

# AT EASE

INSIDE **B**

Capsule reviews of current movies and a list of what's playing locally. **38**

## A Classic Rebirth

Nineteen-year-old Evan Amaya turns hobby into business

**Dana Spangler**

Assistant Lifestyles Editor

SHELBY — Evan Amaya leans over the car in his garage with a look of intensity. The 19-year-old wasn't alive when the 1960 MGA was built, but his hands move over the engine, occasionally pulling and tightening, with accuracy and precision.

That, however, comes at no surprise to those who have seen his work.

Evan started restoring his first car, a 1979 MGB, when he attended Shelby High School.

"I'd always wanted to do something like this," he said. "I just never had enough money."

"I had to buy my first car and insurance, and I was dri-

the Internet to find places to get parts, and I read every article I could find."

That research paid off.

"I spent nine months on it, and I went slowly," Evan said. "I would work on it for a while and then wait until I had enough money to buy parts to do something else."

"But when I got it done, people started asking about it."

Now a full-time college student, Evan is the owner of an intensive automotive restoration company.



Evan Amaya sits in the first car he restored when he was in high school, a 1979 MGB.

Lee McLeod / The Star

and insurance, and I was driving down the road my junior year of high school when I saw this car on the side of the road for sale."

So Evan bought the car for \$750 and started his research.

"I bought a book — the best one I could afford — and read through it," he said. "I went on

restoration company, Reborn & Company, that specializes in British sports cars.

"I haven't done any advertising," he said. "All my business has come from word of mouth and people that have seen my cars.

"I start from the metal and

bring it back up, better than it was originally" he explained. "When I did my car, I found where there were problems, and then I replaced those parts. I was able to rebuild a car that's been 15,000 miles with no problems."

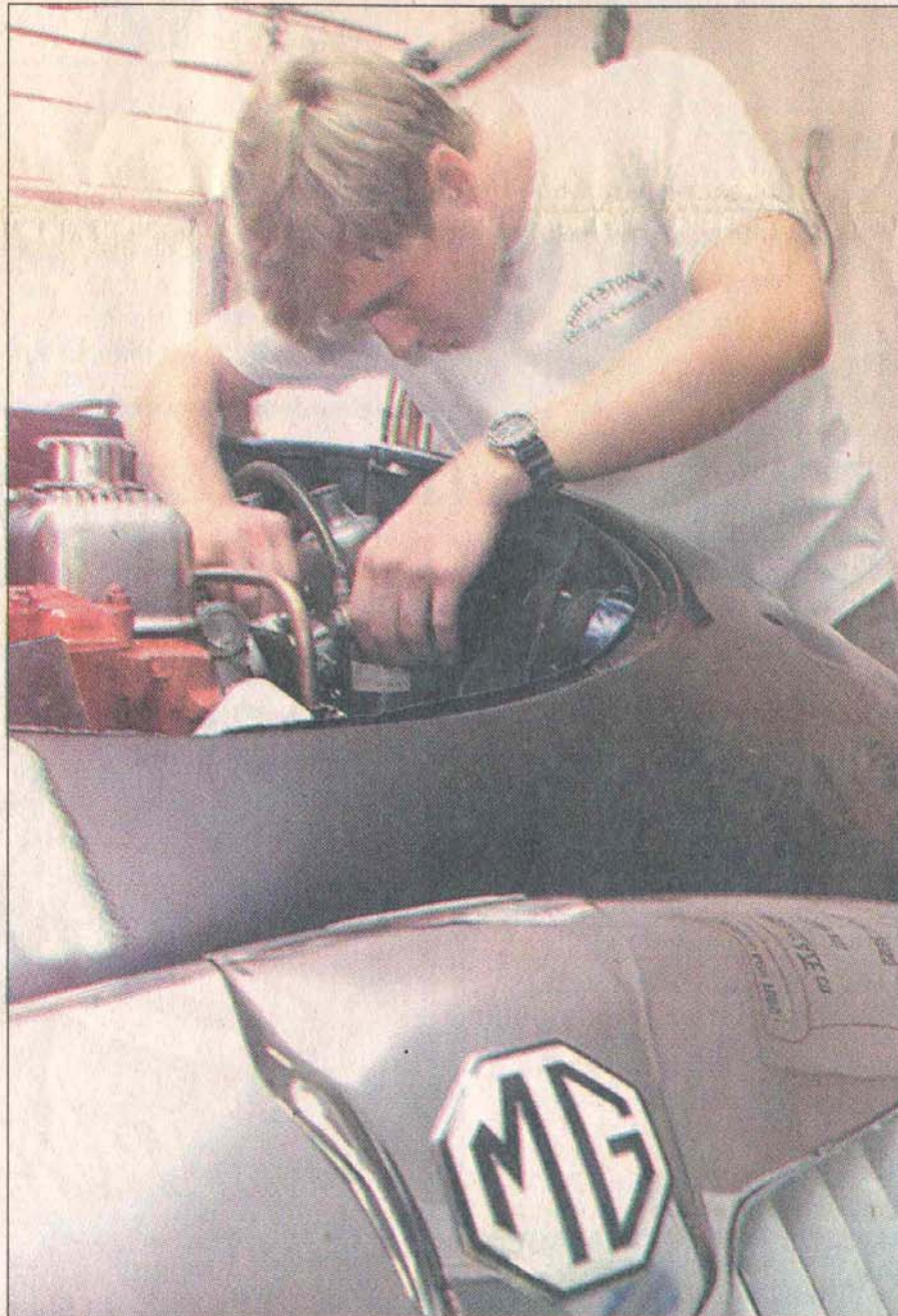
Evan now accepts contracts for his restoration work. Since he began, he has finished six cars and has several others waiting.

