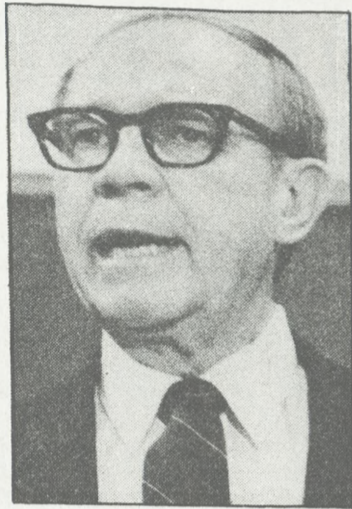


Former POW relives wartime experiences

by David Calvert
Battalion Reporter



Col. John Stavast

Prisoners of war were often tortured by their captors during the Vietnam War, but these men found ways to remain in high spirits and communicate with each other, a former POW said Tuesday night.

Col. John Stavast, a fighter pilot who spent five years in POW camps, said the prisoners communicated by tapping the Boy Scout code on the wall. He said that the prisoners practiced engineering and physics problems to keep their minds sharp.

Stavast, sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of Young Conservatives, said he was shot down in September 1967 while on a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam near Hanoi.

Stavast said prisoners were tortured if they did not cooperate when they first came to the "Hanoi Hilton", a large prison compound.

Stavast said prisoners were asked few military questions. The prisoners were asked to write letters to American officials and soldiers, instructing them to criticize the American war effort.

Prisoners were not allowed to talk with each other or exercise. Stavast said the North Vietnamese people treated them like criminals, not like soldiers.

Stavast said he lived in a 5-by-6 foot room with a roommate the first year he was in captivity. Stavast said the prisoners ate green weeds, rice, pumpkin soup and drank water.

When Stavast was freed in 1973, he said the POWs experienced mixed feelings. He said many prisoners couldn't believe

they would be freed and feared the release was a trick. When the POWs were on a U.S. Air Force plane headed for Thailand, Stavast said everyone was quiet, almost as if they were saying one silent prayer.

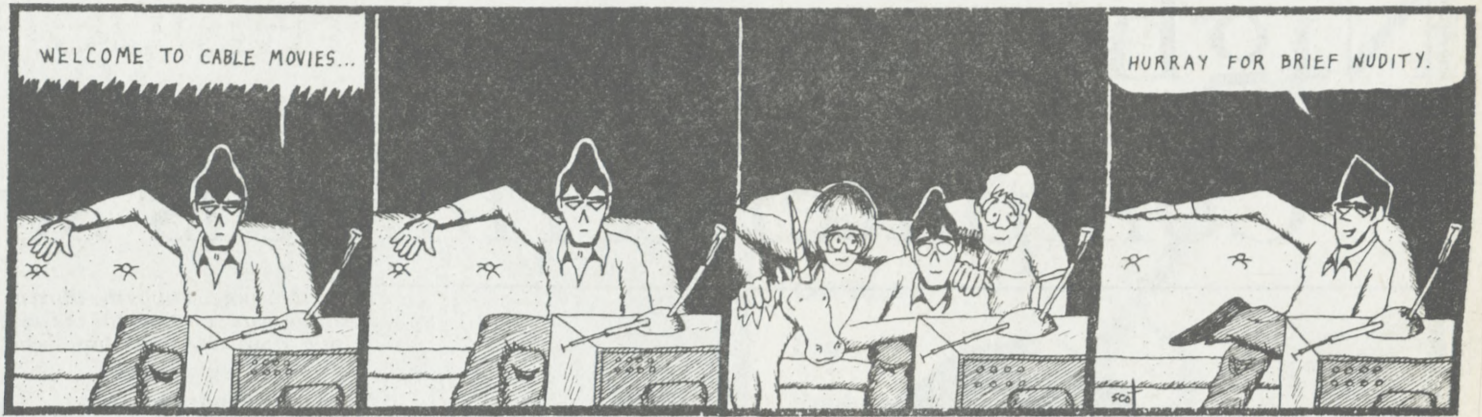
Although Stavast said he still supports the concept behind the war, he does not like the way the United States pulled out.

"What we did was the wrong thing to do," he said. "I just hope God will someday forgive the American people for what we did to the South Vietnamese people."

Stavast does not think there are any remaining Americans in Vietnam.

