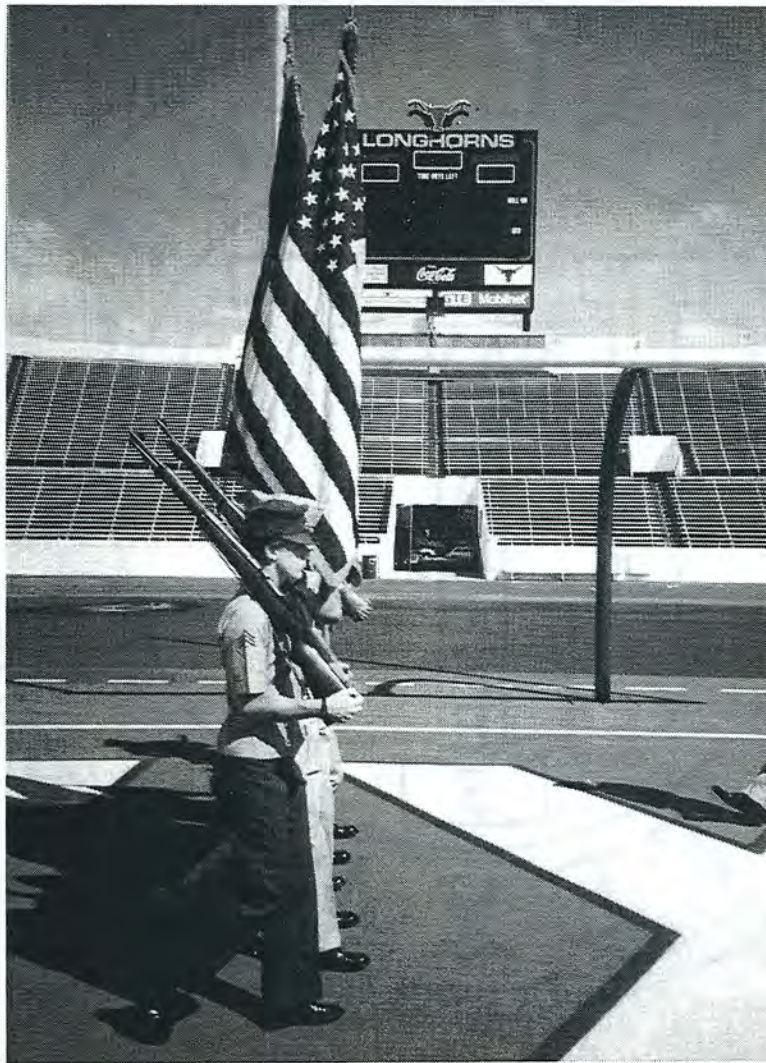


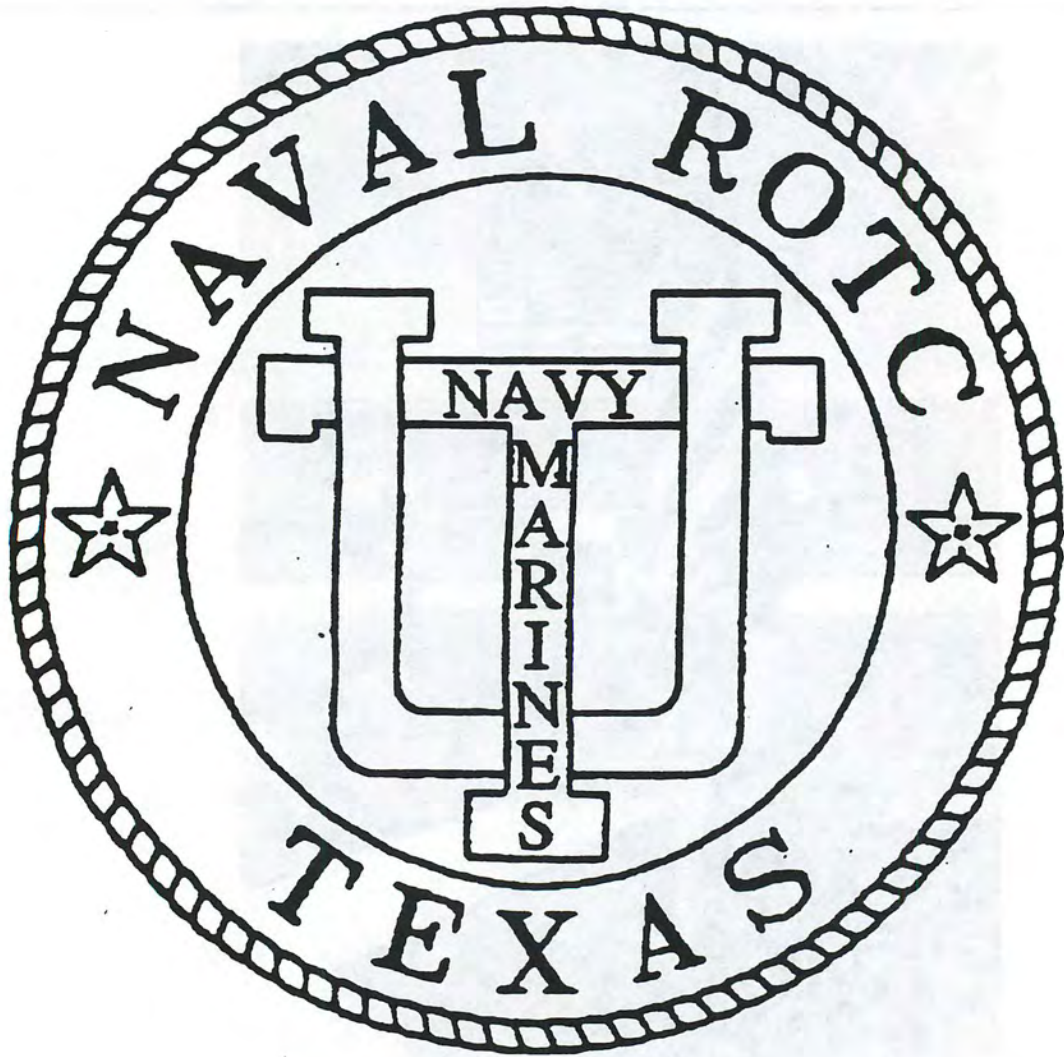
# THE NAVAL ORANGE

April 1996



**The Professional Journal  
of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps  
The University of Texas at Austin**





# *Inside the* ORANGE

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## **PROFESSOR OF NAVAL SCIENCE**

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### Interview with the Captain

MIDN 3/C Julie Seo

Respect is a token given unquestioningly by subordinates to those in authoritative military positions. Often no one really pauses to consider the history and experiences that are influential in determining the quality of the officer, as long as the insignia is stamped on the collar like a seal of approval. Of course, this is not to say that suspicion should be aroused of high ranking military personnel because they may not be deserving of their positions. In fact, the military esteems commendable deeds and attributes as required prerequisites for those who aspire to higher ranks. Although personalized information is not necessary in maintaining a professional relationship between officer and subordinate, it can enhance the relationship. Knowing can create a sense of closeness to the officer since it gives more tangible identity to him or her. At our Naval ROTC unit, Captain Graner is a very much respected leader and liked as a person. He displays traits that are indicative of a good officer and the respect we give him is unquestioned. However, many battalion members do not know much about the experiences and acquired knowledge that lead up to his current

position.

Captain Graner entered Officer Candidate School to become a Naval Officer in 1969. It was not an easy ride, however. His academic record was not as competitive as it should have been, and the recruitment officer was doubtful that he had a sure chance of getting chosen. However, his high school baseball coach, who was a UDT (predecessor of Navy Seals) in World War II, played an unexpected role in determining the future of his former student. After being informed of Graner's difficulties, the coach drove to the recruitment office in Des Moines, Iowa and slapped the venerated Navy cross (earned in the war) onto the recruiter's desk. He told him "y'all see that this kid, Graner, becomes a Navy officer" because "I think he'll do a really good job for you." Needless to say, the awestruck recruiter took this advice to heart, and his start in the Navy was assured. This farmboy who was not acquainted with the complicated world beyond the borders of the countryside soon departed Iowa for training and as a result had "his first plane ride, his first ocean, his

*Good story worth repeating*

first ship” all in one day; just a hint of the eye-opening discoveries and adventure awaiting him down the road.

