Club Retro opens off the square in Jacksonville

by Angel Weaver
News Writer

Students may now have a reason to stay in Jacksonville on the weekend. As of last night, Retro Club and Cafe is officially open.

Located on the square, Retro promises to provide a variety of entertainment for students in Jacksonville.

“We want the club’s activities to appeal to all types of students,” says Retro manager Paul Bohannon. The club is open six days a week, and each night will have a different theme.

Retro features a custom-built and designed sound system, with 7000 watts and more than fifty speakers.

The club also has a live recording studio, which will be used to record performances by bands and DJs. Studio time will be rented out on Sundays.

Bohannon says they plan to start charging cover at 9:00 p.m. every night, unless they have a special event. Cover charges will vary depending on the activities planned for the evening.

Monday will be Retrotastic Night, hosted by Brazil (Scott Brazelton) and Mookie (Chris Robinson), the house DJs. They will play older dance music; a mixture of seventies and eighties music.

On Tuesday, the computer-controlled house system will play soft older music, and pool tournaments will be held. However, according to Bohannon, it will probably be a week or so before they get those organized.

Every Wednesday, the club plans to have a live band. Scheduled to perform at the grand opening are the Hogg Mountain Lug Nuts.

On Thursday, Brazil and Mookie will host a dance program called Area 51. “It will be a combination of modern dance music, some hip-hop, and a little seventies and eighties music thrown in,” says Bohannon.

On Friday, Retro plans to alternate. One week they will have a live band, and the next week they will have a guest DJ. Saturday will be a disco night known as Saturday Night Fever.

“We want to promote a different atmosphere where students can relax and hang out.”

--Paul Bohannon

On Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7:00 P.M., movies with a music theme will be shown on the televisions located around the club.

The cafe will open in approximately two weeks. A lunch menu will be offered from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. “We want to promote a different atmosphere where students can relax and hang out,” says Bohannon.

The menu boasts items named after musical acts, such as the Grateful Bread, the Culture Club Sandwich, Cheese Styx, and the B.L. Tina Turner. They also plan to serve cappuccino and other flavored coffee.

The night menu will feature appetizers and drinks. “We will have four beers on tap, a

City of Jacksonville votes to increase traffic patrols in town

by Phil Attinger
News Writer

On Monday, the Jacksonville City Council voted to approve funding for a 16 week program of traffic enforcement. Police will focus on Pelham Road, Highway 204, Greenleaf Avenue, Alexandria Road, Church Street, and Weaver Road, according to Jacksonville Police Chief Thompson. The addition of the high school and several housing divisions in the area will increase traffic flow.

The Council also approved $20,013.00 to purchase a 1998 Ford Victoria police package. Police can expect the car to be delivered by June or July of this year, according to Mayor Douthit.

The Council also approved pre-fabricated bridges and abutments for the Chef Ladiga Trail. According to Douthit, the state highway department requires that bridges on a bicycle trail meet the same standards as a state highway: strong enough to support the weight of a tank. The proposed bridges actually would cost less than similar bridges constructed on site by a contractor, according to Douthit.

Work has apparently begun on the Historical barn at Henry Farm. According to Douthit, the roof will be the first project completed and then painting will begin, provided the Historical Register has no conflict with the price of the property.

The council voted to approve payments to Phipps Construction Company, and to Jones, Blair, Waldrup & Tuckers, Inc. Payments are to cover repairs and rehabilitation of Big Springs sand filters, for the city water supply.

In addition, the council voted to approve a 2.2% increase in garbage service rates submitted by BFI Waste Systems from $8.76 to $8.95 per residence per month. According to Douthit and other members of the council, this cost will be absorbed by the city and not the consumer.
Superintendent proposes city keep eye on state funding for high schools

by Phil Attinger
News writer

At last Monday’s Jacksonville City Schools Superintendent Lee Messer voiced concerns over Alabama public school funding proposals.

According to Messer, three possible plans are being considered. One would provide up to $1.2 million for each school system, a bonded issue that would not need to be repaid.

In the second proposal, the state would float a bond issue and give money based on how much the school system would want to repay.

Under that plan, a school system could forego certain state funds over a period of time, and receive a lump sum upfront.

The third possible program bothers Messer. “What may happen is (for the state) to earmark those moneys for systems that have portable classrooms, and punish those that have built and not give them anything,” states Messer.

