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Filling the Plane With Rectangles

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MORRIS (3/8/76) -- People with floors to tile, boxes to pack or other projects where geometry is involved may wish to attend a lecture Wednesday (3/10) at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

The 8 p.m. lecture, entitled "Filling the Plane With Rectangles," will be presented by J. Marshall Osborn, professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in Room 259 of the Science Building.

It will deal with ways in which rectangles or hexagons can be arranged to cover the plane in the manner of a tiled floor. Such considerations are important in packing problems, and in various other areas, including art and graphics.

The lecture will be geometric in nature and require little mathematical background.

Osborn, who holds degrees from Princeton and the University of Chicago, will be on the Morris campus Wednesday and Thursday. He also will present a more advanced algebraic lecture Thursday at 1 p.m. in Room 259 on "What are p-adic Numbers?"

Osborn has held research appointments at Yale and the University of Iowa, and has taught at the University of Connecticut. In 1957 he joined the Wisconsin faculty. He has served as Vice-Chairman and as Chairman of the Wisconsin Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

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