

At "An Evening With Tom Wolfe," the 1997 (Oct. 9) edition of the annual Vive le Livre fundraiser dinner for the Huntsville Public Library, the author took note of the fact that he and the hundreds in attendance were in the Von Braun (Civic) Center. He said he had gained a great appreciation for von Braun during his research for "The Right Stuff."

"Wernher von Braun was NASA's only philosopher," Wolfe said. He said von Braun was a "visionary" who saw the cosmic big-picture impetus for man's exploring space. He cited the title Italian writer Oriana Fallachi (sp.?) gave her book on the space program, "When the Sun Dies," taken from a quote by von Braun in an interview with her, in which he had said all this ultimately had to do ~~wi~~ with the human species' needing a new home if it is to survive "when the sun dies" and Earth ~~perishes~~ inevitably ~~is~~ perishes.

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--Bob Ward