

Talon

THE CADET MAGAZINE OF THE USAF ACADEMY FEBRUARY 1972

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 6



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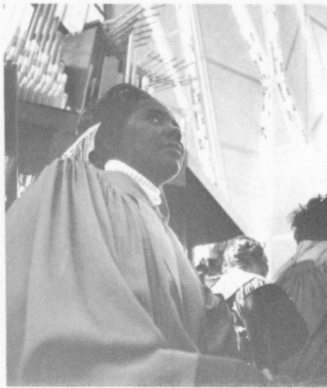
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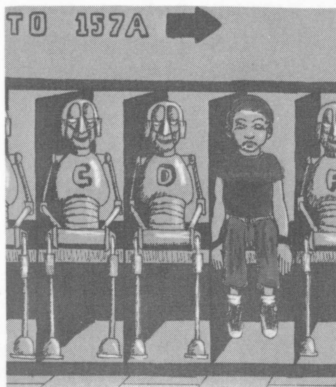
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A Step Toward Awareness

I am always reminded of the time I saw the movie "The Liberation of L. B. Jones." The movie is about a Southern White Deputy who murders the husband of a Black girl he is involved with. In fear he kills and maims the Black man because the "nigger" dared to stand up to the law man in his wrong. After the movie I was standing in that long Arnold Hall line for a coke when I overheard a Cadet talking. His comment about the film was that "It was totally ridiculous. The South isn't like that anymore. There hasn't been a lynching down there for five years." My reaction was that either we have made much progress in race relations in the last five years, or there are certain elements in the Cadet Wing not yet aware of the problems facing us both at the Academy and in society.

Those cadets who attended the Black Arts Festival last month recognize that it was an attempt to increase the awareness of the Cadet Wing toward Black feelings, heritage and culture. At the Festival, General "Chappy" James (Black General who flew with Gen. Olds in SEA) and Dick Gregory presented differing though complementary view points and modes of action concerning racial prejudice in America. Although a Black Festival can have a positive effect in educating both races about cultural heritages and the value of new cultural influxes into a society; the ideal solution to racism must come from the individual in moral commitment and plain hard work.

Seemingly all of this talk about Black Awareness, racism and Black Arts Festivals has little relationship to cadets and future officers. However, military people should understand that the administrative and legal means are being instituted to control racism in the military. These regulations will soon come to affect cadets as officers although they may now be unconcerned. In the future those military commanders who cannot prevent racism in their commands through moral persuasion, will find pressure extended and promotions or continued service based in part on their ability to progressively deal with the race problem. For the subordinate officers who display racist activity and attitudes, the same will apply. Hence the problem of racism will eventually be overtly solved — moral commitment or not.

Thus, for cadets, the problem of racial friction in the Wing or in the military is no longer just a matter of moral commitment or the "other guy's problem — that doesn't really exist." Rather, cadets will have to take a positive step in educating themselves toward the problem. Philosophy aside, future officer careers and promotions will require each individual to act — or be penalized. With these factors in mind, those cadets who could not attend the Festival this time may decide it wise to do so next year.

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THE COVER — This month's cover is an etching by graduate, now lieutenant Sid Maattala who is now assigned to the USAFA Dept. of Athletics.

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Charley Baby

Well, as a friend of mine always says, "time to take mine typewriter in hand and let you know what's been happening." I hope it was kind of a drag for you guys coming back to the Blue Zoo and finding the Talon w/o Charlie. I guess that just shows how artistic the staff considers me. Notice though that I'm back while the Michelangeloes of the Wing have gone back into hiding somewhere in the south part of Fairchild Hall.

The semi-annual shoulder board exchange is over which means you can go to classes and see everybody's new spring wardrobe of silver. Of course with the board shuffle comes the playoffs in the "New Policies Game." You all know the rules to this game: you get everything you got last semester, you do everything you did last semester, and you hear about as much as you did last semester — *but* the new staff gets to move all the walls in the maze. You see, this way everything still goes from point A to point B just like always only by a different route which only those on staff know since they made it up.

Of course in some cases I don't blame them. When I took over my job all I learned about it from my predecessor was that he had just completed a semester of doing something he couldn't explain. There is, however, an exception to this rule too. He has so far always managed to walk in

the door to explain something I am responsible for as my superior is just leaving after chewing me out for not doing it.

Academics. Thought I'd forgotten about them. Who could forget what has been used for filler in the DB since we returned. First came the list of initial homework assignments. When this got old they began filling the spaces with the names of those bad boys who forgot to study last semester and didn't have their WACQ count over the minimum participation level.

With my list of uncompleted first day assignments (see previous paragraph if you haven't been paying attention), I bravely entered M-1 and managed to make it to T-7 without any of my instructors noticing I hadn't done the work. Really, this was kind of disappointing since I was unable to use my excuse of not owning most of my books. Speaking of which, did you

letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

I am a long-distance runner and do much of my distance running in the Jack's Valley area. The past few weeks I have noticed that a large number of trees are being cut down and many more are marked with paint for the same fate. The forest seems to be rapidly depleting. I am afraid that if this continues I will be left with nothing but bleak and barren hills on which to run! I've also noticed this happening in many other areas on the Academy. My question is why is it necessary to cut down so many trees and spoil our natural scenery. I'm sure that cutting down hundreds of trees can't be a very good conservation practice.

Howard W. Frank Jr.
C/Ssgt CS-32

notice the new method the book people came up with for not getting us our books? They managed to give all the regular German students the book for honors German. Three weeks later and some of the cadets in my class still don't have a book. Commercial: Take the word of someone in 112, if you are in regular German, you *don't* want that book.

Getting back to the first day of classes, we all know why the instructors didn't notice the lack of homework — they were concentrating on having us learn their academic credentials, having us discover $\frac{1}{4}$ of our grade was on the final, and having us fill out 3 x 5 cards with important things like what we do with our free time when not studying their course.

Press on — and for the Dirt Majors, keep digging and keep filling.



(Ed. Note: The following is a letter by a faculty officer to one of his students in response to the cadet's question: "How does one call himself a Christian and kill in war...?" Readers' response, pro and con, is solicited.)

Dear Van:

There simply was not time to answer your question last class about how one could call himself a Christian and still kill in war, thus violating the commandment "Thou shalt not kill." You deserve an answer, and I'll give you mine, not in an attempt to persuade you of my position, but in the hope that what I say will in some way enable you to understand it.

Intellectually and, in a sense, intuitively, I am a Christian. I believe that Christ is the Son of God and that the blue-print He gives us on how to live is found in His life — example —

Continued on Page 21

Next time you're transferred, we'll help lighten the load.

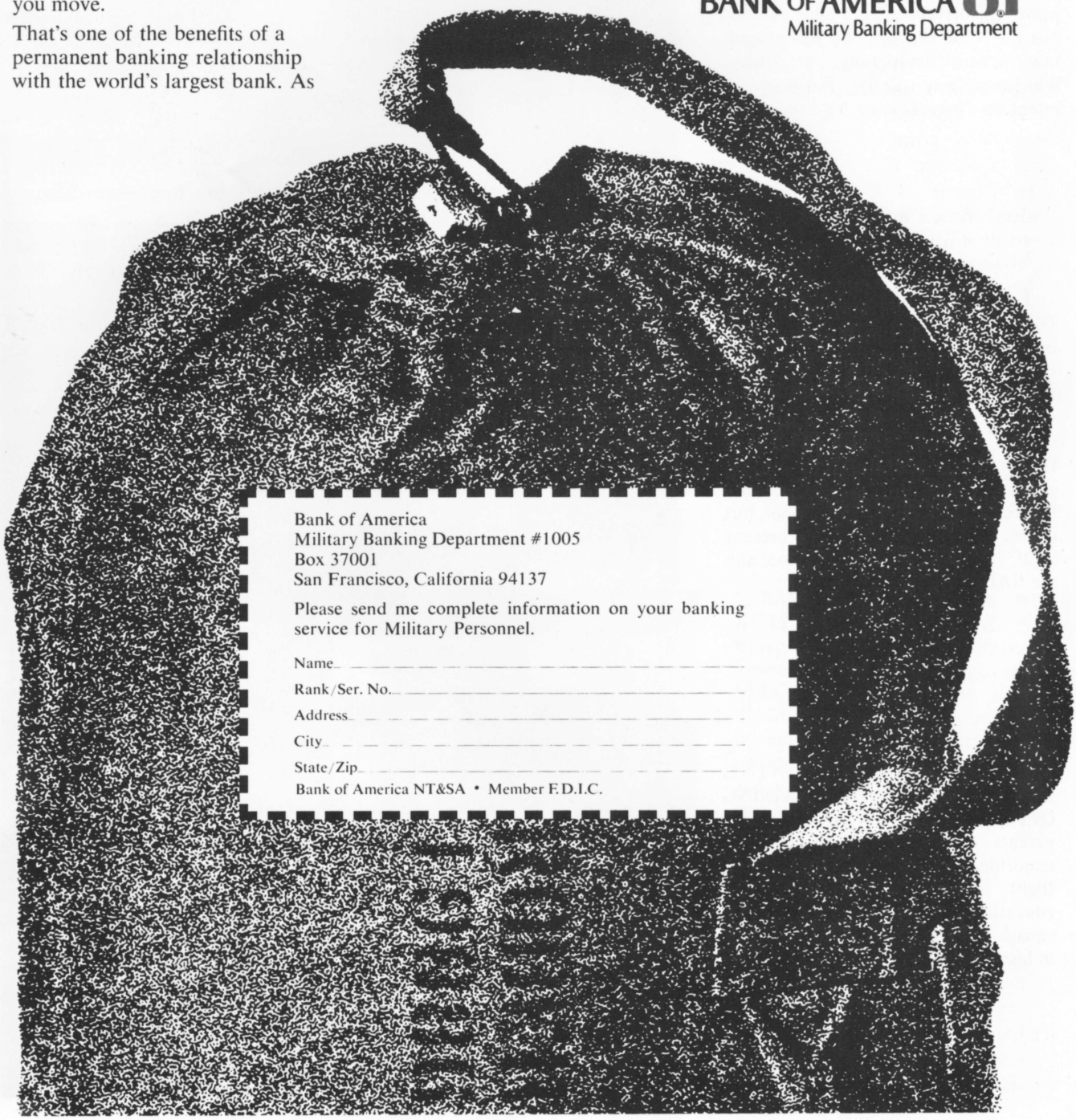
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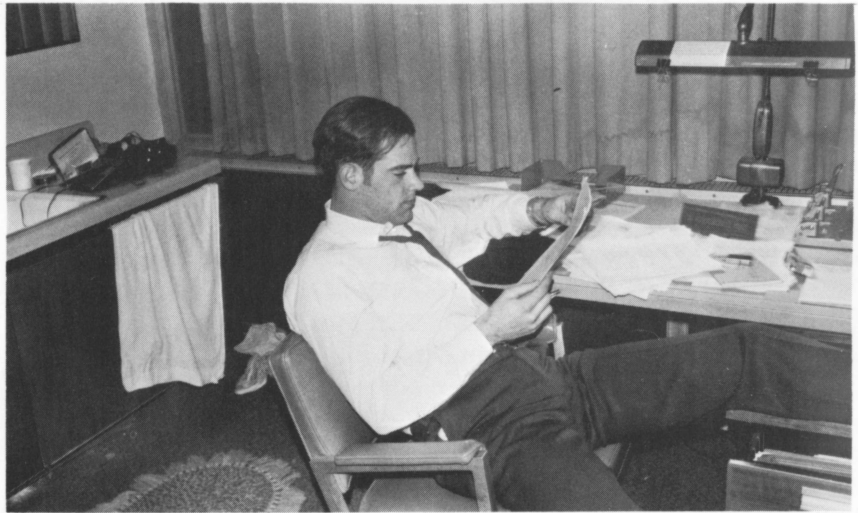
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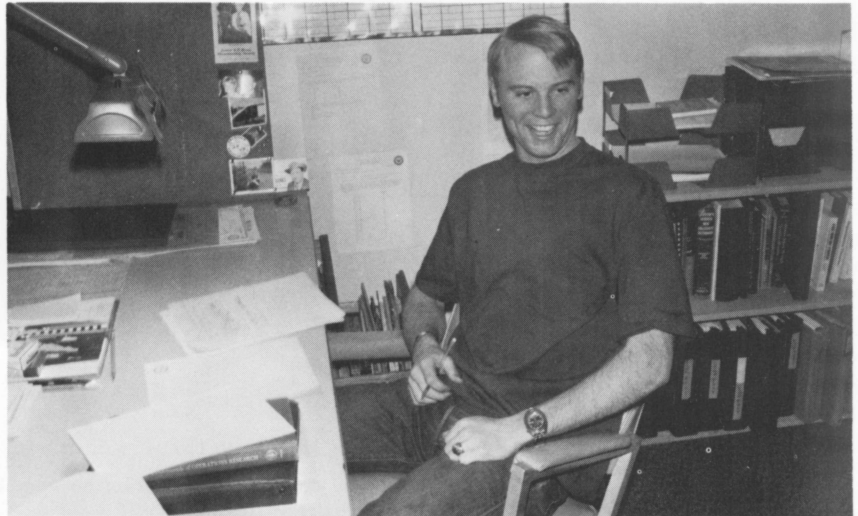
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New Wing Staff Assumes Duties