Following his commissioning ceremony, which took place in March of 1970, he was assigned to a destroyer off of San Diego, the USS HANSON. Next, he completed three tours in Vietnam. The longest of these three deployments was a trying 7 1/2 months; they pulled into port only three times during intermissions between conducting strikes off the coast of North Vietnam. The total time in port was a just 15 days. Due to the extreme hardships and sacrifice, he began to question his desire to pursue a career in the Navy.

Fortunately, his attitude was changed as a result of securing a job as an aide to the Chief of Naval Reserves in Omaha, Nebraska. He worked for an Admiral who had a tremendous influence on him. The Admiral displayed integrity and honesty, appreciated the people around him and gave them motivation to work to their optimal extent while having fun at the same time. Ultimately, it was this Admiral who was the factor that persuaded him stay in the Navy. He stayed on in San Diego fulfilling his assignment on a Destroyer and an LST.

Next, he was assigned shore duty at Texas A&M from 1979-1981. He was not happy with the limitations the Corps of Cadets placed on the Navy and tried to change the system, but to no avail. Despite the conflict, this is where his attraction to the state of Texas took root.

He was busy the next several years as the XO of the USS FRESNO LST 1189, as a CO of the Minesweeper Adroit MSO 509 on the East Coast, and the CO of the USS NEWPORT LST 1179. He went to Surface Warfare Officer School where he taught in the CO department and became acquainted with Commander Radebaugh. He served in the Persian Gulf for what he was informed to be 5 weeks, but 5 weeks turned to be an exhausting 4 1/2 months. He was sent to Kuwait after the liberation, and cleared mines off the coast of Iraq. In 1991, his tour ended, and he was ready to take the job as the Chief of Staff of the Mine Warfare Command in Corpus Christi. However, the position to be the CO of the

University of Texas NROTC unexpectedly became available. He jumped at this opportunity and beat out ten other prospective bidders for the position due to his impressive qualifications. Of course he got it - hands down. Who could resist the charm of this “wonderful guy?” Actually, the officer who was making the assignments was a comrade of his from the Persian Gulf War. They had the “dubious distinction” of having the Admiral chew them out from time to time, and this shared experience formed a bond of friendship. What two things can midshipmen learn from this? It can be very helpful to be a wonderful person such as Captain Graner — and to have good connections!

The Captain has “loved” being at the UT NROTC ever since the first day he got here. He has enjoyed working with the staff and with the students due to their “dedication, intelligence” and most of all their “enthusiasm.” This enthusiasm is embodied in the eagerness about a job and the people one works with, motivation to excel, and desire to put knowledge and intelligence to work. Overall, he believes that it’s beneficial for midshipmen to have a “sense of humor” and to “not take themselves too seriously.” To put it bluntly - have fun at what you do. He understands that the ROTC is a “small aspect of the entire college experience.” The various things a future officer learns from college, good and bad, should be used to form individual opinions and to “refine character traits.” This will lead to easier integration into the Navy.

Members of the NROTC battalion view Captain Graner as a respected and liked leader of the Unit. This is due to his many leadership qualities that enable him to focus on meeting the needs of the battalion. This view of him, however, is one-sided. Not many knew about his start, where he has been and what he has done. Knowledge of his experiences as the commanding officer of numerous destroyers and LST’s, and his passion for gardening (and raising sheep, peacocks, and golden pheasants), will transform this one-sided, unfinished view of the Captain into something more tangible, personal and complete.



### **BNCO's Corner**

MIDN I/C Mike O'Hare

First of all, I would like to welcome everyone back from the lengthy holiday break. By now we are a few weeks into the semester, and I am sure all of us have already settled into a rigorous academic routine, complemented by a solid physical fitness schedule. In addition, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the battalion. I would like to congratulate the battalion as a whole on your stellar academic efforts during the Fall semester.

There are a couple of issues that I would like to particularly concentrate on this semester. One is personal responsibility, and the other is physical fitness. Personal responsibility entails taking responsibility for one's own actions and being accountable for one's own mistakes. Every member of the battalion is responsible for the effectiveness of the training gained thorough battalion evolutions. Each one of us has a particular responsibility to the battalion; for some of us, the responsibility is, of course, greater than for others. The purpose of the battalion is to foster an environment conducive to developing strong leadership ability for use as a Navy

or Marine Corps Officer upon commissioning. It is the battalion's responsibility to create a challenging environment where individuals may grow and develop as leaders. It is each individual battalion member's responsibility to utilize the resources provided to them to maximize their development.

