

Formals

This saber is dedicated to the memory of Woody Ratliff, who died in an automobile accident in the fall of 1979. The saber will be in the possession of the Fish Drill Team commander. It

was purchased for the drill team by Mr. and Mrs. Charles

Saber given to Fish Drill Team memorializes Ratliff

By MICHELE ROWLAND

United Press International Woody Ratliff, the former guidon bearer and designated sophomore adviser to the Fish Drill Team, whipped his rifle through the air with precision dur-ing the one-man drills he was per-forming at the Memorial Student

Center Open House.

Freshman Joe Cronin was so impressed and inspired by the performance that he immediately igned as a member of the Fish

That was Sept. 2, 1979. Woody Ratliff died Sept. 2,

His car crashed when he apparently fell asleep at the wheel driv-

In memory of their son, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ratliff, along with the Association of Former Fish Drill Team Members, have donated a saber to the drill team.

"My spirit is forever with you Woody," is inscribed on the chrome of the scabbard (the blade covering) between three ivy gold bands. It is dated March 18, 1960, his birth date, and Sept. 2, 1979.
The seal of the United States of

America is etched on the blade, and the handle is shaped in the form of a golden eagle.

The saber will be carried for the

first time at the Tulane University Invitational Drill Meet in New Orleans, La., David Garcia, the senior adviser to the Fish Drill Team, said.

It was originally presented to

the team on Parents' Day, 1980, conscientious, inspiring young

"Anytime there's any official meet, or exhibition, the Commander will carry the saber," he said.

Drill team Commander John

Fahy compared the opportunity of carrying the Woody Ratliff Memorial Saber to that of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"It's something that comes from deep down. I would be so honored to carry that which has been dedicated to someone's entire life," he said.
"Woody had lots of spirit within

him, and with the saber that spirit will be remembered forever, Garcia said.
"Woody was a hard-working,

man, and was very representative of the Fish Drill Team," he said.

While he was on the drill team

The saber will not only repre-

Ratliff had unanimously won the Roger H. Gray award for inspira-tion and leadership.

sent that Woody's spirit is forever with the members of the team, but

may also, in a broader sense, represent the spirit of all former members, Garcia said.

liff inspired to join the drill team,

is now a sophomore adviser for it. He said he was thrilled that the Ratliffs still play an active roll in

the team's affairs, traveling to

watch the performances.

Joe Cronin, the freshman Rat-

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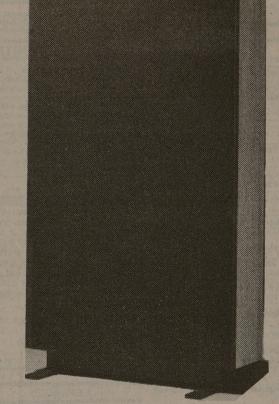
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