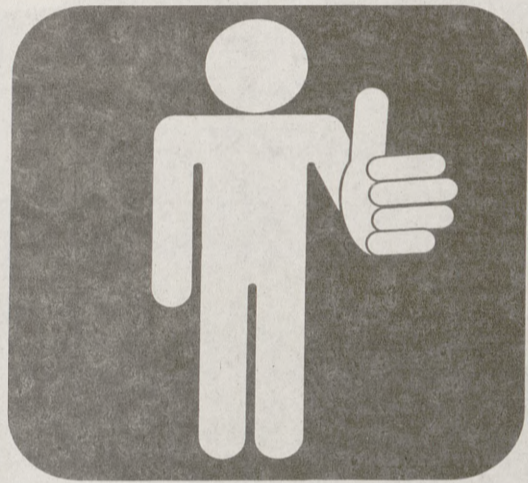


last chance

Friday, Sept. 29 will be the last day for freshmen to have their yearbook pictures taken. Pictures are taken at AR PHOTOGRAPHY, 707 Texas Ave. (next to Taco Cabana). Call 693-8183 for more information.

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Taking a shot in the dark

New shot bar owners strive for variety

By Amy Uptmor
THE BATTALION

Coupe de Ville's neon lights and Cadillac sign stand out among the traditional face of Northgate.

But that's the idea. James Vanya, co-owner of Coupe de Ville's, said he wanted to open a bar on Northgate that had a different atmosphere than other bars on the strip.

The bar is as different on the inside as it is on the outside. Vanya describes it as a "hip, rock 'n' roll shot bar," featuring music from the '60s, '70s and '80s.

Scott Schumacher, a junior general studies major and manager of Coupe's, said the most distinct feature of the bar is its drink board. The bar offers 101 shots, all of which are listed, along with their contents, on the wall opposite the bar.

"That way people know exactly what they're getting," he said, "and most of the bartenders know more than 101 shots."

The bar offers mixed drinks, long necks, flaming Dr. Peppers and, of course, pitchers of beer.

Schumacher said that another thing that sets Coupe's apart from other bars is its clean atmosphere.

"Nobody's allowed to spit on



Louis Craig, THE BATTALION

Coupe de Ville was opened three weeks ago by the owners of house Billiards.

the floor here, and if they do, we kick them out," he said. "If you've been around here (College Station) for a while, you can appreciate that."

Jim Cooper, general manager of Coupe's, said the bar does things a little different from other bars. He said he is proud of the outstanding customer service the workers at Coupe's offer.

"We have a friendly staff that treats people the way they would want to be treated," Cooper said.

Like most employees of Coupe's, Cooper also works at Penthouse Billiards.

Vanya and Stephan Burne, co-owners of Coupe's, opened Penthouse in January of this year.

Vanya said that people are looking for a change of pace and give Coupe's a try.

"Coupe's is a good place to get away from the slow atmosphere around here," Vanya said.

Dry Bean offers traditional atmosphere

Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

It's an image right out of the movies — a shot bar, only 12 feet wide and 100 feet long, filled with smoke, people and liquor.

A movie image is exactly what Don Ganter had in mind when he created the Dry Bean shot bar on Northgate four years ago. The bar was created in the image of the Dry Bean saloon in the movie Lonesome Dove.

Ganter converted what had been Sticky Chins, an ice cream parlor, into the popular Northgate shot bar.

"I had a real estate man in Dallas tell me once, 'If you can walk out of a building and see a hotel, motel or college dormitory, build a bar,'" Ganter said. So that is what he did.

Kevin Cox, a senior business analysis major and Dry Bean bartender, said the bar's atmosphere is what keeps people coming back.

"We've got real good drinks, real good bartenders and great atmosphere," Cox said. "The Dry Bean is becoming a new Aggie tradition."

Ashoka Ali, a biomedical science graduate, said visiting the Dry Bean is a tradition for him and his roommates.

"We usually start out our nights there," Ali

said. "It's a fun atmosphere. A fun group of people always hangs out there. You have to be 21 in, so there aren't a lot of young kids in there."

The Dry Bean is one of only a few bars on Bryan-College Station that checks the age of individuals entering the bar.

Ganter said Dry Bean employees have to check I.D.s because there is such limited space in the bar.

"This makes it more attractive to the crowd because they don't have to mess around with the younger crowd," he said.

Jason Maxwell, a senior management major, said the older crowd at the Dry Bean makes it more unique.

"When you have to wait a few years to get to a place like the Dry Bean," Maxwell said, "it makes it that much more exciting when you finally get to go in. That's why I celebrated my 21st birthday there."

Because the Dry Bean is a relatively new establishment, Cox said a lot of former students like to come in to see the place.

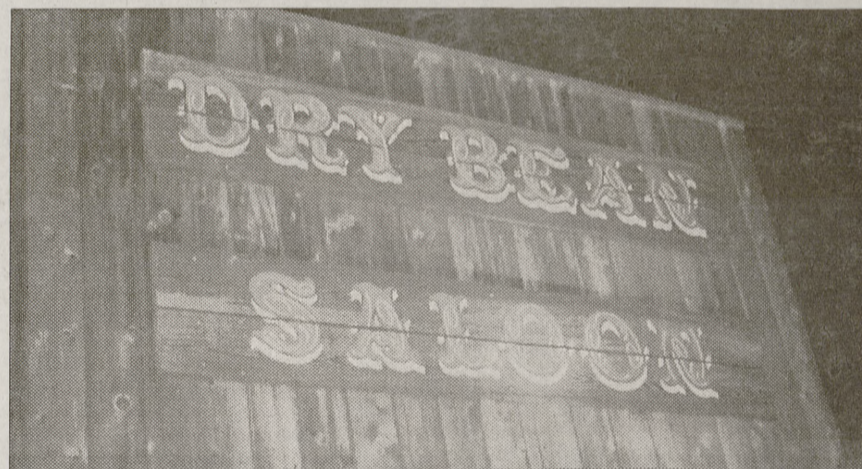
"A lot of parents and old Ags come in on the ends," he said. "We see a lot of them in here Friday afternoons before football games."

Courtney Smith, a senior English major, said her parents have enjoyed visiting the Dry Bean with her.

"My parents wanted to see what it was all about," Smith said. "The Dry Bean isn't around when you're in school here, they hear me talk about it as being this neat place to hang out."

Cox said the unique atmosphere and the quality of the Dry Bean what keeps people coming back.

"There isn't a bar like it anywhere else," Smith said. "I've been in bars in Houston, Dallas and a lot of other places, but they're just not like the Dry Bean. It's just a unique place."



Louis Craig, THE BATTALION

Dixie Chicken owner Don Ganter opened the Dry Bean Saloon four years ago.

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