

Arts, Etc.

Thursday, January 24, 2008

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Arts in Asheville

Sierra Leone's Refugee Allstars with Avec La Force
Saturday at 9 p.m.
Tickets: \$18 in advance; \$22 at the door

Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars will be appearing at the Grey Eagle to spread their message of peace and love to Asheville. This "can't help but dance" show is a high energy compilation of West African music, roots reggae and rhythmic traditional folk that Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars hope will appeal to audiences across the board.

The New Familiars
Thursday at 9 p.m.
Tickets: \$8

This powerful mix of folk music derived from rock n' roll is writing "of the people, by the people, and for the people," according to The New Familiars. They bring an honesty that they say is "sweeping the nation in the wake of a very tumultuous time in our history." They bring their unique show to Stella Blue this week.

Lotus and Telepath
Thursday at 9 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door

The Orange Peel brings Lotus to the stage for a concert that has all the dynamics of a rock band, the rhythms of club music, and the sophistication of modern electronica.

Sharky's makes waves

Riverside pool hall provides open and safe atmosphere

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Whether you're a pool shark, an amateur who just enjoys watching the colorful balls spin or a fan who has never aimed a pool stick, Sharky's Billiards welcomes you.

"I have people come in here all the time who have no idea about the game, no idea about what it really is," said Mark Metcalf, owner of Sharky's Billiards. "It's a place that attracts serious players and players that want to learn to play the right way. It's addictive, just like anything when you learn it the right way."

Stereotypes of drunken brawls and gambling scuffles turn people off of pool halls, but Metcalf wants Sharky's to draw in a different crowd.

"So many people give pool a bad name, having a rough time and stuff like that, but the game itself is not like that," Metcalf said. "When I was in high school, I had a physics teacher who would take me to a pool hall."

Metcalf's teacher used pool to help teach students geometric concepts and physics formulas.

Although you don't have to be a good player to shoot at Sharky's, if you're a broke college student, it helps. The flat rate is \$3 per hour per player.

"If you've got skill, you can play 10 to 15 games per hour," Metcalf said. "The better you play, the better the rates are. If you're not real good at pool, it might take you 10 to 15 minutes to play a game on one of those small bar tables."

Walking around the tables, you can see examples of almost every type of billiards game being played.

"I've seen people playing 8-ball, 9-ball and one pocket," Sherman said.

If there's such a diversity of people always willing to play, why aren't there more student clientele at Sharky's?

"I'm within a mile of you guys," Metcalf said, in reference to UNC Asheville. "Most of the students don't know that."

Sharky's is located on Riverside



CELESTE SHADOAN - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AB Tech student Stephen Sauer, left, tries for the 8-ball at Sharky's Billiards on Riverside Drive. Sharky's owner Mark Metcalf, above, says that Sparky's is ideal for college students because it offers both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options for a players with a variety of skill and interest level. It is also an option that is very close to the UNC Asheville campus so it makes a convenient stop for students with limited mobility. Sparky's is open Sunday through Thursday from 3:30 p.m. until midnight and Friday through Saturday from 3:30 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Drive, only a short drive or hike away from campus. This means that it may even be accessible to freshmen who do not have cars.

Out of the nine pool tables in the pool lounge, only two are bar tables; the other seven are professionally sized at four-and-a-half by nine feet.

"He has the best tables in Asheville," Sherman said as he played 9-Ball with Norton.

"Best sticks, too," Norton said. One reason Metcalf opened Sharky's Billiards was to offer those tables.

"There's none of those tables that are set up right with alcohol and a nice atmosphere on this end

"Most people go to places where are bar tables, or they go to places where there's pool tables, but then you don't have the alcohol."

MARK METCALF
Sharky's Owner

of town," Metcalf said. "Most people go to places where there are bar tables, or they go to places where there's pool tables, but then

you don't have the alcohol."

Some alcoholic beverages Metcalf carries include Budweiser, Michelob Light and Ultra, Coors Light, Smirnoff Ice, Heineken and Corona.

