brandon Thompson out of Thomasville, Ga. Clemson currently has no shortage of athletic, penetrating defensive tackles but could definitely use a massive run stuffing interior presence. Although he is surprisingly quick for his size, at 6-foot-2 inches and 295 pounds, Brandon Thompson should provide a great anchor for a speedy Clemson defense with his bowling ball physique.

One testament to how great this recruiting class will be for Tommy Bowden and staff is that the position will perhaps the greatest need will be filled by two of the biggest headlines signed on Wednesday. The Clemson running back nicknames of "Thunder and Lightning" do not seem to be disappearing with the quickly approaching departure of James Davis and C.J. Spiller. Stepping in for their one-two punch of power and finesse will be two incoming freshman who may fit the storm cloud descriptions even better over their Clemson careers.

In any other year, the Signing Day commitment of running back Jamie Harper would overshadow every other story from that year's group of incoming freshman. It is only a credit to the depth of this recruiting class across the board that a player of this caliber is forced into sharing the spotlight with countless other potential future stars. Harper, one of 10 Clemson commitments at the Under Armor All American Game, showed why many Clemson recruiting junkies have referred to him as the "Silver Tuna" throughout the recruiting process with a stellar performance in front of the national audience. Answering multiple calls for a repeat performance of a clip from a legendary recruiting video, Jamie Harper followed a touchdown in the Under Armor game with a standing front flip in full pads to show off his tremendous athleticism. Along with this athleticism is a reported forty-yard dash in the 4.3's and a 6-foot, 225-pound stature that will give him the punch at the point of contact to earn that Thunder moniker. Reported to have strongly favored Clemson over the past few weeks, Clemson recruiters were able to hold off strong pushes by Florida, Florida State, Illinois and Miami to reel in this prize catch.

A great compliment to the power and explosiveness of Harper will be the fellow Under Armor All American Game standout, Andre Ellington. Hailing from Berkeley High School, South Carolina's top running back had an outstanding game against the nation's top defenders. Ellington brings speed, agility and great pass-catching ability to the Clemson running game and should be utilized in many of the same ways as current Tiger running back, CJ Spiller. Harper and Ellington should

feel very fortunate to be entering the Tiger fold with fellow classmates Antoine McClain, Dalton Freeman, Kenneth Page and Matt Sanders. These four will be standing large in front of the two RB stars, paving the way for countless 100-yard games on the offensive line. McClain, one of three signing day commitments for the Tigers, sprung in-state teams Alabama and Auburn to play in the Palmetto State. A 6-foot-6-inch, 330-pound tackle, McClain is an imposing presence who looks nothing like high school senior. Offensive guard Matt Sanders is one of nine commitments from the state of Florida as the Tiger recruiting staff continues its strong presence in the Sunshine State. Clemson was also able to secure the commitments of the top two offensive linemen in South Carolina, Dalton Freeman and Kenneth Page. Freeman, a very familiar face at Clemson games over the past years, surprised no one in his decision after remaining uncommitted

for most of the recruiting process. The 6-foot-6-inch, 270-pound guard will be joined at the position by the equally massive Kenneth Page. The Clemson recruiting staff continued their recruiting dominance over their in-state rivals to pull Page from A.C. Flora High School in the Gamecocks' backyard.

Another recruiting battle with South Carolina was won with the recent commitment of Shrine Bowl standout Jaron Brown out of Cherraw High School. A pure athlete, Brown will most likely play receiver at Clemson but would be equally comfortable at safety. Brown will be joined by two other receivers out of South Carolina, Marquan Jones and Brandon Ford. Jones has drawn many comparisons to former Tiger wideout Chansi Stuckey, while Ford brings great size to the Tiger receiver corps with his 6-foot-4-inch, 200-pound frame.

Another pass catching threat that was a very pleasant surprise on the morning of National Signing Day is North Carolina tight end Dwayne Allen. This Shrine Bowl player and Under Armor All American had committed to Georgia in a press conference on Monday after rumors of leaning towards Clemson following a late push by the Tiger recruiting staff. Wednesday morning, he announced a change of heart and faxed in his letter of intent to Clemson. With great hands and a big powerful

frame to do damage after the catch, Allen should be immediately looked at for playing time at tight end next year.

The Clemson linebackers will receive a nice influx of talent with three solid commitments. The Clemson coaching staff was ecstatic to secure the commitment of Jonathan Willard, one of the top linebackers in South Carolina. Tarik Rollins, out of Hollywood, Fla., certainly looks the part with a dominating physical presence and will bring lots of athleticism to the Tiger linebackers. Rollins is currently enrolled at Clemson this semester along with fellow linebacker Stanley "Buster" Hunter out of Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C. Hunter is one of the best stories of the 2008 class as he put in many hours of hard work to gain eligibility after failing to qualify last year. Undoubtedly the happiest freshman to finally become a Tiger, Hunter is now living his dream as he joins former teammates Willy Kom, Xavier Dye and Chad Diehl. Hunter should quickly become a fan favorite with his blue collar work ethic, intensity on the field and electric personality.

An already talented defensive backfield depth chart for the Tigers will be further strengthened with the incoming 2008 class. Safety depth was an issue for the Tigers in this offseason since Michael Hamlin and Chris Clemens will only be around

for one more year. Clemson nabbed the top defensive back in North Carolina for the second straight year with the commitment of Spencer Adams. This tall safety can cover a ton of ground as the nationally ranked hurdler will also be a star on the Clemson track team. The trio of Florida safeties Rashard Hall,

Carlton Lewis and Daniel Andrews will go a long way toward eliminating any depth problems for the Tiger DB's. The highly ranked, instinctive and very athletic cornerback Xavier Brewer was the only cornerback committed for the Tigers this year.

Teammate of Xavier Brewer is Clemson's second blue chip quarterback prospect in as many years, Kyle Parker. A standout at the EA Sports Elite 11 quarterback camp, Parker has garnered a lot of attention from recruiting analysts over the past year. He also led the Silver team to a last minute victory in the Under Armor Game with a pass to future teammate Jamie Harper. Parker should be an excellent fit for the Rob Spence's offensive scheme with great quickness and accuracy. Parker joins Bowers, Rollins, Hunter, Marquan Jones and kicker Spencer Benton as early enrollees. Also adding depth to the quarterback position is Jon Richt, son of Georgia coach Mark Richt. Richt is solid fundamentally and should be at the least be a quality backup over his Clemson career. In the middle of an ACC cham-

ampionship drought that has lasted over 16 years, the Clemson football fanbase and administration do not seem to anticipate it continuing much longer. Coach Bowden, who has failed to take home that elusive ACC crown in all nine seasons at the Clemson helm, was recently rewarded a contract extension that could keep him here until 2014. Why does he get the vote of confidence to break a nine year pattern and finally satisfy the championship starved Clemson Nation? The reason is that championships are not only won on the field in the fall but throughout the entire year in the schools and homes of the top high school football players around the nation.

Coach Bowden, Billy Napier and the rest of the Tiger coaching staff have brought in very highly ranked recruiting classes over the past three years, and as the talent level continues to rise, Clemson football becomes closer and closer to taking home a conference title. While the 2005, 2006 and 2007 recruiting classes were loaded with great talents who made immediate impacts like James Davis, C.J. Spiller, Ricky Sapp and DeAndre McDaniell, the 2008 class that signed on Wednesday is definitively Bowden's best ever. Clemson fans should be salivating as they could easily have their championship thirst quenched more than once by the time these future Tigers play their final games in orange.

Come take a tour... Model homes almost finished.

