

• "Triennial '98," featuring the work of 35 contemporary local artists, continues through Sept. 7 at the South Carolina State Museum on the first floor.

Friday, August 14, 1998

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Two new CD stores open near campus

features editor **MARCUS AMAKER**

Students now have two more options when they want to buy and sell used CDs.

Disc Go Round and CD & Video Exchange are two new CD stores that opened in Five Points this summer. Both stores have massive amounts of music, and their owners are hoping to cash in on the crowd that frequently goes to Papa Jazz, New Clear Days and Manifest Discs & Tapes.

Disc Go Round, located at 631 A Harden St., is unique in many ways. In addition to having more than 8,000 used CDs, the store is able to repair scratched ones. For \$4 per CD, a customer can bring in one of their CDs and store owner Gene Klutz, or one of his employees, will repair it. Klutz said this service is guaranteed.

Disc Go Round also has a reliable way for a customer to find out what the store has in stock. There is a user-friendly computerized look-up station that allows someone to type in the name of an artist or band, song, or album title and see a track listing of the CD along with its availability. If a CD is not in stock, Klutz will order it.

The store also has T-shirts, stickers and posters. There are door-sized posters of everyone from Jimi Hendrix to Janet Jackson, and each are reasonably priced.

Within their eclectic music collection are the latest popular rap, country, jazz and rock CDs. Disc Go Round also sells imports with hard-to-find songs from Fiona Apple, Sarah McLachlan and others.

After New Clear Days moved to Santee St., Fred Arnold opened his 22nd store,

CD & Video Exchange, in the abandoned location.

CD & Video Exchange has a lot of used CDs, along with a good selection of posters, tapes and videos.

One of the distinguishing qualities of Arnold's store is that customers can only sell their CDs for store credit, not money.

The trade value is determined by a set worth, which depends on the year the CD was released. For example, all CDs released in 1997 are worth \$5 in trade and 1998 CDs are good for \$6 towards a purchase. These values are posted in the store.

"I'm not into money. I'd work with anybody," Arnold said. "We give a real fair trade-in value."

Another aspect of CD & Video Exchange, different from other CD stores, is a policy allowing customers to rent any used CD for 30 days for \$1. Rental and trade also applies VHS video tapes and laser video discs.

"People can experiment with titles they never heard before," Arnold said.

Because of his musical background, Arnold has access to imported and rare music.

Some of his prize possessions are the albums and CDs given to him by Yoko Ono, whom he said he met as president of the Beatles fan club. Arnold said he and Ono are still good friends.

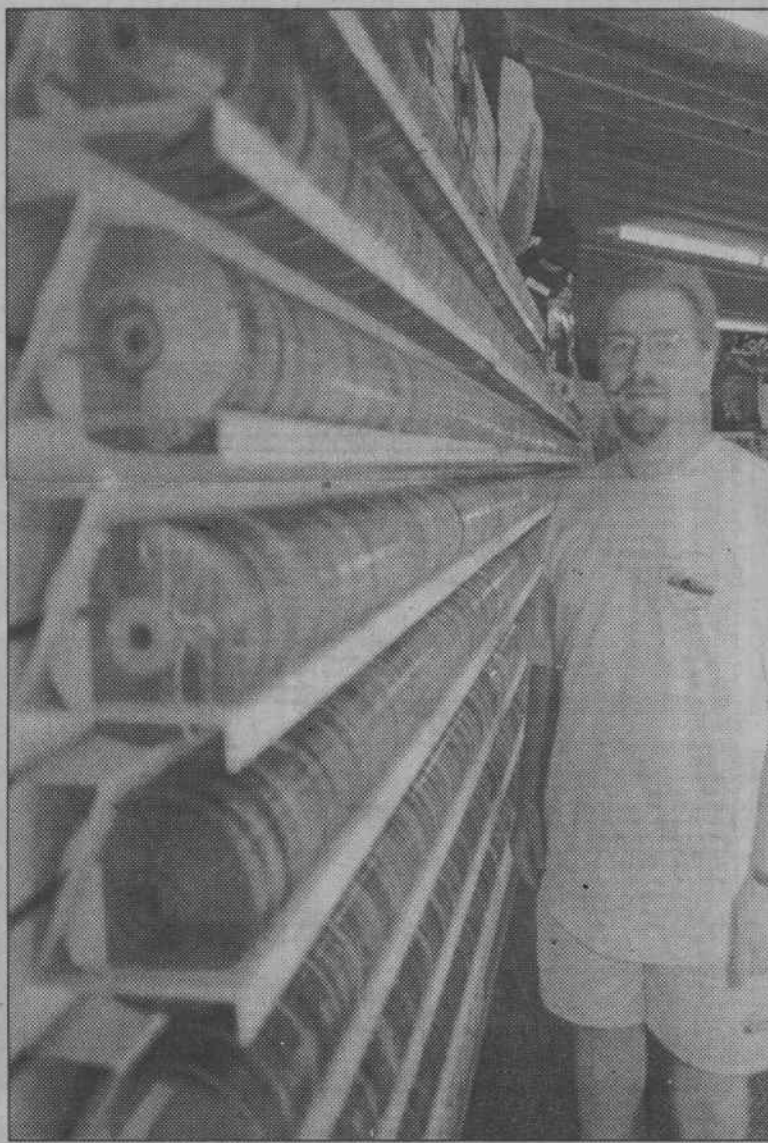
He is also legally blind, which he said doesn't hinder his ability to have a productive life.

