



FASHION ON TAP



CAMPUS Couture

Before you make a date with Shake's, watch "Sleepless in Seattle" or secretly join Aggiedating.com in desperation this Valentine's Day, stop dead in your tracks this second. Freshen up, put on your Thursday's best and proudly strut your single stuff at one of College Station's nighttime hot spots.

Not so fast; before you take off your sweatpants and animal print house shoes, you need to figure just what bar you are going to own this weekend because even in this small town, different places call for different styles.

The one constant in College Station is the laid-back atmosphere. We are not, nor we will we ever be, a Sixth Street or downtown Dallas, and we like it that way. Although Texas A&M may be the most diverse of universities, Thursday night bar fashion is another story.

There are several authentic Texas joints around town such as The Texas Hall of Fame, Hurricane Harry's and the Dixie Chicken. This may be a hard concept to grasp, but there are many people outside of Texas, or even in other cities within the state, who do not necessarily appreciate the finer trends in Texas fashion such as cowboy boots,

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light. Carney's is casual and funky for women. Polo shirts along with fleece pullovers are like a second skin for the men at Carney's. Most people at Carney's wear close to the same things, so don't wear anything too off-the-wall or they might throw a dart at you. Here, Missy Hearn, a senior political science major, pairs an Anthropologie shirt with AG jeans.



PHOTOS BY JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

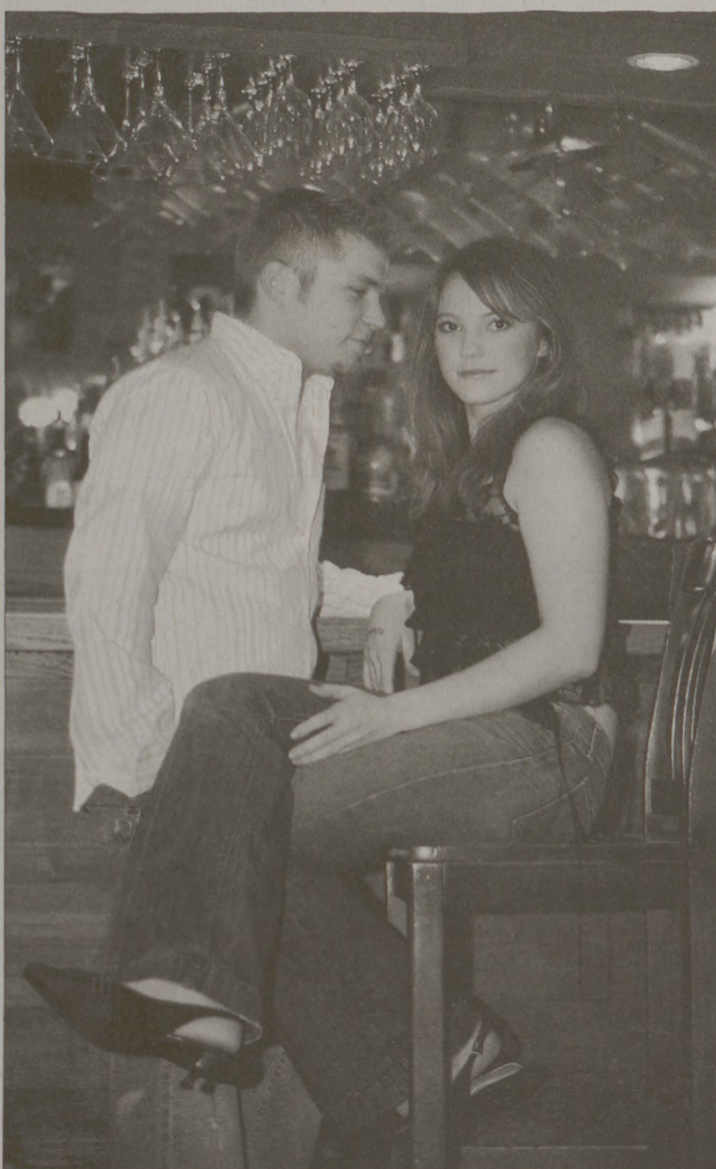


PHOTO BY JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

At the Tap, John Harmer, a senior poultry science major, sports his Abercrombie digs while digging on Jenna Jones, a senior journalism major. The Tap calls for nicer clothing as it is one of the sleeker bars in town. Wear dark colors like black to blend in with the crowd or go with something bright to stand out.

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

After Matthew Tuggle, a senior political science major, set out to find the perfect tie and cummerbund set for an upcoming formal event, he came home in defeat he said, as the selection in College Station was less than stellar.

"I went to Houston and found a Burberry set, and the girls loved it," Tuggle said. "I could never have found such a thing around here."

As students enter their upper level years of college, the necessity for having nicer, more professional clothes becomes urgent not only to feel more mature, but to fit into the nightlife scene in big cities.

When Jenna Jones, a senior international communication major, had an internship in Dallas this summer, she had to make some adjustments to her wardrobe as she had become too comfortable in her College Station style.

"Regardless of whether I am here or in another town, I prefer uniqueness, and some of my prized possessions in my wardrobe are from Paris and Spain," Jones said. "I am a vintage junkie, and it makes me really happy when I find a versatile piece that I can wear in many different settings."

Like most students on budgets of both money and time, Missy Hearn, a senior political science major, said she dresses very casually on a day-to-day basis, so when it is time to go out at night, she is ready to put that little extra effort into what she wears, which is usually a nice pair of jeans, heels and a dressy top.

"In College Station, I like shopping at the Closet Door and The Limited for going out-clothes," Hearn said. "But I love the boutiques in Austin, and Nordstrom has such a huge selection too."

Austin is a favorite destination for many A&M students for its nightlife and diverse shopping.

"Fashion in Austin is so different than College Station's," said Kryston Allison, a senior communications major. "People in Austin are more expressive with what they wear. Their clothes show their personality and their attitude. In College Station, it is more conformed to. 'What is my roommate going to wear?'"

Allison, who stays true to the laid-back tone of College Station in her fashion even when going out, opts for flip-flops, comfortable slacks, anything vintage and has sewn many of her own clothes.

"I like going to the bars more during the week because it is just more casual," Allison said. "The Tap on a Thursday night can get almost formal. It is all about the black slacks, and people dress like they are going clubbing."

Some bars, such as The Library, have a dress code that says

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