

The Battalion

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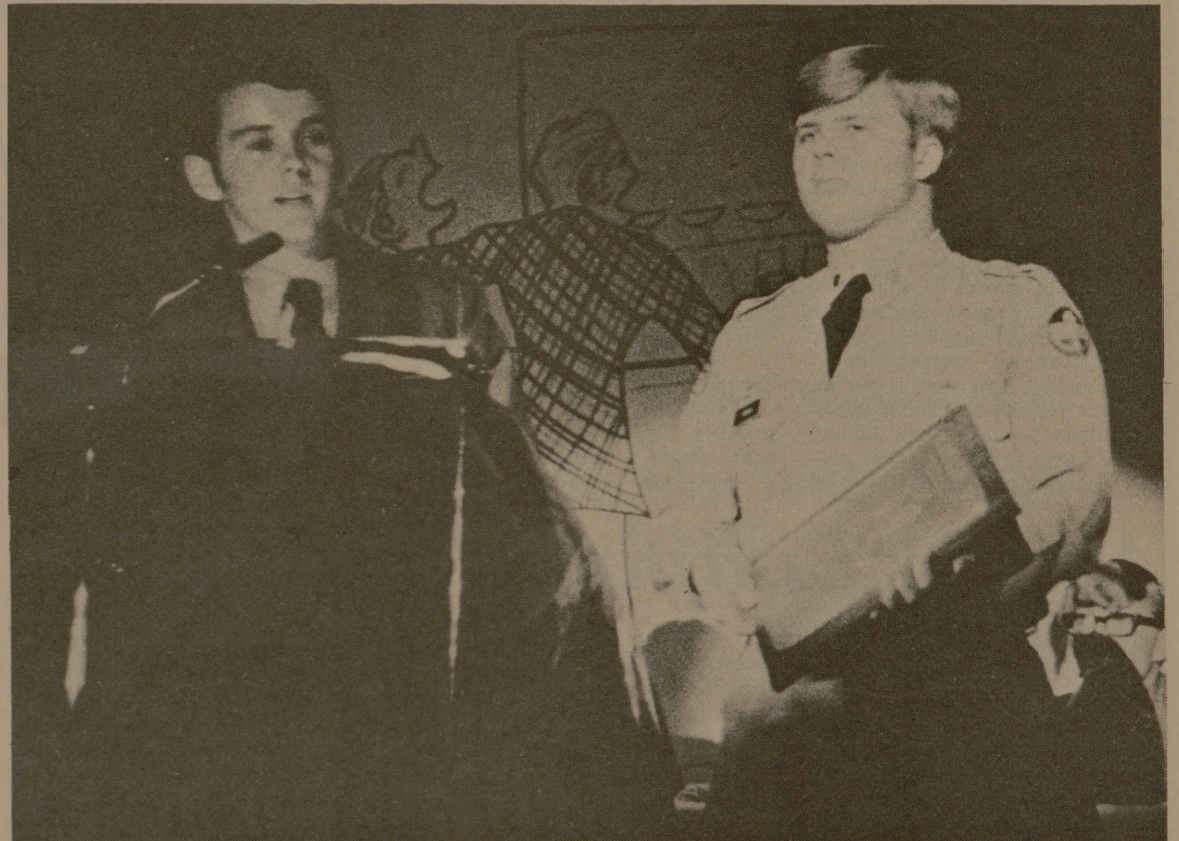
Earthward at Last Apollo 13 Limping Toward Home

By Howard Benedict
AP Aerospace Writer
SPACE CENTER, Houston — Apollo 13's astronauts nursed their disabled spaceship back toward earth today rationing vital water, oxygen and power to keep the craft alive for a Friday splashdown in the Pacific Ocean. The three spacemen and Mission Control Center appeared more confident with every passing hour that Apollo 13 would make it safely home. But with two days to go it's still a potentially perilous journey, with the astronauts reduced to dependence on the power and other resources of the attached lunar landing craft. And ahead lies the critical re-entry when the crippled command ship must carry James A. Lovell

Jr., Fred W. Haise Jr. and John L. Swigert on a blistering dive through the earth's atmosphere. Splashdown is set for 12:18 p.m. EST Friday. However the recovery area southeast of Samoa was threatened by Tropical Storm Helen and the astronauts might have to shift their landing site. After hours of calm but tense composure following Monday night's oxygen tank rupture that wiped out their moon landing attempt, the astronauts today were in better spirits. For the first time since the chilling accident that drained oxygen and electrical power from the command ship they joked with Mission Control. They were buoyed Tuesday night when astronaut boss Donald K. (Deke) Slayton radioed:

"We think you guys are in good shape all the way around. Why don't you quit worrying and go to sleep?"
"We think that is a pretty good idea" Lovell said. "And at least part of us will."
The astronauts have been sleeping in shifts so that at least one is up at all times to monitor the lunar module systems. But in the hectic hours after the accident there was little time for rest and Lovell complained Monday night: "We've gone a hell of a long time without sleep."
The lunar craft Aquarius is hooked nose-to-nose with the command ship and the tiny ship's oxygen is being used to supply both craft. The astronauts transfer back and forth through a connecting tunnel.