"I'm not handicapped, because in order to be handicapped, you have to have lost something," he said. "I haven't lost anything, because I was born this way."

Arnold plans on giving away free posters to students at the beginning of the semester to promote CD & Video Exchange.

CD & Video Exchange is located at 919 Sumter St. next to Lizard's Thicket and Sammi's Deli. There is no phone available at this time.

The number for Disc Go Round is (803) 799-9221.



PHOTOS BY AMY McCORMICK The Gamecock

Disc Go Round owner Gene Klutz (above) and CD & Video Exchange owner Fred Arnold (left) opened their stores in Five Points in the summer. Both stores sell used domestic and imported CDs and posters. Disc Go Round is at 631 A Harden St. and CD & Video Exchange is at 919 Sumter St.

Students' stories in book

staff writer **TJ LYERLY**

Last Spring, a group of USC students from Robert Lamb's creative writing classes from the past five years published a book of short fiction under Lamb's Red Letter Press.

The Class Menagerie: A Collection of Short Stories Out of USC was released on April Fool's Day, but it takes more than a fool to appreciate the hard work and talent that went into this project.

Lamb, a professor at USC, is a published novelist who also contributed one of his own stories. He said the students who contributed to the collection ranged from twenty somethings to senior citizens.

The authors of the short stories come from all walks of life, so each story in the collection is unique.

There are stories about childhood, death, disease, relationships and everything in between.

What makes these stories most effective is not the uniqueness of the plot, but the character development.

In any good movie, the audience must be able to relate to the characters. They have to be both interesting and credible.

Though the plots may be carefully crafted as well, those who read any of these short stories are more likely to remember the unique individuals rather than the story lines.

Lamb formed his publishing company, the Red Letter Press, a little over a year ago in order to make sure the students' talent for writing good short fiction is shared with others.

Lamb said that 500 copies were printed in the first printing of the book, and they cost \$25 each.

He sent 40 copies to the Carolina Bookstore and copies to the University Bookstore. A second printing of the book may be needed.

Lamb isn't so concerned with how many books are sold, but he wants the book to be used as a teaching aid. He is going to use the book in his own classes.

Lamb said that he urges students to find their own way and be creative, and he doesn't believe in force-feeding

students and telling them exactly what to do.

He teaches his students basic elements of good fiction writing, like beginning the story with a "hook" or "lead" much like you would in a newspaper article or even a motion picture.

"In good movies, there is no fiddling around, they grab your attention at the very beginning," Lamb said.

Any good story begins with painting a picture in an almost cinematic establishment of the setting.

