

campus

Military head says Corps 'prepared'

By M.W. MALLEY
Battalion Reporter

Lt. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson has seen the Corps of Cadets go from some "Brazos bottom bourbon" drinking and dancing with the popular "Bryan 400" girls in 1932, to an outfit he considers "better prepared than several military academies."

"By use of the term 'better prepared,' I mean in terms of the Corps serving its purpose of giving and teaching individual responsibility," Simpson, assistant vice president for student services and head of the school of military sciences, said.

Simpson said he had a great deal of admiration for the Corps during the 1930s, and referred to Texas A&M

was actually brutal."

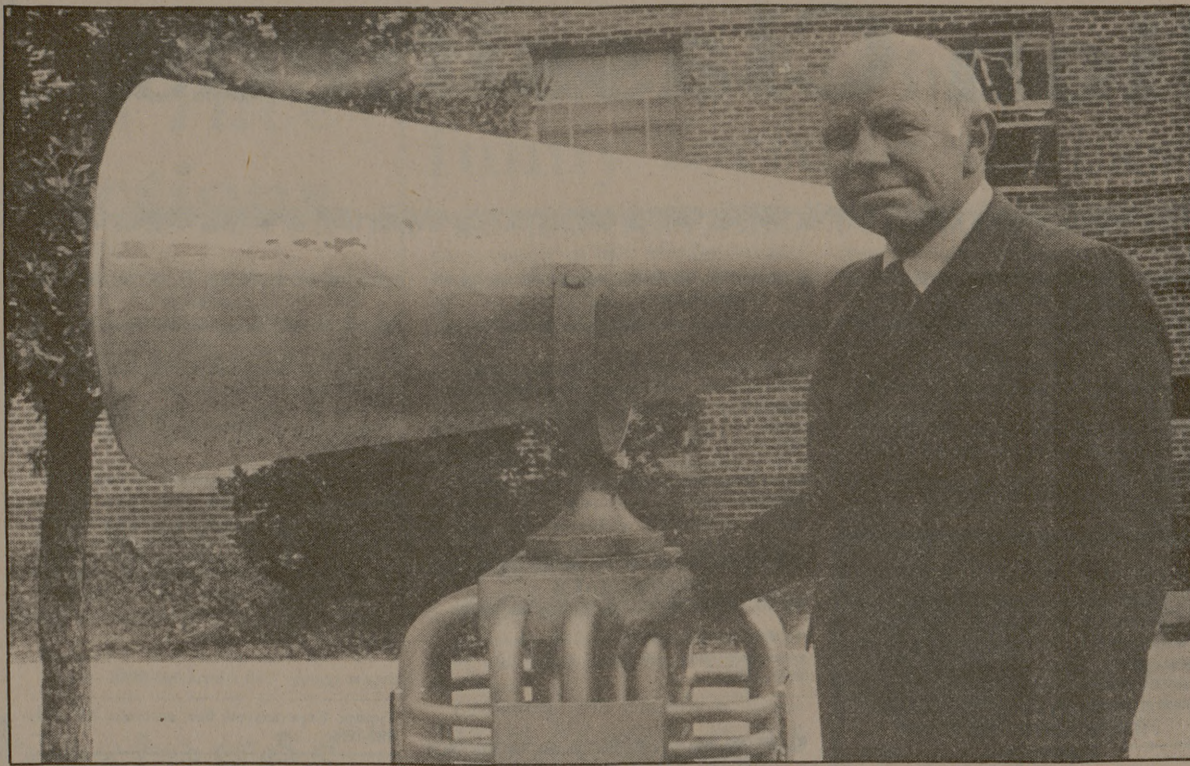
On more than one occasion, Simpson said, freshman would go to class with round spots of blood on the back of their trousers as a result of hazing and class mass punishment.

"I learned mass punishment was stupid," Simpson said.

In comparison, Simpson said today there is no "hands on" abuse to freshmen and almost no physical punishment.

Some of the lighter moments Simpson remembers were activities like dancing with the girls from Bryan in Sbsa dining hall, in which freshmen were not allowed, and shooting at Prexy's moon.

Prexy's moon, named after the then Texas A&M president, was a light pole on top of the Academic Building. Seniors used to sit on top of Walton Hall and fire their rifles at the light, using rounds they saved from the previous summer's rifle range activities.



Lt. Gen. Ormond Simpson, assistant vice president for student services and head of military sciences, has watched the Corps of Cadets

grow since he was a member in the 1930s. He says Corps graduates are better prepared today than several military academies.

Russell receives Mayo award

The Texas A&M University English department has awarded its fourth annual Thomas F. Mayo Prize to Johnny A. Russell.

The prize is awarded after an essay contest to determine the best expository writer enrolled in English 103, 104 and 104H.

The marine science major won over 77 other contestants for the \$100 prize. His essay, "Reflections of a Summer Memory," was done for an English 103 class.

Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Russell of San Antonio.

