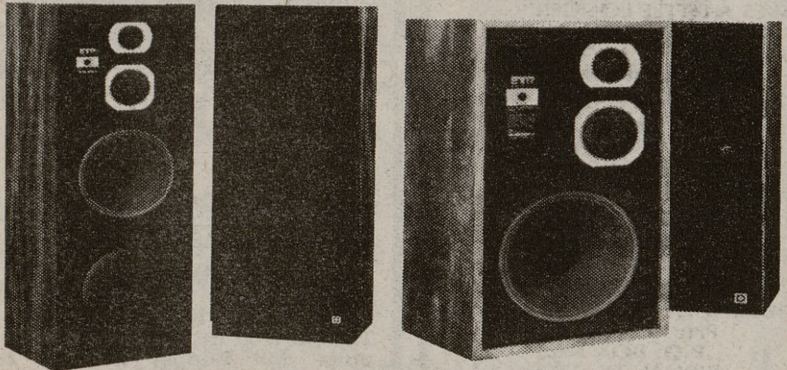


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Local

Senior boot prices on the way up

Cadets order one year ahead to get French leather

By MARY ANN SNOWDEN  
Battalion Reporter

You must be a senior to wear the Aggie boots. And if you want new ones, you must have about \$350.

Due to the higher price of hides, the cost of senior boots for the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets has risen significantly over the past two years.

John Holick, owner of Holick's Boot Co. & Insignia Inc., a supplier of senior cadet boots, said the price of boots was approximately \$275 in 1978. Today the standard price of his

boots is \$375, with spurs and chains costing an extra \$30.

Holick uses seven different kinds of leather when he makes a pair of boots, although it is all of French calf. He said the leather he uses must be imported from France, because he can't find the grades of hide that he uses in the United States.

"The United States does produce much shoe leather," Holick said. "But the quality is not suitable for the senior cadet boots."

Holick said it takes about 18-20 hours of labor to construct one pair of boots. However, seniors must order their boots about one year in advance, because the store takes orders for up to one year of production.

For every hide used for a pair of

boots, about 30 percent is waste, Holick said. The scraps are then sold by the pound for one-tenth of the

**Most skins produced in the United States are unsuitable because they're torn, cut or scratched by the barbed wire fences the cattle are kept in.**

original price.

Victor Caudillo, owner of Victor's Just Boots, another supplier of cadet boots, said the cost of his boots now is

\$339.95, up from \$297.95 in 1979, not including chains and spurs.

Caudillo also uses French calf skin. He prefers it because most skins produced in the United States are torn, cut or scratched by the barbed wire fences the cattle are kept in.

Caudillo said the cadet must place an order about four months before the boots are needed. He said about 18-24 man-hours are put into each boot.

About two skins are used in each pair of boots, Caudillo said, and about 40 percent is waste. The belly and the legs of the hide constitute much of the waste because those parts stretch too much to be of any value.

Frank Dicharo, owner of The Large Cobbler, also supplies the boots to the cadets. He prices his boots at \$385, exclusive of chains and up from \$325 in 1979.

Dicharo said he uses French skins "because it is the best on the market."

Dicharo said the cadets order their boots about one year in advance and that it takes about three days for construction of a pair of boots.

The Model Boot Shop in Houston is another supplier of the boots. Jerold Cecala, owner, said standard price is \$450 a pair. Model Boot Shop does not sell spurs and chains.

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BLENDS OF GIFT-GIVING

'La Traviata' opera set for Monday performance

The New York City National Opera Touring Company will be at Texas A&M Monday night to treat the local opera lovers with a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata."

Based on Alexandre Dumas' play "La Dame Aux Camelias" (The Lady of the Camellias), the opera is a story of passionate love, jealousy and

tragedy. The opera begins in Paris with Violetta, a young courtesan, falling in love with Alfredo, a young man of a respectable family.

Violetta and Alfredo live together for a while, but at his father's pleading she leaves him to save the good name of the family. Violetta's heart is broken and just as Alfredo returns to her, she dies of a broken heart.

The production is under the general direction of Beverly Sills, with Candace Goetz portraying Violetta and William Livingston as Alfredo. Director Frank Corsaro is well-known in New York City for other operas he has directed such as "Madame Butterfly," "Don Giovanni" and "Of Mice and Men."

