

Local

Revitalization has been a boon to some Corps units

By CINDY GEE

Battalion Staff
As is the tradition, changes in tradition always seem to meet with opposition.

Corps changes are no exception. The program, introduced this year, calls for a shift in responsibilities among the sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

Under the voluntary program, sophomores who traditionally were responsible for providing leadership and disciplining the freshman now would have a year to sit back and watch the juniors take on that role. Seniors would play a more active role in developing and executing Corps policy.

The new program has met with opposition from juniors who don't want to be the disciplinarian another year, outfits that say the old system worked fine for them, people who like to see shaved heads, and people who just don't want to see change.

But the program has also met with praise and positive results.

Tom Wilson, Corps personnel officer, said representatives from military schools came to Texas A&M University last semester for a conference and were excited because they saw the potential in the new program. He said a few cadets were invited to go to the Virginia Military Institute in February and tell people about the program.

"The Corps is becoming more sophisticated every year," said Ken Cross, Corps commander. "The intelligence level is rising and people are looking back and saying some of the old tradition just doesn't go competitively in a major institution."

Wilson said a lot of the bad tradition came around the late 60s and early 70s during the Vietnam war. "It's not really old army tradition," he said, "they were more rambunctious then and they had a lot of anxiety. Many people just don't know the story behind the tradition. We lost a lot of the real tools to leadership like communication and an open mind. "When I first heard about it, I was

dead against it, but I found they (people supporting the new program) have more of a concerned attitude. We're trying to improve the Corps public image and get back the proper leadership traits."

Roger Reese, commanding officer of Company B-2, said programs don't make people work, it's leaders.

"My big feeling is that leadership is everything," he said. "No matter

what the program, it's the leader who's responsible. It's how well the sophomores are trained.

"We tried it but it didn't work out for my outfit. We've been successful in the old way. I don't think we were strong enough or willing enough to make the new system work."

The new program also permits cadets to wear their hair longer.

"We want to have an all American

image instead of some kook sitting there with his head shaved," said Tad Jarret, a commanding officer of Squadron 12.

Wilson said he saw no value in a shaved head. "A shaved head doesn't show the image of a fine, outstanding young man," he said. "If a cadet thinks he looks halfway decent he'll have more confidence."

Jarret said his outfit had some

problems trying to implement the program as designed. Most juniors weren't hip on the idea of being sophomores again as far as disciplining the freshmen, he said, but after a few years it will probably work itself out. He said the problem was in defining what the juniors responsibilities were toward the sophomores.

"After midterm I felt like my sophomores were ready to do a lot more

than the revitalization program planned out," he said.

The plan calls for sophomores to take on more responsibilities around spring break, he said. They are looking for a program to bring the sophomores into more of a scholastic-advisor type role with the freshmen, Cross said, because the sophomores have recently completed many of the same courses.

Dorm 5 civilian housing vetoed

By MICHELE ROWLAND

Battalion Reporter
No one had to say "it's Miller time," for members of Company B-1 to know that it was finally time to relax. Their worries that civilians would be permanently assigned their dorm rooms are over.

Anticipating vacancies in the Corps dorms, the Housing Office said it was possible civilians would be housed in Dorm 5, said Nolen Mears, housing area coordinator for the Corps of Cadets.

If Corps dorm vacancies this spring are similar to those of last spring, there could be a revenue loss of about \$140,000, Mears estimated.

Since a final accurate room count, which Mears said would aid the Housing Office in deciding "how to best match needs to occupancy" and "how to involve the fewest number of people in the move," would not be completed until after the first few days of school, civilians were temporarily housed in rooms scattered throughout the Corps area.

Yet within three school days, ev-

ery one of the 75 civilian men received a permanent room assignment in one of the civilian residence halls of their choice, said Bob Elbert, the designated civilian RA.

However, when the room count was completed, the Housing Office found that Corps vacancies dropped from 400 last spring to 290 this spring.

Nevertheless, Dorm 5 would have been the logical dorm to go civilian, Mears said.

Since it is located near to Aston, Briggs and Spence, it would have fit in as a part of civilian corner, he said.

Cadets viewed this proposal as a possible threat to the unity of Corps housing.

Officials from the Housing Office and leaders met to negotiate and evaluate the proposal.

Brigade Commander Bill Jones said that members of B-1 understood the situation but did not think that the Housing Office had looked at other alternatives.

Chimes warn late students of time

By BETH GIBSON

Battalion Reporter
The student wakes up from his nap, stretches and looks sleepily around the library. Suddenly, he realizes he is surrounded by silence and deep shadows. The clock reads 1 a.m. and the library doors were closed and locked an hour ago.

This student need not panic nor return to his nap and spend the night locked in Sterling C. Evans Library. He only has to follow the sign on the front circulation desk: "Locked in? Call 845-1111 or 845-2345."

The University Police can be reached at either of the numbers. Strange as this may sound, library lock-ins are not uncommon. Capt. John McDonald of the University Police said the police department is busy almost every night rescuing locked-in students from the library even though they usually have warning before it is closed.

"We get calls almost every night," he said. "It's a problem for my office. All because someone fell asleep, it takes time away from officers that could be spent otherwise — checking other buildings and property."

Chimes ring to warn students 30 minutes before closing time, 15 minutes before closing time and at the 12 a.m. closing time, said Emma Perry, head of the library's circulations division.

But she said most people are not aware the chimes mean it's closing time.

"When you hear those chimes, it means to get moving," she said. "Have a friend with you if you are feeling sleepy and tell him, 'Wake me up at closing time,'" she suggested.

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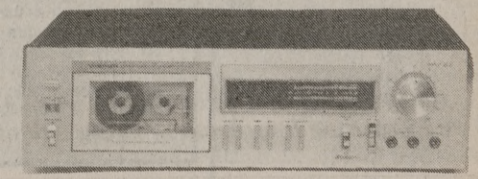
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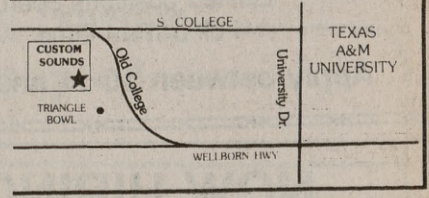
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