

The ever-growing Garden District

By Traci Travis

THE BATTALION

Don't let the name fool you. The Garden District, located at 108 E. North Street, is not just roses and daffodils.

Since its creation eight years ago, The Garden District, consisting of a home of shops surrounded by bountiful gardens, has blossomed into Bryan-College Station's latest tourist attraction, said Marilyn Ferguson, part-owner of The Garden District.

Tour buses filled with crowds of "out-of-towners" make frequent stops at this not-so-ordinary shopping center located in the middle of an ordinary neighborhood.

Businesses offer B-CS a relaxing shopping alternative

Enclosed by a white iron fence, which creates its New Orleans look, the district offers a wide variety of shops containing unusual merchandise.

Upstairs there is a nail salon and a hair studio. Downstairs, a clothing store, gift shop, jewelry boutique, cafe and interior design store.

The history of the district yields surprises all its own.

Ferguson and her husband Mark, owners of Contemporary Landscapes, were in the landscaping business for nine years when they moved to their current location in 1983.

Soon after their move to North Street, the Fergusons bought the property next door belonging to a former Northgate barber.

"We weren't getting business as fast as I thought we should," Marilyn said. "We thought about our pretty location and asked ourselves how we could get more business."

Following a short visit with Linda and Bob Allen, a plan was created and the "other half" of The Garden District was formed. Linda, an interior decorator,

was operating her decorating business out of her home and, at that time, was looking for a new location.

In 1985, the Allens and Fergusons decided to go into business together.

"The opportunity was taken and the result is what you see here," Marilyn said. "The Garden District was created to, number one, help me and at the same time become a place for Linda to continue her business in the same home-like atmosphere."

The home was leased out by other businesses before it was finished, Marilyn said.

"We still get calls from people wanting to lease," Marilyn said. "Unfortunately, we just don't have enough room."

With the addition of the neoclassical home in April of 1986, The Garden District was complete.

The home originally contained only Linda Allen & Associates (an interior design store) and Kaffe Klatsch (a cafe). Now, after considerable growth, it contains six more shops.

The owners boast proudly of the compatibility amongst the shop owners within the district. The open communication among the employees adds to the friendly atmosphere.

With so many shopping places to choose from, the district distinguishes itself by creating a friendly atmosphere, Marilyn said. At The Garden District, the customers receive special treatment upon first driving onto the property. Store owners make it a point to become familiar with each customer.

"We are the other alternative to the mall," Marilyn said. "We are here for people who want to

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The Garden District, located a few blocks from campus, was founded in 1983 and is quickly becoming one of the area's hottest tourist attractions.



America's newest daytime craze

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

Some call it tabloid journalism. Others call it informative educational programming. Whether pro or con, everyone has an opinion on the craze for daytime talk shows.

From who-cheated-on-whom stories to women in the workplace, these shows occupy television airtime addressing a wide range of timely topics. But then again, so does the news. So what's the attraction? Why is America all chatter about talk shows?

Program Director of KAMU-TV Rodger Lewis said he believes daytime talk shows allow people to experience life situations without leaving their living rooms.

"People used to sit and talk to each other before the days of TV and air conditioning," Lewis

said. "Now they are couch potatoes. Their TV is their best friend. They gain vicarious experiences and even care about people they don't know through watching TV."

Assistant Station Manager for KBTX-TV John Boaz said he attributes the success of daytime talk shows to their out-of-the-ordinary topics.

"People are intrigued by the tabloid style of journalism you don't get on the news," Boaz said. "They are interested in these 'real life' situations."

"The Oprah Winfrey Show," "Donahue" and "Maury Povich" are the three highest ranked daytime talk shows, according to Boaz.

A Battalion survey of 100 students of different ages and majors showed similar results.

More than 41 percent of those surveyed named "Oprah" to be their favorite daytime talk show.

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Keep Brazos County on the Right Track

Since Judge Holmgreen has been in office:

- The county constructed a new minimum security jail
- A Juvenile Detention Center was created to separate juveniles from adult criminals
- Brazos County and the Cities of Bryan and College Station formed a private corporation to create the Brazos Animal Shelter
- Brazos County formed corporations to establish the Brazos County Industrial Foundation, Brazos County Housing Corporation and the Health Facilities Corporation
- A new facility was purchased and renovated to house the Brazos County Health Department
- A new Road and Bridge Department facility was purchased
- All of the above have been accomplished without the expense of bond issuance
- The county tax rate has decreased over the past two years

Community Service:

- Juvenile Board of Brazos County — Chairman
- Leadership Brazos — Project Leader
- Brazos County Industrial Development Corporation, Brazos County Housing Finance Corporation, Brazos County Health Facilities Corporation — President
- 9-1-1 Board of Brazos County — Chairman
- Bryan/College Station Economic Development Corporation — Member
- Metropolitan Planning Organization — Chairman
- Texas Association of Regional Councils — Past President
- MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley — Past Chairman, Board of Directors
- Brazos Valley Development Council — Past Chairman
- Bryan Independent School Board — Past Secretary



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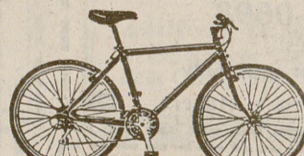
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