Early today Haise, standing watch while his companions slept, reported a slight venting of gas from the area of the command ship's service compartment, where the oxygen tank ruptured Monday. He also said he saw a four-inch piece of silver-colored metal float away from the area. Mission Control said it didn't know whether this was connected with the original rupture or whether it was something new. There was no concern because the service compartment no longer was needed. It will be jettisoned before re-entry and the command ship will fly through the earth's atmosphere on a separate battery and control system designed for re-entry and landing. With 60 hours to go, this was the situation in the lunar module Aquarius:
—Electrical power usage had been reduced from 17 to 14 amperes per hour, which would leave a reserve of 500 amp hours at the end of the mission. Later, Mission Control reported that at times the hourly usage rate dropped to 12.3 amps.
—The lower power outflow also reduced the water usage, and the astronauts were consuming 2.7 to 3.2 pounds an hour. The total water supply was 215 pounds. During periods of heavy electrical activity, such as engine firings, the water supply needed to cool electronics is increased to five or more pounds an hour. Mission Control told the astronauts they didn't have to skimp on drinking water.
—There were 44 pounds of oxygen remaining. At a usage rate of .36 pounds an hour, the astronauts had a 120-hour supply, a safety margin of 60 hours.
—Sixty-two per cent of the lunar module's maneuvering fuel remained, more than enough for normal activity. There also was considerable fuel left in the craft's main engine, which is to be fired Thursday for a slight course correction.
A nagging problem was the buildup of carbon dioxide, a product of breathing, in the spaceship. That's because the command cabin's lithium hydroxide filter system is not working and filters in the lunar vehicle must handle the load.
Lovell reported the problem: "Our CO2 pressure is getting high. We had a caution and warning light. We've got to rig up some way to use the lithium hydroxide canister."
Mission Control said it was not alarmed. The carbon dioxide warning light in the spaceship is geared to come on when it reads 7.6 millimeters of carbon dioxide. Officials said persons on the ground had been tested without



PROUD MOMENT—Joe M. (Mac) Spears III (right), president of the 20th Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate, receives the Thomas H. Rountree Award, highest graduate award given by the MSC. David Maddox, last year's Rountree recipient and now a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, makes the presentation. (Photo by Robert Boyd)

Short May Be Responsible For Apollo's Problems

By Paul Recer
AP Aerospace Writer
SPACE CENTER, Houston — Some spacecraft engineers believe an electrical short may have caused an explosion which disabled the Apollo 13 spacecraft. A short circuit in either a fan or a heater in one of the spacecraft's two oxygen tanks could have caused a rise in pressure which exploded the tank, a source at the Manned Spacecraft Center said Tuesday. The two oxygen tanks in the spacecraft are in the service module. Each tank has a sort of

electric blanket heater on the outside and a fan on the inside. The heaters force an increase in oxygen pressure by causing the liquid oxygen in the tanks to turn into gas. The fans circulate the oxygen and make the heating uniform. The source said a short in a heater could have caused a rapid rise in pressure as more oxygen was turned into gas than the oxygen system could use. When this pressure reached 1,530 pounds per square inch the tank would explode. If the short was in a fan the

oxygen would heat up unevenly, again causing a rise in pressure. The explosion of a metal oxygen tank could have sent shrapnel-like fragments into the second tank or nearby plumbing. This could account for the slow loss of oxygen which emptied the second tank in three hours. Space officials discounted reports that the oxygen leak and explosion might have been caused by the impact of a meteoroid. Such an impact, they said, would not explain the increase of pressure before the explosion. Officials will not be able to search the service module for the exact cause of the explosion. It will be left in space and will burn up when it re-enters the earth's atmosphere. Flight Director Gene Kranz said however that he believed enough data was obtained before and after the emergency to permit investigators to determine the cause.

