

Cadets will celebrate birthday of retired Reveille IV with party

By Pam Mooman
Reporter

Reveille IV, the registered collie who was the Texas A&M mascot for nine years before she was retired in 1984, will have a birthday Sunday.

Company E-2, the Corps of Cadets outfit that took care of the collie, will have a party for her — complete with a cake, said Dr. Lee Phillips, director of the Office of Professional Development at A&M and current owner of Reveille IV.

"We wait until Final Review and go over to the E-2 dorm," Phillips said.

The collie, who will be 14 years old, was retired in a halftime ceremony during A&M's last 1984 regular season football game, which was against Texas Christian University.

Another registered collie, Reveille V, now holds the job of A&M mascot, but her immediate predecessor still holds a place in the hearts of some A&M students.

When Reveille IV was retired on Dec. 6, 1984, she was placed in the welcoming arms of Phillips and his wife, who live in Bryan.

Hans Meinardus, who took care of Reveille IV when he was a sophomore in Company E-2, said Reveille IV was retired for her own sake.

"We noticed that Rev IV was getting older," Meinardus said. "She had been serving in the Corps for nine years, which is a long time for anybody."

It was time for Reveille IV to be a dog and not a glorified person, he said.

Meinardus said the four-member committee that decided where Reveille IV would live after retirement wanted a home for her in the local community where she would be cared for.

"The Phillips are a really good couple," Meinardus said. "He is a real gung-ho Ag and a big Rev supporter. He was overjoyed to take her."

Phillips said he kept up with Company E-2 through the years.

"We had known the mascot corporals from the first to the last," Phillips said. "We didn't ask questions; we just took her."

Reveille IV has lived with the Phillips for three and a half years. Phillips said Reveille IV has many positive traits that make her lovable.

"She's very affectionate," he said. "She has patience."

Phillips said that when he spoke at the Navasota muster, he took Reveille IV with him. Children climbed all over her, but she is well-mannered and has never snapped at a child, he said.

Members of Company E-2 helped to make the retired mascot comfortable in her new home. The Phillips had a porch behind their house, and members of Company E-2 enclosed it so Reveille IV could have her own room, complete with AstroTurf for carpet. Mementos of her days as the

A&M mascot cover the walls of her room, Meinardus said.

Phillips said one of Reveille IV's old coats is among the collection.

Meinardus has fond memories of Reveille IV and Reveille V. Meinardus said he got Reveille V as a puppy in a shoebox the first time A&M defeated the University of Texas in November 1984. But he still had Reveille IV at the time, he said.

"I actually lived together with them in my room for three weeks," he said.

They got along just fine as long as Reveille V stayed in her bounds, Meinardus said.

Both Phillips and Meinardus have high praise for Reveille IV.

She did a good job of representing A&M, Phillips said.

Meinardus said he was sad to see Reveille IV retire, but said she deserved some free time.

"We hated to see her go," he said. "She was always a lady."

West Point cadet loses final appeal of dismissal

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A cadet who claimed his refusal to psychologically haze freshmen led to his ouster from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point has lost his final appeal of the dismissal.

But John Edwards' case has prompted the Army to appoint a panel of three high-ranking officers to review the Fourth Class System, the method of indoctrinating new cadets that Edwards said led to his dismissal.

Edwards, 24, a native of Portland near Corpus Christi, was a junior cadet at West Point who held a 3.59 grade-point ratio and ranked in the top 5 percent of his class until he was dismissed Jan. 5.

Ret. Gen. Roscoe Robinson, an outside investigator appointed last month to review Edwards' case, has ruled there is no evidence to justify overturning the academy's dismissal, according to a Pentagon official.

"Gen. Robinson found that while Cadet Edwards achieved considerable academic success at West Point, under the 'whole-man concept' he in other endeavors was a marginal cadet," states a letter from William D. Clark, the Army's principal deputy assistant secretary for manpower and reserve affairs.

The letter was forwarded to Edwards by U.S. Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-Mission, who has written the Army on Edwards' behalf.

Robinson could not be reached by the Associated Press for comment Tuesday.

Paige Eversole, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon, said the deputy chief of staff for personnel on Monday signed the official papers "separating Edwards from the academy." She said Edwards will be placed on reserve status for the next two years.

"I guess I should have expected this," Edwards told the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* Monday.

"I guess I'll look at attending college somewhere in Texas in the fall or spring," Edwards said.

Edwards has said he was ousted because of his refusal to participate in the Fourth Class System's indoctrination of freshmen students enforced by upperclassmen, which he called a "humiliating and degrading" form of psychological hazing.

Edwards said upperclassmen, for example, force new cadets to walk at a quick pace around campus, eat at attention and memorize long lists of information. If the new cadets slip up, he said, they are, "yelled at constantly" by upperclassmen.

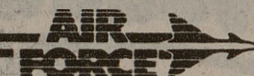
A final report reviewing the Fourth Class System is expected within 30 days.

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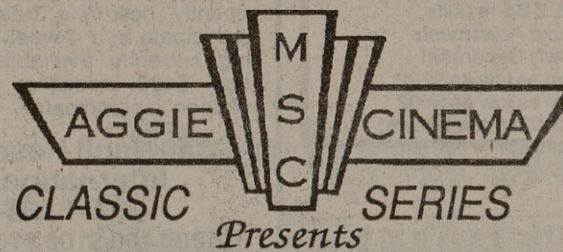
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