

Return of the coffeehouse

Local investors brew up old trend in Aggieland

By Jennifer Gressett

THE BATTALION

Espresso. Cappuccino. Java Lava. Whatever you want to call it, it's helping coffee shops make a comeback in Bryan-College Station.

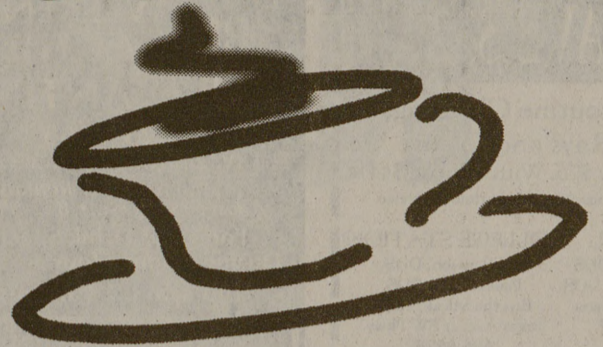
Melanie Mack, co-owner of downtown Bryan's Java City, said coffee shops in the 60s provided cultural, social and political exchange. "We opened Java City in the hopes of bringing that opportunity for self-expression to this community," said Mack, who opened the shop with her mother Fran German in October. In the hopes of keeping self-expression alive, Java City has an "open mike, open wall" policy. Locals are encouraged to bring their own music, poetry and artwork to express themselves throughout the shop.

James Cross, a regular to the Java City scene, said the shop doesn't restrict patrons from expressing themselves, no matter what culture they bring in.

"Every person that comes into Java City experiences it in a different way, each time adding to it something new," Cross said. "Java



Photos by Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION



A patron exits Java City; a group of patrons plays chess in the background.

recently donated two of his paintings. But don't let Eugene's decor fool you. Take one bite of their Double Fudge-Upside Down-Jack Daniel's cake, with a splash of Cafe Mocha, and you'll be back for more.

However, if you're only in it for the beans, The Coffee Beanery may have what you're looking for. Located in the Post Oak Mall, it lacks the open mikes, open walls, and midnight mocha moments of our local coffee shops, but it seems to be adding to the trend nonetheless.

"The more people are exposed to coffee, the more popular it will become," Mack said, "and that will help us to keep the coffee shop trend alive."

Combine the art and entertainment, throw in a few couches and bookshelves, add coffee, and what do you get? A coffee shop trend that has become a rage in Aggieeland — for students, artists and coffee connoisseurs alike.

City is whatever people want it to be." Natives of the San Francisco Bay area, the mother-daughter team said coffee shops are popular on the coast. In fact, they have grown to become one of the top 10 businesses in the 90s. No need to tell that to Aaron and Matthew Brown. They seemed to know what they were doing when they opened Sweet Eugene's House of Java in November.

Eugene's, located behind Garcia's in College Station, was also inspired by the California craze. "While Matthew was studying business in L.A., he noticed that coffee shops were becoming increasingly popular," said Aaron, who recently graduated from Texas

A&M with a management degree. They, too, wanted to bring something to the community that would bring the various cultures of a college town together.

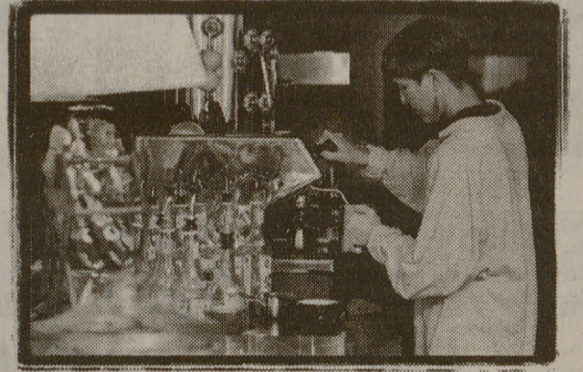
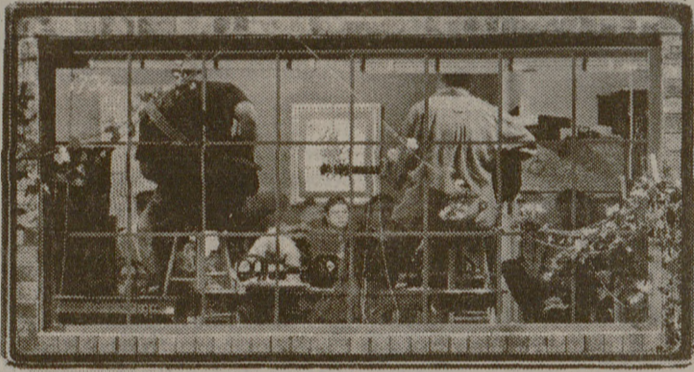
Although Eugene's hasn't established an open-mike policy yet, musicians such as Eugene Eugene & The Solid Foundation Band, and Ty Southerland have provided local talent to their stage.