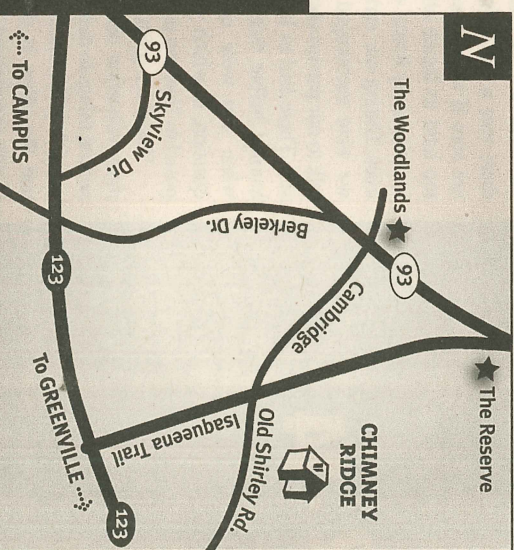
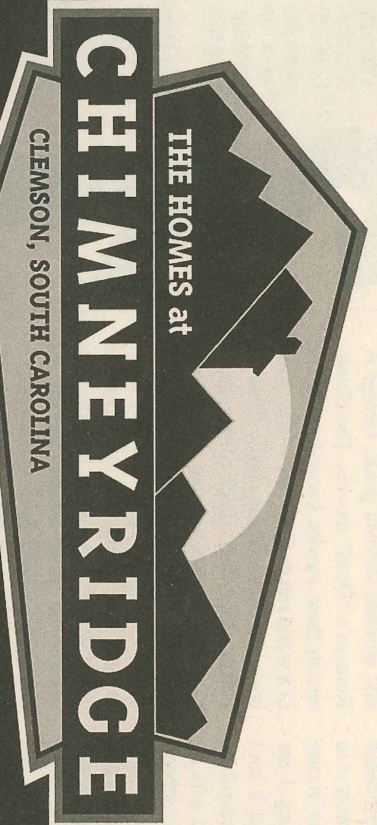
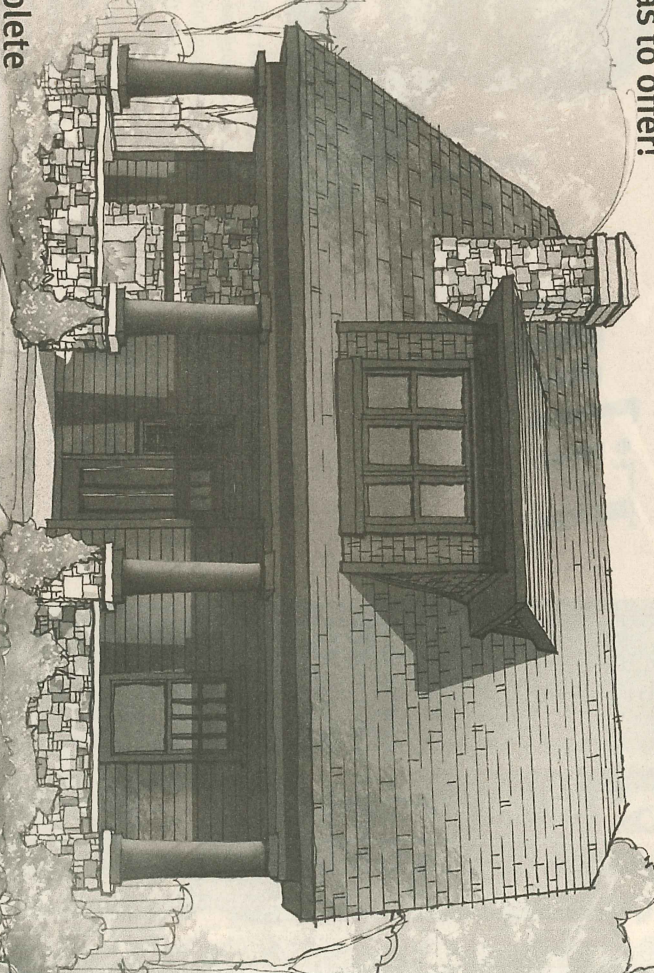
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TimeOut

SECTION
D

“Rambo” makes for dull sequel

Revered Rambo is a box office bust.

GREG BLANTON
STAFF WRITER

2.8
“Once On This Island” at the Brooks Center. 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

2.9
“Doubt” at the Brooks Center. 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

2.11
Nation Symphony Orchestra Benefits Concert at the Brooks Center. Show at p.m. Tickets are \$40.

2.12
Procrastination 101 Workshop sponsored by the Academic Success Center. 201 Edwards Hall. 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free to all students.

2.13
Nichole Bennett and Kevin Smith present two hours of music by The Magnetic Fields from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on WSBF 88.1 FM.

2.14
“American Gangster” at McKissick Theatre. 9 p.m. Free.

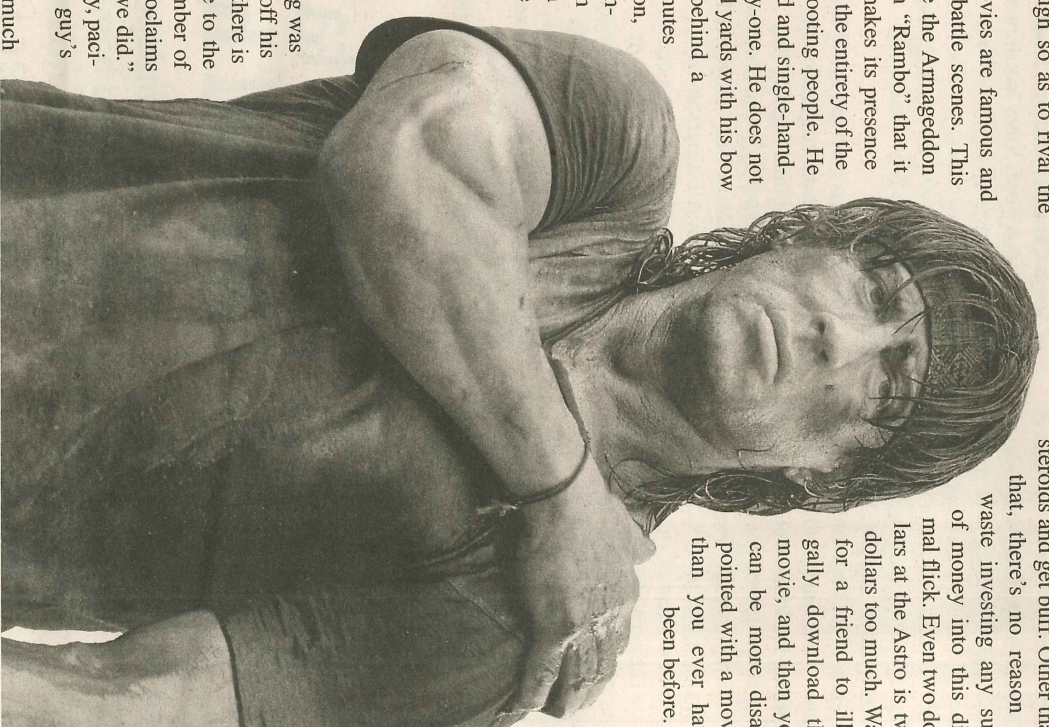
2.14
Love & Jazz. Featuring... Galen! Hosted by CLEMSONLIVE. Hendrix Student Meeting Room A and B. 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Free.
“Enchanted” at McKissick Theatre. 9 p.m. Free.

more gore into the movie was a good substitute for quality acting and action. Blood pours by the gallon, people are disemboweled and limbs and heads fly to and fro. The “Rambo” series has a reputation of being bloody, but never enough so as to rival the “Saw” films.

Finally, the “Rambo” movies are famous and revered for their epic final battle scenes. This final scene is supposed to be the Armageddon of battles, but it is so dull in “Rambo” that it comes and goes and hardly makes its presence known. Firstly, Rambo spends the entirety of the scene behind a turret gun shooting people. He does not cover himself in mud and single-handedly wipe out an army one-by-one. He does not snipe soldiers from a thousand yards with his bow and arrow. Instead, he sits behind a gigantic gun for five or ten minutes and shoots people. In addition, usually Rambo is in a one-man-against-the-world position; in “Rambo” he is joined by a team of mercenaries, an entire rebel army and the church group. So while hundreds of people are running around the jungle killing and dying valiantly via knife, rock and fire, Rambo sits in one place and just shoots everything.

Finally, most disappointing was that Rambo never once took off his shirt. Ridiculous! In addition, there is a strange anti-religious theme to the movie. In one retort to a member of the church group, Rambo proclaims “God didn’t save your life – we did.” And eventually the moral, sissy, pacifist church leader smashes a guy’s head in with a rock.

