

Permits in Hand, New Club Set to Go

Scott Egbert, owner of Carrboro's latest club, Go!, hopes his club will fill a void in the music scene.

By Verna Kale
Arts & Features Editor

Go! Rehearsal Studio Room Four started out on the wrong side of the law. Ben Folds Five had used the studio for rehearsal. When they went on tour and left the larger fourth room vacant, Scott Egbert, owner of the studio, decided to make use of the room as a performance venue.

He did so without first attaining the proper permits and managed to operate the club for about three months before the authorities put a stop to all the fun.

"One day the fire marshal came," Egbert said. "I knew he would come."

After that, Egbert decided to apply for all the proper permits so the club could continue to operate. After what seemed to him like a long and expensive wait, Go! opened legitimately for business last Thursday.

Egbert felt that the performance space was already perfect, complete with a stage, balcony, and other "cool stuff." In order to get the building up to code, however, some improvements had to be made, like the addition of bathrooms.

Egbert described the whole process as "kind of weird."

"We did everything backwards. The architect drew what we'd already built."

The same day that the permit was approved, Go! opened for business. The club did not attain a permit to sell beer until the following day, but now the club is fully functional.

Go! provided a venue for several bands playing at last Sunday's "Fete de la Musique" in Carrboro.

Egbert said the festival was a good test of the new facilities. He had already scheduled some bands to play there, but because of the rainy weather, bands playing outdoor venues moved indoors to Go!. Egbert said he felt the club met the challenge.

Go! may be new on the scene, but the club has an older connection to the Chapel Hill music scene. Andy McMillan, former owner of the Lizard and Snake Cafe, which closed last year, was instrumental in getting Go! off the ground, as was Frank Heath of Cat's Cradle.

Egbert feels that competition does not pose a threat to the relationship between Go! and the area's other two primary venues, Cat's Cradle and Local 506.

On the contrary, he said he feels the new club fills a void that was left when the Lizard and Snake closed.

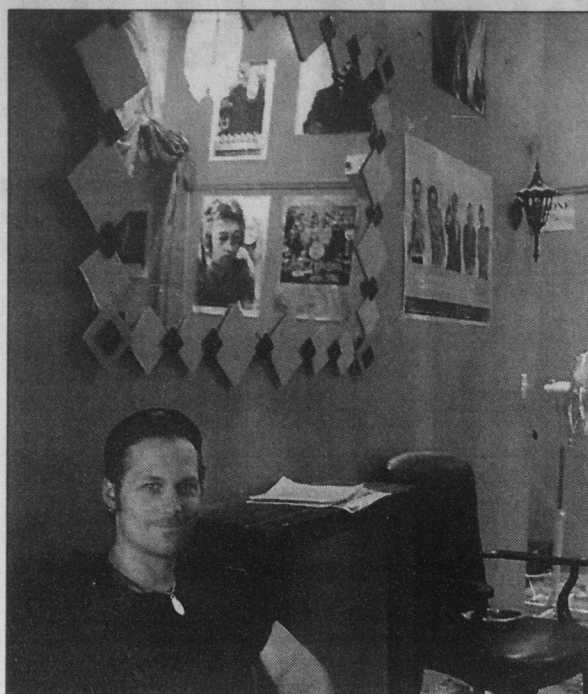
"We are an outlet for bands not quite ready for the Cradle — like a farm team for the Cradle," Egbert said. "It's an incestuous little relationship."

Go! in its previous illegal incarnation often hosted overflow acts for the Cradle. Legally able to hold about 100 people, Go! can pack in enough people for "a jumpin' little rock show," whereas such a small crowd would seem lackluster at a bigger venue like the Cradle.

However, Egbert does not underestimate the talent his club attracts and emphasizes the diversity of the acts he has booked.

"We get jazz people and noise rock, electronic stuff," Egbert said.

The enthusiastic response of the crowds sometimes even surprises Egbert, he said.



Scott Egbert, owner of Go! Rehearsal Studio Room Four, says his new club has something for everyone.

"People pile in. You gotta have something for everybody," he said.

Now that Go! has all its permits and operates legally, Egbert has plans to expand the club's schedule. He hopes to have about four bands a week.

He also hopes to continue to rent the

space out for events like private parties and raves.

"You walk in this place and you're ready to party," Egbert said.

The Arts & Features Editor can be reached at vee@email.unc.edu.

Project to Chronicle Experience of Asians

Members of a community education group say a study of Asian immigrants' lives will benefit the local area.

By Laura Sykes
Staff Writer

A local Asian cultural group leader is compiling an oral history of South Asian immigrants to document their journey to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

Andrew Jilani, project coordinator for Asian Voices, a local community educational group, said, "Our main goal is to document the lives of South Asian immigrants and find out how they create communities for themselves and how they extend themselves into other communities," Jilani said.

The history of the immigrants will primarily be documented through a series of 15 in-depth interviews with South Asian families.

Jilani, an immigrant from Pakistan, said he began developing the project during last fall. He said he drafted a proposal for funding and presented it to the N.C. Humanities Council, which is providing a grant of approximately \$12,200 for the project.

"The Humanities Council's primary purpose is to sponsor programs that focus on the historical self-understanding and diversity of tradition and culture that comprise our state," said Harlan Gradin, assistant director of the N.C. Humanities Council.

