
Teens Find Something To Do

Walterboro was a town in transition. It was in the middle of the painful but necessary process of growing from a small town to a city on the move. But as is usually the case, this rapid change created problems.

One such problem was the advanced growth of population and service related industries without a comprehensive growth in business catering to the recreational needs of teenagers. With no movie theater, bowling alley, or arcade, students were left with nothing to do but get into trouble or travel fifty miles to Charleston.

In view of the predicament, school staff member Mrs. Pat Rhode became a sympathetic activist to make the plight of the students known. The fruit of her efforts was the formation of a teen commission composed of students Robert Cuzzone, Liz Parrish, Tim Simmons and Recreation Commission Director Derek Stewart. Also on the committee were Mayor Elton Culpepper and parents Jodel Johnson, Rex Beach, and Diane Jones.

The aim of the organization, as Tim Simmons said, "was to provide well-rounded recreational activities for the youth of Colleton County."

The organization's first attempt to carry out its objectives was "A Teen's Night Out," the evening of Saturday March 5. Held at the Recreation Center Gym, this event featured a dance with local radio celebrity Barry Hill.

Randy Beach, sophomore, said, "There was a lot of good music and company . . . We all appreciated the efforts of the commission to show us a goodtime." When asked what he thought of the dance, commission member Tim Simmons said, "I think it was certainly a step in the right direction."

Another step in the right direction was the opening of a teen club called Jammin' on Hwy 15. The club featured a game-room, non-alcoholic beverages, a dance floor and top 40 rock n' roll.

This whole episode was a lesson in community action for Walterboro's adolescents. They saw something missing in the community and voiced their opinions both to local and public officials and entrepreneurs. The results of their outcry were the establishment of a public commission to create recreational activities for the youth of the community and a private sector effort to invest in youth-centered endeavors.



MIKE HIOTT, JR., OPENED his teen club, Jammin', after witnessing the outcry of local adolescents for a place to hang out. Dancing at the club are Terry O'Briant, Shawna Davis, Lisa Groves and Gayle Carroll.

GREG FENNESSY AND FRIEND Woody Nettles sit at the bar at Jammin' on a Friday night and enjoy the beginning of the weekend.