In “Rambo,” nothing much



happens, nothing much makes sense and there’s nothing much good. The only redeemable aspect to the movie is that seeing Stallone’s absurd veins and bulging muscles made TimeOut want to take some steroids and get buff. Other than

that, there’s no reason to waste investing any sum of money into this dismal flick. Even two dollars at the Astro is two dollars too much. Wait for a friend to illegally download the movie, and then you can be more disappointed with a movie than you ever have been before.

Film Snob



During fire safety week in elementary school I remember that one of the goals, besides being visited by the local FD and their dog, was to open a dialog between children and their families about the dangers of fire. Everyone was encouraged to go home, check all the batteries in their fire alarms and create a plan in case your house caught fire. Every family needed an assigned location for all to meet at in the event of a fire and a back up in case there was a real inferno blazing. I am not sure if we created one, but it isn’t too hard to locate all family members in a one-story house and a yard with no trees. During our early years in school, we were encouraged to go home and talk to our parents about fires, drugs and sex. There had to be plans and lessons learned before that big moment came when you were confronted with the question, to which you are always supposed to “just say no.”

These are great causes, but our primary education and our parents forgot several things to make sure we were prepared for. The first is financial planning, and the other is the Zombie attacks. If you are shaking your head right not thinking I have lost my mind then you

are that person in the movie who never sees it coming and is awakened one sunny morning only to be eaten by a little zombie girl. Good luck with that. Me, I am going to be prepared.

Recent movies like “I Am Legend” and “Cloverfield” encouraged a revisiting of classic zombie movies. I have never been into “scary movies,” but my roommates and I have lived off a healthy diet of zombie movies over the past few weeks. Our gorging of zombie flicks started with the definitive series, and ultimate survival guide, George A. Romero’s “Dead” movies. The characters in these movies know how to live in a world run by Zombies — they must have had a plan. These classic films are nothing like their quick-editing-show-as-much-blood-as-you-can current versions and, since they have inspired every Zombie movie since, are the only place to start your preparation for when the “dead walk.” These films take the time to elaborate on the monster and use the horror of the direct threat to normality. A great scene in both “Dawn of the Dead” movies is when the zombies are walking around the mall and have to be cleared out because they are threatening the American dream.

What is this threat? It could be anything and proponents of psychoanalysis see **FILM** page D4

THE TOP 5 REASONS GUYS WISH THEY WERE GIRLS BY GREG BLANTON

Getting out of trouble. Girls can get out of any kind of trouble with their feminine charm. Caught cheating in class? Flash your sad puppy dog face. Caught cheating on your boyfriend? Butter him up with love and kisses, and you’ve got him tied around your finger. Trouble with the police? Combine the above two methods with a little bit of cleavage to do the trick.

Money. Girls do not pay for a thing. Ever. On dates, the girl never even opens her purse while the guy shells out \$20 for a movie, then \$30 for dinner and then Lord knows how much on gas. At parties, girls never pay while the guys scrape up all their money to make sure the ladies have beer. At clubs, girls walk in for free and often have a much younger age limit.

Fashion. Girls can wear whatever they want, whenever they want, wherever they want. They can dress scandalously or conservatively. They can wear as tight or as loose as clothing as they desire. Finally, they can get away with wearing girls’ and guys’ clothing. The guys, on the other hand? Ladies can wear boxers, but Lord help us if the guys try to make the trade go both ways.

Intimacy. For whatever reason, it is totally cool for girls to hug, kiss and say to each other, “I love you!” Girls can be completely open with each other, will sleep with each other without awkwardness and can talk about their secrets without inhibition. All of this, of course, is relative to guys whose most intimate moments with each other are when they are threatening to beat each other up or are making fun of each other’s small penises.

The Hotness Factor. What is this hotness factor? It’s that inexplicable quality that allows girls to drive guys absolutely crazy. Hot girls love to prance around wearing next to nothing because they know they are driving every guy within eyesight absolutely wild, which makes females the crudest breed on Earth. “That girl is SO HOT!” “Check out that track!” Do guys ever get that kind of attention? Yeah, right. Girls use this to their advantage whenever possible (Cite reason No. 1: Getting out of Trouble).

In the Feb. 1 issue of The Tiger, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival photo was incorrectly credited to Mark Charney. This photo was contributed by Corrina Miller. The Tiger regrets this error.

ON THE PROWL

by IVANNA JOHNSON

Now that I am getting on in my years, I have noticed something very disturbing. Flashback to the syllabus week (also known as the first week of the semester). You know, where you get a syllabus for the class and then everyone goes around the room and introduces themselves. Teachers love for all the students to "say something interesting about yourself." I have found now that I am mostly in classes with juniors and seniors, there is a very disconcerting trend among what people have been mentioning as their interesting fact. "I'm engaged."



with for the rest of my life. But at this young age are we ready for a life sentence?

A S women we are trained from an early age to get married and have a family. Easy Bake Ovens, baby dolls, Barbie and Ken — they are all given to us to prepare us for the inevitable: a life of domestication, soccer games, P.T.A. meetings and probably, worst of all, no sex! Maybe it's the natural order of things, but I feel like these traditional expectations are being pushed upon us.

Though finding that special someone is everyone's ideal, does it only take 20 some years to find them? Dating in college is a tricky task, everyone is here to discover themselves and find their true potential. When we are just getting out on our own and figuring out who we really want to be, it may not be realistic to say that we can make such a permanent situation. Though the fear of ending up alone may flutter in the back of your mind, I think it is fair to say we still have time.

The dream of a white picket fence, 2.5 kids and a border collie may be something some of us want soon, but there is still so much life left to be lived and so many people left to meet. Congratulations to everyone who is engaged, but don't forget to sign a prenup.

Despite a potentially cliché plotline, the duo of Ryan Reynolds and Abigail Breslin might just make this movie worth your while. Breslin plays Reynolds' daughter in the film, as she affectionately leads him on a journey to find true love by revisiting the past. Needless to say, the fact that the movie debuts on Valentine's Day accredits it immensely. Besides, even if it's overly mushy or a romantic flatline, at least Ryan Reynolds is both easy on the eyes and wonderfully entertaining.



definitely, maybe

"Definitely, Maybe"

Feb. 14

ANNE SWIFT
STAFF WRITER

PREVIEW

"The Hot Chick and the Nottie"

Feb. 8

With a title like this, who isn't expecting Paris Hilton to be the star? Our favorite spoiled heiress takes the screen again. This time, she is pursued by a man who is madly in love with her. The catch is she goes absolutely nowhere without her not-so-hot best friend. TimeOut is just making guesses, but we think this might be how Paris operates in real life as well.



DVDs
Starring Zeta-Jones
Aaron Eckhart

"No Reservations"

Feb. 12

As a chef amidst the hustle and bustle of Manhattan, Kate (Catherine Zeta-Jones) manages to lead a predictable and semi-mundane life. This all changes upon the death of a sibling, which leaves her with the responsibility of her young niece. Furthermore, yet another challenge arises when a new chef begins working in her kitchen, resulting in some head butting. However, the two inevitably amend their differences and fall deeply in love. Or...do they? You'll just have to see it to find out.



"Becoming Jane"

Feb. 5

"Becoming Jane" is Hollywood's take on the true story behind the classical writer, Jane Austen. While definitely not a "plain Jane," Anne Hathaway takes on the role of Austen, through trials and tribulations of love. Reviews on this film are mixed, so you will have to check it out for yourself.



"Simple Plan"

Feb. 12

Ah yes, they are back again! And, perhaps, better than ever? Though their 15 minutes of fame began (and concurrently ended) around 2002, Simple Plan's newest album may be their token back into stardom. Featuring songs such as "Save You" and "I Can Wait Forever," it would appear that these punk-rock boys are feeling more lovey-dovey than usual. Though that may not entice you to tune in to their melodies, let it be known that the producers of young prodigy Justin Timberlake and the Canadian favorite Avril Lavigne were the collaborators for this album. Convinced yet?



