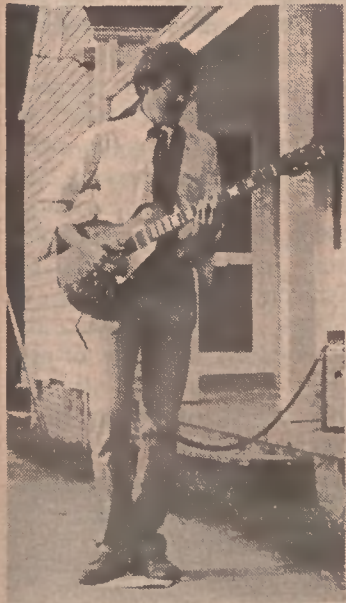


## SONGS FROM THE CELLAR

by Elizabeth Brown

When the name Dr. Steven Esthimer is mentioned, most students at St. Mary's think of a witty religion teacher. Few are aware, however, of the extra-curricular activities that take place in the basement of his home in Durham. Dr. Esthimer is a member of the group of musicians who call themselves, appropriately, "The Basement Band."

Dr. Esthimer's musical interests date back to 1965 when, as a high school freshman, he



Dr. Steven Esthimer

became involved in a band called "The Intruders." With "The Intruders", he played guitar and banjo. "I tried to create my own 'electric banjo' by keeping a microphone inside the instrument while I played it." Dr. Esthimer stayed with "The Intruders" until 1967, when he became involved in another group called "The Agrarian Revolt." "The 'Agrarian Revolt' was mainly a jug band," he explained. He remained with them until 1969, when he graduated from high school.

During his undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he conducted solo performances at coffee houses and in talent shows. Dr. Esthimer also taught folk and traditional songs to children at the YMCA. He enjoyed the music of Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie, "but especially Woody Guthrie. He was really down to earth." Dr. Esthimer employed their techniques in his own performances, using a banjo and a fiddle. He temporarily abandoned his musical interests during his graduate studies at Duke Divinity School, but later re-entered the musical world in March of 1981.

"The Basement Band" was formed in early 1981 when Chris Potter, a friend of Dr. Esthimer's from Duke, suggested they get together with Spence Fosque, a drummer and Charles Blackburn, a guitarist. Chris knew that Dr. Esthimer had a growing collection of in-

struments, including a banjo, fiddle and a guitar. A piano which Dr. Esthimer purchased for \$100 complemented the collection. Chris thought it would be fun to get together and play some. Spence Fosque, who worked as a nurse at Durham County Hospital, asked saxophonist Dr. Hiro Tenaka to join the band.

Dr. Esthimer rounded out the original group by playing both guitar and piano. "We played Sunday afternoons and evenings. It was a really friendly group. We just enjoyed each other's company."

The band met once or twice a month for the first year, during which time they added guitarist Steve Smith. This addition allowed Dr. Esthimer to concentrate on the keyboard. "But now, every time we get together, it seems we have a different group. If you made a list of all the people present at each session, you wouldn't have the same list twice." He added that since 1981, members of the band have also included three different bass players, two women singers, two harmonica players, three guitarists and a woman saxophone player. "We're just in it for a good time." Members of the band come from Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Rocky Mount.

With "The Basement Band", Dr. Esthimer hoped to move in a new direction with his music. "I wanted to get down and dirty, and play nasty, dirty rock." The music that the band plays is a combination of blues and rock-n-roll. Approximately half of what they play is composed by the band members themselves. "It is strictly improvisation. Someone starts playing something, then the others come in where it fits." Dr. Esthimer stresses the fact that no one in the group is a real musician. "All of us have an innate talent (with music). I can't even read music. I haven't had lessons. I do it by guts." Creative inspirations are a major spark in the band's composing. "Sometimes you play something you've never practiced before and it works. When everyone clicks, it's really exciting."

Another portion of the music they play has been composed by such well-known people as Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and Cream, Chuck Berry and Delbert McClinton. They also play blues tunes from B. B. King, Willie Dixon, Muddy Waters and the Butterfield Blues Band. "We were born and raised on this stuff." He said that they had also tried some material from newer artists such as The Police, Joe Jackson and The Pretenders, "but it just doesn't click."

There is no lead singer or

head member of the band. "There is a kind of co-operation. I get to be Eric Clapton for five minutes, then I fade back and someone else takes my place."

When the band gets together, however, they don't really practice. "It would feel too much like work," Dr. Esthimer says. They play a piece for as long as they want, and when they are finished with one song, they move on to another. "We're just there to have a good time." He remembers that when they first began playing, they would play Jimi Hendrix's song "The Watchtower" every time they got together, "sometimes for

half an hour. It was great."

The band has been known to play until 1:00 a.m. "We'd turn it down after 11:00 p.m., though." He insists that "when you're really into the music, you enter a new dimension of time. Your consciousness of time changes when you get charged up. Four hours can seem like twenty minutes. When you play, you're simply enveloping yourself in the music."

They don't mind if others come and watch them while they play. "If someone wants to bring an instrument and jump in, they can." Sophomore Lori Oates went to one practice ses-

sion and joined in, singing and playing guitar with the band. Last year, senior Catherine Davidson sang with the band for a few numbers. They are now practicing about once a month in Tyler Lounge, and he encourages students to come, listen and even join in with them.

Dr. Esthimer doesn't see an end to "The Basement Band" in the near future. He says that since they all are in the band primarily to have a good time, there really is not that much work involved. "We'll just quit whenever it gets to be too much trouble. But I don't think this is the kind of thing we'll outgrow."

