

After five-year hiatus, a boozeless Spur returns

By JOLEEN FIREK
Staff writer

Have you ever wished for a local hang out that is fun and easy to get to? Or are you tired of the hassle of being carded at the same ole' places, like The Cockpit, CP's, Greenstreets, Muldoons? Well, does USC have the place for you!

It's called the Golden Spur, and it's the happening place on campus for good times and entertainment. The events and entertainment are sponsored by the Carolina Program Union. If you haven't been there yet, go on in and check it out. The Golden Spur is conveniently located on the second floor of the Russell House, right next door to the Wild Pizza. It is a key location for students and a great place to meet friends.

The Golden Spur just celebrated its opening week Jan. 13-20, during which it had an overwhelming response from the students and the public. Opening week, the Golden Spur provided a different program every night. Starting the week off on Thursday, Jan. 12, was a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception. Friday night, the Cartwrights entertained for the Golden Spur's Friday the Thirteenth Celebration. RHA

sponsored a D.J. Dance with WYYS 97 on Saturday, and Sunday was a jazz night with D'Fellas. An all-day Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration took place Monday, and on Tuesday an all-day cartoon festival was held. Wednesday there were two jazzercise exhibitions with demonstrations. Thursday, Jan. 19, began the CPU-sponsored Thursday Nite Live, with Barry Drake as guest-star, and closing opening week on Friday was a D.J. and Open Mic, an event which allows students and the public to try out their acts on stage in front of a live audience. The daily average attendance of the week's events was about 250.

The Golden Spur was always a local campus hang-out until five years ago. It was closed down in 1984 when the drinking age in South Carolina went up to 21. Though the Golden Spur re-opened, it will remain a non-alcoholic club.

The Spur is made up of two rooms: a reading room and a program room. It is open during the day, and students are encouraged to take advantage of it. Rob Sandruck, graduate assistant for the Golden Spur, remarked, "We encourage people to check it out. It's here for the students, and it's very student-oriented. It's a great place

for people to eat lunch and hang out."

The Golden Spur subscribes to two newspapers and twelve magazines, which are available in the reading room. There is also a stereo, VCR and a TV. It is a glitzy place, resembling a select nightclub.

Troy Towers, a photojournalism junior, has been to two Spur events and comments, "It's a nice atmosphere, and I really like it. It's a cool place to hang out or even study." Heather Motto, a biology junior and a member of CPU reflected, "I know the comedian (Barry Drake) went over really well, as well as the other programs. We're expecting things to build as people realize it's here."

Any student organization looking for a place to hold an event will find the Spur available, but there is mandatory open-admission. Entrance into non-student organization events will vary, though there is no admission fee during the day.

A large variety of coming events is in store for the second half of this semester. A Jazz Series is being planned, along with student band performances, Experimental Theatre and French theatre, scheduled for two nights at the end of March.

The Golden Spur
Entertainment
during February

2 John Serry Quartet
16 Group Sax

Televised
Basketball Games

4 (8pm) Clemson

11 (2pm) Memphis
State

18 (2pm) S. Mississippi

25 (1pm) Louisville



Banzai bed guy

Furniture maker reinstates old craft

By DONNIE CORNELL
Staff writer

Well, here it is, a little insight on the new furniture phenomenon — the futon, a flexible mattress and wooden frame growing in popularity for its practicality, versatility and affordability.

First, it must be made clear that the futon is not new at all, but instead originated in Japan hundreds of years ago. American innovations have further improved the futon's usefulness from that of its ancestor's. Originally used as bedding, the futon now may serve as a sofa, love seat or chair.

The futon meets the needs of today's health-conscious world by gaining the approval of many chiropractors for its firm, even back support. Also, it's practical for those of us who have limited space and funds for respectable-looking furniture.

Futons have reached Columbia and USC.

They popped up one day in that supposed jungle on Greene Street in the living room of USC media arts major John Weisensee.

When Weisensee moved to Columbia, he could not find futons any closer than Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C. Hearing opportunity's knock, Weisensee decided to start his own futon business. Family and friends donated tools, sewing machines and a few materials with which to get started. It earned him the nickname "Futon John" and made him owner and builder of Greenseats Futons.

His futons are now paying his way through school, he says. Low overhead makes it possible for Weisensee to build quality futons that range from \$169 to \$229, depending upon the size.

Another advantage for futon buyers in Columbia is that Greenseats Futons are made to order. Mattresses, from muslin to tie-dye, and specially made frames are available. Weisensee has filled orders for customers from as far away as Nashville, Tenn., Charleston and Chapel Hill, N.C.

Weisensee said he plans to improve his advertising, but at the moment word of mouth and flyers are his chief means.



John Weisensee, alias "Futon John," stands behind one of his Japanese-style futons, a folding mattress popular in the Orient.

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Wed. Feb. 1 Face Of Concern (Mainstream Rock & Roll)

Thurs. Feb. 2 Mr. Crow's Garden

Fri. Feb. 3 Mary My Hope (tunes like Gun 'n' Roses & Led Zepplin)

Sat. Feb. 4 Glenn Phillips SST Records - Guitar Wizard

Sun. Feb. 5 Free Acoustic Every Sunday

Mon. Feb. 6 The Foot Notes From Nashville

Tues. Feb. 7 Groovy Cools Every Tuesday

ALL ABC REGULATIONS ENFORCED

So Santa forgot your compact disc player. Well, you're in luck, because Gamecock Park in Russell House is giving away a CD Player in February, March and April.

To enter, all you need to do is put your name, address and local phone number on the back of your receipt from either Fast Break, Gamecock or Wild Pizza. Place it in the box under the street sign in the Wild Pizza dining area across from the Golden Spur.

Drawings will be held February 28th, March 31st, and April 24th. We will be posting a new winner each month.

Come check out the new Gamecock Park next to the Spur and register to win your CD Player. GOOD LUCK!

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