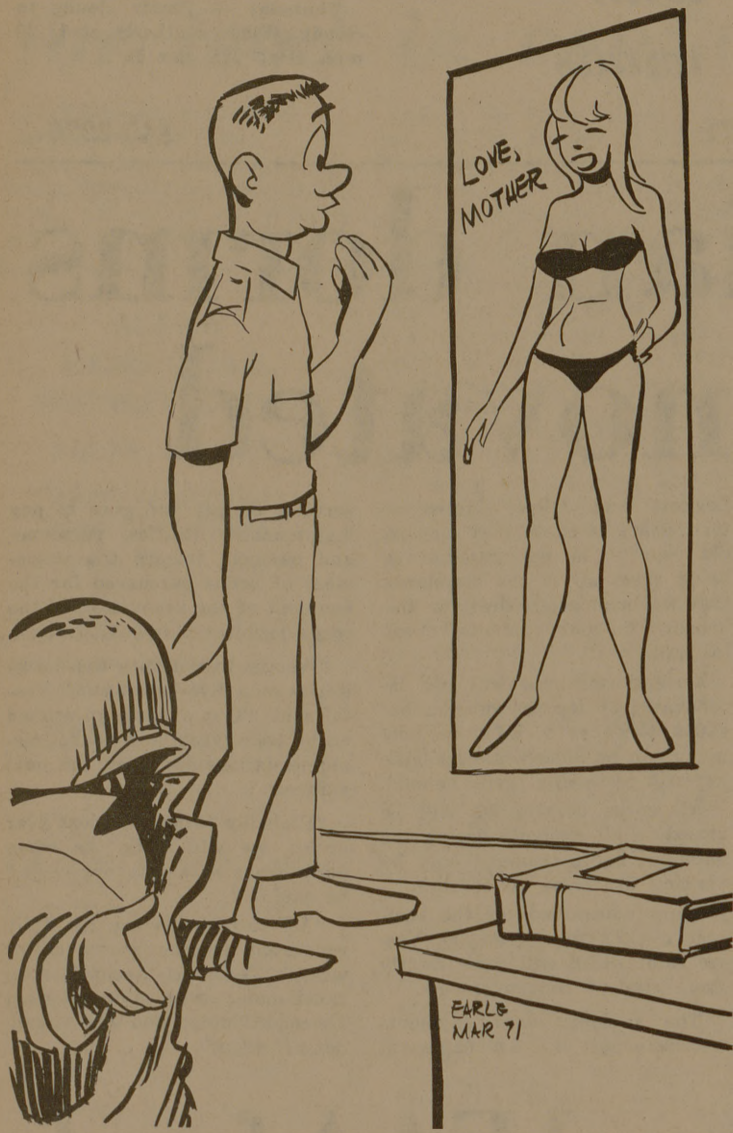


CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"She's not really, but this way nobody fusses about pinups during room inspection!"

tonight on the tube

Numbers in () denote channels on the cable.	15 (12) Sesame Street (PBS)
2:30 3 (5) Edge of Night	6:00 3 (5) Evening News
15 (12) Sesame Street (PBS) (Repeat of Tuesday)	6:30 3 (5) Courtship of Eddie's Father
3:00 3 (5) Gomer Pyle	15 (12) Campus and Community Today
3:30 3 (5) Town Talk	7:00 3 (5) Room 222
15 (12) University Instructional	15 (12) NET Playhouse
4:00 3 (5) That Girl	7:30 3 (5) To Rome with Love
4:30 3 (5) Bewitched	8:00 3 (5) Johnny Cash
15 (12) What's New (NET)	8:30 15 (12) Soul (PBS)
5:00 3 (5) General Hospital	9:00 3 (5) Hawaii Five-O
15 (12) Misterogers' Neighborhood (NET)	15 (12) They Went Thataway (PBS)
5:30 3 (5) CBS News	10:00 3 (5) Final News
	10:30 3 (5) The FBI
	11:30 3 (5) The Law and Mr. Jones

Bingo—Weekdays at 5, BCS-TV/9. Nothing to buy. You need not be present to win.

