



YMCA used to be center of activity Photo courtesy of University Archives

## Activity center

# YMCA a relic of early A&M

BY DANA GARDINA

"The YMCA used to be the center of activity," said Gordon Gay, director of the Texas A&M University YMCA for 42 years.

In the old Texas A&M days a Corps member could go to the YMCA building and bowl a game for 20 cents, buy a five-cent coke, or see a 25-cent movie, according to Gay.

But as the school grew, so did the need for more office and meeting space. Through several phases the transition from a YMCA building to offices was made.

Remnants of earlier times are still present in the YMCA buildings. A mosaic tile pool in the west end of the ground floor is boarded over and tiled.

"It was an expensive pool," said

Dr. Logan Weston, secretary of the YMCA. "The piping is still there and could be repaired if ever used. It's a beautiful piece of architecture."

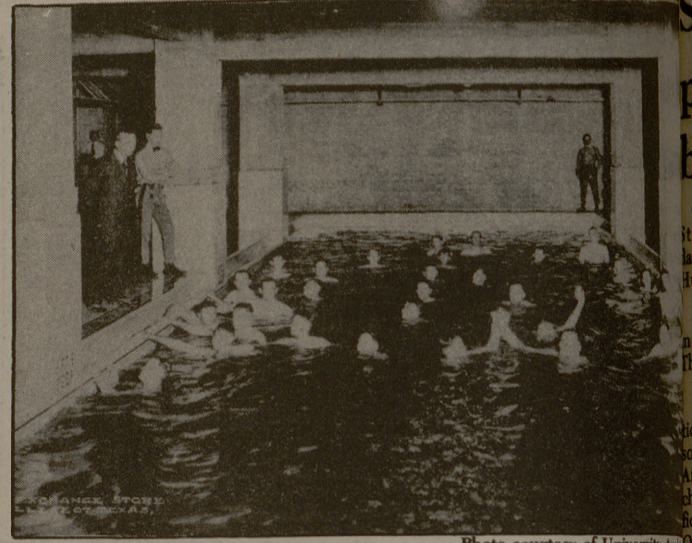
At one time a bowling alley was installed over the pool, but the bowling alley was torn out.

In 1958 the chapel in the east wing of the second floor of the YMCA building was converted into meeting rooms. The chapel had detailed woodwork and stonework. According to the 39th college catalogue, it was "the most charming piece of work on campus."

Old mosaic fireplaces remain and are used as bookshelves.

A library and reading room on the north side of the first floor were also torn out.

A barber shop, locker rooms,



YMCA building in the "Old Days."

showers, and a snack bar were in the basement. A lobby, auditorium, social room and kitchen made up the first floor.

Classrooms and the secretary's living quarters were on the second floor. The third floor held motel-type housing for students and professors.

The YMCA was built in 1914 and

financed largely through individual gifts and a grant from John D. Rockefeller.

The YMCA-type facilities are spread throughout the campus.

The YMCA is still active on campus. It promotes Free University Drug Awareness and various other programs.

## Specialists to review Sea Grant program

An eight-member team of marine specialists will review Texas A&M University's proposed \$2.7 million Sea Grant College program for 1978-79 in sessions today and Thursday at the Memorial Student Center.

Feenan Jennings, Sea Grant program director, said the team will be headed by David Attaway, Texas A&M program monitor in the Office of Sea Grant, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration.

Jennings said the program proposed for implementation Sept. 1 includes 28 research projects, six education and training projects and projects for advisory services, communications and management.

The proposal requests federal funding of \$1.6 million. The balance will be provided by state funds and other non-federal sources, Jennings said.

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# Jazz band plays 'happy' tunes

First came the moving shadows under the curtain, then noises of shuffling muffled heavily by the heavy velvet. The curtain moved. Bright lights dimmed to pale red, then darker.

Suddenly the curtain rose and the stage took life to the tune of "happy music."

North Texas State's jazz-rock orchestra, the One O'clock Lab Band, performed many happy tunes before an appreciative audience in Rudder Auditorium Tuesday night.

The 20-member group mixed dynamic ensemble and solo passages and showed how it has

earned its reputation as a premiere musical group.

The lab band began with a Duke Ellington composition highlighted with three strong trombone solos and a screaming lead trumpet that set an exciting pace for the evening.

Among the selections was "F.M.", a song from one of the band's previous albums that was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1975.

Next the band performed George Gershwin's "Summertime" and stirred many in the audience. The first half of the show was done casually but flawlessly, consistent with estab-

lished professional image the band puts forth.

In fact, the first half effort was so well done that the band received a standing ovation from the crowd that was obviously eager to see more.

The band kept the pace for the remainder of the performance by leading off with "A Pair of 3's", a colorful jazz-rock arrangement. To both the surprise and excitement of the audience, the lab band's director, Leon Breeden, exhibited his musicianship with a tasteful clarinet medley drawn from the big band era.

A standing ovation brought the band back for one encore, a fast

rendition of "Blues for Kooking" featuring three trumpets.

The lab band operates completely within the music school at NTSU in Denton. Members are chosen through highly competitive auditions and are judged on their ability to both write and perform music.

The band records an album each year at its expense and distributes it both in the United States and other countries. Money received from album sales help support NTSU's music school.

For a college band, the NTSU group displayed a high level of professionalism not only in their

music but also in their rendition of the audience's applause. They showed their flexibility in numerous passages that would challenge the abilities of classical musicians.

The audience left the auditorium much inspired by the lively evening of music, which was satisfying both in quantity and quality.

Once the music had stopped, many were left unable to express their reactions to a form of music rarely heard in College Station.

"What else can I say?" one woman said as she left. "They were fantastic. What else can I say?"

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## Two new ROTC programs available to transfer students

Community and junior college transfers to Texas A&M University have new routes into the Army ROTC officers commissioning program.

They may choose one of two on-campus options, called the summer compression program.

Either enables the eligible transfer student to enroll in advanced ROTC as a Texas A&M junior and qualify for a \$100 per month allow-

ance during the regular academic year.

Col. James R. Woodall, professor of military science, said the program is designed specifically for the transfer student who did not have ROTC available during the first two years of college.

He pointed out that many of the 2,000 to 3,000 students who transfer to Texas A&M each year have indicated interest in the officer commissioning program.

"These people become interested too late to apply for the two-year program training at Fort Knox," Col. Woodall noted. "One option of the compression program can be completed in two years in conjunction with enrollment in academic classes during the summer sessions. The other option is a more intensive three-week course prior to the start of the fall semester. Both carry four semester credit hours of military science."

"There are several ways a student may qualify for a contract in their junior year," Woodall said. "One of them, if the student is academically and academically qualified."

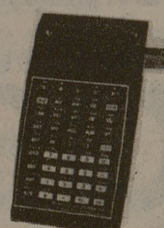
A committee of the First Brigade in the Corps of Cadets aided in the program design. Instruction will include military science subjects, extensive training in Corps Cadets activities. One third of the program will be devoted to orientation.

The program will be operated by a cadre of Army instructors, senior and junior Army cadets.

Ronald Lastovica, the 1976 brigade commander, said the program uniquely fits the needs of transfer students "who would have made fine cadets had they entered Texas A&M as freshmen."

Col. Woodall pointed out that some Corps members not in the commissioning program and in the Corps may also find the compression program advantageous.

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