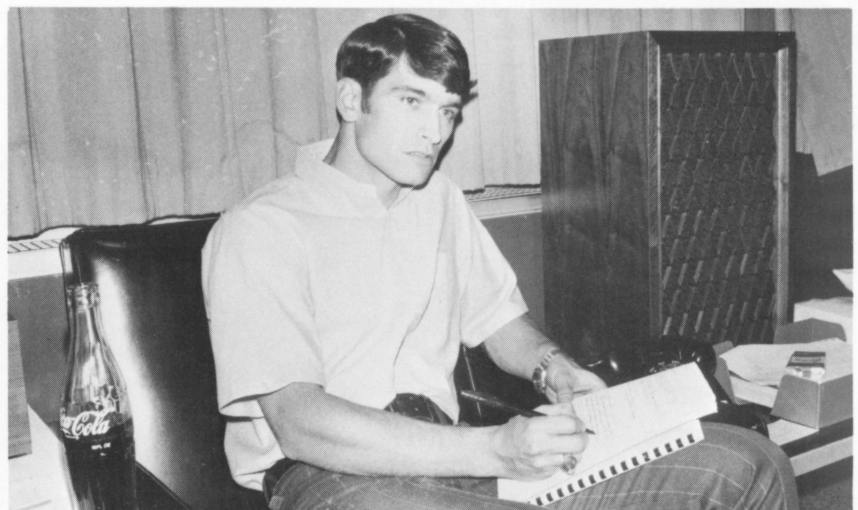
CHARLES M. HARDMAN, WING COMMANDER: Charles, hailing from Atlanta, Ga., is enmeshed in a double major consisting of Political Science and International Affairs. He expects to be assigned to the Academy next year while awaiting confirmation of pilot qualification. If pilot status doesn't come through, he will attend law school, hopefully, at Duke. Whichever way, Cadet Hardman is intent on a career in the Air Force.

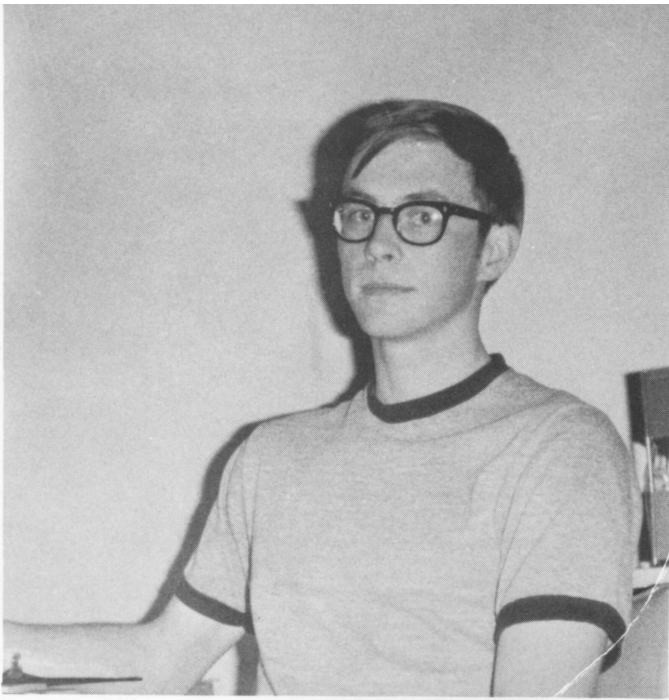


LARRY M. REYNOLDS, WING DEPUTY COMMANDER: The ranch country around Lexington, Neb. is home for Larry. He came from that land of beef and good college football to the slopes of Colorado to pursue an interest in flying. The Management Department has him wondering if graduation will ever come. After June, he hopes to go to graduate school, but if this opportunity does not present itself, it will be off to pilot school and the RAF.

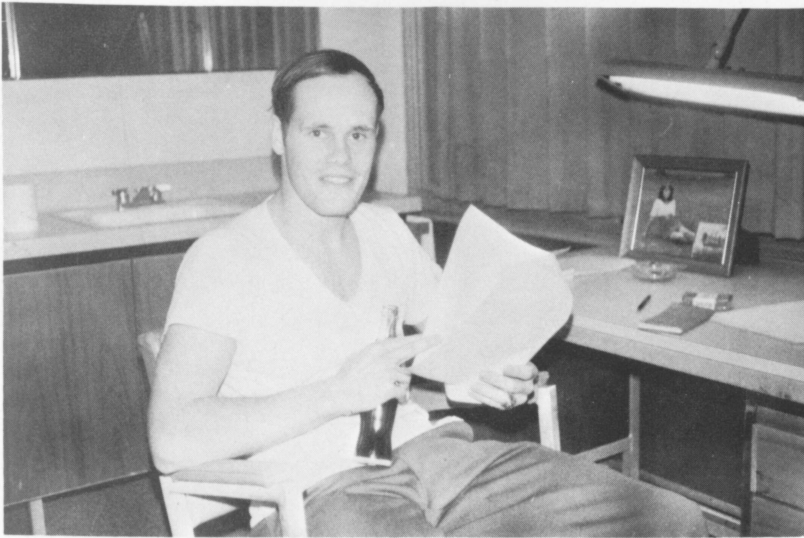


GARY CONNER, WING OPERATIONS AND TRAINING OFFICER: Gary, an ex-brat whose parents retired in Orlando, Fla., is majoring in pre-med with his sights on flight school after he finishes his education. He is currently playing squash in intramurals and enjoys golf in his spare time.

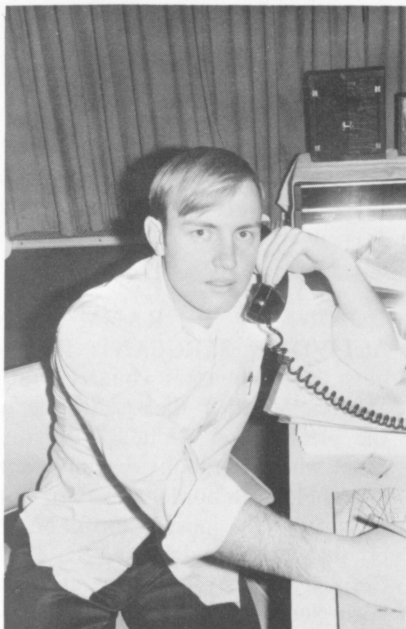




JAMES L. SIMMONS, WING LOGISTICS OFFICER: Jim calls South Dakota home and has given up trying to explain that, "I'm not really from there, but my dad retired at Ellsworth AFB, so..." He finished most of his core curriculum while in 26th Squadron and now is working on an Aero major from 19. Jim has very definite plans on going into the Air Force following graduation, but, as he puts it, "I won't be flying...can't see it (literally)."



GARY GAEDE, WING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Gary stepped right into first semester admin's shoes. He is from Indiana and is a pre-med major. This may be the start of another tradition. He came to Wing Staff from Twenty-First Squadron, home of the blackjack commandos. His main interest is a young Colorado Springs school teacher for whom he has sold his corvette and bought over \$2000 worth of furniture.