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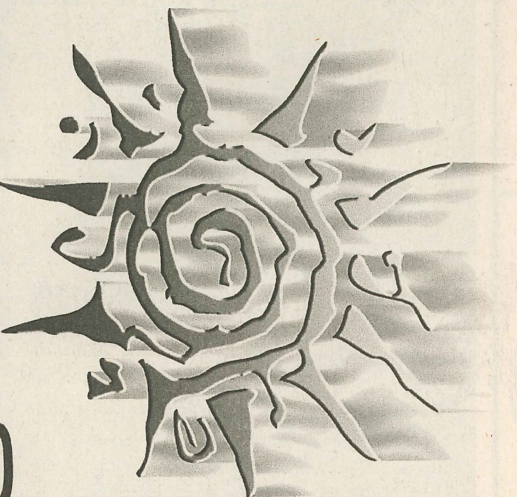
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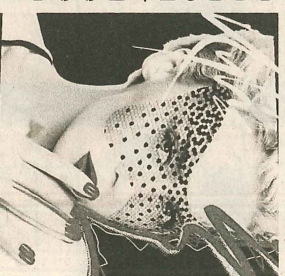
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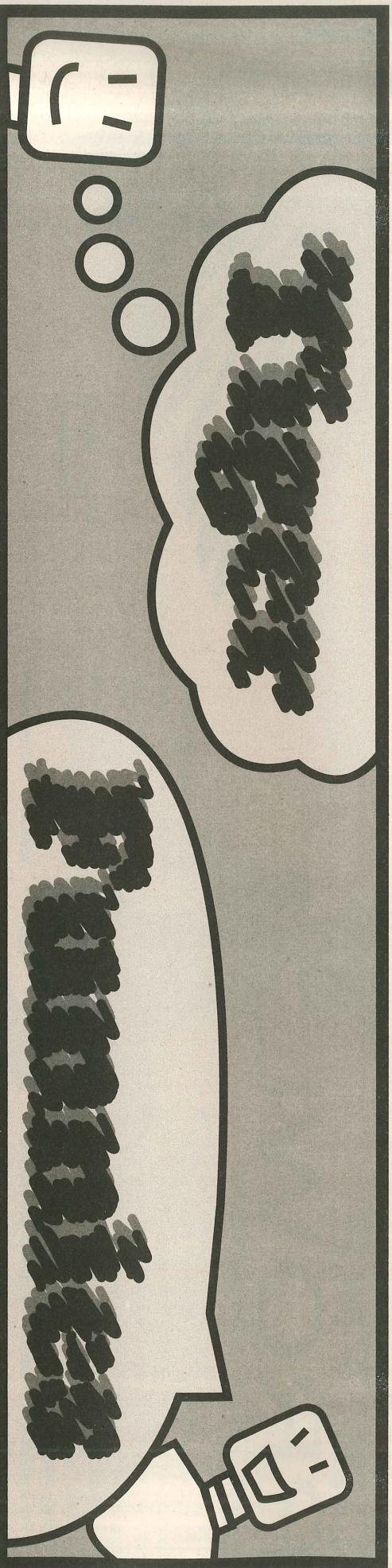
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"X"
Kylie Minogue

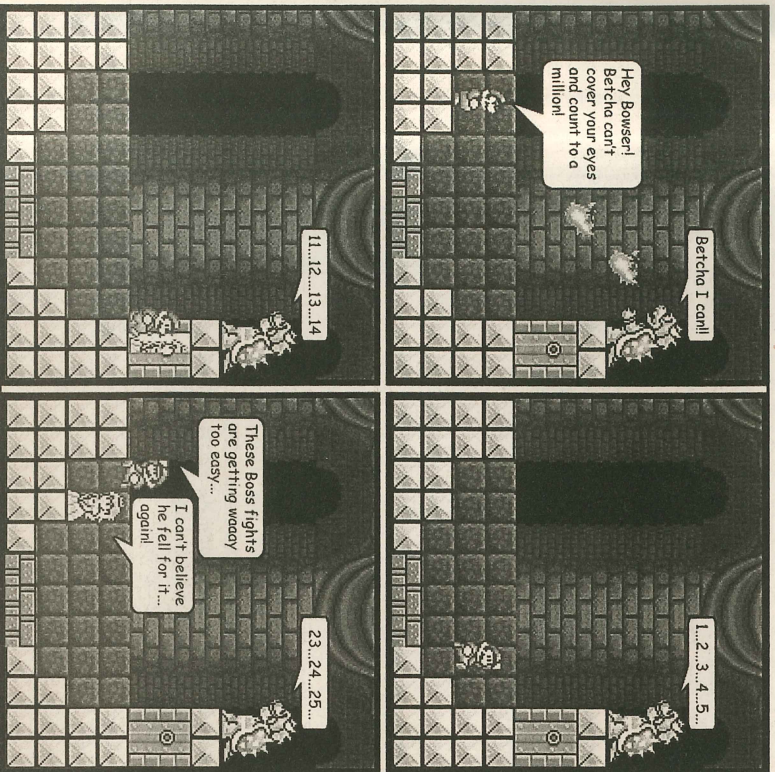
Feb. 12

The Australian model who can supposedly sing hits the studio again to bring all of us avid fans her new album, "X." With tracks like "Nu-di-ty" and "2 Hearts," TimeOut is a little wary of Kylie and her not-so-new found talent. Maybe she should stick to modeling and team up with Tyra Banks.



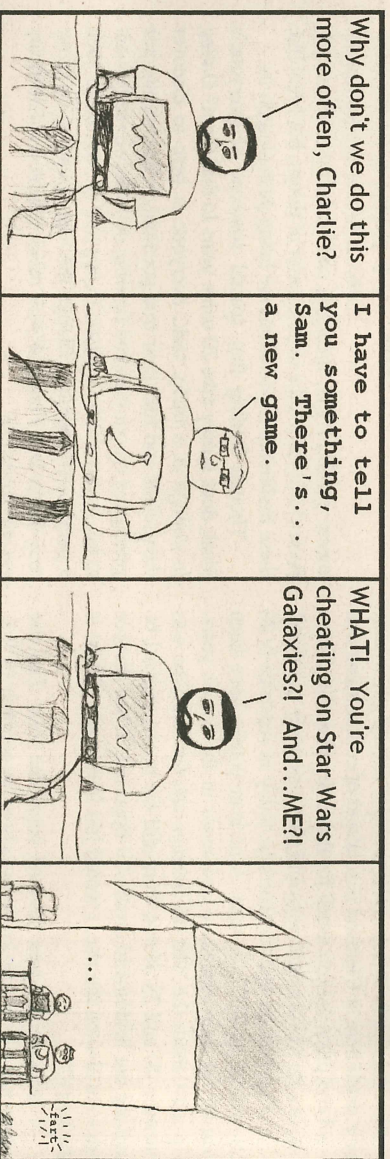
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K. Puett



