

Club caters to USC students and grads

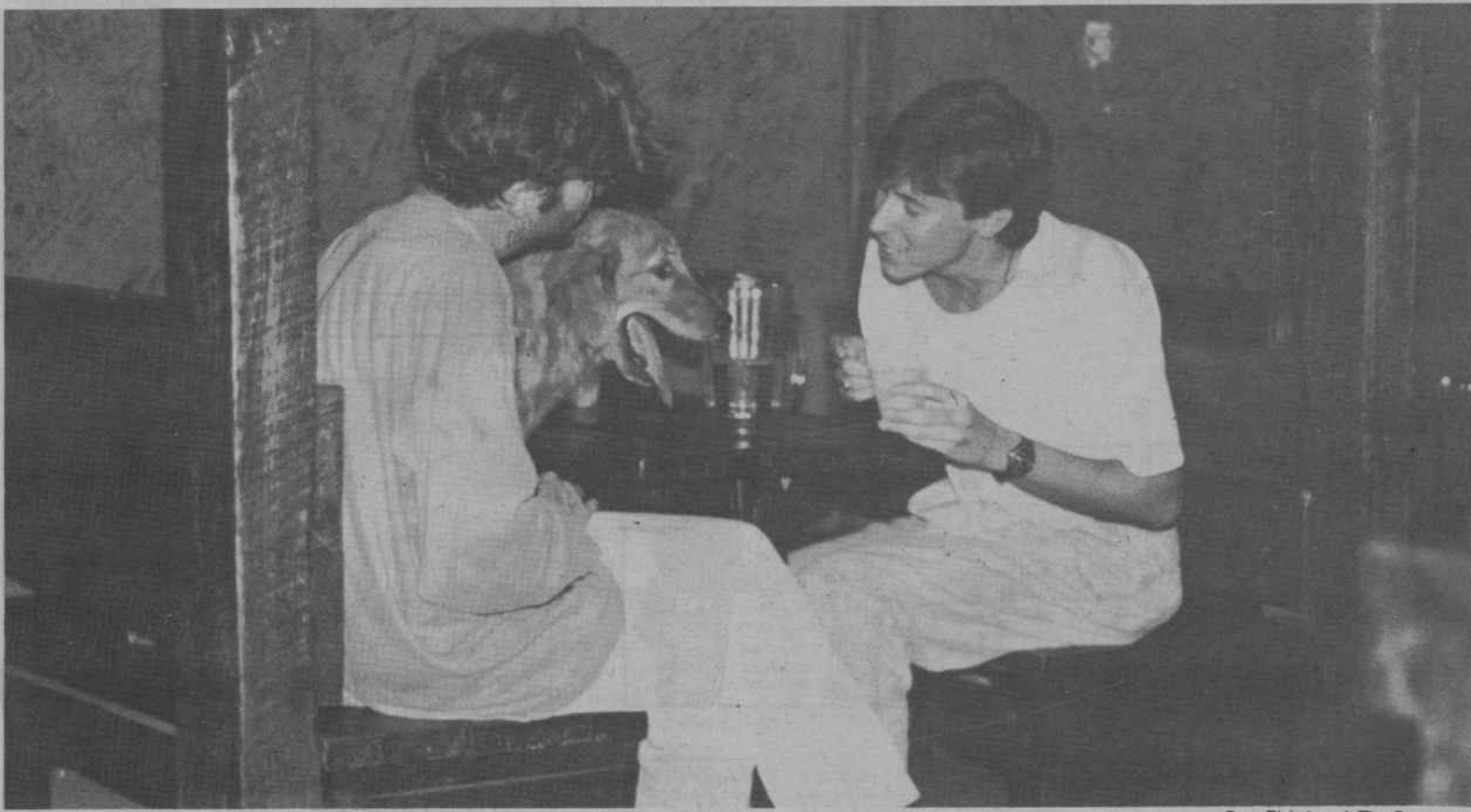
'Group' gives customers good therapy

Cola

By JACK DUNN
Staff Writer

Tucked away in its own little corner of Five Points, away from the main traffic that crowds the streets every Friday and Saturday night, is a bar called Group Therapy. Situated next to Superior Feet on Greene Street, it's easy to miss unless you've been there before.

One of the fixtures of Five Points, it has remained under the same ownership since 1979, and has been a source of enjoyment over the years for many USC students and graduates. It is one of the few places that remains open



Greg Rickabaugh/The Gamecock

Bruce Fennell, left, and Scott Harlin relax late Thursday evening with Fennell's dog, Chester, at Group Therapy. The bar allows animals inside.

anti-business, but we're not overly commercial either," he said.

Mearns also made it clear that all are welcome as long as they are respectful of the other customers. "We don't cater to snobbery."

