

## State and Local

# New nightclub comes to College Station area

By René Moody  
Reporter

The look and the sound of a metropolitan nightclub are coming to Bryan-College Station, the owners of Graffiti, a new club in the Skaggs shopping center, said Tuesday.

"This club's going to be like something you'd see in Houston or Dallas," said Jerry McGill, one of the owners of Graffiti. It's not Bryan-College Station; it's a big city club."

Paul Winston, McGill's partner, designed Graffiti and is in the process of building it. Winston also owns Contract Interiors, a general contracting company that built Rocco's, Galleria Jewelers, the Laredo Bar and the Roxz nightclubs across the state.

Graffiti is the 10th nightclub Contract Interiors has built, Winston said.

"It will be a lot of fun," he said. "Wherever you sit or stand inside, as you look across, you will get a completely different look."

The nightclub, located where Teazer's, the Roxz, the Laredo Bar and R-and-R were previously, is expected to open next week, Winston said.

They originally had planned to open a club at 1804 Valley View Drive, formally Ira's Place, but couldn't lease the parking lot. College Station city ordinances require 210 parking spaces to operate a nightclub in the 10,500 square foot building. The site only has 23 spaces.

Winston and McGill tried to lease parking spaces from K mart, whose parking lot is adjacent to the building, but the deal did not work out.

"We offered to repave and maintain the area if they would lease or give us permission to use the spaces," Winston said. "If someone leased the old Piggly Wiggly, there would be more than enough space or them, us, K mart and have about 40 spaces left over."

"The city had OK'd it; all we needed was a letter from K mart," Jane Kee, a College Station zoning

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— Jerry McGill, part-owner of Graffiti

official, confirmed Winston's explanation. She said there were enough parking spaces to satisfy city ordinances for K mart and the place next door to it.

"There was enough space left over to allocate to the club," Kee said.

After K mart's headquarters refused to lease them parking, Winston and McGill leased the location in the Skaggs shopping center from Culpepper Properties.

"It won't be the same old place it was before," Winston said. "The only thing that's in the same location is the DJ booth. We've completely gutted it and started over."

"Our music format is top 40, but rock-n-roll top 40. That means no Madonna basically, no Michael Jackson. We'll play a little of the new wave stuff, but the mainstream stuff."

"We'll play songs that hit the charts, not the stuff that you never hear."

"We'll play the music's that's new, that's out on the radio, that everybody likes."

Graffiti also will highlight the best songs from each year, starting with today's hits and going back to even the Beatles and Buddy Holly, Winston said.

He and McGill said they don't expect Graffiti to hurt the other clubs' business. "It will probably help out the other clubs in the long run," Winston said.

"We'll get a lot of attention at first," he said. "I don't think we'll shut anybody down, but they be able to see the difference. Then after awhile we'll draw our own crowd. There's enough business here for everyone."

Don Ganter, the owner of the Dixie Chicken, agreed that Graffiti may help the other clubs. The competition will help keep the entertainment market healthy, he said.

"It's a matter of taste and preference," he said. "We need some diversification."

Ganter is planning to open the Old Campus Theater as a nightclub in Northgate.

"It will be a rock-and-roll bar with dancing," he said. He's not in a hurry to open, but he could be ready in two or three months, he said.

Gary Seaback, the owner of the Edge, said he is not sure if Graffiti will hurt his business.

There is definitely not enough business in the Bryan-College Station area to support the number of nightclubs and dance halls it has, he said.

"You can't predict anything," he said. "It could be a total failure. It could be a total winner."

Sisco Spence, manager of Sundance in the College Station Hilton, agreed with Graffiti's owners and Ganter.

"Competition keeps people from getting fat and lazy," Spence said. "I'm sure Graffiti will affect my business, but I think it will be in a positive way."

Spence said he does not anticipate changing Sundance to compete with Graffiti. He admitted that it took several months to bring Sundance out of a rut.

Winston and McGill said Graffiti will change constantly.

"We're going to be fun," Winston said. "We're not going to let the place become boring."

"There'll be something new every week."

# Black leaders push for end to Dallas shooting inquiries

DALLAS (AP) — Police named an alleged triggerman in the third fatal shooting this year of a Dallas officer as two black leaders were in Washington, D.C., seeking quick resolutions of federal investigations into police shootings.

Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Diane Ragsdale said after their meeting with officials in the U.S. Department of Justice that they are satisfied that the police shootings of Etta Collins, 70, and David Horton, 81, were being examined actively.

Police Chief Billy Prince, however, said he thought the meeting Wednesday in Washington was inappropriate.

"I don't know why we can't accept the grand jury system that we have," Prince said, referring to investigations into the police shootings by local grand juries, which declined to issue indictments against the officers involved.

The meeting Wednesday between Price, Ragsdale and top officials in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division was part of a continuing controversy that has dominated Dallas politics since black leaders began raising questions about shootings of blacks by white police officers.

The issue resulted in the creation of a strengthened citizens' police review board and a series of other police reforms, which have drawn increasing fire in the wake of three slayings of police officers this year.