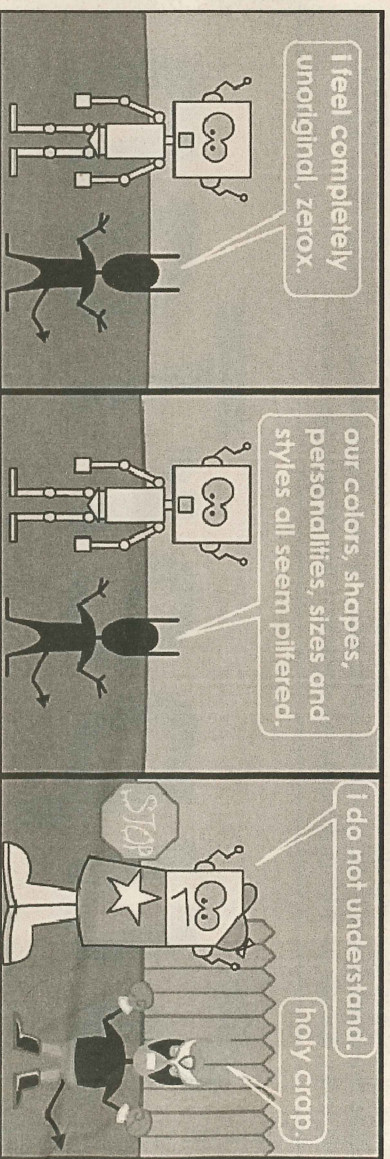
THE ADVENTURES OF CHARLIE AND SAM

R. Joseph



ABSOLUTE HELL

R.A. Westwood



SUDOKU

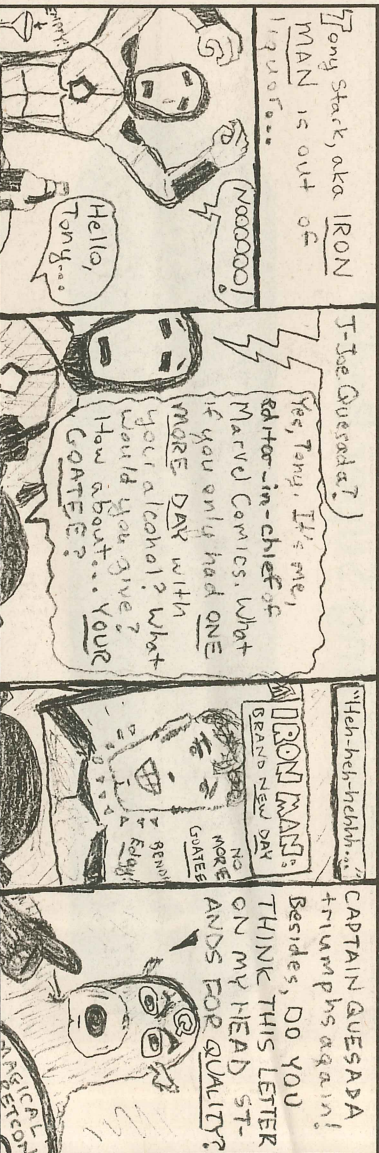
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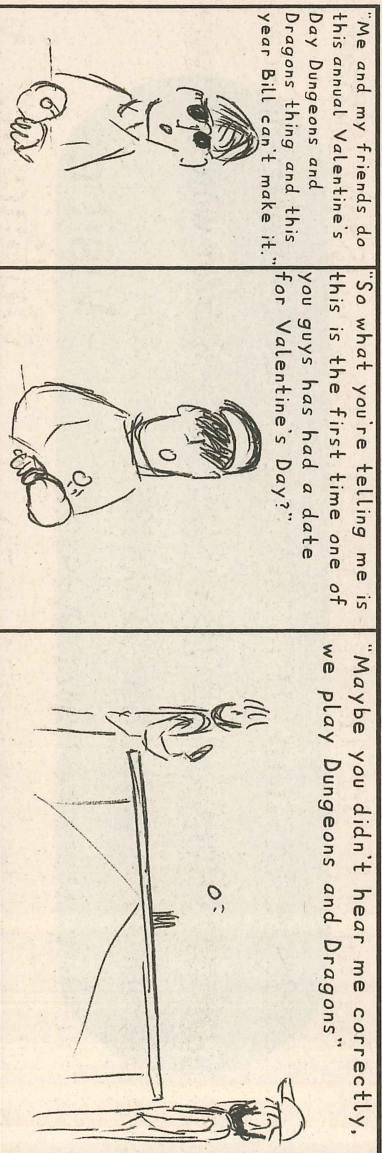
HAND HOLDING OTTERS

P. Brownson



RED HERRING

B. Faber



ACROSS

- 1 Boy scout unit
- 6 Baby powder
- 10 Gcl
- 14 Short poem
- 15 Dunking cookies
- 16 Asian country
- 17 Small island
- 18 Deprive
- 19 Information
- 20 Most timid
- 22 Opposed
- 24 Con
- 25 Combustibles
- 27 Scy
- 29 Sharply
- 32 Compass point
- 33 Night bird
- 34 Vassal
- 37 Winter precipi-

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- 41 African river
- 43 North northeast
- 44 Floor covering
- 45 Sulk
- 46 Clerk
- 48 Harden
- 49 Extra-sensory perception
- 51 Within the sound of voice
- 54 Enter
- 56 Resource
- 57 Wall
- 58 Cried
- 60 German ruler
- 64 Rolled choco-late candy brand
- 66 Ect lightly
- 68 Doctrine

- 69 Movie star
- 70 Linden
- 71 Swollen
- 72 Curve
- 73 365 days
- 74 Maliciousness

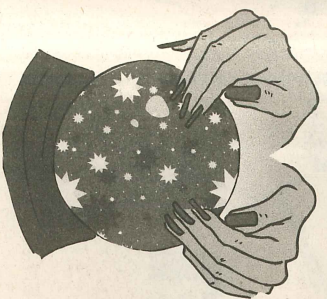
DOWN

- 11 Mental picture
- 12 Forest god
- 13 Brecking sound
- 21 Relate
- 23 That (posses-sive)
- 26 Being deceitful
- 28 Try out
- 29 Male children
- 30 Deride
- 31 Women's mag-azine
- 35 East northeast
- 36 Genetic make-up
- 38 At hand
- 39 Margarine
- 40 Wale
- 42 Vessel
- 46 In abundance
- 47 Assignment
- 50 Plant
- 52 Responds
- 53 Incite (2 wds.)
- 54 Wear away
- 55 Man-made fiber
- 56 Afloat (2 wds.)
- 57 Baby's bed
- 59 Read often-tively
- 61 Very large truck
- 62 Revise
- 63 Traveled by car
- 65 Elderly
- 67 Possessive pro-noun

Solutions on D3

Horoscopes

Divined by
Jorge Torrecita



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

I sense you recently met someone who thinks you're pretty great, and would like to get to know you better. Perhaps consider giving this someone a chance: After all, Valentine's Day is just around the corner.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

The combined positions of Mercury and Uranus suggest a rather painful incident post-Schilleter. My advice? Ice cream, and lots of it. Oh, and lay off the Tabasco while you recuperate.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Repress your inner urges and don't join the Communist Party. Living life by quotes is never a very good idea, that is, unless you're counting hookups per month, in which case you're just keeping in practice.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your girlfriend joined the Peace Corps not to help poor people but rather to never see you again. Truth hurts. Sorry, but such is life. It sucks, and then you die.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

My crystal ball seems to say by next week you'll be jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire. The dregs of my tea disagree and suspect you'll be leaving the fire for the comfort of Felton-coated Farberware instead. Either way, enjoy the heat and remember — nothing worth doing is ever easy.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Tripping on acid is usually a bad idea. Since this is the accepted consensus, maybe you should consider ceasing your bi-weekly voyages to nirvana. Besides, I hear shrooms are cheaper.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

If there's one worse fate than owning a Windows computer, it's owning a Windows computer running iTunes. Save yourself from this abomination (and a trip to CCIT) and treat it like a drug: "Just Say No."

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your love life reminds me of the politics of some war-torn African country. It's violent, dysfunctional and relies on drugs and coercion to ensure its survival. Redfern has a program for this, but first you'll have to prove you're not pregnant.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You do know that those girls you met last weekend got a restraining order, right? Then stop calling them. It's creepy as hell.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Work to make life less "all about you." It has a tendency to annoy people to no end. Perhaps a slice of humble pie might help? One way or another, it certainly can't hurt.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You've had a rough few weeks. I can tell. But never fear — this too shall pass. Remember, there are many more where she came from! Move's the pity, that's what I say.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

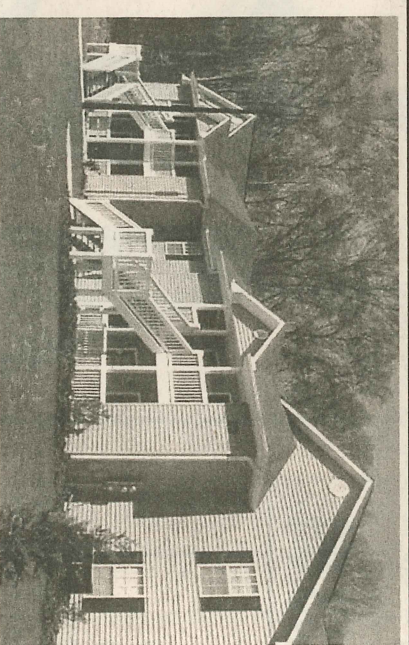
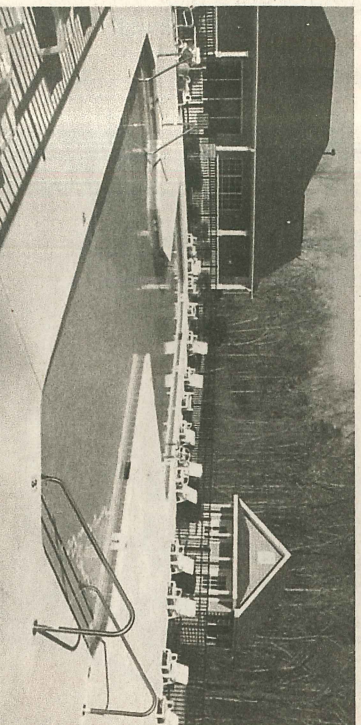
Diversity is a good thing. I'm diverse. I'm equal parts racketeer, racketeer and raconteur. That makes me a good thing, which should make me eligible for diversity scholarships. I even checked "other" on Clemson's application back in the day. What the hell, Clemson? Where's my money?

