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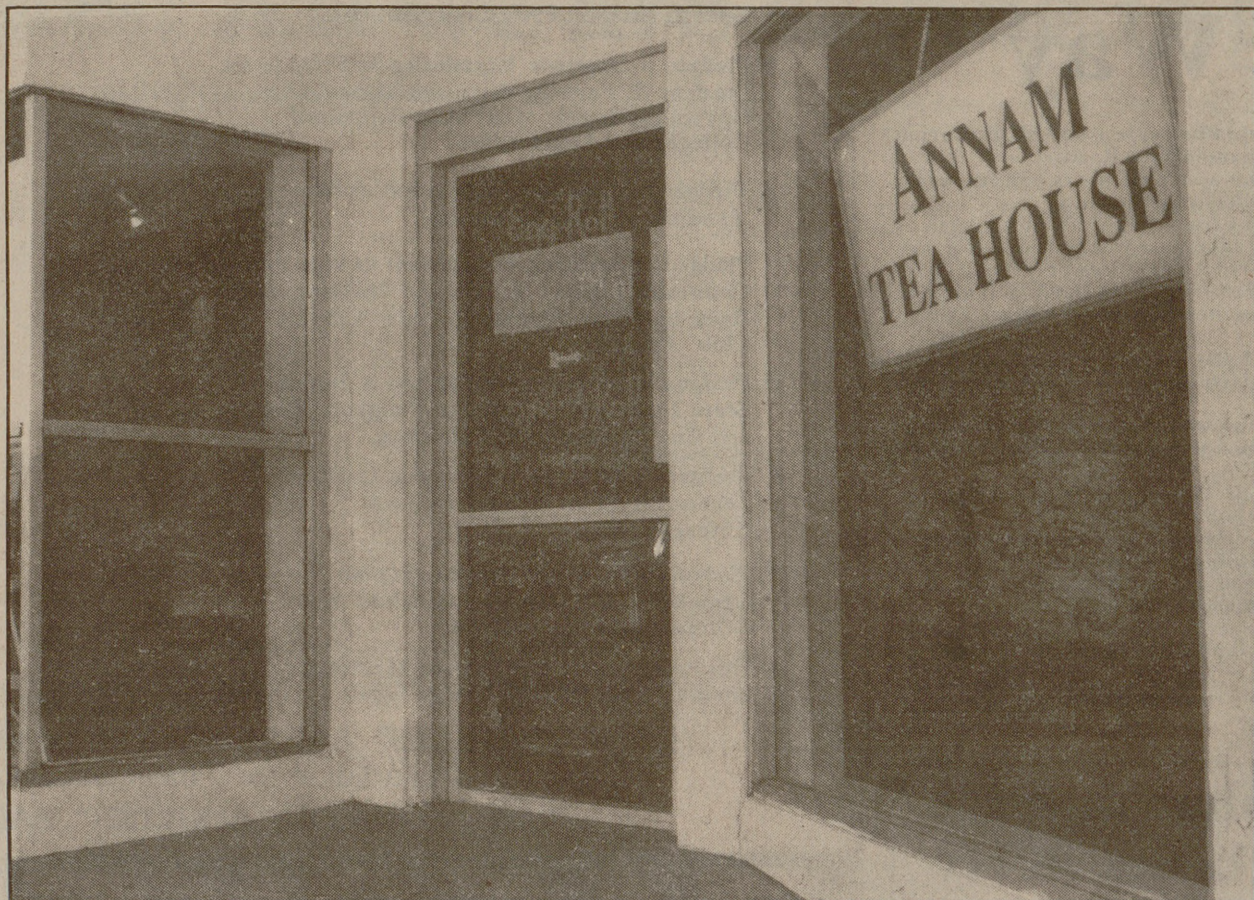
Elect **J.D. LANGLEY**
85th DISTRICT JUDGE

Pol. Adv. paid for by the J.D. Langley Campaign, Janita B. Murray, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3765, Bryan, TX 77803

The Battalion • LIFESTYLES •

Monday, November 5, 1990

Lifestyles Editor Lisa Ann Robertson 845-3313



HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

(Above) The AnNam Tea House offers dinner-theater every Tuesday and Thursday night during November. Thanh C. Nguyen (right), owner of the restaurant, performs this month's play, "Vietnamese Lullaby." He wrote the one-man play which is based on a true story.



