



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLNIEY

Flying High: Vaughn Middle School students listen to NASA astronaut William "Bill" McArthur describe his voyages on two space shuttle missions. McArthur called for the students to consider becoming the first astronauts to travel to the red planet.

Students hear call to look to the stars

BY SANDRA ARMHRUSTER
OAKLAND COUNTY EDITOR

The force was with students at Cranbrook's Vaughn Middle School, and it took on the persona of NASA astronaut William "Bill" McArthur at an assembly on Friday. McArthur spoke to the students and showed his "vacation" slides of two shuttle trips into space in 1993 and '95, including one to the Russian Mirs space station.

McArthur, 48, also made appearances at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Troy High and Troy Athens High, as well as several other high schools, all under sponsorship of Ford Motor Company.

Cranbrook parent David Jamroz, who is associated with Ford and who attended West Point with McArthur, helped to present the school with patches from the two missions, a plaque and a book signed by McArthur with the inscription: "To the students of Cranbrook, reach for the stars. The sky is not the limit." The slide show ranged from a picture of and description of how the shuttle toilet works to photos showing how a sunrise is seen every 90 minutes while the shuttle was orbiting. Students also got a chance to see Russian cosmonauts and to learn about Russian customs.

At least one scene from Star Wars is not as far fetched as it may seem to civilians. McArthur told the students that NASA is working on space "pods" that could be jettisoned — much as RD2 and CSPO did in the movie — not from the threat of

invaders but in instances such as when fire may threaten.

McArthur's primary message to the students, however, was that middle school comprised their formative years. "The skills you learn now will carry you into whatever career you choose," he said. "You should start focusing your ambitions in that direction now."

The astronaut blew up a pink balloon during a question and answer session as he demonstrated the concept of propulsion, and explained the effects of zero gravity on the body, all while students demonstrated their knowledge of space.

In a later interview, McArthur said that while the space pro-

gram was once a vehicle for competition with the Russians, it now serves as a "vehicle for cooperation and inspiration to young and old alike." Benefits are intangible, he admitted, but the space program offers a "challenge to excel. Space helps us look outward to solve our problems."

McArthur's presentation was well-received by the students, including Alex Teodosie, who will be 13 on March 18, and Jerry Trammell, 13.

Jerry, a seventh grade student from Bloomfield Hills, said the lecture was "pretty cool. I especially liked the part about going into the space station and looking in." Jerry said he enjoys

studying space through a club at school, and would like to learn more about the planets.

Alex, also a seventh grader and from Farmington Hills, said: "I thought the presentation was pretty neat. It was cool to talk to an astronaut. It will probably never happen again. . . I liked the part in the presentation aboard the space station — how they exchanged gifts, what they ate. . ."

Both students are part of the Mission to Mars Club at the school. Such a club no doubt pleased McArthur who, during his speech, predicted that one day their would be a manned mission to the red planet. "We're going to need you," he said.

School days to increase

School districts would find it easier to calculate whether to add days to the school year under a bill winding through the Michigan Legislature with bipartisan support.

The House Education gave it 17-0 approval Feb. 26 and sent it to the House floor. The bill would change the dates that inflation is calculated so that local school budget makers can do less guessing when they hold public hearings in spring.

"Currently, some of the factors aren't settled until July," said Ray Tellman of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, which supported the bill.

Here's how it works: The revised School Code (PA 289 of 1995) increased the school year from 180 days to 190 between 1996 and 2006. But the increase can't take effect unless the state foundation allowance (about \$5,500 per pupil) keeps pace with inflation (defined as the consumer price index).

"We won't know the CPI until the middle of July," said Tellman. So House Bill 4329 requires the use of the previous calendar year's CPI. Thus, the factor for fiscal 1997-8 school year would be the CPI for calendar 1996.

EARN BIG MONEY JUST BY TALKING ON THE PHONE!

Apply by phone for a home equity loan.

Save up to
\$300
on your first month's interest.

Tired of people asking you for money on the phone? Well, now it's your turn. Just call NBD, seven days a week, and apply for a home equity loan right over the phone. You can borrow up to 100% of your home's equity and pay no application fees or closing costs. And NBD will refund your first month's interest up to \$300. Not bad for just talking on the phone, eh? Visit any branch or call 1-800-CALL-NBD.

WE CAN DO THAT
NBD



Interest accrued during the first 30 days after you close the loan. If any, will be refunded up to a maximum of \$300. For term loans, you will be notified of the interest savings amount at the time of closing. Property insurance required. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Offer expires July 31, 1997.

Mercy High School
presents their
Springtime Arts & Crafts Show
March 8, 1997
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Admission \$1.00
at Mercy High School
Located at the corner of 11 Mile & Middlebelt
Farmington Hills, MI
(810) 476-8020
Enter at Gate 2 • No Strollers Please

You're invited to attend the Walsh College "Sneak Preview" where we can show you how to turn your career into a 4-Star Blockbuster!

WALSH COLLEGE IS A PREMIER INSTITUTION—A CLASSIC!

"EDUCATION THAT'S TIMELY AND RELEVANT. TWO THUMBS UP—WAY UP!" Survey: February 1995 - 82.5% 1997
James H. Edwards, President, National Communications Inc.

"DEFINITELY ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS OF TIME YOU CAN MAKE!" James H. Edwards, President, National Communications Inc.

Sneak Preview
COMING ATTRACTIONS - SUMMER SEMESTER '97

Bachelor Degree Programs	Master Degree Programs
• ACCOUNTING	• FINANCE
• COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS	• INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS
• ENGLISH	• MANAGEMENT
• HEALTH SERVICES	• PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY
• MANAGEMENT	• TEACHING
• POLITICAL SCIENCE	• PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EXCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY—MARCH 14, 1997 • 8-11 PM AT THREE LOCATIONS
TROY CAMPUS • NOVI CAMPUS

Goose egg. Zero. \$ Zippo. Zilch. Nada.

Free minutes. Free phone.

This month we're giving you zero. That's right, zip. You pay \$0 for your new Airtouch Cellular phone! We'll even throw in some airtime for the same price—\$0.

Stop by today and look at what we're offering with a two-year service agreement:

- Up to \$475 WORTH OF FREE AIRTIME by doubling your package minutes.
- Free Motorola TeleFac 250 phone

But hurry. This won't last long.

Airtouch Cellular
Authorized Agent

COMMUNICATIONS USA
CELLULAR • PAGERS • VOICE MAIL
630 West Fourteen Mile • Clawson
(1-1/2 Miles West of I-75 & Oakland Mall)
800-288-6191 or 810-280-6380

Some restrictions apply. Limited to certain use areas. Not valid with any other discounts or credits. Actual program results may vary. ©1997 CUSA. All rights reserved. CUSA is a registered trademark of Communications USA. Airtouch Cellular is a registered trademark of Airtouch Cellular. Motorola is a registered trademark of Motorola. TeleFac is a registered trademark of TeleFac. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Offer expires 7/31/97.