"It took me about nine months to finish my car, but now I can finish one in two or three months once I get it in the garage," he said. "I might have thought about it, but I never seriously expected to make my own business out of this."

And according to Evan, his age hasn't stopped him from getting any work.

"I don't think I've had any problems with people taking me seriously," he said. "Once people see the work I've done, they

PLEASE SEE **REBORN, 4B**



**Evan Amaya works** on a 1960 MGA he is restoring.

Lee McLeod / The Star

### WANT TO SEE MORE?

Three of Evan's restored cars will be on display tonight at "Vintage Vrrroom," an old-fashioned cruise-in car show.

**What:** the event is part of the "Uptown Alive After 5" concert series. The Breeze Band will perform tonight.

**Where:** Washington Street in Uptown Shelby

**When:** The Breeze Band should take the stage about 5:30 p.m. tonight.

**Admission is free**, and food and drinks will be available. Bring a lawn chair or beach blanket.

# Teen turns hobby into business

## REBORN FROM 1B

know I'm capable."

Currently a sophomore at Gaston College, Evan plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for his junior and senior year to study mechanical engineering technology. After that, he's not sure what he'll do with restoration.

"I plan on being a mechani-

cal engineer, but I think this is always something I'll do as a hobby," he said. "I don't know if I would do it for my life's job, but it's definitely something I would do part time.

"I just enjoy the whole process. I like getting something that looks awful and making it into something that people enjoy."

If you're interested in

Evan's work, he will have three cars on display at tonight's "Uptown Alive After 5" on Washington Street. The "Vintage Vrrrooom!" event will display approximately 25 vintage cars and trucks. The Breeze Band will provide entertainment at the free event, which begins about 5:30.

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**VINTAGE VRRROOM!**  
During the July 1st & Aug. 26th "Uptown Alive After 5" block parties, Reborn & Co. and USA, Inc. will host Vintage Vrrrooom!, an old-fashioned cruise-in car show



on the sidewalks of Uptown Shelby. Vintage Vrrrooom! is the idea of Evan Amaya (above), a 19-year-old owner of an intensive auto restoration co., Reborn & Company, and a full-time college student. The Breeze Band will provide musical entertainment July 1st and Ocean Blvd. will take the stage on Aug. 26. As always great food and drink will be available during the block parties. Bring your lawn chairs and beach blankets!

Photos Furnished