Counselor to Discuss Tonight Making Marriage Meaningful

A private marriage and family relations counselor from Austin will present the second Marriage Forum talk to A&M students tonight. Dr. Robert Ledbetter will speak on "Making Marriage Meaningful" at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center ballroom. The four-part marriage program is sponsored by Texas A&M's student 'Y' Association. Ledbetter will discuss the significant emotional problems associated with early marriage, common conflicts, immaturity in some marriages, how to handle tensions, what holds marriages together and why there is a rise in high school and college marriages. A 1937 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Ledbetter received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He served as director of the UT Methodist Student Center from

1956-59, when he entered the UT Graduate School of Social Work. He received his master's in social work, with field work for the degree at the Travis County (Austin) Juvenile Court and Jewish Family Service, Houston. Since 1961, Ledbetter has been in private practice, a counselor at the UT Health Center and a visiting lecturer in the Sociology Department. "We feel the forums provide an opportunity for those students planning marriage in the near and more distant future to learn many valuable points in considering their partner," Student 'Y' Association president Ed Donnell said. The final two forums are scheduled April 22 and 29. Dr. Henry Bowman, retired UT-Austin psychology professor, will speak at both on "Sex in Human Relations."



TAG ON THE BAG—A&M first baseman Chris Sans retires a Rice runner to end the third inning during Tuesday's game here. The Aggies swept a three-game series against Rice to remain undefeated in Southwest Conference play (9-0) and retain their number 1 rating in the conference. See story, page 6. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Demolition Underway on 1904 Building

Demolition of the old Building and College Utilities (B&C) Building has begun, according to Bob Jenkins, planning engineer for the Physical Plant Department. The building, located across from the Exchange Store, has been contracted for demolition to the Hobbs Demolishing Corp. of Austin. Jenkins said that the demolition will also take out a much-used car wash rack behind the building. The removal of the building was approved in 1966 by the A&M Board of Directors to prepare for the eventual extension of the power plant in that direction. "But, since there are no immediate plans for a building on that site, it will probably be used for parking," Jenkins said. "The location is really more valuable as parking space than as a building." The building has been used since its construction in 1904 as a fire station, the university physical plant, a grocery store, and the military warehouse. All the military property in the building will be moved to the new dorm services building near Duncan Hall.

Installment Due

The third board installment is now payable at the Fiscal Office in the Richard Coke Building. Students on the 7-day plan must pay \$84, and students on the 5-day plan must pay \$76. The installment must be paid by April 23 to avoid a penalty for late payment. University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." —Adv.

at the Fifth Wheel Committee, he said later. "I did not level any charges at them."
When questioned concerning whom he had been making reference to, Fitzhugh declined to elaborate, saying that he has said just about all he wanted to say in his speech. During his talk, Fitzhugh pledged himself and the MSC to working with the administration in seeking solutions to problems. He will, he asserted, work within the system. "Unfortunately," he continued, "there are today certain individuals in our student government who would call themselves 'leaders' who have united into a shrewd, calculating and determined opposition against the current administration. These are those who do not believe anything worthwhile has come from cooperating in the past. "These people are bent on provocations and confrontations," he asserted, "and have stated that they intend to use every means necessary—even force—to achieve their goals. "It is indeed tragic that these self-righteous and so terribly

Work Within System, Fitzhugh Urges

By David Middlebrooke
Battalion Managing Editor
The president of the 21st Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate Tuesday night urged those seeking solutions to problems to work within the existing system, and strongly criticized students leaders who, he said, oppose the administration. Thomas C. Fitzhugh III made his remarks during his inaugural address at the annual MSC Awards Banquet, immediately after receiving the office of president from Joe M. (Mac) Spears III, the outgoing MSC chief. Many in the audience were of the impression that Fitzhugh was attacking the Fifth Wheel Committee, a group of students who have formed a slate of candidates for almost every office open in the April 23 general election. Kent Caperton, Student Senate vice president and Fifth Wheel senate presidential candidate, expressed shock at what Fitzhugh had said, although he said, Fitzhugh later assured him that he had not been attacking the Fifth Wheel. "My comments were not aimed

MSC President Given Group's Highest Award

By Billy Buchanan
Joe M. (Mac) Spears, III, Memorial Student Center Council president, received the annual Thomas H. Rountree Award, highest honor for Memorial Student Center student program participation, at the MSC awards banquet Tuesday night. The senior marketing major from Alice served as vice-president of operations for the MSC Council last year. During his sophomore year, he served as a directorate assistant and as vice-chairman and acting chairman of the public relations committee of the council. Spears is a distinguished student, distinguished military student, designated Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Phi Kappa Phi member, Phi Eta Sigma member, and was a fish yell leader. C. M. Sykes, chief advisor to the MSC Camera Committee, received the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Award, highest honor for a non-student active in MSC programs. Sykes has been advisor to the committee for the last 10 years. Faculty Distinguished Service Awards went to Dr. William Fife and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nicholas. Fife served on the MSC Council and the Nicholas' were advisors to the annual Student Conference on National Affairs. William Lancaster, former assistant director to the MSC and

