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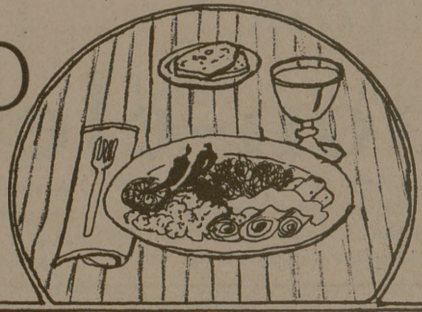
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**GUSTO**

By JAMES RAWSON



By JIM RAWSON  
There is a stretch of Texas Avenue directly across from Texas A&M that offers some good places to eat. It runs from University Drive to Jersey Street and includes one pizza place, one fancy restaurant, another restaurant, and an all-night franchise eatery.

First, there is "The Saber Inn" restaurant connected to the motel of the same name. The Saber is a quiet, relaxing place that offers good selection and good quality. The menu ranges from hamburgers, to steaks and seafood. The prices are a bit higher than one might expect but aren't outrageous compared to other motel restaurants. The steak here is almost always excellent. It is flavorful, juicy, and cooked just right. The prices are perhaps high—a rib-eye sells for \$5.25 with other cuts priced accordingly—but this is very good meat. Seafood is fair. Few places in the city offer really good seafood but that at the Saber is better than you might find elsewhere. Chicken is another good bet, and the Saber offers a special spaghetti dinner that is hard to beat. The dinner includes salad, generous helping of spaghetti and sauce, and garlic bread at a reasonable price. The salads served with the dinners are really fine, and you can order wines or imported beer to accompany a meal. Service is usually good.

In the Eastgate area there is "Sparkey's Pizza." This is a popular place for pizza, beer, games, and occasional parties. Sparkey's may be a little noisy or dingy for some people, but they offer good pizza at surprisingly low prices. A large pizza costs you only \$1.75 between 11 and seven. Regular prices are not bad either. Sparkey's uses a sauce that seems spicier than that used elsewhere, and a lot of people think it is the best pizza around. You decide for yourself. Free dorm delivery is available, just call them.

A little farther down is a quiet, rather unassuming restaurant called "Fontana's." This Italian-American place is open only for dinner. The atmosphere is quiet, a little elegant and expensive. Service is very good

and the menu offers a good selection of Italian foods. The spaghetti is good, perhaps more authentically prepared. Lasagna and chicken cacciatore are two other good choices when eating here. Prices are moderately high, but this is a quality restaurant. It makes a good place to entertain friends or a date.

Every university town needs some all-night places to eat and drink coffee, and "Sambo's" answered this need in the spring of 1974. Sambo's is a sort of strange place, but once you get past the cartoons of Sambo and the tigers, you can find several things to like about the place. First, they are open 24 hours so you don't have to rearrange your schedule to match theirs. The service is usually good, although there have been some exceptions when it was really bad. Avoiding mealtime rushes here is one clue to getting better service. The food is acceptable and reasonably priced for the amount and quality you receive. Sambo's specialty is breakfast foods so you'll find really good eggs and pancakes here. Breakfast specials are downright cheap for the most part. Other foods vary in price and quality. Hamburgers, hamburger steaks, and chili are good bets. They also offer a soup of the day that is fresh-made and good.

GUSTO'S Choice: Saber Inn/Fontana's (on basis of overall quality). Good appetite.

**Fisheries aided by economist**

Dr. Griffin, TAMU economist, is part of a group of researchers who are trying to help solve the economic problems of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp industry.

"In 1971, landings in the Gulf were 143 million pounds and its value to the commercial shrimp producers was \$136 million. The Texas share of the industry was \$64 million," Dr. Griffin said. "The total impact of the commercial shrimp industry on the State of Texas is approximately \$200 million in terms of production. In terms of income to households, this is about \$57 million."

"However, just because the Gulf commercial shrimp fishery is the most valuable in the U.S. doesn't mean there is always a profit to be made," Griffin warned. "The reason for this is, that like most fisheries, shrimp is a common property resource with open access to it. Anyone can fish commercially."

"According to recent research, there may be more than sufficient

boats to harvest the shrimp in the Gulf," Griffin said. "Total catch has remained relatively constant while the number of vessels has increased steadily. Therefore, the constant total catch of the industry has to be divided between more and more fishermen."

"In the recent past the price received per pound by boat owners has increased faster than the cost to harvest a pound of shrimp," he observed. "Every time there are profits to be made in the industry, the number of boats and vessels increase, eating away at those same profits. Then, in years like 1973-74, when costs increase faster than revenue, the marginal producers find himself in trouble and drops out of the industry," Griffin said.

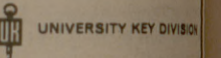
"We're going to adapt the TAMU agriculture budget generator to

shrimp vessels to help solve economic problems of the shrimp industry," he explained. "With individual vessel costs and revenues can be evaluated and the best characteristics for a particular businessman can be selected."

"This will supplement business expertise," Griffin said. "The budget generator calculates the variable and fixed costs and provides information on capital requirements, computes net returns and prints out cash flows and other data for the business."

"The research at TAMU will be an important input into success management programs so that the industry, through both private business and public agencies, can produce a high quality product at a cost to consumers while maintaining a fair profit to ship owners."

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