

## Media Advisory, opportunity to interview panel for annual Marlar Lecture

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### NATIONAL SPACE EXPERTS TO DEBATE MAN'S ROLE IN SPACE

Four prominent figures in space exploration—including James Van Allen, the physicist who discovered the two intense belts of radiation that encircle the Earth—will debate the value of manned vs. unmanned space missions on Nov. 19 at the University of California, San Diego.

The controversial issue, reopened by the tragic explosion of the space shuttle Challenger last January, will be examined in a public forum, titled "The Future of Man in Space." The forum, presented by UCSD's Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences (CASS) and funded by the William F. Marlar Foundation, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108, Peterson Hall.

Joining Van Allen on the all-star panel will be Thomas Paine, who led NASA during the first seven Apollo expeditions and chaired the recent Presidential National Commission on Space; Noel Hinners, director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland; and James Arnold, director of UC's California Space Institute and the Harold Urey Professor of Chemistry at UCSD. The moderator will be the distinguished oceanographer William Nierenberg, director emeritus of UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

"The Center of Astrophysics and Space Sciences is proud to host this exciting panel discussion on a controversial subject in the forefront of our quest to explore the universe," said CASS director and noted astronomer Margaret Burbidge.

"When we speak of space exploration we mean both the expansion of frontiers of knowledge and the expansion of human venture. Which should lead or whether both can go forward together is a hotly debated topic today, and our distinguished panel has leading advocates for both sides."

Van Allen has long been a critic of manned shuttle flights, maintaining that they are a waste of "our immense technical and human resources." In contrast, his fellow panelist Arnold is an outspoken exponent of space settlements, autonomous communities "away from the planet Earth" where people can live and work.

CASS is presenting the forum in conjunction with its annual Marlar Lecture, which will feature a talk by Van Allen, entitled "Forty Years of Space Physics." The lecture will be held at 4 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Mandeville Center Recital Hall at UCSD. Both events are free to the public.

In May 1958, Van Allen interpreted the response of a Geiger counter he had installed in the first U.S. satellite, Explorer I, as evidence of dense belts of charged particles surrounding the Earth. The discovery of the Van Allen belts brought about new understanding of cosmic radiation and its effects upon the Earth.

Van Allen, who with colleagues at the University of Iowa built the instrumentation for several early Explorer satellites, later participated in the development of numerous space probes built to study planetary and solar

physics. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1959 and became president of the American Geophysical Union in 1982.

In his lecture, Van Allen plans to "trace the great advances that have been achieved in the knowledge of energetic particles, plasmas, and electric and magnetic fields in space and their role in planetary magnetospheres and in the interplanetary medium" during the 40 years since the first spacecrafts began carrying scientific equipment outside the Earth's atmosphere.

The Marlar Foundation was named for William Marlar, a Denver philanthropist with a deep interest in U.S. space science. In addition to the annual lecture at UCSD, the foundation supports a UCSD graduate fellowship in space science and acquisitions for the CASS Library of Space Science and Astronomy.

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