

Laser video games help one arcade

By SARAH RAPER
Staff Writer

Although other local video game establishments report constant or declining sales, one Franklin Street video arcade manager said business was up 5 percent to 10 percent from last year.

Barrel of Fun Manager Jim Petri said the increase in his business was partly due to the introduction of games that use a laser videodisc to create images on the screen that look like cartoons or movies.

"The best is yet to come," Petri said of the laser videodisc games. He said that so far there was little variety in the types of laser games, available now for about two months.

Barrel of Fun has three video games that use the laser discs. Dragon's Lair is a cartoon game designed by a man who previously worked for Walt Disney Studios, Petri said. The other two games, Astron Belt and M.A.C.H. 3, are flying games.

In all three games, the screen image is produced by a single metallic disc, the same size as a record album which plays on a turntable with a laser-detecting device. The disc and the microprocessor chip used in all video games jointly coordinate the images, sound and player's commands.

Petri said many players did not like the new laser disc games because in some games the image blacks out during the lag between the time a player gives a command and the time the machine responds. He said manufacturers planned to eliminate the lag by putting two laser discs in each game.

Manufacturers had been concerned that players would not be willing to pay the 50-cent price to play the laser games, but Petri said the laser games are the most popular at Barrel of Fun despite a price double that of other traditional video games.

Soaps Manager Carey McCloskey said

the laundromat-video establishment would be getting the laser videodisc games in January. She said her business had remained constant in the past year.

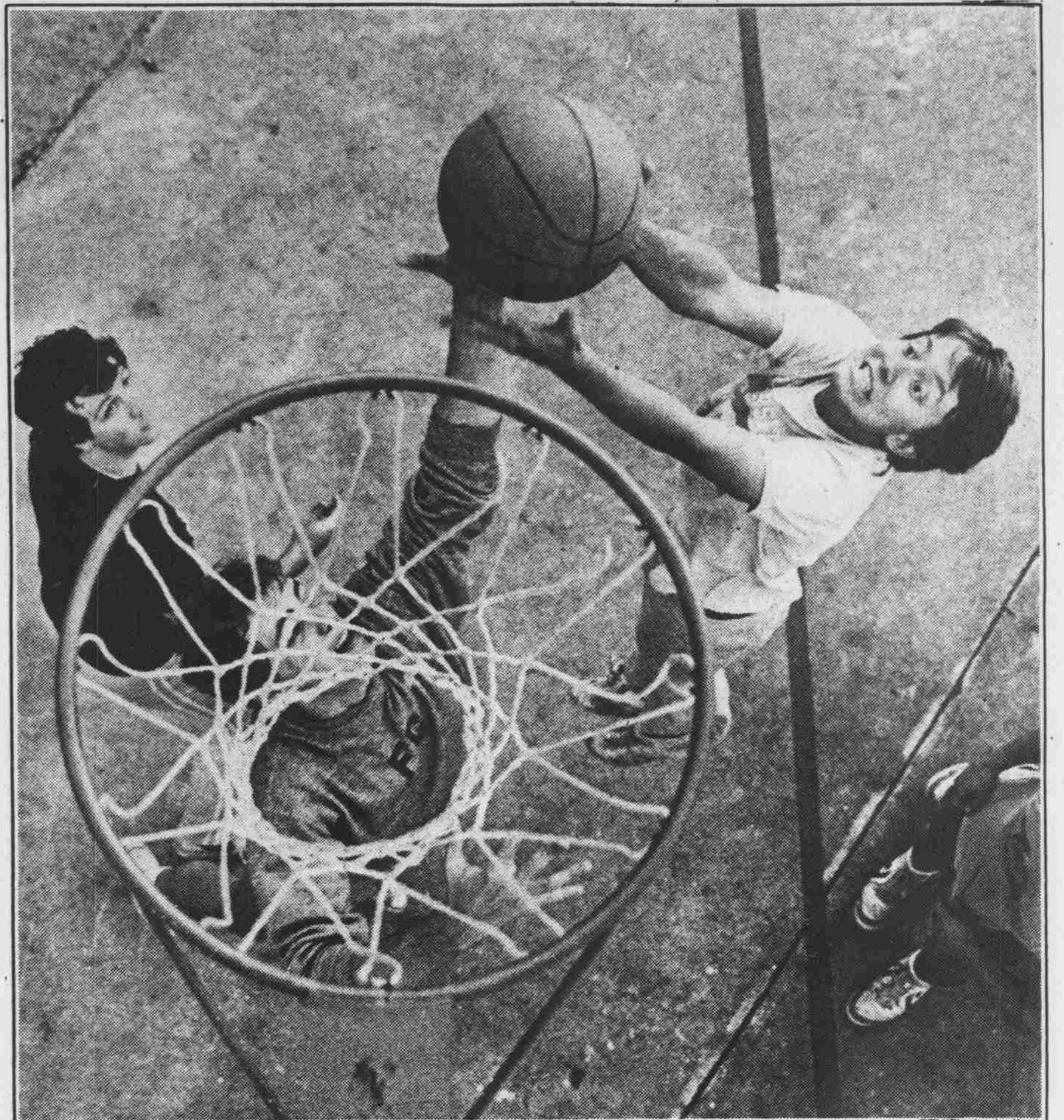
"People come here to do their laundry. Most of them don't come specifically to play video games."

Henderson Street Bar manager Tim Kirkpatrick said his current video business was half of what his business had been last year.