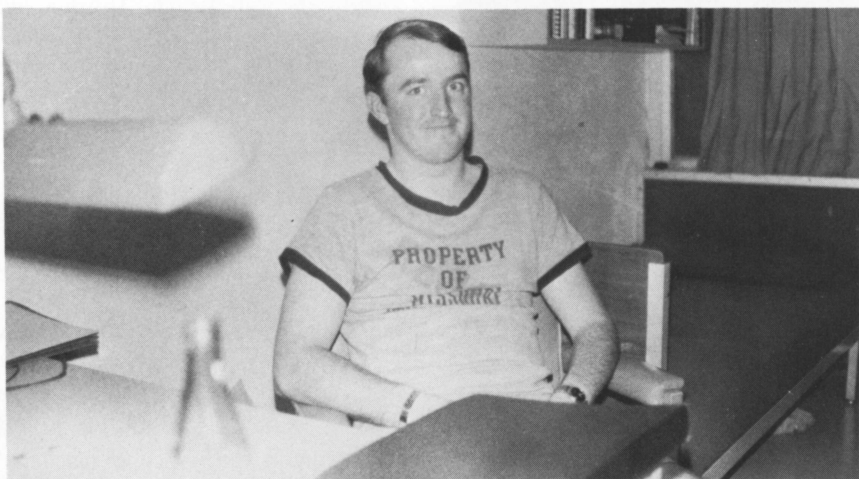
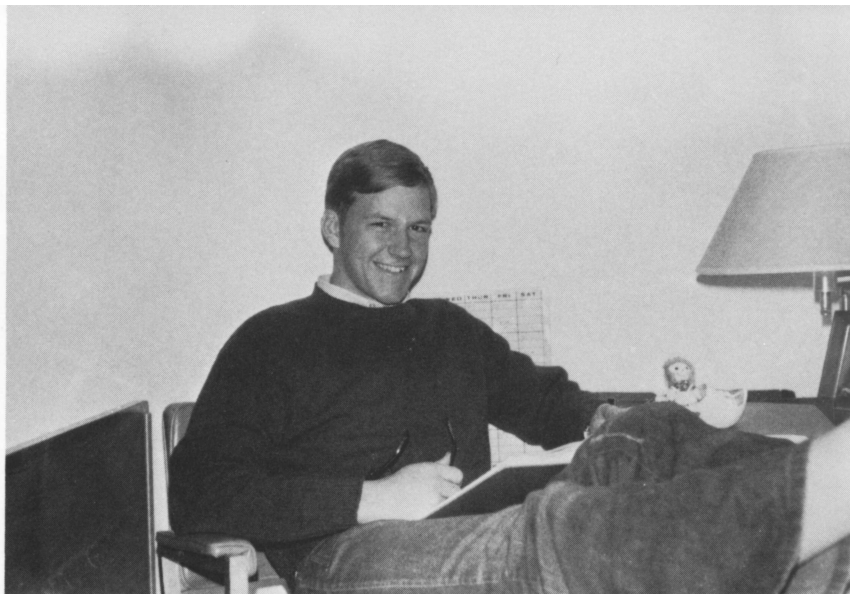


MILTON J. P. MILLER, WING SERGEANT MAJOR: Milt was raised in Hincalet, Ohio, centrally located between Cleveland and Akron. He attended Kent State University for one term before coming to USAFA. He is majoring in management and economics, shooting for the co-op program at UCLA and UPT after that.

BARRY W. BARKSDALE, WING ACTIVITIES OFFICER: Barry, a history major from Memphis, Tennessee — more recently from Evil Eight — plans on going to pilot training following graduation, hopefully to law school later. Sports oriented, his interests are skiing, golf, and in intramurals — lacrosse, squash, and rugby.

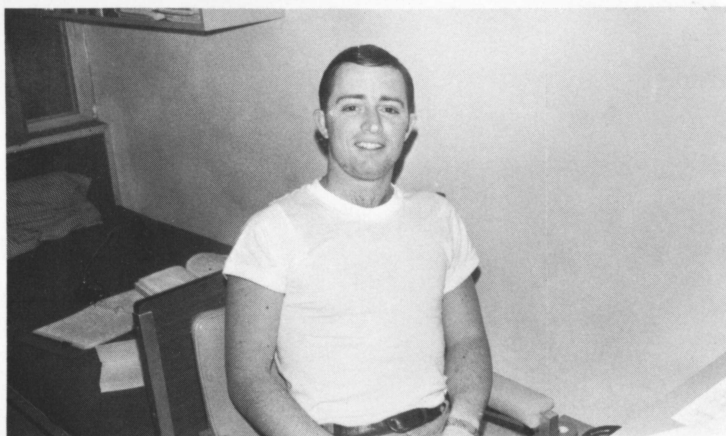
Wing Staff Cont.

KEES W. TIETSENA, WING OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SERGEANT: A New England born and raised Dutchman, Kees hails from Avon, Connecticut. A masters candidate in the International Affairs program, he is a member of Cobra 14's "United Snakes." A skier from as long as he can remember, Kees also plays rugby, handball, and runs cross country for the 14th.

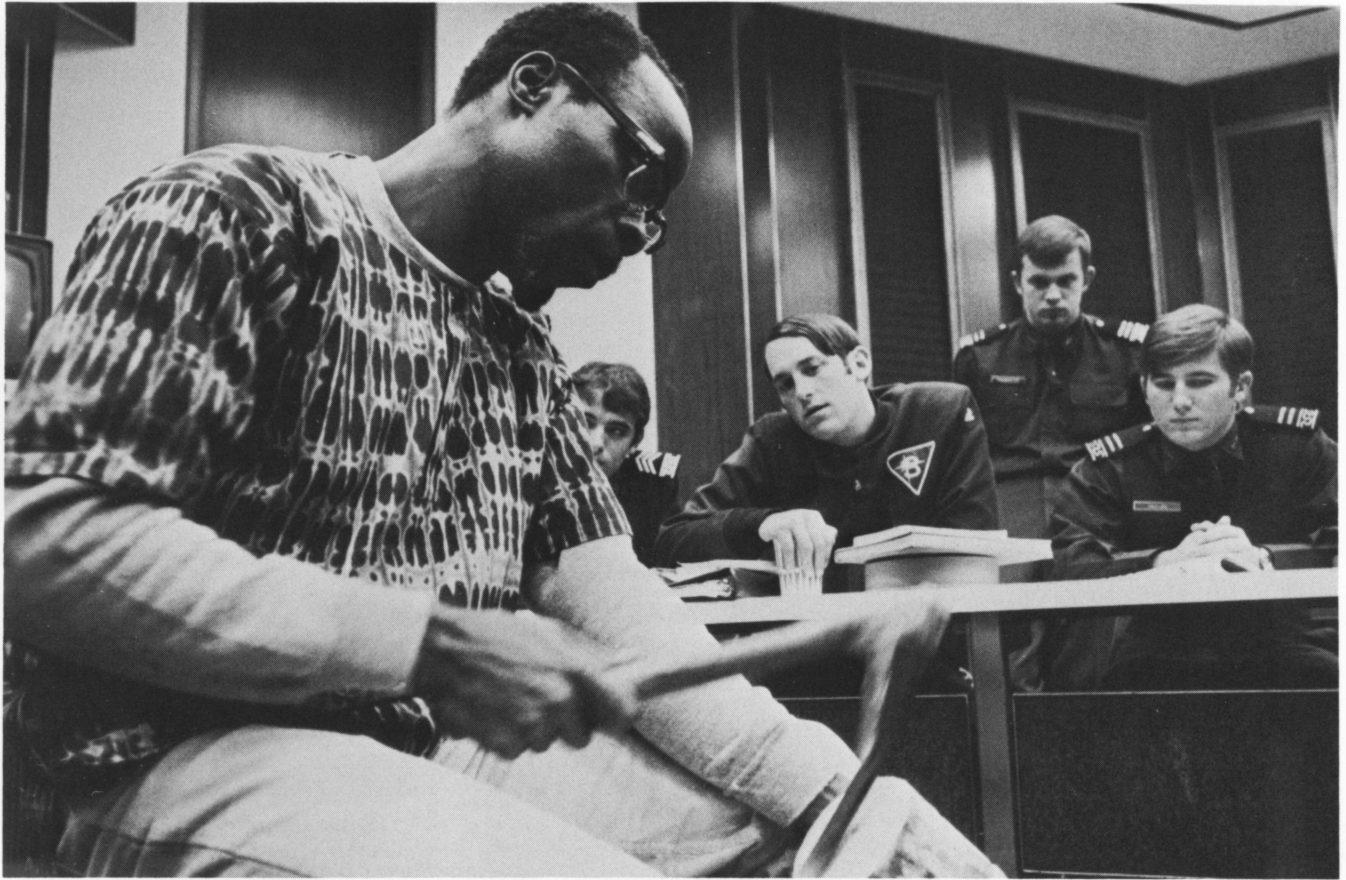


KENNETH W. WOMACH, WING LOGISTICS SERGEANT: Ken was born in Missouri and spent a year at the University of Missouri before coming to USAFA. Ken spent last semester on Group Staff before moving to Wing, and now looks forward to a good summer on Basic Cadet Training.

WAYNE E. O'DELL, WING ADMINISTRATIVE SERGEANT: Wayne describes himself as a twenty-four year young New Yorker from Anchorage, Alaska. Wayne, a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity headquartered at CSU, had two years of regular college, two years of regular service, then decided he'd like to know what it was to be a CADET. He likes one Tri-Delta, red head beauties, good scotch, and the bartender at the Woodshed in Anchorage who gives you free drinks when you say, "Cookie sent me."