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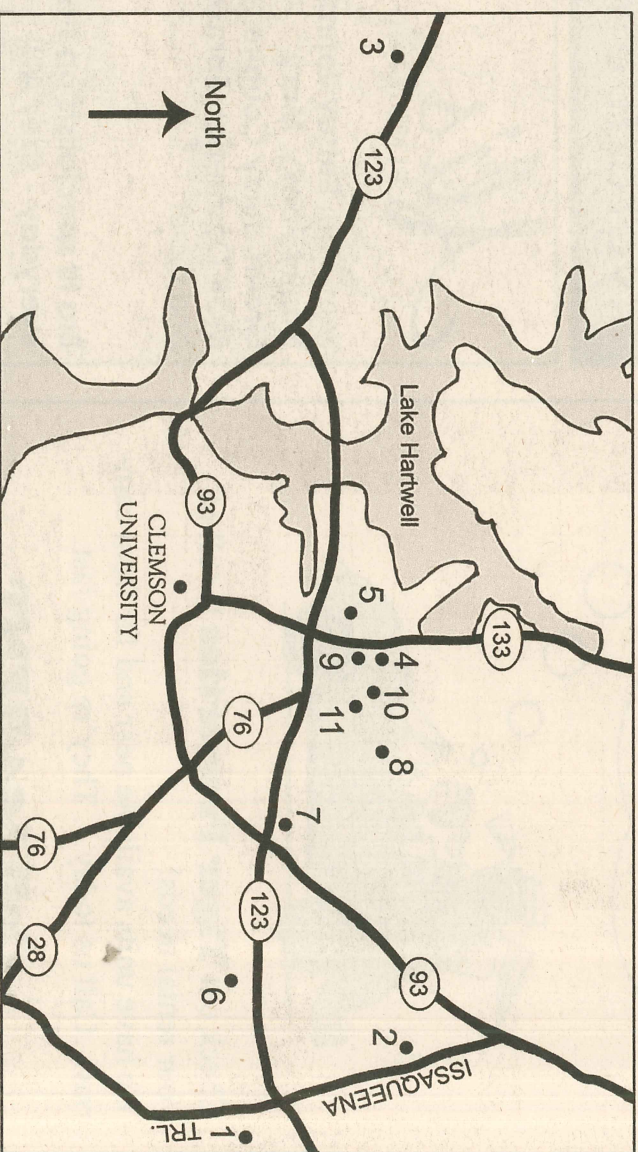
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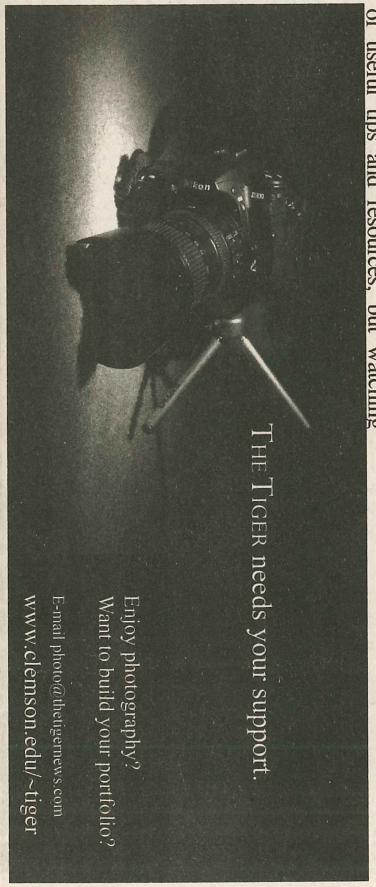
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National Treasure 2 - PG	3:30, 9:10
First Sunday - PG-13	1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Alvin & the Chipmunks - PG	1:30, 7:00
Cloverfield - PG-13	1:15, 3:20, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

FILM from page D1

try and make monsters represent all kinds of repressed desires and such. Focusing too much on what zombies represent takes the fun out of watching these movies. Audiences don't go to the latest horror movie to think, "Yeah, that monster is totally a representation of our post-9-11 fears." Audiences don't go to these films to see the thing that is feared — often seeing the monster ruins the sense of terror — but to experience fear. Overthinking ruins this environment.

Over the past few weeks my roommates and I have been taking notes and preparing our zombie attack plan. The Internet is full of useful tips and resources, but watching



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Quick Cut-Out

Three Fruit Smoothie

by Kelly Croughwell

- Makes two 16-oz cups
- 1 cup orange juice (Sunny D is recommended)
- 1 cup frozen strawberries, cut in half
- 1 ripe banana
- 1/2 cup plain low fat yogurt
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 1 tablespoon sugar (or sugar substitute such as Splenda)

Combine all ingredients in a blender.

Blend on medium speed until smooth.

Pour into glasses and enjoy!

Solutions from D3

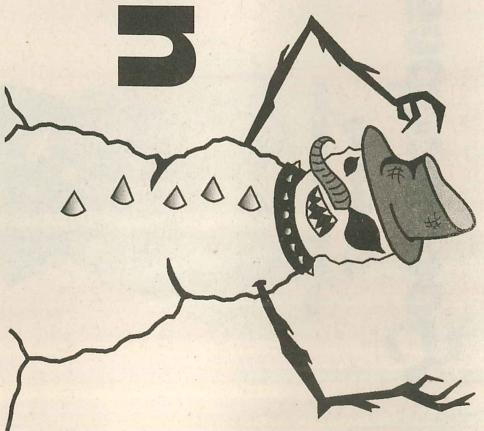
Crossword

T	R	O	O	P	T	A	L	L	C	M	I	S	S
H	A	I	K	U	O	R	E	O	D	O	M	A	N
I	S	L	E	T	W	E	A	N	D	A	T	A	
S	H	V	E	S	T	A	N	T	I	G	Y	P	
S	T	E	E	P	L	L	S	S	I	S	E		
O	W	L	L	I	E	G	E	S	N	O	W		
N	T	L	E	N	I	N	E	T	T	I	L	E	
S	T	E	W	A	G	E	N	T	S	I	S	E	
E	S	P	E	A	R	S	H	O	T				
C	R	I	Y	W	E	P	T	K	A	I	S	E	
R	O	L	L	O	N	O	S	H	C	R	E	D	
I	D	O	L	T	R	E	E	T	U	M	I	D	
B	E	N	D	Y	E	A	I	R	S	P	L	I	T

Sudoku

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

Ask a Snowman



with my left tree limb.

Q Mr. Snowman, what are your thoughts on global warming?

A I am very wary of the idea of global warming. My environment is fragile enough as it is. That Al Gore fellow talks and talks about it, but what's the point? You can't vote on it. But if we could, I would definitely vote against it. There's not much I can do about global warming except watch my CFC usage. So needless to say, I've cut down on the hairspray.

Q Snowman, I'm not taking many hours this semester, and my parents told me to get a job. I really don't want to because it will cut into my time chillin' and hanging out with friends. What do you think?