Citing a case from four years ago, Messer recalled how a bill was passed calling for the replacement of pre-1975 school buses. “Which was a good bill,” said Messer, “except for the fact that systems that had borrowed money to buy new buses, or had let the fiscal plan go down to buy buses, didn’t get a thing.”

“All of those systems that left the old buses on the road got buses. And that’s wrong: mismanagement is rewarded.”

--Lee Messer

“All of those systems that left the old buses on the road got buses. And that’s wrong: mismanagement is rewarded.”

Fearing that state legislators might let the same thing happen again to school systems that had repaired their own buildings and sought more permanent alternatives to portable classrooms might see their funds go to other systems, says Messer.

Messer continued to explain the complexity of the problem by relating how some portable classrooms are better in terms of comfort and good condition than some permanent classrooms that have gone un-repaired.

Messer says that he has visited and spoken with Governor James, who, according to Messer, would neither accept nor reject Messer’s request for $750,000.00 for Jacksonville city schools.

“We are one of the worst funded systems in the state,” claimed Messer, “with the highest test scores.”

Messer, and the Jacksonville School Board has big plans for the future of Jacksonville schools. Both the high school and elementary school will have fiber optic connections to the net and to each other, providing a greater learning resource.

Messer also hopes to have the two schools linked to JSU and to the Jacksonville Public Library. He says this would provide greater research facilities for Jacksonville students, as well as a sharing of knowledge between the various schools.
Witherspoon says good-bye

by Thomas Webb
News Editor

Amanda Witherspoon, the SGA's Director of Publicity, announced her resignation at Monday's SGA meeting. Witherspoon, who has worked with the Senate for more than a year and a half, said she quit the job because of a conflict in her schedule.

"The main thing is, there was a meeting on Fridays that I was not able to attend," Witherspoon says.

"It's a mandatory meeting, an executive board meeting. And I couldn't go to that because I had already made plans to go home and do different things with the schools. And so I couldn't attend, and so I had no choice but to resign."

Witherspoon served for one year as a Senator, and during that time served as chairperson for the Residence Life and Facilities Committee. Witherspoon is proud of what she accomplished as chair of that committee.

"Think the biggest thing that I'm proud of is the awareness - letting the administration know that these dorms sometimes aren't as safe as people think they are," Witherspoon says. "Overall that would be the thing I'm most proud of."

Witherspoon also served as Peer Coordinator last year, in addition to her duties as senator. But her fellow senators say that she didn't neglect her job.

"She did a very good job," says SGA senator Christian LeBlanc, who served as SGA Senate President last year. "If you remember, the meetings were bigger than we've ever had, more participation than we ever had. She's excellent."

"Every event we've had this year has been way more than we've expected, and it's just thanks to her."

-- Chris Glover

Witherspoon says that she enjoyed her time in the SGA. She says that other students could benefit from getting involved. She feels that she gained a lot from her involvement in the Senate, especially during her campaign for SGA President last year.

"When I ran for SGA President last year, I grew up a lot," says Witherspoon.

"I learned how to be independent. I learned how to deal with people. I learned people skills, and learned about different groups on campus. It just opened my eyes to so many different things. If I didn't have that experience now I don't know where I'd be, because I just grew up into a stronger person in the long run."

SGA President Chris Glover says that Witherspoon did an excellent job as Director of Publicity. He says that many of the SGA's big events this year, including the two concerts and the SGA-sponsored movies, benefited from her hard work.

"She did a great job, she did an excellent job. I'm glad to have worked with her. I learned a lot from her," Glover says.

"Every event we've had this year has been way more than we've expected, and it's just thanks to her."

Former SGA President Bob Boyle, who is now the advisor for the SGA, says Witherspoon has done a wonderful job, and will be difficult to replace.

"So many times we hear about people being apathetic, and student don't do things, and stuff like that, along those lines," Boyle says.

"Amanda has gone above and beyond, as a senator - running a committee last year - and as director of publicity. And we're going to miss her bad. Somebody has big shoes to fill as far as we're concerned."

Witherspoon says that even though she enjoyed her time in the Senate, she just didn't have enough time for both her job and her education.

Amanda Witherspoon retires after more than a semester as Publicity Director.

"I had a wonderful experience in the SGA," Witherspoon says.

