## The Daily Collegian Tuesday, March 19, 1991-9

## Shadow of the Jawbone a reminder to its faithful

**By JOE TARR Collegian Staff Writer** 

Jerry Davids, a regular at the Jawbone Coffeehouse since 1966, speaks of the "old" Jawbone like a dead friend.

"As the Jawbone used to be, I thought it was something really neat and cosmic," Davids said. In its heyday the Jawbone Coffeehouse, 223 S. Garner St., was a popular place to hang out, listen to music for free or play songs for an appreciative crowd on weekend nights.

'People would come in — a lot of hippie-type people - who would play folk music or even jug band music," Davids recalled. "They'd have an old cooker going making Jawburgers and a lot of people would be playing table games and socializing."

In recent years the Jawbone's popularity has dwindled, say its organizers, who have had trouble finding groups to play there. Only a few coffeehouses have been held this semester.

Founded in 1963 by the University Lutheran Parish, the Jawbone was originally located in an old house on Foster Avenue. In 1983 the center moved to 223 S. Garner St.

One of the few decorations tacked to the walls of the new Jawbone is an album cover from a LP put out in 1963, called "Sounds of the Jawbone."

Vic

91

Vie 91 • La

Vie 91 • La Vie 91 • La

• La

Vie 91 • La Vie 9

"We're not going to try and evangelize people and we don't necessarily try to keep acts in line with the faith."

 Chris Johnson intern pastor at University Lutheran Church

The artists - including Connie Woodring, Daniel Shaffer and John Haag -who were recorded at the Jawbone are now largely forgotten. But they left a legacy people now only dream about.

'We get a lot of comments like, 'The Jawbone's not like it used to be,' "said Chris Johnson, intern pastor at the University Lutheran Church. "The Jawbone was pretty much a part of the hippie scene and that spirit is kind of gone.'

Local musician Renee Campbell remembers wandering around one night in the early 1980s when she happened upon the old Jawbone.

I walked in and watched a guy play ragtime piano and I think there was someone playing guitar," Campbell said. "It was like going into

someone's living room. The new one is a little more sterile."

Now the Jawbone is located in the basement of the University Lutheran ministry building. Its cement block walls are covered with white paint and a few decorations including a Laurel and Hardy poster and a Fernando Botero print.

There is a small stage located in one corner, surrounded by about 10 tables drapped with plaid cloths. Across the room is a kitchen, a soda machine and an old "church" piano.

Those who remember the old building say it was bursting with character. Many of its walls, especially in the bathrooms, were covered by graffiti, which the administrators openly encouraged

'Most of the graffiti did seem intelligent, rather than the gross stuff you see in some bathrooms," Davids said. The Jawbone committee may soon allow graf-

fiti, said committee member Bill Fullerton. But members are unsure of whether they should let people write on the walls or provide poster paper or boards for them to clutter with ink.

Fullerton, who is in charge of booking acts for the coffeehouse, said the Jawbone looks only for performers who will play for free. The Jawbone

"It's a good place for a musician who is just starting out and isn't used to plaving for a crowd. At the coffeehouse it's not as high pressured."

> Renee Campbell local musician

In the 1980s, acoustic music — the Jawbone's musical staple - gave way to harsher punk and metal groups. Many of these acts, such as the Mushroom Orchestra of Love (also known as Jesus Christ on a Stick), were too loud for the Jawbone's small room, Johnson said.

"Not that we want to be really strict about who can and can't play," Fullerton said. "But when you get right down to it, the Jawbone is just too small for some types of groups.

Although there have been a few times where groups were disrespectful, the Jawbone committee generally doesn't censor musicians,

"We would like for people to be aware that

Lutherans are sponsoring this," he said. "We're not going to try and evangelize people and we don't necessarily try to keep acts in line with the faith."

While the Jawbone may have lost some of its 1960s counter-culture appeal, it is still one of the best venues in town to play, some local musicians said.

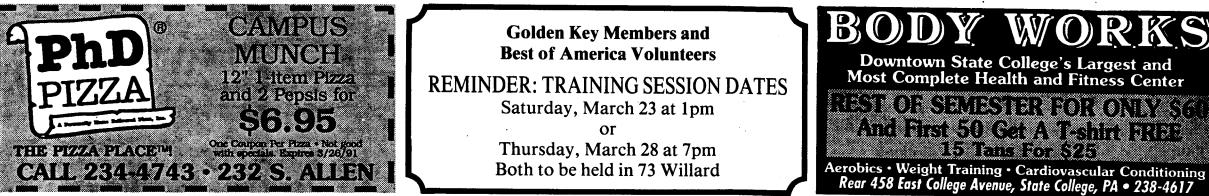
· "I love playing there," said Susan Kemper, who plays traditional folk music. "It's intimate, warm and casual."

"It's a good place for a musician who is just starting out and isn't used to playing for a crowd," Campbell said. "At the coffeehouse it's not as high pressured."

But the Jawbone still has trouble drawing crowds because most people don't know it exists, Johnson and Fullerton said. Low funds have prevented any large scale advertising efforts. And as a result many of the Jawbone's "open mike" nights, where anyone is welcome to play music or read poetry, are less frequent.

