

Sugar and Spice And two smoking barrels

Women break stereotypes by handling guns

SUSAN OVERCASH
The Battalion

The first time Meggan Bradberry fired a gun, she was in awe of the power of the arm she used.

"The power of the shotgun was amazing," Bradberry said. "When the shotgun shell explodes, it amazes me that the spread of the shell can go through something like that."

Women around campus are deconstructing the stereotype of women as the "weaker sex." One manifestation of these falling stereotypes is the ability of women to effectively handle a firearm. And these women do not fit the "manly" stereotype, either.

Bradberry, a junior animal science major, decided to learn how to shoot a handgun after a male friend suggested they go bird-hunting.

"I've always grown up in a hunting background," Bradberry said.

"I have my hunter's certificate, and after my friend suggested it, I called my parents and said I wanted to learn to shoot."

Bradberry said her parents, both of whom own firearms and hunt, were excited about the idea of her learning to shoot.

"My mom got all excited," Bradberry said. "She's a better shot than my dad and has great aim. She goes bird-hunting with my dad and brings back more than he does."

According to statistics from the Women's Shooting Sports Foundation (WSSF), the number of female hunters has increased 15 percent between 1989 and 1997 and currently

represent 11 percent of the overall hunting population.

Melissa Hvizdos, a sophomore political science major and a member of the Corps of Cadets, said she learned to shoot for future safety.

"I've always been interested in learning to shoot," Hvizdos said. "I want to know how to handle a gun so when I move out in the future, later in life, I'll be able to protect myself."

Daniel Powell, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said, from a male perspective, he feels it is important for women to learn to shoot.

"I say more power to them," Powell said. "It's a good skill to know. It's the same as learning to use tools to fix a car; you don't always need it, but sometime it's useful."

From the female perspective, Hvizdos said men have more respect for a woman who can defend herself.

"Being in the Corps especially, I think anyone who can defend herself physically and is tough underneath is accepted," Hvizdos said.

"Their [cadet's] perspective changes when they know you're not weak. They have more respect and can sometimes be intimidated."

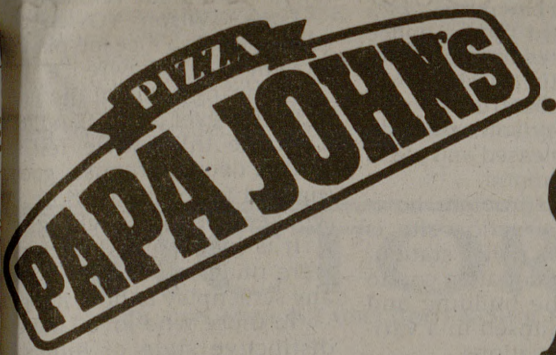
Hvizdos said when she learned to shoot, the men who taught her were very positive and motivating.

Bradberry said men sometimes seem condescending to women who step out of conventional bounds.

SEE GUNS ON PAGE 5.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION



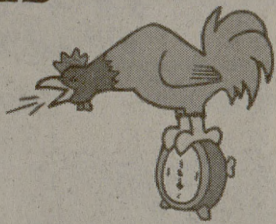
GIG EM AGGIES

Beat The Hell outta So. Miss!

Hey Ags,
Don't Forget
Papa John's is



Open Late
Friday
till 3am



Open Early
Saturday
@ 10am

So Check
out our

GAME DAY SPECIAL

2 Large 1 Topping
Pizzas

\$12

College Station
764-7272

Bryan*
268-7272

TAMU/Northgate
846-3600

*Bryan Location Closes at 1am Friday. Offer expires 9/26/99. Limited Delivery Area

2001

BACK TO SCHOOL BLOWOUT

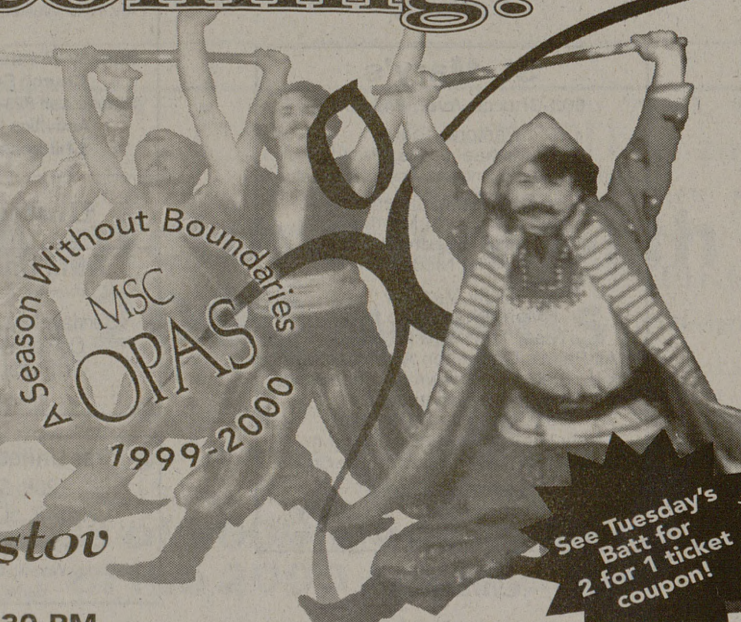
- T- SHIRTS\$5
- SWEATSHIRTS.....\$10
- MUGS\$5
- LISCENSE PLATES ...\$8

SEPT. 20 - 24 at MSC

The Russians are coming!

And they're singing and dancing! Who knew?

The saber wielding and vibrantly costumed Don Cossacks of Rostov lead off the MSC OPAS 1999-2000 season with an electrifying performance filled with strong voices and fiery dance!



Don Cossacks of Rostov

Thursday, September 30 @ 7:30 PM
Rudder Auditorium

Season Media Partners:

Great seats available!



For tickets, order on-line at opas.tamu.edu. Or, call 845-1234.