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Ranges from education to turnpikes

Shephard varies topics in library speech

by Jim Gresser

Jean Shephard, radio and T.V. personality and American humorist, spoke of education, turnpikes, New Jersey and concrete Mexicans to a capacity crowd in the Library Auditorium last night.

What Kind of Man reads Playboy

Shephard is the creator of "Ossie Schlogger," the "kind of man who reads Playboy." Schlogger's girlfriend, Esther, reads Cosmopolitan. Both of these people, he says, live in Griffith, Indiana and have subscribed for twelve years and "it still hasn't happened yet." They think that the real Playboy and Cosmopolitan readers are "tall and thin" and are "off making salads in Denmark."

"Night after night," Shephard said, "we compare our lives with movies, magazines, and television, created by people who dream but haven't made it yet either. Helen Gurley Brown has asthma."

"There are two kinds of people in the world," he said, "the audience and the star."

Shephard asked his audience, mainly students from his home broadcasting area of New York and New Jersey, for the difference between them and "Walter Cronkite." The difference was, he said, "because of the moment when you see yourself for what you really are. One type sees himself and hides in the bushes . . . The other, when the cold light of truth hits him, he puts on his shades." He pointed out further that "The total phony can get applauded."

On Education

"The most important thing about education is how not to get called on," he said. His method was to "avoid questions by keeping a line of kids directly between him and the teacher." The method of his grade school friend, Schwartz, was to "sink down in the seat until only his eyes showed."

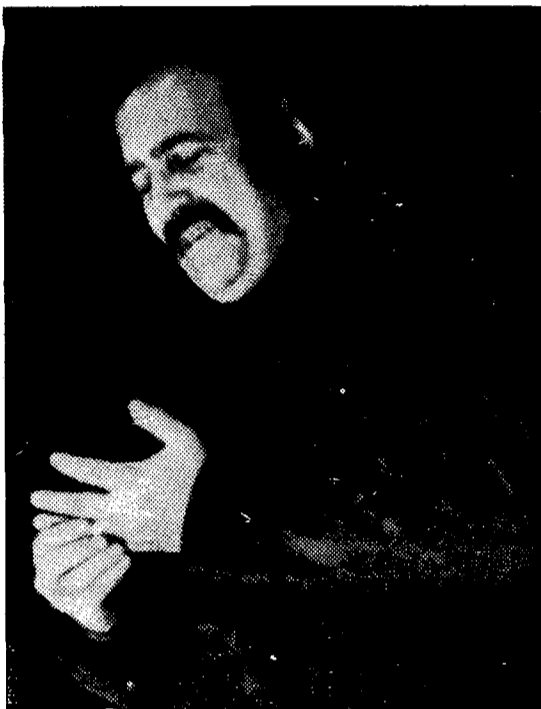
"Zynsmeister," another school friend, "was a Catholic. You should have heard him rattle those beads."

A Concrete Mexican

With enthusiastic applause throughout his speech, he recounted his experiences with a statue in the front lawn of "Charlie and Mabel" in Hackensack, New Jersey. He saw the "concrete Mexican" sitting in the yard and realized that it was uniquely American.

"It's only in our country that we put concrete people in our yards. . . In Mexico, you don't see a concrete Jerseyite with a concrete can of Platt's beer next to a concrete Ford Galaxie."

"For Charlie and Mabel deciding to buy the Mexican is an artistic decision." Noting that concrete Mexicans will probably tell more about contemporary America than current art, he said, "you don't buy a concrete Mexican casually" They ain't cheap."



Shephard: This may be in bad taste, but so is life.

These statues along with a set of "three-quarter life size Seven Dwarfs" can be bought at any Great Eastern Store in New Jersey. "Dopey squirts fertilizer from his ear."

The Turnpike

"Americans are what we are because of the turnpike," he said. "Turnpikes cover the whole land and give people a chance to feel speed and use their fancy cars with all the accessories."

He noted that often while driving one notices that there is "one necessity they don't put in. . . and you need it." A little voice tells you that you should have gone in Harrisburg."

He recalled "the moment of sheer poetry, the brief fleeting moment of true ecstasy" when you finally reach the Howard Johnson's rest room.

"This may be in bad taste, but so is life."