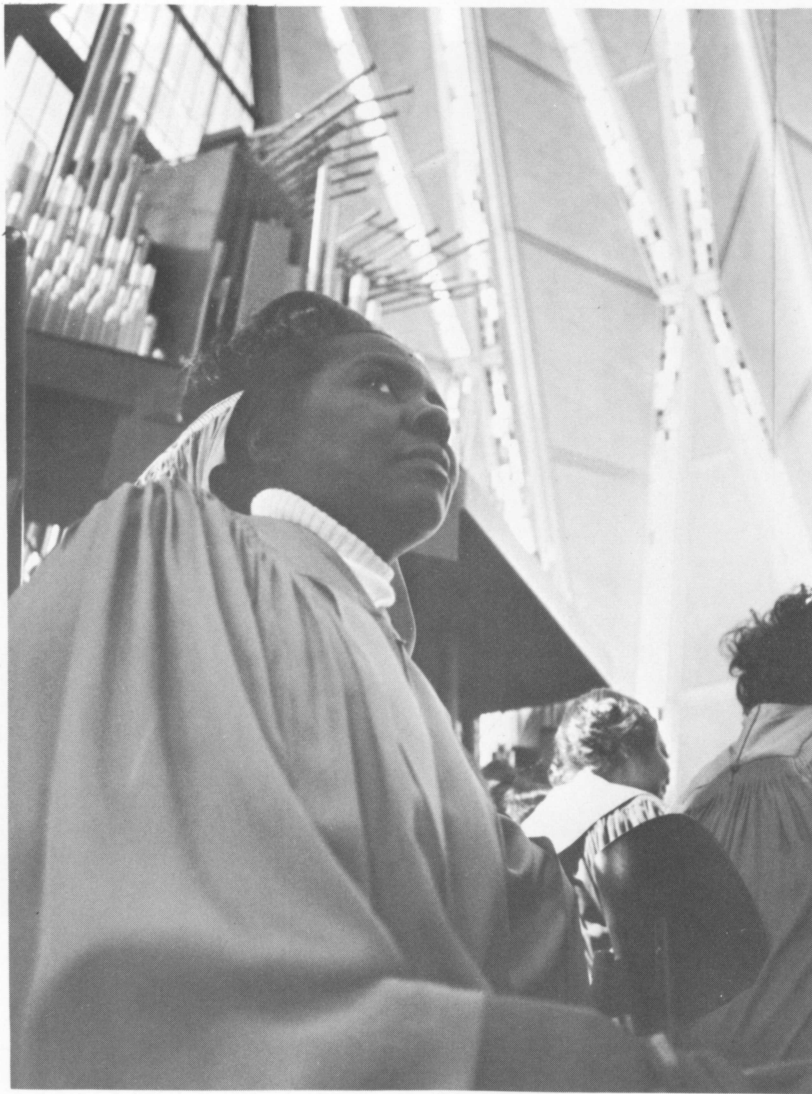


DONALD E. RAMM, WING ACTIVITIES SERGEANT: Don was born in Cornhusker country, but at age two decided that California was the place to be - Chula Vista to be exact which is "about five miles north of the Mexican border and about three miles from the most beautiful beaches on the continental United States." In October of his senior year at Hilltop High School, his counselor (a liaison officer in disguise) recommended the Academy as a possible site for higher education and a few other things.



Lamidi Fakeye, Nigerian sculptor, demonstrates techniques of woodcarving for which he is known to Air Force Academy cadets in a fine arts class. Fakeye was one of three black artists who displayed their works at the Academy during the "Festival of Black Culture." Other events of the festival included a speech, a seminar, African dancing, black poetry, a fashion show, a dance, religious services and a show by the recording artists, "The Supremes."

Black Arts Festival Entertains, Instructs Wing



A member of the New Hope Baptist Church choir of Denver pauses between hymns in services held at the Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel as part of the Wing's "Festival of Black Culture." Reverend M. C. Williams, pastor of New Hope, conducted services while the church's 100-member choir sang religious songs. About 400 members of the church's congregation attended the services along with cadets and other members of the surrounding community.



Dick Gregory, comedian and civil rights worker, conducts a question-and-answer session following his speech which opened the Air Force Festival. Gregory told his audience it is the younger generation's responsibility to solve world social problems such as racial prejudice, drugs, poverty and war.



TALON SALUTES – Those individuals who contributed so much time to the planning and execution of the Festival: Neal Robinson, Richmond Caldwell, Orderia Mitchell, Donald Richardson, Bob Gilbert, Clyde Henderson, Benny Slade, Joe Moss and Capt. E. R. Brown.

A serious highlight of the Festival was a seminar on blacks in the military. Panel members were, from left, Sergeant James Polk, a race relations noncommissioned officer; Captain William Brooks, Department of Defense Race Relations Institute; Curtis R. Smothers, director of Equal Opportunity (Military), Defense Department; Brigadier General Daniel "Chappie" James, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs); Major Douglas Ward, a member of the Air Force's Civil Law Directorate; and Master Sergeant William Speight, one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen for 1971.

"I HAVE NOT LEARNED TO LOVE MY COUNTRY WITH MY EYES CLOSED, MY HEAD BOWED, AND MY MOUTH SHUT . . . I THINK THAT ONE CAN BE USEFUL TO ONE'S COUNTRY ONLY IF ONE SEES IT CLEARLY: I BELIEVE THAT THE AGE OF BLIND LOVE HAS PASSED, AND THAT NOWDAYS ONE OWES ONE'S COUNTRY THE TRUTH."

PETER CHADADEV

girl of the month





Our Girl of the Month for February is Miss Delorise Channell, a senior at Palmer High School. Upon graduation her plans call for college with a major in English. She is quite interested and active in modeling and is a student at the Sophisticates Modeling Academy in the Springs.





Talon Interview

By
Steve Stearn

SMSgt James Smith is the Sergeant Major for First Group. He entered the Air Force in 1951 and in 1962, he activated a reserve squadron at Dura Beach, Fla. He then was assigned to Hurlburt Field, Fla., as a first sergeant. Follow-on assignments from 1966 until he arrived at the Academy include Upper Heyford, England, McGuire AFB, N.J. and Thailand.



SMSgt. James Smith Sergeant Major.

Talon:
Which of your previous assignments did you find most interesting?

Smith:
Naturally, I think the one in Thailand was. I was assigned to a Special Operations Squadron which due to its mission was by far the most interesting job I have had in the Air Force. The people I worked with there were some of the finest I've come in contact with in the Air Force as far as dedication is concerned; many of the men were on their third and fourth tours.

Talon:
What do you think of your job here, Sergeant, and how do you think it will affect your career?

Smith:
I had planned on retiring when I came back from Thailand, but I had the opportunity to come out here, so I

changed my plans. It gives me an opportunity to do the best thing I've done since I've been in the Air Force. I would consider being assigned here as the highlight of my career. I hope that I will be able to pass along some of my experience to the cadets, and I'm sure that I will learn from them too. If it had not been for the assignment out here, I would have retired, and will do so when my tour here is completed.

Talon:
To whom are you directly responsible?

Smith:
Lt. Col. Levell, First Group Air Officer Commanding. Group Sergeant Majors work closely with CMSgt. Garrett, the Wing Sergeant Major. He sets up our programs and directs our activities; however, Col. Levell is my direct supervisor.

Talon:
Is your job primarily an advisory one?

Smith:
Yes, we have no command authority whatsoever. We are here to try to pass on our experience to the cadets from an NCO's view point and counsel them upon their request. This is strictly voluntary on the cadet's part. This is the reason that it would take at least a semester for the cadets to get to know the sergeant major. That will be primarily what I will try to do this semester, that is, get to know the cadets on the squadron level. Having come here the first week in November, I've tried so far just to see how the operation is being run.

Talon:
What administrative jobs do you have, Sergeant?

Smith:
The primary administrative job is to assist the First Group Staff. This is accomplished primarily by lining out

"Glad To See Cadets Running Wing"



First Group

the administrative programs of the group.

Talon:
How do you like the atmosphere here at the Academy as compared with what you think it should be?

Smith:
This last semester I was really surprised, probably because of the things I had heard about the Academy prior to my arrival. I had heard that cadets had little say-so in running the wing itself. When I got here I found the reverse to be true. Cadets were running the wing. I really was impressed. Speaking for First Group Staff, I know they did an outstanding job and worked together as a team.

Talon:
Sergeant, do you see any areas here at the Academy that could bear improvement?

Smith:

At the present time work is being done on a program whereby an NCO would be assigned to each squadron on a strictly voluntary basis. His job would be similar to that of the group sergeant major but would differ in that this NCO would already be assigned to the Academy and would not do this as a full time job. I feel that this would be worthwhile in that it would provide the cadets with more exposure to the workings of the Air Force and attitudes of enlisted personnel.

Talon:
We have heard the expression used frequently among the cadet wing, "out in the Real Air Force." From what you have just said, do you feel that there is very much difference in the atmosphere and programs in the Air Force, at large, and the Air Force Academy?

Smith:
Yes, I feel that there is quite a bit of difference. That's why I was glad to see the cadets participate in running the wing. They are getting an opportunity of leadership that, after they leave the Academy, they won't get for a long time. The majority of them will be going into flying jobs, and it will be quite some time before they get up to the supervisory level where they are actually leading people. As fighter jocks, they will be dealing primarily with one enlisted man, their crew chief. They will be up fairly high before they start dealing with enlisted men on a large scale. Here they have a good opportunity to lead people, and I think that it will better prepare them for the time when they do get a leadership position.

Talon:
Sergeant, do you think that moving from a leadership position in the first class year to a job as a Second Lieutenant will have any adverse effect on the young officer?

Smith:
No. I feel that most cadets are mature enough to accept this. They realize

that while they are here, they are in a training situation. Once they graduate and get into the field, I don't think that it will have any adverse effect on them. I think that the average cadet is more mature than that.

Talon:
Is there any subject on which you would like to comment?