"The Vietnamese people have turned over all live Americans as far as I know," he said. "Most of the people listed as missing in action were fighter pilots. When the human body is exposed to a slipstream going over 1,000 miles per hour, it disintegrates."

Warped



By Scott McCullar

Royal baby expected on Di's July birthday

United Press International
LONDON — A laughing Princess Diana revealed to an elderly patient today: The royal baby is due on July 1, her 21st birthday.

Buckingham Palace said the Princess of Wales broke the well-kept royal secret during a visit with Prince Charles to a hospice

for the terminally ill at Leeds in northern England.

The princess was talking to Edwin Wilson, who like everyone else in Britain expected the baby — second in line to the throne — to be born in June.

He told Diana it would be all right if it arrived in time for his 75th birthday on June 10.

AF undersecretary to speak at dinner

by Susan Talbot
Battalion Reporter

Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge, undersecretary of the Air Force and former student of Texas A&M, will speak at the Air Force ROTC dining-out tonight at 6.

A dining-out is a formal dinner where strict military order is observed, Lt. Col. Donald G. McCroskey, assistant professor of aerospace studies, said.

Tonight's dining-out is open only to people with some affiliation with the Air Force, invited guests and dates, McCroskey said.

Junior and senior members of the Corps of Cadets who have taken Air Force contracts are required to attend.

"The dining-out is an ROTC function, not a Corps function," McCroskey explained.

A group of Air Force contract juniors in the Corps plan a dining-in or a dining-out every year to honor departing seniors.

Aldridge entered Texas A&M in 1957 as a member of Squadron 8.

As a junior he served as Sergeant Major of Third Group Staff and joined Squadron 7 as a senior.

Aldridge graduated with a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering in 1960. He earned his master of science degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1962.

As undersecretary of the Air Force, Aldridge provides direction for Air Force space programs and activities.

He also serves the secretary of the Air Force in the secretary's absence or request.

Guests invited to the dining-out include Howard Perry, associate vice president for student services; Col. Robert Gibson, representing the Navy/Marine services; and Col. James Woodall, representing the Army and as the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets.

The dining-out will begin at 6 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center with a social hour. Dinner will begin at 7.

Tower

Dining Room

Serving Luncheon Buffet Sunday through Friday 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$4.50 plus tax

Top Floor of Tower Dining Room Sandwich & Soup Mon. through Fri. \$2.19 plus drink and tax

Open to the Public
"Quality First"

PARK AVENUE

a new and elegant concept in hair, body, and European skin care

260-9050
4340 CARTER CREEK SUITE 101 BRYAN

— Nu-trolosis (Permanent hair Removal)
— Professional Massage

THE COMPLETE BEAUTY CENTER FOR MEN AND WOMEN

MSC
CAMERA COMMITTEE

salon
82

ANNUAL JURIED STUDENT PHOTO COMPETITION

<p>Judging: Sunday April 4 8:00-6:00 Rudder Forum Open to public</p>	<p>Prints accepted at: MSC 1st floor tables March 29 - April 2 10:00 - 4:00</p>	<p>Entry fee: \$2.00 per print</p>
---	--	---

Prizes donated by Campus Photo Center
For copy of rules or more info drop by our cubicle in rm. 216 of the MSC

A CELEBRATION OF COLOR

LAPIS

An extremely popular rich blue stone with flakes of golden-colored pyrite.

AMETHYST

A purple or violet color not approached by any other gem. It's demand as jewelry has been world-wide for centuries and once you try on a strand, you'll understand why.

JADE

a very beautiful stone that comes in almost all colors ranging from the ever popular green to apricot and even a rare lavender.

GARNET

A stone that comes in many colors and the most popular remains to be the beautiful copper-red variety, called pyrope garnet.

MALACHITE

A stone of increasing popularity due to its coloring. The stone is banded with different shades of green and is very striking when combined with gold or pearls.

30% Savings
from Friday, March 26th thru Saturday, April 3rd

We are celebrating our 1 year anniversary and for this occasion we have arranged to present you with an unbelievable selection of colored stones, ready to be strung into beautiful and unique necklaces. (at celebration prices)

Our 707 store will be open till 9:00 Friday, March 26th

DIAMOND ROOM

3731 E. 29th St.
846-4708
Bryan

707 Shopping Village
693-7444
College Station