

inside

Dear Readers:

This week's issue of At Ease deals with the changing economic environment in which we live. Everyone notices the clubs and restaurants that change ownership and names every few months (or weeks, in some cases). But have you ever wondered why? Why have some businesses been around forever, while others can't seem to make it for more than a couple of months? We've tried to find answers to these questions by talking to those who've made it and those who haven't, as well as experts in the business field.

Along the same lines, we've explored the economic future of Bryan-College Station. It has been predicted that this area will be one of the fastest growing in the state by the year 2000. Not surprisingly, this growth depends largely on the development of research facilities at A&M. A bright future for A&M means a bright future for the surrounding community.

The old Campus Theater building on Northgate will soon become the Old Campus Theater. The building, which has been sitting vacant since 1985 is being renovated and transformed into a rock 'n' roll dance club. We've taken a look at this reborn business.

Another business that warrants exploration is a little Mobil gas station/grocery store/"coffee house of the 80s" in downtown Bryan. One employee at this store thinks old fashioned friendliness is a required ingredient for any business.

So now that we've told you what's in this issue, we're going to tell you what's not: your contributions to our attention!! page. We just don't understand. We hear time and time again that the attention!! page is one of your favorite parts of At Ease. But if we don't receive contributions from our readers to fill the page, we're going to have to do away with it. Don't think that you don't write well enough or that what you have to say isn't important. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

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Disappearing businesses _____ 8

Where, oh where did the businesses go? Oh where, oh where can they be? You may not sing this song, but you probably have noticed that many businesses change their names almost as often as they change their napkins. We've asked several local businessmen for their opinions on the ever-changing economy.

Economic Outlook _____ 6

Here's an informative look at the past, present and future economic situation of the Bryan-College Station area. The past is portrayed with an interesting article on the new Old Campus Theater night spot. A "coffee shop of the 80s" in downtown Bryan provides a personalized glimpse of the present. Finally, the future is investigated in an insightful analysis of where the economy is headed.

Aggienizing Answers _____ 10

It's a Saturday night . . . do you know where your friends are? We posed this question to students this week: "Are your entertainment needs met in this area?" Turn to page 10 to find the answers.

Album review _____ 4

The Pet Shop Boys have released their second album, which Tom says he likes. Read his opinion of "Actually" on page 4.

Movie review _____ 5

Sometimes a movie review serves as more of a warning than a temptation. Tom says "Hellraisers" definitely requires a word of warning to movie-going fans.