

State and Local

Payload includes War Hymn

Shuttle to carry Aggie cargo

University News Service

When the space shuttle Challenger lifts into orbit from the Kennedy Space Center Wednesday, it will carry a lot more than a new communications satellite and a high school teacher.

Included in the payload will be a collection of poetry, Bible verses, autobiographical sketches and special messages from 37 Texas A&M mathematics and science education students and graduates — as well as a computerized rendition of the A&M school song, the "Aggie War Hymn."

The music and messages have been recorded on a computer disk to be taken into space and back by commander Dick Scobee, whose interest in A&M's College of Education was demonstrated in April 1984, when he carried the college's

"This has a lot of special meaning for these kids. They're going to be the first students to send something into space."

— Dr. Dean C. Corrigan, dean of education at Texas A&M.

bronze emblem into space on a similar mission.

Dr. Dean C. Corrigan, dean of education, said, "This has a lot of special meaning for these kids. They're going to be the first students to send something into space."

The messages on the disk include favorite quotations from the Psalms, lines from Ralph Waldo Emerson and St. Francis, praises for the teaching profession and assorted thank-you notes to parents, influential teachers and even a pet dog.

"Howdy! My name is Tricia Grafe and I'm thrilled to death to be flying in space on this shuttle (at least on a computer disk)," one A&M student said.

Scobee will not be able to use the disk or listen to the "War Hymn" during the six-day flight. Instead, at the end of the mission, each of the students will be given a copy of the disk to use in their classrooms when they begin teaching.

In schools, the disks can demonstrate computer technology and

raise interest in aerospace activities, in addition to recording the A&M students' thoughts and goals at the time of the launching.

Included on the disk is a message that can be printed out as a poster and reads, "Mathematics and Science Teachers Are Out Of This World."

The students are special scholars enrolled in the University's new Mathematics/Science Teaching Scholar Loan Program, which provides stipends for high-quality undergraduates who commit to teach math or science at the secondary level after they graduate.

Scobee also will carry a bronze casting of the program logo designed by A&M students that includes mathematics and science symbols. The design will be imprinted on commemorative paper weights, which will be distributed to the students.

A&M prof leading construction of chemical warfare life detector

University News Service

A Texas A&M researcher is developing a hand-held device, which could help battlefield medics determine the condition of unconscious personnel without removing their protective garments during chemical warfare attack.

Dr. Charles Lessard, an associate professor of bioengineering, is leading several graduate students in the construction of a portable life-sign detector to be used by medical personnel in a triage situation.

Triage is the allocation of treatment to battle or disaster victims designed to increase the number of survivors.

"During an attack, the chemical environment would prohibit removal of the protective garments

that soldiers would be wearing, thus making the job of identifying injuries and treating victims much more difficult," said Lessard, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel.

"We've found that there is an area at the neck of the protective suits near the throat under which a small medical instrument can be placed," he said.

"By placing sensors at this area, we have been able to get accurate readings on heart rate and respiration," he said.

In chemical warfare, Lessard said, the lungs can receive the most damage from such substances as organophosphates and chlorine gas.

"The condition of the lungs will be very vital information," he said.

The prototype life-sign detector now being designed by Lessard will be battery-operated and will display

heart and respiratory rate in a digital form.

In the future, he said, sensors could be installed at the throat area of chemical warfare protective suits.

With the sensors already in place, medical personnel would have to carry only the display device, Lessard said.

The sensors could also be installed in a collar that would give neck stability as well as continuous monitoring during transport of a victim.

Lessard said the life-sign detector device could also be used in the private sector in cases of chemical accidents or fires.

After the prototype is completed, the researchers plan to test it under emergency room conditions.

The research is being funded by a grant from the U.S. Air Force.

90 motorcycle spaces open

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The Texas A&M University Police are giving student motorists a chance to live by this maxim.

UPD has created 90 spaces for riders who want to park on campus.

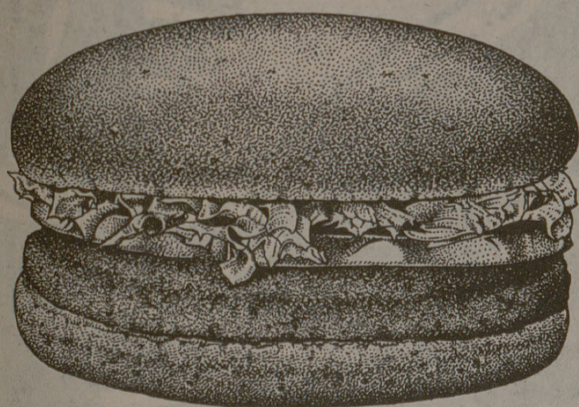
The spaces, which opened shortly before the Christmas holidays, are located in Parking Area 50 near the Zachry Engineering Center.

Bob Watt, Texas A&M's director of security and traffic, said the spaces were created due to a lack of motorcycle parking in the area.

Anyone with a campus motorcycle parking sticker can park in the spaces. The stickers can be purchased from the University Police Department at a cost of \$30 per calendar year.

Watt said the 90-space parking area may be expanded in the summer to 180 spaces.

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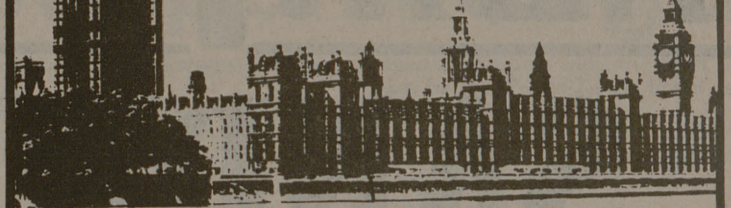
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