

Scrambling for doctors' duds

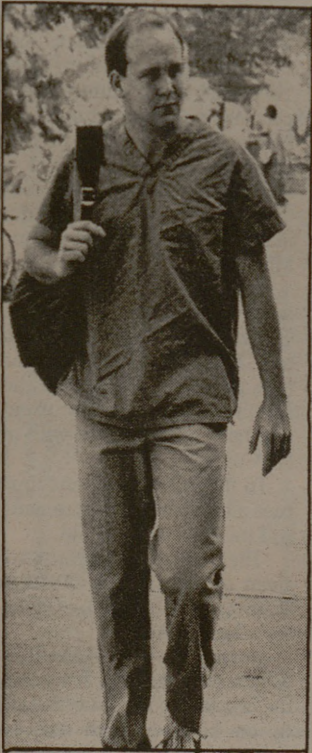


Photo by Dave Einsel

Steve Cooksey isn't a doctor; he's a student wearing scrubs.

By Colette Hutchings
Battalion Staff

Student attire on the Texas A&M campus is beginning to look like that found at a surgeons' convention.

The number of surgical or "scrub" suits worn on the campus has steadily increased, and although scrubs may never outrank the Izod as the top student uniform, they're giving the prep look competition.

The bright- to faded-green, white or blue unisex outfits, designed to be worn by doctors performing surgery, are cool and comfortable. Tops are commonly worn with jeans on campus, but the baggy bottoms are also popular for lounging.

And since the suits' natural habitat is inside a hospital, that's where many wearers are getting them, legally or otherwise.

United Press International reported that a Detroit, Michigan hospital estimated scrub suit thefts totalling \$70,000 in 1980.

Tom Selders, materials manager at Bryan Hospital, said the problem isn't that bad here. The hospital rents all its linens, but some do disappear, however.

Selders said he'd rather not see the surgical look become popular.

"You figure about \$18 for a suit and that can be quite an expenditure," he said.

Although Selders said he thought that students wearing the clothes was fine, he said "It really bothers me when I see a hospital's name on it."

Carl Mayfield, material director at St. Joseph's hospital in Bryan, said he hasn't noticed any thefts.

"It's a fad, so I'm sure we lose a few," Mayfield said.

He said St. Joseph's uses snap-ons for clasps and marks the hospital name in big letters which probably helps keep thefts to a minimum.

Mayfield said one hospital in Dallas uses clasps on the suits and has buzzers at the doors, much like those in department stores to guard against shoplifters.

Mayfield said he had no sentiment either way regarding the trend except, "If you see a suit with St. Joe's on it, it's ours."

Medical supply and surplus stores have alleviated some of the threat to the hospital scrub

suit supply by selling the suits to the public.

Robert Forrest, manager of Bryan Surplus and Supply in Bryan, said he's sold a lot of scrub suits to students within the past year.

Most of them aren't sold to medical students, either.

"We've sold more than we can get," Forrest said. He sells them to both men and women — particularly students who want something soft, cool and comfortable to "loungue around in."

Forrest said he also sells a lot of the suits for "M*A*S*H" parties.

He sells scrub top or pants for \$8.95 a piece in three colors: "jade" or surgical green, white and grey.

"We used to sell factory seconds for \$6.95 a pair, but we couldn't keep up with the demand," he said.

Debbie Scott, salesperson at Rothers' Bookstore in College Station, said the store is out of scrubs in a lot of sizes, and most of the sales are to students.

"It seems like most of the people we sell them to are in sororities or fraternities," Scott said.

Rothers' sells the green tops for \$7.95 and bottoms for \$9.95.

Shri Parchure, assistant manager of Loupot's Bookstore in

Northgate, said they've been selling the suits for 2 years, "mostly to vet students."

"We put them (the suits) on the rack one time and other people started buying them," Parchure said.

Linda Webb, a secretary for Medical Sales and Rental in Bryan, said they, too, have been selling scrub suits. Webb said she believed the loose cotton material is one of the main reasons for the suits' popularity.

The suits at Medical Sales and Rental sell in jade green and white at \$9.95 for shirts and \$11.95 for pants.

Medical supply stores are not the only ones getting into the money-making aspect of the scrub fad.

Diversified Corporation, a firm which organizes fundraisers for college clubs and organizations, advertises the tops for \$12.75 and pants for 16.50.

In general, area merchants say they approve of the fad.

"I think it's great," Forrest said. He said he doesn't own a pair of scrubs but that "a lot of my relatives wear 'em."

Parchure voiced more discretion: "As long as no one walks into a hospital wearing them and claims they're a doctor, it's O.K. with me."

Coffeehouse reopens with new name, look

By Nancy Floeck
Battalion Staff

It's been over a year since the MSC Basement closed its doors and began its renovation, but the change is almost complete, and it reopens Thursday, Oct. 8, as the Hideout.

Although it hasn't been enlarged, the interior has been changed to give it a spacious and airy look. Bright orange columns, white walls and an enlarged snack bar wipe out any hints of its former intimate coffeehouse atmosphere.

It still holds about 200 people, but the seating and stage have been rearranged to allow performers and patrons to enjoy shows without interruption from late-comers. Instead of being to the left of the entrance upon walking in, the stage is straight ahead, against the wall. The seating that was above the stage's new site is now above the Hideout's entrance.

The snack area is in the same place, but will now serve sandwiches and operate as a full-time snack bar. Hideout patrons will be able to catch up on soap operas on a video screen while they eat lunch.

Providing students with a place to eat lunch, watch television and relax was the motive for Basement's change, Mike Huebner, who is working with MSC concessions, said. The increase in students redefined the Basement's role, he added.

Huebner said the Hideout will

be open from about 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the week and on some weekends, particularly when there's a home football game. It also will reopen some weekday evenings for MSC Basement and other MSC Directorate committee programs.

Although the Hideout is opening for business Thursday, its grand opening is the week of Oct. 12. Local entertainers will perform that week, during the day as well as in the evenings.

Although Basement has been around for over 10 years, its name change is its third. Opened in the late 1960s, Basement was called Basement Coffeehouse after the popular coffeehouse of the time, Jenny Stone, MSC Basement Committee chairman, said. The name was changed last fall because the committee's programming includes entertainment other than the "folksy" type associated with coffeehouses, she said.


The name is different and the atmosphere is new, but the Hideout may not seem different to some, since the MSC Basement Committee will continue to provide the type entertainment that made Basement, and Basement Coffeehouse, popular in the past.

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