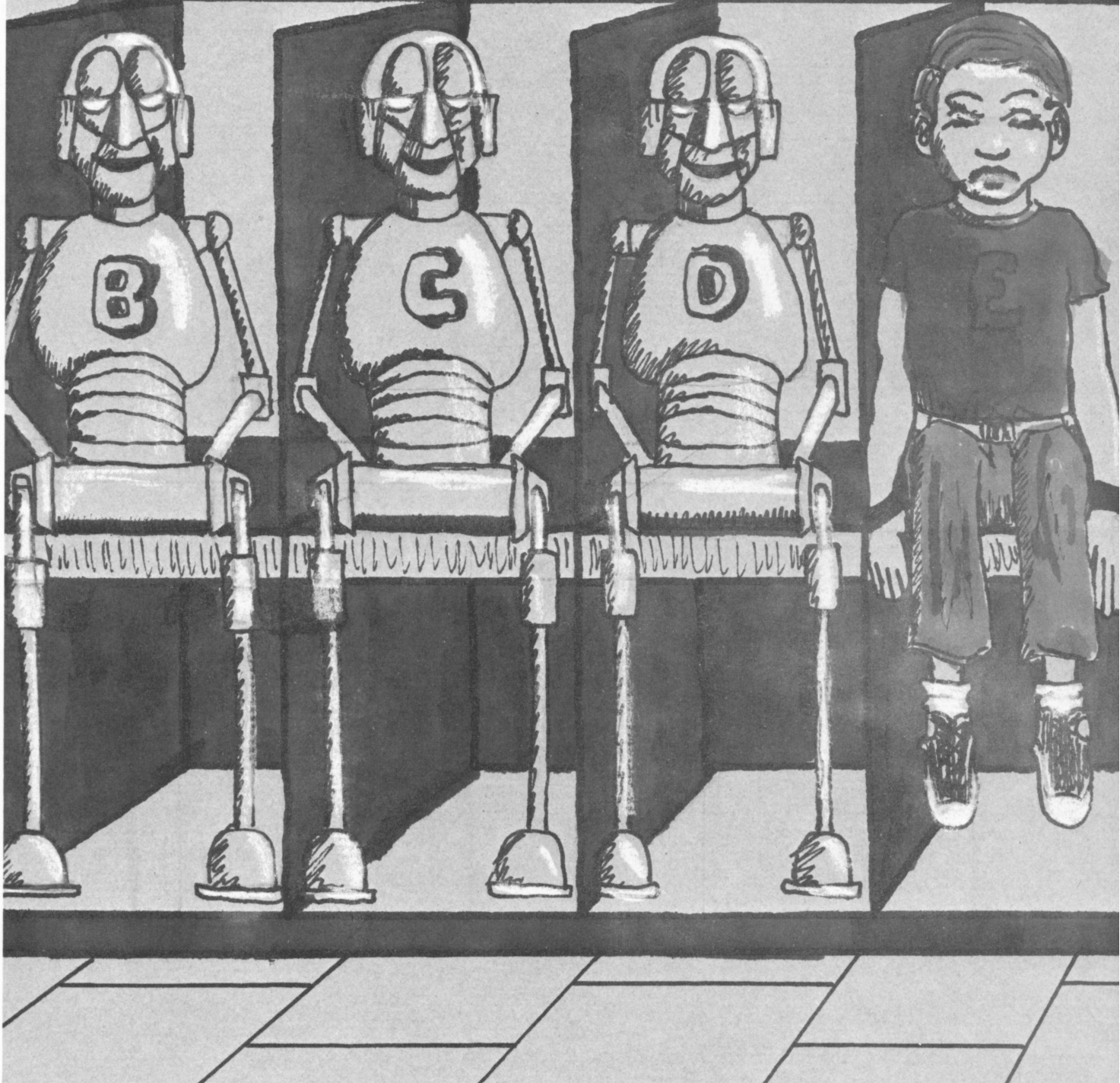
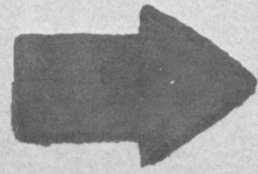
Smith:
One thing that I am impressed with is the facilities available here, not only for cadets but also for the people assigned here in support of the program. I've never seen any facilities anywhere that can compare with them.

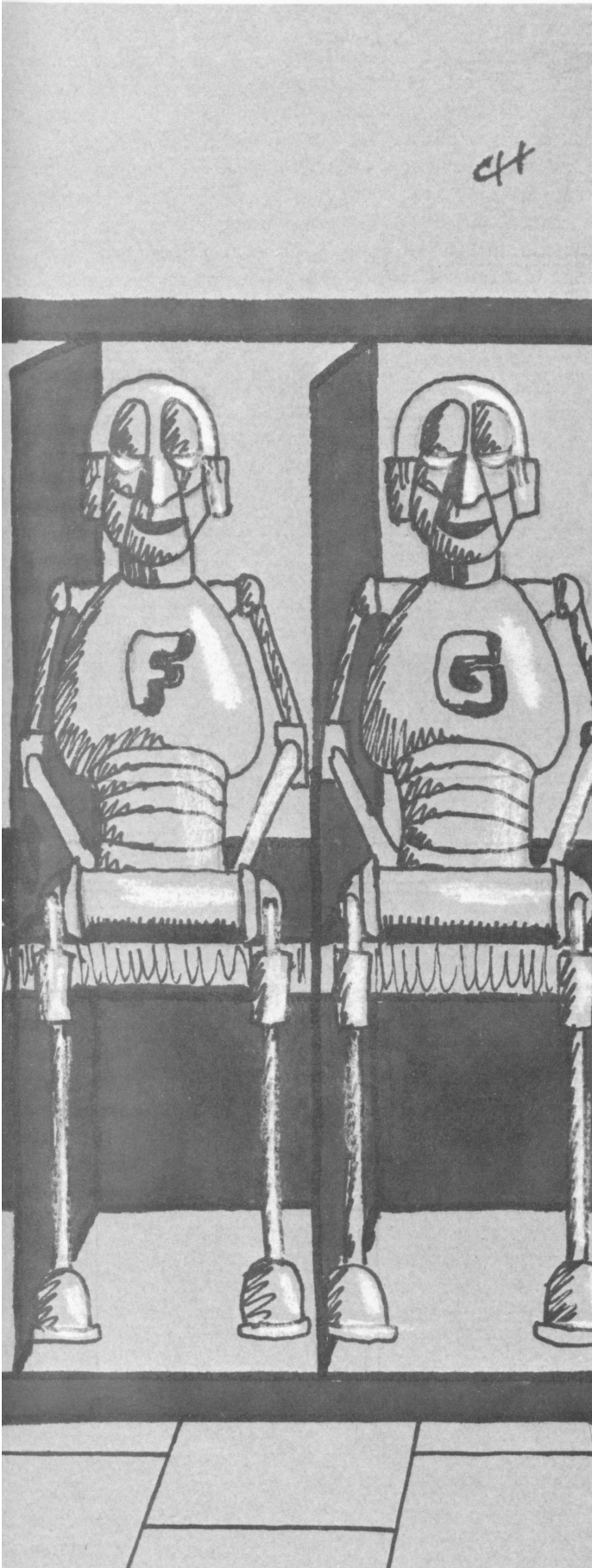
Talon:
Eventually cadets will be commissioned as second lieutenants. What would be your advice on the proper relationship between the young officer and enlisted man?

Smith:
I have seen many officers, particularly young ones, get too close to the enlisted men that work with them, especially on a social level. I have had many officer friends, and I have never called an officer by his first name, even off the job. There is a definite separation between the officers and enlisted men on the social level, and this separation must be maintained. I feel that too close a personal relationship can hurt both parties concerned. This is a great problem for the young officer because he has a great deal in common with the young airmen that work with him. As far as NCO's are concerned, officers usually refer to them as Sergeant. I have found that most officers have a great deal of respect for their NCO's. I don't ever recall an officer not respecting my rank.

Talon:
Thank you Sergeant Smith.

TO 157A





Miracle Toy

by Don Peppers

"Perhaps our society is also developing a theory wherein children are treated as things, too – adult toys – for the vacancy in their parents' lives." – Charles Riech, The Greening of America, p. 199.

Reflection was distorted – not just up and down, but around the whole length. A leg would bend and wave around the corner (which wasn't really a corner but a quarter circle) and a real foot would rest on a circus mirror foot which was long enough but so disproportionately wide as to suggest a surrealist shoe-like snake, crawling along the rail until it encountered a mate (left foot) with which it could team up to literally overpower the fleshy pinpoint of a reflected face.

It was all clear with the imagined lucidity brought after a fifth drink and just before the sixth takes effect. A leg on the proverbial brass rail, contemplated infinitely many times before by infinitely different consciousnesses with different legs and different problems – a life reflected that stretched and symmetrically wove around a corner in the world and for all he knew would continue forever. For that was what life was, now. Forever.

With the clarity of a semi-drunkard about to plunge to full membership, he could manage a semi-drunken smile at the trivialities that passed for problems among a race of "intelligent" Methuselahs. They had labeled it "The Miracle" with the innocent optimism of creatures smart enough to be looking for something yet stupid enough not to realize that it should never be found. The thought seemed to make his head rest heavier on his stubby fingers. The sixth drink was beginning to smother lucidity – or uncover stupidity, he wasn't sure. A seventh. Maybe human nature was only seen true to form in the never-take-anything-seriously cynicism of a drunk with his feet on the bar rail. Reddened eyes in a young face, pre-

sumptuously parted by a Syrian nose. A little more, then home to his live-forever wife and his human toy son.

"You didn't get the transfer, did you?" Something about a drunken face that leads to understanding by someone who is used to seeing the sober face. She could determine quickly enough that he had a problem — but she couldn't tell the seriousness of the triviality since she had only seen him drunk on a few occasions. That was a puzzle too — once you see a person drunk over a problem there can be no further differentiation of the importance of his concerns. For what if he has an even bigger matter to forget about? Does he get *more* inebriated? Hardly. And if he does you can't tell it anyway. So she was only guessing that he didn't get the transfer. She had no way of knowing that it was more serious than that.

"Yes, I got it."

Now she was really puzzled. Or did her understanding increase? At least now she knew what the problem was not, he thought. Intoxicated clarity (stupidity? cynicism?) is horribly revealing. She just smiled, with a question poised on a sun lamp-tanned face, not audible.

"I got the transfer to L.A. or somewhere like that."

The question unanswered. A glimmer of false relief, pretended security.

"Were you watching the 3-D today? You weren't, were you?" He didn't inquire but accused. Accused the glimmer, accused her, accused the world as only a drunkard has the perception to do, or the abandon.

"No. . ." Her pretended relief was gone, replaced by a dread creeping over the tan, camouflaging subtle beauty with a frown.

"All the androchildren have been. . . they all have a defect, and so the government has recalled them."

Dread changing to horror terror. "Just like that? A Recall? . . . just like *that*?" Half-hearted fingers snap. Curls of blond resist a wrinkling forehead.

"Dangerous to human existence because of an 'abrasiveness in the skin which could cause infections in human beings.' " He quoted.

They both knew that their son had no such abrasiveness. They both knew that as he sat in front of the 3-D set, he was really watching with a human brain and a real child's curiosity. No imitation. There were

androchildren that were nursed with real milk from real (make-believe) mothers, of course, and others that wet their pants and cried at random and some that rode bicycles and played in the park and they all "loved" their real (make-believe) parents and liked to do things with them. Some that argued and cried, some that were angels, some that mixed two or several moods. There were androchildren — but as far as they knew, there was only one *real* child. Now he would have no way to imitate the imitations.

Since The Miracle the government had decreed a policy of Zero Growth. Not just Little Growth. Not just one or two illegal children — one or two smuggled lives from parents unwilling to live with the stimulations — but *zero* growth. Zero death: zero birth. It had been argued and bickered and thrashed about and everyone knew now that a line had to be drawn somewhere because. And we'll vote on it and if you disagree then well. But you must understand the policy of course and everyone must comply for if it were any *other* way. Young human beings were illegal to a government presiding over the 32 billion immortal inhabitants of the city of Earth. Unless, naturally, there had been a real death — or was to be one.