"We haven't had a lot of open-mike nights because we've been afraid that nobody would show up," Fullerton said.

The Jawbone is slowly showing some life once again. An open mike night held there last Friday was successful, Fullerton said.



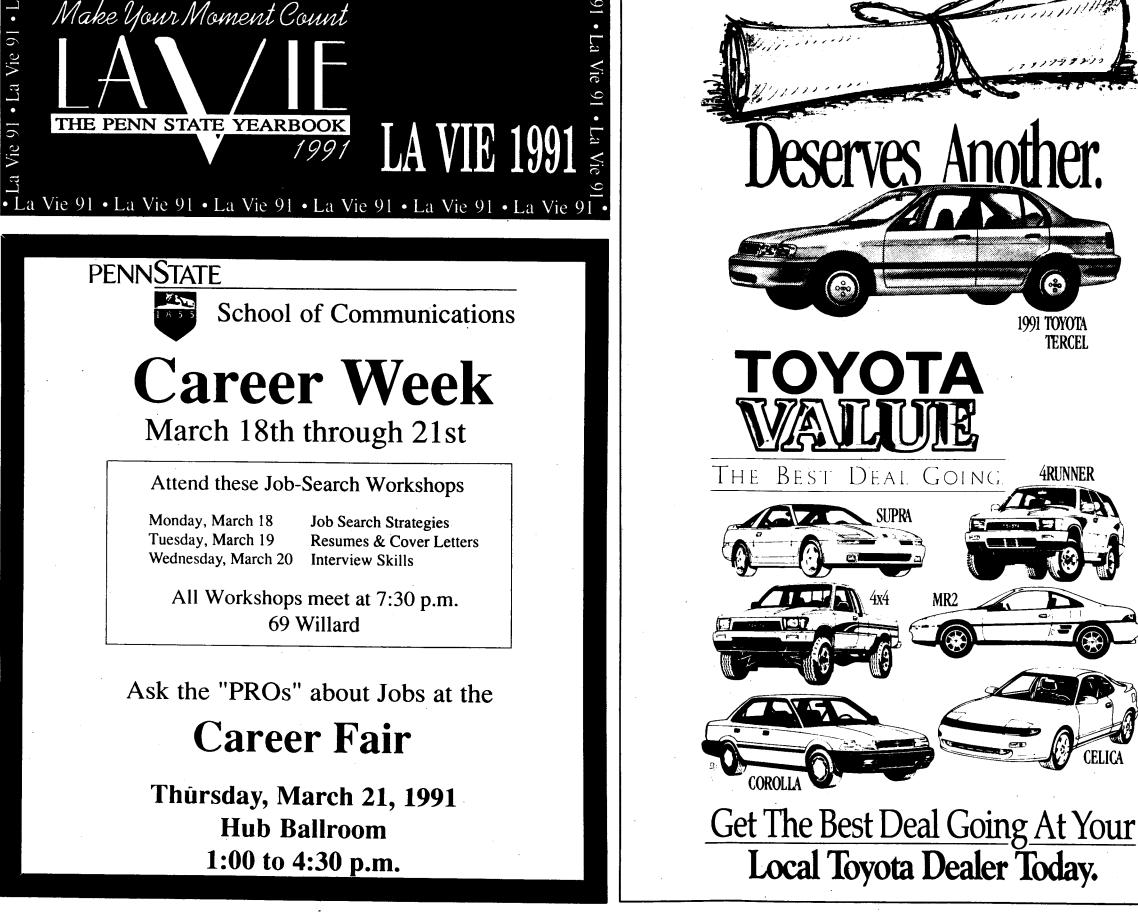
Vie

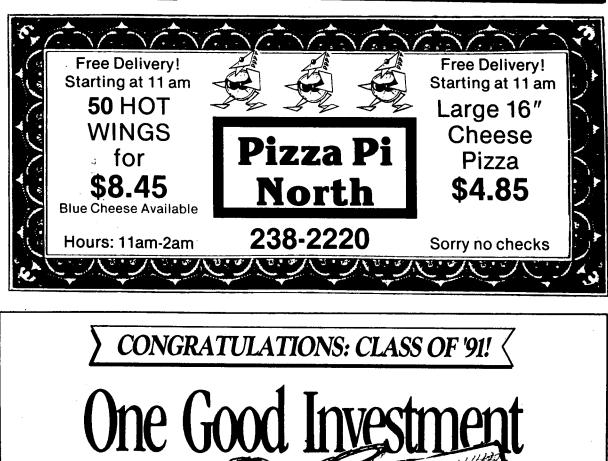
La

La Vie 91 • La Vie 91

## **ATTENTION!**

For the next 4 weeks, LA VIE 1991 will be conducting a Gift Giveaway. If you purchase a yearbook, your name will be entered into a drawing for the week that you ordered your book. Each week we will be giving away a \$50 gift certificate to the Penn State Bookstore on campus. Remember that there are only a few copies left, and GOOD LUCK. Stop by 209 HUB to order yours!





does not try to attract harder rock bands, he Johnson said added.

CELICA

1991 TOYOTA TERCEL

4RUNNER