A Laziness! Now this makes me boiling mad! You have the ability to move, and you just want to "chill" with your friends! When I was a water droplet your age, I worked in the family business. You may have heard of it: The Water Cycle! We took our first break recently and look what happened — Atlanta has no water! Laziness kills, so get off your butt and get a job. Now look what you made me do! I broke a sweat!

Q Snowman, I'm thinking about getting a puppy. What kind would you recommend?

A A dog? This is an even worse question! Why in the world would you want a dog? They are horrible critters that pee on anything in their path, including me. Yellow snow is not good and is a huge turn off for snow-women. Would you want to go get a Nestea with someone who has piss all over him? Really? Actually, some boys are as bad as those dogs. Now hurry up, my nose is starting to fall off along

Q Snowman, before you go, you are a collection of water droplets who has seen the world progress. You must know this from all of your travels: What is the meaning of life?

A Of course, this would be the last question when my extremities are literally falling off. I don't even know how I was dragged into this! A snowman in South Carolina doesn't last long and I had to spend the entire time answering stupid questions! Why are you kids even sitting here asking questions! You should be out living your life and not sitting on your butts asking snowmen how to live. It's pathetic! It just so happens all snow people know meaning of life. It is t

Q Do you get cold sitting in the yard day and night in the dead of winter? I mean, you are snow, so one would not think you would get cold, but then people always put scarves on you, which makes me wonder if you could get cold. So, can a snowman get cold?

A Snowman, this is something I always wanted to ask a snowman since I was a little kid. Do you get cold sitting in the yard day and night in the dead of winter? I mean, you are snow, so one would not think you would get cold, but then people always put scarves on you, which makes me wonder if you could get cold. So, can a snowman get cold?

A This question is asked a lot. You see, snowmen are made of snow. Snow is cold and in order to remain snow it must stay cold. So please tell your friends to stop putting scarves on snow people, it causes us to heat up and melt faster. Speaking of which, did you feel the temperature rise?

Q Mr. Snowman, there is this girl I really, really like, but I don't think she reciprocates my feelings. What should I do?

A Ah, love. Even snow people have trouble with that sometimes. Our philosophy is in this world, a don't have much time in this world, a person should not hide their feelings for someone else. They should go up to that person, tell him or her how you feel and make sweet ice-cold

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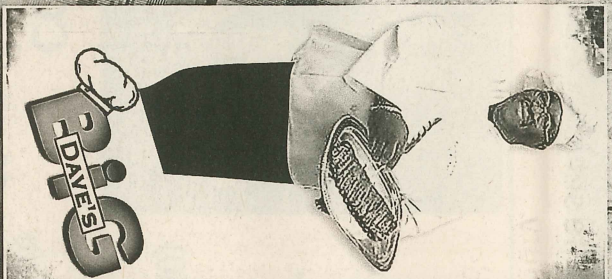
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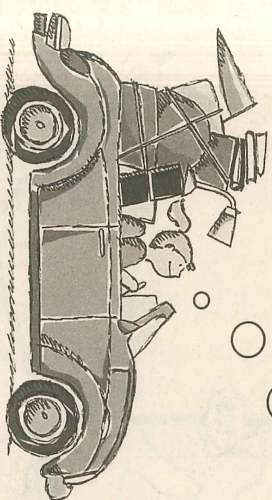
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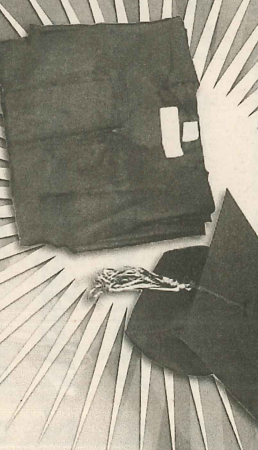
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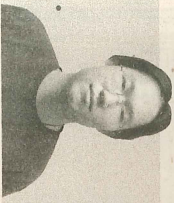
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JASON
YANG
STAFF WRITER



After pounding my fists upon my keyboard at online games and programs that refuse to comply, the time came for me to get a new keyboard. Choosing a new keyboard was something that actually turned out to be harder than just logging on to Amazon.com and picking a black one that's cheap. Ergonomics and available features were things that were considered in this purchase, and after an hour of browsing, I realized that I know almost nothing about keyboards.

The first thing that you may be thinking about is whether or not to go wireless. Yes, this is becoming more and more popular these days, as no one likes to be held back by wires. Heck, even headphones these days rely on Bluetooth technology. However, if you're looking for one of these, be wary. Although some boast excellent battery life at six to 13 months, do realize that this is based on normal use and a standardized stress test. Figures may drop to as low as one month if you are a heavy gamer or spend a lot of time typing.

Comfort is the next thing to consider. There are many options to look at here. There are the classic square ones that give you carpal tunnel syndrome and then there are other designs. Some of these designs look like something from a science fiction movie from the '80s. The most common ones are the ergonomic ones where there is a split in the middle. These do relieve stress in certain parts of your hand, but tend to create more stress in your mind. If you are like me and don't follow the standards of what finger hits what key, then you will be constantly tapping empty space. For us, there is a design that is the normal keyboard layout, but with extended G, H, B and N buttons to curve the keyboard slightly upwards on both sides. This actually works just as well (if not better) than the standard ergonomic keyboards mentioned above.

I also came across an interesting design from Logitech called the Wave. There are no extended characters, nor is there a split in the keyboard. What it does is raises the middle keys, T, Y, G, H, V, B and N slightly and tilts them towards one side or the other. This makes it so that the fingers do not have quite as far to travel, and you are not stretching your hand quite so much. It is an interesting design that I can honestly say I'm happy with and comes in both a wired or wireless version and an optional laser mouse.

There are many possibilities, so remember to explore all the options and read reviews on whatever keyboard you decide on getting before you purchase it. Many times people who have bought the product and used it for a small amount of time are more knowledgeable and can provide more accurate information and opinions about the product than even the manufacturers themselves.

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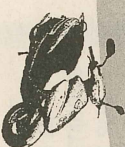
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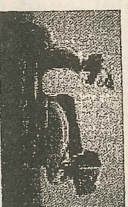


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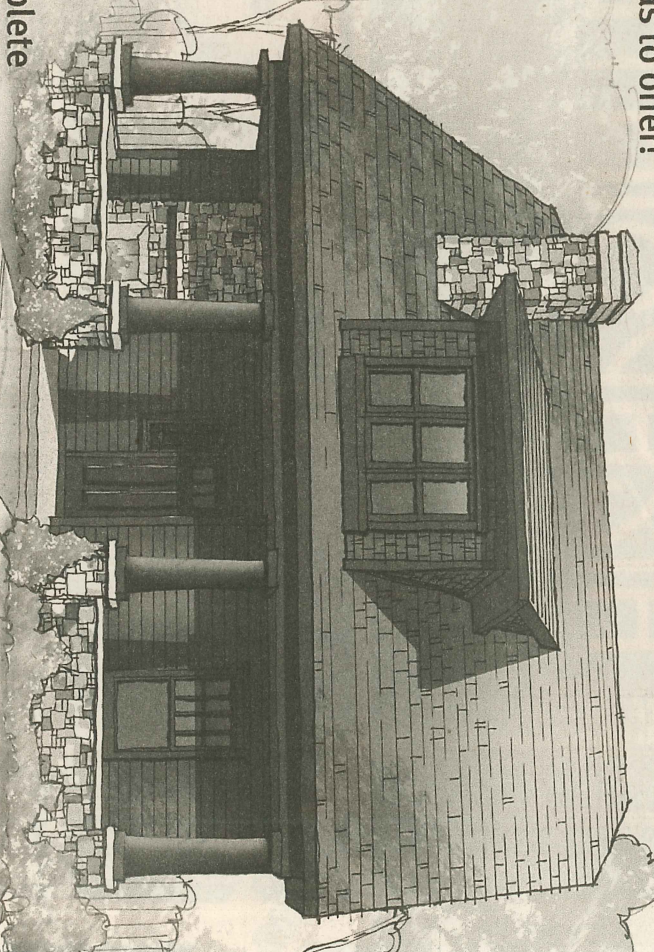
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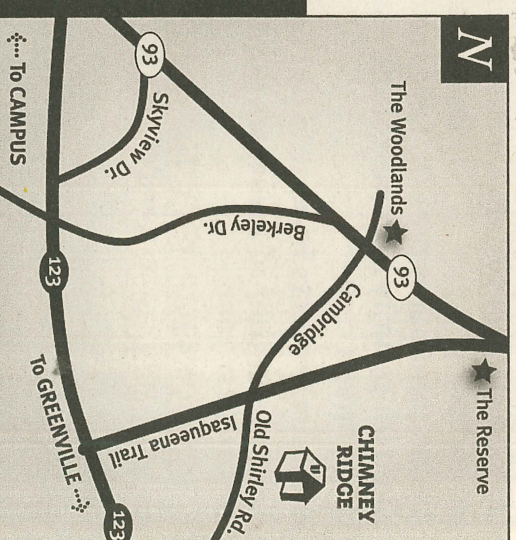
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SEX NEXT ISSUE

Sculpture Design Contest for Clemson Students

Announcing a contest for the design of an original sculpture to be displayed prominently on the property of Millennium Apartment Homes, just two blocks from the ICAR campus. In addition to having his or her sculpture produced, the winner receives a **\$5,000 cash prize** and acknowledgement on a plaque placed with the sculpture.