"I really like playing (at Eugene's) and at Java City," Southerland said. "They're two totally different crowds but both are cool. And I think Bryan and College Station are lucky to have two joints like this."

As for art, Aaron said local and California artists have donated works to their shop. Texas A&M's Dr. Joe Smith, now retired in Caldwell,

A local musician joins Sweet Eugene's House of Java regular Ty Southerland (right) on stage.

Kelli Buckley, a senior biomedical science major, prepares a cappuccino for a customer at Sweet Eugene's House of Java.



ARTS & CRAFTS

Matting & Framing
Wed. Feb 16, 23, March 2
6:30-8:30pm
Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7
6:30-8:30pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Calligraphy
Wed. March 23 - May 4
7-9pm
\$28/student \$33/nonstudent

Stained Glass
Thurs. Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3
6-9pm
Wed. March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Etched Glass
Tues. March 22
6-9pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

Leaded Glass
Mon. March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Jewelry Casting
Sat. & Sun. March 26 & March 27
10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm each day
\$40/student \$45/nonstudent

Garment Painting
Mon. Feb 7
6-9pm
Wed. March 23
6-9pm
\$10/student \$15/nonstudent

Heirloom Smocking
Thurs. March 28, April 4, 11, 18
6-9pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Flower Arranging
Tues. March 22, 29, April 5
6-9pm
\$17/student \$22/nonstudent

Potpourri
Tues. April 12
6-9pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

PAINT & DRAW

Painting I
Thurs. Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Painting II
Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Adv. Painting
Mon. Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Watercolor
Wed. March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Drawing I
Tues. Feb 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8
6-8pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Drawing II
Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
6-8pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Drawing for Kids
Wed. Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2
6-8pm
\$30 Class fee

SPRING WORKSHOPS

Register Now - MSC Basement - 845-1631

LANGUAGES

Chinese
M/W, Feb 21 - April 6
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

French
T/Th, Feb 22 - April 7
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

German
T/Th, Feb 8 - March 10
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Italian
M/W, Feb 21 - April 6
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Japanese
M/W, Feb 14 - March 30
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Russian
M/W, Feb 21 - April 6
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Spanish I
M/W, Feb 21 - April 6
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Spanish II
T/Th, March 22 - April 28
8-9:30pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Sign Language I
T/Th, Feb 8 - March 10
6-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Sign Language II
T/Th, March 22 - April 21
6-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Sign Language for Children
Wed. Feb 9 - April 20
5:30-6:30pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

ESL I
M/W, Jan 31 - March 9
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

ESL II
M/W, March 21 - April 27
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

MSC University PLUS

POTTERY

Beginning Pottery
Mon. Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7, 21, 28
5:30-7:30pm
Tues. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8
7:45-9:45pm
Wed. Feb 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 23
7:45-9:45pm
Thurs. Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10
7:45-9:45pm
Tues. Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26
5:30-7:30pm
Tues. Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26
7:45-9:45pm
Thurs. Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
7:45-9:45pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Pottery II
M/W, April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20
5:30-7:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Hand Built Pottery
Thurs. Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
5:30-7:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