Another mission of the battalion as I see it is to encourage physical fitness. Physical fitness is more than simply a chore, or an excuse to practice sleep deprivation tactics. Physi-

cal fitness is an integral part of a balanced, healthy lifestyle. I have found that scheduling an adequate amount of PT (not just twice a week with the Battalion) actually eases time management and lowers stress levels. Not having time to work out is not an excuse. You will find that your performance will increase with a sensible fitness program. The purpose of physical training as a battalion is to encourage camaraderie and mutual support, both of which make PT more enjoyable and effective, while simultaneously sustaining battalion unity.

One of my goals this semester is to encourage the battalion members to participate in an organized run together. This semester, we have chosen the Capitol 10K; it is a fun course (probably Austin's most popular run), and the city gives it a great deal of support. While it is not required, I would like to see as much battalion participation as possible. Feel free to bring friends or spouses/significant others along. If you have any questions regarding training of just want someone to run with, feel free to see me.

I look forward to a great semester, and wish all of you good luck.

### Anchoresses

Ms. Denit Pongkho

Hello Again! It's spring and you know what that means, time for another fun filled semester! We are really excited about our upcoming events. So keep an eye out for Date Dash, Anchoresse - Navy Casual, Bi-weekly T.G.I.F.'s, Breast Cancer Awareness, Anchoresse All Girls Night, MS Walk, Bowl for Kids, Race for the Cure, Co-Ed Softball, Cookie Call (can't forget those) and much, much more. Come on out and show your support, but don't forget the fun!

Next, we are pleased to welcome into our organization four new pledges, Stacie Bentley, Dorothy Harper, Renee Van Dam, and Karen Cooke. WELCOME ABOARD!



### Welcome Aboard YNC Purcell

OC Samuel J. Dale

YNC (AW) Tim Purcell has recently taken over as the NROTCU Admin Officer. During his 13 years in the Navy, Chief Purcell has been exposed to various leadership styles. Thankfully (for us), the Chief has managed to take the good examples on board and discard the others. In the short period of time that he's been here, he's been extremely helpful.

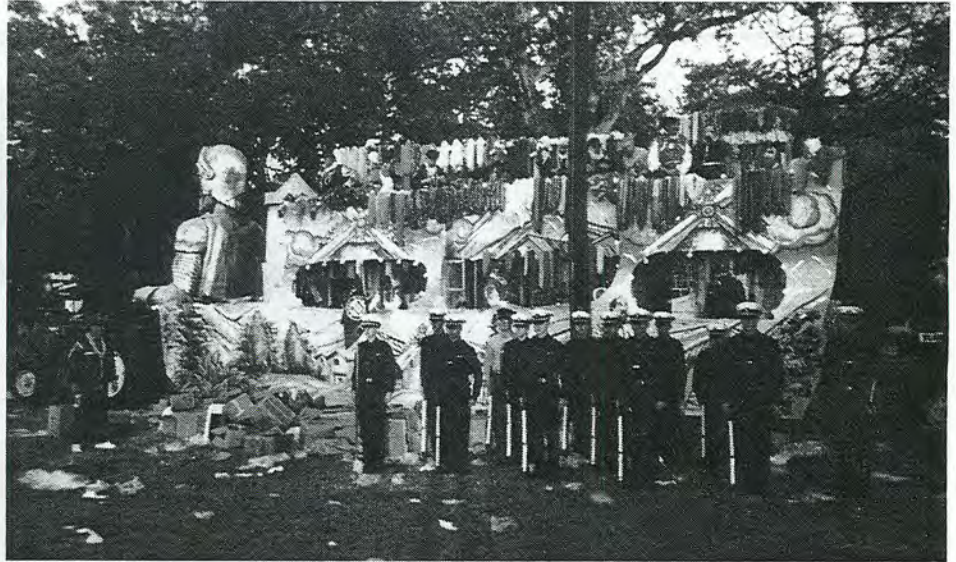
In addition to his primary administrative duties, Chief Purcell believes that one of his main functions is to help prepare the Battalion Midshipmen and Officer Candidates in their future roles as junior officers.