He attributed the decline in business to the new drinking age, which prohibits 18-year-olds from playing at bars. Henderson Street and Soaps both sell beer.

Kirkpatrick said his business also had been hurt by home video and computer systems.

"There's a doctor in town who used to come in here every afternoon, but his wife bought him an Atari set, and the last time I saw him was on vacation in Florida at the zoo," he said.



DTH/Charles Ledford

Leaps and bounds

UNC students Barry Safrit (right) and Eric Routh (middle) stretch skyward during a recent pickup game at the Kappa Sigma house. Both Safrit, a senior from High Point, and Routh, a sophomore from Greensboro, are members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Columbia's crew perform experiments

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Scientists on the ground marveled at the work of scientists in orbit Tuesday as the crewmen of Spacelab spun and jumped and stuck themselves with needles in exhaustive tests of human adaptation to weightlessness.

The six men aboard the space shuttle Columbia, with the excitement of Monday's launch behind them, concentrated on around-the-clock science Tuesday, working on some of the 73 experiments that will fill almost every moment of their nine days orbiting 155 miles above Earth.

A mission scientist monitoring the astronauts from the science control room at the Johnson Space Center said the experiments were "going extremely well" and the crew was doing "a great job."

The largest crew ever launched into space divided itself into two shifts, the Red Team and the Blue Team, and kept working nonstop in the 23-by-14-foot science module called Spacelab, which was carried in Columbia's cargo bay.

Red Team scientist Robert Parker, a mission specialist, and West German Ulf Merbold, a payload specialist and the first non-American member of a U.S. spacecraft crew, operated a chair that spun and twisted at a dizzy rate in a study of the body's balance mechanism.

The Blue Team scientists, mission specialist Owen Garriott and payload specialist Byron Lichtenberg, used elastic cords as slingshots to propel themselves to the Spacelab floor in a test of their response to a fall in weightlessness. They also attached electrodes to the back of their knees and endured mild electric shocks to trigger a reflex action that was recorded on monitors.

All four scientists drew blood samples. While the scientists worked in the Spacelab, mission commander John Young of the Red Team and pilot Brewster Shaw of the Blue Team maneuvered Columbia from the spacecraft cockpit, changing the flight angle as required by experiments. Officials at Johnson Space Center were delighted with the work.

"Things are going extremely well with all the investigations," said Rick Chappell, a scientist who monitored the Red Team. "I spent most of the evening marveling at how well the crew was doing. They did a great job. I would have hated to have to have tried to do their job myself."

Karl Knott, a European Space Agency mission scientist who monitored the Blue Team, said, "The crew performed extremely well. It was an extremely efficient and good shift."

Spacelab is a \$1 billion module designed and built by the European Space Agency. It is packed with 73 experiments developed by scientists from 14 nations.

Equipment worth \$13,500 taken from Fetzer Gym

From staff reports

Laboratory and computer equipment worth about \$13,500 was taken from Fetzer Gym some time over the weekend, according to Meg Dillon, university administration manager in the physical education department.

Ned Comar, UNC Crime Prevention Officer, said whoever stole the equipment unlocked three separate locks and caused no damage to any of the rooms.

The equipment, which included a Biolab worth more than \$7,000 was used by the physical education department to monitor blood pressure and heart rate, Dillon said. "It was mainly for instructional use for graduate students," she said.

Dillon added that precautions had been taken before the weekend because of recent break-ins in the physical education department. "Whoever stole it went through a lot of trouble," she said.

The P.E. department will meet with Security tomorrow to discuss further precautions against such crimes, she said.

Campus police reported two other thefts Monday night. A mortar mixer, valued at \$1,500, was taken from a construction site at the UNC School of Medicine and \$1,400 worth of tools was taken from the construction site of the Student Activities Center.

Katz

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Prejudice and power compose racism, Katz said. Participants define prejudice as negative preconceptions based on an individual's group identity. Power can be political, economic, and social, Katz said. Anti-racism activists should thus work on structural, as well as attitudinal, change.

"The more energy we spend talking about how to convince people, the more we spin our wheels," she said. "Our system is set up to protest those in power, not the victims."

Students must push administrators to end racism, Katz said. "They (administrators) just play a waiting game, hoping that this will pass."

Katz used the term "people of color" to apply her comments to all minorities victimized by white racism.

Activists should be more courageous

and less readily disheartened, Katz said. "I think there are some students who are concerned about racism but not very willing to take flak and stand up to the community over it. There are people in the world, many of them in this room, who haven't done much."

Leader of campus organizations should be especially concerned with racism, and should be chosen partly on the basis of commitment to cultural diversity and service to multiracialism, Katz said. Leaders who do not take such concrete steps as actively recruiting black applicants should ask themselves, "Are you really committed, or is this a bunch of rhetoric?" she said.

Katz urged self-questioning to detect prejudice. "If all of my friends look like me, then probably I've been acting on prejudices," she said.

Ethnic jokes are on a level of racism with name-calling, Katz said. "If it's not based on a stereotype, then tell it about your own group."

Racism still affects hiring practices, Katz said. She said she supported quotas as a remedy.

Not as many whites lose jobs to blacks because of federal equal opportunity laws as is widely thought, she said. "It is easier (for employers) to blame Affirmative Action than to say, 'You didn't have what it took.'"

The continued prevalence of racism in this country hurts U.S. diplomatic and trade relationships, Katz said. Americans try to impose their values in negotiations with other countries. "All of us have been affected by white culture. It's so invisible that we believe it's the world," she said.

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