Georgann Eubanks, chairwoman of the council, said the council liked challenging projects like Jilani's because they reached multiple audiences.

"This kind of project is one the council has been very excited about because of North Carolina's changing demographics," she said.

Those involved in the Asian Voices project are in the process of forming relationships with the immigrant fami-

lies. "It is often quite difficult to talk about immigration," said Rajika Bhandari, an Asian Voices group member who is going to be interviewing families.

Asian Voices seeks to include a diversity of religions, such as Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists, as well as different classes and genders, Jilani said.

Gradin said, "The oral history Asian Voices will gather will help introduce these new North Carolinians to the rest of the community in a very visible way."

Aravinda Desilva, professor of microbiology at UNC, is also involved in the interviewing process. "We will ask the families what brought them here and what they consider their community to be," he said.

Desilva said the immigrants have come to the area for a variety of reasons, either as refugees, students or professionals. "Many of people here were attracted by the University and by Research Triangle Park," he said.

Gradin said, "I think this project is a way of giving the larger community of Chapel Hill and Carrboro an idea of who these people are, what they aspire to and what they fear."

Jilani said the project, scheduled for completion in September, would have three outcomes: a photo exhibit, a booklet to be distributed among local public schools and a community forum.

"The main focus of the booklet is to show diversity in Chapel Hill and Carrboro in a concrete form," Jilani said. "The community forum will be a cultural celebration in which the immigrant families can be introduced to their new community."

Gradin said, "If we can appreciate the differences, it gives us the opportunity to welcome these new residents as neighbors who will help build our community, not as some representative other of whom we are afraid."

The City/State & National Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Hunt Names New Transportation Secretary

Associated Press

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Hunt named David McCoy as state transportation

secretary Tuesday, succeeding Norris Tolson, who resigned to run for governor.

McCoy, a career state employee, has

been acting secretary of the N.C. Department of Transportation since late last month. The NCDOT has an annual budget of about \$2.7 billion and close to 14,000 employees.

"I will focus my efforts on continuing the positive changes already put in place in the Department of Transportation," said McCoy, who was Hunt's deputy chief of staff before being appointed acting NCDOT secretary.

McCoy, 46, will take control of a department still trying to regain its bearings after news reports in 1997 about ethical lapses, including NCDOT members pushing road projects that could benefit their own business interests. Three board members resigned and

Secretary Garland Garrett lost his job.

After Tolson's departure last month, Hunt appeared before the transportation board and pledged to pick a successor who would continue Tolson's reforms.

One of McCoy's first jobs at the NCDOT will be to help the board finalize the state's road-building plan for the coming two years.

McCoy, a Chippewa Indian, began his state government career 12 years ago as deputy director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

He was legal counsel and later deputy secretary at the state Department of Administration before joining Hunt's staff in late 1997.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

The ArtsCenter: 300-G E. Main St., Carrboro, 929-2787.
Cat's Cradle: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro, 967-9053.
Local 506: 506 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, 942-5506.
Skylight Exchange: 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, 933-5550.

p.m. at Carrboro ArtsCenter

Sunday, June 27

- Peyote Circus at Local 506.

Monday, June 28

- Face to Face w/ No Motiv at Cat's Cradle.

Wednesday, June 30

- The Hang Dogs w/ El Dealer at Local 506.

ART

- Paintings by Contemporary Artist Arlene Florence. A show of paintings entitled "Summer Solstice." On exhibit through July 18 at Chapel Hill Museum.
- North Carolina Artists Exhibition 1999. 48th NCAE features recent work by N.C. artists. On exhibit through Aug. 8 at the N.C. Museum of Art.
- UNC Students Exhibit. Graduate art students exhibit their work. Through Aug. 12 at John and June Allcott Gallery, Hanes Art Center, UNC campus.

THEATER

- "Hannah Elias" Herman LeVern Jones Theatre Consultant Agency, Inc. June 23-27. 1317-103 Kirklind Rd., Raleigh. 836-9355.

PLAN AHEAD

- R.E.M. w/ Wilco Aug. 27. Walnut Creek Amphitheatre, Raleigh. 834-4000.
- Bob Dylan and Paul Simon July 14. Walnut Creek Amphitheatre, Raleigh. 834-4000.
- Dave Matthews Band July 31. Walnut Creek Amphitheatre, Raleigh. 834-4000.
- "The Lover" A Harold Pinter Play July 23-24 & 30-31. At the ArtsCenter.

Thursday, June 24

- The Blue Dogs at Cat's Cradle.
- Zweenen at Local 506.
- Baryonyx at Skylight Exchange.
- Vertical Horizon at Tremont Music Hall in Charlotte.
- Bulgari 8 p.m. at The ArtsCenter.

Friday, June 25

- The Blue Rags at Cat's Cradle.
- Harvest at Skylight Exchange.
- Jack Black w/ The Pleasantdales, The Dirty Feather Boas at Local 506.
- Eddie From Ohio at The ArtsCenter.

Saturday, June 26

- The Old 97's with Slobberbone at Cat's Cradle.
- Candella, The Doleful Lions at Local 506.
- Suburban Love Junkies at Skylight Exchange.
- Summer Philidor Percussion Festival 8

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