Chief Purcell is an active person. His three children Jason, Jeremy, Janine and wife Sherry keep him busy. When he finds the time, he is known to head out on his bicycle, or fly his RC Sailplane. Chief Purcell competes

as well as offers instruction in Sailplane flying. If you're interested go and talk to him.

Chief Purcell has been attending evening classes and hopes to make considerable progress toward his degree while he's stationed here. Chief Purcell has many professional goals, one of which is to apply for a commission via the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program. It's refreshing to once again see someone who enjoys their work as much as the Chief.

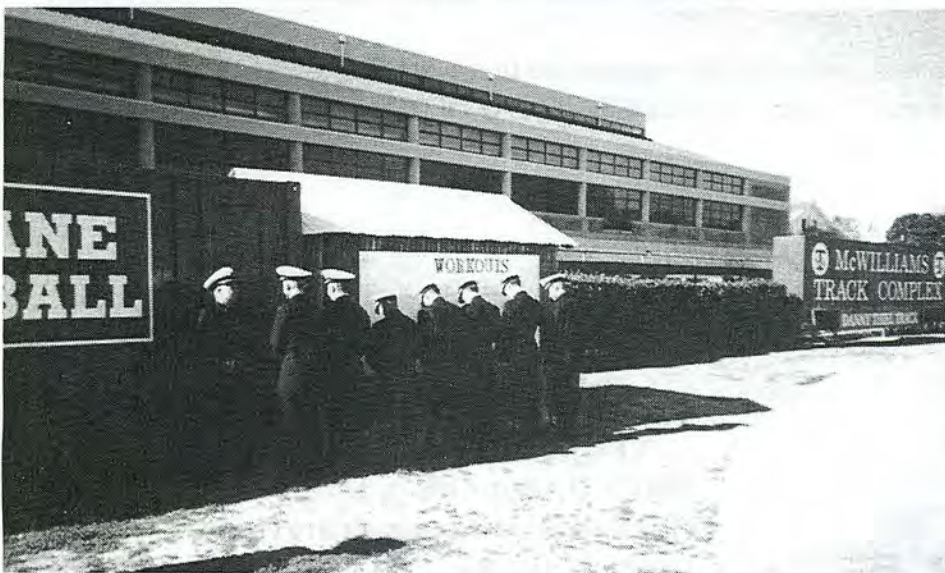
# Mardi Gras '96



**Top Left:** Let the 30th Endymion Parade begin!

**Left:** Concentration is key to success.

**Lower Left:** Color Guard and Drill Team pose for group photo after competition at Tulane University.



# Drill Team







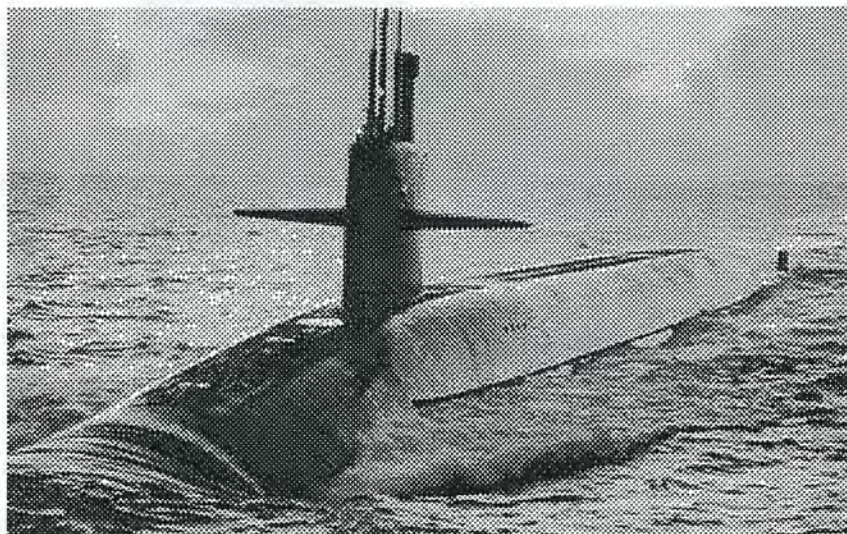
# New Orleans, La.

