

—Tommy DeFrank—

What Next For The Corps?

In this semester of non-compulsory membership in the Corps of Cadets, the first since 1958, the freshman mortality rate will likely prove a damaging indictment. No doubt the faculty and other opponents of the Corps will gleefully gobble up the statistics on dropouts and boast that the Corps is finally on its way out.

Except this time they may be closer to fact than we hope. Corps planners have projected an average of anywhere from 10 on up past 20 freshmen will leave their units and depart for more desirable areas.

One outfit in the Second Brigade will probably lose well over 20, leaving its freshman strength at less than 10.

Similar casualty rates are in evidence throughout the Corps as freshmen depart in droves for a variety of the same old reasons freshmen have been giving for years. One fish said he was leaving because the Corps was too "Mickey Mouse," yet in the same breath he admitted if it were not in such condition he would still leave.

Another noted he wants to get out of the Corps to make some grades, a common but sometimes misguided reason. But the best of the bunch, and again a common alibi, is the old saw about "I'm just not ready for the Corps yet," as if they can go to another school and acquire those necessary characteristics required for Corps membership.

But regardless of the ridiculousness of many of the reasons given by departing fish, the simple fact remains that they are leaving en masse.

Many upperclassmen fear the large dropout percentage will result or help result in extermination of the Corps as it now operates in favor of a two-day or modified Corps.

This has been the route followed by most of the other land grant colleges which have gone from all-male, military to coeducational status and then voluntary ROTC membership.

Texas A&M lost its military college rating this past fall, perhaps an omen of what might follow.

It is difficult to think the Corps would ever be dissolved in its entirety, unless the ROTC program is abolished, but a two-day Corps is a possibility for a future date that might not be so many years in the future.

In previous years the Corps has become increasingly softer on freshmen with the aim of exterminating the illegal physical hazing associated with A&M for so long.

In this aspect it has been successful, since hazing, while still existing, does so at a bare minimum.

But the Corps has gone too far by coddling incoming freshmen in an attempt to keep them in after the first two years.

Now that the Corps is non-compulsory, many fish are leaping at the chance to get out, not realizing how easy they now have it in the Corps as compared to past years.

Many fish claim they leave because the Corps is not what they expected: that is, they expected more discipline.

That is a flimsy excuse and holds little water for most of those who try to pass off their displeasure on it.

What, then, is the matter with the Corps?

Probably nothing, except that perhaps military training appeals to fewer and fewer young men of this generation.

The Board of Directors might have made the Corps compulsory for one year instead of the former two, and likely the dropout total at the end of the school year would be considerably lower.

Every fish, at one time or another, is ready to throw in the towel, but somehow the vision of an easier sophomore year and the thrill of Final Review have changed many a mind.

Many of those who now hold positions of authority as seniors would not be around today if they had been allowed the chance to get out after one semester.

Texas A&M's enrollment will probably stretch upward while Corps enrollment becomes smaller and smaller, until another, more meaningful decision on the status of the Corps will have to be made.

The door has been left open for the death knoll of the Corps to be sounded, and only time will tell if the Board's decision was judicious for the Corp's survival.

At the Movies

with Lani Presswood

Movie-hopping while trying to find my seat and balance three bags of popcorn and four cokes at the same time:

"Boeing-Boeing" held forth quite a while at the Palace Theater in Bryan. There are two items worth mentioning about the show, Suzanna Leigh and Jerry Lewis's straight performance. Not completely straight of course because this is a comedy, but for a change he plays a normal human being, if there is such a thing.

It seems that Lewis and Tony Curtis are foreign correspondents, although neither ever sits down at a typewriter. Curtis has three stewardesses on his string, all working for different airlines, all with different schedules and all believing to be his sole fiancée.

When the airlines simultaneously develop faster planes, the schedules change and Curtis winds up with girls coming and going and narrowly missing each other over and over. This story line in its basic form came in before talkies did and this is one reason the show drags in spots.

"Boeing-Boeing" is nothing to get excited about, but a scattering of belly laughs makes it better than today's average comedy. Suzanna Leigh comes on strong as the blonde, blue-eyed English stewardess.

Currently making the Cinema scene in Houston and Big D is "The Battle of the Bulge." Cinema's curved screen puts you mighty close to where the action is and in this flick there's plenty of it.

Germany's last big offensive push in World War II is unveiled in an exciting, thoughtful production. The emphasis falls upon the tank warfare and the scenes of German and American tanks in combat may be the finest of their type ever captured on film.

Henry Fonda plays a gutsy and imaginative American colonel whose warnings that the Nazis plan to attack go unheeded. Fonda is Fonda and that means a good job.

Robert Ryan, Dana Andrews, James MacArthur and George Montgomery, among others, all perform adequately as U. S. servicemen. Robert Shaw steals the show, however, as the ruthlessly brilliant leader of the German tank force, one Colonel Hessler. He comes across convincingly as a steely "war lover."

"The Battle of the Bulge" rates as a fine motion picture, not only for its excitement and realistic action, but also for its revealing characterizations of men on both sides of the front.

One of the nicer cinematic surprises of last year, "The Cincinnati Kid," has already passed through this way but a belated mention of it is in order.

If you like a show that holds you in its grip from the first scene on, see this one. Steve McQueen plays The Kid, a pretty fair hand at five-card stud who has drifted down New Orleans way.

He takes on The Man, Edward G. Robinson, and their climactic poker game is unveiled with color and a sense of authenticity.

Karl Malden, Ann-Margret, Tuesday Weld all perform in this taut, entertaining picture.

Remember all the fanfare about "The Victors" not too far back. If you missed it the first time around, you can get another shot at it in the M.S.C. Ballroom Friday night at 7:30 for 35 cents.

The film seeks to show the futility of war for the victors as well as the loser and makes several international film stars in its cost.

