



photo by Barrington Skipton

From clay to a masterpiece

Ann Dobbs, a former Texas A&M University for five years, but has taught pottery in the MSC craftshop. She has been at the MSC for the last two years.

Spacewatcher has eye on possible Mars trek

HOUSTON — Spacewatcher Oberg always is dreaming of some exotic space mission, but sometimes he makes them sound almost possible — as in his latest essay on a manned mission to Mars by the year 2001.

Here is the punch line right front," Oberg writes in his pamphlet, Mission to Mars, Man and Concepts for the First Manned Landing. "A manned mission to Mars is technologically feasible as soon as we decide to do it."

Admitting problems but believing they can be solved with effort equaling the Apollo moon-landing program, Oberg argues such a mission can be justified on scientific, economic, and political grounds.

Furthermore, it can be carried out by the end of this century with the equivalent expenditure of about half of what it took in the 1960s to send Apollo astronauts to the moon," Oberg writes.

Oberg, a McDonnell-Douglas employee who works at the Johnson Space Center and writes about space on the side, includes a warning.

He predicts American failure to advance the interplanetary mission will not stop establishment of interplanetary civilization in the next century.

It will only "delay it a few decades while insuring that such a future will not necessarily reflect the characteristics and values of contemporary North American civilization, nor benefits the descendants of today's Americans."

The Russians might try to do

it, he said.

It is, of course, only Oberg's opinion that a manned mission to Mars is feasible by the end of this century. He assumes, perhaps inaccurately, that the problems which even he recognizes can be solved.

Many in the scientific community disagree with him.

One informed observer calls his pamphlet science-fiction "fluff." But his ideas, which he admits are based on the ideas of many others, are intriguing.

The space shuttle makes possible the carrying of millions of pounds of payload into low Earth orbit. Oberg argues a man-to-Mars vehicle could be shipped up in parts and assembled in parking orbit.

One big barrier seems to be simply finding the propulsion system to carry men on a months-long mission from low Earth orbit to Mars. Oberg favors solar sail or electric propulsion technology. Rockets would require too much fuel.

He doubts the early feasibility of solar sail propulsion, which might involve a miles-square foil surface catching photons from the sun just like cloth sails on Earth catch the wind. It is theoretical only and not proven.

But Oberg is more optimistic about electric propulsion, which would use electrostatic repulsion of ions for thrust rather than the directed explosion of chemical fuels common in today's rockets.

The concept of electric propulsion has been around since the mid-1950s and small-scale technological work has been underway for decades; NASA and the Soviets have tested ion-drive en-

gines in orbit but have not gone further.

"Despite its revolutionary potential, electric propulsion technology remains essentially dead in the water," Oberg writes.

A key reason electric engine technology is "dead in the water" is real applications would involve enormous amounts of electricity, which might come from big nuclear reactors or solar panels in space — so far only dreams.

Another problem is the body's inevitable adaptation to long periods of weightlessness in a sealed, purified environment, a deterioration of conditioning and possibly immunization achieved on Earth.

Exercise en route and drugs are partial answers.

Oberg admits the insidious problem of bone deterioration in weightlessness is a long way from being solved.

Candidate's wife steals signs

United Press International
WAUWATOSA, Wis. — Political campaigns make people do strange things. Just ask the wife of a state Assembly candidate who was caught stealing signs belonging to her husband's opponent.

"I'm just sick about it," said Grace Bottoni, who paid a \$234 bond and was freed Sunday night.

"My husband is not even aware of it. He was asleep when I came home and I didn't tell him."

Her husband, James, is the Democratic candidate against Republican Peggy Rosenzweig in the 67th state Assembly District.

Bottoni said she and a 12-year-old girl she was taking home Sunday night saw a stack

of Rosenzweig signs on the ground and picked them up. The girl then said she thought it would be funny to take a sign from a front yard.

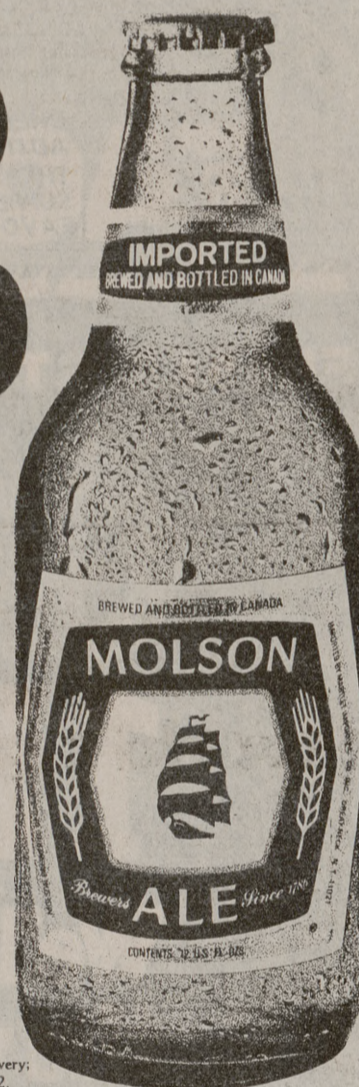
"I was not thinking clearly and as an adult I should have been," Bottoni said.

