

# Space Program

*by Gary Hardaway*

Mercury and Gemini disappointed.  
Where were the sleek silver ships  
capable of launching and landing  
as they flew to Mars and Venus in hours?  
What did I know of orbital mechanics,  
thrust, escape velocities, and life support?

The actual craft- ungainly and slow-  
never measured up to a boy's dreams.  
The logistics of space and our survival there  
are daunting, more fully understood.  
Understanding, though, cannot assuage  
the boy's abiding sense of loss.