"Chris Glover has been an excellent president. It's nothing personal, it's nothing against Terry Casey, Chris, or any of the exec. It's just a choice I had to make in the long run for my whole life. You know, I'm at college for my education, and I had to make an educational decision."
Managing editor, Buffy Smith  
Degraded and humiliated  

It happens to me a lot. While having an innocent conversation with a member of the opposite sex, without warning, he exclaims “God, you’re sexy,” or “you sure do have great legs,” and even “you wanna go to bed with me?”

I feel degraded, violated, and humiliated. I ask myself, “What did I do, or say, to encourage such behavior?” And how am I expected to respond to such uninvited statements?

It must be my fault, right? After all, I am a female. Even if this guy decided to rape me, it’d be my character at question, not his.

After enduring months of unwanted sexual advances, I recently realized that this behavior had a name. It’s called sexual harassment.

Defined, sexual harassment is: unwanted sexual attention from a person who knows, or ought to reasonably know, that such attention is unwanted.

It’s implied or expressed promise of reward for complying with a sexually oriented request. It also sexually oriented remarks or behavior which may reasonably be perceived to create a negative psychological and emotional environment for work or study.

Now for years I’ve been educated about sexual harassment. I’ve seen the PSA on TV: “It’s sexual harassment and you don’t have to take it!” But I never realized that I could be victimized by someone I know, an acquaintance, or even a friend.

I made the very common mistake of confusing friendliness with sexual advances. I thought, “Oh, he’s just being nice. He knows that I am involved with someone. It’s harmless.” I didn’t realize that by remaining silent, I was condoning the behavior.

Once I realized that I was being harassed, I brought the topic up to a couple of my friends. I suddenly discovered that I was not alone. Each of them had endured similar experiences.

So what’s to be done about this type of abuse? Many people would think the victim to remain silent—the less we know the better. Especially if your harasser is a respected member of society. Just ask Paula Jones.

It was President Bill that let the monster out of the cage, and yet, Jones is the one under public scrutiny. She’s labeled a money-hungry, gold-digging, white-trash, lowlife for standing up for herself, when she should be respected for her courage.

Sexual harassers need to learn that “NO” means “NO”. Don’t read any other meaning into it! Reverse the role: how would you feel to be spoken to in such a manner? Respect other people’s values and point of view.

If you are a victim of harassment, admit to yourself that the problem exists. Do not assume that the behavior will stop; it may worsen if you ignore it.

Tell someone else. Sharing your concern with someone you trust may help you feel less isolated.

Speak up as soon as you realize that there is a problem. Tell the person that you find his/her behavior offensive.

Remember that it’s NOT your fault. Sexual harassment is wrong. It’s against the law, and you have rights. Don’t allow yourself to be abused.

I have never been so disappointed in my entire life! Last week our college chapter of the NAACP, along with the Office of Minority Affairs, had a full week of activities planned for us in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We did not have a good turnout, and I don’t understand why! We as African American students here at Jacksonville State University are always complaining about this school being racists and that everything is for the “white folks,” but when the Office of Minority Affairs hosts an event, only a handful of us attend!!! If we do not support any events that will help us rise as a people, then why do we expect the President of Jacksonville State to keep funding money for influential persons to come here when there are low turnouts? We need to stop complaining and start participating in events that are brought here in recognition of our people. So let us REMEMBER THE DREAM AND KEEP IT ALIVE !!!!!!
by Cathy Higgins
Features Writer

“To me it’s a step above the three minute stuff you see on MTV,” says Scott Akins as he describes the music he and Tim Hanby play on Dead Air. The concert-styled shows airs every Wednesday on 91.9 FM, from 10 p.m. to two a.m.

The show plays portions of recorded concerts from artists that normally don’t get much promotion.

“That’s what makes the show so special,” Tim explains. “These bands get zero commercial play. No MTV promotion.

The show concentrates mainly on three bands: The Grateful Dead, Phish, and Widespread Panic.

“A lot of people say we’re just playing what we want to hear,” Tim says. “But we’re talking about one band - Dead Air - that played for thirty years. That’s a lot of shows. And each one is different.”

Tim says he and Scott have received opposition to Dead Air. “It so happens that those three bands allow you to tape their concerts live,” Tim says. “A lot of people question the fact that it’s bootlegging. But we’re not getting paid for it. The station’s not making any money off of it. So it’s in the legal bounds that we can play it.”

