

Jack



by R. DeLuna

Commandant

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affairs and chairman of the selection committee appointed Brig. Gen. Donald Johnson as interim commandant. Johnson has previously served as deputy commandant of the Corps. He will continue to serve as interim commandant until a new commandant is officially announced.

The commandant is responsible for the financial and administrative operations of the Corps, while acting as head of the Military Sciences Department.

Hopgood served as the 37th Commandant for six

years with the motto, "recruit, retain, and graduate. On Friday, he said he felt comfortable leaving the Corps because, "the Corps is in outstanding shape."

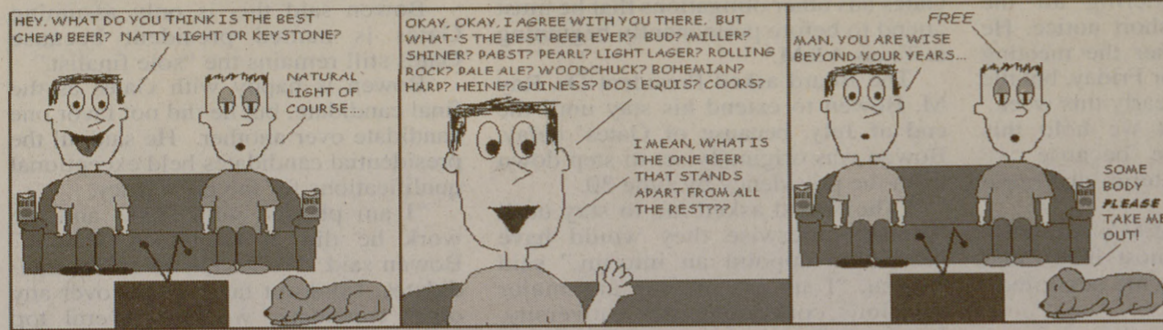
"I thoroughly enjoyed my six years as commandant at A&M," he said.

When Hopgood began his service, he anticipated he would only stay five years, but he decided to extend his stay.

"I anticipated five years of service," Hopgood said. "I decided to stay an additional year in order to move several projects forward and to celebrate the Corps of Cadets' 125th anniversary."

Hopgood and his wife will remain in College Station. "We want to remain in eye sight of R Field," he said.

Beernuts by Rob Appling



Rhea

Continued from page 1

He also said Rhea was the best choice for the position because the director of university bands is responsible for the entire A&M band program, which includes the symphonic, concert, basketball, and volleyball bands.

"We expect him to make sure the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band is in no way diminished and certainly for it to continue to improve," Kibler said. "But we would also like to see a better job of getting the word out to students about these other talented groups."

Rhea said he will continue his duties as conductor of the symphonic band. He and the band have performed at locations across the world, including concerts in England, Ireland, Germany and Austria. The band has also released several CD's.

Rhea said the reintroduction of the University Jazz Ensemble into the band program will occur this fall, mainly due to student requests for its return.

Rhea holds a bachelor's degree in music education with honors from the University of Arkansas, a master of music degree in band conducting from Texas Tech University, and a doctor of musical arts in instru-

mental conducting and composition degree from the University of Houston. He is also a captain in the Texas Air National Guard.

In 2000, Rhea received the President's Meritorious Service Award for his work during time at Texas A&M. In 1999, he was awarded Outstanding Young Bandmaster for the State of Texas in conjunction with the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention.

Rhea is also a successful composer and arranger. During his career, he has written and arranged music for bands at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

the Wuss Cookie



by Adrian

Hines

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"Our objective has been to provide a fair and generous separation agreement that would recognize Dr. Hines' contributions to Prairie View A&M University and the Texas A&M University System over the past eight years, we believe this agreement achieves this objective," Graves said.

The agreement also allows Hines to assist the new president as needed but he will have no formal

duties, Kellett said.

Dr. Willie Tempton, former vice president of finance and administration at Prairie View became the acting president on May 21.

"Once the interim president is appointed, the chancellor will announce a search advisory committee to conduct a national search to identify potential candidates for the presidency, this expected to take 9 to 12 months," Kellett said.

The new president is expected to take office in summer 2003.

