



Happy birthday to you... Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

Texas A&M would not be the same without the tradition of "quadding" — the unceremonious dip into the fountain which rewards the Aggie who is foolish enough to admit it's his birthday.

Antarctica meteorites help bolster theory of evolution

WASHINGTON — A noted biochemist Monday reported the strongest evidence yet that seeds of life exist throughout the solar system and life on earth apparently dates back 3.8 billion years.

Two reports by Dr. Cyril Ponnamperuma strengthen the idea chemical evolution led to the development of life on earth, and narrow the gap from 1.2 billion to 800 million years for the time it took for living things to develop from earth's primordial seas.

Ponnamperuma, director of the University of Maryland's Laboratory of Chemical Evolution, said he and co-workers have found extra-terrestrial amino acids in two meteorites preserved in pristine condition by the deep freeze conditions of Antarctica.

Amino acids are chemical compounds that are basic ingredients of proteins, which are essential parts of living things. Ponnamperuma told the American Chemical Society six of 11 amino acids in one meteorite and six of 15 in the other clearly were formed by non-biological processes.

The first identification of amino acids of non-earthly origins was made by Ponnamperuma in 1970 from a carbonaceous meteorite that fell near Murchison, Victoria, Australia, in 1959. Ponnamperuma said

the organic analysis of the insides and outsides of the meteorites were identical.

The meteorites, both believed to come from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, are 4.6 billion years old, dating them back to the beginning of the solar system when the Earth and other planets formed out of gas and dust.

Although the meteorite results do not mean life exists elsewhere, it in-

creases the chances that extra-terrestrial life could have evolved under the right conditions.

The evidence of the oldest known life on Earth comes from brown-black rocks found near the edge of the ice cap in southwest Greenland. The rocks are dated at 3.83 billion years — making them the oldest known sediments on Earth.

"So what this tells us then is that life is as old as the oldest sediments on the Earth," he said.

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Chicken Fried Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

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Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee

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BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT TONIGHT 8 P.M.

1201 Hwy. 30 in the Briarwood Apts., College Station 693-9781

SCONA '25 General Meeting
M C Committee members & interested persons
S O n Tuesday, Sept. 11th
C N New membership selection begins
A t 7:30 p.m., Rm. 701 Rudder



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(Across the tracks from Weingarten's on College Ave.)

or call 779-0208



Students Can Sign Up For Long Distance Service This Week In The MSC Lobby

Dormitory room telephones are restricted to local telephone service.

If you want to add long distance calling privileges to your room telephone, you should sign up at our desk in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center, Wednesday, September 5 through Friday, September 21 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

When requesting this service, please remember:

1. Bring your roommate when signing up - one student must be designated account manager to be responsible for paying your account.
2. If you should change rooms, notify our office so we can change your account. If unchanged, you will be responsible for long distance calls made from your telephone.
3. No deposit is required unless past paying habits warrant a deposit.

If you have other questions, stop at our desk.



GENERAL TELEPHONE