

A&M Prof Witnesses Saturn Shot

By GERALD GARCIA
Asst. News Editor

"There was more splash of flames than I anticipated," admitted A. E. Cronk, head of the A&M Department of Aerospace Engineering.

Cronk was referring to the blast off of the Saturn I which hurled into orbit the third largest satellite ever launched—Pegasus—Tuesday morning. Cronk, along with six other Bryan-College Station men were guests at Cape Kennedy Monday and Tuesday of Cong. Olin Teague of College Station, chairman of the Subcommittee on Manned Spacecraft.

"We were about 18,000 feet from the launching pad when the huge rocket blasted off at 9:37 a.m., and even from that distance it was 'painful' to look directly into the

exhaust because of the brightness of the flames produced by the 1.5 million pounds of thrust," Cronk declared.

The Pegasus, with its wings wider than those of a four-engine airplane, is supposed to determine the affect of meteoroids on future space flights. Cronk said that only Echo 1 and 2, communications balloons, were larger in diameter than the Pegasus. The Echo 1 and 2 measured 100 and 135 feet, respectively. Pegasus is 96 feet.

"The space agency said that because of the huge size (in the diameter of Pegasus) it will be visible at night over areas that it passes," Cronk said. "I am sure that they (the space agency) will release the data on the passage of the satellite in near future, but they had not completed charting

information to release the orbiting positions before we left Tuesday night."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced about 11 minutes after liftoff that the Saturn I had performed its mission flawlessly. This marked the eighth success in a row for the big booster which the United States will use in upcoming space flights.

"We watched the launching until only the smoke from the exhaust was visible," Cronk said. "I could not see the separation of the first and second stages, but I did detect when the second stage cut in."

"At the time the second stage cut in, the rocket was approximately 50 miles down range and it was just like 'looking right up

the tail pipe' when it is at that distance.

"With the success the Saturn I has had, I don't know if we can match the Russians because I do not have all the information," Cronk said. "Of course we are moving at a fast clip to accomplish our mission to reach the moon by 1970."

For the giant moon shot, the U. S. will use "the big beast"—Saturn 5—which is in the planning stages at the present.

Because the men were invited guests, they were allowed to visit some of the "restricted areas" of the Cape.

The six men visited the giant complex in Merritt Island where the Air Force is preparing the pads for the testing of the Saturn 5.

The group was shown launching pad B at complex 37 where Saturn 5 will be launched. They also viewed the base of Saturn 1 the night before the launching.

"We were allowed in the control center when they had a pause in the count down for the Saturn 1 launching Monday night," Cronk said.

Others attending the two-day trip were Mark Campbell, Bryan Daily Eagle general manager; Jim Lindsey, Director of University Information at A&M; Bill Watkins, WTAU Radio; Jim Mitchell, KBTX-TV, and Jimmy Dorrell, KORA Radio.

When asked if he would like to see another launching, Cronk replied, "One never sees enough the first time."

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RE Speaker Notes Russian Religion Rise

The Religious Emphasis Week speaker said Wednesday night that the Communists have failed in attempts to suppress religion.

The Rev. James Argue said that religion is moving in Russia like a thief in the night. He added that a fresh wind is blowing through the minds of Russia's people and the Kremlin can not stop it.

Speaking on the topic "Faith of a Folksong," the speaker used the song "Blowing in the Wind" written by Bob Dylan. Argue said that the song had a great message. He said that Dylan calls it wind but he suggests an invincible force for righteousness

flowing in the wind. The Rev. Argue suggested that this force is the Holy Spirit.

"We must learn to be sensitive to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Many find the wind," Argue said. He continued "We must open our hearts and minds to breezes of eternity."

That is why we pray today . . . We are trying to find the wind."

Argue said that the racial bigots will be defeated because they have opposed God.

"You can not fight the Spirit of God and win. Not even Communist China can do that."

The speaker added "China can take over the Church programs, and execute the religious officials, but they cannot destroy the spirit of God.

He said that one of the sacrifices involved in following the wind is the smearing of reputation. Risks are great but dangers feared become challenges that call us on.

"It is better to face the opposition and be right and stand alone than melt into a crowd that has gone astray," he said.

"The world is dark today," he continued. "Nations are gnashing their teeth and acting as snarling wolves . . . Families are cracking like fallen vases, and our moral values are like pearls cast before swine and trampled into recognition. In times like this, our answers are blowing in the wind, for as many that are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

The Religious Emphasis Week speaker will lecture Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Guion Hall on the topic "The Biblical Understanding of Sex. He is available for conference during the week in Room 333 of the Memorial Student Center.

The speaker was introduced by President Earl Rudder Monday. He spoke Monday on "Developing a Personal Theology."

"Theologies of Today" was the topic Tuesday night.



Scheduled For A&M Performance Officers of the Kilgore Junior College Rangerettes, who will be appearing here March 5 for the Intercollegiate Talent Show, are left to right: Mary Ann Oder from Glade-water, Nina Miller from Kilgore, Capt. Ginny Lynn Thompson from Greenville, Becky English from Houston and Andrea Croughen from Granger.

Freshman Fete Features Fount, Femme Fatales

A fountain with running water will be the center of attraction at the Fish Ball Saturday night in Shisa Dining Hall.

The fountain, illustrating the "Three Coins in a Fountain" theme, is expected to take second place only to the Freshman Sweetheart selection at the 8 p.m. annual event.

The seven finalists in the race for Freshman Sweetheart will be present along with Miss Johanna Leister, Aggie Sweetheart. Miss Leister will be escorted by Don Allen, freshman class officer in Squadron 13.

