

Editorials

Compulsory?

Corps leaders have shown their fear for the Corps' future and are working desperately to preserve the body which they themselves can see slowly sinking.

They are seeking an answer to the Corps' problem by urging that the Board of Directors restore the compulsory system to build up the Corps to its needed stature.

Is compulsory Corps the answer to the multiple problems of the organization?

Under the present state of non-compulsory Corps the body is stronger because those who do not prefer military life may resign and become Civilians without having to leave A&M. As a whole the cadets are men who actually believe in the Corps and want the training it gives.

Under a compulsory system the Corps would be overflowing with men who don't have their hearts in the organization but are not dissatisfied enough to leave A&M and go home to face derision from their hometown friends. The Corps would have quantity, yes, but what of quality?

Continuing under the non-compulsory system, the Corps could make itself truly unique, having as its members men who truly believe in the organization and work for its betterment.

Civilian students could be an active group on the campus, too, when organized, and could point with pride to the select group which comprises the A&M Corps of Cadets as all Aggies point with pride at the Fighting Texas Aggie Band.

The Corps doesn't need to take a step backward and pick up the thing which our much respected past President David H. Morgan saw fit to abolish. They need to quit worrying about something they haven't got and which didn't work before and start working for some of the things which President Morgan wanted for the Corps of Cadets.

With compulsory Corps there would be a monopoly but would it result in betterment of the group or merely domination by them? The threat of extinction should raise them to action to improve their organization under the present system, but instead they seek domination with the compulsory system in order to survive. JT

Guest Editorial

Lunsford Says...

(Editor's note: The space below has been given to Cadet Colonel of the Corps Jack Lunsford so he may express his views.)

Slightly less than three years ago the Corps of Cadets at A&M was made an elective organization. There were some good reasons for the action. It could give the Corps a higher quality of men; it would make the Corps an elite group on the campus and it would take the pressure off the Corps from those who felt the failure of A&M to grow could be attributed to the compulsory military.

Theory and actuality, however, do not always go hand in hand.

Even though certain good has come from this program (it has made the Corps evaluate itself) the overall and outstanding effects are detrimental to the Corps, to the Civilian students and to the school as a whole.

I feel the Corps should be compulsory for the first two years of undergraduate work for several reasons, but none are valid unless we can agree on one fact—that the Corps contributes to A&M in the following ways:

(1) By developing its members into better men, and (2) by giving A&M a distinctive mark throughout the nation by having A&M something more than just another college.

Agreement on this fact will allow us to objectively evaluate reasons for having compulsory Corps.

The most obvious reason is that there is a great need for the type of leadership training which the Corps offers. Not just the military training, though that is important, but especially training in the ability to understand the problems of groups of individuals, mutual loyalty to leader and follower, self-discipline, the ability to think fast while evaluating both sides, the ability to meet people and the ability to think as an individual under group pressure.

These are just a few of the qualities a man must have to adjust to our national society. The Corps then makes a man a better citizen and because it does, membership should be compulsory for much the same reason history and government are compulsory.

The second reason is that compulsory Corps will remove the basic cause of the Corps-Civilian tension. It is impossible for cadets to feel other than that the "illegitimate non-reg" (those who are physically qualified, undergraduate, non-veterans) are merely parasites on the wealth of tradition and high standards which the Corps has established since Aggie's beginning. With this feeling there can never be student body unity. We must keep A&M "one fraternity, one brotherhood."

The third reason, more complex, is that the Corps lives on its members' believing in it—"Esprit de Corps". If its members are to believe that they are working for a worthwhile cause, they must, over a period of time, see the results of their work. But, generally, these results can best be seen as a reflection from those about us who are observing our development and our product. Now if the loudest of the Civilian students because of their "eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth" philosophy continue to antagonize the Corps (ex. sitting on top of Bizzell Hall making "comical" remarks during reviews), if a segment of the faculty fails to recognize the value of the Corps' training, if the exes throughout the state continue their "laissez faire" attitude and if The Battalion continues to be "over-objective" in its articles, then the Esprit de Corps will suffer.

Compulsory Corps, on the other hand, will be a step in the right direction, showing the Corps that it still does and always will have its role of supreme dominance in student life at this college, not because of its past record, but because, through its present program, the Corps can contribute more to A&M than any other conceivable system of student organization. Jack Lunsford '57

Piano Recital Will Be Given Tonight

A piano recital consisting of classical numbers will be presented by the piano pupils of Mrs. T. H. Thomas of Bryan at 8 tonight in the Assembly Room of the Memorial Student Center.

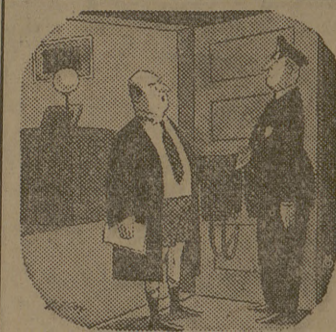
One Aggie, Bill Libby, and ten other piano students will participate in the program.

Included in the recital program besides Libby are Carole Thomas, Shirley Gustavus, Nancy Lee Holland, Bobby Buatyn, Bobby Jacobs, Mrs. Robert Monk, Charlotte Brown, Judy Ferguson, Gene Potts and Glory Thielemann.

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