

Warped

by Scott McCullar



B-CS chosen as test market for automatic gas pumps

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

Bryan-College Station will become the first test area in the country for a new gasoline pump system that allows customers to pay without entering the store.

A system called "ProntoPay" — an automated, unmanned gasoline payment terminal — will begin operating Monday at the seven 7-Eleven stores that currently sell gasoline in this area, said a representative of The Southland Corporation, 7-Eleven's parent company.

"This (Bryan-College Station) is the first area that this system will be attempted in," said Doug Reed, assistant manager of media relations.

Reed said the area was chosen because it is not too big or small in population and it has its own newspa-

pers and television station that can be used for advertising ProntoPay.

Reed added that the area will make an excellent customer sample.

"Bryan-College Station has a customer profile that is similar to what we can expect in other areas of the country," he said.

Reed said there are no other systems in the country like ProntoPay.

"Right now there are other companies testing similar systems, but they don't accept cash," he said.

The ProntoPay terminal is a free-standing unit near the gasoline pumps. A customer uses the terminal to select the type of gasoline and method of payment. Customers can pay for the gasoline with cash, VISA, Mastercard or bank cards such as Impact, Pulse and Moneymaker.

Credit and bank cards are run through a terminal reader and cash is inserted in a separate slot.

For cash, only \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills will be accepted. Customers who need change can take the receipt dispensed by the terminal to the store clerk.

During the first several weeks that ProntoPay is in operation, Reed said, demonstrators will be on hand from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. to show customers how to use the terminals.

Reed said the trial period for ProntoPay will be one year. He said he hopes ProntoPay will increase efficiency at the gasoline pump and increase profits.

Currently, he said, gasoline accounts for about 25 percent of 7-Eleven's sales. In 1984, 7-Eleven stores sold about 1.5 billion gallons of gas.

Owner of Gilley's Club indicted after witness changes statement

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The owner of Gilley's Club, the country-western club made famous by the movie "Urban Cowboy," was indicted on attempted murder charges after a witness changed his story, a grand juror said.

Sherwood Cryer, owner of the club in suburban Pasadena, is accused of firing a shotgun at karate instructor Randall Everett Johnston, 27. Cryer is free on \$5,000 bond.

Johnston and another martial arts teacher, Joseph Fitzgerald Acton, were walking outside the Pasadena building where they worked Nov. 26 when the shooting occurred, authorities said. Neither man was injured.

The Harris County district attorney's office and Pasadena police said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute anyone.

But grand juror Preston Hairgrove, a former Pasadena city councilman, said the panel had to indict Cryer after hearing testimony from Johnston, now serving a 22-year prison sentence for a burglary conviction.

"We didn't have any choice but to indict given that the shooter was identified and a witness saw men run into his (Cryer's) house," Hairgrove said.

Pasadena police Lt. Larry Rahr said Johnston repeatedly told investigators that he could not identify

the man who shot him.

"All of a sudden — overnight — the guy regains his memory," Rahr said. "And that puzzles me. There's nothing anyone discovered in this department that could have gotten an indictment, Rahr said.

Officers compiled a two-inch thick folder during the investigation, Rahr said.

"If I could have proved Sherwood Cryer fired on them I would have filed on him in a minute," he said.

Cryer said the indictment, which also charges him with aggravated assault, was a "totally political" attempt to retaliate against Pasadena Police Chief David Mullican, who has served as head of security at Gilley's.

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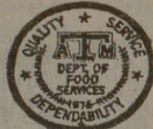
Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/ Chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

