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ONE FINE DAY (PG) 1:25 3:50 6:50 9:20	
MOTHER (PG-13) 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40	
JERRY MAGUIRE (R) 3:30 6:30 9:30	
THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG) 1:30 4:00	
FIRST STRIKE (PG-13) 7:50 9:35	
BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD DO (PG-13) 2:00 4:00	
GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI (PG-13) 6:35 9:35	
GRIDLOCK'D (R) 2:30 5:00 7:50 10:05	
THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT (R) 12:50 3:50 7:05 10:05	
EVITA (PG) 12:45 3:45 7:00 9:55	
SCREAM (R) 2:15 4:45 7:10 9:45	
TURBULENCE (R) 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:15	
MICHAEL (PG) 1:45 4:15 6:55 9:20	
FIERCE CREATURES (PG-13) 2:30 4:50 7:30 9:40	
THE CRUCIBLE (PG-13) 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	
IN LOVE AND WAR (PG-13) 1:35 4:05 7:05 9:50	
BEVERLY HILLS NINJA (PG-13) 1:50 4:00 6:55 9:15	
EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE (R) 1:45 7:05	
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More than a shave and haircut

BY MELANIE BENSON
THE BATTALION

There's another world in Bryan-College Station, one that smells of freshly cut hair and smoothly shaven faces. This timeless world belongs to the old-time barber shops.

Of these barber shops, which used to mark every small American town, only a few remain. But they are definitely not a dying breed, says Gilbert Acosta, who has cut hair for 32 years.

"Barber shops are here to stay," Acosta said while giving haircuts at the 42-year-old Northgate Barber Shop.

Acosta began cutting hair at age 14, and later went to one of the first barber schools in Austin to be certified. He came to College Station to work for the MSC Barber Shop at Texas A&M before moving to Northgate.

Brad Vacek, a sophomore bio-environmental sciences major, said he likes the environment of the barber shop and the benefits it offers.

"They're cheap and quick," he said. The owners of both Northgate and Southgate Barber Shops, Ray and Crystal Thomas, work as barbers themselves and have acquired a great following of Texas A&M students.

"They like me because I gossip," Crystal Thomas said of her entourage of clients.

Both attribute Freshman Orientation Week as the key to helping freshmen decide where they will end up getting their hair cut throughout college.

The Monday before school begins is also an important day, as freshman cadets line up, 60 at a time, waiting for the five cadets before them to get their hair shaved off.

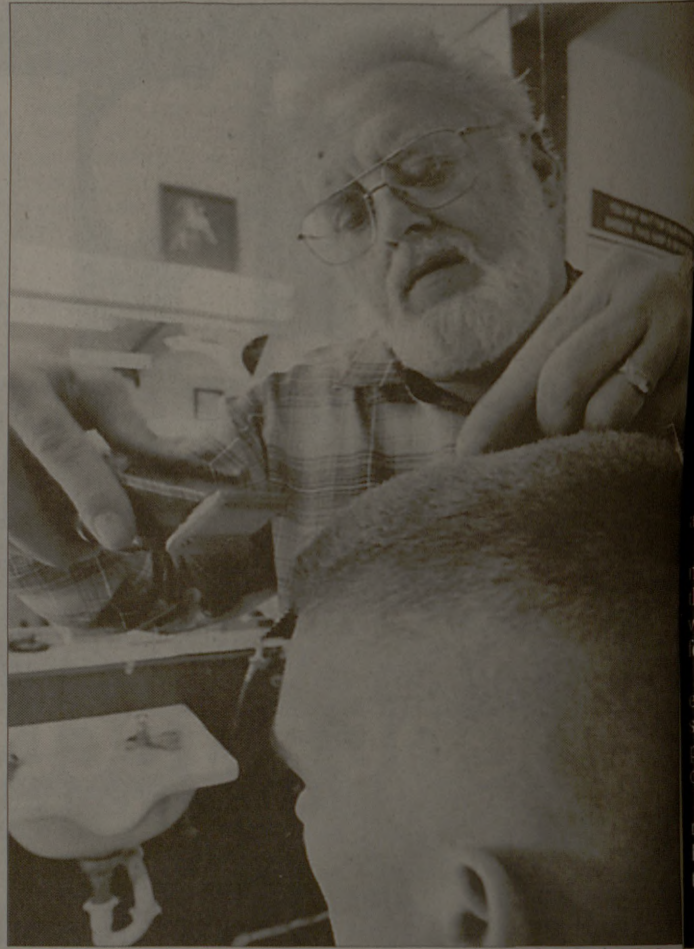
Clint Tracy, a senior entomology major in company E-1 of the Corps of Cadets, remembers what the shop was like every Friday before march-in during football season.

"There was never standing room," Tracy said.

Nicknames come with the territory, the barbers said. "Mean Gene" Wren tries to remember how he received his nickname.

"My customers gave me the name years ago," Wren said. He believes the barber shop is the place to get a nice history lesson.

Those who want the traditional barber shop experience, including



Curtis Steele trims Brent Pilgrim, a sophomore environmental design major.

a shampoo, haircut, shave and massage, go to the City Barber Shop on Main St. in Bryan.

The third and current owner, Tom Datson, has cut hair for 31 years.

"My barber shop is one of the few left that include everything from a shampoo to a shave," he said.

From the past to the present, barbers have not only given haircuts, they have given advice, Datson said.

"A lot of them (customers) come in for the conversation. I guess you could say I'm kinda like a psychiatrist."

The Barber Shop dates back to 1938, when it was owned by a man named Adams.

"Adams' son was the band director at A&M in '38, and the Aggie family continues the tradition of coming to the shop through his grandson," Cole said.

The shop contains a 1920s cash register, antique rotary telephone,

seats for shoe shining and the original swivel chairs from 1938.

Three pairs of boots sit by the front door, waiting for the "man" to pick them up, as the barbers, such as Northgate's Acosta, are seen retrieving their shined boots.

One customer, Eldred White, grew up getting haircuts at the barber shop and feels it's a necessity.

"I think barber shops are a necessary part of America," White said.

Pablo White, a senior computer science major, said he prefers the MSC Barber Shop, located in the basement of the Memorial Student Center.

"I chose it because it was convenient, and they do a great job," White said.

Cecil Krueger, who works at the MSC Barber Shop, has been cutting hair for 40 years, and said he remembers when prices were cheaper.

"The first year I was out of college was 1956, and a shampoo and haircut were only 50 cents, and a haircut is up to \$7," Krueger said.

Changes are occurring in the barber shops, and not just in prices. The executive director of the State Board of Barber Examiners, Michael Rice, issued a letter last November concerning possible legislation that would merge the State Board of Barber Examiners with the Texas Cosmetology Commission.

The Barber Board wants to preserve the barber industry by keeping it independent from the cosmetology community, Acosta said.

"The barber shops who belong to the Barber Board don't want this," Acosta said.

Although old-time barbers are trying to prevent the others from setting new standards on them, the Turner of Southgate Barber Shop things will change over time.

"Some people think of a barber shop with nostalgia and picture shoe shine, shave, and haircut," Acosta said. "It's sad, but that's a dying

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Lydia Hernandez puts the finishing touches on Brian Sherman, a senior environmental design major, at the Northgate Barber Shop.

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