

Pick of the week

Creedo's Coffeehouse at 111 Pleasant St., Northampton, is the perfect place for people who like to play games — literally. Although Creedo's offers entertainment, sandwiches, desserts, teas, and exotic coffees, the main feature is games. There are 34, including backgammon, chess, Monopoly, cards, and Scrabble. The game is brought to their table free of charge. And if you don't have a partner, the management will even try to provide one.

According to co-owners Bill Weil and Harold Kislik, both 23 and originally from New York, it's all in the name of making the customers comfortable.

"We try to make the atmosphere as relaxed and pleasant as we can," said Weil. "Our main objective isn't to be a club featuring regular music. We want to think of Creedo's as a 'hangout,' a place where people can come to talk and not have to worry about being drowned out by the music."

When you walk in you are quickly greeted, taken to a table and given a menu and game list. The decor is an eclectic blend of old movie posters, hanging plants and thin cotton partitions.

Although the coffeehouse has only been open for six weeks, it already has a lot of history behind it. According to the management, Sylvester Graham, inventor of the Graham cracker, once lived in the building.



Graham crackers are served at each table.

"If we make any money we'll be surprised," said Kislik, although response to the club has been good. We visited the coffeehouse on a Tuesday night when Irish music was on the bill and it was very crowded.

Creedo's is now open from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Future plans include afternoon hours, and poetry readings beginning in February.

Peter Sikowitz