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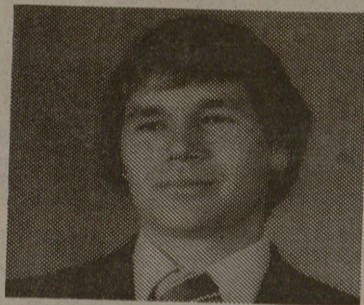
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What's behind burger business

By DEB KILGORE

"I never eat hamburgers," says Searcy Bond, the owner of Dead Solid Perfect (DSP), a hamburger restaurant on 102 Church St. in College Station.

"It's enough just to cook them all day and night."

DSP serves only two-thirds pound hamburgers and cheeseburgers in an old building located behind Handy-Burger.

"It used to be a house and then it was remodeled into a small restaurant," Bond says. He says that when he opened DSP on Feb. 5, 1976, he did nothing to the building but started cooking.

DSP has no decorations and contains only the bare essentials for eating. It consists mainly of nine tables covered with red and white checkered gingham tablecloths and green plastic chairs.

Bond said he will not remodel

DSP, but he is planning to use an extra outdoor room for five more tables. He said the room will be ready Sept. 10 for the opening of football season.

"I used to have 'Sports Illustrated' around for people, but I cut that out," Bond said. "There's still a pinball machine and foosball table. They don't come to read."

Bond said he still buys "Sports Illustrated" to read Dan Jenkins' articles. He says he named DSP after a book by Jenkins called "Dead Solid Perfect." The book is about a golfer attempting the "dead solid perfect" shot.

"I wanted something different for my restaurant," Bond said. "I saw that book on the coffee table and thought about it. After people learn that name they won't forget it."

Bond said he attended Stephen F. Austin College for three years and returned home wanting to open a restaurant. "I got the idea from a place in Dallas called Adair's," he said. "They have more room than we do, but they serve hamburgers, too."

Bond said he hired his brother, Michael Clark, a senior in mechanical engineering, to help him cook. Clark started working six nights a week in March 1976, he explained. Clark cooks at dinner time through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

"It's an all beef hamburger with no soy added," Bond said. The meat from a local grocer is 200 pounds at a time. I use 600 pounds a week and eat on weekends."

All meat patties are made in advance on weekends. The hamburgers are then broiled on gas grills as people come so they do not sit more than 15 minutes. He added he can make more patties in 15 minutes if needed.

"Students and faculty are 50 percent of our business," Bond said. "When school closes at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, close."

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