

# Reasons behind death of manned space program sad

Editor's note: Battalion Assistant Sports Editor John Curylo worked as a copyboy for the Associated Press news team at the Manned Spacecraft Center during the Apollo 14 flight. In his story, John gives his views, based on what he picked up in his spare (?) time.

By JOHN CURYLO  
Assistant Sports Editor

It seems a shame to have to say goodbye to something that has given us a lot, but that appears to be about to happen. The manned space program sees its end in sight. Worse yet, it feels it, too.

But the really sad part is the reasons and explanations for the death of the missions that made science fiction a reality and aerospace terminology part of our everyday vocabulary.

According to plans, there are three trips to outer space left for America's astronauts, type Apol-

lo. Off the drawing board, and into the offices, restaurants and street corners of Nassau Bay, home of Mission Control, it is an accepted fact among newsmen, spacemen, and residents that there will be no Apollo 17, cutting future explorations to two.

Snapping back to the reality of now, the ideas surrounding the absence of journeys out of the earth's atmosphere are cruel and sickening.

What will life be like without interruptions of the routine of our lives to follow such ventures? Anyone who has been to the news center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration can see the magnitude of the coverage by the media. It would be nice to get a cut of the money spent on telephone bills, coffee, and paper consumed during a lunar excursion. There is no doubt that people the world over look at all this with intrigue. Or do

they? Europe was the area most interested in early projects. Friday, man landed on the moon. The third time in history, one of us was walking on the celestial body so near and yet so far from us. What got the big play in London papers? Rolls Royce was bankrupt.

Admittedly, this was shocking. But still, two men were on the moon. You know, that glowing body many miles up there in the sky that you used to think was made of green cheese. All over Europe, reactions were similar. Oh, the Yankees are up there again, are they? Nice.

Maybe the world is spoiled. Maybe an exploding oxygen tank will snap them back to stark realization. Wrong again. That worked for a while last spring, but the emotions that united the world last spring lulled it almost to sleep nine months later.

The multitude can be blamed for the apathy, but the heart of the problem is at home. If the United States government sees fit to terminate the program, why should anyone else care? If it's not such a good deal, what the heck? This is probably the biggest knife in the back. And its effects are felt. United we stand; divided . . .

However, this difficulty is not helped by the strategic people involved. It is only pushed deeper into its grave.

It's a safe bet that most anyone can tell you that a tremendous amount of planning goes into one of these missions. For instance, the estimate of fuel consumption would be a real baffler in many college classrooms. This is only a small part of the preparation involved.

Try these, just for starters: the position of the moon relative to the earth at the time of lift-

off and the course plotting necessary to get you where you want to go; the terrain and scientific value of the area of the landing; how much oxygen will be consumed; food; logistics for recovery after splashdown; power on the spacecraft; weather at the time of lift-off; and training of flight controllers, astronauts, and all the other people who make things work.

Yet, with all the planning, you'd think that they could find some other time for those guys to do their sightseeing than 2:00 a.m. All the advance publicity talked about was the convenient time scheduled for launching Apollo 14 (2:30 on a Sunday afternoon). But what about lunar landing? Made dramatic by trouble and doubt along the way, many people had probably fallen asleep in front of their television sets when Alan Shepard set foot on the moon with all the enthusi-

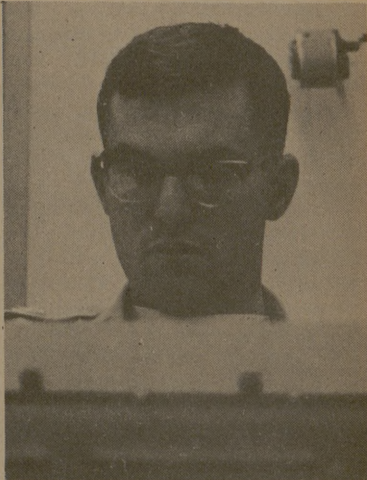
asm of stepping into a corn field in Ankeny, Iowa.

Which brings up another point. Those three guys in Kitty Hawk must have bored each other to tears along the way. Shepard for instance. Now, Al's a nice enough guy, and I'm not knocking America's first space hero, but let's face it; next to his magnificent report, "It's hard, hard, hard," the only other exciting comment he made while setting the elapsed time record on lunar soil came when he dropped something and emitted a profane remark. He didn't even come close to redeeming himself by hitting the golf ball "Miles and miles and miles" and throwing the "javelin."

Okay, I'll admit it. They're not up there for fun and games. But still, they don't have to be so darned dull. We paid 400 million dollars to get them there, and they don't even act grateful. About the only part the people

back home could associate with was that exhausting walk. Other than that, Shepard and Edgar Mitchell resembled disappointed tourists.

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John Curylo

# The Battalion

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## Legislators solving fiscal problem quickly: Presnal

Legislators are rushing to solve Texas' fiscal problems and approve amendments in the 62nd session, Rep. Bill Presnal of Bryan said Wednesday.

"All of us went to Austin realizing the urgency of getting quickly to work," Presnal told a standing-room-only Political Forum audience here.