Tea house stirs audience with 'Vietnamese Lullaby'

By ROB NEWBERRY
"Vietnamese Lullaby," a one-act play being presented this month at AnNam Tea House, will do anything but put you to sleep. Each Tuesday and Thursday night in November, Thanh C. Nguyen, owner of the restaurant, plans to perform this intense short drama.

Nguyen wrote the play himself. "It's about an experience in Vietnam," Nguyen said. "Most of it is based on a true story."

The play is a one-man show and deals with the tribulations of a Vietnamese poet after the effects of the war. In the 25-minute monologue, the actor recalls his feelings about an abusive father, his mother's death in the Tet offensive and the unending "madness of the bombs."

The consistent peace that the poet finds throughout the play, however, is in the lullaby that his mother sang when he was a child.

Nguyen performs with sincerity and feeling. As he recounts the times his father was angry with him or his confusion during the bombings, the restaurant becomes a maddened household or a chaotic street in a city torn with war.

But the play is not too emotional. Nguyen's part includes some thoughtful poetry readings, as well as some intellectual insight into the problems created by the war in Vietnam.

Theater Review

Nguyen says he will also be performing his other play "The Black Sheep" later this year. "It is a story of a reunion of two people in the war: an American soldier and a Vietnamese boy," Nguyen explains. "When the boy comes to America later, he sees a sign that says, 'Will work for food. Help former vet.'"

"Both of the characters have emotional scars, and in their 40-minute time together on the stage, they help each other to heal them," Nguyen said.

AnNam Tea House hopes to bring College Station more than Nguyen's own work however. "We would like to make this place into a center for visual and performing arts," Nguyen said. "We have Wednesday night open mike that is similar in structure to Coffeehouse and on November 17, we are having some writers from Austin come to read their poetry."

This month's performances of "Vietnamese Lullaby" are definitely worth a Tuesday or Thursday evening. And even if the Vietnam conflict is twenty years in the past, the permanent problems created for the actor in the play will make you take another serious look at situations like those in Saudi Arabia today.

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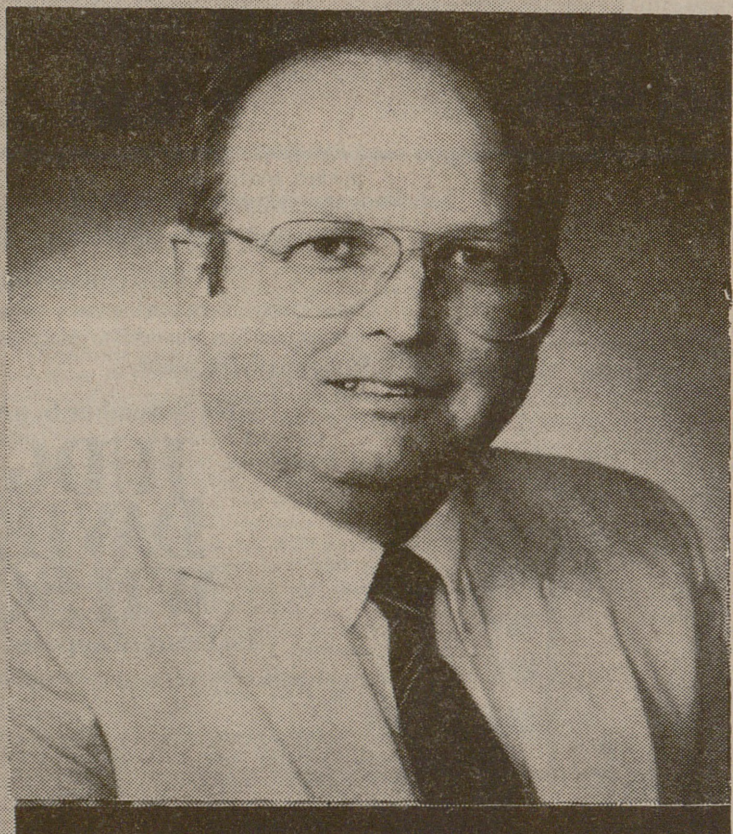
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