

State and Local

Burton 'disengages' for classroom

Commandant trades brass for books

By Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

When most people retire they look forward to rest, relaxation and doing things that were impossible because of work.

However, for Col. Donald Burton, retirement means enrolling in Texas A&M University to pursue his doctorate in industrial engineering.

Burton retired last week after serving four years as commandant of the A&M Corps of Cadets. He also served as professor of military science and headed up the Army ROTC program.

Dr. Malon Southerland, assistant vice president for student services, is serving as interim commandant.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said a new commandant could be chosen by the middle of October. Koldus said two people already have interviewed for the position, and two more interviews are scheduled before the end of the month.

Even though he has retired, Burton said he will maintain communications with the Corps.

"It's time to disengage myself from Corps relations, but we stay in touch," Burton said. "I've been in the army for over 30 years and it's time to retire."

Burton said he considered other job opportunities, but decided that furthering his education was the best of all possible alternatives.

"I've always had a longing to pursue education," Burton said. "I'm a firm believer that good things happen if you continue education all your life."

Burton graduated from A&M in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in zoology. He married Vivian Hope on July 5, 1956, and was commissioned into the Army the following day.

Within five years Burton achieved the rank of captain and was given command of an Ar-

mored Cavalry troop in Bamberg, Germany. He was offered a fellowship to return to A&M to continue his education, but decided military life was for him.

In 1962, Burton completed an advanced field artillery course at Fort Sill, Okla. Following completion of the course, Burton decided to enroll at the University of Arizona, where he earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering.

In 1967, Burton went to Vietnam for 13 months to serve as a field artillery group adviser.

Upon his return from Vietnam, Burton served in various military positions in the Pentagon.

In 1982, after 26 years of military service, Burton received a call from the ROTC region command general to come to Texas A&M to become commandant of the Corps.

"I was asked to visit the University and if things worked out, would I take the job," he said. "Of course I couldn't say no."

Burton said that during the course of his stay the Corps underwent several improvements.

"I don't want to take credit for any changes," Burton said. "They occur through the action of the cadets."

Burton said one of his first goals as commandant was to give control of the Corps' day-to-day operations back to the cadet officers.

"We wanted to restore the initiative and authority with the cadet officers," Burton said. "Garland Wilkinson (1986-87 Corps Commander) will be one of the best commanders in the history of A&M."

Another problem the Corps had to overcome was a persecution complex, he said. Burton said the Corps had become withdrawn, and felt that it had a worse image than actually existed.

"Over time they have done a



Col. Donald Burton

good job of getting rid of the Mickey Mouse stuff that was going on," he said. "The emphasis is now on individual and general development. Because of this a lot of good things have happened."

Unfortunately, Burton said, one student died before the Mickey Mouse stuff came to an end.

On Aug. 30, 1984, Bruce Goodrich died after being forced to participate in a 2:30 a.m. motivational exercise session.

"The Goodrich ordeal was very tragic," Burton said. "No one will be happy, but it was handled as best as it could be. Although it was a tragedy it had some positive outcomes."

As a result of the incident, Bur-

ton said the cadet officers pulled together and re-evaluated their priorities.

Burton said the Corps plays a very important role in the success of A&M.

Foremost, Burton said, is for the Corps to produce military officers. Burton said the armed forces consider it important to get officers from universities with a wide range of backgrounds and interests.

"People don't realize how important that is," Burton said. "A&M is the largest producer of officers in the nation besides West Point and Annapolis."

Burton also said the Corps has the responsibility of setting the tone of campus life and activities.

MSC to hold Open House for students

By Daniel A. La Bry
Reporter

Several thousand students are expected to "expose" themselves from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Memorial Student Center for one of the largest Open House events ever held at Texas A&M.

The 37th annual MSC Open House, sporting the theme "Expose Yourself," will be capped with a street dance. The dance will start about 8:15 p.m. in the Rudder Fountain area featuring a live band. The Executives, playing recent Top 40 songs.

Terry Marsaw, staff adviser to the MSC Open House Committee, said registration for Open House continues through the end of the week.

He said the continued registration will bring the total number of participants very close to 200 and that space may have to be denied to some participants that register late. Open

House usually averages about 160 participants, Marsaw said.

The wide variety of participants scheduled to have booths include MSC committees, service groups, academic departments, dance/music groups, international student clubs, and religious and recreation clubs.

Marsaw said he expects 6,000 to 7,000 students to attend the event.

At Open House, students can obtain literature from different organizations at the groups' informational booths. Several live entertainment acts also are scheduled to perform in the lounge area.

Open House Chairman Andy Dastur said, "The most important thing is for two sets of people to be happy—the clubs and organizations who promote their goals and the people attending to get involved in the University."

Lake Somerville target of cleanup campaign

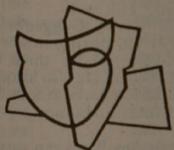
Lake Somerville will be the target of a cleanup campaign Saturday morning, with several organizations scheduled to participate.

In College Station, the Texas A&M Sailing Club and the University's Alpha Phi Omega fraternity have volunteered their support. According to the reservoir manager's office, about 300 people have already committed themselves to the morning project with more anticipated. Cities in the surrounding area to be represented at the

cleanup include Houston, Pasadena, Brenham, Bryan and College Station.

Persons interested in volunteering for the cleanup are asked to call Martin Gustafson, project manager, at (409) 596-1622.

Registration for volunteers will be at 8 a.m. at the Rocky Creek Park. Groups then will be led to designated cleanup areas. Free lunch and refreshments will be served along with live entertainment by the country music duo, Freddy Lake and Harmonica Kate.

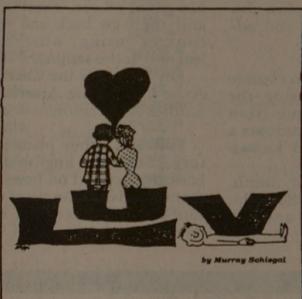


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