

Observatories may go into orbit

United Press International
In 30 years, McDonald Observatory may be orbiting Earth instead of sitting atop Mount Locke in the scenic mountain country of West Texas.

Harlan Smith, chairman of astronomy at the University of Texas, told science teachers meeting here recently that all observatories will have to move to outer space in the next 40 years to combat increasing problems caused by bright lights from cities and developing areas.

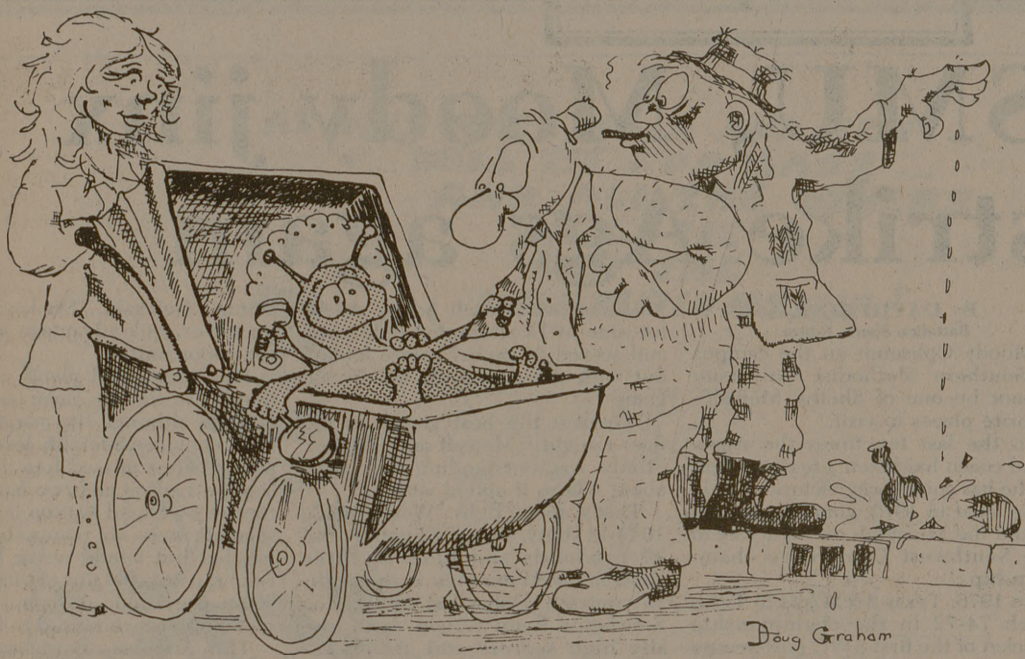
Despite massive cuts in space agency budgets, he predicted Americans and other earthlings will move out to colonize the galaxy, perhaps living in outer space by the year 2000 and constructing large underground cities on the moon in the next 150 years.

"There will be Martians and 'Loonies' among our descendants," he told the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching at the University.

Smith urged the Carter and future administrations not to "close the door on future generations" by continued cuts in space hardware development.

He indicated space was the reasonable alternative to the energy problem, with gigantic supersatellites in orbit 24,000 miles above Earth beaming down enough solar power to compete with oil, coal and nuclear fuel plants.

"One economist predicts profits of \$50 million to \$100 million a year from solar energy after approximately 2010, when the system has paid back with interest the billions in development required to make it useful," he said.



Doug Graham

Aberdeen — 'Houston with a bagpipe accent'

LONDON (UPI) — Houston, Texas, is a sparkling new city built in oil. Aberdeen, Scotland, is a gray ancient city built on fish and farms. "Few places, on the face of it, could have less in common," says television newsman Ted Brocklebank.

Yet one thing inspired Brocklebank's Scottish television company to match Houston and Aberdeen in a new documentary called "A Tale of Two Cities." The similarity is oil.

Houston has laid claim to being America's oil capital since Spindletop well gushed on its doorstep in 1901. Aberdeen has become a Houston with a bagpipe accent since oil was found 100 miles

out into the North Sea barely 10 years ago.

"Aberdeen has had to learn to live with an economic miracle," Brocklebank said at a preview showing. "It's made a great difference to our way of life up there."

Six thousand Americans now live in Aberdeen. Almost all are from Houston, and almost all are in oil.

Aberdeen has a 300-pupil American school and a Petroleum Wives' Club whose 600 members are almost all American. Little League baseball and Fourth of July hot dogs are now part of the Scottish scene.

A few Aberdonians now live in Houston, too, and Houston's Heather and Thistle Society holds sun-washed Highland Games.

But Brocklebank and his team from Grampian Television, an Aberdeen company which is part of Britain's commercial TV network, found more contrasts than similarities between the two oil capitals.

Houston, the program says, is a boom town "where wages are high, taxes are low, where it's cheaper to live and there are more millionaires than in any other American city, (but where) black ghettos exist within a few hundred yards of some of the most exciting architecture in the world."

Aberdeen, on the other hand, is an ancient city "where there is full employment, where social service spending is high, where rents and house prices are reckoned to be the highest in Britain, where fortunes can be made and where there are

nearly 4,000 homeless."

"A Tale of Two Cities" plays fair in examining equally each city's appearance, its problems, its advantages and drawbacks.

"Houston is a sprawling space age metropolis that defies all the rules, which could be the biggest city in the world by the year 2000," Brocklebank says.

Two weeks of filming there produced scenes certain to boggle British minds with exotic things un-

known here — endless sun, superb modern buildings, parties around backyard swimming pools, urban unrest and unplanned sprawl. Houston is depicted as more exciting, more lush, more violent — 1977 box score of murders: Aberdeen 3, Houston 376.

"Aberdeen is a thousand years older than Houston and is well behind or, depending on your point of view, light years ahead in the quality of life," the program says.

Woman, like father, has strong beliefs; now she's in jail

United Press International
BURLINGTON, Kan. — Like her father, state Sen. John Crofoot, Pam Bowers is a person of strong convictions. She went to jail Friday along with 34 other protestors for one of her beliefs — opposition to nuclear power.

Mrs. Bowers and the others were arrested for stopping a train carrying a nuclear reactor shell to the Wolf Creek power plant, under construction near Burlington.

Mrs. Bowers, dressed in ski jacket, jeans and heavy boots, pulled a yellow wool cap over her ash-blond braids, then huddled along the railroad tracks with her comrades awaiting the train.

"He calls us a bunch of damn nuts," she said of her father, who several years ago voted for a state contract to provide water for Wolf Creek.

The 28-year-old mother said her arguments about the dangers of nuclear power were to no avail.

"We're no match for him because he's been in politics too long," she said. "He's so narrow-minded it wouldn't do any good to tell him."

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