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# Union Cabaret brimming with live entertainment

By **BETH BUFFINGTON**  
Staff Writer

"Come to the Cabaret . . ." would be an appropriate theme song for the Union Cabaret this school year.

The Cabaret, which is located downstairs in the Student Union in the former billiard room, will offer regular, live entertainment every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, said Billy Pizer, the Union Cabaret's committee chairman.

Although the Cabaret first opened in March and had about half a dozen programs through the year, it didn't seem to live up to its full potential, he said.

"Part of the problem was the lack of publicity and the uncertainty as to when it was really going to open," he added.

But according to Pizer, this year

will be different.

Now the Cabaret has its own student committee whose goals include boosting student and faculty attendance as well as encouraging student and faculty involvement in the Cabaret and its programming. "The focus of the committee is to make sure that there is a regular calendar," he said.

According to Pizer, he and the committee spent most of August planning September's bill of fare.

"In September, we're billing it (the Cabaret) as the 'biggest free ride since being a kid . . . because all the entertainment is free that month," he said. "The University Advisory Board is paying for the entertainment."

"We brainstormed with the (Carolina Union) Activity Board for ideas of performers in general and then it was just a matter of contacting people

after we decided who would be suitable for the Cabaret," he said.

On Sept. 7 the Cabaret reopens its doors at 8:30 p.m. with a mix of jazz, beach music and ballads by the Ron McCrae Group and Prince Taylor, followed the next night with performances by the Clef Hangers and James and Rodney, he said.

"One of our concerns for September was to pick bands that could draw their own crowds," he said. "I imagine that the Clef Hangers as well as The Loreleis will pack it, but that's the idea at first." The Clefs will perform Sept. 8 and the Loreleis Sept. 21.

Since the Cabaret only seats 188 people, seating is first-come first-serve, Pizer said. "If there's a possibility of a performance drawing a bigger crowd than the Cabaret can handle, then we'll move (the show) to somewhere else."

Although the Cabaret may not be as large as other clubs, those who attend the programs seem to enjoy the intimate space and the different feeling it creates. "Everyone seems to enjoy playing the Cabaret and in fact, two of the people who played down there last year have called and asked if they could play there again," he said.

Although September features undergraduate performances with the Clef Hangers and The Loreleis, the remaining performances are mainly by local talents or bar circuit bands, he said.

"One of our goals right now — which is an ongoing goal — is to get student talent and to act as an outlet for student talent," Pizer said. "There's a lot of students who have the talent but who aren't encouraged to do something with it."

Because of its atmosphere and location, the Cabaret is an alternative to the Franklin Street bar scene, he said. The closing of the Cat's Cradle may enable the Cabaret to get some of the same type of groups, but he wants to stay away from being labelled. "We're not trying to be another Cradle," he said.

Pizer wants to make the Cabaret accessible for students. "There are people here who are studying at the library or who are just walking around at night who can stop in and see what's going on — that's why we're trying to have something regularly, four nights a week," he said. "There really aren't that many places either that an undergraduate can go out to at night, especially for live entertainment," he said.

Although the Cabaret's programming now consists of jazz, rock bands, comedy and dance variety entertainment, its programming may vary in the future, he said.

Archie Copeland, director of the Union, emphasized the availability of the area. "The Cabaret was built with the idea of four-nights-a-week regular entertainment with the remaining three nights for student organizations who need a performing room. (The Union) really needed a programming area, not just a meeting room," he added.

"It (had) been in the planning stages for about 3 years and the change of the drinking age really instigated it," Copeland said.

Other groups that are performing in September are Brother Josef and Friends on Sept. 9; Impact on Sept. 10; Pinky Wyoming and Duke Lacrosse with the Gin Dickeyes on Sept. 14; Dear John on Sept. 15; Eve Cornelius/Chip Crawford Group on Sept. 16 and Rolly Gray and Sunfire on Sept. 17.

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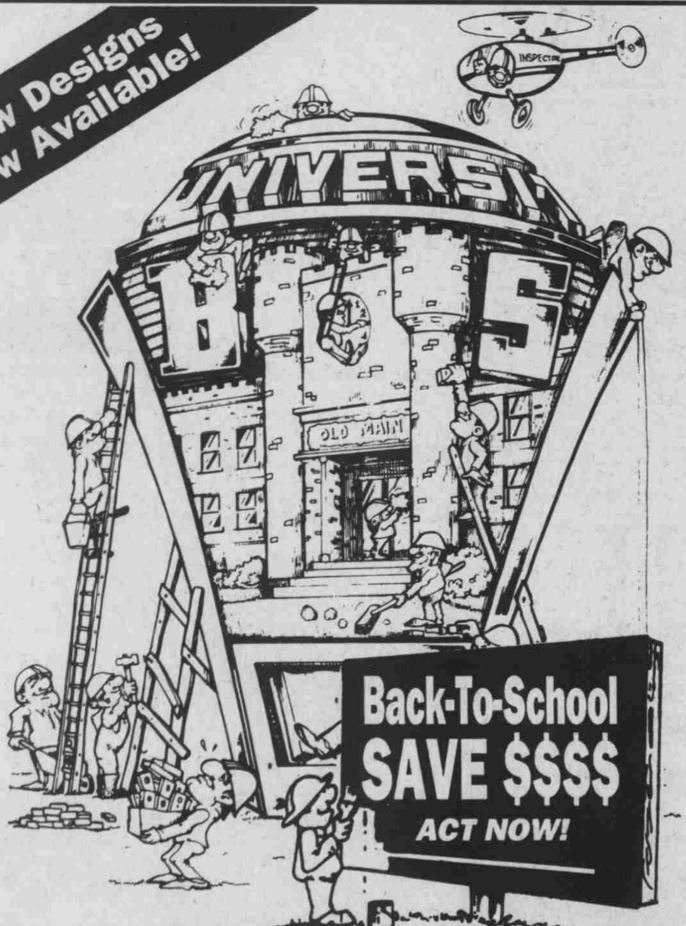
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## Bids from page 1

authorization to spend the lowest amount offered by the construction companies.

"We're very disappointed that we didn't get a bid within our authorization," Swecker said. "We're very anxious to get this project started."

The new lot is key to helping solve parking problems that have increased with a loss of lots to construction projects, Gardner said. North Carolina Memorial Hospital employees will benefit as well as UNC students, faculty and staff.

Also, a committee currently studying the possibility of building a parking deck at Craige Residence Hall is "supposed to report to the chancellor sometime soon," Rutherford said.

If the deck is approved, the new lot at Estes Drive will be a key factor in controlling parking problems created by the temporary loss of the Craige lot, Gardner said.

The parking lot will be financed with money from the parking fee collection which has been reserved for projects like this one, Swecker said.

The new lot would be comparable to the P lot located at Estes Drive and Airport Road. It would have 502 spaces, including 11 handicapped spots and 10 motorcycle spaces, Gardner said, and would probably require bus passes to campus.

The property for the lot is already owned by UNC, he said. It is located just east of the intersection at Estes Drive and Seawell Road.