

# Recent suicides spark discussion

## FSU Students react to attacks against gay and lesbian students nationwide

By Krystal McDaniel  
Voice Staff Writer

There has been coverage over the recent suicides of six gay teens, allegedly due to excessive bullying. One of the recent stories was about Tyler Clementi, an 18 year-old college freshman at Rutgers University. Clementi was unknowingly taped having an intimate encounter with someone of the same sex on his roommate's web cam in his dorm room. Allegedly, after taping Tyler, Dharun Ravi, Tyler's roommate, went to Molly Wei's room, another freshman at Rutgers University and they broadcasted the video through live streaming on a social networking site on September 19. On September 22, Clementi posted a message on his Facebook at 8:42 p.m., saying "jumping off the gw bridge sorry." A few days later his body was recovered from the Hudson River.

Are there policies that are in place here for students who have a gay/lesbian roommate and might feel uncomfortable?

At Fayetteville State University, in dorm rooms, you are allowed to have a person of the same sex spend the night with you for up to three days if you let your residence hall director/ residence hall assistant director know. Is there a way to make the dorm rules more fair regarding straight students, and gay, lesbian and bisexual students? Is there a way that students could find out if they had a gay, lesbian, or bisexual roommate before they moved in with that student? Are there any instances on campus where there has been roommate conflict because of gay/lesbian roommate issues and if so, how many?

Residence Life declined to comment for this story. However, according to procedures on the FSU website, students are encouraged to communicate with administration if any problems should arise. On Residence Life's web page, under "About Residence Life, Hall Staff Resources", this statement appears: "They are there to help with any problems you may encounter, answer questions regarding policies and procedures, and ultimately build community." Although there is no clear statement regarding straight students being paired with gay, lesbian, or bisexual students, or issues that may arise from this, there is an official complaint form under Housing Information. Students are strongly encouraged to take rational, non-violent, non-offensive actions if they feel threatened by their room-

mate's sexuality.

When asked how he would feel if his roommate was gay, FSU student Josh Sambula said, "I wouldn't care because it's not his fault." He was then asked if he thought that dorm rules were more beneficiary for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) students and he responded, "Of course it benefits them because it doesn't seem to violate visitation."

"If my roommate was gay, well I would not mind. She just better stay on her side, but other than that I would not mind," said Ashley Crabtree when asked how she'd react to being paired with a Lesbian roommate,

Mr. Sambula was also asked if a student had the right to know if their roommate was gay and if he thought it violated their privacy?

"No [students do not have a right to know about a LGBT roommate], because if their roommate wants to keep that part of their life private then it shouldn't matter as long as they're respectful and not making their roommate uncomfort-

able," he said.

Ms. Crabtree agreed, saying, "Yes [it would violate their privacy], if they want you to know then they would tell you." Josh was told that Tyler Clementi was a victim of a hate crime, and asked if he thought policies protecting LGBT students would help prevent more suicides and hate crimes. He answered, "I don't know how knowing about your roommates sexuality will prevent hate crimes and suicides."

Some students expressed that they wouldn't care if their roommate was gay, lesbian or bisexual, while others would. Do you think it's your right to know if your roommate was gay, lesbian or bisexual? Or if you are gay/lesbian or bisexual, do you think that would be a violation of your privacy? The issue here is that students are being bullied and emotionally tortured because of who they are just because people do not agree with it. As a result, hate crimes and suicides are harming and claiming the lives of innocent victims. Is it the schools obligation to protect these students?

These suicides have uncovered the horror of what can happen when bullying gets out of hand. As a result, many LGBT students and citizens have been pushing for proposals to protect them from discrimination. What are your thoughts?

Submit your Letter to the Editor to lbrown15@broncos.uncfsu.edu

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## Economist to speak on government regulations

The L.V. Hackley Endowed Chair presents a lecture by renowned economist J.R. Clark on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon in the FSU Shaw Auditorium. The topic is "Too Safe to Be Safe: Government Regulations that Kill Americans". Mr. Clark is a specialist in the fields of public choice, public finance and managerial economics. He is also the author of six books and is the treasurer for the Southern Economic Association. The event is free and open to all students, staff, faculty and public.

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The program is designed to enable students to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day operations of the University by shadowing the Chancellor for one day. They will participate in all of the activities and meetings scheduled for the Chancellor.

**MAIN GOALS:**

- To give students an opportunity to be a part of the administrative process.
- To emphasize the role of the student in the university.
- To give students experience in the decision making process.
- To enable students to gain some understanding of the leadership skills required for managing a multifaceted organization and the synergy required for operating as a whole.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

A letter of application for "Chancellor for a Day" of 500 words or less must include the following:

- Tell why you want to be Chancellor for a Day.
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher.
- Must have demonstrated an interest in leadership through participation in student or community organizations, or in the academic major.
- Explain the compelling factors about yourself that make you the best person to be Chancellor for a Day.
- Include name address, telephone number, e-mail address, academic major, and classification.

**Deadlines**

Applications for Chancellor For a Day are due

- **Sept. 10, 2010** to serve in September 2010.
- **Oct. 22, 2010** to serve in November 2010.
- **Jan. 21, 2011** to serve in February 2011.
- **Mar. 25, 2011** to serve in April 2011.

Send all applications by E-mail to  
Dr. Bertha H. Miller,  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor  
(bmiller@uncfsu.edu).

**CHANCELLOR FOR A DAY**