For ten years now — ever since they had fallen in love and elected to have a baby instead of an androbaby — they had shuffled with their contraband from city to city in order to prevent anyone from noticing that it was actually growing. Drawing extra food, supplies — more than their share. Ten years and now all the androchildren and their son were being recalled — which meant, as they both knew, that all the machines (and their son?) would be gathered, crushed, compressed and fed to the nuclear generators to keep the world civilized. Then new, non-abrasive androchildren would be manufactured. As they both knew, androchildren which ran and played and imitated were legal, but the penalty for one real birth discovered was inflexibly simple: one real death. Quite inflexibly simple.

Unbelieving hands sifting blond hair, defeated blue eyes staring. . .

Brass rails reflect problems and life and trivialities and drunkards' feet. A foot is just a foot until you put it on a bar rail and watch as it travels around the quarter circle corner to the back edge of time. Then it

becomes quite valuable. To live forever is infinitely more precious than to live for 60 years or a hundred or a thousand. And to give a forever-life is infinitely more difficult than to give a mere 30 or 40 years. Impossible, as a matter of fact.

So he sat at the bar and watched his feet and his trivialities disappear around the universe and thought about what it would be like if he were dead — something he imagined not many people had thought about for a long time. Then again, maybe others. . .

Continued from page 4

and teachings in the Bible. I believe in an afterlife and that my soul will be happy or unhappy in that life for all eternity depending on the moral rectitude it displays — I display — while here on earth. The earthly social community I unite myself with is the Catholic Church because after some 25 years of life and thought, it is the institution that overall embodies my particular beliefs. I am a sociable type and prefer to worship, at least part of the time, with others who believe in general as I do. We all believe, to varying degrees, in certain fundamental things, but there is a wide variety of viewpoints regarding other things. This is human, natural, and good. I also worship by myself, with my family, or through my work, for as St. Benedict said, "Work is prayer." Trying to do the best you can with your abilities is pleasing to your Creator.

Now, I believe in the Old Testament. In it war is used by Israel on many occasions, sometimes at the direct command of God. But the problem with the Bible is that it requires interpretation. One commandment, for example, tells us to honor our parents. Another tells us not to steal. If our parents tell us to steal, there's a conflict. If we keep the literal meaning of one commandment, we break the other. Or what if a burglar tries to shoot our father and we have a gun or other means to stop him? Obviously, many cases could be dreamed up where it would be impossible to keep the literal mandates of the commandments.

Who then interprets both the letter and the *spirit*, the intent, of the commandments? Who makes the

necessary distinctions that enable them to be followed? Each individual has to. But he doesn't have to do it in isolation. Just as we have the benefit of the ideas of literary critics to lead us to an understanding of Joyce's *Ulysses* or Eliot's *Wasteland*, just as we have the advice of medical experts to interpret the meanings of our disease symptoms, we have theologians, moralists, and psychology and psychiatry to help us arrive at a judgment as to a reasonable interpretation of the commandments, or other religious or moral concepts.

We can read, we can question, we can converse, but the final decision is up to us, and us alone, for we were made to God's image in our *wills*, as well as in our intellects.

All my study and personal experience leads me to interpret the commandment not to kill in this way. First I distinguish between killing and murder. If we would interpret this commandment only on a literal level, we could not kill animals for food. If I should inadvertently kill someone by accident, I cannot believe God's justice would damn me for it, even though the commandment is literally violated. Therefore, we need intent to establish guilt. The object of the act also has to be human, rather than animal. I would thus define murder as the voluntary, unjust killing of a human being. The kicker here is the word "unjust." In fact, it's the key to the whole thing. I believe it is morally lawful to kill another if he is trying to kill me or another person unjustly attacked. If he is trying to rob me and we both are armed, I would use just enough force to thwart his act. If he has a knife and I have a gun, I would shoot, but not to kill. The concept is one of sufficient force to thwart his immoral act. A few months ago a former grad, a young lieutenant, was knifed to death in San Antonio as he and two other officers went to the defense of a woman who was being attacked by five other men. The other men were killing the woman when the grad and his buddies came upon the scene. He died that she might live. She lived. It was his choice.

And just as we individuals have a right to defend our lives so does a nation have the right to exist and protect itself. It can morally repel by

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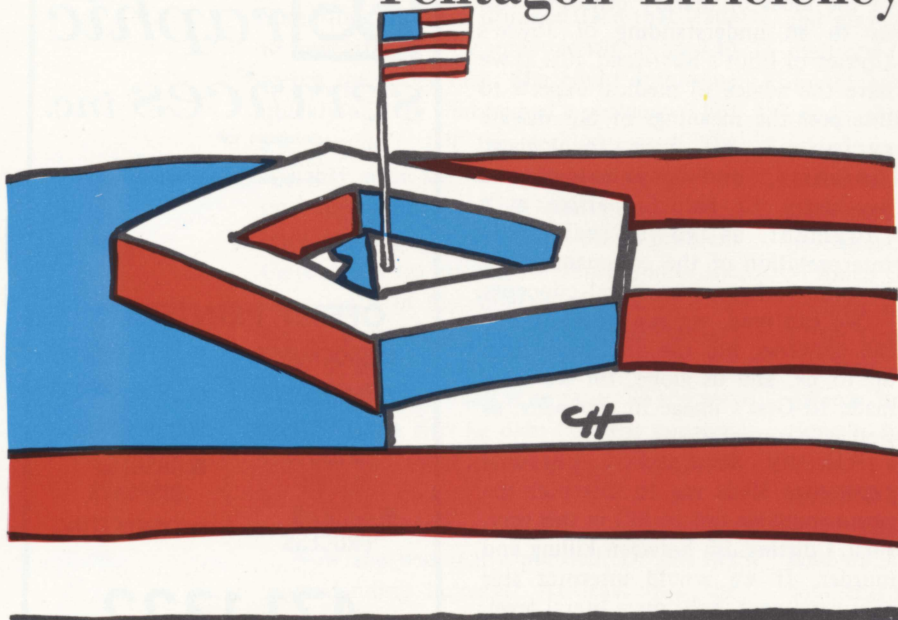
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Cadets Observe

Pentagon Efficiency



By Peter Harry

My observations on the Pentagon center mainly around the operations of the Air Force Intelligence community. Just as in any community, there are those who contribute and those who exist. Many were working actively for change, and I was surprised to find that this group was not as homogenous as I first imagined. Here and there, in almost every office and command level I found people who at one time or another had taken the time to ask 'Where is it all going?'

This is the point I found myself at when asked to give my impressions of the Pentagon. My overall impression was that there is an absence of direction, or at the very least, control over the operation. The duplication of effort, red tape and interbureau infighting reminded me of some Shelleyesque monster which had suddenly become uncontrollable, and at the same time, indestructible. The thing on the Potomac had a mind and will of its own which its creators did not envision.

To understand this problem in the case of intelligence, I think we have to look at the concept of intelligence in terms of information. Information connotes something more substantial

than raw data: it is data which has been digested with the end result of increasing knowledge. In the case of the bureau I studied, the volume of raw data which inundated the office every day appeared to be counterproductive to the very mission of intelligence. Finding a significant item would be a major triumph, because the time needed to identify and analyze it had to be borrowed from an already tight schedule. I'm talking about significant in the sense that it would not ordinarily be found the next day on the cover of the Washington Post.

When there is too much information, it ceases to be information, and in the case of my office there were thousands of items per week. What had happened was that the sophisticated electronic collection process had flooded Air Force Intelligence with data which was translated into hard paper copy. By my own count 90 to 95% of it was never used. Analysts (who were sometimes responsible for 40 countries) worked long hours separating the wheat from the chaff. Much of it was stored and many manhours had to be spent to update the files. Significant items were buried

in a warehouse of worthless or inaccurate data. It seemed that the community had lost a vital function: that of prediction. Instead it had become a perpetual motion machine which processed data. To justify its existence, each bureau produced an amount of data commensurate with its perception of the amount of data a bureau should produce. The paperwork multiplied and soon more personnel were needed to handle the flow. They generated more reports and bulletins to keep the cycle going. The monster was literally feeding on itself.

On top of this inefficiency the staff was burdened with what I felt to be an unwieldy command structure. From conversations I had, it appeared that this problem permeated the intelligence network. Admittedly, this is the Air Force and there will always be a chain of command, but in this case it seemed to hamper the dissemination of knowledge. Imagine if a private investigator had to have all of his leads approved by 4 or 5 levels of authority, or a reporter whose story had to pass the scrutiny of an equal number of editors before printing. The New York Times would become a bi-monthly journal if that were the case.

The process takes time, but even more importantly it seems to be unnecessary. The individual most familiar with the story is the lowly captain who pieced the puzzle together in the first place. The intervening levels of command naturally hesitate to needlessly excite their superiors. The effect is to render most reports innocuous. It is much safer to pass along a lot of relatively insignificant items which are indisputable, or to report on major items comprehensively after the fact, than to report on critical and uncertain factors.

In all this I saw people trying to change the system, to make it worthwhile to the defense effort. It was fascinating to watch them in a race against time with the monster: bureaucratic inertia and pettiness. In order to avoid past mistakes we must be given the freedom to anticipate, a luxury I'm afraid the present system doesn't allow.

VINDICATION OF THE CODE

By Sam Connally

Every institution which purports to confer degrees of academic achievement on students passing through that institution is responsible to insure by some means — for the public, for its students, and for itself — that the quality and respect of its graduates' credentials is maintained by insuring academic honesty within its sphere of influence. At the United States Air Force Academy, the Cadet Wing has assumed this responsibility in conjunction with maintaining the ethical standards of its members. The basis of this standard is the Cadet Honor Code which states: "WE WILL NOT LIE, STEAL, OR CHEAT, NOR TOLERATE AMONG US ANYONE WHO DOES." Recently, the Cadet Wing and the Academy were catapulted into the news with the announcement that thirty-nine of its members were found guilty of violating the Cadet Honor Code and had subsequently resigned. What were the details behind the investigation? What do the results imply vis-a-vis the Honor Code? These two questions comprise the concern of this article.

