

State and Local

Freshman cadets spur tradition despite SMU season probation

By Amy Young
Reporter

An old Texas A&M Corps of Cadets tradition — the wearing of bottle-cap "spurs" by freshman Corps members — has a new twist this year. The spurs traditionally were worn by the freshman cadets throughout the week preceding the A&M-Southern Methodist University football game, said Erik Jackson, a junior English and philosophy major and member of the Aggie Band.

However, SMU has been placed on probation by the NCAA, which means there will be no 1987-1988 football season for SMU. But the Corps decided to continue the tradition by wearing the spurs this week for Saturday's game against Texas Tech University.

The Red Raiders' mascot rides a horse, so the idea in wearing the bottle-cap spurs is to "spur" the Aggies to victory, Jackson said.

Gary Hendershot, a freshman in the band, says the spurs are constructed with wire coat hangers and flattened bottle caps, varying from outfit to outfit. Most of the bottle caps are collected from "bottle-cap sales," next to the Dixie Chicken tavern at Northgate.

Hendershot said most outfits prefer to reflect the year of their graduating class by placing that number of caps on the spurs. For example, this year's freshman class is the Class of '91, so the freshman cadets are wearing 91 bottle caps — either 46 on one and 45 on the other, or as many as 91 on each spur.

"Outfits try to make their spurs uniform," Hendershot said. "One way of doing this is by painting the bottle caps all the same color, such as royal blue (the freshman class color) or maroon and white."

The commanding officer of each Corps unit decides how the spurs will be designed, but the freshmen must construct the spurs themselves,



Photo by Sam Myers
Junior Ralph Parman, standing at far right, of Company E-1, waits for some freshmen to put on their spurs before going to lunch.

with virtually no help from the upperclassmen.

"Mr. Jackson, our 1st sergeant, showed us his freshman spurs," Hendershot said. "He said, 'All right, fish, I'll give you permission to scope out my spurs,' and held them up so we could see how they were made."

In order to organize the design of the spurs, Hendershot said, the freshmen had "bottlecap" last Sunday night and discussed ways in which they might be made.

"We can't go anywhere outside without our spurs," he said. "We're supposed to take them off just before we enter a building and place

them back on when we leave. When a freshman cadet is caught without his spurs, he is usually issued a demerit."

Accumulation of demerits can bring some type of punishment from Corps upperclassmen.

Hendershot said, such as having to walk the perimeter of the "bullring," a designated area behind Dorm 9, for two hours.

"If one of the spurs breaks while the cadet is somewhere on campus, he must remove the other spur and 'wildcat' all the way back to his dorm," he said.

Troy Johnson, a freshman in the band, said the spurs draw a lot of attention and questions on campus.

"A lot of non-regs ask about our spurs," Johnson said. "They probably think (the spurs) are stupid, but to them the Corps is just a big game."

"It's a tradition. It can be a pain, but it can also be a lot of fun, if you let it."

The freshman spurs, he said, are symbolic of the transition that takes place between a cadet's freshman and senior years in the Corps.

"It's just helping prepare you for when you wear your senior boots," Johnson said. "You can hardly wait to get through the week, but when the week's over, you can look forward to reaching your senior year and wearing your real spurs."

Committee promotes supercollider plan included on ballot

By Doug Driskell
Staff Writer

Funding for the superconductor supercollider is one of the eight proposals on the Nov. 3 ballot the Build Texas Committee is promoting, a spokesman for the committee said Thursday at a press conference at Easternwood Airport.

If Proposition 19 is approved, \$500 million in general obligation bonds will be appropriated to help convince the federal government to locate the project in Texas, said Tom Vickers, Bexar County Judge and chairman of the Build Texas Committee.

These bonds will be issued only if the state is awarded the project, he said.

Economic propositions 4-8, 11 and 23 also are sponsored by the committee, he said. If voted into law, it is estimated that the propositions would create more than 60,000 jobs and increase statewide income by almost \$6 billion.