The Battalion

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Scientists say chance good for primitive life on Mars

The chances of a primitive form of life on Mars appear brighter with a report just released by a trio of space scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

"Our findings make Mars more interesting for biologists," says Dr. Norman H. Horowitz, co-investigator on the year-long tests. "They show that organic material is probably being produced by sunlight on the surface of Mars."

Horowitz, California Institute of Technology biologist, and his collaborators, Drs. Jerry S. Hubbard and James P. Hardy, named formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and glycolic acid as compounds likely to be formed on the Martian surface. These three substances were produced by the JPL researchers in ultraviolet radiation tests under simulated Martian conditions.

These same organic compounds also are believed to have been precursors to biological molecules on the primitive Earth.

The three researchers published their findings in the March issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The experiments have been a continuing project of the JPL Bioscience Section, which Horowitz formerly headed. He is a professor and executive officer of the Caltech biology division and continues to take an active interest in exobiology, life in space.

"This is the most favorable indication for a possible Martian biological evolution that we have had in the last five years," Horowitz said. "There are still many uncertainties, however, which won't be resolved until we land on the planet."

Hopes for Martian life had been reduced by the bleak pictures of the planet taken by Mariners 4, 6 and 7. The next spacecraft to Mars will be the twin Mariner orbiters, which NASA will launch in May.

The first proposed lander on Mars is NASA's 1975 Viking Project. NASA sponsored the JPL Mars-simulation research.

The laboratory tests were made with soil or pulverized glass in a gas mixture of 97 percent carbon dioxide, with added carbon monoxide and water vapor to simulate the Martian atmosphere indicated by Mariner 6 and 7 scientific findings. The ultraviolet radiation approximated the amount striking the surface of Mars, as measured by the two spacecraft in 1969.

The JPL researchers reported that ultraviolet rays of longer than 2,000 angstroms in wavelength produced organic compounds in the surface or just beneath the surface of the soil, or crushed glass. Previously it was believed that ultraviolet rays this

wavelength would be incapable of producing such compounds.

"It would appear that radiation over a broad range below 3,000 angstroms can cause organic compound formation," the authors said in their paper. The ultraviolet reaching the surface of Mars is above 1,950 angstroms. All shorter wavelengths are believed absorbed by the heavy carbon dioxide content of the Martian atmosphere. (An angstrom is one-tenth of a millionth of one millimeter).

"Our findings suggest that ultraviolet presently reaching the Martian surface may be producing organic matter," their report

continues. "The rates of production would be limited by the low partial pressures of carbon monoxide and water in the Martian atmosphere, but the amount of product formed could be considerable over geological time."

The experimenters said formaldehyde and acetaldehyde are "important starting materials for the synthesis of a variety of organic compounds, including sugars."

The fine soil and powdered volcanic glass samples were sterilized by baking at high temperatures before being used in the tests. The ultraviolet sources were a high-pressure xenon lamp and a low-pressure mercury lamp.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Junior Class Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 113 of Nagle Hall.

Aggie Wives Bridge Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 2B of the MSC.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 304 of the Physics Building.

THURSDAY

Texas A&M Model Airplane Club will meet at 8:15 p.m. in room 202 of the Physics Building to discuss the spring contest.

Wildlife Science Wives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the herpetology lab of the Biological

Sciences Building for a short course on ecology by Dr. Jack M. Inglis of the Wildlife Science Department.

Texas A&M Motorcycle Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 2C of the MSC. Nonmembers are welcome.

SATURDAY

Engineering Technology Wives Club will have a garage sale in Hensel Park from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Clothes, books and other articles will be sold.

Chemistry Wives Club will have a wine-tasting party at 8:30 p.m. in the Casa del Sol apartments party room.

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INTERVIEWS - COLLEGE MEN

by Director Tex Robertson

PLACEMENT OFFICE - MARCH 24

10:00 A. M. 'TIL 4:00 P. M.

PEANUTS