Many of the people who work at Group Therapy are USC students or grads. They all agree that it is a great place to work and gather.

David Ludwig, bartender and a graduate in business administration, has worked at Group Therapy for three months.

"We've got a lot of regulars who come in here, students and older people who talk about the good times they had here," Ludwig said.

Jon Bykalo, a chemistry major at USC, is the night manager at Group Therapy. "We get such a wide variety of people in here. On any weekend night you could see a guy in a three-piece suit, a guy in dreadlocks or a metalhead. It doesn't matter what you look like or what kind of clothes you wear," Bykalo said.

"Our specials are the same things we've had for months and months. We don't change things every weekend to lure customers."

George Mearns, Owner

until 3 a.m., a great number of people who frequent other places often end up at "Group", as it is affectionately called.

The owner, George Mearns, has a good philosophy about running a bar and about the people he likes to see come into his place. "Let all the people who want to cause trouble go somewhere else. We're just a regular bar, a place for people to socialize and have a good time, and not have to worry about the people around them," Mearns said.

When asked about what specials they had planned for the weekend, Mearns simply laughed. "Our specials are the same things we've had for months and months. We don't change things every weekend to lure customers. We're happy with the business we have already. Don't get me wrong, we're not

Nights

City to lose popular club

By KIPP SHIVES
Staff Writer

This week, we celebrate the death of an institution.

Perhaps I am too kind. And don't get me wrong. I'm not talking about the Communist Party. Dennis Shealy does that enough as it is. I mourn the loss of a friend, this week, a part of the Columbia nightlife that has meant a lot to some of us around these parts.

No, not J.D. Sticky's. Sticky's passed on a few weeks ago. I'm talking about Greenstreet's.

I couldn't even begin to tell you how many great shows have been held between those walls. I don't have to. Most of you have been there too. I understand that in hard economic times, business is tough.

Alcohol sales are down. Liquor taxes are up. And getting ripped is almost faux pas with DUI arrests and the new Columbia city ordinance limiting public drinking. The death of clubs like Greenstreet's is inevitable, just a harmless casualty

of the war on drugs.

It's a shame. And what will become of Greenstreet's? Perhaps another tacky comedy improv will spring up, or maybe a shag venue for our parents? Who knows?

Greenstreet's shuts its doors tomorrow night with the Root Doctors, ending its 12 year history. The cover charge is \$5. Stop by and say goodbye to an old friend.

Or if Rockafella's is more to your liking, several local bands will team up with Rykodisc recording artists Barking Tribe, a semi-southern rock band with a slight edge from Alabama, on Saturday night as well. The cover is five smackers.

The first, Blightbody, is fairly well known around Columbia and Florence. Their van is of the beautiful white variety, covered with painted-on house flies. And their music is sort of neat too.

Their lead singer, Brian McCarter, said of it, "Most bands sing about the world or about them-

selves. Our songs are not really 'about' anything. I see them as fantastic little toys with their own internal laws and logic. Little worlds unto themselves." Well, um, yeah... see for yourself, I suppose.

Spigot, the other band on the marquee, is also from Columbia. Together about nine months now, this will be the group's second visit to the Rockafellas' stage. Most of Spigot's past performances have been at various parties and friend's houses.

Don't let this discourage you. Spigot is an incredible force that must be dealt with. Their sound varies between a harsh crashing chaos and more-melodic quirky keyboard riffs. They are Sonic Youth meets the Sugarbubes. Go see them. The cover is five dollars for three bands.

My apartment has free cable hookup. Well, it isn't free but we aren't paying for it. And I don't know what to call that. But any-

way, what I'm trying to say is I've been watching a lot of TV as of late.

Nickelodeon is the coolest network. Forget MTV. Nick is just too great. I watched this show the other day that incorporates information about different insects and nifty things like being nice to each other and stuff. It was so cool. And at night, Nick shows all those gay black and white reruns.

Nick is the network that founded the show where, periodically, people get green gook plopped on their heads. C'mon. How cool can you be? If you get free cable, or if for some reason you pay for it, try out Nick.

Next week, I'll tell you about the Dave Smith Quartet, a local band of some truly insane music majors who perform experimental acoustic jazz. WUSC plans to bring them to the Russell House patio for a series of free shows during lunch. Take note.



Courtesy of Todd Turner

From left to right, Todd Godd, Bryan Williams, Brian McCarter and John Furr make up the band, Blightbody.

'High energy' club to open

By TINA JOWERS
Staff Writer

The Dance Factory, a new club at the Sheraton on Bush River Road, will add a new dimension to Columbia night life when it opens its doors 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The grand opening party will feature prizes including an opportunity to dance your way to Hollywood for the 1991 MTV Music Video Awards. The best dancers will be chosen from the crowd. All of the contestants will receive a pair of L.A. Gear shoes or a Paula Abdul CD.