SCONA Finance advisor, and Robert L. Boone, leadership and Town Hall adviser, received engraved pen and pencil sets as special appreciation awards. Other award winners include: Distinguished Service Award—Carlos C. Almague, contemporary arts; Thomas C. Condry, Basement; Tommy B. Ellis, Contemporary Arts; William J. Finane, Jr., MSC Council; Harry K. Lesser, Jr., SCONA XV; H. Davis Mayfield, III, SCONA XV; William D. Reed, Leadership; Merrill Richardson, Town Hall; Harry A. Snowdy, Jr., Council; Joe M. Spears, III, Council; Edward A. Taylor, SCONA XV; and Thomas C. Washburn, SCONA XV. Outstanding Freshman Award—Joe R. Arredondo, Jr., Basement; Patricia A. Lucey, Great Issues; and Paul D. Turner, Political Forum. Outstanding Sophomore Award—Don B. Mauro, Finance; Roger P. Miller, directorate assistant; Michael Van Bavel, Great Issues; and William W. Webster, Great Issues. Outstanding Junior Award—Thomas C. Fitzhugh, III, Great Issues and Dennis G. Flannigan, MSC Council and SCONA XV. Appreciation Awards—Jack A. Abbott, Aggie Cinema; David L. Anschutz, Aggie Cinema; Charles T. Boerger, Great Issues; Al L. Bradley, Jr., directorate assistant; Donald E. Branson, Leader-

ship; Jim D. Cain, Recreation; Kent A. Caperton, Council; Benjamin R. Chappell, SCONA XV; Caren S. Conlee, directorate secretary; John Michael Cunningham, SCONA XV; George S. Drugan, III, Great Issues; Wayne C. Edwards, Political Forum; Glenda F. Freeman, Host and Fashion; Samuel E. Garcia, SCONA XV. Also, Rudy De La Garza, Chess; Melvin C. Hamilton, SCONA XV; Virgil E. Hargett, Jr., Aggie Cinema; James R. Hawthorne, Leadership; Thomas S. Henderson, SCONA XV; Jack C. Hollimon, II, Town Hall; Patricia S. Hobgood, Great Issues; Charles R. Hoffman, Political Forum; Charles L. Korbell, Jr., Town Hall; William S. Leftwich, Great Issues; Gary J. Martin, Travel; Linda K. Nobles, Basement; Eric L. Oshlo, Radio; Emil C. Pela, III, Leadership; Ronald A. Petty, Contemporary Arts. In addition, Donald G. Prycer, Contemporary Arts; Gary E. Reid, Basement; David H. Reynolds, Political Forum; Gary S. Rosin, directorate assistant; James W. Russell, III, Great Issues; Paul A. Scopel, Travel; Robert E. Smith, Town Hall; Rex E. Stewart, Town Hall; Mitchell J. Timmons, MSC Council; Michael E. Vaughn, Political Forum; John W. Vogelsang, Town Hall; Gregg K. Weaver, MSC Council; Michael Welsh, Camera; and William N. Willings, Great Issues.

In Inaugural Address

stroyed by the decay of a once-great system. He said that they should follow the example of the MSC, "which has proven not only is such coordination necessary, but can be spectacularly successful." "The inference I got when I first heard those remarks was that Tom (Fitzhugh) was referring to the Fifth Wheel Committee." (See Fitzhugh, page 2)

Senators Will Consider Rights Statement Tonight

The Student Senate will meet in special session tonight to consider the last sections of a joint statement of student rights and responsibilities, according to Vice President Kent Caperton. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Library conference room, he said. The Senate last Thursday approved the first four sections of the statement, introduced by Jim Stephenson, (sr-LA). Sections passed concerned freedom of ac-

cess to higher education, freedom in the classroom, student records and student affairs. Virtually an entire revision of university regulations concerning student life, sections of the statement still to be passed concern off-campus student freedoms, procedural standards in disciplinary proceedings and disciplinary sanctions. GREAT SAVINGS PLANS made even better by new legal rates at FIRST BANK & TRUST. Adv.