Putting a Black, Urbanist, Southern Lens on a Practice of Planning and Development

Kristen Jeffers @blackurbanist
Strawberry Jam Takes A Walk

by Kristen E. Jeffers

Apricot Preserves Goes to A Birthday Party

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My Special Mom

Kristen E. Jeffers
Spinning records on Sunday mornings

Megan McCullough
Staff Writer

Jazz, R&B and neo-soul are favorites of the Sunday morning disc jockey at WKNC, Kristin Jeffers.

Jeffers, a senior in communication, said she has been a DJ at the student radio station since August.

Jeffers said she plays everything from jazz instrumentals to smooth R&B on her two-hour program from 8 to 10 a.m. on 88.1 FM WKNC.

"My uncle was a DJ a long time ago, and some of my friends were on staff, so I decided to try to get on staff," Jeffers said.

She said she was mainly motivated to become a DJ because of her passion for music. Jeffers writes music and dabbles in musical instruments as well.

"It's an escape that may be an avenue to a career," she said.

Over the summer, Jeffers shadowed a DJ and learned how to run the board, select songs and do air breaks.

She said she also went to class once a week to learn the manual, which is important because WKNC has a no profanity policy.

Jeffers said she likes to play music from her personal collection as well, as long as it fits within WKNC's policies.

"Jazz is the foundation of what I like," Jeffers said.

And Jeffers and her co-host share song selections.

"I have just started playing Josh Nelson," Jeffers said. "Some of my favorites are Coltrane, Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk."

Jeffers said she enjoys being able to explore different artists that still fit within the genre. She has even played new popular artists such as Robin Thicke and John Legend but usually stays away from Top-40 artists.

"I play their B-side or something I liked, not a top single," Jeffers said.

Kristen Jeffers, a senior in communication, works in the WKNC studio. Jeffers' Sunday morning show "Laid Back" plays a variety of jazz and R&B music.

A few local bands have also made their way onto Jeffers' show like the Urban Sophisticates, a rap group with a full jazz band.

Even though Jeffers said she enjoys the type of music she plays, she would not mind getting a different time slot.

"I am hoping to change hours," Jeffers said. "It's so early in the morning; people are still awake."
DOWNTOWN: Center city attracts the rich, the young and the homeless

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One of a wave of new apartment complexes, Greenway has filled all its 196 units in the year since opening. "We're having to turn people away," Jones said. There's a waiting list, but nothing's coming open soon.

A new phase will add 300 apartments next year and people already are amoring for them.

Greenway's residents are a mix of graduate and law students, professors at local colleges and universities, and young professionals from companies like Lincoln Financial and VF Corp.

The apartments are a stone's throw from the 4th Street Diner — a perfect nexus of the downtown and the new. Middle-aged lawyers tuck into their shirts at the breakfast rush, heading to the house. But young professionals with "Where the Things Are" tattoos have a new sense of where they want to be.

KRISTEN JEFFERS, 27, who works for a local nonprofit organization and runs a blog called The Black Urbanist, lives in CityView at Southside, south of the railroad tracks on Elm Street.