

President briefed by corps staff

'Not your granddad's Corps': Williams

President Jack K. Williams has commended Corps of Cadets objectives and reminded staff officers that success will be determined "by what you do."

"If the Corps rids itself of the inertia of another age, it will stay healthy and a vital force," the president said.

Re-emphasizing a stand he has taken in appearances throughout Texas, Dr. Williams said he is pledged to maintain the Corps of Cadets as a visible and viable force at Texas A&M.

The top university official who took office last November pointed out other responsibilities and benefits of membership in the corps.

Williams was given a special corps staff briefing this week, receiving from Cadet Colonel Van Taylor of Temple, Deputy Commander Thomas C. Bain of

Dallas and Thomas C. Fitzhugh, corps information officer of Waco, his first close-up look at the inner workings and detailed facets of the 2,343-member organization.

The briefing, held regularly for invited faculty-staff members, included a 30-minute session at the corps headquarters conference room, a brief tour of the corps area, and evening meal formation pass-by, dinner and dormitory visits during Call to Quarters.

"The Corps is very, very close to the hearts of A&M former students," President Williams assured the cadet officers. "In speaking all over Texas, I've become aware of two trends of thought."

One says "don't let it go out of business," the president commented. The other indicates a desire for A&M to return to an

all-military student body.

"Just remember that it is your Corps, not your granddaddy's," the president added. "It will be made into what you want. It is my desire not only to see the Corps preserved, but to grow."

Williams said that the land grant college concept of academic and military training of civilian-soldiers for times of emergency is the very foundation of the United States.

He said the Corps' developmental objectives and striving toward perfection, outlined by Fitzhugh, are commendable. More important and what its individual members will remember most in years to come, Williams said, will be "the comradeship you have now and the friendships you are forming for life."

Scholastics receive priority at

all times within the Corps, Fitzhugh indicated, and new scholastic policies underscore the need for academic attainment.

He noted that assignment of cadets to units by scholastic major "to provide built-in tutoring" and more strictly-enforced study conditions during CQ, among other programs, underscore the goal of seeing that the primary thing the cadet leaves here with is the degree.

Officer production and leadership training provide a broader education, which helps prepare a man to make the right decision when he comes to the crisis points in his life, Fitzhugh said. "A true education," he added, "includes the development of judgement and ability to make reliable decisions. This is what we are trying to do."

Reception planned for Mrs. Williams

Mrs. Jack K. Williams, wife of A&M's president, will be the guest of honor at a reception sponsored by the Coordinating Board of Texas A&M Student Wives, Sunday.

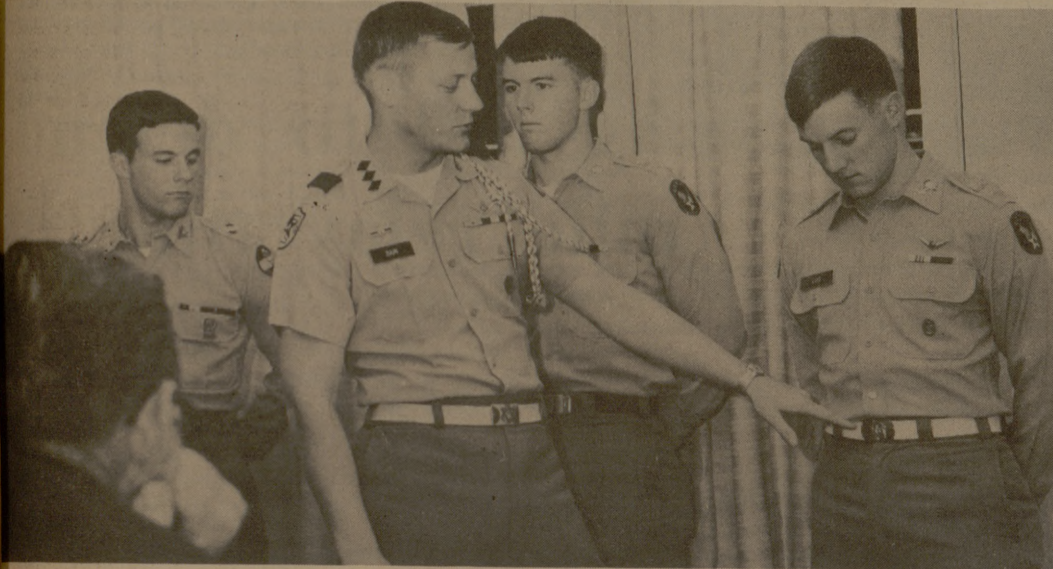
The reception, which will be held from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center, will be held to welcome Mrs. Williams and become acquainted with the university's first lady.

