Myrtle Beach

Forget summers on the Riveria and lounging in a chalet in Switzerland, because anybody who is anybody will vouch that the exotic

playgrounds of the rich and famous can't hold a melted candle to the cigarette-butted sands of Myrtle Beach.

The Gamecock welcomes back Carolina Roadtrip

Asst. Features Editor

Chances are you won't be planning

a trip to Charleston at 1:30 on a Sunday morning.

Chances are, as an average USC student, you probably were asleep, passed out or trolling around Five Points while freshman Ben Reyes, along with three other USC students and a visiting College of Charleston student, headed to Charleston - forgoing all time restrictions.

"There was nothing better to do that evening, and we decided to go to Charleston," Reyes said. "It was a spurof-the-moment event."

Taking the hour-and-some-oddminute drive for no particular purpose, Reyes and crew had no plans for their evening jaunt. After realizing that most of their hometown College of Charleston friends from Summerville were either asleep or busy when they got there, the travelers were planless.

After not too many minutes of consideration, Reyes and friends ended up at Fanny's, a local 24-hour restaurant. After a hybrid mixture of dinner and breakfast, the group deposited its friend at the College of Charleston and headed back to Columbia.

"The trip was really fun," Reyes said, "and I would do it again because the people I went with made it fun."

Yet, all's well that starts well doesn't

always go well. For example, the car

Reyes and company were in almost

broke down somewhere on Interstate

the back of the car with the girls check-

ing out the engine under the hood and

being in the middle of nowhere on I-

Nowadays, roadtrips to everything

from football games to nowhere in par-

ticular are popular with USC students,

which has prompted the creative minds

of The Gamecock staff to revamp Car-

olina Roadtrip, one of last year's reg-

itor in Chief Lee Clontz, Roadtrip is

being brought back for weekly publi-

enjoyed because it gave students from

out of the area a look at what's around

in the Georgia, South Carolina, North

er staff members, Roadtrip not only

will feature sites around the South-

east, but hopes to branch out into West-

ern, Northern and Midwestern cities.

will be vital information such as where

to go, where to stay and, of course, how

to get there. You couldn't go far with-

out the latter bit of information, now

Included in the weekly Roadtrip

With the backing of Clontz and oth-

Carolina area," Clontz said.

Initially written by Gamecock Ed-

"Roadtrip was something I always

26," Reyes said.

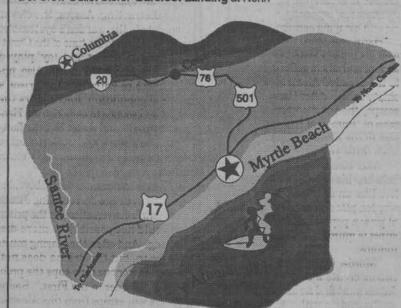
"That was scary — waking up in

How to get there: Naturally leaving from Columbia, take Interstate 20 East to Florence. Take U.S. 76 East/301 South from Florence to Marion. Take take U.S. 501 South from Marion to Galivants Ferry, and you can go straight into Myrtle Beach.

So, you're there: What do you actually do besides actually go to the beach? If you can't find a thing to do in Myrtle Beach, then you're up a creek without a paddle. Luckily, there is something for everyone in Myrtle Beach, ranging from the ultimate in cheesiness to the accepted norm.

■ The East Coast's longest fishing piers are at Apache Campground in North Myrtle Beach. It is 1,206 feet of planks perfected for catching some of those famed fishes of the Atlantic. Note that unless you are fishing from a private boat, no license is needed.

Check out Waccamaw Outlet Park in Myrtle Beach for some heavy duty shopping that includes a J. Crew Outlet Store. Barefoot Landing at North



Myrtle Beach is an outdoor mall located on the waterfront that has shops and specialty boutiques.

A few years ago, Phoebe Cates, Annabeth Gish, Paige Hannah and Bridget Fonda made a pilgrimage back in time to

the infamous Pavilion in Myrtle Beach in the movie "Shag." Check out the real life Pavilion and the Pavilion Amusement Park on 9th Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard. There you can ogle over the 1900 German Pipe Organ and tour the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum. Don't forget to tour the highly reputable Myrtle Beach National Wax Museum, also conveniently located at the Pavilion.

Myrtle Beach wouldn't be Myrtle Beach without a few amusement parks to entertain the masses. Among the good and bad are the ever classy Myrtle Waves Water Park at Highway 17 Bypass and 10th Avenue North. If your

roadtrip includes the whole family, mom, dad and siblings might like to go to the Family Kingdom Amusement Park at 3rd Avenue S. and Ocean Boulevard. The Family Kingdom Amusement Park is a veritable treasure of thrills with the legendary Swamp Fox wooden roller coaster.

If cruising the strip isn't your idea of nightlife, go to the Carolina Opry at the junction of U.S. 17 and 17 Bypass. There is nightly entertainment not only in the form of patrons but music as well, ranging from country to swing. For

those who can't seem to get enough of the friendly North and South rivalry of the 1860s commonly known as THE CIVIL WAR, go to the Dixie Stam-

pede at the Junction of U.S. 17 and 17 Bypass.

Besides the beach, Myrtle Beach is well known for its 80 championship golf courses designed by such names as Nicklaus, Player, Dya, Fazio and Palmer. According to the South Carolina Travel Guide, 3.1 million games of golf were played on the courses in 1993. The months of November through February generally are when the green fees (and hotel) are at the lowest.

More Information:

Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and Info Center

1200 Oak Street P.O. Box 2115 Myrtle Beach, SC 29578-2115 (803) 356-3016 (800) 356-3016

Myrtle Beach Hospitality Association Reservation Service P.O. Box 1303

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