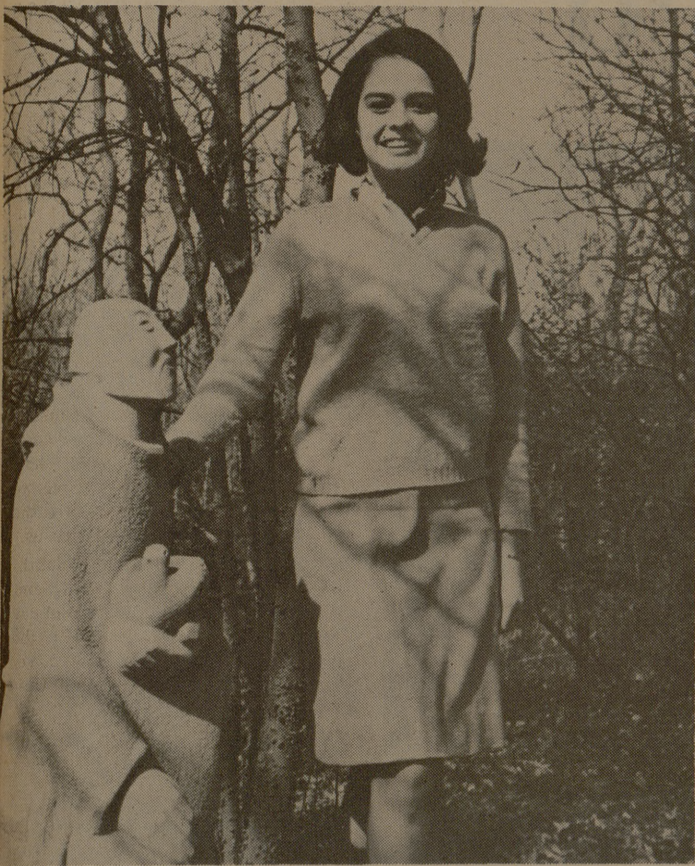


MSC Committee Trips Have Big Effect

Girl Watchers' Corner



GINNY PORTT

Ginny is a 21-year-old general business major at Texas Woman's University. The native of Chicopee, Mass., enjoys tennis, golf and bowling.

Space Technology

(Continued From Page 1)

evolution of space launch vehicles.

The first one, a Redstone, was sent up before the space act of 1958. It had a thrust power of 78,000 lbs.

Then came the Mercury Redstone, with the vehicle which launched Allan Shepherd on his sub-orbital flight.

The first orbital booster was the Mercury Atlas, which lifted John Glenn in his Mercury capsule.

At this point, Debus said the weight of the capsule, when it is launched, approaches 4000 lbs. But when it is recovered, after losing its fuel and attachments, weighs only about 2,500 lbs.

The Thor was the next launch vehicle utilized. It generated around 450,000 lbs. of thrust, compared to the 78,000 of the earlier Redstone.

A step further has been the Atlas Agena. This launch vehicle is responsible for the Ranger and Lunar Orbiter's successes. The Atlas Centaur carried the first Surveyor.

Debus said another Surveyor attempt is planned in a few months.

A Titan booster was used in the Gemini 4 flight, when the first rendezvous was made with an Agena target vehicle.

The Apollo Saturn is planned for use in moon exploration.

Saturn 5 is the newest and heaviest launch vehicle now available to the U. S.

It is 364 feet tall, has several stages, and weighs 600,000 lbs. empty.

The thrust generated by its engines is 7.5 million lbs., compared to the 78,000 lbs. of the early Redstone.

By JOHN FULLER
Battalion Special Writer

Of the many Memorial Student Center committees, Town Hall is probably the most attractive to prospective staffers; SCONA and Great Issues generally produce the biggest headlines. But the relatively unsung Student Leadership Training Committee's Houston trips will quite possibly have the most far-reaching effects on A&M students.

The committee recently sponsored one of the annual visits, which Trip Chairman Dani Presswood described as "culture in a nutshell." Some 30 outstanding juniors, seniors and graduate students experienced more cultural activities in two days than they would normally have in two years, with points of interest ranging from the multi-million-dollar Astrodome to the rustic Alley Theater.

"The main purpose of the program is to give A&M student leaders an opportunity to see things they don't get to see here, such as art museums and legitimate theater productions," Committee Chairman Dennis Hohmann explained. "They'll most likely be the leaders of tomorrow, and they deserve a glance at the cultural and business fields in which they'll be taking leading positions."

First stop on the program was at Jones Hall, where Tom Bullock, a 1946 A&M graduate and member of the architecture firm that produced the new performing arts center, gave the group a special guided tour. After lunch at La Bastille, near the Old Market square downtown, the students toured the Museum of Fine Arts with Mrs. Dee Hansen, museum docent, directing.

Dinner for the first night was at the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel's Charcoal Terrace, with swordfish steak as the main course. Later, the student leaders moved to Sam Houston Coliseum for the Houston Symphony's "One Dollar Concert," a program of American works conducted by Andre Previn, who doubled as piano soloist.