Emphasizing the rush, the legislator who represents Brazos, Grimes and Madison Counties, said that he wouldn't get to see

his wife on the Political Forum speaking trip.

He had to be back in Austin within 90 minutes for hearings before the House Appropriations Committee, of which Presnal is a member. In addition to the Appropriations, Agriculture and Higher Education Committees re-appointments, he was also assigned this session to the Elections and State Finance committees of the House.

"Appropriations hearings take

a great deal of time," Presnal said. In spite of the state's emergency fiscal situation and the regular session - opening procedures, a considerable amount has been accomplished since the gavel rapped at noon Jan. 12, he added.

"Four constitutional amendments have been approved, along with other legislation," the former A&M staff member noted. "That's no small feat, since it takes two-thirds vote in both houses to approve amendments

for the ballots."

He said the speed was necessary since law requires such measures to satisfy requirements for the May 18 public election.

Presnal said the amendments to be voted would form an ethics commission, allow legislation to consider amendments during special sessions, increase the constitutional ceiling on welfare and increase bond limits for water improvement and treatment facilities.

He said four fell by the wayside, including Governor Smith's plan to issue bonds for the benefit of the available school fund and allowing board members of a water district to hold elected positions. The latter, Presnal said, is of interest to the College Station City Council.

"What you hear about the fiscal crisis is true," he said.

Appropriations hearings must bring the \$9 billion in requests

down to a workable figure.

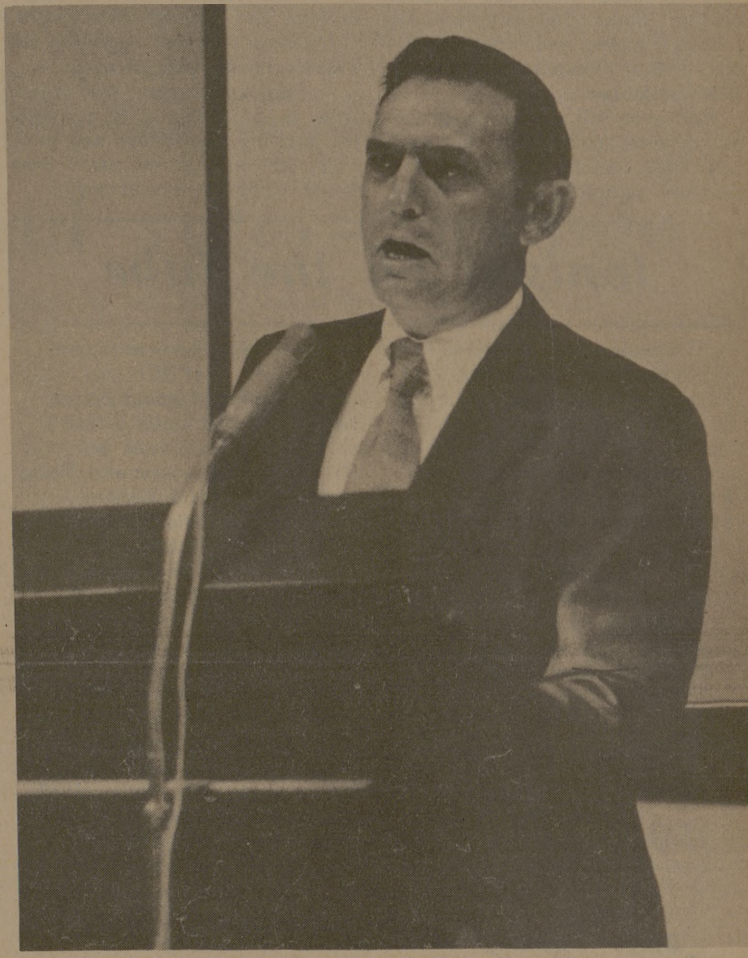
"We are spending \$6.4 billion in the current biennium," Presnal pointed out. He said the Legislative Budget Board is expected to make about a \$7.5 billion recommendation.

Presnal said one measure in hearing would move welfare ahead of the Teacher Retirement System in priority temporarily, to make money available to welfare payments first.

"This is temporary and I do not believe it will adversely affect the TRS," he added.

Presnal said that short term deficit financing is not new to Texas. The procedure was employed in 1961 under Gov. Price Daniel.

"It's like me getting a new tractor," the Brazos dairy farmer explained. "I might pick the tractor up today, and tell the dealer I'll pay him the whole cash amount next week."



Bill Presnal, the state representative from Brazos County, speaks to a Political Forum audience. (Photo by Lloyd Sneed)

## Art belongs to people, graphics expert claims

By FRAN ZUPAN  
Battalion Managing Editor

Art can no longer be separated from the people, the former head of the Graphics Department at the Annenberg School of Communications in Philadelphia told a Contemporary Arts Committee presentation audience of about 200 Wednesday night.

"Frequently in the past someone could work up in his studio oblivious of the person 'down there,'" printmaker Samuel Maitin said, "but now there are no excuses for not realizing who will see the picture and under what conditions."

When an artist considers his viewer the whole nature of his craft begins to change Maitin said, adding this is a delicious idea.

