



Especially for young readers



# The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM

## A Place in Space

# The Dream of a Space Station

by Dr. Lynn Bondurant

Someday millions of people might be living in space stations orbiting the earth. Before this can happen, several things must be done.



NASA photo

Solar satellite power station

1. Power satellites will have to be built that can change sunlight into electricity. At first this energy will be used in the construction of the space station. Later, lunar bases will be powered by these satellites.



NASA photo

It will be the 1980s before space shuttles are in use.

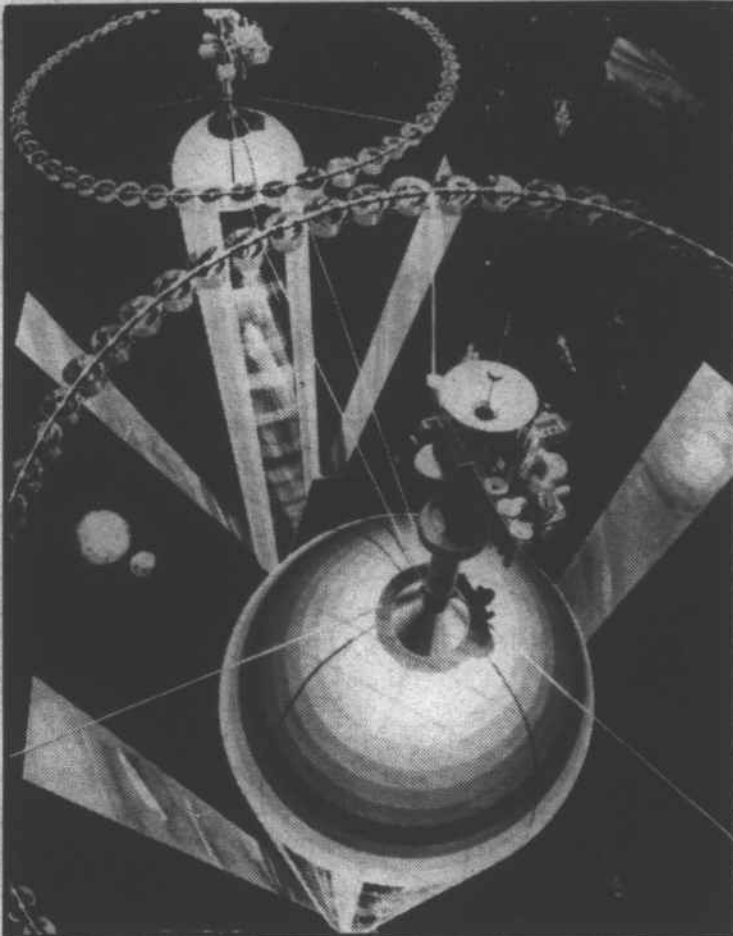
2. Improvements in space transportation must be made. The Space Shuttle is the first step.



NASA photo

Living quarters for a mining town on the moon.

3. Bases on the moon will have to be built. From here, lunar soil will be mined and launched into space to be taken to the space station. It is out of the lunar soil that many of the things necessary for the construction of the space station will be made.



NASA photo

An artist's drawing of a 21st-century space colony. The cylinders are where people will work and live. The dish-like cups in the two circles are where the food will be grown. Mirror wings will control sunlight. Power stations are at the top of each cylinder.

Below is a make-believe letter from a boy who might be living in a space station.

Space Station Neil Armstrong  
July 22, 2027

Hello Friends on Earth,

I am on board the space station "Neil Armstrong." I am living in here with my mom, dad, and sister. We had to leave Lucky, our German Shepherd, on Earth. We couldn't train him to live in space.

The space station rotates very slowly. This turning motion makes us feel like we have weight. If the space station did not rotate, we would feel weightless and we would float around in here.

All our food is grown here. The vegetables grow really well, especially the corn. We cook our food in a microwave oven.

Our apartment is very comfortable. But, since it is smaller than our home on Earth, we go to the recreation center to exercise and play games.

We will be coming back to Earth in six months for a short visit. The doctors will check our health. If we pass the physical, we can return to space.

Your far-out friend,  
Kenny

Dr. Lynn Bondurant is former education officer for the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He is a member of The Mini Page Advisory Board. He is now curriculum coordinator for the Coldwater Community Schools in Coldwater, Michigan.