

Renovated Record Bar displays a new look this fall

By CHERYL ALLEN
Staff Writer

There is no awkward stair to trip over anymore and no heavy wooden door that opens in your face as you take one

step up from Franklin Street. Chapel Hill's Record Bar underwent renovations this past summer, dropping the classic oak and stained glass theme and opting for a more modern style. Students have various

opinions concerning the change, but like it or not, the Record Bar has a new look.

The Chapel Hill store needed updating, said Chip Cappelletti, vice president of real estate development

at Record Bar headquarters in Durham.

Beginning in early July, Record Bar was closed for renovations. Reopened by the third week in July, the store had taken on a different appearance. The wood floor is gone. The store replaced the oak door with glass. A tiled ramp took the place of the step off the sidewalk. And the stained glass was removed, allowing the new smoky glass storefront, lined with black and white ceramic tiles, to open up to Franklin Street.

Changes have been made inside the store as well. Record Bar installed new fixtures to improve lighting and a new heating and air conditioning system for customer comfort, Cappelletti said.

Record Bar has also increased its stock by 20 percent, carrying more compact discs and cassettes than previously possible. The store has especially increased its selection of classics, according to Richard Layne, Record Bar manager.

Cappelletti said many other area Record Bars are experiencing similar changes. Record Bar is undergoing a major four-year renovation program, during which time they hope to reach a large portion of their 150 stores. The South Square store in Durham was renovated last year, the North Hills store in Raleigh will be finished this week,

and the North Gate store in Durham is scheduled for renovation next year.

Cappelletti said he thought other stores on Franklin Street could renovate without destroying the village atmosphere of Chapel Hill. "Many people say 'just because it's old it should be retained,' but you have to weigh that," he said. "Wood with 10 coats of paint on it is better off replaced."

Record Bar led the parade of renovations on Franklin Street with the oak look about 10 years ago, Cappelletti said. They are now hoping to do the same with the European style glass and ceramic tiles, he said.

"Old Record Bar, as much as we liked it, was getting run down," Layne said. "It was time to do some work on it."

Record Bar had to adjust to the modern marketing trends in today's music, Layne said. In other words, compact discs and cassettes are selling more than albums, and the store had to accommodate the trend.

These changes have had an enormous effect on business, according to Layne. "The open storefront seems to attract more business at night because people can see in a lot better from the street," he said.

Cappelletti said sales have increased 30 percent, and they hope this will level to a steady 20 percent

increase. "Generally it has been a real success," he said.

Even though business has increased, students have mixed feelings about the renovations. "I liked it better before," said Kim Powell, a sophomore nursing major from Lexington, N.C. "It was more traditional and fit the Franklin Street atmosphere much better."

"Before, you just walked by and you couldn't tell it was a Record Bar," said Sean Murray, a sophomore undecided major from Flomham Park, N.J. "Now it really jumps out at you. It definitely improves the outlook on Franklin Street."

David Diamond, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Canton, Ohio, said he liked the inside of the store. "They have merchandised their records and tapes better so it's easier to find what you're looking for," he said.

Joanna Carey, a sophomore psychology major from Tallahassee, Fla., also said she thought the store was better organized. "I didn't dislike it before, but it looks better than it did," she said.

Whatever the consensus, Chapel Hill has a modern addition to its Franklin Street stores. It remains to be seen whether it will set a trend or remain alone in its renovation, but the new face of Record Bar is here to stay.



DTH/Jane Bowman

Record Bar has increased its stock by 20 percent since renovations were completed this summer

Center to celebrate 35-year tradition of caring for local children

By JACKIE DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

Daycare has become an issue of national interest in recent years. As the number of women entering the work force increases every year, the need for efficient daycare services also increases.

The Victory Village Daycare Center has provided University students and faculty with a high-quality daycare service for 35 years. To celebrate its service to the University, the center will have a pig picking on October 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the center.

Mary Bridges, director of the center, said she and staff members have tried to contact all the parents and children the center has served over the past 35 years.