Though it requires some talent, good fiction writing can only be created after a great deal of instruction and practice.

"You have to know what you're

doing," Lamb said. "There's a craft to it, like being a carpenter."

Though good writing does require hard work, not many aspiring writers have the "knack" for becoming a great writer.

"Most students are average writers. Only one or two are head and should

ers above the rest, and the other students in the class know who those people are," Lamb said.

He said that the "bell curve" does not apply to writers. There are only a few good writers out there, which is why the high quality of the stories in The Class Menagerie is not typical of those produced by most students in writing courses.

Lamb said that the South produces good writers, and the South produces good musicians and artists in other media as well.

The reason for this artistic fertility is debatable, but the South is definitely rich in history and steeped in tradition.

The stories in this collection aren't necessarily Southern or regional in flavor, but Southern influences can definitely be noticed in many of them.

The stories in The Class Menagerie are so well-written and dramatic in nature, that some of them are being adapted into one-act plays to be performed in any of the several local theaters such as Trustus, Workshop Theater, or at USC.

Lamb said that he wishes to eventually publish a second volume of short stories by his students, so any students who have aspirations of becoming a published author might be interested in taking his short fiction class.

Lamb's own award-winning novel, Striking Out, a story about a boy's relationship problems, exactly as the title implies, can be checked out at the USC Cooper Library.

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LAMB

Hemp products cause health, drug concerns

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Nestled among the lotions, oils and soaps on a shelf at the Body Shop on the Kansas City's Country Club Plaza is a 2-foot display that's hard to miss.

It is an illustration of a familiar-looking leaf, Cannabis sativa L., otherwise known as hemp.

Reactions from customers have been mixed—including one woman who began crying after she rubbed a smidgen of the hemp lotion on her hands.

"She just freaked out," clerk Micah Schuler said. "She was rushing around saying, 'I need water! Where can I wash my hands?' She said her company did drug testing, and she didn't want to be fired."

That customer had nothing to worry about, said manager Peggy McEwen, who explained that the hemp products have negligible

amounts of Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

In May, the British-based company began selling products made from hemp.

"I was concerned too, when I first heard we would be carrying this line," McEwen said. "But I was misinformed. I'm a parent. And as a parent you certainly don't want to promote drugs."

The controversy over hemp seems to be growing as fast as wild ditch weed on back-country roads.

As hemp appears in everything from BMW brake pads to clothing to veggie-burgers and beer, consumers face mounting contradictory information.

What hemp is, a versatile cash crop or an evil weed, depends on whom you ask.

Is it marijuana?

All marijuana is hemp, but not all hemp is marijuana, said Paul Mahlberg, a professor at Indiana University in Bloomington and a molecular biologist who has studied Cannabis for 30 years.

"Hemp and marijuana come from the same plant genus, just like sweet corn, field corn and popcorn come from the same plant genus," he said. "But the strain of industrial hemp," used in consumer products, "has a much lower

concentration of THC."

Low THC means that the plant has high concentrations of cannabidiol, which is antagonistic to the mind-altering properties of THC.

In other words, smoking a hemp plant with low THC would produce a strong headache, and that's all.

But it is impossible to verify THC levels without a chemical analysis, Mahlberg added.

Industrial hemp is cultivated to encourage a woody stalk, so it is densely planted and often grows to 16 feet. The plants are harvested within 100 days. Marijuana is cropped to promote a bushy plant with bigger leaves. It is harvested after 190 days.

Hemp advocates insist marijuana is a distant cousin to industrial varieties. But the Drug Enforcement Administration just says no.

"Hemp is marijuana, period," said Shirley A. Armstead, a special agent and

public information officer in the St. Louis DEA office.

"Ditch weed is marijuana. We do not distinguish between the two. Our Cannabis eradication program is

about eliminating marijuana."

Industrial hemp advocates distance themselves from recreational marijuana users.

In fact, any hemp organization that even hints of supporting recreational use is denied entry to the North American Industrial Hemp Council, a group lobbying to change current DEA restrictions on growing industrial hemp.