Speaking of that restaurant chains place in American tradition, he asked, "how can you explain Howard Johnson's to Bresznev or Mao-tse-tung. Means more to Americans than food. It means going. It means being free. I am not an atheist. I believe there is a Howard Johnson's."

At one point in the lecture, Shephard said "I don't make the news, I only report it."

Mitchell to speak on enigma of consciousness

by Diane Chermiside
Staff Reporter

Dr. Edgar D. Mitchell, Apollo 14 lunar module pilot and sixth person to walk on the moon will speak at Notre Dame Thursday, November 16th in the Center for Continuing Education at 8:00 p.m. The subject of his speech will be "Consciousness—The Ultimate Enigma".

The 42-year old astronaut and Navy captain formed a research corporation, Edgar D. Mitchell & Associates, Inc., last October to study the psychic potential of man and other forms of life. The organization intends to help people develop greater awareness of themselves, of their relationship to other people and to the processes of nature.

Regarding scientific research into psychic phenomena as an important key to developing that awareness, the corporation intends to make its findings as widely known as possible to the scientific community and the general public.

Mitchell's work experience has covered a wide range of activities beginning in 1945 with the family business of ranching, cattle dealership, farm machinery dealerships and peripheral enterprises. His aviation interests began in 1944 with the use of aircraft for pleasure and in family business. Aviation eventually became the main thread of Mitchell's professional experience during the next 28 years.

After completing flight training with the U.S. Navy in 1954, Mitchell spent four years as an operational pilot flying patrol aircraft and carried-based attack aircraft in the Pacific and Asian areas while serving collaterally as a maintenance officer and then as an operations officer. In 1958, he was commissioned as a research and development pilot specializing in attack aircraft.

From 1961 through 1964, during preparation of his doctoral dissertation at M.I.T., Mitchell taught graduate courses in inertial guidance and interplanetary navigation, including material from his original research. Upon completion of post-graduate education in 1964, Mitchell served as a technical director for the Navy in the United States Air Force Directed Orbiting Laboratory Program.

During his residency at the U.S.A.F. Aerospace Research Pilot School, Mitchell served both as student and instructor in training future pilots and astronauts.

As an astronaut, Mitchell was the group leader for his astronaut section. He served consecutively as support crew for Apollo 9 and backup crew for Apollo 10 before he flew on the Apollo 14 Mission with Alan Shepard and Stuart Roosa and served on the back-up crew for Apollo 16.

As an engineering test pilot, Mitchell flew all categories of conventional, turboprop, jet and rocket aircraft and the Apollo spacecraft.

Some of Mitchell's publications and lectures include: "An ESP Test From Apollo 14" (Journal of Parapsychology, June 1971), "Awareness and Science," (paper presented at the 125th meeting of the American Psychiatric Association to the Panel of APA Task Force on Transcultural Psychiatry), "A Multi-Disciplinary Team Approach to the Study of Consciousness," (paper presented to the Parapsychological Foundation Convention, August 26, 1972) and an untitled manuscript in preparation for publication in 1973, on Psychic Awareness of Human Society.

While on the Apollo 14 moon voyage, Mitchell tried to send mental signals to four persons including Olaf Jonsson, a Chicago man known in parapsychology circles as a "sensitive."

Mitchell used a desk of cards designed at Duke University to test for extra sensory perception. Several times during his mission the astronaut concentrated on the cards, looking at them in random order. Meanwhile, back on earth, Jonsson and three other "sensitives" also concentrated, trying to catch the image "projected" from Mitchell's mind. Afterwards, in a scientific paper about the flight, Mitchell wrote that the results were "statistically significant," although Jonsson and the others determined the correct order of only a few of the cards."

Mitchell is presenting his lecture in connection with The Arthur J. Schmitt Challenges in Science Meetings of the College of Science, sponsored by the College of Science and its Student Science Council. Other speakers presented by the council have been Arthur Clark, famous science fiction writer; William Teller, father of the H-Bomb; and Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner.

The lecture will be followed by a mixer in the dining area of the CCE. The general public is invited.

(Background information courtesy of Associated Press.)



The student government mailboxes are good for something, if not for mail, as proven by our sleepy friend here. The lion sleeps in winter?