

Bernie's Place offers culinary cure for students' late-night munchies

By Cheryl Pratt
Reporter

The news about Bernie's Place is spreading — a new restaurant on campus that's open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on weekdays and from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends.

Bernie's Place, which seats 62 people, is on the left side of Sbis Dining Hall, near the stairs leading to the Underground. A beige awning hangs above the front door. Inside, the decor suggests an Italian theme.

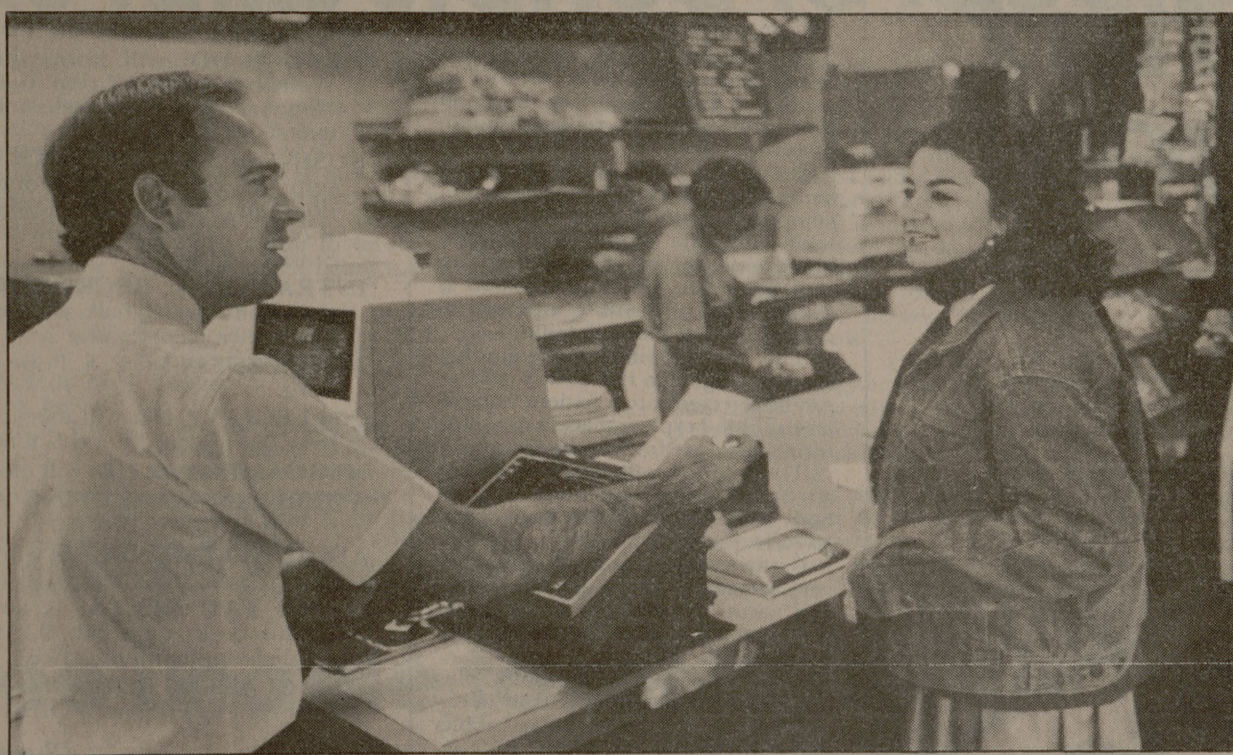
A red, white and green awning hangs above the service line, and red and white checked table cloths cover the table, lending the atmosphere of a restaurant, even though it has the layout of a snack bar.

Although the theme of Bernie's Place is Italian, the menu will satisfy anyone. It serves anything from pizza and spaghetti to fajitas and hamburgers. It also offers sandwiches and other snacks. Spaghetti and french-bread pizza are probably the most popular dishes, says Glen Duckett, Texas A&M food services manager.

Lloyd H. Smith, assistant director of food services, says the menu is planned by a committee that will make changes as they are needed.

The idea for Bernie's Place wasn't one person's idea; it was a joint effort, Smith says.

Bernie's Place, named after Bernard Sbis, officially opened Dec. 12 and was built to give students more variety in food and places to eat.



Freshman Stephanie Champagne checks out the food at Bernie's Place.

Photo by Doug La Rue

Before Bernie's Place opened, the Common Denominator and Rumours were the only campus eateries open past 7:15 p.m.

Construction on Bernie's Place started in mid-July. No record of construction cost was kept because A&M maintenance crews worked on it part-time, Smith says, but equipment costs were about \$45,000.

Jason Shields, a junior physics major, says, "The prices are reasonable," and Steve Taylor, a junior civil engineering major, says a \$5 pizza can fill two people.

Bernie's Place accepts only the Aggie Point Plan and cash. The point plan makes it easy on the checkbook, Taylor says.

"The service is really good," he says. "They treat you like a per-

son, not a number on the ticket."

Duckett says that Bernie's Place is at its busiest at around 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

He adds that so far there has been no problem with the late hours. Students can study there without having to order something as long as no one who wants to eat is waiting for a table, he says.

Texas Legislature to tackle prison bill

AUSTIN (AP) — What House speaker Gib Lewis calls a stressful legislative session with large problems and no answers starts its fourth week Monday.

A bill to ease state prison overcrowding and Gov. Bill Clements' budget address on Wednesday are principal agenda items.

