

Former astronaut talks about impact of space

By Kelli Jo Day
Reporter

Space technology affects everyday American life, former astronaut Donald K. "Deke" Slayton told more than 200 Texas A & M students Thursday night.

Slayton spoke with an expertise that goes a long way back. He was involved with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration when the well-publicized "Space Race" was launched.

Slayton said that while the United States won the race in July 1969, the pre-moon landing flight tests in 1968 triggered an ecological movement.

"We landed successfully on the moon, and on the first try," Slayton said, "and we did it by Kennedy's mandate — by the end of the decade."

But Slayton said, "I think it made us realize that what we have is all we're ever going to have, and we better take care of it."

Slayton said the first lunar landing put Americans way ahead of the Soviets, who weren't even close.

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— Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, a former astronaut

Slayton was one of the astronauts who flew in the joint program with the Soviet Union. The Apollo 18-Soyuz 19 program was a chance to cooperate with the Soviet Union instead of compete with it, he said.

"The main aspect of the flight was that two countries could work together on something constructive," he said.

There were three American astronauts in the Soviet Soyuz aircraft, and the toughest part was that they had to speak Russian and the Soviets had to speak English, Slayton said.

Other than ecological awareness

and diplomatic relations, Slayton also said space technology affected the more general areas of American life.

Space technology advances are mirrored in the production of more efficient and much smaller computers and calculators, Slayton said.

As a result of the Apollo flights' instant meals and efforts to make them more appealing, manufacturers have become aware of packaging techniques to maximize instant food appeal, he said.

Slayton said extensive construction material testing has produced advanced alloys for further aerospace construction. Elaborating on space construction, Slayton challenged the group to find new answers.

"There's got to be a whole lot more clever way for space construction," Slayton said. "The technology is there. Most of you will see it. Some of you, I hope, will do it."

The program was sponsored by the Society of Flight Test Engineers and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Clements taps bank leader to be assistant

AUSTIN (AP) — The vice chairman of the Bank of Dallas was named Thursday to be special assistant to Gov.-elect Bill Clements to handle gubernatorial appointments.

James R. Huffines, 35, was co-chairman of the Clements campaign in Dallas County and had held volunteer positions in the Republican's 1978 and 1982 campaigns.

A 1973 graduate of the University of Texas, Huffines will begin work Dec. 1, Clements said.

In Texas, the governor appoints the members of the more than 200 boards and commissions which oversee operation of the various state agencies.

In making the appointment, Clements said he believes Huffines' business background will be an asset.

"Coming from the business world, James Huffines shares my view that men and women of the highest quality will be appointed during the Clements administration," the governor-elect said.

"Ability, commitment and a can-do attitude will be the cornerstone of the appointment selection process," Clements added.

Huffines serves on the boards of the Dallas Symphony, the Texas Lyceum, the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the Dallas Council on World Affairs.

He also serves on the executive board of the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University.

Environmentalists fined for chaining themselves to trees

NEW WAVERLY (AP) — Six environmentalists were fined \$113 for chaining themselves to trees and machinery in an attempt to stop U.S. Forest Service officials from destroying pine trees in the National Forest.

The six Earth First! movement members were convicted of disorderly conduct by Walker County Justice of the Peace John Pasket.

The four-hour trial Wednesday featured a vigorous exchange of philosophy between forest rangers and environmentalists and an 11½-minute videotape showing the 52-ton tree crusher used to clear the land.

Rangers were attempting to clear 2,500 acres of pine beetle-infested trees in the Sam Houston National Forest near Huntsville. Rangers said the clearing project was essential to their battle against further infestation by the beetle.

However, their first encounter turned out to be with the protesters who chained themselves to the tree-crusher and the trees.

The protesters stalled the clearing operation for 24 hours before they were physically removed.

The environmentalists said they believed there are better ways to combat the pine beetles than to clear-cut thousands of acres.

Dr. Charles Taylor, 43, of Austin, said, "We felt we were appealing to a higher law to stop the useless, wanton destruction of trees. Chaining

yourself to a tree is not offensive, it's a symbolic media event."

James Jackson, 37, who was removed by a ranger who chopped down part of the tree he chained himself to, said he was trying to protect everyone's property.