This new way of "art think" is coming into other areas of man's life — law, architecture and pollution control, to name a few, Maitin said.

"This is fortunate because we

are almost dead," he said mentioning examples of polluted water. "If we don't change, we're going out. It's got to be changed or you might as well take a 'trip' and lie in a corner cause you won't be able to do it anymore."

Maitin said there are three predominant aspects of graphic communications in the United States today.

The first he mentioned is concern with phenomena, especially natural phenomena.

A phenomenal image in nature captured by the artist, such as Alfred Stieglitz' cloud photograph, has made viewers really look at nature, Maitin said.

"Earth art, digging a hole in the ground and contemplating its shape is included here," he explained. "This is really big in the West and, to a lesser degree, in the East where there's not as much land."

The second 'now' form of art is art which informs viewers about the media process, Maitin went on.

When the commercial silk-screen process is printed on large

canvas, a new art form emerges, he illustrated.

"Transference of media changes the viewer's whole response," he said.

The third aspect of modern graphics is the one Maitin most elaborated on—a moral concern for our audience.

"You look at people and become alarmed at their condition," he said. "Then you wonder if your art has relevance. The medium is my message is no longer completely true, at least not in the East."

Maitin spoke of the Gorilla Art Action Group and Artworkers Coalition, two groups of artists who seek to make art for "the people."

These groups closed down every major art museum in New York City except the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Maitin said. "The museums closed because they basically agreed with the groups," he claimed. "The Artworkers coalition demanded that the Museum of Modern Art sell some of its collections and use the money to build public housing."

(See Art belongs, page 3)

## Postmaster explains rate increase

Proposed new postal rate increases, which will call for increases in virtually all mail categories, is expected to bring a total yield of \$2.12 billion into the postal system over a period of years College Station Postmaster Ernest Gregg said Tuesday.

In addition to the long-standing Postal Service proposal for a two-cent boost for letters from six to eight cents, airmail rates would go up a penny, from 10 to 11 cents, and airmail cards from eight to nine cents.

If temporary rates are placed into effect, post cards will go from five to six cents although the proposal provides for a full increase to seven cents each.

Parcel post rates will not be effected.

If the Rate Commission does not present to the Governors of the Postal Service a recommended decision of rate changes by May 11, it is anticipated that a temporary rate increase will be put into effect by the Postal Service, Gregg said.

Substantial increases also are proposed for magazines, newspapers and other categories of second class mail, he said. These increases will be phased over five years to soften the impact on the mailers.

About 80 per cent of the nation's mail volume of nearly 90

billion pieces in fiscal year 1972 will be business-type mail, and the bulk of the increase would be borne by these users.

Gregg pointed out that the increases will place the nation's postal system on a sound financial basis and shift more of the costs from taxpayers generally to those who use the mails the most.

He added that higher rates had been sought by administrations, but no action had been taken.

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## CSC to discuss phones

Campus regulations concerning on campus housing for male students and telephone contracts will be among the topics discussed at tonight's Civilian Student Council meeting.

According to present regulations, all undergraduate male students, even those over 21, are required to live on campus unless married, living with a relative or able to prove financial hardship,

Mark Olson, CSC president said.

The CSC is also opposed to the telephone contracts which all on-campus students are required to sign, stating that the occupants must accept charges on all calls placed from their room regardless of whether they made the call or not, Olson said.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p. m. in Room 3D of the Memorial Student Center.

## Correction

The Genetics 301 criticism session scheduled for 7 p.m. today was erroneously reported by The Battalion yesterday. The session is scheduled for 7 p.m., February 18.

## Band Sweetheart to be chosen at Saturday night dance



Carolyn Spinks



Gwen Mosley

The five finalists for the Aggie Band Sweetheart will be narrowed down to one Saturday night at the annual band dance.

The dance will salute Lt. Col. E. V. Adams' 25th year as director and will be highlighted by the crowning of the Texas Aggie Band Sweetheart.

She will be selected from five finalists to be introduced at the Memorial Student Center Ballroom event.

Finalists include Carolyn Gay Spinks, University of Houston sophomore French major. She is a 5-6 brown-eyed blonde and will be escorted by Bruce Stone of Houston.

A 5-2 blonde with blue eyes, Gwen Mosley is a senior and band member of Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio. Her date is Ronald Baugh of San Antonio.

Karen Litzman is drum major of the Columbus High School band, where she is a junior. Russell Braden of Columbus will escort the green-eyed brunette who stands 5-7.

Blonde Cathy Lynn Chubbuck studies psychology at TCU. She is a freshman. Her date is Lewis H. Evans of Tyler, also Cathy's hometown.

A University of Texas at Austin freshman in Spanish, Randy Ann Campbell will be escorted by Jim Morris of Amarillo. She is a 5-8 brunette and graduate of Westchester High School in Houston.

McDaniel said about 300 bandmen, their dates and guests are expected for the 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. event. He added that the band will play for the A&M-Rice basketball game, so the dance will get a late start.



Karen Litzmann



Cathy Chubbuck



Randy Ann Campbell