

Students learn about space travel from Apollo crewman

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seemed to be the ultimate, and I wanted to participate," he said.

After lots of hefty training, including a stint at the University of Michigan to study guided missiles, he was picked for a backup crew member on two space shots. He stayed home on those missions, but finally got his chance on Apollo 15.

"My greatest challenge was to adjust to the space suits," said Irwin of the training. "We called them moon coons. I wonder how many of you can imagine what it's like to be bound up in a pressurized suit for hours and hours."

Irwin then gave a blow-by-blow account of the blast off ("They closed the door, and it went clang like a dungeon

door. We realized these guys were serious"), the trip to the moon ("The Earth was the most beautiful thing we saw in space") and the landing ("We disturbed the fine dust of the lunar surface").

Apollo 15 was the fourth lunar landing mission and the first to use the "rover" vehicle, which carried Irwin and the other astronauts across the surface in search of rocks like the famous Genesis.

"It (the Rover) was a pretty special car — it deployed itself," Irwin said. "But then, when you pay \$8 million for a car, you expect something pretty special. We left it up there in the big used car lot. Look for it if you're ever up there."

Irwin's presentation included a soundless film of the Apollo 15 mission showing the actual moon landing. The white rock, named Genesis by someone in the NASA press room back on Earth, came from "deep within the moon," according to Irwin, who displayed a plastic model at North Farmington.

"It represents the mountains of the moon," Irwin said. "What once was deep within the moon has come to be deposited on the surface."

IN ANSWER to a question from the

audience, Irwin said, "It won't be long before private enterprise takes over the leadership in space, and we'll have commercial space flights."

Irwin, who lives in Colorado Springs where High Flight is headquartered, tried to close his talk on a positive note.

"My wish for you is that you find what you're looking for," he said, "although I'm sure it's not a white rock. I want to remind you that, even though there are setbacks, you can still move ahead. I had setbacks and I overcame them."

Although he didn't mention it in the

North Farmington talk, Irwin admits to having had a religious experience while on the Apollo 15 mission.

"I came back with a greater awareness of how God moves in the world," he said afterward. "I felt blessed and I think I should share that blessing with others."



His talk over, Irwin headed for an empty office, shed his flight suit ("I guess it adds to my image and gives me quick identification") for a street clothes, and headed for Metro Airport. He was to have caught a 12:15 p.m. flight for Washington, D.C., where he was scheduled to address another school.

Arab-Israeli peace discussed at Temple

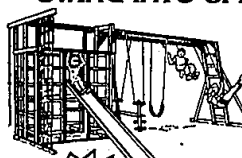
The prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian peace will be discussed by two well-known Israeli and Palestinian activists, Mordechai Baron and Mounir Fashbeh, at the Birmingham Temple, 30611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills at 8:30 p.m. Monday, April 2. Admission is \$2.50.

Though both speakers have been active internationally with the Jewish and Arab leaderships, it is the first time that they are brought together in a joint speaking engagement.

Baron is a faculty member in the department of international affairs at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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