Sharky's accepts clientele ages 18 and up, so for the underage visitors Metcalf offers sodas and water.

The lounge offers alternative activities to billiards as well.

An Internet jukebox flashes neon lights from the corner of the lounge, offering your selection of any artist who appears on the Internet.

Nickelback is a popular choice. Sherman prefers rock 'n' roll.

Fifteen dollars will buy you 12 songs.

A foosball table sits in another corner while three dart boards hang against yet a separate wall.

Sharky's also has a dart league that will begin meeting again in February.

Decorating the walls of the lounge are a few of sports greatest, including former quarterback Terry Bradshaw, boxer Muhammad Ali and baseball player Kirk Gibson.

The lounge's considerate atmosphere extends to negotiating between smokers and non-smokers as well.

"I put a big attic fan in here to get the smoke out," Metcalf said.

Before Asheville, Metcalf ran a pool hall in Waynesville, which is located about 30 miles from Asheville.

He brought the first big pool tables to Waynesville.

"One of the reasons I left Waynesville was the blizzard of '93; it dropped boulders," Metcalf said. "Literally, I'm talking pool table-size boulders landed and tore down the whole building that I rented."

Metcalf always wanted to own his own pool hall. Sharky's Billiards is the culmination of that dream.

"I built this from the ground up," Metcalf said.

Metcalf started playing billiards at 14 when his dad bought a pool table.

He has played consistently since then, but he played more intensely in his twenties.

"I played a lot of the top players," Metcalf said. "The players who were ranked top 50 in the world."

Sharky's Billiards is open Sunday through Thursday from 3:30 p.m. until midnight and Friday through Saturday from 3:30 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Don't believe us? See for yourself!
Sharky's Billiards is located at
986 Riverside Drive
Asheville, NC 28804
828-252-2700

Student show breaks the mold

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TIFFANY NARRON - ASSISTANT ARTS, ETC. EDITOR

Angela Polly uses human figures to portray the human condition in her art entitled "Skin Deep" on exhibit in Owen Hall.

The facial expressions of Polly's figures appear soft, peaceful, but with an underlying trace of indifference.

"The starkness of the bodies is less intense because of the surrounding composition. They look comfortable, like it's an everyday activity," Rhoton said.

Polly explained the development of each piece as a highly involved process that must be thought out before construction begins.

"I have to have an idea of the overall composition of the finished

piece before I even take the first step," Polly said.

Polly sometimes manipulates the molds after they are cast, in order to achieve her intended aesthetic vision, since some poses cause too much discomfort for models.

"I tend to work intuitively as far as adding additional elements, such as hands or other body parts and fabric to create mystery and ambiguity in the piece," Polly said.

Polly, who primarily works as a sculpture artist, lists pop-sculptor George Segal and feminist-sculptor Kiki Smith amongst her main influences.

Segal, who is known for his white plaster figures that he places in organic environments, are often interpreted as articulating the loneliness and isolation of the human condition and inter-personal relationships.

In this respect, Polly's work possesses a close kinship with Segal's.

"Some of the emotions that are expressed in my pieces are vulnerability, repression and loneliness, but also those related to the overcoming of these weaknesses," Polly said.

Polly's exhibition remained on display from Jan. 11 through Jan. 22 in the S. Tucker Cooke Gallery in Owen Hall.

Polly plans to continue making her artwork while beginning research on various graduate programs.

"I hope to apply for next year, and I plan to pursue an M.F.A.," Polly said.

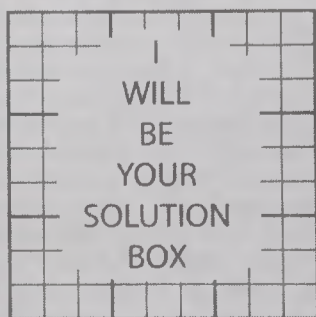
SUDOKU

INSTRUCTIONS

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EASY

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