**Top Right:** LHD NASSAU was not exactly an Embassy Suites Hotel, but it certainly served its purpose and its proximity to the French Quarter was impeccable.

**Right and Lower Right:** UT NROTC Color Guard being graded by Marine NCO's...



# Color Guard



### Tales From Davey Jones' Locker

MIDN 4/C Simon Dietsch

On April 10, 1963, the USS *THRESHER* (SSN 593), the most advanced submarine of its time, sank in approximately 8500 feet of water about 100 miles east of Cape Cod. This was the United States' first nuclear submarine loss and the worst peacetime loss.

One of the *USS THRESHER's* features, which made her the "most advanced of her time" was the SUBROC, or submarine rocket. To this day, the SUBROC is still the most sophisticated subsurface to subsurface missile. After its submerged launch, the SUBROC exits the water, flies to its target and drops a bomb that sinks similar to a depth charge, but with a more devastating explosion. *USS THRESHER* also sported an old, but efficient, gyro compass (an instrument that spins at 20,000 rpm in order to be able to seek north despite magnetic and electronic interference).

On April 11, 1963, the skipper of the *USS THRESHER*, LCDR Wes Harvey, was to rendezvous submerged with the *USS SKYLARK* (ASR 20), a submarine rescue ship under the command of LCDR Stanley Hecker. The rendezvous never took place.

In John Bentley's *The Thresher Disaster*, he attempts to describe the events as he thinks they happened. There was some hypothesizing involved, due to the fact that installing recording equipment on submarines was not yet a regular practice. Some say he may have obtained the radio recording from the *USS SKYLARK*.

At 1000-ft a "bang" echoed from the auxiliary machinery space (a compartment adjacent to the central section of the engine room) and a salt water mist filled the rooms. This began to pose a potential danger to the main electrical connections to the reactor. An electrical panel then short circuited resulting in the command of "reactor SCRAM" (or emergency shut down). The *USS THRESHER* was switched over to batteries after a short period of darkness.

The backup batteries powered the EPM (electrical propulsion motor), but this produced extremely slow speeds. The skipper wanted to ascend to 500 feet, but like an airplane moving too slowly while trying to gain altitude, the submarine began to sink. The auxiliary trim pumps were no help in making the ship

more buoyant and the ship began to exceed crush depth. "Power, up-angle, and deballasting" are key terms for submarines in trouble. Since the batteries could only supply enough "power" to move the ship at 5 knot maximum, the "up-angle" had resulted in a stall, so the skipper decided to use the last choice: "deballasting," which he thought would expel enough air to make the submarine weigh as much as it displaces. However, the *USS THRESHER*, having not been tested, only decreased its weight by about one-seventh. To save battery power, the air-conditioning and ventilation were terminated which made the temperature very hot and resulted in smells of oil and perspiration. Then the skipper thought that the residual heat stored in the reactor system steam generators, or the "heat sink," if providing enough pressure, could start the turbine again, but there were leaks everywhere and this too was unsuccessful.

The actual loss occurred at 0917 when the skipper was cut off saying over the radio, "We're exceeding test depth." Most of the crew were unaware of the entire situation and were just hearing the sounds of the submarine's internal structures creaking. The pressure hull gave way near the Engine Room, and a 1500 ton torrent of sea water entered. The cabin pressure went from 14 psi (one atmosphere) to about 80 psi (an implosion equal to about one ton of TNT). Those not killed by the water were crushed by the air when the submarine's internal pressure went from regular air-pressure to the depth's sea-pressure in a period of one to two seconds. During the descent, there was an explosion in the Diesel Generator Room. Diesel fuel ignites at 460 psi, and by that time the pressure was almost double that in the *USS THRESHER*. This scattered the main debris over a 140,000 square yard area. There is an unconfirmed and unlikely rumor that a sealed forward section may have been blown away during the diesel blast allowing, perhaps, a few of the crew to survive long enough for some submarines searching the area to hear "voices."

Not unlike the development of aircraft in the first part of the century or the space program in the 1960's, the submarine program also experienced "growing pains." Through these challenging times the U.S. submarine program has developed into a safe, reliable and lethal tool for implementing foreign policy and protecting our nation.