Those attending the reception, other than members of the board, will be the officers and sponsors of the various wives' clubs on

campus. It is the purpose of the Coordinating Board to provide service to, and promote fellowship and cooperation between the 31 wives' clubs which now have membership in the board.

These clubs provide student wives the opportunity to meet with other women whose husbands are studying in the same fields.

Through a wives club, the wives become involved with others on campus who share the same problems, benefits and concerns peculiar to their husbands' field of study.



A cadet's classification can be determined at a glance through distinctive uniform variations among the four classes. A&M President Jack K. Williams gets a run down on the differences from Deputy Corps Commander Thomas C. Bain Jr.

Reasons behind death sad

(continued from page 1)

And the press conference on the way home. Shepard's most exciting moment? When he splashes down. Not a word about the sights on the moon.

Do they have any message for their families, whom they haven't seen in ten days? No, we'll see them soon. How touching.

To change the subject, it should be noted that problems along the way snowballed the negative attitude. First was the only Apollo lift-off that didn't occur on time. Then there was the docking problem that threatened cancellation, nearly copying Apollo 13. After that was the battery deficiency which put lunar landing on the doubtful list. The oxygen flow foul-up worried the executives for only a while, but more was to follow. Communications threatened the first moon walk, and an oxygen leak and a problem with waste disposal delayed the second.

The main goal of the whole thing was cancelled when samples could not be collected from the rim of the crater Cone. The origin of the entire solar system escaped geologists when the cliffs of the moon defeated two very exhausted Americans. Lunar lift-off came on time, and docking was perfect, with no recurrence of the probe-

drogue trouble, but the whole activity might have been a hopeless disaster due to a failure of the a-gs (abort guidance system).

A display of scientific experiments on the way home Sunday night proved to be as interesting as the moon walks themselves. Everyday occurrences were studied in the weightless state, but this was pre-empted by the television networks' desire not to show the 30-minute broadcast. Only those few hooked up to Mission Control were able to view it, and the audience reaction among the fifteen people in the Associated Press newsroom was high.

What made one want to sit down and cry was the impassioned plea at the end by Alan Shepard, talking about world peace, prisoners of war, the scientific value of what he hoped they were accomplishing, and the earthly unity of all the people around the world who were watching him. His most quotable and newsworthy words in over a week, and everybody's watching Ed Sullivan.

But, all in all, there is no way the above gripes can outweigh the value of Apollo 14. The excitement, the nostalgia, and the outright thrilling sensations of a moon shot cannot be forgotten. The lift off, the drama and guts

of solving the docking trouble, the sense of accomplishment when radio contact was re-established and lunar orbit had been attained, the unfounded apprehension of un-docking, and finally that climactic moment when Mitchell exclaimed "We have touchdown!" are all so vivid.

Then came the walks and discovery of the area around Fra Mauro. Listening to the astronauts' explorations brought back memories to the "oldtimers" of listening to one's favorite radio show. The lift-off and docking were the first activities that came off without a hitch. After that, they were homeward bound.

The magnitude of Shepard's close of the show that opened with the Apollo 14 symbol and Stuart Roosa's "Good afternoon, and welcome to Apollo 14" only built up to the results of the experiments that could lead to medical and industrial breakthroughs.

The high point of satisfaction

was the near-perfect splashdown and the precision recovery by the men of the USS New Orleans. A beautiful day and a pinpoint landing seemed appropriate for man's latest space feat.

Yes, it may all seem routine and draw a brief ho-hum from some, but little can come close to matching it. Involvement is a big thing at Nassau Bay, and astronauts' pictures decorate many a store wall. "The mission" is utmost in the minds of all who enter the numbered buildings on "the campus" to do so much more than just draw their salaries and occupy space. Look at history books in the future; these days, numbered though they may be, will never be forgotten.

For the benefit of those who still care, let's hope that the space shuttle and sky lab give the same thrill. Otherwise, Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo, so long—and thanks for the memories.



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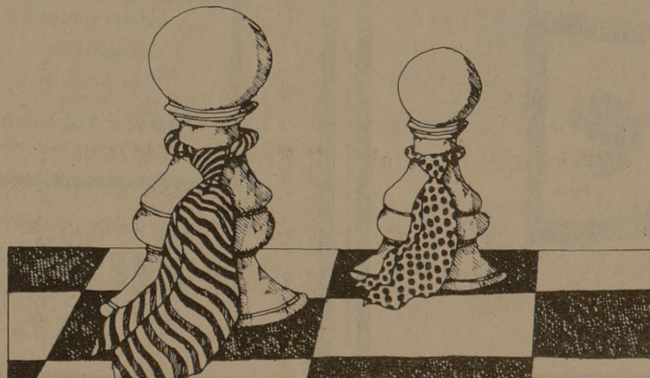
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