

CBU Debate 2009-2010

L/D

Space Tourism 1AC

(Keep in mind that this case is designed as an educational tool for discussion of how to attack an affirmative case. Run this case at a real tournament at your own peril.)

## **Observation 1- Status Quo**

### **A. Space Tourism is too expensive to work**

**Hindustan Times (Newswire), March 4, 2009** ("Space tourism", DATELINE: Guwahati, from LexisNexis)

Indeed, captains of the emerging space tourism industry drive home the point that the growth in this sector could contribute to employment, economic growth, environmental protection, education, human development and world peace. Moreover, outer space is being projected as the next frontier for setting up human colonies! As such, ambitious plans for setting up hotels in outer space have been mooted by many leisure and entertainment outfits around the world. However, critics are of the firm opinion that space tourism is nothing but a play ground for "predatory corporate and wealthy individuals with enough cash to dispose off. Significantly, so far six tourists have paid millions of dollars to take off on Russian Soyuz man-rated space vehicle from the Baikonur cosmodrome for the International Space Station (ISS) through a space tourism company "Space Adventurers". Obviously, these space tourists who experienced gravity-free stay in outer space were wealthy American citizens. Richard Garriot, son of Owen Garriot, who flew to the European-built Space Lab orbital complex in 1983, also flew to ISS in October last, which cost nearly \$ US 30 million. As of now, Space Adventurers happens to be the only outfit offering actual private space flight and space tourism opportunities. It is also learnt that the Adventurers has a plan to buy a Soyuz flight all its own in 2011. It would keep its options open for buying more depending upon the booking for space tourism slots. Interestingly, Sergey Brin, a co-founder of Google has made a \$5US-million investment in the company which will serve as a deposit for his future flight to space. "I am a big believer in the exploration and commercial development of the space frontier. And am looking forward to going to space" Brin quipped. However, with the multi-national space complex, International Space Station (ISS), in preparation of receiving an increasing number of crew members, it will no more be available for space tourism opportunities after mid-2009. As a result, Space Adventurers' tourist Charles Simonyi will send its so-called last tourist to ISS in the second quarter of 2009. It, would, of course keenly watch the departure of the crew members so as to start planning its next group of "space tourists."

## **B. More vehicles are needed**

**Hindustan Times (Newswire), March 4, 2009** (“Space tourism”, DATELINE: Guwahati, from LexisNexis)

Those who are keeping a close watch on this mind-boggling tourism industry are of opinion that the space tourism enterprises would need more vehicles to bring down the existing exorbitant costs. Moreover, a public-private partnership model is being mooted to make space travel and exploration more inclusive and cheaper. Susmita. Mohanty of Earth2 Orbit (E20), which is in the nascent stage of working on a space tourism profile with the possibility of five launched every day, gives the hope that the cost of travelling could come down to a mere \$10US,000 per head for a trip to outer space and back. E-20 has on its agenda to be able to offer frequent orbital flights and proposes to put into place innovative technologies to bring down the cost of space travel.

## **Observation 2 – Harms**

### **A. Earth is doomed**

Peter Elson, Daily Post (Liverpool), May 19, 2008 (“We’re on the eve of destruction – but it’s not too late”, from LexisNexis)

The harsh reality is that the world's population of wild animals has fallen by almost a third since the 1970s. And it's all our fault.

The numbers of wild animals overall are spiralling downwards and some species are rapidly disappearing altogether as we live beyond our means, gobbling up far too much of the Earth's resources, in spite of all the buzzing chatter about "sustainability" and lowering carbon footprints.

The WWF Living Planet Index, which monitors the lives of hundreds of species, ranging from mammals like the Amur tiger, chimps, polar bears through sea creatures like the green turtle and insects, found that populations had decreased by an average of 27%, between 1970 and 2005. Marine species such as swordfish and scalloped hammerhead were particularly hard hit, falling by 28% alone between 1995 and 2005. Seabirds have suffered a rapid decline of about 30% since the mid-1990s.

Most of the problem is due to development, over-fishing, intensive farming, habitat loss, wildlife trade, pollution and man-made climate change. Overall, we're consuming some 25% more natural resources than the Earth can replace. And, as with the countryside problems highlighted last week, once lost, there's little chance of going back.

