

For the love of the games

Couple hopes for success with new PlayStation arcade

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Video game fanatics now have a place all their own right here in Winston-Salem, thanks to Calvin and Donna Gantt, owners of the New Age Arcade. The Gantts recently opened an arcade on Farmall Street, but it's not your typical arcade with pin ball machines, air hockey and other traditional console games.

Located next to New Generation Barbershop, New Age offers video gamers the chance to play the latest and greatest Sony PlayStation 2 games while waiting on their turn in the barber chair next door.

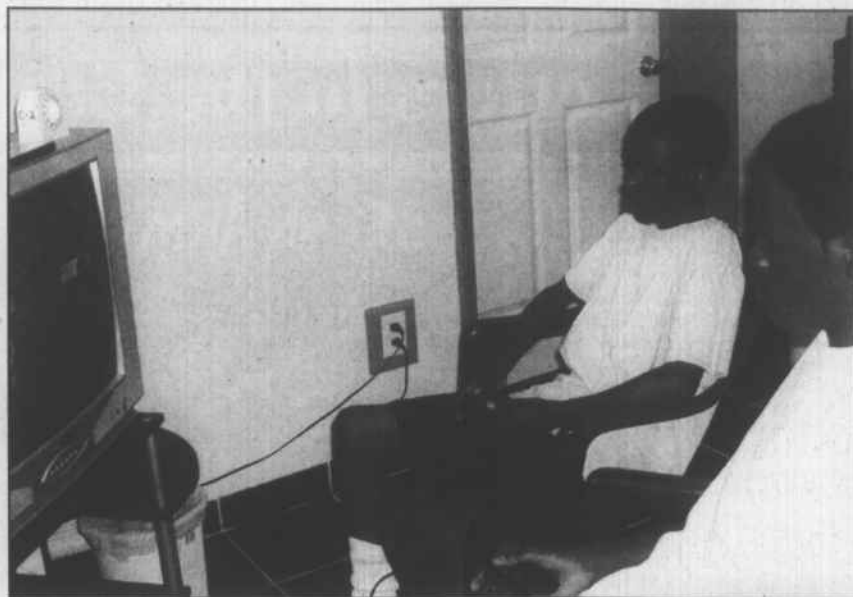
"A lot of customers come in and they talk about playing on the PlayStation 2 against their own friends. So I decided to come up with a common ground where they can come, feel relaxed and play against anybody," said Gantt, who is also a barber at New Generation Barbershop. Gantt graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1992 with a degree in graphic design.

Customers can rent out the video game controls for a few dollars. The arcade has several game stations.

"I try to get the most requested and played games, which are mostly sports games and some combat games," said Gantt.

The arcade business is truly a family affair with Gantt's sons, Calvin III and Corey, running the shop while dad cuts hair next door. A 2-way communicator keeps them in touch so that customers know when it's their turn to put down the controls and get a shape up.

Gantt has stocked the arcade with snack items essential for any video game connoisseurs. Remote control



Photos by Courtney Gaillard

Above: Kids try their luck at a PlayStation 2 game. Right: Calvin Gantt and his wife, Donna, have opened the arcade beside a popular barbershop.

cars can also be rented at the arcade and sports wear is on sale for the fashion conscious.

Growing up, Gantt says he remembers the days when Atari and Nintendo were all the rave. When he finds time, Gantt says he still enjoys getting his hand on some game controls and understands why playing the games can be addictive.

"If you're 30- or 40- years old and you love basketball, you can't play it as well as you used to, but when you are on those (controls) you can play like you want to," said Gantt, with a chuckle.

The arcade is open most afternoons and Gantt says word is spreading and people are realizing that there is more than just a barbershop open. Customers can rent the arcade out for parties and Gantt will even pack up all of the equipment and bring the arcade to



you, as he has already done at several recreation centers in the community. Gantt is also considering starting up a tournament for locals who believe they've mastered games like Madden 2003, NBA Live, NCAA College Football 2004 and Grand Theft Auto.

"I love to see a smiling child. I'm trying to get all ages to come to the arcade but especially the kids," Gantt said.

Currently Gantt is working with the city Recreation and Parks Department on setting

up transportation for youngsters who don't live within walking distance of the arcade.

Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised in the arcade.

New Age Arcade is open Tue.-Wed. 1-6 p.m., Fri. 12-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 3-6 p.m.

White House official to speak at church event

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A White House official is scheduled to speak at a local church service next week. Jeremy White, the associate director of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, will give the keynote speech at the International True Vine Churches of Deliverance Founder's Day Luncheon on Aug. 8.

Apostle Sylvester Davis Johnson, presiding prelate, will be honored at the luncheon. The Faith Based and Community Initiatives program is being pushed by President Bush as a way for churches and other religious organizations to receive federal money to create initiatives that will help ease problems such as substance abuse, crime and underachievement. Faith Based and Community Initiatives has raised its share of controversy. Some say the program blurs the line between church and state.

