Krafft Ehricke's Vision

The late Krafft Ehricke (1917-84), space scientist and passionate advocate for space exploration, summarized his philosophy of astronautics in three laws (1957):

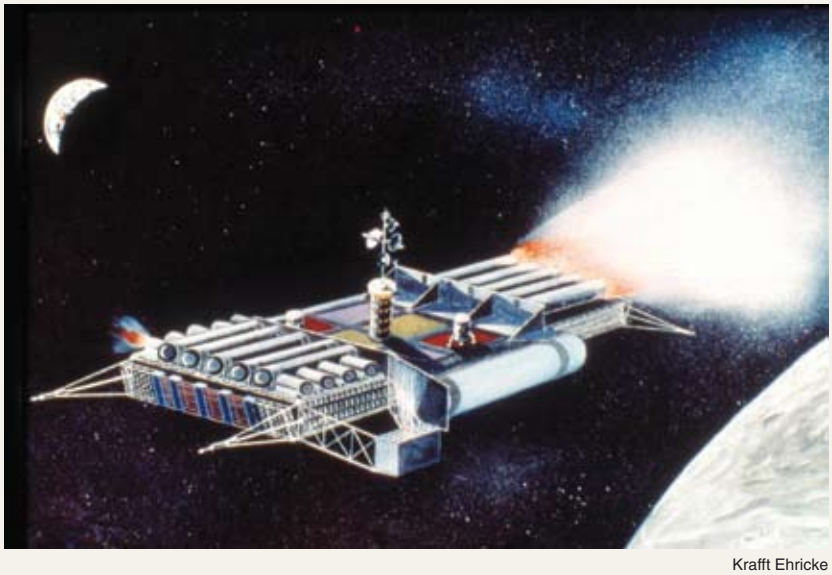
First Law. Nobody and nothing under the natural laws of this universe impose any limitations on man except man himself. Second Law. Not only the Earth, but the entire Solar System, and as much of the universe as he can reach under the laws of nature, are man's rightful field of activity. Third Law. By expanding through the universe, man fulfills his destiny as an element of life, endowed with the power of reason and the wisdom of the moral law within himself.

The first law is astronautics' challenge to man to write his declaration of independence from *a priori* thinking, from uncritically accepted conditions, in other words, from a past and principally different pre-technological world clinging to him. This can be done. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of this country prove it.

—Cited in Marsha Freeman, *How We Got to the Moon: The Story of the German Space Pioneers* (Washington, D.C., 21st Century Science Associates, 1993), p. 297.

NASA

Krafft Ehricke with a model of an orbital hospital.



Krafft Ehricke

Painting of a nuclear freighter for industrialization of the Moon, by Krafft Ehricke.

Cosmic Radiation

Even before a likely manned landing on Mars, which may require preparations during several generations to come,[18] we must come to grips with the reality, that there is "no empty space" out there. Contrary to what might be wrongly considered to be some "empty space" between the orbits of Earth and Mars, the illusion of the existence of "empty space," is to be recognized as what might be considered as the result of a "planning failure" in the design of humanity's sense-organs.

What is called "space" is jammed-full of a mass of varieties of cosmic radiation. Thus, one of the tasks to be tackled beginning the very near future, is a certain degree of reorganization of the so-called "periodic table" of physical chemistry, to reflect the implications of a space jammed full of cosmic radiation assorted into sundry sorts of variously "hard" and "soft" radiation flowing from and to assorted potential targets. My relevant associates and their collaborators

18. As a result of the destruction and the retrogression of the economies and cultures of the trans-Atlantic regions since 1968, the ability to fulfill manned missions within nearby space has been set back by several generations since the catastrophic degree of cultural setbacks since the early 1980s. Two generations will be needed to bring the trans-Atlantic economies, and potential labor-forces back to the quality of competence which was still recoverable during the early part of the 1980s.