Cordover to talk to local students about laser work

Hundreds of high school students will get an insider's view of the laser, its operating principles and its uses, present and future, at a lecture to be given Friday and Saturday in the Campus Lecture Hall.

The laser is a device that emits a slender beam of highly coherent light capable of peeling holes in diamonds, performing microscopic surgery on a human retina, or focusing a two-mile circle of light on the moon's surface 250,000 miles away.

The lecture is one of a series on Topics in Technology sponsored by the Undergraduate Association to stimulate interest of high school students in new scientific developments and careers in science or engineering.

The speaker, Ronald H. Cordover of the Department of Physics and Electrical Engineering, will discuss the fundamental idea and techniques that make laser operation possible, its present uses in industry, space, medicine, and defense, and its possible uses in the future, based on current research. Several laser demonstrations with a continuous gas laser will follow the lecture.

Mr. Cordover is engaged in laser research in the Optical Maser Group of the Physics Department.

Previous Topics in Technology lectures have dealt with Computer-Aided Design and Biomedical Engineering.

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