Police officer Howard Bacon III said he saw the girl snatch a sign from a front yard and

throw it in the back of a station wagon.

When he stopped the station wagon, Bacon said, Mrs. Bottoni denied there were more signs. But Bacon said he saw signs sticking out from under a blanket covering the girl's legs. When he asked what was under blanket, the girl said he couldn't look because she didn't have a skirt on.

Molson presents the Canadian Two Step



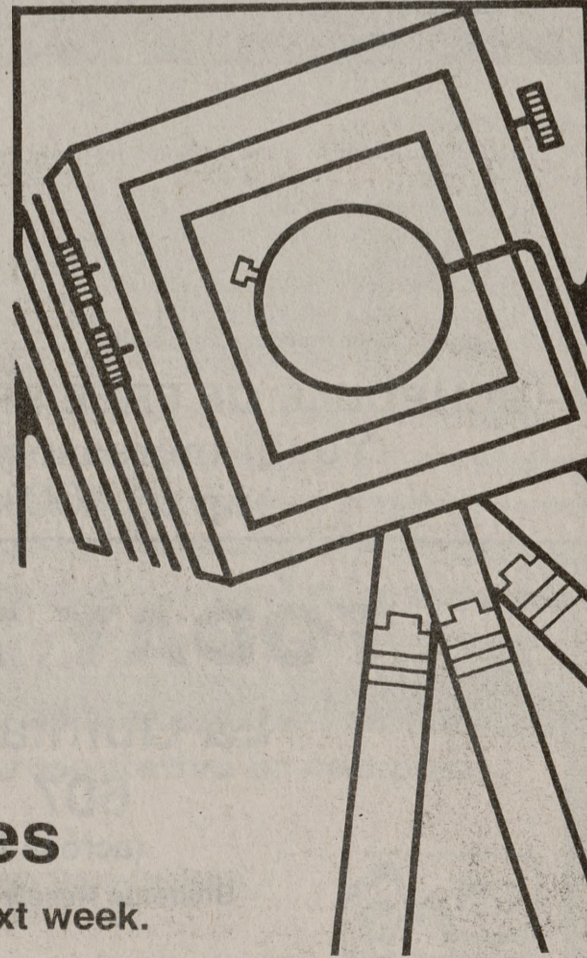
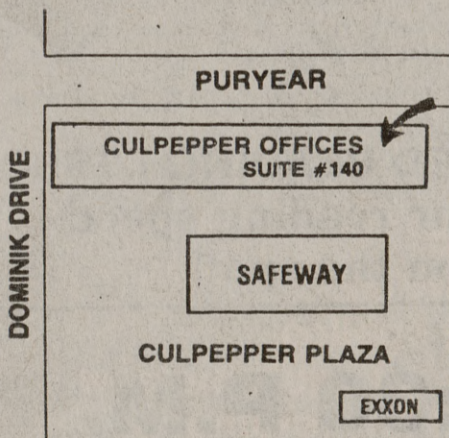
Molson Golden Beer & Molson Ale

Proudly brewed & bottled in Canada by North America's oldest brewery, imported by Martlet Importing Co., Inc., Great Neck, NY © 1982.

EXPOSE YOURSELF

AGGIELAND PICTURE SCHEDULE

Freshmen	today to Oct. 15
Sophomores	today to Oct. 15
Seniors	Oct. 11 to Dec. 17
Juniors	Nov. 1 to Dec. 17
All Others	Nov. 15 to Dec. 17



Phone 693-6756

LAST WEEK FOR Freshmen & Sophomores

Seniors & Juniors mugs will be taken starting next week.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORES

NOTICE STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURE



Interested in a teaching certificate in vocational agriculture? Teaching jobs available in Texas & other states. Let us explain certification requirements to you:

November 3 or 4
6:30 p.m.
Room 101 Scoates Hall (Ag. Gn./Bldg.)
Contact Gary Briars or Herman Brown at 845-2951 for more information and/or come to our meeting.