"Collectively, the heart of the program is a \$1.9 billion bond package for various projects such as state prisons, water projects, local public works, the supercollider and the agriculture fund," he said.

"If it is passed in its entirety, it will put some 60,000 Texans back to work," he said.

"This is at a time where there are over 700,000 Texans out of jobs," Vickers said.

According to a booklet put out by the Build Texas Committee, Proposition No. 7 allows for state bonds for local public works projects.

This proposition may help Bryan-College Station, Vickers said.

"What this does is allow local communities to, in essence, sort of piggyback on the state's credit rating," he said.

"They really borrow money from the state, so they have to repay it."

"But, because the state has a strong credit rating it will cost the taxpayers less interest."

Vickers is traveling statewide to clarify the purpose of these propositions, he said.

"Part of the problem, that we perceive, from the ballot standpoint, is the fact that there are more propositions on the ballot than ever before in the history of Texas," he said.

"This could have a tendency to be confusing to the average voter," he said. "So, we are trying to get the word out concerning the importance of this package of eight Constitutional amendments."

There are 25 constitutional amendment propositions and two referendums on the ballot, Vickers said.


The committee faces no organized opposition, Vickers said. Voter apathy and voter ignorance over the issues are the only kinds of opposition the committee faces.

The committee was initiated by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, he said. It has grown from his initiating action and the legislative action that produced the propositions, he said.

Any proposition that is listed on the ballot must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote in both the Senate and the House.

Correction

An article in Thursday's *At Ease* incorrectly said that the lot now occupied by the Cow Hop Expansion previously was occupied by the Sundance Club. The space previously was occupied by the Sunset Grill.



Introducing the



PIZZA HUT DELIVERY

PIZZA HUT DELIVERY

AGGIE SPECIAL

2 Medium Cheese Pizzas for \$9⁹⁹

or

2 Large Cheese Pizzas for \$12⁹⁹

Pan or Thin-n-crispy

NO COUPON NECESSARY

Extra toppings

2 Medium \$.99, covers both pizzas!

2 Large \$1.49, covers both pizzas!

CALL 693-9393

NOVACON III

MSC NOVA'S MINI WARGAMING CONVENTION!
COMING OCT 3, 4, & 5

TOURNAMENTS WILL INCLUDE AD&D, CAR WARS, NUKE WAR, SQUAD LEADER, STAR FLEET BATTLES, CHAMPIONS, AND MORE!

NOVACON WILL ALSO FEATURE A FULLY STOCKED DEALERS' ROOM, INCLUDING GAMES, MINIATURES, COMICS, AND MORE!

ADMISSION: \$4.00 FOR ALL THREE DAYS
TICKETS WILL BE SOLD IN ROOM 203 OF THE MSC
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MSC NOVA AT 845-1515



CO-OP CARRER FAIR

Monday, October 5, 1987, the employers listed will be on campus participating in the Co-op Career Fair. These employers will primarily be interested in hiring co-op students, but if you are interested in either summer or full-time employment, please feel free to come by. The Co-op Career Fair will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. with a lunch break from 12:10 to 1:00.

EMPLOYER	BOOTH LOCATION
ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES-Austin	Zachry
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY-Washington D.C.	Zachry
E-SYSTEMS-Greenville	Zachry
FT. HOOD-Killeen	Zachry
GENERAL DYNAMICS-Ft. Worth	Zachry
IBM-Houston	Zachry
JOHNSON CONTROLS-Irving	Zachry
KIMBERLY CLARK-Paris	Zachry
LTV MISSILES & ELECTRONICS-Dallas	Zachry
MCNEIL CONSUMER PRODUCTS-Round Rock	Zachry
NABISCO-Houston	Zachry
NALCO-Sugarland	New Chemistry Bldg.
NASA-JOHNSON SPACE CENTER-Houston	Zachry
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY-Ft. Meade, MD	Zachry
UNION CARBIDE-Texas City	Zachry
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS-Dallas	Zachry
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS (DSEG)-Dallas	Zachry
TRANE COMPANY-Tyler	Zachry

Battalion Classified 845-2611