On Wednesday, police investigator John Westphalen said eyewitnesses identified Vincent Edward Cooks as the man who fatally shot Dallas officer Gary D. McCarthy during a robbery at a supermarket where he worked part-time.

Westphalen also said that just 30 minutes before McCarthy was shot Friday, a police sergeant spotted Cooks and two other men

in a car parked across the street.

The sergeant provided crucial information leading to the arrest of all three men, he said.

The death of McCarthy and two officers have helped spark resistance to police reforms supported by Price, Ragsdale and other Dallas leaders, and on Wednesday those leading the fight to abolish the police review board revealed a change in tactics.

Dallas Police Association members, who also want to force the city to hire more officers, said they have opted to forego a referendum in favor of a charter amendment election, which has easier requirements and allows fewer city council options.

Members said they will seek to force the change through an amendment to the City Charter, which requires petition signatures from only 5 percent of registered voters, or 20,000 signatures, whichever is less.

# Report: Inmate brutality won't end unless officials punish offenders

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas Department of Corrections' history of brutality against inmates is likely to continue until prison officials demonstrate they won't tolerate such behavior, a special monitor's report on court-ordered prison reforms concluded.

Special Master Vincent Nathan acknowledges in his most recent report on the prison system's compliance — filed with Houston's U.S. District Court — that the TDC has made substantial improvements during the past two years in reducing the number of incidents of inmate abuse.

But he says there is no justification for leniency with guards who

use excessive force against inmates.

The special master's monitoring of the prison system resulted from a landmark ruling by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, who ordered massive prison reforms as a result of a lawsuit filed by inmate David Ruiz.

Nathan said prison monitor Gary Kuiper's report, which formed the basis for his report to the court, "demonstrates that TDC has not yet succeeded in meeting its obligation to administer adequate and effective discipline in a prompt fashion against all employees who use excessive or unnecessary force against prisoners or who harass or retaliate against prisoners for exercise of their legal rights."

"The lengthy record in this case on the issues makes it clear that action in this regard is needed urgently," Nathan said.

Nathan, however, did not ask Justice to order prison officials to respond in writing to the report, as Nathan did in a January report on inmate abuse at the Wynne Unit.

Charles Smith, assistant TDC director for compliance, said officials already have developed clearer policies to address the problems identified in the report. Those changes were made in 1987, when a draft of the report first was circulated among parties involved in the prison lawsuit.

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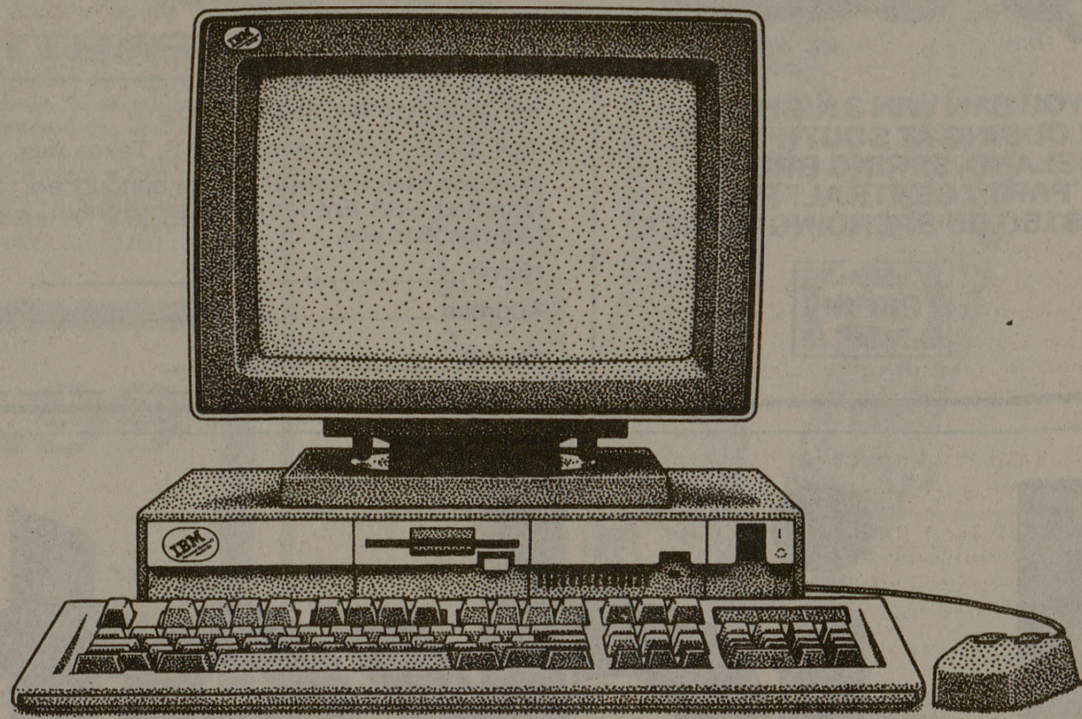
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