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are available at Rudder box office.

Brazos orchestra begins season

The Brazos Symphony Orchestra opens its concert season at 8 p.m. Sunday in Rudder Theater.

The orchestra is composed of area musicians chosen by audition and supplemented with professional musicians from other areas.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Opera and Performing Arts Society at Texas A&M University.

Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1.50 for children under 12. Advance tickets can be purchased at Prioriteas, 3609 E. 29th, on the door before the concert.

The concert will include Schubert's "Rosamunde Overture" and Tchaikovsky's waltz from "Eugene Onegin" under the direction of Harold Turbyfill.

The second half of the program will feature Rossini's "Stabat Mater" under the direction of guest conductor Carol Smith of Sam Houston State University. The orchestra will be joined by the A&M Conservatory High School Choir and the Bryan High School Choir. The choir are directed by James Matheny and John Hornbeck.

Soprano Linda Poetschke of Houston, mezzo-soprano Barbara Gibbs Corbin of SHSU, tenor Roger Bryant of the University of Texas and bass Charles Nelson of East Texas State University will also be featured.

MSC AGGIE CINEMA



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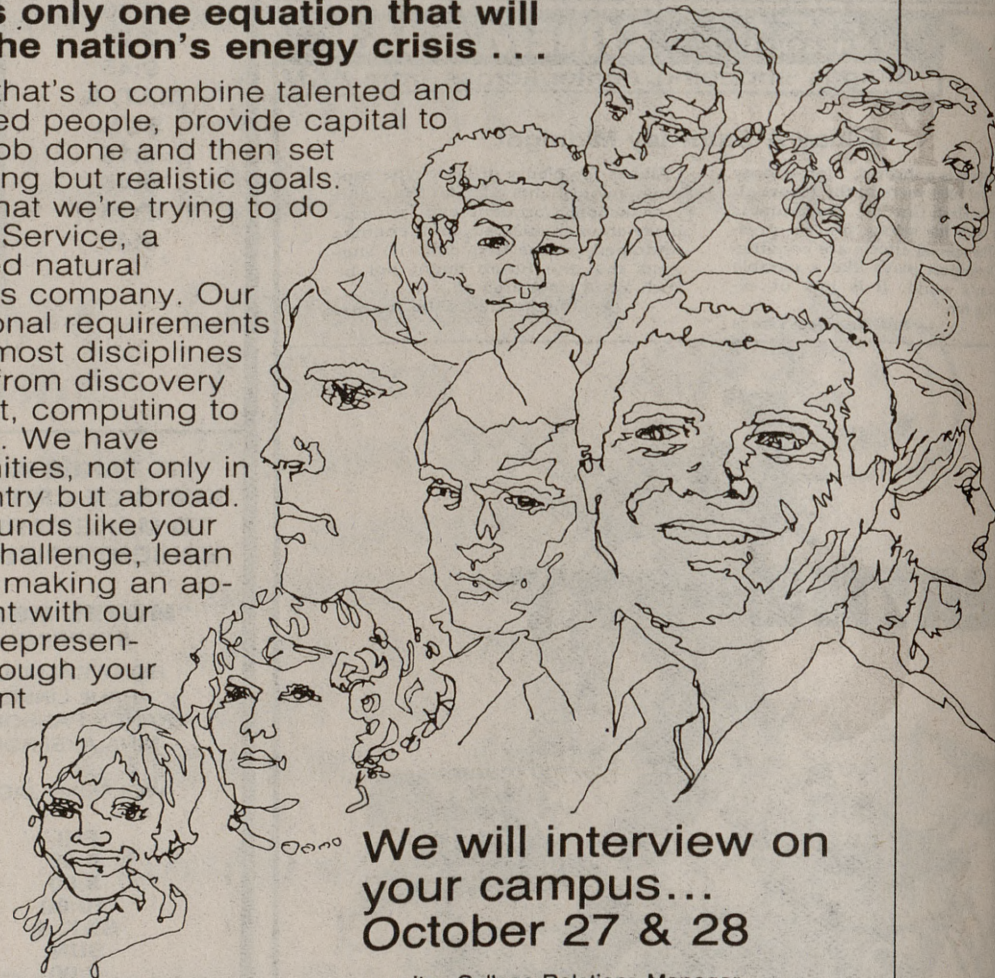
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