But many church leaders are excited about the program and the possibility of getting financial help for efforts to help communities. International True Vine Churches of Deliverance hopes to take advantage of faith based initiative dollars. The church is in the middle of its City of Hope plan, which will work to build housing and recreation centers on about 40 acres of land here in the city. The church says it has already procured the land



Johnson

for the project. The initial construction boom will be the first of many phases, officials said. White is expected to talk to the group more in-depth about Bush's program. Several bishops from the International True Vine Churches of Deliverance are expected to be on hand for the luncheon. White's speech will be broadcasted live via satellite to International True Vine Churches of Deliverance members throughout the country.

This is not the first time that a Washington official has come to Winston-Salem to push Bush's initiative. In February, Hairston Clark of the Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives, spoke to dozens of local ministers about the program during a conference at Winston-Salem State University.

For more information about the event, call 725-2190.

Paschal's

from page A2

April, Broadnax couldn't fix a date on when the razing will actually occur. He did say that he hoped that the first students would be moving in sometime in 2004.

Several members of the Coalition to Save Paschal's also dropped by the meeting and were initially rebuffed at the door to Harkness Hall. That infuriated coalition member Joseph Lewis who eventually worked his way to the third-floor meeting room.

"This is criminal," fumed Lewis following the "near hour-long news conference. "It seems to me that when CAU bought the building

some years ago, the first thing they should have done was put it on the National Register of Historic places. There is money to do that. There just isn't any willingness to save historic structures within the Black community."

Umojaa Ajabu, an Atlanta minister and member of Concerned Black Clergy, pleaded with Broadnax to keep the structure open through August so that a meeting he and other leaders had arranged with church leadership that month could still be held at Paschal's. Broadnax turned down his request.

According to coalition members, Broadnax had agreed to meet with them Aug. 12 to continue the discussion of alternatives to demolition.

Many indirectly expressed the feeling that CAU's president had betrayed them.

Tillman Ward, another coalition member and an activist in the Vine City community agreed.

"When we met with Dr Broadnax last [July 16], there were options to consider, we thought. Now they tell us they have decided to do what they said they would do in the first place. Broadnax says he is doing this for the good of the CAU, which is his first priority. But what about the community, which supported those schools and sent their kids to them? The MLK corridor between Northside and Ashby [now Joseph Lowery Blvd.] is a learning lab. Are we about to lose all of that?"

Online

from page A1

designed The Chronicle's first site was based in Baltimore.

Chronicle employees worked closely with Wake Forest University's Knowledge 2 Work to design the Web site and make it user-friendly. The three-year-old Knowledge 2 Work program helps Wake students from middle- to lower-income families who have strong computer skills earn an hourly wage by designing Web sites and performing other technical tasks for nonprofit groups, corporations and individuals.

The site will be updated by Friday of each week (usually on Thursday by the afternoon), and will feature at least 50 percent of the content found in the regular paper, including sports and religion stories and op/ed pieces. Also included on the site are stories submitted by local churches, fraternal groups and individuals about local events and happenings.

Letters to the editor can be submitted from the site. E-mails can also be sent directly to an individual member of The Chronicle staff. The four most recent issues of The Chronicle will be stored at the archives link on the site. Online readers who want to receive the paper by mail, can also sign-up for a subscription online.

The site is still a work in

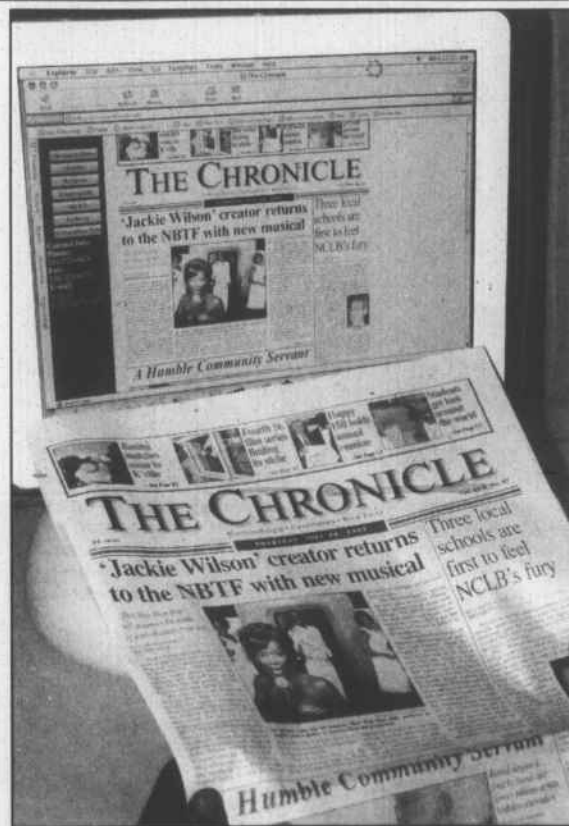


Photo by Kevin Walker

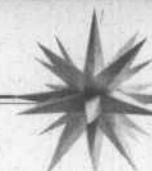
The Chronicle Web site is a mirror image of the newspaper that is put out each Thursday.

progress, says Walker. "We want to hear from our readers at this point. We want to know what features they want to see on the site and the type of stories they want to

read more of," he said. "I think the site will only get better over time as we hear from the people who will use it on a weekly basis."

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