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# Roadhouse: Bar faces end of the road

Continued from page 1

Todd Prewitt, co-owner of the Roadhouse, said he is meeting with a friend this afternoon to determine if he is willing to take the risk and invest

"He is a friend from Dallas who is in the restaurant business," Prewitt said. "There is no guarantee; the odds are up in the air. He will tell me whether we have a chance. He will attract money from other sources. It will basically be an OK stamp for other investors to come in."

The financial problems stem from a combination of high operation costs and a lack of a lunch

and afternoon crowd, Prewitt said. Operating a business on Northgate is more expensive than on other property in town because of rent and property taxes. However, Prewitt has confidence the food the Roadhouse serves is the best on Northgate and hopes to have a second chance to prove it.

"If we get the go-ahead, it will not happen overnight," Prewitt said. "We need help from everyone, especially with the purchase of food. We need a lunch crowd. It is a volume issue. I

believe if you take the menus of every place on Northgate and compare them, our food would win. We might switch the style, but it will be the same quality. We just need to get the ratios up." A second problem that Prewitt, like most

businessmen, has to face is the competition. ways to expan! With over 12 restaurants and bars on Northgate and in the vicinity, competition for any business on Northgate is vicious.

"We figured it would take one-and-a-half-to-two years to get up and going," Prewitt said. We lost a little more this year.

"We jumped in with two feet in the cement with the big boys. The competition is steeper on Northgate because we have to convince people to drink or eat here as opposed to where they

The King of the Roadhouse opened on Feb. 3, 1994. The Roadhouse is the only Aggie-owned and operated establishment on Northgate.

The goal for co-owners, Prewitt and his brother, Ray, and Thom Bartkowski and his wife Jen, was not to become instantaneously rich but instead to create an environment in which Aggies would be comfortable.

"This is not here for us, but everyone else," Prewitt said. "You can walk in here and say, 'It's my

bar.' It is kind of the Cheers of College Station.

"Everyone who hangs out here knows everyone else. It is the most friendly atmosphere that I have been in. It is rare that customers care about the bar they frequent and that the bar

cares about the customer." Exit 68, a local band, will play tonight at the Roadhouse benefit. The band will start playing at 10 p.m., and there will be a \$3 cover charge. All proceeds will benefit the Roadhouse.

'Our first gig was here," Hans Betlen, a senior agricultural development major, said. "They helped us out, so it is our turn. We put fliers up all over campus in hopes to get the word out. This was supposed to be an off week, but we want to help out.'

Not only is the Roadhouse Aggie-owned and operated, but it was also built by Aggies. No construction crews were brought in. Instead, the place was stripped down, and people volunteered to scavenge for the wood that panels the walls.

"I'm a member of Alpha Phi Omega ,and we helped build it," Marie Kuebel, a junior biomedical engineering major, said. "We have lunch there every Friday. The original owners were members of APO, and it would be a shame to see it shut down. It is kind of like our St. El-

"It is one of the places that plays country music that I can stand to be in for more than 20 minutes. I like the ambiance and friendliness. Everyone knows everyone else."

The decor has always been thought of as unique, and it fits no specific theme. Bartender John Wesselmann, a senior business management major,

describes the decor as an "airplane crash in the middle of a saloon. Whether or not the Roadhouse closes, people

will always remember it as the place where they spend the better part of their college career.

"Where else would we go?" Diana Houghton,

atmosphere, the music and the fact that any thing goes makes it a great place to hang out. It

### Exotic gifts, peaceful atmosphere make EarthArt distinct

"I don't think there's another store like us in this whole area. We bring things from all over the world that are different and unusual."

> —Hazel Todd owner of EarthArt

By Tab Dougherty

alveston has The Strand. Austin has Sixth Street. Texas A&M has Northgate and, unknown to most, downtown Bryan.

The revitalization of downtown Bryan is in effect. With numerous specialty shops and restaurants, Bryan has the potential to be the next cultural mecca of the Brazos Valley.

One of these speciality shops in downtown Bryan is EarthArt, owned and operated by Hazel and Eric Todd.

"EarthArt is a store that spe-Todd said.

She said EarthArt, which too," she said. ed because her husband liked to collect rocks and minerals.

"We found out that there was an opening for some artists in a co-op in downtown Bryan," she said. "Then it just sort of grew from there.

She said downtown Bryan is a

good place for the store.
"I like it downtown," she said. "I like the old buildings and the atmosphere down there. It's quiet down there".

Hazel Todd said EarthArt has many unique art objects from countless countries.

"Basically, what we do is buy cializes in jewelry and gifts things that are interesting to us from all over the world," Hazel and that we really like, and we just hope other people like them

She said she hopes to bring something different to the Bryan-College Station area.

"I don't think there's another store like us in this whole area," she said. "We bring things from all over the world that are different and unusual. A lot of people say that they have to travel out of town or buy from catalogs to get the kind of things that we carry.'

Marty Farrell, a sophomore chemistry major, comes to EarthArt for the atmosphere.

"We really need a store like EarthArt here," he said. "It's like a breath of fresh air from the same old stuff.



See EarthArt, Page 4 EarthArt prides itself in having merchandise from all over the world.

Texas A&M Memorial Student Center Committee for the Awareness of **Mexican American Culture** 

Presents

### Rio Bravo Ballet

The Rio Bravo Ballet tells us the stories of the inhabitants of both sides of the Rio Grande, from pre-Colombian times through the present.

DATE:

Friday February 9, 1996

TIME:

7:00 p.m. PLACE: Rudder Auditorium

COST:

\$7.00 students \$9.00 non-students

\*For ticket information, contact the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.

\*For information concerning Rio Bravo contact Michelle Alvarado at the MSC Student Programs Office, 845-1515

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities. to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.



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## A Night With Tony Barone



Wednesday February 7, 1996 7:00 p.m. • 206 MSC

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#### COLLEGE STATION SUMMER DAY CAMP JOBS AVAILABLE

Positions available:

Junior Camp: k, 1st, and 2nd graders. Eight positions, full-time. Senior Camp: 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Nine positions, fulltime. Full-time staff work 40 hours per week, M-F.

Job Description: Staff is responsible for providing a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for the campers, required to plan activities that are creative and exciting, and must be positive role models. Staff is responsible for clean-up and care of site and equipment. Beginning pay is \$5.35/hr. Camp will run June 3, 1996 thru August 9, 1996 - 10 weeks total.

Requirements: Fun personality, lots of energy, love and understanding of children, CPR and First Aid certification. Must be 16 years of age or older.

Applications available at College Station Community office. Address: 1812 Welsh, Suite 120 College Station, TX Phone #: 764-5430

> Applications must be turned in to the Community Ed. office by February 23.