Anyone who has attended a sporting event at Clemson has heard the public announce come over the speakers and say, “The NCAA and the Atlantic Coast Conference promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. Profanity... will not be tolerated.” For the most part, Clemson fans seem happy to oblige to this rather simple, respectful request.

However, in the thrill of competition and the excitement of beating a team “we weren’t sup-posed to,” it’s easy for players, coaches and fans to lose that respectful demeanor. This does not happen often but lately, we have had what some would consider a problem that our students and fans have allowed to creep into Clemson Athletic events.

Imagine it, Death Valley on a pleasant October afternoon. The band has just moved into its tunnel formation and the cheerleaders are ready to run the “Fighting Tigers” banner on the field. The Tigers are standing stop the ball waiting for the cannon. When it fires, excitement fills the air as the team files down the hill. Tiger Band gets to the “woo-hoo” part of Tiger Rag and Central Spirit runs the flags on the field. “C-L-E-M-S-O- is not a part of the song, started after it was heard on a Tiger Band CD. Supposedly, it’s what the Flag Line (Tiger Guard) said at the time,” said Seketa.

John Seketa, author of “Clemson Through the Eyes of the Tiger,” shared an additional easter egg with The Tiger. “The Woo-hoo [before the spell-out,] which is part of the spell-out is not one of tradition and is something new students are yelling during our fight song Clemson is famous for our rich tradition of the CLEMSON spell-out as we have for decades.”

Clemson Athletics shared, “We always ask that our fans are considerate of those around them in terms of their actions, and hope that our fans/students will continue to display sportsman-ship while attending athletic events.”

After multiple requests for comment, former Student Senator Mary Frances Huggins and Senator Kate Hadley, Student Activities Chair had not responded by press time. Student Body President William Reinert and Vice President Lizia Lowder did not offer a comment on the issue. Currently, it is unclear if Clemson Athletics, CUSG or school officials plan to take on this issue in the Spring term.

Student leaders want to see this issue addressed. Holland added, “I think a great first step to take would be addressing it to the entire student body, bringing light to the problem at hand and why it has started to negatively affect our reputation as a school. Maybe a video message email from President Clements or someone else would go a long way.”

It is hard to imagine a gameday in Death Valley, or any Clemson sporting event, without one of the most iconic, college fight songs in existence. “Tiger Rag” debuted at Clemson during the 1942 football season after Robert Dean Fouts, co-captain of the Corps of Cadets, purchased the sheet music to “Tiger Rag” from a music store in Atlanta, Georgia.

“Tiger Rag can be heard playing in the background, but there is no spell-out. Richard Goodcock, Clemson Dean Emeritus and former Tiger Band director, said, “I recall the cheerleaders coming up with the cheer in the early-to-mid 80s. It took hold quickly and is now a long-standing tradition.”

While attending athletics, everyone should be considerate of those around them. We should not let this new tradition take away from the true meaning behind, either different words or better yet, unifying to create a great game day experience for all ages and keeping our rich tradition of the CLEMSON spell-out as we have for decades.”

Despite the unpopularity of the word by its speakers and others who have attended a sporting event at Clemson, many of which have发生 in a blaze of followhows with each new generation of our Clemson family.”

What we are seeing here is a clash of folkways with each new generation of our Clemson family.”

This is a new tradition at Clemson, only starting in the last decade, and one that has grown in popularity each year within the student sections. However, not all students are on board with this new trend.

“Tiger Band gets to the ‘woo-hoo’ part of Tiger Rag and Central Spirit runs the flags on the field. “C-L-E-M-S-O-91 is not a part of the song, started after it was heard on a Tiger Band CD. Supposedly, it’s what the Flag Line (Tiger Guard) said at the time,” said Seketa.

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