Although Tim and Scott have their critics, they agree that Dead Air is “strictly about the music.” “People say we don’t talk that much or we don’t have that much personality as far as a radio person should have,” Tim says. “But we’re not pushing ourselves at all. It’s not about us.”

“We take probably one break an hour,” Scott adds. “We’re not out there saying, ‘Hey!!! This is Scott and Tim!!! How ya doin’!!!’”

ISU recognizes the work Tim and Scott do. “We got voted Best Specialty Show last year by the university,” Tim says. “I’ve got that framed on my wall.”

Dead Air also has a good following among its “subculture.” Some nights they get more phone calls than others.

“We can’t just base it on phone calls,” Tim says. “We’re high for the rest of the day when this person I’ve never seen before comes up to me and says, ‘You’re the guy that does Dead Air? Thank you so much.’”

Dead Air debuted in the summer of 1996. “I noticed there was a wide selection of fans in the area that listen to the Grateful Dead, and the band Phish, and Widespread Panic,” Tim remembers. “And so I thought, ‘If we’re going to tape them live, then why not have a show?’

Tim adds that the only problem with starting the show was that he didn’t have many tapes. “I had a couple of friends who had a pretty good collection of tapes,” he says. “Without them the show would have never gotten off the ground.”

Hoping to build up a decent collection for Dead Air, Tim and Scott asked their listeners to bring tapes of concerts they wanted to hear.

“Then everybody was just more than willing to give us different shows, old and new,” Tim says.

Tim and Scott both feel that Dead Air has come a long way. “We started out with about five tapes,” Tim says. “Now we’ve got over 400 in our collection.”

The co-hosts agree that doing Dead Air is a lot of work and money. They borrow and record concerts all the time. “Also, you’re constantly upgrading old tapes that wear out,” Tim says.

“A five-pack of tapes is eight dollars; we’ve got 400 tapes. It adds up after a while,” Scott says.

See Dead Air page 6
Good Will Hunting is one of the best movies of the year. I realise this is a strong statement, but trust me, after you see it you'll agree. It is brilliantly written by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, nicely directed by Gus Van Sant, and strongly acted, especially Robin Williams and Damon. The film centres on an unlikely friendship forming between Will Hunting (Damon), a cocky young genius, and Sean McGuire (Williams), an uninspired psychologist.

Will is a very intelligent individual. He is a janitor at MIT, who spends his days buffing the floors. He is also a mathematical genius who easily conceives simple explanations for extremely complex problems. It is this ability that attracts the attention of Professor Lambeau (Stellan Stargard), who saves him from jail on the condition that Will meets with him and psychologist Sean McGuire once a week. Will and Sean have a rocky start but soon become great friends and explore issues and feelings neither had ever opened up about. Will learns about himself, with the help of Sean; he learns about friendship, with the help of his buddy Chuckie (Ben Affleck); and he even learns a thing or two about love from Skylar (Minnie Driver).

There is a great deal of objectionable language. I hope that doesn't keep anyone from seeing this movie. All violence and language is true to life. There are all language and violence is not out of context, it is in fact vital to the movie as a whole.

Good Will Hunting is a complete movie. Granted, it is somewhat predictable, and it's been done before, but it has never been done better. Don't be surprised to see several Academy Award nominations for Good Will Hunting, including Best Original Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor (Robin Williams). When it comes right down to it there is no reason why you shouldn't see this movie.

--Gabe Weaver

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Dead Air (Wednesday nights, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.) pays homage to the bands that not only perform live on a regular basis but also allow concert goers to record their concerts. The groups most featured include Widespread Panic, Phish, and Grateful Dead, featuring the legendary Jerry Garcia.

Dead Air from page 5

Because so much work and money is spent keeping Dead Air fresh, neither Tim nor Scott believe anyone would be willing to take over the job when they're finished. "I'd love to see it," Scott says. "I want somebody who would pick up and do it. I'd be more than happy to loan them the tapes. But it is four hours every Wednesday. It's a lot of work."

"I don't see anybody coming in," Tim agrees. "We want to leave it on a good note. It's been two years since we started, when we leave, the spring will probably be our last show."

Although Tim and Scott put a lot of work into the production of Dead Air, they acknowledge the support of 92J and its listeners.

