

# Filled with history, Old Athens Cemetery is city's 'oldest burial ground'

By SUZANNE KAYES  
THE RED & BLACK

Edward Clark, a five-5-old boy, is buried in a crumbling tomb nestled between Baldwin Hall and the Visual Arts building.

According to a 1963 edition of The Red & Black, his epitaph reads "Our little Clark, our fair boy, thou can't not come to us,

but nearer draws the numbered hour when we shall go to thee."

Due to time's harsh hand, most of the graves in Old Athens Cemetery on Jackson Street are illegible.

Every now and then you will spot a birth date or the word "Sacred" on a tombstone.

The cemetery, with its rusty iron fences and fallen monuments, was in use from 1801 to

1885.

"The graves are incredibly ancient for our area," said Dexter Adams, manager of the grounds department.

The Old Athens Cemetery is the final resting place of soldiers from both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Along with other prominent citizens of the Athens area, James Espey, a revolutionary soldier, was buried in the peaceful grounds in 1834.

A gift, the historic front gate used to be the entrance to a garden. The Athens Advertiser reported in 1964 that a Yankee cavalry unit marched past the gate while occupying Athens.

As a historical landmark, it's the oldest burial ground in Athens. Everyone in the city was allowed to bury their loved ones for free.

The land originally was purchased by Gov. John Milledge in 1801 for the University. The bronze plaque near the front gate reads that the cemetery covered twice the amount of land that it does now.

"When they built Baldwin Hall, they dug up some of the bones and intruded on the grounds of the cemetery," said Nash Boney, a retired history professor now working at the University Visitors Center.

Back then, people didn't have

much respect for the graves, he said.

Due to overcrowding and the encroaching campus, a number of graves were moved to the Oconee Hill Cemetery behind Sanford Stadium.

Several controversies have evolved over the years, starting with the call to enclose the sacred ground with a fence in the late 1800s.

In 1980, the University wanted to put a parking deck in place of the graveyard. Protests by the

Old Athens Cemetery Foundation, the organization that maintains the site, helped to disband the project.

Whether as a shortcut to class or an inspiration for a sketch, students seem to enjoy strolling through this little piece of history on North Campus.

"Graveyards don't bother me," said Julie Markin, a graduate student from Tuscaloosa, Ala. As an archaeologist, it's very intriguing to her, she said.

You can usually spot an art student crouched in front of one of the tombstones.

For a photography class Jack Hamm, a senior from Roswell, took pictures of what he called a peaceful and dilapidated scenery.

The plaque bears a message reading "Today the Old Athens Cemetery, with its beautiful park-like setting, serves as a place of quiet reflection and remembrance of Athens long ago."



RAKHI DALAL | THE RED & BLACK

▲ This headstone can be found in Old Athens Cemetery on Baldwin Street. Most of the tombstones here are illegible.

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## THE DAILY PUZZLE

ACROSS

Monday's Puzzle Solved

OSLO	PGA	MITERS
ROAR	EON	EMILIO
BRICK	RED	EMPLOY
STRAITS	STEP	
	RHONE	RESOW
SHACK	VAT	SCHMO
POLE	MET	FEARER
ATOM	ERASE	NELL
REHEEL	LIZ	OWED
SLATS	AIL	RESTS
ESSES	MELEE	
	RELY	IGNOBLE
ELATINE	STROLLER	
SELECT	TOE	LENO
POSSES	YET	ADDS

DOWN

1 Competent  
2 Linen source  
3 Poison ivy symptom  
4 Draft classification  
5 Nape of the neck  
6 Renowned violin maker  
7 British thug  
8 Saint's glow  
9 Lacking a key  
10 Charm  
11 "eat oats..."  
12 Practical joke  
13 Polynesian island group  
21 Authority to decide  
25 Stand up  
26 Folksinger Phil  
27 Narrow opening  
28 Heroic tale  
29 Psychological restraint  
31 Concerning  
34 Kind  
36 Cancel  
37 Unclothed  
38 Hardy heroine  
40 Grain coat  
42 TV host  
45 Dark yellow  
48 Most contemptible  
50 State categorically  
51 Non-speaking actors  
52 Licorice flavoring  
53 Dishwasher cycle  
55 Snow abode  
58 "Do \_\_ others as..."  
59 Peter, Paul, and Mary, e.g.  
60 Very small amount  
61 Keats works  
62 Branch headquarters?

## Every Tuesday: R&B CD Reviews



Lost Boyz  
"LB IV LIFE"  
Grade: B+

Tah and opens with an intro and outro in his name.

With their latest album dedicated to the late emcee, the Lost Boyz prove they haven't lost a step since "Peace, Love, and Napiness."

Take the Geto Boys, let them breed with O.D.B.'s alter ego Osiris and then have Al Green raise them — you've got the Lost Boyz.

They keep with a positive message and stray jumping on the hardcore bass-driven bandwagon of rappin' geeks.

The Lost Boyz depend on a meshing of flowing lyricism and soulful/instrumental back-up. "Risin to the the Top (No Stoppin Us)" and "Only Live

Once" flow with the expedient speed of Bone (but you can actually decipher what they're saying) and the interludes of smooth R&B voice-overs at key points throughout the song.

A few songs come through as a bit nauseating, but through them is a sense of mobility.

"Cheese" sounds like Humpty Dumpty recycled through turntables and spittin' MCs. But it is definitely original in its simplistic sound.

Before this CD, the Lost Boyz established themselves as true artists in a world of hip-hop poseurs. With their latest effort, their reputation is solidified.

— Craig S. Phillips

eat more,  
shop more,  
play more,

spend less.

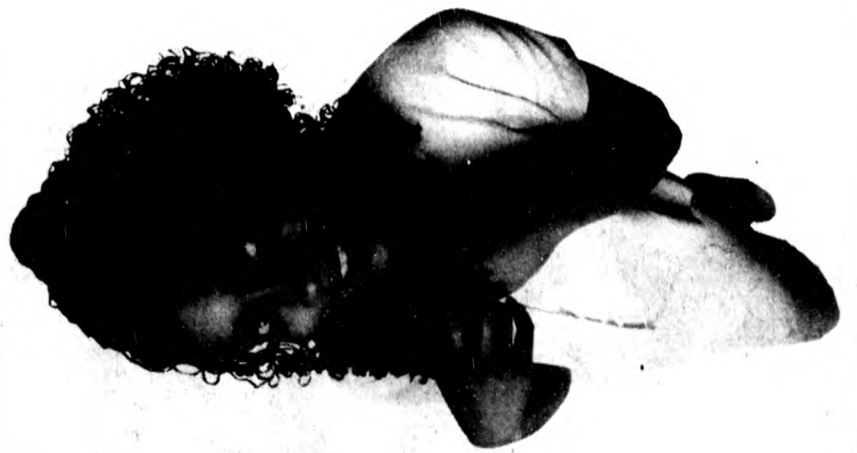
Look for this insert



Tomorrow.

Stupid things to say at a cool party #16

"THAT'S NICE THAT YOUR CUTE FRIEND WANTS TO MEET ME, BUT I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM TO CHECK MY EMAIL."



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