

# Boot dance ends final review events

By CHERYL HICKMAN

The heavy clip clomp of a senior boot striking the pavement is a familiar sound at Texas A&M University. But at the Boot Dance Saturday the sound took on a different cadence as junior cadets tried valiantly to dance without scuffing up their prized new boots.

Randy Goertz, a junior business management major and one of the organizers of the dance said the Boot Dance is traditionally an event for the juniors who have just completed Final Review. The dance is co-sponsored by the junior class and the Corps of Cadets and is open to all members of the junior class.

Goertz said there is usually an absence of civilians. This year's dance was no exception to that general rule.

Goertz said the dance is more of a chance for socializing than anything else because "the guys aren't used to dancing in boots."

Goertz said there would probably be some joking among the cadets about the extra care taken to protect the new boots from scratching and scuffing.

"The girls can't dance close to the guys because they don't want their boots scratched," Goertz said. "We're all supposed to be real concerned about the boots. It's kind of a big joke."

The dance began at 9 p.m. in the ballroom of the Memorial Student Center. The band was a seven-member group from Houston called Doppleganger.

Goertz said about 400 couples were expected to attend the dance.

There wasn't any wax on the Ballroom floor, but the gleam from 100 or more pairs of highly polished boots made up for it.

Some of the dancing cadets moved awkwardly on the floor as though they were very conscious of their footwear, but most of the dancers were going through the movements in the same way they would at Sparkey's or the Sports Club. And slow dancing continued as usual with only a few girls being held at arm's length.

Off the dance floor it appeared that most of the cadets had already acquired the slow, stately walk of the seniors. However, there was a tendency to slide chairs carefully out from under tables, leaving several inches between chair and feet and, once seated, to keep the boots either directly in front of the chair, perpendicular to the floor, or slightly under the chair.

Keep in mind the Boot Dance is only the second time the juniors have been allowed to wear their boots in public (Final Review is the first chance they have). So some awkwardness is to be expected. Any signs of discomfort and overawareness of the boots will probably disappear over the summer. But at the Boot Dance the juniors were still unsure of their footing, and so were able to add a unique quality to what otherwise would have been just another formal dance.



Battalion photo by Susan Webb

Joel Pearson, left, from Agua Dulce, and Laurie Potter, from Houston, take time out to relax and share a quiet conversation after the Class of 1979 Corps of Cadets Boot Dance.



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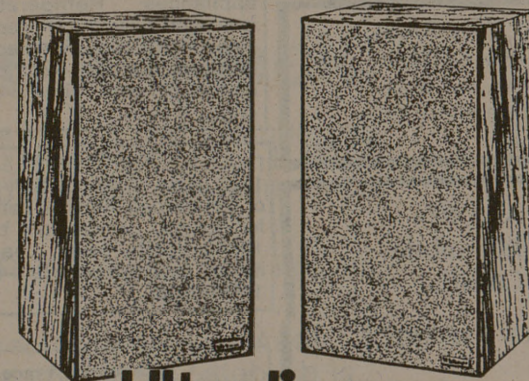
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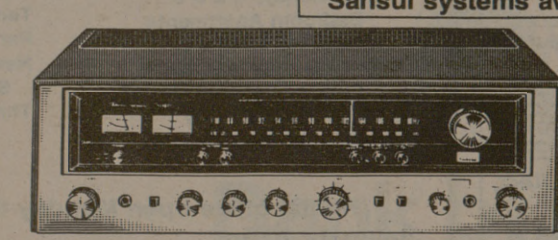
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