This coffeehouse serves musical, literary talent

By GRIER HARRIS Staff Writer

olumbia Street Coffeehouse and Bakery is unique among downtown establishments. Beside the front door is a small sign: "Thank you for not smoking inside." Inside, each table is lit by a single candle. Track lighting illuminates a series of watercolors around the main dining room. There's no Muzak, no radio, only the only sound of the customers' voices punctuated by the steam jet of the cappucino machine.

Special events are scheduled at the coffehouse most evenings, and many are designed for audience participation. From discussion groups on current topics such as local politics, understanding the male-female relationship and parenting after divorce to readings from original dramatic works, performances by comedians, classical guitarists and folk musicians, the entertainment caters to a wide variety of tastes.

Tuesday night's fare at the coffeehouse featured a picking session, and anyone who wanted to play was welcome.

Without fanfare or introduction, a man pulled a battered mandolin from under his table, leaned back in his chair and began to tune up. Soon another joined him with a guitar, and someone started in with a fiddle. Introductions were made all around, and following a quick tuneup, the three broke into an Appalachian medley.

Joe Sparling, chairman of the board of the coffeehouse and an

thought were somewhat absent in the environments that were available downtown. The thrust here is to provide a setting for communication.

Sparling, who schedules entertainment for the coffeehouse, said that he saw the establishment as a forum for new writers and performers and a place to exhibit works in progress.

Columbia Street Coffeehouse and Bakery is the product of a cooperative effort between the group that created the Exchange Coffeehouse. which later became the Columbia Street Coffeehouse, and Durham's Ninth Street Bakery, which operates the restaurant portion of the establishment.

Today, posted on the wall in the coffeehouse is the original statement of intent designed for the Exchange Coffeehouse when it opened in 1981. Their goal was to create "a place in the center of town dedicated to community listening and dialogue, sharing concerns, promoting interaction and connectedness between people and ideas, stimulating involvement in the life of our community, encouraging participation in state and national issues and enabling presentation of a variety of people's acts."

The coffeehouse is planning to establish a film discussion group, which will meet there following designated showtimes at nearby theatres.

Some of the musicians scheduled to perform this month are Allin Cottrell & Dave Gude; Art Hol-



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Julian plans to start chain of stores **By MYRNA MILLER**

Staff Write

Chapel Hill native and former UNC student Alexander Julian said he plans to open a chain of stores to sell his designer clothing.

Julian, known for his "Colours" line of clothing, is chairman of Alexander Julian Enterprises, based in New York.

The stores, to be called Alexander Julian, will carry a complete line of men's and women's Julian merchandise, from suits to shoes, said Barry Miguel, creative director for Alexander Julian Enterprises.

"Alexander Julian decided to start this chain because he wanted to be able to represent his collection in a complete way," Miguel said.

"Over the next five years, we hope to open 30 to 40 new stores, but right now we are concentrating on the first three."

Two of the shops, which are tentatively scheduled to open in July and August, will be located in Charlotte and Atlanta, Miguel said. The third store will open either in Boston or New York as soon as leases are negotiated, he added.

The stores will not be affiliated with Julians College Shop, the Franklin Street store operated by Julian's father, Maurice, Miguel said.

Miguel said men's clothing will include suits from \$600 to \$850, shirts from \$45 and up, and other items. Women can buy clothes for the professional working woman, such as jackets priced at \$250 and up, and skirts for \$100 and higher, he added.

Several venture capital firms will hold part ownership in the chain. Those firms include Harvard Management Co., which serves Harvard University's endowment, and NEA of San Francisco, which usually invests in high-tech companies, Miguel said.

associate professor at the Frank Porter Graham Center, said he felt the coffeehouse filled a previously unoccupied niche in Chapel Hill.

"We're doing something that's different here," he said. "We have no smoking, no drinking, lots of good, healthy food - those are things we

lander; Tracy Drach & David Bennet; Cleaver, Smith, Swenson & Co.; Humours of Whiskey; Pomegranate Rose; Stonecoat; and Billy Stewart. Roxanne Seagraves and Billy Odum will stage readings from original material, including the first public reading of Odum's "Moving

Day," a play about the eviction of an elderly woman from her home. Sparling encourages individuals

with original literary or musical works to contact him to discuss opportunities for performing at the coffehouse. All those interested Operating hours are between 7

Tom Hanchett (left) and Jon Newlin perform at Columbia Street Coffeehouse and Bakery

DTH/Tony Deifell

midnight on Friday and Saturday.

evening's picking session at the

For those who missed Tuesday

Julian, 39, started in the clothing business by helping his father with the Chapel Hill Julians, which has been open for 46 years, Miguel said.

Julian said he opened his own business, selling designer men's clothing, at the age of 19. The business, Alexander's Ambition, was open for about three years and was

