

Writer envisions space colonies

Man must make use of space and its potential use to humans before it's too late, Princeton Physics Prof. Gerard O'Neill said Thursday night during his talk on space colonies in the EMU ballroom.

"We presently have the ability to reach out to a high frontier to make use of the vast resources available," he said. "It's inevitable unless we blow ourselves up first."

O'Neill pointed to present environmental concerns and declining natural resources as reasons for exploring space.

"We seem to be faced with organizing the scarcity of earth's resources or creating new wealth and opportunities," he said. "Our industrial growth here on earth is being checked by diminishing resources. Space is the logical answer."

The resources available in space include lunar and asteroid material, said O'Neill, and could be used to produce metals, silicon and oxygen. Manufacturing plants could be set up on the moon's surface and materials could then be shuttled to receiving stations.

"In contrast to the resources in this biosphere, those in space are without any environmental effects. No one could deplete them," O'Neill said.

A more futuristic use could be the establishment of "space colonies" said O'Neill.

These colonies would be self-supporting with agricultural and manufacturing productions providing for the needs of the colony. NASA slides showed idyllic villages surrounded by trees and meadows with an occasional river winding through the landscape as a possible picture of future space colonies.

"It may be fanciful," O'Neill admitted, "but it's certainly possible."



Photo by Suzanne Aigen

Solar energy from outer space and colonization of the high frontier are "fanciful but possible," concepts, Gerald O'Neill said Thursday night. The Princeton physics professor advocates the use of present technology to construct orbiting manufacturing facilities and communities.

IFC places ALERT, switchboard on hold

The IFC dismissed program goals for Switchboard and ALERT at its Thursday budget hearing.

Failure to garner IFC approval of program goals does not automatically exclude a program from gaining funding, which will be determined during the final budgeting sessions spring term.

The committee narrowly rejected all of Switchboard's proposed goals, including increase of community awareness, preparation of a social service booklet, maintenance of the program's office and a calendar of events.

ALERT's goals to serve disabled students and advocate for their needs were unanimously defeated. IFC Chair Janet Eggleston questioned the program's effectiveness at realizing those goals.

"We have seen a lack of energy in this program," she said.

Eggleston said ALERT might

not be the best way for handicapped people to achieve needed representation and advocacy.

The committee unanimously approved the goals of the Native American Student Union, Repertory Dancers, Survival Center and Office of Student Advocacy.

Survival Center's goals to continue environmental education, develop political awareness of environmental issues and provide information passed with minimal discussion.

The Native American Student Union's goals include assistance to Native American students, and maintenance of a longhouse.

TENNIS ANYONE

Recreation and intramurals is sponsoring a Men and Women's singles tennis tournament on Feb. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon. Sign ups due by noon Feb. 8 in Gerlinger 103.

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