"I saw people in our forests crushing trees and animals, and I went in there to stop them," Jackson said.

Billy Ball, the forest service security agent in charge of the group making the arrests, said he doubted the sincerity of the protesters.

"It was a big joke, just a big joke to y'all," Ball said during the hearing.

One of the six protesters was arrested at the conclusion of the hearing by federal agents who said he had failed to pay a fine stemming from an earlier protest in July at Yellowstone National Park.

Robert Lewis Cargas, 34, of Austin, was arrested on a warrant issued by U.S. Magistrate Stephen E. Cole. The warrant accused Cargas of failing to pay a \$200 fine.

Others convicted were Patricia Taylor, 45, of Austin, wife of Dr. Taylor; Christi Stevens, 24, and Robin Lee Spraggins, all of Austin.

The judge gave them 10 days to pay the fines on the class C misdemeanor convictions and said he would consider ordering them to do public service if they could not afford to pay the fines. All six said they would appeal the convictions.

Galveston marine theme park foreclosed

GALVESTON (AP) — The original owners of Sea-Arama Marineworld are trying to re-acquire the popular Galveston tourist attraction which was closed this week after a foreclosure notice was filed to collect loans.

"It's a simple matter of them defaulting on the note," original owner J.K. Dismukes of Austin said. "There's a sizable amount of money involved," he said. "We operated this park for 20 years before selling it to them. We're not going to walk away from it."

According to a foreclosure notice posted Tuesday, the property along the Galveston seawall will be sold to the highest bidder at a courthouse auction Dec. 2.

In August, the property was up

for sale for \$5 million, although its principal owners, Kenneth Shelton Jr. and William Cherry, said they hoped to build a \$100 million hotel-entertainment complex on adjacent land.

Spokesman Gini Brown, "The expansion plan was a dream. Dreams don't always come true."

Dismukes said: "We could never understand how they could be talking like that."

Shelton and Cherry, who bought the park last year, said in a statement released Wednesday that talks with lenders had failed.

The amount of money owed has not been disclosed, although Dismukes said it was in the millions.

The park has been in business 21 years, attracting more than 200,000

visitors annually to a dolphin show, shark exhibit, exotic birds and gardens.

Sea-Arama has about 30 employees, most of whom will be laid off, Brown said.

According to Cherry, "Only those employees essential to protecting the property and maintaining the animals, fish and birds will be on duty until the matter is settled."

Dismukes said the poor economy was a culprit in the park's money problems.

"This action is an effort by us to get the park back," he said. "Maybe, we could reopen it under the original management."

"Our concern at this point is to take care of the employees and the animals."

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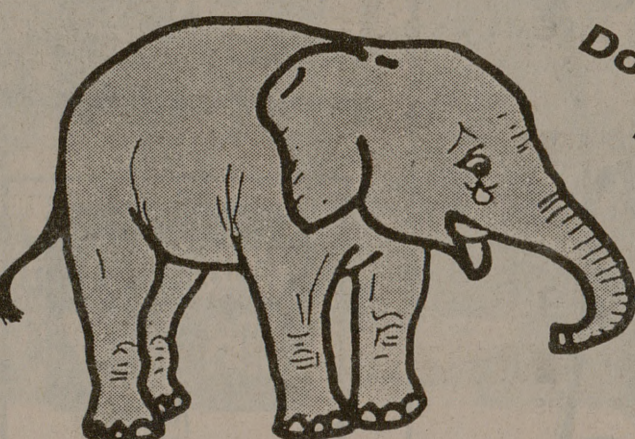
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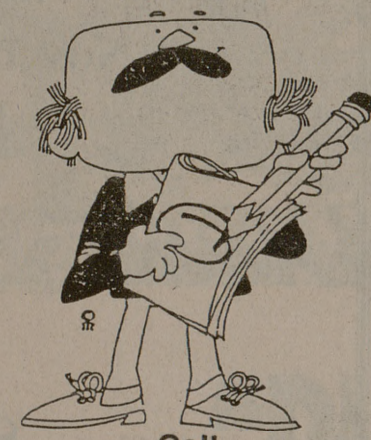
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