

Duluth--- A towering Saturn rocket will boost a manned orbiting laboratory into the heavens in the mid-1970s. What will the scientists who will man this station be prepared to accomplish? Blanchard O. Krogstad, professor of biology at UMD, is serving on a NASA-sponsored council attempting to answer part of the question.

"We are expected to come up with a description of a comprehensive space biology program that might be applicable to manned laboratories," explained Krogstad. The group's official designation is American Institute of Biological Sciences--NASA Council #6. It represents the North Central section of the country and works independently of five other similar councils reporting to NASA.

Krogstad serves with six other biologists from Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Krogstad and his colleagues meet at different locations about four times a year. "We bring in experts in various fields to answer questions and organize discussions," he said. The council is concerning itself with two basic areas; the use of remote sensing devices from satellites and weightlessness. Meetings already have been conducted with experts in the fields of infra-red sensing and radar.

Krogstad listed a number of biological surveys and studies that possibly could be carried on from an orbiting laboratory.

1. Classification of all of the living materials on the earth.
2. Identification of vegetational types.
3. General earth surveillance. "If for nothing but the recognition of changes in the whole vegetational picture," Krogstad said. "We are trying to develop ideas of research that cannot be duplicated on earth. For example, we are particularly interested in embryological development in space.

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What would be the effect of the coordinateless world of weightlessness on animal life?"

The target date for implementation of any proposal is 1974, said Krogstad. He explained that the Saturn-5 rocket is now being static tested and will be capable of a 93,000 lb. payload.

Because of the Saturn's lift capacity, NASA has told the council to "ignore size and weight" when preparing their proposal. Weight has been and still is a problem in the Mercury and Gemini programs.

"They've told us not to pay any attention to clumsiness but design what we feel is worthwhile," said Krogstad. "Also the length of time is not a factor. NASA has indicated that these laboratories will be capable of carrying out programs from 2-3 months to 2-3 years in duration."