Twenty-five countries, including Canada, England, France, Germany and China, currently produce industrial hemp. Both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Accord on Tariffs and Trade recognize hemp as an agricultural crop.

All members of the Group of Seven Industrialized Nations permit hemp cultivation, except the United States.

"In the United States we are living on an island of denial, surrounded by a sea of acceptance," said Erwin Sholtz, chairman of the North American

CONCERT CALENDAR

• **Finlay Park Summer Concert Series**

Ross Holmes Band, Aug. 15
Mystic Vibrations, Aug. 22
The O'Kaysions, Aug. 29

• **Martin Luther King Jr. Park Blues Festival**, Aug. 29

(Etta Baker, Drink Small, Magic Slim, John Mookey, Skeeter Brandon)

• **Greenville Fairgrounds**

Creed, Fuel, Finger Eleven, Spilling Poetry, Marvelous 3, King Slender, Aug. 21

• **House of Blues**, Myrtle Beach Hall & Oats, Aug. 21

• **Magnolia St. Pub**, Spartanburg SKWZBXX, Aug. 20

Come on Thunderchild, Aug. 27
Root Doctors, Aug. 28

• **Blockbuster Pavilion**, Charlotte

Dave Matthews Band, Aug. 21
Rod Stewart
Smokin' Grooves, Aug. 26
(Cypress Hill, Public Enemy, Busta Rhymes, Black Eyed Peas, more)
Janet Jackson, Usher, Sept. 4

• **Tremont Music Hall**, Charlotte

Gravity Kills, Pitchshifter, tonight
Snapcase, H2O, Boy Sets Fire, Aug. 21

• **The Ritz** (Raleigh, N.C.)

Massive Attack, Sept. 9

• **The Masquerade**, Atlanta

Cannibal Corpse, Aug. 15
Punk/Oi Festival, Aug. 22-23
Thrill Kill Cult, Aug. 25

• **Chastain Amphitheatre**, Atlanta

Tori Amos, Aug. 17-18

all dates subject to changes

MUSIC NEWS

• **A Tribe Called Quest** will release their fifth album, *The Love Movement*, on Aug. 25

• **PJ Harvey's** newest CD, *Is This Desire?*, will come out next month

• **Sneaker Pimps** lead singer Kelli Dayton left the group to pursue a solo career

• **Jump, Little Children's** major-label debut, *Magazine*, will come out Sept. 1

• The next single and video from **Madonna** is expected to be "Drowned World/Substitute For Love"...she still has no plans to tour in support of *Ray of Light*

• **Elliot Smith's** new album, *XO*, is available on vinyl. The CD will hit stores Aug. 25

• **Joni Mitchell's** 20th album, *Taming the Tiger*, should be released next month

• The fourth album by **The Scofflaws**, *Record of Convictions*, will be in stores soon

• The long-awaited album from **Hole**, *Celebrity Skin*, is scheduled to be in stores Sept. 8

• The next **Tori Amos** single in the U.S. will be "Jackie's Strength"...the two b-sides are "Never Seen Blue" and "Beulah Land" The U.K.'s next single will be "Raspberry Swirl"

• **Joan Osborne** just finished recording her new album. There's no release date yet.

• The next album from **The Roots**, who are now on MCA records, is called *Things Fall Apart*. It's scheduled to be released in January 1999

• "Holland, 1945" will be released as the next single from **Neutral Milk Hotel** on Blue Records

• **The Flipmode Squad**, featuring **Busta Rhymes** and others, will drop their CD, *The Imperial Album*, Sept. 1

• **Sheryl Crow's** new album, *Riverwide*, is scheduled to come out on Sept. 15

• And finally, Sept. 15 will also be the day that **Hootie and The Blowfish** release their third album, *Musical Chairs*

compiled by Marcus Amaker
(for CD reviews, see page 12A)

Those interested in submitting concert or event dates for the concert calendar should bring them to The Gamecock, located in room 333 in the Russell House University Union. Our entertainment editor is available at (803) 777-3913. Our fax number is (803) 777-6482.