### **Observation 3 – Plan**

**Plank 1 – The United States Federal Government will transfer all money spent on interstate transportation, aviation, research and development, and subsidies (amounting to trillions per year) to building space tourism crafts for use in establishing tourism with, and eventually a colony on, the moon.**

**Plank 2 – All federal operated aviation will be reformed to facilitate space tourism.**

**Plank 3 – Funding and enforcement will be through normal means.**

### **Observation 4 – Solvency**

**A. Space tourism will grow just as eco-tourism, honeymoon tourism, etc. and pay for itself**

**Hindustan Times (Newswire), March 4, 2009** (“Space tourism”, DATELINE: Guwahati, from LexisNexis)

The multi-billion dollar global tourism industry has been on the roll. It is witnessing an exponential multi-dimensional expansion in its scope with the emergence of innovations such as "eco tourism", "adventure tourism", "heritage tourism", "village tourism" . and "honeymoon tourism". The most recent addition to this ever-growing list of specialized tourism categories, notwithstanding the economic slowdown is space tourism. It is aimed at providing a feel of what it is to be in a near-earth environment.

Indeed, captains of the emerging space tourism industry drive home the point that the growth in this sector could contribute to employment, economic growth, environmental protection, education, human development and world peace. Moreover, outer space is being projected as the next frontier for setting up human colonies! As such, ambitious plans for setting up hotels in outer space have been mooted by many leisure and entertainment outfits around the world. However, critics are of the firm opinion that space tourism is nothing but a play ground for "predatory corporate and wealthy individuals with enough cash to dispose off".

## Independent Advantage 1 – Plan Solves for Domsday Asteroid

### A. We don't have the tech now to know the orbits of asteroids

Peter Calamai, Toronto Star, June 28, 2008 (“Warning: Image may be way closer; Forget killer asteroids sweeping in from deep space to wipe out life on Earth. Meteors that roam between the Earth and the sun pose bigger threats. Fortunately for mankind , Canada has a plan ...”, IDEAS section, pg. ID07, from LexisNexis)

The danger of an asteroid impact, once dismissed as the stuff of thriller movies, is now being taken more seriously by governments because of mounting evidence that the biggest danger lies much closer to Earth than previously believed.

Hildebrand and others say there's a risk of one in a million years of our globe being hit by a so-called Domsday asteroid, one big enough to devastate an area the size of Ontario or disrupt agriculture on a global scale.

And it doesn't have to come screaming in from way out between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, where at least a million asteroids circle in a belt.

That's because experts estimate that more than 1,000 asteroids bigger than a kilometre wide already trace out looping paths that pass inside the Earth's orbit around the sun. Drop the size to 30 metres and the potentially troublesome asteroid population climbs to a possible 30,000.

A concerted effort over the past decade by scientists using ground-based telescopes has captured glimpses of 700 of the kilometre-plus asteroids but not garnered enough information to calculate an accurate orbit in many cases.

## **B. The world will end on April 13, 2036**

Nigel Nelson, The People, July 26, 2009 ("Banking on Asteroids", Features, Pg. 20, from LexisNexis)

HERE'S an unlucky date for your diary: April 13 2029, the day we stare Armageddon in the face.

A lump of space rock twice the size of the Canary Wharf tower will hurtle out of the sky at 10,000 mph and miss the planet by a whisker.

It will come so close you will see it blazing brighter than any star for a few minutes before it streaks away and is gone.

But the asteroid will be back seven years to the day in 2036. And if Earth's gravity has tweaked its trajectory first time round it will whack us. If it lands on, say, Paris it will hit with a force equal to 100,000 bombs at Hiroshima and it's au revoir to Europe.

That was the cheery news Lib Dem stargazer Lembit Opik left with MPs as they departed last week for the summer.

He said in a Commons motion: "It is a matter of scientific fact that Earth will be hit by a large near-Earth object capable of destroying a significant proportion of life. Such an impact would be more damaging to the British economy than the failure of a bank."

Well, yes. Quite.

But with no banks like Northern Rock left to bail out there would be no cost to the public purse. Or indeed a purse.

Or a public.

Lembit says the taxpayer spent more on saving the Royal Bank of Scotland than it would cost to track and divert cosmic junk "capable of incinerating the UK". This is not as spaced out as it sounds.

Astronomers tell me that £72million would pay for six asteroid tracking stations to be set up around the globe.

Once you know which big boulder is heading our way it is relatively easy to launch rockets to thump it before it thumps us, knock it off course, and cancel doomsday.

A case of one small tap for man - no giant weep for mankind.

Elsewhere in the corridors of power...