During the week 9-15 January, Cadet Smith* was dismissed for violating the Honor Code by cheating. Prior to his hearing, the evidence in the case had been stolen. Approximately 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 January 1972, ten members of the Honor Committee and the Cadet Wing Commander were questioning two cadets suspected of stealing a pair of ski boots, Cadets Ronson* and Brown*. During this questioning Ronson* divulged the names of the two cadets who had stolen the evidence in Smith's* cheating case the previous week. Cadet Ronson* also admitted that he had been involved in cheating with others in the fortieth squadron, implicating several second classmen (juniors). The Honor Committee realized that more assistance would be required to

properly conduct the investigation so they assembled the squadron commanders and first class honor representatives from squadrons 1-23, those in Vandenberg Hall. These cadets went to fortieth squadron in the new dorm and asked those cadets who had been implicated to come to Wing Staff for an important meeting. The cadets were not informed as to the purpose of that meeting. There they were questioned in the squadron assembly rooms across from Wing Staff. During this phase of the investigation, Cadet Jacobs* of fortieth squadron implicated the entire second class of thirty-third squadron. Jacobs* also admitted to the use of drugs and implicated several other cadets in drug use. At approximately 5:00 a.m. Thursday morning, the Honor Committee and their assistants went to thirty-third squadron and escorted the second classmen to the Wing Staff area for questioning. Shortly before breakfast the members of the Academy wrestling team were implicated. The individuals were called in; some were detained for more thorough questioning, others were released after it was determined that they were not involved. At approximately 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning, all squadron commanders and first class honor representatives were called to a briefing, the purpose of which was to inform them of the activities of the previous night and enlist their aid in conducting the investigation. Most of these individuals served as messengers or were placed in the assembly rooms to insure that the cadets being questioned did not talk to one another.

As rumors had been received by the press and it was undetermined whether more cadets would be implicated Thursday afternoon, privileges were cancelled and the telephones were restricted to official calls only. Commenting on the reasoning behind these two moves, C/Col. Charles M. Hardman, the Cadet Wing Commander, stated, "The reason I restricted privileges was that at that particular time the names of individuals were accumulating rapidly. Thirty-third squadron second classmen were suddenly implicated very early Thursday morning. Shortly before

breakfast, the wrestling team was implicated. By noon fifteen more had been implicated and another ten that afternoon. So the reason we cancelled privileges was that throughout that time individuals' names were coming up, and we needed to have ready access to those individuals for immediate questioning. With respect to the phones, we didn't want to leak to the press until we knew exactly what was happening. We did get a leak that morning which perhaps did more than anything to prompt the phone restriction. A cadet called a local paper and reported that there was a 'mass honor scandal involving up to 400 cadets.' We felt it was necessary to limit that type of false information as quickly as possible until we had the opportunity to organize a press conference to let the news services know exactly what was happening. We didn't want to blow this up into a national issue before we even had the opportunity to discover for ourselves how large the thing was, how the investigation would proceed, and how many cadets were involved."

The Academy superintendent, Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark, was in Washington, D.C., and announced at approximately 9:00 a.m. Thursday that due to an honor investigation of some magnitude he would have to return to the Academy. Gen Clark chaired the first official news conference that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the ballroom of Arnold Hall, the Cadet recreation and social center. Accompanying him at the news conference were Gen. W. T. Woodyard, Dean of Faculty; Gen. W. T. Galligan, Commandant of Cadets, CIC Charles Hardman, Cadet Wing Commander, and CIC Ron Wallace, Chairman of the Cadet Honor Committee.

There has been some query as to whether any undue pressure was brought to bear on any of the cadets during the investigation. In reference to this subject, both Cadet Hardman and CIC Gary R. Adriance, Vice-Chairman of the Honor Committee, who were present throughout the investigation stated that at no time were any of the cadets being questioned physically touched. There were one or two individuals, however, who under went rather

severe interrogation; these few individuals experienced what could be likened to a "doolie year special inspection" in that they stood at a position of attention, responded to all questions with the use of "sir," and received strong verbal attack. It was pointed out, however, that if these interrogations lasted more than a few minutes, the cadets being questioned were allowed to sit down. When consulted on this matter of undue pressure, Col. Irving of the Law Department stated that because of the particular environment, that is, cadets questioning cadets, none of the methods used in questioning could be considered as "undue" pressure. Col. Irving further stated that this was due to the fact that all cadets have experienced the fourth class system in which they were required to stand at a position of attention at all times, responded to all questions with the use of "sir," and received strong verbal attack frequently. In other words, because this type of pressure was a part of each cadet's experience for ten months, it could not be considered extreme or undue.

Three officers were available throughout the investigation. Major Hart, officer representative of the Honor Committee, was present to provide advice with respect to the Honor Code to the cadets conducting the investigation. Col. Irving of the Law Department was available to render counsel to the investigators on legal matters and to any cadet requesting legal representation. Col. Dahl, Deputy Commandant of Cadets, gave the necessary authorization to remove cadets from classes. Sgt. Garrett, Wing Sergeant Major; Sgt. Smith, First Group Sergeant Major; Sgt. Millster, Second Group Sergeant Major; and Sgt. Rush, Fourth Group Sergeant Major, assisted in the administrative organization of the investigation. A representative of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) was present to handle any investigation concerning the use of drugs. The great bulk of the honor investigation, however, was handled directly and solely by cadets on the Honor Committee. These cadets initiated the investigation, performed the questioning, and conducted the

honor hearings for each of the individuals involved.

Forty honor hearings were conducted during the period 20-21 January 1972. One "not guilty" and thirty-nine "guilty" decisions were returned by the Honor Committee. Of the thirty-nine cadets found guilty, twelve violated only the toleration clause. The investigation disclosed that eleven cadets were using drugs, nine of which were also involved in cheating. The thirty-nine cadets found guilty of violating the Cadet Honor Code and the other two cadets who had been using drugs were allowed to resign; no formal court-martial proceedings were instigated.

What implications are to be derived from this cheating incident? Does it mean that the Honor Code is ineffective and disregarded by Cadets? Hardly. Any honor investigation is the very proof that the Honor Code is supported by the vast majority of the Cadet Wing in that it is the cadets themselves who initiate, conduct, and resolve any investigation concerned with the honorable or ethical standards of their peers. We should be much more concerned if honor investigations never came to light. Upon acceptance into the Wing, each cadet accepts with his shoulder boards the responsibility of supporting the Honor Code. It is hoped that the Code will influence cadets to live honorably so that they will graduate as officers with the highest standards of individual honor and integrity. The Cadet Wing expects each cadet to make the Cadet Honor Code a part of his personal code throughout his life.

In light of the recent investigations, it might prove beneficial to briefly trace the history of the Cadet Honor Code and some of the precepts it involves.††

Former Secretary of War, Newton Baker, said, "...the inexact or untruthful soldier trifles with the lives of his fellow men and with the honor of his government..." The young officer needs to be able to trust his men as does any commander. In these times of expensive and increasingly complex weapons systems, the officer must rely on fellow officers and airmen for his own safety and the safety of his men. By living honorably

while a cadet, it is hoped that such conduct will become second nature and follow the individual throughout his career. The Honor Code then is another important aspect of the training that a cadet gets at the Academy; however, in this case the Cadet Wing has set its own standard.

The Honor Code was originated by members of the first class to enter the Academy. They studied the honor codes and systems in use by institutions throughout the country, including the United States Military and Naval Academies, Virginia Military Institute, and others. The Honor Code has always belonged to the Cadet Wing which administers and instructs the Code through its Honor Committee with the advice and counsel of the Commandant of Cadets.

The purpose of the Cadet Honor Code, considered a minimum standard of conduct, is to build within the man a keen sense of honor and an intense dedication to live by the dictates of this sense of honor. The man who fails in this is deemed unworthy of cadet status and is asked to resign from the Academy.

The Honor Code is simply stated: "WE WILL NOT LIE, STEAL, OR CHEAT, NOR TOLERATE AMONG US ANYONE WHO DOES." Lying is making an assertion which is intended to deceive or mislead. A lie may be an oral or written statement, or even an action, which is misleading or deceiving and meant to be so. Stealing is defined by the Cadet Wing as intentionally depriving someone else of his property without his specific or implied permission. Cheating is fraudulently acting out of self-interest to take fair advantage of others. Toleration, the backbone of the Honor Code, requires that every cadet report any suspected violation of the Code.

The Honor Code belongs to the Cadet Wing, and it is our standard. We have set the pace, and because of this we must remove violators from the Wing if the Code is to mean anything at all. An editorial in the "Denver Post" stated the idea by saying: "The success of the Honor Code is realized through its tacit acceptance by all those entering the Academy. It implies that the cadet who cheats has denied himself the membership of this group

of highly favored young men. Thus, it is an intrinsic yardstick of moral behavior, clearly recognized as such by everyone who puts on the uniform of an Air Force Cadet."

Along these lines is an excerpt from a letter by a member of the Class of 1968 written to the Wing after resigning from the Academy because of violating the Honor Code. Dated: 8 March 1967.

"Do you remember when you accepted the Honor Code? Or like myself do you remember accepting a double standard? Yours and the Academy's.

"What I really would like to say is that we've...reached a turning point in our infant careers. I didn't realize this however 'till it was too late to keep from smashing my career.

"To an officer, *Duty* and *Loyalty* should be the two guiding principles of his life — not just inflated words in his vocabulary.

"When I cheated, I broke all bonds of loyalty between ourselves and could no longer claim a loyalty higher than a false one to myself. But you almost erred too — by tolerating my selfishness. Could you have been loyal to yourselves if you had maintained a

loyalty to someone who wrongfully discredited you? No. So you could not have tolerated my cheating in your midst. What kind of friend would ask another to cover for his dishonesty?

"In other words, was it not your duty to report me? You would have failed yourself and your true friends.

"Why didn't I understand some of this 'till now? And I'm no different than many of you — except that possibly I'm weaker.

"This letter only poorly conveys what I think and feel. But think about what I wanted to say and what I have said for above all it is sincere. It has taken a lot of growing up lately to come to these conclusions and I'll always be sorry I missed the boat somewhere..."

**Asterisk indicates that these names have been fictionalized. Regulation stipulates that the names of cadets who resign as the result of an honor investigation can be released only in official publications.*

††This information was taken from the Honor Reference Handbook of the Air Force Cadet Wing published by the Cadet Honor Committee, 20 June 1970.



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Cadet Counseling at USAFA

By
Kurt Bock

What is Cadet Counseling all about? Or perhaps a more appropriate question would be, "Just exactly what is Cadet Counseling?" These two questions most aptly illustrate the attitude toward the Cadet Counseling Service, an agency existing solely for the benefit of the individual cadet. In accomplishing this mission, the Counseling Service's main objective is simply to supply the Cadet Wing with a typical college counseling center for cadets. However, upon deeper investigation of the services, Cadet Counseling can be anything a cadet wants it to be — from a career information center, a place to air a cadet's personal-social problems or improve himself, to an agency to help one gain maximum satisfaction from cadet life and to aid in overall cadet welfare.