The next morning, the group toured the Astrodome and then ate lunch at Kaphan's Restaurant, reputedly the favorite dining spot of the Astro baseball players. Later they visited Bayou Bend,

where some of Houston's most lavish homes and gardens are located. The evening's program included the Alley Theater's production of "The Sea Gull," by Anton Chekhov, followed by a backstage visit with the cast and staff. Afterwards, the students had dinner at the Warwick Club and saw the hotel's Mecom art collection.

How was the committee able to finance such an excursion?

"Each student paid \$15," Hohmann explained, "and we got contributions of \$35 each from former A&M students in Houston to cover meals. We were able to get reduced rates on a lot of things, such as tickets to the Alley Theater and rooms at the Hilton. Of course, the tour of Jones Hall was free."

The committee selected participants for the trip from a list of 55 names submitted to the MSC Council, according to Hohmann, a senior mathematics major from San Antonio. He said the first 22 selections were made by position, such as presidents of major campus organizations. The final list included Corps leaders, class presidents, varsity athletes, Graduate Student Council representatives, civilian leaders, and even an Aggie wife.

Obviously, any weekend covering so much territory takes nearly split-second coordination—and a lot of planning.

"A lot more work goes into this thing than I ever dreamed of," Presswood commented. "We started lining this weekend up four months before the trip. You have to get an early start to be able to schedule all these activities in one weekend and make as many reservations as you have to."

Presswood, a junior journalism student from Fort Worth, said Stark lines up former students in Houston to handle the financing. But the rest of the details are the committee's job.

"After the schedule is worked out, we have to compile information and 'Who's Who' brochures. And there's the tough job of selecting the students who get to participate."

The committee has sponsored orientation sessions before each of the five trips, in order to let

students know what to expect. Stark said several students have commented to him after a Houston weekend that they had enjoyed the symphony and plays more because of the informational sessions.

Students who went on last month's trip are enthusiastic about the idea of "culture in a nutshell." Robert Gonzales, a junior government major from San Antonio, noted that the weekend marked the first time he had been to a symphony concert since grade school.

"I had an opportunity in San Antonio, but I didn't really want to go," he went on. "It was also my first taste of the professional theater, and I really enjoyed it. It's difficult just to get out and go to these things, and they're really not available here."

"The most important thing I got out of the trip was learning that the Houston exes are really interested in giving us the opportunity to enjoy all these activities," Joey Webber, junior history major from Waco, remarked. "I was also impressed with the opportunities in Houston open to us after college."

Dick Franklin, senior zoology major from Kenedy, called the trip a "broadening experience," adding that he had never been to an art museum until the weekend.

"I think it gave us all a better view of the culture that's actually here, and that relatively few people know exists," he added.

One of the sponsors is J. L. H. Rountree, president of Rountree Machinery Co. in Houston. Though not a former student, Rountree's son was graduated from A&M, and Rountree says he thinks of himself as an Aggie. He says he is as impressed with the trip as the students are.

"A&M doesn't have much social life," he explained, "and this program gives the boys an excellent chance to observe the finer things of life, such as the symphony, the Alley Theater, and the many fine restaurants here."

Stark shares this viewpoint. He explained that the idea for the project, begun in 1963, was prompted by the fact that A&M is largely a technical school, and by the large numbers of students who come from communities

where they lack either the opportunity or the motivation to learn to enjoy visual and performing arts.

"If A&M's student leaders are going to go out and compete with the best students from other schools, the outstanding A&M students should be given a special opportunity to learn about such activities," he went on. "In effect, this is part of leadership — to understand and support such cultural pursuits — and the committee's purpose is to develop leadership."

"We also wanted to let the students meet outstanding families in Houston," Stark noted. "We wanted them to be able to have dinner and go to the theater with these civic leaders in the A&M family — whether former students or just friends of the school."

But most of the people concerned with the committee's program point out that the trip is more than an exercise in leadership training.

"This trip is more of a reward to students who have compiled strong school records than anything else," Presswood said. That is why it's designed mainly for seniors."

Hohmann called the trip a "sort of reward for good work at A&M," pointing out that the "cream of the crop" is selected for each trip. Rountree noted that one of the weekend's accomplishments is, after all, the fact that "it gives the boys a heck of a good time."

The only major criticism of the trip was its careful timing, leaving few spare minutes to the students.

