

Buck Weirus has 'Aggie Spirit'

by Dena L. Brown



Buck Weirus

Texas A&M but quit to play drums for the Aggieland Orchestra Dance Band. The band performed at student dances and around the College Station area.

Weirus also sang novelty tunes such as "I like cake and no mistake ..." He played Benny Goodman songs with other members of the band during intermission. Since none of the members of the group had the music for the songs, they learned the tunes by listening to records, Weirus said.

Weirus also was interested in swimming. He says that although he learned to swim while in Boy Scouts, he took swimming courses at Texas A&M, which resulted in an offer from the swim team coach to work out with the team.

After swimming practice in the evenings, Weirus waited on tables of people who were late for dinner at Duncan Dining Hall. Usually he would find himself waiting on his swimming buddies after having just finished swimming with them, he said.

Weirus worked at Duncan for three and a half years and also at Sbis Dining Hall for a year. Activities sometimes inter-

fered with academics for Weirus. He once got so behind in a math class that he had to convince the professor to give him a grade of incomplete in the class and let him finish it over the summer.

Learning to meet people and

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how to love and cooperate with everyone was the greatest thing about college, he said.

"A&M is a great equalizer, everybody's on their own ... and you have to prove yourself," he said.

In December 1943, Weirus

graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in industrial education and in 1944 went overseas.

During World War II, he served as a captain in Europe in a field artillery unit. Some of the friends he made at Texas A&M were killed in the war, he said.

Following the war, Weirus went back to San Antonio to work and joined the city's Aggie Club, of which he served as vice president and president.

In 1961, he began working full-time with the former students' association as director of fund raising. He became executive director in 1964.

During his term of office, the Century Club was started and the alumni office was built. After he retired as executive director, he was promoted to colonel in the Army reserve.

Other schools just don't have the Texas A&M spirit and emotion, he said. "Something happened to these people when they came to A&M," he said. "It's something I can't describe."

"No one exemplifies the Aggie Spirit like Buck Weirus," director Randy Matson said. Last year, the Former Students Association named a "Spirit Award" after him in honor of his spirit and contributions to Texas A&M. The award is given to University students who contribute to student life through involvement in student clubs and organizations.

Weirus, 62, retired from his position as executive director in 1980, but stays busy with swimming, aerobics and consulting with other schools' alumni associations.

In high school, Weirus was active in dance band, glee club and ROTC. When he was a high school senior, a representative from Texas A&M, wearing "his boots and britches," came to talk to students about attending Texas A&M. Weirus said.

The ROTC and that representative convinced him to go to Texas A&M, he said. Thirteen of his 81 classmates also came to Texas A&M, and all of them graduated, Weirus said.

Weirus said he was one of the students who had to struggle to earn a degree. While he was not really an outstanding student, he said, he still spent most of his time working through school.

He was a member of the Singing Cadets his first two years at

Award recognizes campus involvement

by Dena L. Brown

The Buck Weirus Spirit Award was given for the first time in the spring of 1982 to recognize students for their efforts and involvements in campus life.

Student activities, accomplishments, leadership positions and other involvement in campus activities are the main consideration for the award, the director of student activities says.

Dr. Carolyn Adair calls the student life program, which includes participation in clubs and organizations, the "other education." She says that being in-

volved "provides a set of experiences complimentary to the formal education process."

She adds, however, that involvement can't be measured by grades or terminated with a degree.

So, how can student leaders be recognized?

In the fall of 1981, Jack Fritts — president of the Association of Former Students at the time, — Adair, and student body president Ken Johnson developed an award strictly for activities.

Fritts wanted to name the award after Buck Weirus, a graduate of the Class of '42 and retired executive director of the former students' association.

Students selected for the award must be in good academic standing with their college, but other than that, grades will not be a factor in the selection of award recipients.

A committee of faculty and students will review applications for the awards. The awards, given to as many as five freshmen, 10 sophomores, 15 juniors, 20 seniors and two graduate students, will be presented during the opening ceremony of Parents' Day weekend.

Weirus says that Texas A&M has never really had a program honoring the average student who has paid the price of not being able to study enough because he is involved in student activities.

Those students receiving the award will be given a framed certificate and a Seiko quartz watch with the word "Spirit" printed on the maroon face of the watch.

Applications for the award must be returned to the Former Students' Association office by 5 p.m. Friday.

UFO talk

Tonight in Rudder Theater, Philip J. Klass will discuss Unidentified Flying Objects in a speech sponsored by MSC Great Issues.

The title of his speech is "Earthbound? An Exploration of UFO Myths."

Klass is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is the senior editor for Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine.

Klass is the author of three best-selling books on UFOs, including "UFOs Explained." The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 8 p.m.

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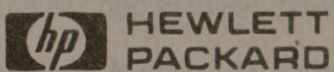
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Seminar	Time		Location
HP-IB (IEEE 488) Measurement Systems - Implementation of HP-IB instruments/controllers into measurement systems	2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Feb 22	501 Rudder
	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Feb 23	501 Rudder
	1:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Feb 23	501 Rudder
The HP 9000, 32-bit Engineering Workstation	8:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Feb 22	510 Rudder
	1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Feb 23	510 Rudder
Hewlett Packard Personal Computers	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Feb 22	510 Rudder
	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Feb 23	510 Rudder
Hewlett Packard Gas Chromatography	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Feb 22	504 Rudder
	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Feb 23	502 Rudder
Office Automation	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Feb 22	510 Rudder
	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Feb 23	510 Rudder
Trends in Distributed Data Processing	3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Feb 22	510 Rudder
	3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Feb 23	510 Rudder
Software Development Systems - Use of software development systems for hardware/software microprocessor analysis and emulation	9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Feb 22 only	501 Rudder
NMOS III Technology at Hewlett Packard	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Feb 22	504 Rudder
	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Feb 23	502 Rudder