While working in all of these areas, the Counseling Service deals with two main types of counseling, that is, personal-social counseling and career counseling. In both of these areas, a cadet will find that the Counseling Service is well qualified. Requirements for a counselor are generally a master's degree in counseling along with at least six years in the Air Force. The office includes a very diverse variety of counseling experience ranging from high school counseling to ROTC and OTS counseling. So, one can see an office well qualified to counsel not only strictly personal problems but also those problems relating to the cadet way of life and the cadet with respect to the Air Force in general.

Some general misconceptions concerning the office occur in the areas of accessibility and confidentiality. The process of obtaining an appointment for cadet counseling requires only personal contact between a cadet and the counseling office; an appointment does not incur any punitive action for missing it. In this way, Cadet Counseling becomes a personal decision of the cadet as to whether to make use of its services. However, referred cases such as aptitude are of a different nature, requiring a cadet to actively seek counseling help.

Along the same lines of accessibility, the confidential nature of some counseling has caused some misunderstanding among the cadets in the wing. According to Lt. Col. Peter E. Lasota of Cadet Counseling concerning the misunderstanding of the privileged communication: "We feel that the misunderstanding comes from the fact that there are two different types of interviews conducted in the Cadet Counseling office — voluntary and referral. In a voluntary interview, the counselor will protect any and all information given to him by a cadet client. We will not discuss the interview with any other individual or agency at the Academy without the cadet's expressed permission. The only exception to this rule is the ethical consideration of preventing damage or harm to life or property. An example would be a case where we feel it might be necessary to hospitalize a cadet through Mental Health. This would, in our judgment, be for the welfare of the individual if he were considered a high risk for self harm. What I am trying to say is that in the case of voluntary cases, it is





unusual for anyone to even know the cadet has visited our office. The referral interview, on the other hand, is another story all together. If a cadet is referred to Cadet Counseling by an AOC, faculty instructor, or some other individual or agency at the Academy, the referring individual or agency is entitled to some form of feedback on the counseling interview. This applies only to information concerning the purpose and nature of the referral. For example, if a cadet is referred for aptitude counseling, the counselor is only free to relate information concerning the aptitude problem itself. If other information is gained from the interview, the counselor will here again protect the rights of the individual and respect the confidentiality of the information. The counselor will only provide feedback information when the referral agency requests it. The referrer normally asks for feedback in only about twenty percent of the referrals to this office. Also, when feedback is provided, it will be in the form of a general statement, without any specific details being mentioned. The American Personnel and Guidance Association, of which we are members in this office, has ethical standards which govern the counselor's actions in the preceding situations. The policy that I have discussed is based upon our professional standards and also meets Air Force Academy guidelines for the functioning of the Cadet Counseling Service organization.

Besides working with cadets on personal-social problems, a large variety of effort is spent on informative aspects of career counseling. In the career aspect of counseling, much time is being spent on providing more than the typical book material. With this type of counseling, its purpose is to provide all forms of information relating to any aspect of career choice in the Air Force. By providing the cadet with this type of information, the cadet is assisted in narrowing down the alternatives. In carrying out this "more than book type information" guidance, Cadet Counseling is preparing to implement what is termed a Multi-Media Counseling Center. This center will be built around the use of video tape television. By video taping career information presented by Academy graduates and experts in the various career fields, the center provides a much more personal in-depth look at many aspects of those career opportunities.

Also in its quest to more effectively serve the Cadet Wing, the counseling office is in the process of obtaining a black counselor. In this way, Cadet Counseling hopes to increase its communications and counseling with minority groups.

Besides the major areas of personal-social work and career counseling, Cadet Counseling also deals in a study skills program to help those cadets in need of assistance in learning how to study, what to study, preparation for quizzes, and how to take quizzes and graded reviews. In this way, Cadet Counseling extends its influence over almost every aspect of Cadet life.

Letter-Contd From Pg 21

force those seeking to destroy it, and it may also assist other nations unjustly attacked, or whose rights are encroached upon. I consider war, however, something which can be embarked upon only as a last resort, only after negotiations and other means of peaceful settlement have failed.

At this point I think we need to discuss a moral principle called the principle of the two-fold effect. I believe that if, as a result of a good, necessary action a good result directly intended as well as a bad result not intended both occur or are likely to occur, I may commit the act. Example: I am driving along a narrow country road along a mountain at night. I round a curve and a pedestrian is directly ahead of me. I can either strike him or drive off the cliff and most probably kill myself. If I decide to safeguard my own life by staying on the road, this is my primary intent. If I do so, he is killed, and this violates his right to life. An elderly man alone in the car might elect to drive off the cliff — this would be heroic. A man with his family in the car might elect to stay on the road. The pedestrian would be killed, but I don't see how anyone in his right mind could say the driver was morally culpable. And the death is not really even an accident, since the driver did make a conscious choice.

Now let's apply some of these ideas to war. Our direct intent is not to kill others, but to defend ourselves or the grave rights of others. If a nation enters into a war to exterminate, to indiscriminately murder other people, say a smaller, weaker nation, I consider this immoral. If a nation, in

attaining its tactical and strategic military objectives is forced to kill other human beings but that is not the primary or only intent, I believe that nation acts morally. Example: our Marine platoon has to take a bridge. Our object in killing its defenders is not primarily to kill its defenders — it is to capture the bridge. If the defenders surrender, we must not kill them. Example: while knocking out a road in Vietnam our aircraft are fired upon from a village. One of our aircraft is shot down and our mission is endangered. If we don't knock out the road, ammo and arms going down it will contribute substantially to the deaths of our own people. We hit the guns in the village and knock them out. If we go further and after the guns are silent or otherwise ineffectual, we total the village, it is immoral.

During the conduct of my 170 combat missions in SEA, 70 of them in North Vietnam, I never once felt that any of the missions were morally reprehensible. I never lost any sleep, nor do I now, thinking I may have killed someone. Not because I have a callous conscience or no conscience at all, but because I gave the problem a great deal of thought and am satisfied I acted rightly. I do hope that very few people were killed as a result of my participation in the war, but those that were, died as I would have, during the pursuit of reasonable, important objectives on my part, and on the part of my comrades.

But if it is simple to justify individual tactical operations morally, it is extremely difficult to ascertain the morality of any war in general. A purely defensive war fought on one's

home ground, at one's own doorstep, requires very little justification — national self-defense. But if someone plans to kill me and I get word of it, would it be better for me to intercept him as he leaves his home, or when he is killing someone down the street first, rather than wait for him to burst into my home? If I wait till he breaks down the door, my chances of effectively dealing with him without endangering those of my household are extremely poor.

Although national interest is a much overused term, it boils down to that. If it is seriously threatened and the use of force is the last resort to protect it, I feel we are justified in hitting the enemy where it is most advantageous to us, and not waiting until we have few or no tactical or strategic options left.

And now we get down to the nitty-gritty, the present war in Vietnam. When I knew that I would be called upon to take part in it, I, like many other people, gave it very serious thought. A friend of mine whom I respect in the History Department gave me books which discussed the morality of the venture both pro and con. I studied them very carefully. There were several courses of action I could take. If my study led me to believe the war was immoral and I should not, must not take part in it, I could refuse to go and take the consequences.

There you have it. I'm not asking you to agree with me. I am hoping you will understand me. This is a brief presentation of my views. If you would like to talk about this further, please come see me — anytime.

Joseph Tusso, Major, USAF

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THE BLUES AND BLACK PRIDE

By B. B. KING

(For Riley "B. B." King, the Blues started in a Mississippi cotton field. Blues has a language of its own, the deep stabbing hurt that only the lost, lonely and downtrodden can know. With his guitar, Lucille, the language has been his — each note and each word represents a slice of anguish in B.B.'s life. After twenty-one years a new generation has tuned in, and the most incredible aspect of it all is that the King of the Blues did it without compromise.)

Today I am glad that I am the Black man called B. B. King, but some time ago I wasn't. Sure, I was happy to be here and alive, but I'm talking about to be really proud. I'm beginning to feel like I'm somebody. I am a Black man, I have black kinky hair and a big nose, which is a trait of a true Afro-American person, and that when you've got something of your own, just as other people have something of their own, you should be proud of that little bit that you've got because yours can measure up to theirs.

Young Black kids today are just beginning to look at the blues without the feeling of shame that their elders did. Blues music was considered cheap and low-down and you weren't ever supposed to talk about it much less sing it.

During the protests of the last 12 or 15 years the Black kids were trying to raise themselves up and they didn't want anything they felt that would stand in the way of their progress. Blues and blues singers made them feel ashamed and in some cases they almost had ground to feel that way. They heard that guys got drunk, and nobody ever saved any money, or made it big or anything. So if you mentioned blues it wasn't like saying Duke Ellington, or somebody else in jazz, which the society looks up to.

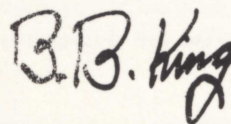
Many times a Black kid would come up to me and say, "You're B. B. King. I don't like you, but my dad or my grandmother likes you." Well this hurts. This hurts and you have no defense. My only defense would be, "I'm glad somebody in your family digs me." Which is a little weird when you say something like that, but I really meant it that I was glad that somebody dug me.

People are so class conscious; they associate blues with the ghetto. They don't respect it. Certain Black audiences, before they're willing to give credit, they wait until the media have picked up on you. Ray Charles has been a genius for 20 years, but for a long time he only had that precious little in-group of followers; finally he got some national publicity, then the disc jockeys played him right along with the pop artists, and that's when most Black people accepted him.

The way I figure it, blues is a way of life — Black life. It is saying, "Okay, you brought us over on slave ships, kept us in chains, worked us for nothing, and I'm tired of it. We've tried your way, now let's try it my way."

The momentum is picking up now. Black kids are looking for the roots from where they came from. Now Black kids would come up and say to me, "I never thought much about the blues. I didn't care much about it — you can't dance on it, but after reading about you, I now appreciate what you've done."

This is worth all the heartaches and the times when people talked bad about me. I would say to these kids, "Well, if you dig me, after a while, you'll dig the blues, because I'm going to keep right on playing them."



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