

MC² nightclub to re-open doors 3 months after damaging fire

By Lauren Naylor
Reporter

It's cold, empty and dark. Still, there are pink light bulbs to be crewed in, paintings to be hung, pink couches to be delivered and arranged, and seemingly thousands of other small yet essential tasks to be completed.

High upon a ladder, Fari Borz Estakhri adjusts a strobe to hit the freshly painted wall perfectly. He is preparing for today's grand re-opening of his nightclub, MC².

The club suffered \$60,000 in damages from a Nov. 1 fire still under investigation by the fire department.

The club moved to the location of Estakhri's Eastgate Live shortly after the fire, but has been closed since Eastgate re-opened Jan. 15.

Estakhri says he thinks MC² is successful because it uses unusual and innovative ideas.

"Our atmosphere is not dull," he says. "That's the whole story about this club. It's new. We have young people — energetic people."

MC² manager Deanna Mullenix interrupts as she peaks in the door, looking for a paint brush.

"The club radiates energy," Mullenix says. She says she named the

club MC² to represent the high energy of the people and music there.

MC² is Albert Einstein's formula for mass times the speed of light, she reminds.

Estakhri, a native of Shiraz, Iran, explains what success means to him.

"To be successful, you just have to

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— Fari Borz Estakhri, owner of MC² nightclub.

work hard and be in the right spot at the right time," he says.

He struts across the room and down the stairs to his pink and black office and makes a couple of calls.

"I don't see myself as a successful person," Estakhri continues. "To me, successful is Bob Hope."

"Successful, to me, is the guy that does not have to worry about his to-

morrow. He has his capital of a few million, so he is established.

"But right now, you know, tomorrow can change like that," he says with a snap of his fingers. "You cannot say that is successful."

"See, to have a successful club, it doesn't make you successful. It's like, when winter comes out, you get prepared, you put your sweaters out, you make sure to have all your vitamins so you don't catch cold. You put your heater out. You get prepared for winter."

"And, you know, by little bit preparation and research, you can be successful."

Estakhri says part of the success of the club is picking up good ideas and putting them together.

Sectioning off a corner of the club as an art gallery is a new idea generated by Estakhri and Mullenix.

This new addition will feature the work of local artists, including students. Estakhri said he wants to give exposure to upcoming artists.

The artists will price their work, and art will be rotated in and out of the club every two weeks.

Estakhri also will be selling miscellaneous items like antique hats and jewelry.

Texas lawmakers impressed with first speech from Wright

WASHINGTON (AP) — While President Reagan received grades up and down the scale for his State of the Union message, most Texans agreed that Jim Wright came off very well in his first major speech to the nation as House speaker.

Republicans in the Texas dele-

gation said the president had managed to reaffirm his will to fight for a balanced budget amendment and line-item veto power while dispelling fears that his physical vitality was waning.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said, "He was the picture of a president with a vision for America — facing the Iranian thing head-on, assuming responsibility for it, but, most importantly, getting on with the job of running the nation."

Reagan reiterated his support for Nicaraguan rebels and for a strengthened U.S. defense. He also admitted mistakes had been made by his administration in its dealings with Iran, but didn't specifically mention the arms sales.

Democrats in the delegation accused the president of trotting out the same old issues in the same old way he has for the past six years. But when they turned to their new speaker's response, they had only high praise.

Rep. Marvin Leath, D-Waco, said, "I just told him at lunch that I thought he'd done a terrific job."

"I think he did it without any feel of partisan rhetoric," Leath said. "He laid out a series of goals I think anyone can stand on, regardless of philosophy."

Wright, of Fort Worth, who was joined by Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia in giving the Democratic response, pledged to work with the president over the next two years, but warned something would have to be done about the deficit, trade and — most quickly — the Iranian crisis.

Leath, who lost last week in his bid to snatch the Armed Services Committee chair from Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., said he is looking forward to watching Wright grow into a truly great communicator for the Democratic Party.

"Obviously, those of us who work here know there's a difference when you make a fiery speech on the floor

and when you make a speech on the tube to the nation," Leath said. "Here's a man who's only been in this office less than a month and he's doing this well, and this is just his first pop. I think he's going to be one of the best ever."

Robert N. Reeves, a Dallas attorney and long-time friend of Wright, said he had mixed emotions about the president's speech.

"I kind of wanted him to do good, and he really didn't," Reeves said.

But when Wright delivered his speech in a down-to-earth, folksy way, Reeves said he felt only pride for his old friend.

"Jim came on and really upstaged the president," he said. "He was very conservative, wanting to cooperate but wanting to let people know that there are some very important things in this country that need to be addressed."

Wright accused the administration of abandoning the nation's youth by piling on them a huge deficit and by chopping programs for higher education.

"Education is the fuel that runs the locomotive," Wright said, "and the 100th Congress is determined to restore education to its rightful place at the pinnacle of our national priorities."

Lloyd Bentsen, Democratic chairman of the trade-oriented Senate Finance Committee, said he was glad to hear the president say he planned to propose "legal and regulatory reforms and weapons" to fight unfair trade practices.

"This is a change in direction and I'm just delighted to see it," Bentsen said.

Republicans in the delegation expressed confidence in the president, and complimented him on his stands on Nicaragua and the youth of America, but several criticized the lack of a mention of energy policy.

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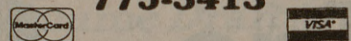
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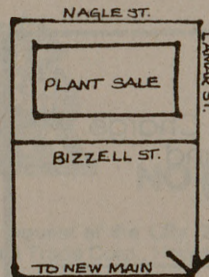
8am and 9am - in the Blocker Building, Room 102
10am - in Biological Sciences Building - West, Room 025
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1pm and 2pm - in the Blocker Building, Room 164
2pm - in the Blocker Building, Room 161

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PLANT SALE

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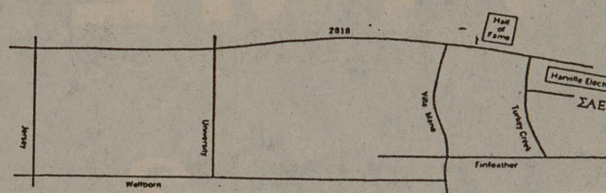


E - Dog Ski Lodge

Fireside Smoker at the ΣAE House
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Coat and Tie Date Party

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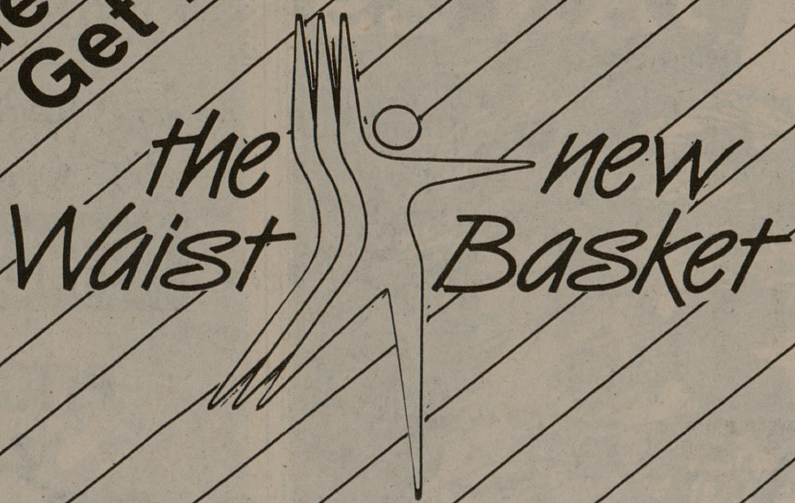
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