"We encourage all the supporters of the center to attend this event," Bridges said. "We have also invited the UNC faculty and administration to our celebration."

Seventy-five percent of the center's children belong to UNC students, while the other 25 percent are the staff and faculty's children, Bridges said.

"We have a total of 64 children from 12 different countries. This mixture of different cultures has proven to be an advantage to the children and their parents. It is very much a learning experience for everyone."

Bridges said the primary purpose of the center is to take good care of the children and keep them safe, but the center also provides the children with an excellent child-development program. "Our child development program covers the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and nutritional development of the children," she said. "Our teachers are well-trained and work with the kids in very small groups."

Tyndall Harris, a graduate student in the School of Education and a parent, said, "What's tremendous about Victory Village is that it does very well in providing quality care for children. They have a relatively low staff-child ratio, and their philosophy is to get staff members who not only have educational backgrounds, but also people who care about the kids."

"I feel very comfortable in leaving my children at Victory Village," Harris said. "My children have been at the center since June, and I am very pleased with the program."

Bridges said the center treated children with respect as if they were at home with their parents.

Every parent must dedicate at least 12 hours a year to the center. These hours may take the form of a "work Saturday," where parents and staff members gather to paint, clean up and repair the center.

"We are very privileged to be at UNC," Bridges said. "Being on campus gives us an unlimited number of resources to help our kids learn and also gives us access to a development and training program for our staff."

"Our presence on campus has been an advantage to the University as well, with several departments having conducted studies on our children. There have also been studies about parents in college, and our center has been an excellent way for researchers to get in touch with them."

The University has aided the center by providing the building and paying its utilities. But to maintain the 47-year-old building, the center depends on its supporters. The majority of the money needed to run the center comes from fees paid by parents. Raffles, book fairs and other fund-raisers provide the remainder of the funds.

The high cost of maintaining the center and the rising demand for its

services led to the formation of a committee to investigate the possibilities of building a new center. The committee is made up of eight parents, two staff members and two people from the Chapel Hill community.

The committee began planning the new center to accommodate 130 children last fall by contacting the School of Design at N.C. State University. They asked an architecture professor if designing the new center could be a project of three design students, Bridges said.

The three students then met with the committee, staff and parents to get an idea of the size, kinds of rooms and playground needed. But after discussing the plans, the design students decided that the new center couldn't be built next to the present center while it was still in operation.

The committee then went to Gordon Rutherford, director of UNC Facilities Planning and Design, to see about a possible site on campus to build the new center. Although

Rutherford didn't promise a site for the new center, he let the students look at a possible location, Bridges said.

The students then designed a 94-page book about the present center, the plans for the new one and the various options that were considered. Bridges said a licensed archi-

tect has not been hired and the new center has not been priced.

"I hope the University will support the building of a new center," Harris said. "The center cannot meet their demands because they are limited by size. Also there is a need for infant care, not only at Victory Village, but also in Chapel Hill. A

new building is definitely needed in order to meet rising demands."

Bridges said she hoped to gather support for the new center at the celebration that will be held on Oct. 15. With strong support, more definite plans for the center will be made.



DTH/David Surowiecki

Annarose Holland and Justin Alberti play at the daycare center

Crime

according to the report. The couch was later returned by fraternity members.

The stolen table was recovered by campus police.

"I'm really not at liberty to say much about it," Lewis said. "I was not instructed to do it by the fraternity. We took the furniture with the intention to take it back the next day."

"What gets me is that they're saying the pledge trainer might be in trouble. He didn't have anything to do with it."

Lewis said he had not been told to take the furniture, but that it is something that pledges have always done. He said he has talked to the owner of the stolen property and she understands the situation.

Garside declined comment on the incident.

Members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity also declined comment.

Jody Ross, president of Chi Omega

sorority, also declined comment. "I'd really rather not say anything about it," she said.

Capt. Ralph Pendergraph of the Chapel Hill Police Department said he is not sure what actions will be

taken against the four students.

"I realize they consider it a prank," he said. "But by the statute it's a theft."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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