



Above is the typical freshman's hole in the Corp of Cadets. No carpet, no posters, no stereo, no television, no luxuries of home. But with each passing year comes more privileges and more furnishings. Having a room like the seniors' below is what fish have to look forward to.



Life in A discipl

By LYNN RAE POVEC
Staff Writer

It's a lot of work. It's learning a new language. It's dedicating yourself to things you'd never given a thought to before. But almost 2,000 men and women live it and love it.

Cadets learn about life in the Corps during F.O.W. — Freshman Orientation Week. There's a very definite set of rules that cadets must live by called the Standard. And then there are additional rules that make each class unique.

Freshman, obviously, are at the bottom of the totem pole. The list of what they can do and have is much shorter than the list of what they're denied.

First off, to get into the spirit, let's call them what they are: fish.

Corps legend has it that way back when, there was a saying that went, "If you're going to Texas A&M and you're going to be in the corps, you're getting in over your head... you're in deep water." Hence "fish."

On to their privileges, or lack thereof.

A fish and his old lady live in a hole. The door to their hole may not be locked, and their hole is subject to inspection. Fish have to keep their hole spic-n-span. Fortunately, they don't have very much in it, so cleaning should be easy, but....

"The room seems like a dust factory," says Fish John Raphael, an electrical engineering major from Crosby. "As soon as we dust it, 15-20 minutes later it's dusty again."

Books have to be lined up on the shelves from tallest to shortest. Beds have to be made with hospital corners (you've seen the movies where the commander bounces a quarter on the bunks to check if the sheets are tight enough). Some fish elect not to take time in the morning to make the bed, so they sleep in sleeping bags on the floor.

Fish aren't allowed to have carpet in their holes, or a stereo, but they can have a clock radio.

Fish have to walk 3-6 inches off the wall at all times in the halls of corps dorms, and they can't talk in the halls. They also can't talk when walking on the quad. They can't walk on grass or dirt.

Before a freshman can address an upperclassman, he has to say "Request permission to make a statement, sir."

And if a fish does not know the answer to a question, the following is required: "Sir/Ma'am, not being informed to the highest degree of accuracy I hesitate to articulate for fear that I may deviate from the true course of rectitude. In short, Sir/Ma'am, I am a very dumb fish and

do not
be artic

Sour
you
hind
and Co

"You
Escala
easy in
bit of l
In orde
order
guidel

Raph
D-1, pr
He

F.O.W
do they
you fir
problem
is mar
can lin
more q

And
at the
while.

After
walk in
little g
someth

A fish
buddie
out to
dets w
themse
campu

The
has to
them.

pissh
it again

Soph
ing su
suppos

pissh
word f
your co

— exc
pissh
ent fro

In th
you're
surgeb
way th
surge i

Ther
butts c
part li
can h
goodie

Sen
chang
ephan
regula

are th
housin
can bu

ture, c
in their

Esca
zips be
out of

becaus
senior