Graduates of the Corps today have experienced leadership, have learned to accept responsibility, have integrity and are mature beyond their years," Lt. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson, assistant vice president for student services, said.

University as one of the best agricultural and mechanical schools around.

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Simpson said he considers the Corps graduates two years ahead of the military academy graduates in terms of how to get things done and accepting responsibility.

During his years with the Corps of Cadets from 1932 to 1936, Simpson said there was really no chain of command authority.

"The commandant went directly to private so-and-so," he said.

Today, Simpson refers to the commandant as "riding herd over the Corps, but with a light rein," he said.

During the 1930s, Simpson said, company commanders were influential, but only within their own company. He said the Corps commander and various company commanders had no real authority.

Simpson said he came to Texas A&M because of the depth of the Depression.

"A&M was the cheapest place to attend college," he said. He credits his father for somehow rounding up \$200 to get him started in school.

"My parents were determined to see that I got something better than they had," he said.

When asked about his life as a freshman in the Corps in 1932, Simpson paused and then said, "Brutal, it

Simpson said a change he would favor in the Corps today would be "to see every member of the Corps achieve his academic potential."

the rifles had been fired."

Simpson said a change he would favor in the Corps today would be "to see every member of the Corps achieve his academic potential."

He said members of Corps are here to get an education first.

"Too many students major in Corps and minor in engineering," he said.

Simpson said freshmen studies are enhanced by the call to quarters in which they have a controlled study environment.

"Granted," he said, "three hours a night of studying is not enough, but it's a step in the right direction."

Students making bad marks in school tend to blame the Corps for their failure, Simpson said.

"The Corps is an inanimate object and is a very good whipping board for these students."

Simpson had high praise for graduating Corps seniors.

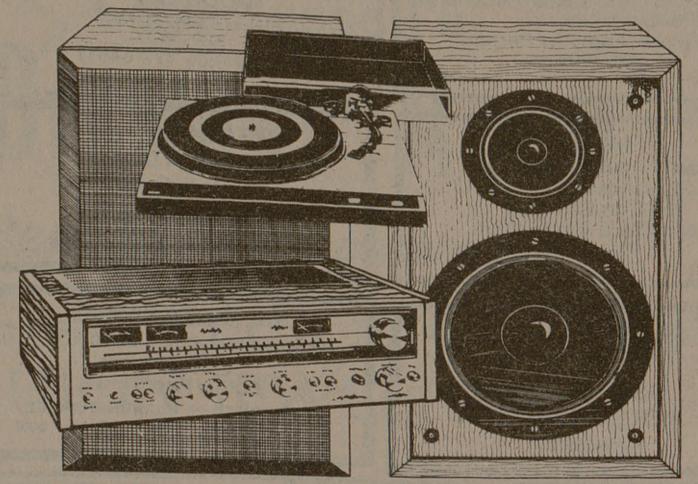
"Some recruiters for large business firms coming to A&M only want to interview senior Corps graduates, not because of their grade point average, but because of what they've learned in handling people and responsibility," he said.



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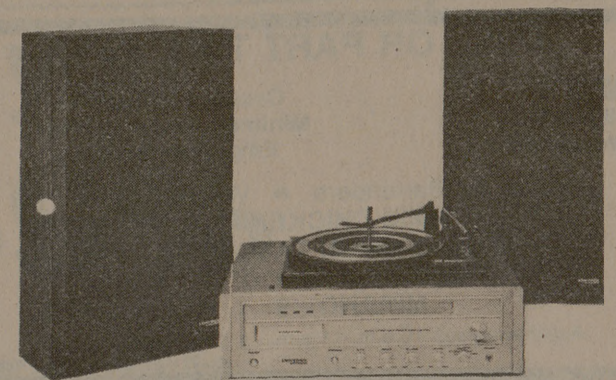


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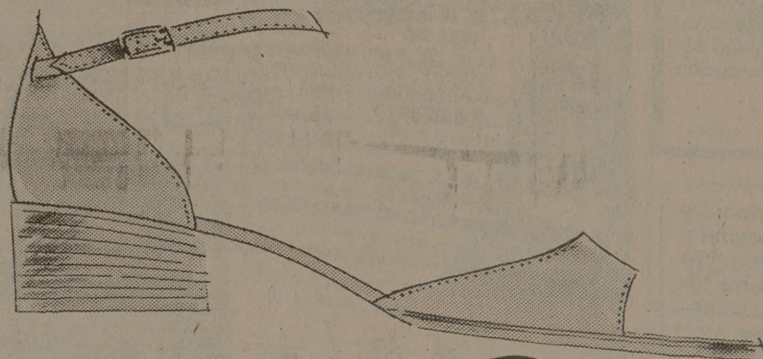
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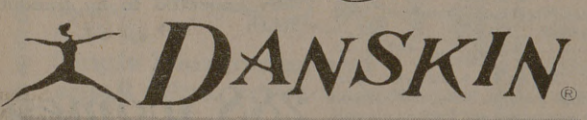
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