



Coltrane: What Happened?

By Patrick G. Veilleux
 Managing Editor

The Coltrane Underground has served as a meeting ground for clubs, the Student Government, stages for rappers, comedians, guitarists, and many other campus activities. In the past, it also served as a café. It was a place where students could go to blow off steam, and grab a burger, coffee, or the original “javalanche.”

Now that it is closed, the question has been asked, “What happened,” or “Why?”

The Clarion heard the questions asked, and we started investigating.

What happened exactly? The café was closed down, but the entertainment area remains open. Visitors will certainly notice the fenced off kitchen. The decision to close down the Underground café was ultimately made by Brevard College’s senior staff. Aramark staff were the ones running the establishment, and they did not feel the need to stop the change.

Food Service Director Bridget Vess provided a reason for supporting the move.

“We have proper documentation that shows Coltrane Underground did not receive regular business,” Vess said.

Students mainly used their declining balance to buy food and drinks, but once the balance ran out, so did the students’ desire to go to the café. But even then, Vess said, “The staff in the Underground said they could count the number of normal visitors on their hands, and could name them.”

Vess adds that Aramark and Campus Life are “Accepting suggestions on what to do with Coltrane and on another note, the future of campus hangouts and dining.”

Dean of Students Chris Holland also spoke on Coltrane’s closing down. “Coltrane was just not making the kind of profit to keep it

running,” said Holland.

If Coltrane is not making enough money to keep itself running, then how much could it benefit the college financially?

Holland explained that during his college years he would hang out in similar environments with other people. “The environment just made me want to spend money,” he said. He speculated on why students just did not see a use for Coltrane: the food and drinks may have been too expensive.

“I was one of 10 people who bought coffee at Coltrane,” he said. “Students want a coffee shop and a hangout, but they don’t use the coffee shop.” He encouraged SGA and students to work together, adding, “If people tell us what they want in a hang out spot, we can make it happen.”

Family weekend begins today

Family weekend! Have you and your family decided what you are doing?

Parents will have the opportunity to talk with advisors, sit in on classes, and go on a morning hike in the state forest, where they will be able to explore waterfalls in the area. But people are also making some of their own plans for Family Weekend.

“My mom is coming to see where I live, and I get to give her a tour of the campus. We’re also going to see the football game on Saturday, we both love football.” said junior psychology major Michelle Svendsen.

Not all student have plans involving Brevard based events. Families will have the opportunity to travel to Asheville. And the towns of Hendersonville or Arden are also open to exploration.

Experience street performers and fine dining in what has been labeled the “Paris of the South.” There is the Mellow Mushroom, the hippie pizza shop wonder of Asheville. Or The Southern, an upscale restaurant serving southern cuisine, including chicken waffles, a bloody mary with bacon, and you can finish off your meal with southern crème brulee.

Students may also have the opportunity to see the N.C. Mountain State Fair as they drive towards Asheville. People can enjoy the rides,

and pick up a funnel cake doused with powdered sugar, the Clarion insists that you stick to that order of priority.

Families are encouraged to cheer on the Tornados at Brevard Memorial Stadium at 2 p.m. where the football team will take on the Mars Hill College Lions, and the volleyball game versus Anderson University in the Boshamer Gymnasium. For interested families, the men and women’s soccer team will be playing in Carson Newman University at 3 p.m. and at 5 p.m.

For the full weekend schedule, go to www.brevard.edu/familyweekend.

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