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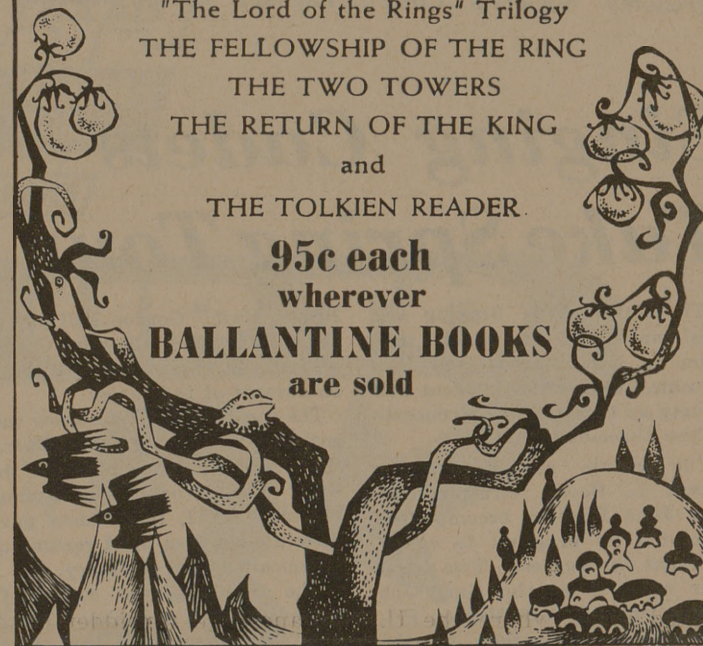
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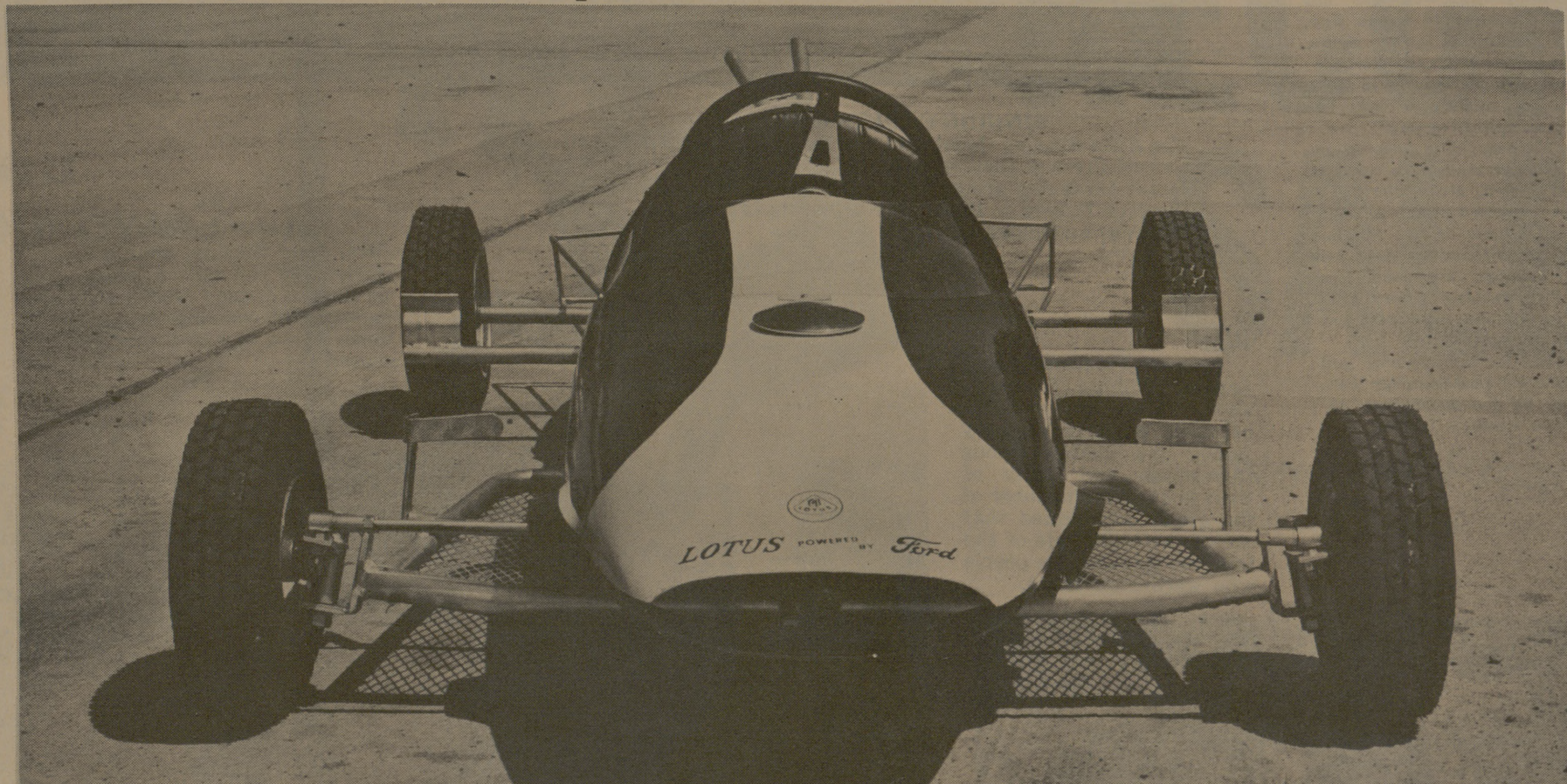
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