

maybe the rest of us can be a little higher next time. Perhaps you have wondered what an Air Force Academy cadet does during that eternity between weekends, or in other words, what goes on over there in that building with an internal snow machine called Fairchild Hall (the Academic Building). Looking around at the bounteous literary talent available, I allowed four successful academic types (as attested by the fact that they are still here) to volunteer to tell you something about their courses. The following two articles kick off the series and we'll cover the last two classes in the next issue.

Fourth Class Academics by Joe Ross '65

"The Academy provides instruction, experience, and motivation to each cadet so that he will graduate with the knowledge, character, and quality of leadership essential to his progressive development as a career officer in the United States Air Force" is the mission of the Air Force Academy. And it is the academic program which is the basis for each and every cadet being at the Air Force Academy. Just as in every other civilian institution we, the cadets, are here to learn so that we may hold the position of intelligent, well-knowledged officers in the United States Air Force.

Starting us off on the road to academic excellence is the fourth class year. The basic fourth class curriculum consists of 11 semester hours of mathematics, 6 semester hours of chemistry, 6 semester hours of English, $4\frac{1}{2}$ semester hours of geography, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ semester hours of physiology along with $5\frac{1}{4}$ semester hours of physical education and $1\frac{1}{2}$ semester hours of military training. All together, this represents 41 semester hours. One must realize that this is above that of all colleges and universities in the country and if it were not for careful planning of cadet time and for the cadet himself making use of his time, this program would not be possible.

The course itself is the basis for most freshman college courses throughout the country with a concentration on specialized subjects in upper class years. Also, if the fourth classman displays above average capability in a given course he may be permitted to either validate that particular course or be accelerated to a more advanced course in that field.

Another factor of significant importance that separates the Air Force Academy from other colleges and universities is the Air Force Academy physical education program. Each fourth class cadet is required to take $5\frac{1}{4}$ semester hours of physical education which consists of 20 hours each of instruction in gymnastics, swimming, and boxing and 10 hours each of instruction in judo and wrestling. Needless to say, these sports require rigorous participation and are designed to increase the general physical strength, skill, coordination, courage, and confidence of each cadet.

Included in the physical education program at the Academy are intramural athletics. Each cadet who is not a member of an intercollegiate