

# Students see space with astronaut

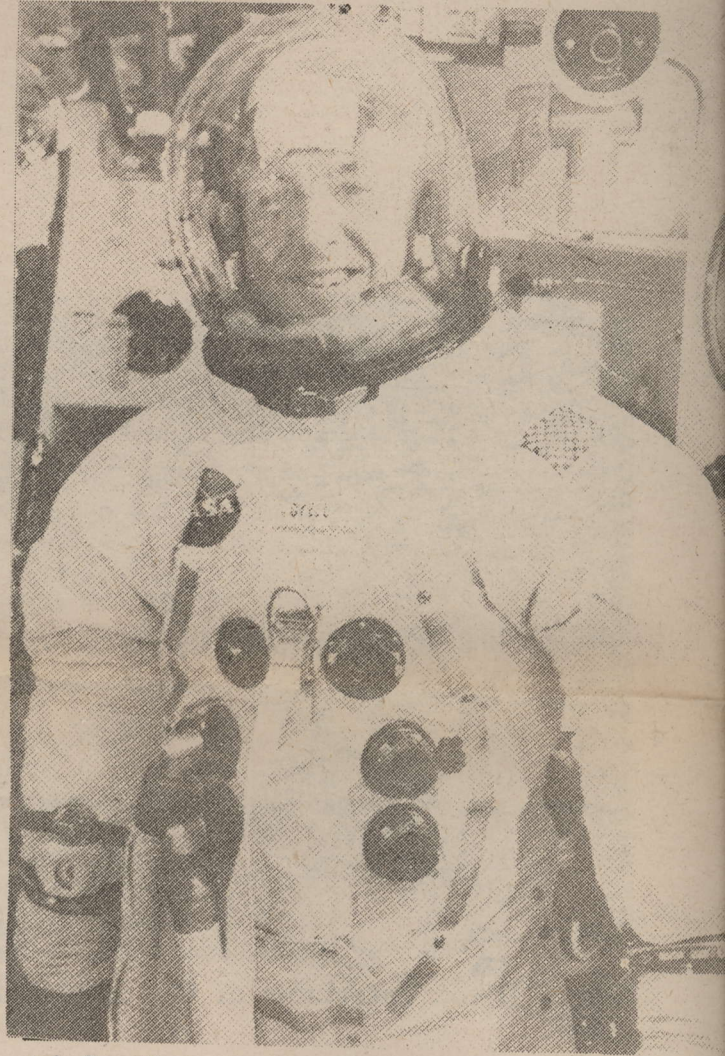
By ALEX DIAZ  
GRANADOS

"Space exploration benefits everyone," said former astronaut James A. Lovell, who met with journalism students from various senior and junior high schools at a press conference recently. "The digital watches, the Teflon coating on your pots and pans- all these are by-products of the Space Age technology," he added.

Lovell, a retired Navy captain, had been the command module pilot on the Apollo 8 mission in December of 1968, and two years later commanded the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission. On that mission, a pressurized oxygen tank ruptured, crippling the spacecraft. Guided by Mission Control, Apollo 13 looped around the moon and returned safely to earth. When asked if he had any regrets about not landing on the moon, Lovell replied that at the time he was concerned about getting home, but now wishes he had been on the moon.

According to Capt. Lovell, space exploration has much to offer mankind; not only in technological advances, but also in aiding to find energy sources and the prediction of weather. "Every night on the news you see satellite pictures showing you what's happening in the atmosphere," Lovell pointed out.

"With our satellites," he said, "we can predict the yield of an area's wheat production for this year. We can also see changes on the earth, subtle changes we



## Captain Lovell speaks about the benefits of space exploration.

can't see from here." Lovell also answered questions about the space shuttle, his career as a test pilot and his selection as an astronaut, and of the feasibility of colonizing the other planets.

"Well," he said with a wide grin, "Venus has a very hostile environment, Mars is just a desert, the outer planets are gaseous and too cold, and as for the moon, I'd like to visit it but I wouldn't

stay there. Unless we can come up with the proper propulsion methods to leave the solar system, we have to be content in our own limits."

The press conference was held at Miami Springs Senior High's AV studio after a presentation sponsored by the Encounters in Excellence organization. Capt. Lovell also narrated a film showing highlights from Apollo 13's flight.