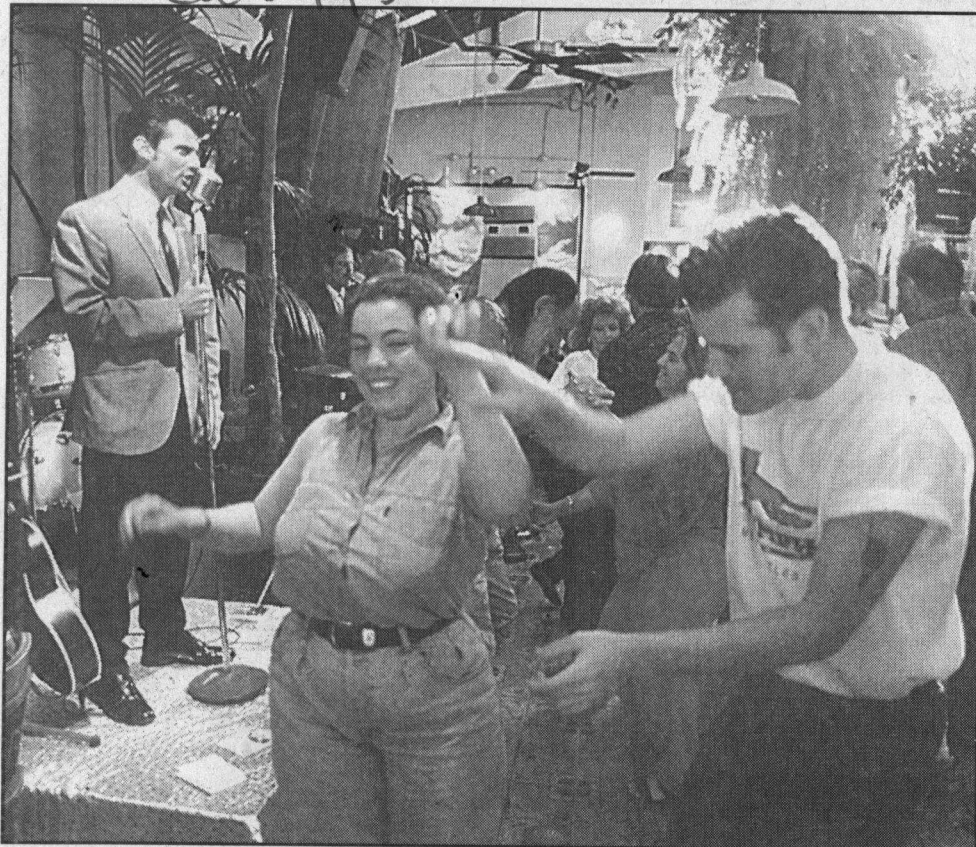


Sale of Catalyst nightclub nearly a done deal



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

The possible new owners of the club will likely give the Catalyst a facelift.

Potential buyer owns downtown San Jose's 'The Usual Nightclub'

By **MARINA MALIKOFF**

Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Catalyst owner Randall Kane has tentatively agreed to sell his landmark nightclub, said one of the brokers behind the deal.

"A lot of the major negotiations are behind us now," said Jim Roberts of JHR Properties. "But these deals are not closed until they are closed."

Last month, Kane agreed to sell his business for \$300,000 to San Jose rock club owner David Farling and his partners, Paul Gerhardt and Pete Jansson, Robert said.

Farling, a civil and business litigator, has co-owned The Usual Nightclub on South First Street since 1995.

Negotiations have been unusually complex because Kane, who has owned the Catalyst since 1968, also owns the 19,000-square-foot building at 1011 Pacific Ave. where the club is located and will become the new club owner's landlord.

The parties agreed on the key lease terms last week, and Roberts said he expects Kane's attorney to have a lease ready for review in the next several days.

Farling and Kane did not return tele-

phone calls to comment.

"Everybody has agreed on the big deal points," Roberts said. "It appears everybody wants to make a deal."

Roberts said Kane required potential buyers to submit a business plan, but that he did not have details of Farling's proposal.

"The intent is to modernize and not lose that thing that made the Catalyst the Catalyst," Roberts said. "I don't expect any major surprises."

The Usual markets itself as a downtown dance club specializing in "corporate cocktail hours, lunches and celebrations, private soirees, shotgun wedding receptions and post-elopement parties, fast-forward fashion shows and theatrical extravaganzas all in a cool and relaxed atmosphere."

Roberts said the Catalyst building would likely be given a facelift if the deal goes through, but that it is unclear what would happen to the entertainment.

Kane's longtime talent booker, Gary Tighe, also books acts for The Usual. Among The Usual's lineup last month were Berlin, Tone-Loc, and Chasubles.

Kane's announcement that he was selling the club came on the heels of a state Department of Alcohol Beverage Control decision last month to suspend the club's liquor license for 20 days due to an "abnormal" number of police calls.

Bob Sylvia, ABC supervising investigator, said there is no record of disciplinary action with The Usual's liquor license.