Teen executed for fatal carjacking

GRAPELAND, Texas (AP) — A day after celebrating their youngest son's high school graduation, Ireland and Rena Beazley on Saturday buried their oldest son, executed for committing a fatal carjacking.

Nearly eight years to the day he graduated with honors from Grapeland High School, Napoleon Beazley was executed Tuesday for the 1994 slaying of Tyler civic leader John Luttig, sparking worldwide criticism of the Texas death penalty.

More than 700 people showed up at Mt. Zion Baptist Church for Beazley's funeral, but few tears were shed during the upbeat, two-hour service.

With hands interlocked and eyes squeezed shut, the crowd belted out hymns and prayed for Beazley and his family. Even the sticky heat in the tidy, clapboard church did not sap the enthusiasm.

After the service, the family cheerfully greeted mourners. One man whispered in the ear of Beazley's father, "You're a real strong brother."

The mood was generally upbeat this weekend at the Beazleys' quaint brick house, though there were some tears.

As darkness descended on this East Texas town Friday night, the husband and wife of more

than 30 years playfully teased each other and dozens of guests who came to lift their spirits with hugs, and sometimes, flowers.

"At least he's free," said Napoleon Beazley's mother, Rena Beazley. "Eight years is a long time to battle. It was just too much. It was tearing us up inside. Now, we're going to celebrate his life."

In the days before Beazley's execution — which sparked widespread criticism of Texas' capital punishment system — his family said they attempted to suppress their grief so they would not worry their condemned son.

"He was carrying a lot of responsibility," Rena Beazley said. "He knew he disappointed us in April 1994 and he's been trying to make up for it."

"We got two hours with him on (last) Saturday and it was just a regular conversation. He was not afraid of dying. He had prepared himself to die."

During their final visit, the Beazleys said they were finally able to have a "contact" visit with their son. They had not touched their son in more than seven years.

"He held on to us real tight," said Ireland Beazley, his eyes tearing up. "There was a lot on his mind and heart. It was a lot of finality in that visit."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shuttle launch bumped to Wednesday, valve change thwarts launch time

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA delayed the liftoff of space shuttle Endeavour yet another day, to Wednesday, because a valve change was taking longer than expected.

The valve in Endeavour's left orbital-maneuvering system malfunctioned during the final few hours of the countdown Thursday evening. NASA fixed it, only to be thwarted at launch time by thunderstorms. The same problem with the nitrogen-gas valve appeared again over the weekend.

Mission managers ordered a valve replacement on Saturday and aimed for a Tuesday launch. But on Sunday, they postponed the flight one more day to give workers time to finish the job.

This is the fourth delay in less than a week for the mission to deliver a new crew and supplies to the international space station. The flight already was running a month late because of the addition of robot-arm repairs to the shuttle crew's mission; two space-walking astronauts will replace a bad joint.

Towboat pilot unaware of heart condition before bridge collapse on Arkansas river

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) — The towboat pilot who said he blacked out before his barge struck an interstate highway bridge, killing 14 people, had a heart condition he did not know about, an official said.

Joe Dedmon, 61, has heart blockage, said Ken Sudyam, an investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board. His comments were made at a non-public meeting Friday, the Muskogee Daily Phoenix reported.

NTSB spokesperson Lauren Peduzzi said it was not known if Dedmon's condition had anything to do with the blackout or the crash. She said Dedmon was transferred Friday to a hospital in Jackson, Miss., for cardiac evaluation.

Missing mother and daughter hikers found hungry but OK after five days

ENCAMPMENT, Wyo. (AP) — A woman and her daughter missing for five days in the Rocky Mountains were found Saturday, hungry but in otherwise good condition.

Norma Super, 45, and her daughter Danielle, 11, of Lakewood, Colo., got lost on a two-day, 15-mile hike along the Encampment River in south-central Wyoming.

The two were found four miles south of the Colorado-Wyoming state line. Authorities said they headed south into Colorado's Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area instead of north to a campground.

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Friday, June 7, 7:30pm - Orchestra Concert
Rudder Auditorium

Franz Anton Krager conducting! With Luigi Tanganelli, piano soloist. The evening includes Verdi's *Overture to La forza del destino*, Casella's *Piano Concerto*, and Respighi's *Pines of Rome*.

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