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## David vs. Goliath

MIDN 4/C John Perkins

As I continue on my collegiate journey that started this past fall semester, I recall a previous "journey" at another collegiate institution. In case you have not met me, I am referring to the University of Texas and Marshall University from where I transferred. I would like to show the differences between the University of Texas (Goliath) and Marshall University (David). The differences to most of you should not be that compelling, since most of us have compared a large university to a smaller university in our college selection. Since you are reading this article, then you have chosen the larger university over a smaller one.

The university from which I transferred, Marshall University, is located in Huntington, West Virginia, so not only did I change school sizes, I also changed geographical regions within the United States. Marshall's campus was two blocks wide and four blocks long. I was amazed at the size of UT's campus and the use of public transportation to and from classes, even for people living on campus. The size of UT's student population is fifty thousand plus, and Marshall's student population was a meager twelve thousand. Of those twelve thousand, only three thousand lived on campus. Each dorm was located on campus, in the same area, and each class could be reached within five minutes by walking. My dorm at Marshall held four hundred students; my dorm here, holds over three thousand students. At Marshall, one could wake up at 10:54 and still be early for 11:00 class.

My first impression of how large this wonderful university is, was not the size of the campus or the size of the dorms; rather it was the size of my first classroom and what was in it. I had been in large classes that were held in large lecture rooms before, but I had never been in a classroom that had multiple movable chalkboards with two large viewing screens. At Marshall, one had to go to different buildings on and off campus to find out specific information about tuition problems, grades, or even to pick up financial aid money; but at Texas, all one

has to do is pick up the phone and the information can be obtained over the phone or mailed. If one should try to visit any of the offices on campus, he would either have to wait in line or wait for the proper individual to show up.

One thing that has been the same for me while attending both universities has been the number of days that we have received off due to bad weather. While at Marshall University during last year's winter month of January, the campus was sprinkled with seven inches of snow and ice, with temperatures averaging twenty-one degrees below zero. The University closed for two days, and we returned to class that following Monday. During my first winter in Texas, the campus was hit with temperatures below thirty degrees and freezing rain. Once again, the result was two days off, and a return to class the following Monday. You can't really compare the situations, but I take the days off, no matter that Texans aren't used to the cold weather.

The thing that I miss about Marshall University is its size. The size was perfect for me because it was small enough that I knew people wherever I went, yet there were plenty of new people to meet. I miss being able to walk everywhere, from class to class, from the dorm to the grocery store, from the track to the local bars. My experiences have enabled me to come to the following conclusion: no matter where you go, people are basically the same.



## OCS

SGT Joshua Rushing

If the U.S. military was a swift sword, then the Marine Corps would be its blade, and the Marines' small corps of officers would be its sharp edge.

The fire that those leaders are forged in is Officer Candidate School at Quantico, VA. For those who have never been through a military initiation school, it could be the toughest six weeks of their lives.

Such was the case for Capt. Raymond Butler when he attended OCS over the summer of 1987. "At the time, it was the hardest thing I'd ever done," he said. "Even after all the training I've been through since then, like Mountain Warfare School, OCS is still in the top five most difficult."

Ask anyone who's been there what's the hardest part about OCS and the answer is consistently the same — lack of sleep. "When the lights go out at 2200 the last thing the Platoon Sergeant says is, 'This and this and this had better get done by morning,'" said SGT Greg Baker who completed OCS last summer. "We weren't suppose to be out of the rack after lights out, but (the Platoon Sergeant) would say something like, 'My little elves had better be busy tonight.'"

Lack of sleep, as well as difficulty of OCS as a whole, seems to peak at SULE (Small Unit Leader Evaluation) Two. SULE Two is a two-day combination of problem solving courses, combined with squad maneuvers and a series of timed runs. During the 48 hours there is minimal downtime for such luxuries as resting, regrouping or sleeping. "The culmination of OCS training begins by rising at 0200 for a ten-mile hump to the course area and doesn't stop until it's over," said Baker. "The hardest thing about it was on the second day everyone's leadership styles started to change because of the exhaustion and frustration," he said. SGT Shawn Freeman, also a graduate from last summer, describes SULE Two as a, "True test of one's intestinal fortitude."