The seven finalists for Freshman Sweetheart are Pam Bornmueller, Sandra Lee Cole, Georgia Ann Couser, Donna Haines, Charlotte Holley, Connie Rae Marcum and Marsha McLaurin.

Pam Bornmueller, class officer and "Most Beautiful" nominee from Robert E. Lee High School in Houston, will be escorted by Maurice Main, a freshman in Company G-3 from Dallas.

Another graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, Sandra Lee Cole, will be escorted by James Lewis, a freshman in Squadron 13 from Houston. Miss Cole was elected "Most Popular" her senior year in high school and is now a freshman at TCU majoring in nursing.

Andy Tice from Rockport will escort Georgia Ann Carter, a freshman at East Texas State University in Commerce. Miss Carter graduated from A. C. Jones High School in Beeville and is now studying to be a medical technologist.

Donna Haines will be escorted by Hal Koop, a freshman in Squadron 7 from Vanderbilt. While attending Industrial High School in Vanderbilt Miss Haines was drum major, captain of the basketball team, and Miss Industrial. At the present time she is head cheerleader at Victoria College.

Charlotte Holley is an officer in the Scottish Briage Drill team of Austin High School in Hous-

ton and is president of the School Commercial Club. Miss Holley will be escorted by Rodger Kloppe from Houston.

Connie Rae Marcus attended Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas where she was a class officer and a member of the tennis team. She was First Runner-up to Miss Teenage Dallas 1964-65 and is now attending Kilgore Junior College as a Rangerette. Emory Deason of Company D-2 will be her escort.

Marsha McLaurin is the Area VII Sweetheart of the Future Farmers of America and a drum major at Bastrop High School. She plans to attend Sam Houston State Teachers College and will be escorted by Jimmy Callahan from Bastrop, a freshman in Squadron 6.

The Freshman Sweetheart will be selected by the Freshman Class Officers, assisted by Student Group Advisor Bert Thompson.

System Reorganization Meets First Big Test Monday

By TOMMY DeFRANK
Staff Writer

The reorganization plan for the Texas A&M University System enters the legislative courtroom Monday to face its first major political hurdle.

The controversial proposal—supported by A&M President Earl Rudder and the System Board of Directors, bitterly denounced by Arlington State College and North Texas civic and political groups, and hampered by Governor John Connally's own reorganization ideas—will be considered by the Senate Education Committee at a 9 a.m. hearing.

The session promises to be explosive, with two veteran solons, W. T. (Bill) Moore of Bryan and Don Kennard of Fort Worth, expected to lock horns over the proposal.

Moore, chairman of the Education Committee, introduced the reorganization bill Monday and has pushed for speedy committee approval. Kennard, an Arlington State backer, has vowed to fight the bill's passage to the end.

Moore's bill calls for the A&M System to remain intact in its present form. Names of schools involved would be changed to Arlington College of Texas A&M University, Tarleton College of Texas

A&M University and Prairie View College of Texas A&M University.

Neither senator could be reached for comment Wednesday, but Arlington student supporters expressed confidence that Moore's bill would be defeated. They also strongly criticized Moore, accusing him of a "sellout" on his position regarding Arlington State.

"Moore has done an about-face for some reason and he hasn't told anyone why," claimed Larry Johnson, co-chairman of the Save Our School Committee at ASC.

"His bill is ridiculous. It's just intended for A&M's personal satisfaction and it will cost the state much in pride and money. There has been too much opposition for the bill ever to be accepted," Johnson continued.

Another SOS spokesman, Ann Jobe, charged that Moore has said he would not oppose ASC's position but had since obviously changed his mind.

"Moore shouldn't try to sneak anything through the Legislature before Governor Connally's proposal has been considered. If he's really interested in higher education he wouldn't do anything to interfere with the governor's program," Miss Jobe said.

Connally presented a revolutionary concept in

Texas education in his inaugural address when he called for the creation of three distinct college systems, each governed by its own Board of Directors but under over-all control of a "super" coordinating board. The House has already approved the coordinating board but has taken no action on Connally's three-system plan.

Connally's setup advocates a University of Texas System, a Texas State University System and a State College System. Arlington State would leave the A&M System and join the University of Texas System under the governors plan, while A&M would head the State University System.

Under the original A&M reorganization proposal, the present System, a confederation of A&M, ASC, Tarleton State College, Prairie View A&M and various experiment and extension stations, would have been merged under direct control of an administration housed on the main campus at College Station. The System would then have been operated as a "super" university with a central campus and administration but with several campuses. Names of the institutions would have been changed to A&M University at Arlington, A&M University at Tarleton, and A&M University at Prairie View.

System officials gave several reasons for the

changes, citing a need for coordination and claiming that a unified System would be able to negotiate for educational monies more effectively.

The controversy erupted last December when A&M Board officials met on the Arlington campus and announced that a sorely-needed graduate school had been granted ASC, but diplomas awarded would bear the heading "Texas A&M University." The Board then outlined its proposed organizational changes, and overwhelming opposition sprang up from ASC students, faculty and ex-students, fearful of losing their school's separate identity and being absorbed by the parent school.

Civic leaders in North Texas rallied to the ASC banner, and a bill was introduced in the House severing ASC from the A&M System. The bill has been temporarily shelved pending action on the governor's tri-system proposal.

As the A&M-ASC fight approaches a showdown, ASC Ex-Students Association President James A. Cribbs has indicated that Arlington forces have not changed their attitude on reorganization.

"We don't mind staying under the status quo but we're not about to go along with the idea of a super university. We've not changed our earlier position," Cribbs said.