

Warped

by Scott McCullar



NASA director says space is nearing young adulthood

By JOHN McCARTER
Reporter

Space is an adolescent nearing young adulthood, said Gerald D. Griffin, director of Johnson Space Center in Houston. Griffin's Friday speech, "Design in Space: Challenge of the Future" was part of the University Lecture Series at Texas A&M. Griffin said there are four broad periods of designs in space: the past, the present, the near future and the far-range future. Speaking on the past, Griffin detailed the past four space projects. "Project Mercury, which took place in the late '50s and early '60s, served only one purpose — that was

to see if man could survive in space," Griffin said. The next project, Gemini, in the mid '60s, had three main objectives, he said. "We wanted to see if there could be a rendezvous in space, if there was a possibility for an astronaut to go outside the spacecraft and if we could keep men in space for the duration of going to the moon," he said. "Our next project was Apollo, and its purpose was to send men to the moon." The latest endeavor was Skylab in the '70s, Griffin said. "What we wanted to see was if we could keep a lab in space for a short duration of time," he said. "The

longest it was up in space was 84 days." The shuttle, which will have its 21st launch Thursday, gives access to low earth orbit that has not been possible before, he said. "We now have all four shuttle orbiters in the field," he said. "The flight Thursday will be the first flight for the fourth orbiter, the Atlantis. Our next step beyond the shuttle is a permanently manned space station. "What we are looking for in the space station is high productivity, people who can stay in space for up to 90 days and possibly six months." The space station also could bring together international partners working together to get the program off the ground, he said. "The Europeans, the Canadians and the Japanese could all play an important role in the space station before everything is done," Griffin said. "Having this many countries working together on such a big project could be a really big challenge," he said. When speaking of the long range future, Griffin said that going past the moon is a very reachable goal. "If you can go to the moon and establish a launch and landing capability, you can then really explore the whole solar system at a very low energy requirement," he said.

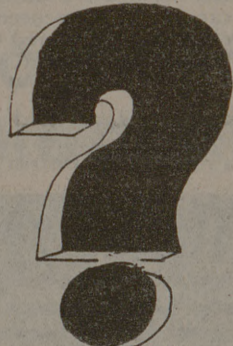
Two escape from Texas jail

Associated Press
KAUFMAN — Authorities continued searching Sunday for two inmates, including a man accused of murder, who escaped from the Kaufman County Jail. Frank Elgin Matyasi Jr., 20, charged with capital murder, and William Birkett, 17, who was being held on an auto theft charge, escaped Saturday from the jail's exercise yard by pulling a portion of fence apart and crawling through, authorities said. "Our jail is old and obsolete

and it's hard to keep them (prisoners) in there," said Kaufman County Sheriff Robert Harris. Matyasi was being held in connection with the strangulation of Patricia Ann Massey, a 48-year-old Terrell service station operator. Massey was working at the station in June when she and her car were reported missing, along with \$400 from the station's safe. The two escaped from the exercise yard at 3 p.m. by pulling apart a fence while a jail guard was momentarily out of view, officials said.

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