On Tuesday, Sen. Bob McFarland's bill to expand the pool of low-risk inmates eligible for parole and to divert certain non-violent inmates to other programs will be

heard by the Senate Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

Clements said McFarland's bill would give the state more flexibility when the Texas Department of Corrections population exceeds 95 percent of capacity, which triggers federal court orders and the Prison Management Act requiring accelerated releases.

In an attempt to avoid contempt fines of almost \$1 million a day beginning April 1, the bill also would earmark \$10.4 million to improve

prison medical facilities and hire more doctors, nurses and physical therapists.

Total cost of the bill is expected to be \$65 million, and funding sources had not been pinned down.

Clements' speech to a joint session of senators and House members on Wednesday should spell out the governor's priorities. He has already let it be known that budget-trimming should precede efforts to raise taxes.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock

has estimated state government faces a deficit of nearly \$6 billion in the next two and a half years, but Clements told an audience of chamber of commerce officials last week that Texas would "operate on the basis of living within our means."

With the state buffeted by financial problems, including its large and growing prison population, Lewis said the legislative pressure is more intense than he can remember for the start of a session.

Klan members picket at Dallas abortion clinic

DALLAS (AP) — Four members of the Ku Klux Klan surprised staff members of a Dallas abortion clinic with a pro-life picket line.

The Routh Street Women's Clinic scene almost every weekend of picketing by anti-abortion groups, but clinic director Charlotte Taft said the Klan's action Saturday was a surprise.

"I was totally amazed," Taft said. "I had some concern what their limits (of protest) might be."

But Taft said the Klan pickets were more polite than the usual anti-abortion protesters who gather around the clinic almost every weekend.

Scott Patrick, Grand Dragon of the Garland klavern, said he and his

group wanted to show that the Klan does not focus only on racial issues.

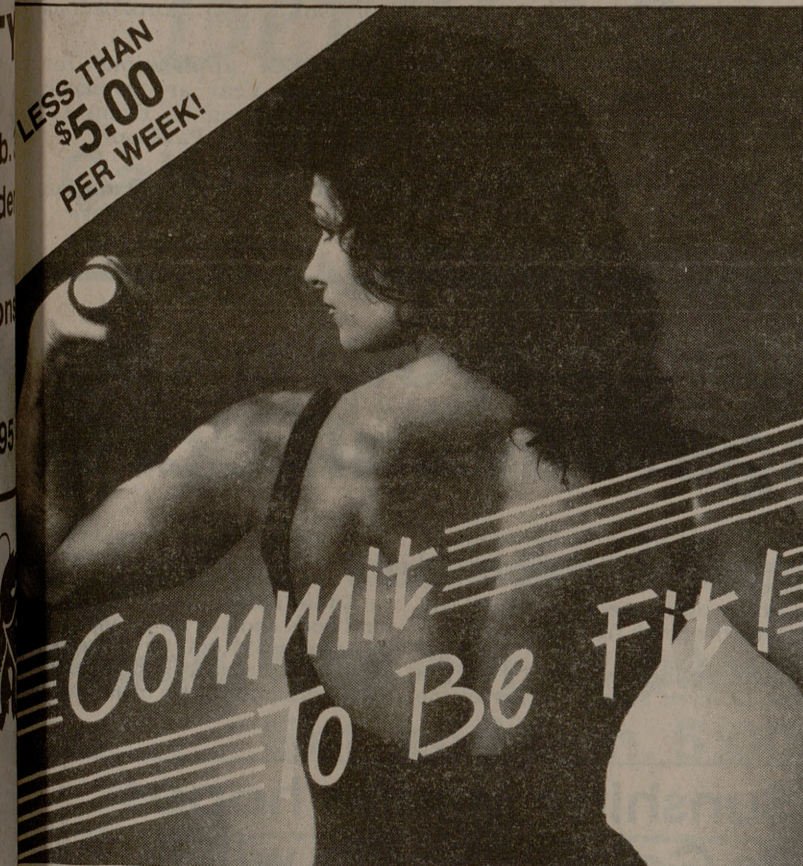
"We're a Christian organization," Patrick said. "We're out to show the public we're against abortion also. The media built up our reputation as race haters. That's just not true."

Some passing motorists honked

horns, some made obscene gestures and others stopped to ask why the Klan protested abortion. Police said no one was arrested.

One passer-by questioned the need for the Klan demonstrators to wear hooded robes.

"This mask protects us from the prejudice that other people have against us," Patrick said.



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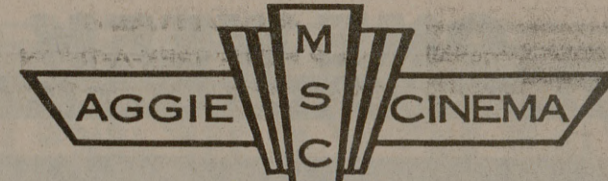
PUBLISHING CAREER?

Learn more about the **Rice Publishing Program**, an intensive four-week course in book and magazine publishing to be held June 21-July 17 on the Rice University campus in Houston.

Edie Carlson, Administrative Director, will be on campus from 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Thursday, February 12, to discuss the program with interested juniors, seniors and graduate students. Persons wishing to speak with her may schedule an appointment with the Texas A&M University Placement Center, J. Earl Rudder Conference Tower, or come by the placement office while she is on campus.

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