

Java Jive combines relaxed atmosphere, jazz music

A dancing coffee bean, complete with top hat and cane, is the "mascot" for one of the University's most popular and durable residence hall functions: the Java Jive.

Created in 1981 by the staff of Carson/Earl Halls, the Java Jive has gained a reputation for being consistently entertaining by providing a relaxing atmosphere of jazz-oriented musical acts, various coffees and teas and a diverse selection of desserts and snacks.

"It's a tradition that Carson/Earl is very proud of," said Lou Vijayakar, area director for the two halls.

Vijayakar, who became involved with the Jive three years ago, said that the staff has tried to make it "a place where people can come to just lay back, drink coffee, and listen to good music."

"We want people to feel like they're in their own living room," she added.

Although money is charged for the coffees, teas, and desserts, the Jive itself is free and, Vijayakar is quick to point out, not a fundraising event.

Money for the Java Jive, which occurs about once a month, comes from Vijayakar's program fund, the President's Council, and the Residence Hall Government Committee.

Carson/Earl usually comes out in the red in putting on the Jive, a fact that doesn't bother its director in the least.

"It doesn't matter that we lose money," Vijayakar said, "because it's being spent on a program

for the residents."

Almost all of the planning and work on the Java Jive is done by the resident assistants of the two complexes.

"I help them with coordinating it, but the Jive is mainly put on by the live-in staff," Vijayakar said.

Two such RA's, Patty Burel of Stafford and Leslie Green of Carson, believe the atmosphere of the Java Jive is what seems to attract most people to it.

"There's a certain feeling that's associated with the Java Jive," said Burel. "Residents expect good music, and a lot of people to be there."

Green agreed that many come to the Jive for its "relaxed, social atmosphere" and added that much of the audience comes from outside the dorms.

"They're fun to put on and fun to go to," said Green.

Organizers of the Jive have traditionally recruited local jazz and soft rock musicians to play what Vijayakar referred to as "listening music."

Among those to perform at the coffeehouse have been the Emmett Williams Jazz Quartet, A La Carte, and, most recently, Dan Bedbury.

Bedbury, a guitarist and pianist who has played at the Java Jive several times over the past two years, had largely taken himself out of the performing business recently, but readily accepted the invitation to do this year's first Jive. "I really enjoy playing at the University. People are really nice there, and they aren't all wasted, like the audience usually is when you play a bar," he said.

"I've actually canceled other things when they've



called me to play (at the Jive)," Bedbury added.

Alan Nissila, a student who has attended the Java Jive, is another supporter. "(The Java Jive) is a good place to relax and get away from your studies for a while," he said.

The next Java Jive will be Monday, Nov. 12, from 9 to 11 p.m. in the Stafford-Young lounge.

Michael Fisher

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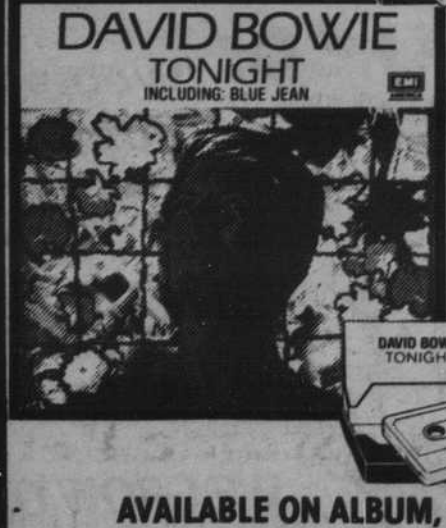
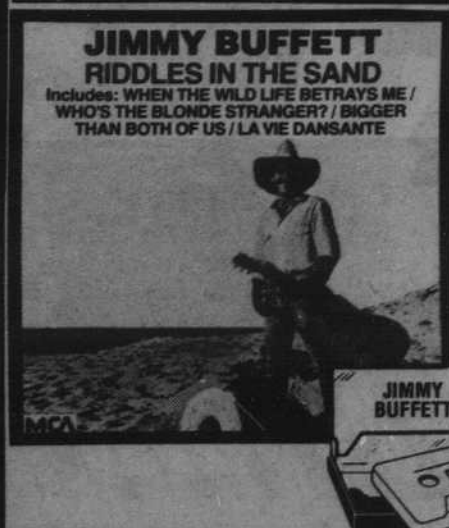
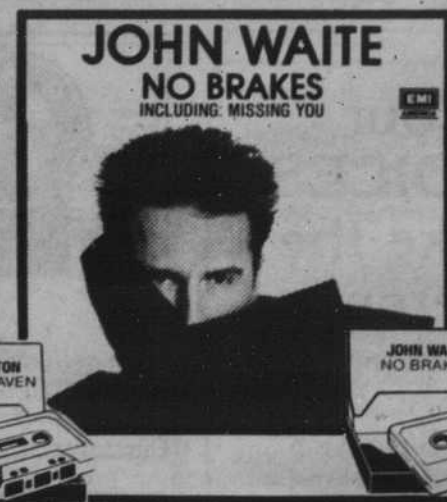
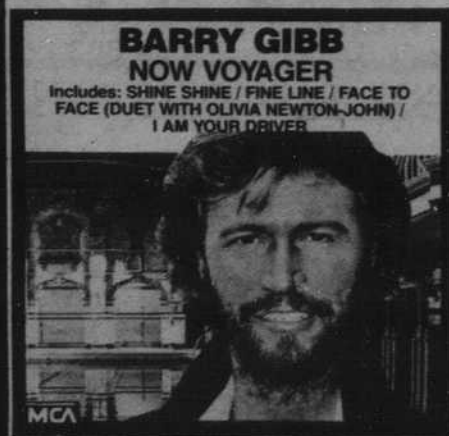
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