

Mars chemistry differs

The biological experiments conducted by the Viking I lander on Mars indicate that some form of life does exist on the planet, Dr. R. A. Schorn said in Rudder Tower last night.

Schorn, an astronomy professor at Texas A&M, said that Martian life may not be based upon the same chemical compounds as life on Earth, but life is the only explanation for the unusual results from the Viking experiments.

He added, "If it isn't life, it's something awful screwball."

Schorn described the Viking mission to a small but enthusiastic audience in a program sponsored by Cepheid Variable Science Fiction/Fantasy Committee. He included a short slide show in his presentation showing pictures of Martian terrain taken by Viking and also the previous Mariner mission.

Schorn pointed out the VIKING LANDING SPOTS ON A MAP OF

Mars, also showing the place where a Russian probe landed in 1971. He said that these areas were known to be deserts before the mission was planned and that more potentially rewarding sites were avoided because of rougher terrain.

"They're picking the most uninteresting areas on the map," he said.

Schorn described each of the biology experiments conducted by Viking I and explained what the results mean and that most of the data indicate life. He said that the recent Viking II experiments might clarify matters.

Beginning with the information that was obtained through telescopes on Earth, Schorn traced the history of efforts to gain knowledge of Mars.

"The most important thing Mariner did was to get money for Viking," he said.

—John W. Tynes

Viking II jammed

PASADENA, Calif. — While Viking II's vital chemistry probes stood idle yesterday, three miniature biology laboratories aboard the lander were examining a handful of Martian dirt for traces of life.

The biology experiments were the only ones aboard Viking II to receive their quotas of the red soil of Utopia on Sunday before the sampler arm jammed. Special teams of repairmen worked to fix the ailing arm, which was ordered to extend itself nearly a

foot early Tuesday, enabling Viking II's twin cameras to snap a picture of it.

Viking team members think the sample-collector head may have a pebble in its digging mechanism, preventing it from completing its rounds.

If the photographs show a Martian pebble is the source of the problem, the arm will be ordered to scratch the surface once more in the hope of shaking the tiny rock free.

2 Soviet cosmonauts to link with Salyut 5

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union sent a two-man crew into space today, Tass announced.

The official news agency said the Soyuz 22 spacecraft was commanded by the veteran cosmonaut Col. Valery Bykovsky, 42, who rode Vostok 5 into space in 1963.

His flight engineer is Vladimir Ak-senov, 41, who Tass said had been active in the development of new

spacecraft systems and testing them in flight since 1963.

It was expected that they would link up with Salyut 5, the space laboratory in orbit since June 22. Cosmonauts Boris Volynov and Vitali Zholobov were sent up in Soyuz 21 on July 7 and spent 48 days on the space lab performing scientific experiments. They returned to earth on Aug. 24.

A&M video-tape committee to advertise, entertain

The new Video-tape committee at Texas A&M will tape programs and advertisements from the campus and present them on television sets at the Memorial Student Center.

Ray Daniels, committee chairman, said that the group will tape original student shows, special events and advertisements for campus activities and organizations.

Current plans are for the committee to set up three color television sets in the lounges at the MSC.

The three sets will serve as monitors for the all color system.

The committee will tape original student productions, Daniels said. These shows are to include news and

talk shows as well as soap operas, all of which are to be written and performed by students.

The committee also plans to tape special campus activities such as lectures, concerts, and contests.

Advertisements will also be taped and presented through the system. The committee will tape approved ads for campus organizations, programming committees, or upcoming events.

Any group wanting an advertisement or program taped will have to fill out an application to be considered by a Board of Directors for the committee.

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