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# Golden Opportunities

Once an on-campus bar, the Golden Spur has numerous possibilities for its use. Most university students, however, have not stepped inside what was once the center of student life.

staff writer **MARCUS AMAKER**

The Golden Spur, located next to Pizza Hut in the Russell House, has been the site of various activities throughout its existence.

As a bar in the first half of the 1980s, the Golden Spur was a place for USC students to relax and have a drink. It closed in fall 1984 because of financial demands. After it reopened in 1986 as a non alcoholic nightclub, the Golden Spur has been a popular place for different social events on campus.

In recent times, however, the Golden Spur has been largely inactive.

"In my five-and-a-half years here, it hasn't been used for much," senior Camlin Fasano said. "But it has a lot of potential."

Clemson University has maintained its on-campus bar, Edgar's. Edgar's provides a pool hall, bowling area, local and regional band concerts and a convenient place to get alcohol for Clemson's students.

"For us, it's a safe place. We aren't confronted with having to get rides to drive home," Clemson junior Brandon Smith said. "There are also fraternity meetings and functions there."

Edgar's manager, graduate assistant Dan Kissinger, said the bar has been a part of the university for more than 16 years. He believes Edgar's is a positive part of the Clemson community, though some people want to shut it down.

"We are open to any university-affiliated group to come and have meetings. We also have live bands on Fridays," Kissinger said. "There are still some people in administration that don't

think it should be a part of the university. It's an on-going debate."

Because of its sparse activity, the Golden Spur puzzles many USC students. Once a site for poetry readings and celebrity appearances, the Golden Spur now suffers from periods of inactivity.

"When I was a freshman, I never went there because I didn't know anything about it," senior Kelly Harding said. "The only thing I knew about it was that it used to be a bar."

Senior Joanna Hiller said she has never heard of the Golden Spur and doesn't know what it is.

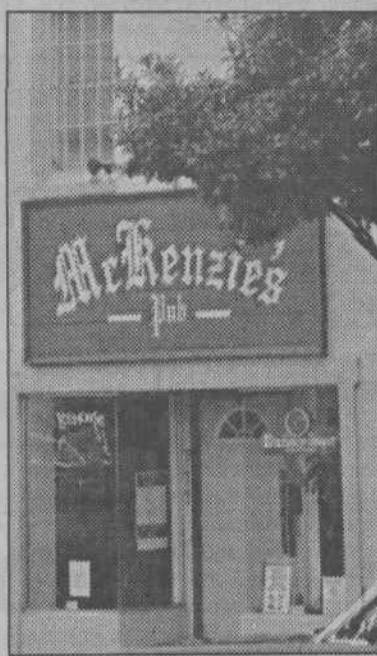
"But I live off-campus, so maybe that has something to do with it," she said.

Recently, the Golden Spur held a "South Park Night," where the popular Comedy Central cartoon was shown and free food was served. For now, the Golden Spur is a good, alternative eating area.

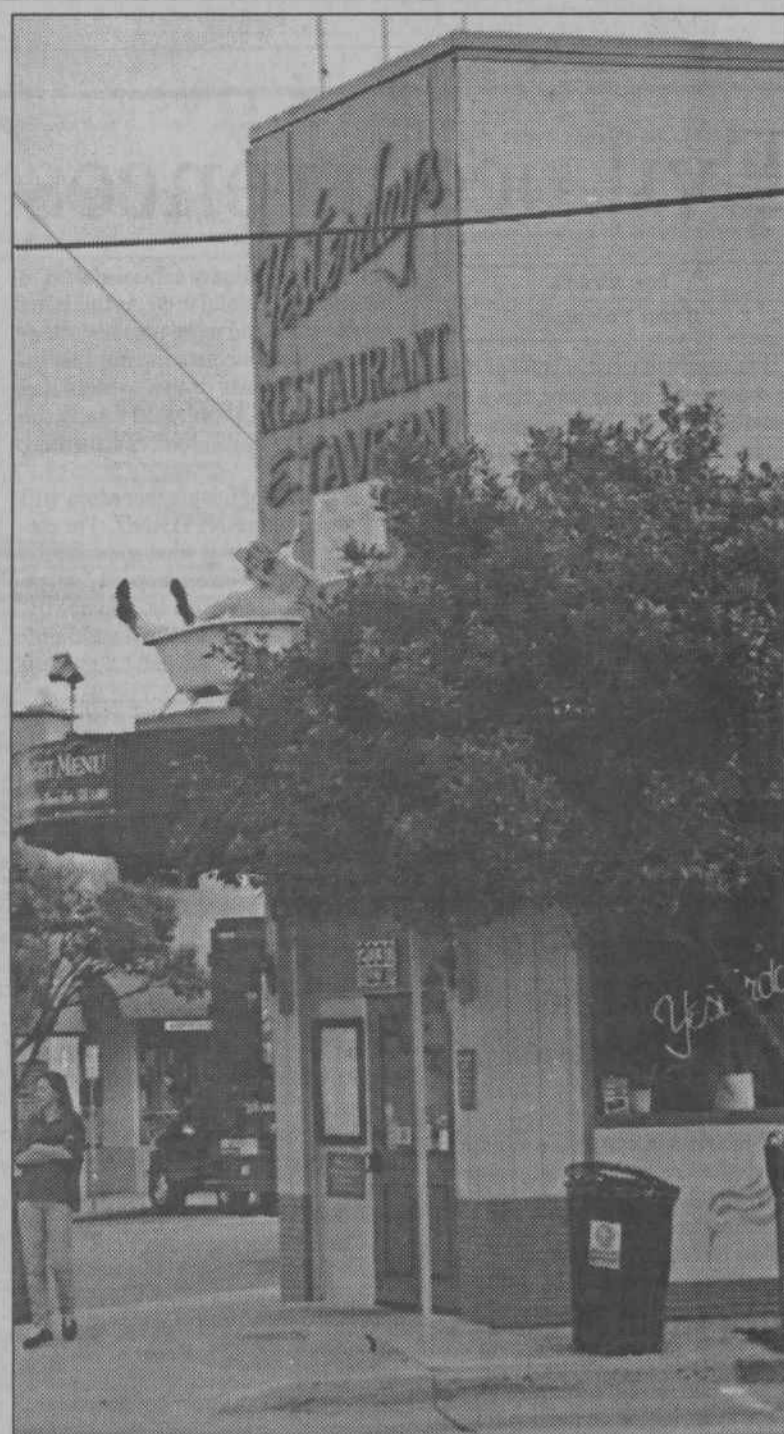
"I've been there once. I just went there for lunch. The TVs are a nice touch," sophomore Scott Cook said.

Senior Mandy Benjamin, who eats lunch at the Golden Spur, thinks something should be done with the area.

"I eat there because it is a lot quieter than the Chick-Fil-A area. It's a cool place," she said. "I took shag lessons there once."



SUSAN MEYERS Photo Editor  
McKenzie's Pub and The Rough Draft, in Five Points, are popular places for students to relax, socialize and have a drink.



SUSAN MEYERS Photo Editor  
Students at USC flock to Five Points on the weekend, while their rivals at Clemson say that the on-campus bar, Edgar's, is a popular weekend hang out.

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