

# Caffé Capri brings new spice to Bryan

Katharine Deaton  
THE BATTALION

Caffé is café in Italian. Students are apt to pick up a few Italian words when visiting Caffé Capri in downtown Bryan.

Caffé Capri was opened a month ago by Rami Cerone, a 22-year-old Texas A&M graduate with a degree in management. Cerone said owning his own business is something he's always wanted to do.

"I wanted to have a restaurant," Cerone said. "Initially, I looked for smaller jobs but knew I'd have to leave eventually. So I started on my restaurant immediately."

Being raised in the restaurant business made his choice quite obvious, Cerone said.

"My parents are in the restaurant business, so I've been around it," Cerone said. "I knew I always wanted a business, and I chose a restaurant because I knew it."

Cerone said he initially looked for locations for his restaurant in College Station, but downtown Bryan had more appeal.

Caffé Capri has a character and an atmosphere people won't find in College Station, Cerone said.

"This isn't a typical building," Cerone said. "It's different than [other Italian] restaurants."

Caffé Capri is a one-room establishment with an open kitchen. The music is not the traditional Italian polkas that might be expected, but Cerone's own collection of rock and reggae.

"It's something different," Heather Perrine, a sophomore business major, said. "It's more of a lunch place. It's not a typical romantic Italian restaurant with candles and dim lighting."

This difference is what holds the appeal for students, Cerone said.

"The appeal is in the open and bright atmosphere," he said. "Customers can just lay back and relax."

Cynthia Trevizo, a senior English major and Caffé Capri waitress, said students should make the drive to Caffé Capri.

"Downtown Bryan offers a good escape from College Station," Trevizo said. "It's good for a change of pace."

Perrine said the food also attracts students. "The food has more of a home-cooked taste, and students are craving home-cooked meals," Perrine said.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

Caffé Capri is in historical downtown Bryan.

The recipes for all entrées are family recipes. Cerone's father prepares 80 gallons of homemade marinara sauce every week for the restaurant.

Cerone said customers from Austin and Dallas have voiced their desires to have Caffé Capri in their town. Cerone is not sure when or if he'll expand his business, but he said he is going to try.

"I hope it's the first of many," he said.

## SKIN DEEP: Regional perspectives differed at retreat

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"I was on fire about the whole diversity issue," she said. "I had done a lot of things to broaden my perspective. I was into trying new things."

She said her efforts to expand her horizons had been more appreciated at A&M than in California. Early said it was hard to let people know that she didn't fit the stereotype of the "white girl from Texas."

"I had a hard time articulating what I believed," she said. "They couldn't understand where I came from."

Early said she had been working to deal with the issue of race relations on campus. She had joined the Black Awareness Committee and attended the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference in an effort to better understand other

people's point of view. When her efforts were misunderstood at the retreat, she said she became defensive.

"At first I became very defensive because I was trying to reach out, and all of a sudden, I was getting pushed away," she said.

She said she later regretted being defensive because she realized that was not what she was there for.

"I realized I was so busy trying not to be stereotyped that I kind of stereotyped other people," she said.

Thomas said he had never realized how much of an effect the region of the country that students came from had on the issues they faced.

"It was important to be there so I could learn about these issues, so I can help here at home,"

he said. "What goes on in California eventually affects what goes on here."

Early said she was also surprised at the difference in social issues that affected people in different regions of the country.

"Everyone has a different experience to draw from," she said.

Thomas said there was something different to learn from everyone involved in the project.

"Everybody had something different they could give, something to show you, something to make you understand," he said.

He said the experience had a great impact on him.

"I think what happened there affects me every day and it is important that it does," he said. "It will affect my actions from here on out."

Reid said she wanted to work with college students on this pro-

ject because they are at an impressionable time in their lives.

"College students are at a place in their lives where they are more open to new ideas and are willing to experience and look at new attitudes and ideas," she said.

She said she hopes to inspire dialogue and communication.

"The film allows us to see and talk about things that can be different and scary, but can be rewarding," she said. "I used the students as role models to help those discussions take place."

Early said that sometimes it may be hard to face these issues but that it needs to be done.

"You have to continually challenge yourself and try to step out of the comfort zone," she said. "The more you do that, the easier it is to understand where other people are coming from."

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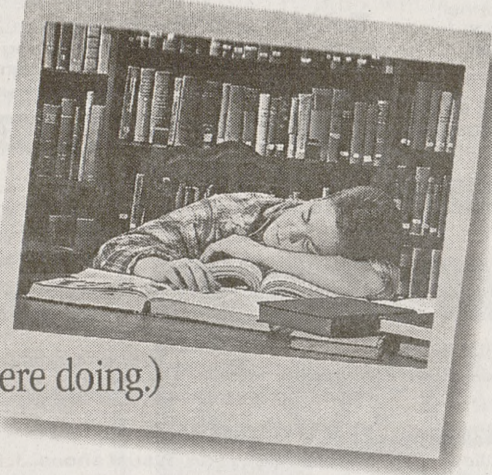
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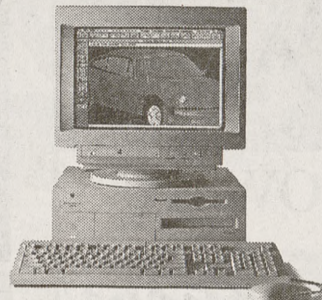
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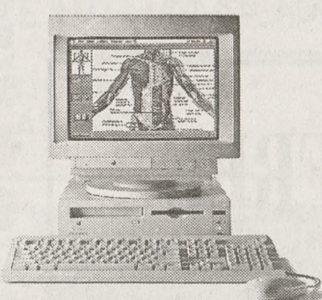
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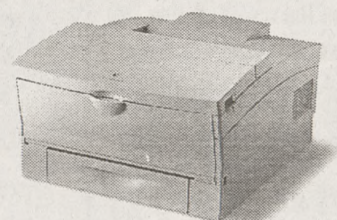
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