There will be opportunities to win premiere passes by listening to WNOK. Pass holders will be admitted at 7 p.m. where they can

enjoy a "free pour" for an hour.

Bar manager Johnny Jones said the new club surpasses all other dance clubs in Columbia. Jones said the club will have a "big emphasis on ladies."

Beginning Sept. 11, every Wednesday will be Ladies night. Single women will be treated to valet parking when they arrive at the Sheraton. Male models will be carrying trays of hors d'oeuvres. The club will also provide a buffet. Prizes, including roses, chocolate candy and a year's supply of pantyhose will be given on a weekly basis.

The Dance Factory will replace Saints.

"The new club will be more

high energy," Jones said.

The club has also been remodeled and will feature a huge video screen as well as three televisions. New sound and lighting has been added which Jones describes as "awesome."

Another feature of the club will be the chance to get a VIP card, which will entitle cardholders to privileges to the sauna, weight room and restaurant as well as reduced rates on rooms. Applications will be passed out to people standing in line and the cards will be mailed.

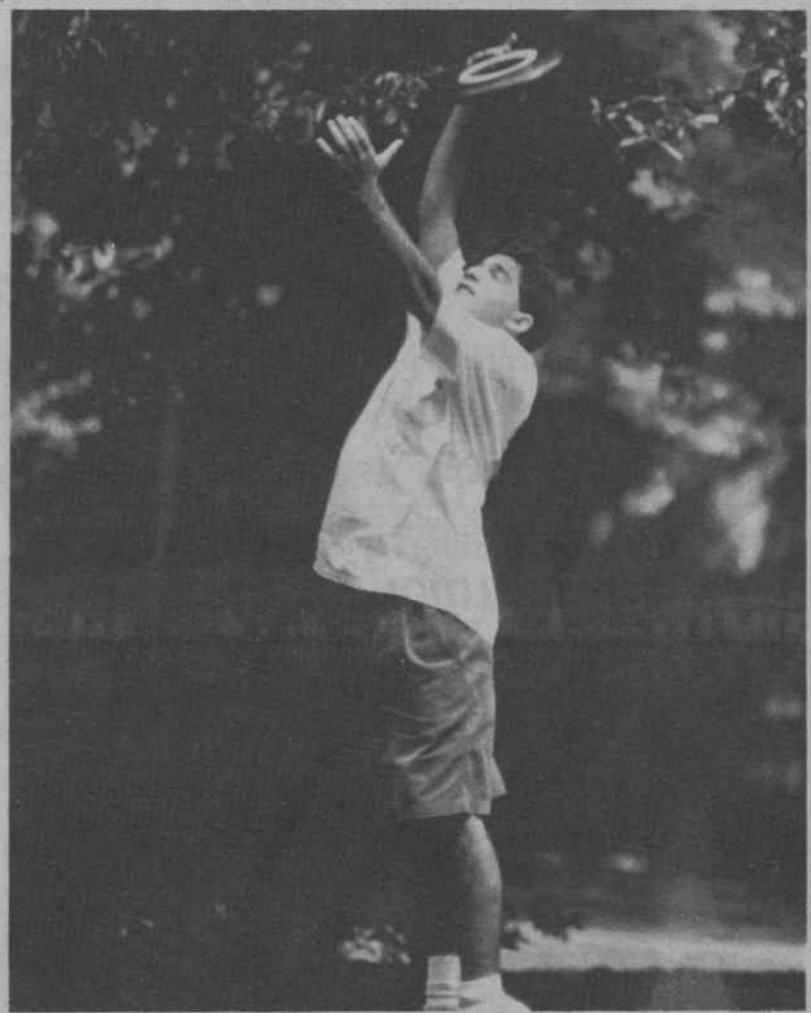
Upcoming weeks are going to bring more grand opening parties which will include a lot of cash gi-

veaways and prizes. Some events to look for include 'Dance in the Sand' and 'You Can Tan with the Band' Thursday, which will offer the chance to win \$10,000 in cash and prizes and a choice of six different vacations.

There will be a pep rally Friday featuring the USC cheerleaders and a giveaway of Carolina-Clemson football tickets.

The happy hour is from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All dance lovers going to the Dance Factory should be prepared to pay a cover charge and to stand in line (especially on Wednesday). So go early and take an I.D. Only 21 and over are admitted.



Greg Rickabaugh/The Gamecock

Gopi Shah, a Biology senior, jumps high for a frisbee thrown to him on the Horseshoe Friday afternoon.

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