## Kuwaitan Finds Great Success In A Booming American Business

by Anne S. Kuntz

As I ask, "Jamal, are you ready for your interview yet?" he replies laughingly, "Hold on let me get a beer first!" Jamal Haddad is the owner of Blimpie's located at 2402 Hillsborough Street. Jamal has owned Blimpie's for around eight months, and claims he had done more for this bar than the previous owner did in eight years! And I know from personal experience that this is fact.

Twenty-five year old Jamal was born in Kuwait, right outside Saudi Arabia. He is recently divorced, but still respects and admires his previous wife greatly. Jamal says, "Being single has its advantages and disadvantages." He still misses his ex-wife, though. Jamal came to America in March of 1978. He loves the United States and considers it his home. "Home isn't where you were born, but where you want to be," Jamal replies enthusiastically.

After strolling behind the bar for another beer, Jamal lights up a cigarette and we begin to chat about what it's like to own a local "hangout". He loves his work because it gives him the satisfaction of knowing that a "foreigner can be successful" in a booming American business. Jamal loves to work with people. "It's one way to deal with them, yet get to know Americans at the same time." Haddad also enjoys his co-workers - "if they are responsible and do their job right."

"What about the competition of the other bars? Does it bother you?" I ask. "Without competition, Anne, I'd be bored. It brings in more business; makes you think ahead of time." Jamal is on good working terms with next-door bar owner Barry Green, who owns Barry's II. "I promote Barry's beer specials, while he promotes my sandwiches." Jamal claims he "depends more on the food he serves, for income, rather than the beer he sells."

I was curious about whether the drinking age being hiked up to nineteen has had any effect on business. Jamal replies with a more serious tone in his voice, "Of course it has, but I'm more anxious with the new drunk driving laws. I care more concerned for people's lives, rather than a dwindling income."

Blimpie's is open seven days a week, from 10:00 a.m. to

1:00 a.m. Jamal carries eight kinds of bottled beer, five kinds of draught beer, and seventeen varieties of homemade sandwiches which are fabulous! Prices on beer range from 50 cents to 1.50 cents and sandwiches from \$2.00 to \$4.00. Jamal remarks that the activities provided at Blimpie's bring in more business also. Video games, pool table, foosball, a wide-screen t.v., and

great music add to the excitement.

Blimpie's is a place to have fun, but it can also be a place to get away from things. Its relaxing atmosphere makes it an ideal place to talk to friends at leisure. But on the weekends it rocks! One should make a point of meeting Jamal Haddad, a very happy and successful person, and a dear friend.

## Movie Review: Footloose

Contrary to popular belief, the movie *Footloose* is not the male version of *Flashdance*. It has a substantial storyline as well as excellent dancing. This film does not depend on sexual undertones; instead it is about a high school guy who loves to dance. And he is willing to take on a whole town who tries to make him stop.

Fresh from Chicago, Ren is astonished to learn that his new home - the small town of Beaumont - has banned rock-and-roll music and dancing. The parents of the town are convinced that the music is the root of evil and corruption and must be kept out of reach of their children. Ren, however, does not think so and decides to challenge them. His toughest opposition comes from the town minister who just happens to be the father of the most rebellious girl in town, Ariel. She, of course, is attracted to Ren from the beginning. Together, they attempt to change the town's way of thinking.

It is rare these days to see a film with such harmless subject matter. All they want to do is to dance. The high school setting and atmosphere puts you right back there with them - from the lockers in the hall to the hamburger hang-out. The major conflicts are between the parents and the students and the school bully and the new kid. These high school "kids", however, are mature enough to communicate their feelings to an audience of any age and to fight for what they want.

The film did have a few scenes that were incongruous with the rest of the film. But overall, it was refreshing to see a movie that wasn't dripping with sex and violence. Instead, the film was fun and uplifting. (Note: *Footloose* is now playing at the Imperial Theatre in Cary Village Mall.)

## About Tanning Booths

by Beth Morris

Have you ever wanted to look just a little more tan for a special occasion? Or get the foundation for one before you went to the beach? For many people this means a trip to the tanning salon for a quick zap of artificial sun rays. Have you ever wondered about their effects or what could happen to you in the future because of (Continued on page 4)

## BRITISH TEENAGER FINDS LIFE DIFFERENT IN U.S.

[Continued from Page 1]

ments, "The food is much better here compared with Badinton." The girls have three meals a day, plus tea from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. One positive aspect of Badminton was that the girls studied more, especially on the weekends, because their course loads were heavy. Suzanne remarked, "We got out of class each day around 6:45 p.m. This was a long day but we had four thirty minute breaks throughout the day."

Suzanne likes the activities offered at St. Mary's. Her happiest moment this year came when she got into the Spiders, a club for St. Mary's sophomores. She was "truly delighted."

"At Badminton I was on the field hockey team and the netball team (a variation of basketball) but we never had anything like the Spiders. It is a good idea to have such a variety of clubs as we do at St. Mary's."

Suzanne plans to stay in North Carolina and has applied to become an American citizen. Aside from visiting more of the U.S. she would like to visit England again this summer. Suzanne plans to work in a job having to do with travel, one for which she is certainly well qualified.

## Letter to the editor

[Continued from page 2]

they be forced into having their parents know of their sexual activity? If young people wish to discuss this issue with their parents, they should be free to do so. The government needs to be aware of the "squeal rule"

will only decrease the number of youths seeking contraceptives. The "squeal rule" should never become law. It will do more harm than good.

Katherine White