



The recent proliferation of expeditions into space, both manned and unmanned, has provided us with an ever-increasing share of editorial attention in the newspapers. Sometimes this takes the form of a cartoon which somehow gets the message across in an easily understood and agreeable manner. The Viking project is the astronomer's current calling card, and the above cartoon is one of the better ones which we have seen on this subject. One local pundit claims that peanut butter and jelly is what really put America on the moon. Perhaps he is too pessimistic.

The most important question which we hope to answer with the Viking adventure, perhaps the most important question ever asked, is: Does life exist on other worlds? Are we alone? To date Viking has not given an answer. The problem is not a lack of results from our experiments; it is a superfluity of them! Our speaker for November is an "insider" to Viking project results, and has access to data which is not readily available from the press.

WHAT: Viking and the Search for Life  
 WHO: Dr. Ralph L. Buice, Jr.  
 WHEN: Friday, November 19, 8:00 pm  
 WHERE: Bradley Observatory, Agnes Scott College

Dr. Buice is a native of Chattanooga where he was a member of the Barnard Astronomical Society. He holds degrees in Physical Chemistry from both Vanderbilt University and Georgia Tech. After graduation he joined Fernbank Science Center as a Chemist. The study of low pressure gas dynamics, his specialty, required an intimate knowledge of computer technology, and he later applied this knowledge to the calculation of the orbits of artificial satellites. He was active in the Moonwatch project from its beginning in 1957 until its recent demise. As team leader of Fernbank's Moonwatch station he applied their sophisticated image intensification equipment to the tracking of several extremely faint synchronous satellites. You will probably recognize Dr. Buice as a fellow club member, and as Managing Editor of the Reflector. As if these activities weren't enough, Dr. Buice is an accomplished gourmet and states that he can "cook a mean duck."

Our observing party for November will be held on Saturday, November 20. This is the day after the meeting. Once again the location will be the Barber farm.

ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB  
Membership List 1976-77

revised November 1976

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