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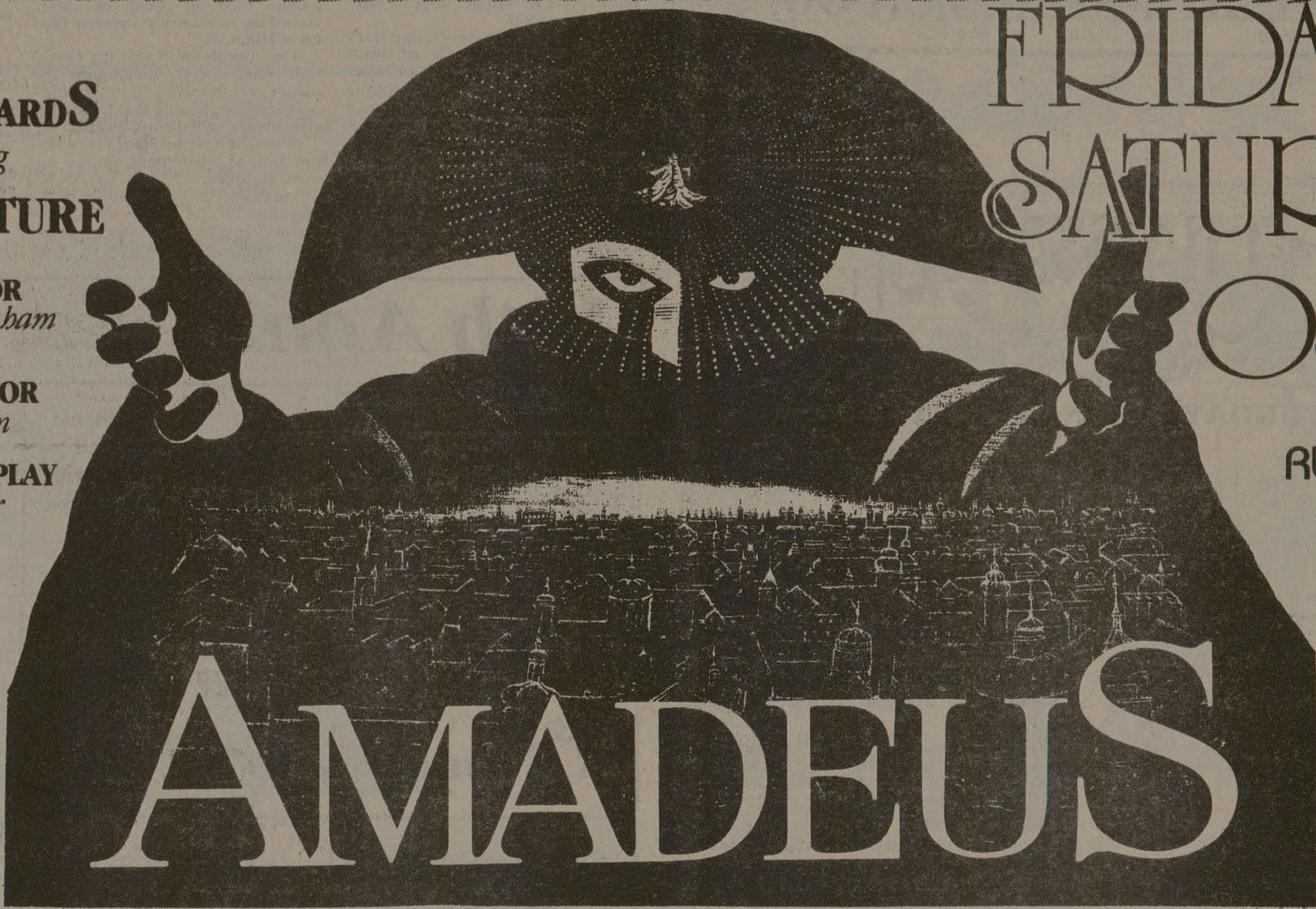
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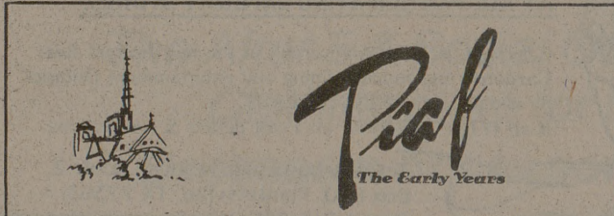
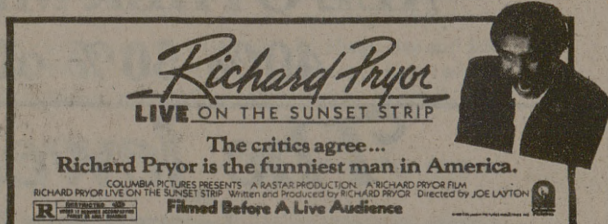


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