"It's been a great experience and we'd like to thank 92J and all the people that have contributed to the show," Tim says.

For now, Tim and Scott are glad that Dead Air makes their listeners happy. Scott remembers a caller who recognized a 1995 Grateful Dead concert.

"That's what leaves me with a good feeling," Scott says. "Just to know that we're lifting people up with stuff they've been to. It's great to know that you can listen to a song from a show that you've been to—and think back to that special time."

"Then you can hear our show," Tim says, "and think back to that experience."

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Good Will Hunting, a touching story of a misfit genius searching for his place in society.

Will Hunting (Matt Damon) is a janitor at MIT and he is also the smartest man on campus, even though he has had no formal college education. Before Will can reach his academic potential, he must learn to overcome his past with the help of Sean McGuire (Robin Williams), a psychologist who finds himself lost after the death of his wife. Together, Will and Sean learn important lessons about love, life and friendships.

This is a film about friendships, and although it could be criticized for its predictability, I believe that predictability is the essence of the film, after all isn't that the point of friendship—predictability and dependability?

Good Will Hunting is definitely a must see. It has something for everyone—senseless violence, romance, philosophy, humor, and friendship.

When you leave the theatre, you'll have the nice fuzzy feeling of knowing that the underdog won, true love conquers all, and all is right with the world.

Although Matt Damon and Minnie Driver have wonderful chemistry in the film, it's the interaction between Damon and Robin Williams and Damon and Ben Affleck (Will's best friend, Chuckie) that makes this a wonderful film.

Matt Damon is not only wonderful as Will Hunting, but he also wrote the screenplay for the movie.

Good Will Hunting is not the most action packed or sexually explicit film you will see this year (Actually, the lack of violence and gratuitous sex is refreshing) but it is very thought provoking and touching. This would be a great date movie. This is also a great movie for women looking for a redeeming quality in the male gender.

--Stacy Goode

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SPORTS

Lady Gamecocks keep rolling on in conference play

by Carol Maddox

The Lady Gamecocks had a very busy week, hosting two conference games and one non-conference game. Jacksonville State won both conference games, giving them a 6-1 standing in the TAAC. Here’s a look at the action:

Auburn 90
Jacksonville St. 60

The Lady Gamecocks began last week by hosting Auburn on Tuesday. Auburn proved to be a hassle in the opening period, scoring 44 points to JSU’s 30. The second half of the game had similar results. Even though the Lady Gamecocks refused to give in, Auburn proved victorious with the 30 point win.

Jacksonville State had three leaders on the night. Shneka Whaley led the Lady Gamecocks in scoring with 15 points. Karen Harden was a close second with 12 points. Heather Mays also proved to be an important contribution with 11 points.

Auburn was led by three players. Conswell Sparrow blazed the way for the Lady Tigers by scoring 17 points.

Monica Williams and Bethie Younger each scored 15 points, helping the Lady Tigers cruise to a victory.

Jacksonville St. 70
Samford 55

The Lady Gamecocks returned to TAAC action on Thursday by hosting the Samford Lady Bulldogs. The Lady Gamecocks began the evening well. They held a 31-25 lead at the end of the first half.

Jacksonville State did not disappoint fans in the second half, scoring 39 points. They came away with a 15 point win.

The Lady Gamecocks were led by the Harden sisters once again. Melissa Harden scored a total of 20 points while Karen followed with 17 points.

Heather Mayes also proved to be a major asset with 11 points.

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The Lady Bulldogs were also led by three players. Emily Kemmerlin scored 14 points, Clarissa Clard scored 13 points, and Aimee Cochran scored 10 points.

"They [Samford] did an excellent job against us," said coach Dana Austin. "We had a wrong mental approach to the game. It wasn’t as tough as it should’ve been."

Jacksonville St. 82
Troy State 79

The Lady Gamecocks posted their second conference win of the week when they hosted Troy State last Saturday. Jacksonville State was lead by three players. Heather Mays scored 23 points while Melissa Harden and Shneka Whaley each contributed 22 points each.

The Lady Trojans had two leaders on the evening. Samantha Tomlinson proved to be a key asset by scoring 23 of Troy’s 79 points.

Lakeisha Parrish contributed 16 points to the team’s effort.

The Lady Gamecocks return to conference action today. They will be playing Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. at 6:00 p.m.
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