Who can enter:

The contest is open to all Clemson University graduate and undergraduate students, working alone or in a group.

About the sculpture:

The 3-D piece will stand approximately 10 feet tall and eight feet wide and must represent technology, fast-forward research, automotive innovation, sleek chrome and glass, black and silver—all things uber-contemporary. The sculpture must be structurally safe, stable, and able to endure changes in weather and environment.

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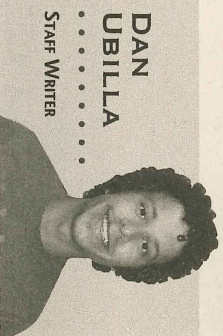
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THE RINGING IN YOUR EARS



DAN UBELLA
 Staff Writer

So in the last edition of "Ringling," I left you with the half of my Top 10 albums of 2007, a cliffhanger and a cheesy Batman reference. This time, let's quickly revisit albums 10 through six and then cut straight to the top five.

10. Fall Out Boy: "Infinity on High"
9. Ted Leo and the Pharmacists: "Living with the Living"
8. Radiohead: "In Rainbows"
7. Against Me!: "New Wave"
6. Limbeck: self-titled
5. Say Anything: "In Defense of the Genre"

When frontman Max Bemis announced he was busy writing a double disc for the band's sophomore follow-up to 2004's, "...is a Real Boy," I, like most critics, remained skeptical. When he decided to give the album the lofty name "In Defense of the Genre," my doubt doubled. Leave it to Bemis to surprise everybody. What "In Defense" lacks in succinctness, it makes up for in short, sharp wit. Each song is an adventure through the mind of rock's resident nymphomaniacal, schizophrenic genius.

Some songs make you want to sing along, others make you want to dance. Some songs make you want to fall in love, and others make you want to kick the habit for good. One makes you want to take a Xanax and talk about aliens at the local Waffle House. If that's not the sign of a good album, I don't know what I'm doing writing a music column.

4. Modest Mouse: "We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank"
 I've always felt like the best albums take a while to catch on. You like it on the first listen, but it's not until the fifth or sixth spin that you truly begin to appreciate it. Every time you put it in you discover something new to like that you didn't like about before. Modest Mouse's fifth studio album is exactly that.

Each song is catchy in its own special way. If the guitars of "Dashboard" will get you, the chorus of "Fire It Up" surely will. After a few listens of "March into the Sea," you'll wonder why nobody ever thought to use laughter as a melody. Is this Modest Mouse's best album? We'll just say it's probably time I turned in my indie cred card.

3. Kanye West: "Graduation"
 I've long held that Kanye West's 2004 debut album, "College Dropout," is a prodigious work by a budding rap artist that may have peaked too early. When Kanye released his sophomore effort the following year, it appeared that my "Orson Wells"-ian prediction might have been correct. Kanye, I'm sorry to have doubted you.

Listening to "Graduation" and comparing it to West's debut is the equivalent of writing your final thesis paper as senior and comparing it to a paper you wrote freshman year. Man, your ideas are hot, but you couldn't organize a paper to save your life. "Graduation" is expertly sequenced, and I'd love to say it's the biggest strength of the album, but it's not. West built upon his '60s soul style

by incorporating more techno beats that somehow makes his songs more danceable than ever. As he sings on the "Good Life," "50 told me go ahead switch the style up/and if they hate, let them hate/and watch the money pile up." No hatin' over here.

Perhaps the coolest touch on the record is the self-sampling West does throughout the 13-track record. By including bits from Jay-Z's "Blueprint" as well as his own earlier work, Kanye truly treats this album as his dissertation. Mama was right about graduating.

2. Bright Eyes: "Cassadaga"
 My favorite album of 2005 was Bright Eyes' "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning," and this album is brilliant enough to pull the second spot of 2007. "Cassadaga" opens up like every other Bright Eyes album with a spoken word portion. In this introduction, we find out that Cassadaga is a town in Florida known as a spiritual center of sorts. The album itself marries the contradiction of lyrics that question greater powers while the instrumentation washes over the vocals with a strong sense of hope and optimism.

Bright Eyes' Conor Oberst appears to have found his home among the indie folk crowd, and his voice has gotten strong with each record. The band's settled down, and the music plays great as background music. It's a shame that "Make a Plan to Love Me" and "If the Brakeman Turns My Way" haven't found their way onto an indie film soundtrack yet. Despite the subdued sound of the album, a simple dive into the lyrics gives allusions and metaphors that will be turning in your head for days. The trip to "Cassadaga" is well worth it whether you're at the wheel or sleeping in the backseat.

1. The Shins: "Winning the Night Away"
 After I had finished naming my Top 10 albums of last year, I had trouble putting The Shins' latest effort in the top spot. "Winning the Night Away" came out on Jan. 25, and to say that no better album was released in the remaining 11 months of 2007 seemed to be such a cynical statement. But then I realized it wasn't so fantastical that no greater album was released last year, it was that "Winning" had survived the test of a full year's worth of time.

I can still put on "Sleeping Lessons" and feel the same sense of floating hope that I felt last year despite the overplayed Zune commercial that features it. I still get goosebumps when frontman James Mercer sings the chorus to "Turn on Me." I still get a smile sly on my face as I desperately try and air drum the introduction to "Sea Legs" when my friend sneaks to turn it on at a party.

In the end, "Winning the Night Away" has given me the best memories of 2007, and isn't that what music is all about? As I struggled to put this list together, I went back and forth over plenty of titles. Jimmy Eat World, LCD Soundsystem and Spoon all put together great records albums this year that just didn't make my cut, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't make your top 10 lists. After finishing up my Top 10 of 2007, I realized how self-serving my list was. These are my Top 10 albums of 2007, and how I'll remember the year. Which 10 albums defined 2007 for you?



Nirvana Day

By Ashley Crisp and Jonathan Yongue

Six weeks after Christmas, life finally settles into normalcy. Spring Break is still weeks away, and you are already looking for an escape. Lucky for you, today is Nirvana Day, and no, it has nothing to do with the band.

In Buddhism, Parinirvana (Nirvana Day) is a celebration on the day of Buddha's death at the age of 80. It is a celebrated event because the death of Buddha is a sign of achieving freedom from physical existence and sufferings, known as reaching nirvana.

So why not celebrate? You know you need the break. Here are some ways to make this Nirvana Day your best yet.

Reflect at the reflection pond.

Visit the new Meditation Room on the third floor of Hendrix. It is reserved from noon to 5 p.m. every weekday, but it is open to anyone during the rest of the day.

Do some yoga in the amphitheatre.

Buy some Sweethearts at the store and use them to write letters to your friends. Yes, even the ones you aren't speaking to right now. You'll feel better.

Break out the crayons and a coloring book.

When you head to Java City, get tea instead of coffee.

Go buy some office supplies. You will feel much better after buying a new agenda.

Go buy some candles and take a hot bath. Place the candles around the tub and relax. Buddha would've done it....

Check out an intellectual book from the library. You'll learn a lot and look cool.

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