

entertainment

Astronaut relates personal struggles

Return to Earth, by Colonel Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. Col. Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. was the second astronaut to put his foot on the moon. But if attempts to publicly come to an understanding of one's self are important, Aldrin may have added more to that than any one space flight did.

Aldrin's autobiography is the story of his isolated odyssey, which, after the moon trip, was to lead him through mental depression and the near dissolution of his marriage. To reach that point took 40 years. It is to this, however, that much of the book is dedicated.

He begins, Dickens-like, with his birth, and in a light narrative relates a chronology of schools, summer camps, early marriage, hard times and wonderful suburban living.

Aldrin manages to make all of this interesting, but it lacks cohesiveness. Interesting themes pass through, such as a stern father who seems to have had a deep effect on his son, which Aldrin fails to grasp.

In his relationship with his wife, too, there are matters (schedules, painful fights, vasectomy, infidelity) which seem to be important but which remain elusive.

But then, no matter how hard one struggles in self-analysis, there will always be the haunting question: which is more important, this or that?

The question is even more valid when the reader comes to Aldrin's story of his mental depression. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) discourages

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astronauts from considering philosophy and emotion when involved in space flight, but once an astronaut returns he must face these things.

Compounded with being an overnight celebrity in demand by the public, advertisers, corporations, women, this put a lot of strain on Aldrin. A love affair after his return almost destroyed his marriage.

Though Aldrin's story is full of hope and heartbreak, he deftly avoids slobbering sentimentality. His portrayal of his wife Joan is a good example. She is depicted as a person of immense strength and character, yet extremely sensitive.

Beside the personal struggle, several other subjects highlighted the book. The portions on the technological wonders involved in sending a man into space are not only informative but make fascinating reading.

Unfortunately, Aldrin seems to think this subject is either too complex or too boring for the reader, and he doesn't spend many pages on it.

The chapters which portray astronauts as real people with human foibles goes a long way toward deflating any stereotypes one may have from the usual what-it's-like-to-be-an-astronaut articles.

Finally, the book is interwoven with a good, solid humor. It ranges from antics at West Point to horseplay on the moon. Aldrin relates that, while he was not the first man to set foot on the moon, he does claim the honor of being the first to urinate there.

Kimball Recital Hall—Misha Dichter, pianist, will perform at 8 p.m. tonight. A few seats are still available. Stan Kenton will bring his Big Band to town Sunday. Performances are at 5 and 7:45 p.m.

Sheldon Memorial Gallery—Feature Classics Series presents two films by Jean Cocteau. *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Testament of Orpheus* will be shown at 3, 7 and 9 p.m. tonight and Saturday. The third film in Kenneth Clark's series "Pioneers of Modern Painting" will be shown Sunday at 3 p.m. This week's film is about Claude Monet.

Henzlik Hall Auditorium—*Superfly* is the Weekend Film tonight and Saturday night.

Der Loaf und Stein—Exit is back. The Zoo—The rockin' Megatonnes will be jumping here.

The Launching Pad—A local group, Patchwork, is here.

Open Latch—Guitarists and vocalists Dory Marsh, Frank Fung and Larry Eberman entertain here this weekend.

Little Bo's—The crowd-drawing Sugar Loaf and Red Pony will be featured at East and West.



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