Having survived those two days, graduates of the demanding course seem to agree that everything else is downhill, however, SULE Two isn't until the fifth week of training, and there are plenty of obstacles to conquer before then. The toughest of those obstacles is OCS' infamous physical training regiment. Officer candidates PT everyday, normally in "boots and utes." The only time you need running shoes is for the inventory and final PFTs, Baker said. Capt. Butler says he came back from OCS sport-

ing the "Skeletor look." He dropped from 167 pounds to 139 pounds during the six weeks. "I was burning so many calories that it seemed like I could never get enough to eat," he said. "I would have eaten the bark off a tree I was so hungry."

Butler, Freeman and Baker all stress the necessity of being physically prepared for the intense training schedule. Each also agrees that if one physical attribute should be concentrated on it should be endurance. "Be prepared to give a hard two hours of PT every morning and then do physical activity all day for six weeks," Butler advised. Although endurance is important, both Baker and Freeman stress being physically well rounded also. "Shore up any physical deficiencies you have. There isn't one attribute that will make or break you, a lack of the combination of upper-body strength, speed and endurance will hurt anyone."

Once in shape, the next step in preparation should be attaining the right mental attitude. "Be prepared to prevail," Freeman said. "OCS is designed to make people fail. Expect it. When it happens don't let it get to you. Just grit your teeth and go on." Baker agrees, "Remember it's all a huge mind game and there's nothing personal to it. Just because you messed up one day doesn't mean you're going to mess up the whole time."

Capt. Butler used a combination of sheer determination and spiritual strength to get him through some of the tougher times of OCS. "I kept the mind set that I'd burned all the bridges behind me and there was only one way home — graduation. I also remembered a scripture from the Bible that says something to the effect of, 'All things pass and this will too.'"

The worst thing someone can do is go to OCS unprepared, according to Butler. "A Marine can smell self-doubt from a mile off, and they'll eat it up at OCS."

Sound like fun? SGT Baker lends interesting advice to those preparing to fight the OCS battle this summer, "Enjoy it." He says that because he went there with a negative attitude that made the first few weeks difficult. "Then I decided to get over it. If I wanted to be a Marine Corps officer this is what I was going to have to do." He advises future Officer Candidates to focus on the positives such as, "While you're (at Quantico) you get to do some cool courses that you probably won't get to see again. Don't get hung up on the little things, if you do, they are bound to snowball and give you a bad attitude, that will make your time (at OCS) miserable."

And, oh yeah, "Bring a good set of broken in boots."

## Intramural Volleyball

OC Samuel Dale

The volleyball team is off to a great....um, well, we're off to a "start." Thus far we've won a few and lost a few.

The absence of ENS Espinoza is felt by all. Add to it the impending loss of ENS Bokmeyer and Allison, and our prospects are downright, well, not as good as they were last semester.

But, there's still hope. Team Captain "Let me hit the 10-footer" Dave Walker is once again making contributions to the team. Others, such as Dennis "I want to play goalie" Lloyd, Misty Roquemore, Belinda, and newcomer John Perkins put the team in position to win a few.

The main thing is that we have a blast playing. I get to yell at the refs, Dave gets to be the 'Diplomat' and ENS Allison gets to pound the ball.

Hey, I wonder where that guy with the 40 inch vertical is this semester? We sure could use his help....oh yeah, he's in my Naval Science class. I'll have to have a talk with him. (If you're wondering whom I'm referring to, here's a hint: His picture appeared in a Fall 1995 edition of the Naval Orange. He was the QB).

Our games are held on Thursdays at around 7:00 pm (that's 1900 for you military types), so come out and cheer us on.

If anyone is interested in joining the team, talk with OC Walker.



## Hockey

MIDN 4/C Michael Ruffner

When one considers that most of the team couldn't skate prior to the first game, the hockey team is doing very well.

Since losing the first three games, the team has been on a winning streak. With Dennis Lloyd protecting the goal, hardly any goals are scored on us.

Our forwards, Bob Salvia, David Walker, myself and our two "pinch hitters" always keep the pressure on the other team. With Saul Montes, Dave Murray and Jason Pittman on defense, the opposition finds it hard to get many shots on goal.

Even though with each game we seem to get more bumps and bruises and then have to show up at PT Monday morning all battered, it's a lot of fun. We would appreciate your support on Sundays when we go out and "dominate" some more opponents. We play at Skate Across Texas and our game times are announced each week.



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