

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Evolution of Corps uniform chronicles tradition and lore

By KAREN KROESCHE
Reporter

When strolling across campus, it is not uncommon to hear the rhythmic tap, tap, tap of an approaching freshman or sophomore cadet or the unmistakable "thud-clink" that precedes a greeting from a boot-shod senior. A quick glance will verify the presence of a member of the Corps of Cadets, easily recognized in his military uniform.

The Corps uniform has been a fixture on the Texas A&M campus since the school was founded in 1876. In the article "Aggie Fashion," which appeared in the November issue of the "Texas Aggie," Walter H. Bradford, Class of '68, maintains that the evolution of the cadet's attire serves as a chronicle of Aggie history.

The everchanging uniform, Bradford says, "reveals countless traditions and examples of school lore." The article notes that it was not until the mid '60s that the present-day uniform began to evolve. Prior to that, the Corps attire consisted of heavier materials that were impractical for day-to-day wear.

However, one characteristic of the uniform has remained constant over the years — the system of class distinction. It's easy to spot a Corps senior by his impeccably shined boots.

In "The Corps of Aggeland," author Bill Leftwich talks of the prestige associated with the senior's uniform.

"The Aggie senior's uniform has become known far and wide as the sharpest military uniform in the world," Leftwich says. "The boots, spurs and pink (a post World War II term for the pinkish-tan color) riding pants, with the white leather inside knee guards, topped off with a tailor-made blouse and a Garrison cap, just can't be beat."

In addition to the boots, the senior cadet also can be identified by his white nylon belt and a woven black and gold braid on his cap.

Juniors also wear white belts, but of cotton material rather than nylon. Their caps display a woven white braid.

Freshmen and sophomores both wear black belts, but the sophomore's belt is made of nylon while the freshman's is cotton. The sophomore has a woven black braid on his cap and the freshman's cap is bare.

There are eight different Corps uniforms, ranging from the formal class A midnight-green uniform to the simple athletic outfit.

All clothing is rented by Corps members — except for senior boots. There is no charge for the uniforms during the first two years because the federal government provides ROTC funds for this purpose. Ben Delamater, the Corps' military store

manager, says juniors and seniors who will be commissioned into the military service upon graduation continue to rent their uniform with Uncle Sam footing the bill. Drill and ceremony cadets, juniors and seniors who don't sign contracts to serve in the military, must pay a \$100 rental fee per semester.

Praising the A&M uniform for its unique design, Delamater points out that the Corps attire of today is both practical and showy.

"The basic philosophy of all our uniforms here," he says, "is tied to economics and style of the times."

Delamater says he thinks the Corps uniform, in some ways, is an advertisement for the University.

"When people think of Bryan-College Station, they think of A&M," he says, "and when they think of A&M, they think of the Corps of Cadets. It (the uniform) really is an image thing."

"The showpiece effect doesn't come across unless you put something into a uniform."

For members of the Corps, that something is pride. "The Standard," a handbook and rule guide for the Corps, states: "Uniforms will be properly fitted, clean and pressed at all times. Shoes will be shined."

The publication also dictates, "It (the uniform) will be worn in such a manner as to be a credit to the individual, the Corps of Cadets and to Texas A&M University."

No pass, no play backed by White

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Defending the no-pass, no-play rule that has benched some 15 percent of high school varsity football players, Gov. Mark White told Texans Thursday they must put academics before athletics.

"There is more at stake here... than a district football championship," White said. "What is at stake are jobs for those young men and women when they get out of school."

"The real issue for our children and grandchildren is not going to be no pass, no play. The real issue is going to be no learn, no earn."

The rule hit football season for the first time this week. It prohibits students who fail a course during a six-week grading period from participating in all extracurricular activities for the next six weeks.

The Texas High School Coaches Association said about 15 percent of varsity players will be ineligible.

The governor, who pushed the controversial rule through the Legislature last year as part of public school reform efforts, chose to talk during his weekly news conference about the 85 percent varsity passing rate and said he saw hopeful signs.

"Eighty-five percent is a pretty good success ratio," White said. "Next time, I suspect it will get better. The success of this effort is going to become more apparent as time goes by."

White insisted the no-pass, no-play rule and other school reforms were long overdue in Texas. He also tried hard to downplay the effects reform is having on highly popular high school football.

"Most of the world doesn't play football," he said. "They play hardball economics. They've been running up the score in manufacturing, jobs, productivity, trade and profits."

"Right now, thousands of jobs are leaving this country every week because we have fallen behind our major competitors in key areas of technology and production — and ultimately in key areas of education."

Greeks present Joe 'King' Carrasco tonight

By RENE OHMSIEDER
Reporter

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity will present Joe 'King' Carrasco tonight from 7:30 to midnight at the Brazos County Pavilion.

Tickets for "It's Greek To Me!" are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door, with free beer all night. Proceeds will go to the fraternity in raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Leadership, a leadership education institute in Champaign, Ill.

The fraternity also will donate \$500 to MDA. A \$250 donation will be given to MDA in the name of the sorority and fraternity with the high-

est percentage of members in attendance. Former who appeals to the college crowd," says Brian Benandi, ATO pledge. "We feel that he, along with free beer, will attract a lot of people."

Sam Lorimer, ATO president, says, "He loves to play at A&M."

The proceeds from the party will go to the ATO foundation, a permanent endowment, which hopes to raise \$6 million to build and fully staff the Leadership institute.

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