WOODWORKING

Woodworking I
Tues. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22
6-8pm
Sun. Feb 6, 13, 20, 27
6-8pm
Mon. March 21, 28, April 4, 11
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Woodworking II
Wed. April 6, 13, 20, 27
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Adv. Woodworking
Sun. April 10, 17, 24, May 1
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Indian Bow Making
Tues. March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

DANCE

Beg C & W Dance
Wed. Feb 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9
6-7:15pm
Wed. Feb 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Adv C & W Dance
Wed. April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4
6-7:15pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Jitterbug
Mon. Feb 28, March 7, 21, 28, Apr 4
6-7:15pm
Wed. April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Ballroom Dance
Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
6-7:15pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Bellydance
Mon. Jan 31 - March 7
7-9pm
Mon. March 21 - April 25
7-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Scottish Country Dance
Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

PHOTOGRAPHY

Video Camera Methods and Techniques
Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7, 14
7-9pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Photography
Thurs. Feb 3, 10, 17, 24
6-9pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

B&W Darkroom
Tues. Feb 8, 15, 22, March 1
6-9pm
Thurs. April 7, 14, 21
6-9pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Studio Portraiture
Sat. April 9
9am-12 & 1-4pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Color Printing
Sun. April 10
9am-12 & 1-4pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

MUSIC

Beginning Guitar
Mon. Feb 7 - April 4
7-8:30pm
Tues. Feb 8 - April 5
8:30-10pm
Wed. Feb 2 - March 30
7-8:30pm
\$40/student \$45/nonstudent

Intermediate Guitar
Tues. Feb 8 - April 5
8:30-10pm
\$40/student \$45/nonstudent

Drum Training
Wed. March 23 - April 27
6-7:30pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Voice Training
Sun. Feb 6, 13, 20, 27
6-8:30pm
Sun. April 10, 17, 24, May 1
6-8:30pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

SPECIAL INTEREST

Landscaping
Wed. March 23 - April 27
6:30-8:30pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Backyard Gardening
Dates and times to be announced
Call 845-1631 for information

Pilot Ground School
T/Th, Feb 1 - March 8
7-9:30pm
\$50/student \$55/nonstudent

Diamond Buying
Wed. April 6, 13, 20
6:30-7:30pm
\$10/student \$15/nonstudent

Cake Decorating
Sat. Feb 5, 12, 19
10am-12noon
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Backyard Wildlife
Tues. March 22 - April 26
7:30-8:30pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Flyfishing
Tues. March 29, April 5, 12, 19
7-9pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Bike Maintenance
Tues. Feb 8, 15, 22, March 1
7:30-9:30pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Intro To Falconry
Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21
6-7pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Electronics
Wed. March 30, April 6, 13, 20
6:30-9:30pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Billiards
Sat. Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5
11am-1pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Social Phenomenon of Spiritualism
Thurs. March 24 - April 28
7:30-9:30pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

SELF HELP

Public Speaking
Mon. Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7
6-8pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

Emotional Wellness and Self Esteem
Tues. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8
7-9pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Yoga
M/W, Jan 31 - March 9
6:30-8pm
M/W, March 21 - April 27
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Self Defense
Tues. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8
6:45-8:15pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Defense Devices
Tues. March 22
6:30-9pm
\$30/student \$21/nonstudent

CPR
M/W, Jan 31, Feb 2
6-10pm
M/W, March 21, 23
6-10pm
M/W, April 25, 27
6-10pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

First Aid
M/W, Feb 7, 9, 14, 16
7-9pm
M/W, March 28, 30, April 4, 6
7-9pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

SPECIAL INTEREST

Basics of Investing
Tues. Feb 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8
7:30-9pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Job Interviewing
M/W, March 28, 30, April 4, 6
6:30-8pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Public Speaking
Mon. Feb 14, 21, 28, March 7
6-8pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

Creative Writing
Tues. March 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26
6:30-8:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Magazines & Books
Wed. March 23 - April 27
6-7:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

International Wines
Tues. Feb 8, 15, 22, March 1
7-8:30pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Wines of America
Tues. March 29, April 5, 12, 19
7-8:30pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

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