Speaking of second-rate first-rate shows, the "Man That Matter" series is still continuing. These films are made for their significance as well as their entertainment value and can be seen free at the Foundation on the first Wednesday night of each month.

Its most recent offering, "On the Waterfront," with Marlon Brando. Earlier presentations this year have included "Hustler" and "On the Beach."

Criminal Code Analysis

Part 4

BY GLENN DROMGOOLE
Battalion Editor

The most sweeping changes—and probably the most needed—provided by the new Code of Criminal Procedure were in trial methods. Discarding old procedures right and left, authors of the revised code implemented a new guide in criminal trials, parts of which are beneficial to defendants and parts more advantageous to prosecutors. Speedier, less expensive courtroom proceedings should be a major result—a savings not at the expense of justice.

Among the major changes are: —Examining trial. A defendant, pleading innocent, may waive an examining trial in all cases except where the state is asking the death penalty and may ask to be tried by the judge. Also, in capital cases where the prosecution does not intend to seek the death penalty, a defendant may plead guilty before the judge, thus saving time and expense of a jury trial for a trade-out.

—Prior convictions. When the indictment or other charges are read to the jury, prior convictions may not be read. A definite advantage to the defendant, this article ascertains trial for a specific incident. However, this first trial determines only guilt or innocence. A second hearing is provided under the new code, during which a person's previous criminal record and his background may be examined. The defendant may choose either the jury or presiding judge to set his punishment in this second trial. The second trial will enable juries to determine whether they are dealing with habitual offenders or a first offense.

—Juries. Several drastic changes in Texas' jury system were instituted in the 1966 code. Jurors may be questioned in a group by the judge instead of individually. During the trial they may separate and go home, and this presents a potential problem once again of publicity influencing a decision. At their homes, jurors see themselves on television, read the trial proceedings in newspapers and may receive outside opinion. This could definitely be a handicap to fair trial, but would not be especially advantageous nor detrimental to the defendant. Also if a juror becomes ill during a trial, the other 11 members may proceed with the case.

—Testimony. Husbands and wives may testify against each other in child beating and desertion cases, enabling easier convictions in these offenses. The old code forbade one spouse from testifying against the other at any time.

—Severance of defendants. The new code lets judges decide whether two or more defendants in the same case should be tried jointly or separately. Previously, they had to be tried separately.

These are the major provisions. It remains to be seen whether the code has gone too far, or far enough, in the field of individual rights. At first glance, it would appear to have outdistanced even the Supreme Court in some areas.

On the other hand, many of the changes were a long time in coming—they were overdue. Prosecution may be more difficult, but the United States has always held to a policy of "innocent until proven guilty." Therefore, the burden should be on the state. Previously, too much of it has rested with the defendant.

The code has its weaknesses, its loopholes, its ambiguities, its question marks, but it is also up to date with federal procedures, progressive and protective of rights guaranteed by the Constitution to men and women, rich and poor, black and white, intelligent and ignorant.

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EDITOR GLENN DROMGOOLE
Managing Editor Gerald Garcia
Sports Editor Larry Jerden
News Editor Tommy DeFrank
Photographer Herky Killingsworth

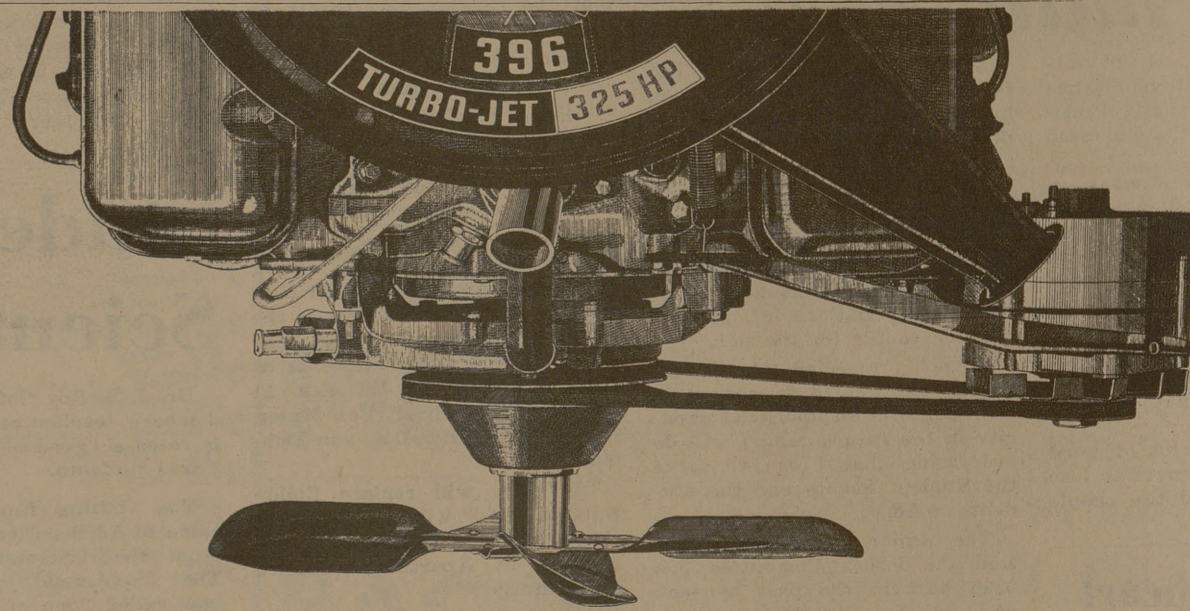
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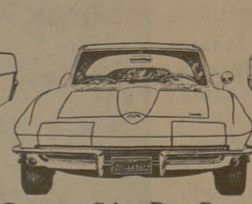
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By Charles M. Schulz

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