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Allen's P.C.B.

UFO ~~54479~~

A light aircraft flying over Liverpool with its landing lights on is believed to have been the cause of a UFO scare last night. It was waiting for an airliner to land at Liverpool Airport.

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Course to explore possibilities c

By HUGH WRIGHT
Of the Record Staff

The possibility that intelligent life exists somewhere in the vastness of space will be explored in a course to be offered in Stockton by Stanislaus State College.

"I definitely feel there's intelligent life someplace in the Milky Way galaxy," the instructor, Anthony Pabon, said from Los Medanos Community College in Pittsburg, where he is planetarium director.

"There's even a small chance there might be intelligent life on earth," he chuckled.

Pabon's joke illustrated his approach to the course, which is designed for the lay person although it will be a serious examination of the latest facts and theories about the question of extraterrestrial life.

"We'll be using the scientific method ...

but with an open scientific mind," said Pabon.

"We're going to try to give people who are interested in life in the universe a good, solid foundation so that they can make judgments on their own."

Students will learn the criteria to apply to questions of whether life could spring forth on various planets, will discuss ways to establish communication in the event contact is made and will receive a general overview of astronomy to permit them to consider the questions intelligently.

Topics will include the differences in the passage of time experienced by space travelers and colleagues on their home planet — and how to evaluate reports of "flying saucers."

"We're not going to be ducking any of these. On the other hand, we're not going to throw in mathematical equations," Pabon

said. "We're going to approach it from the layman's point of view."

He said the question of "flying saucers" comes up frequently and will be part of the course. Students will learn to critically examine out-of-focus photographs of claimed extraterrestrial craft.

Pabon said one such picture, on the front page of the National Inquirer newspaper a few years ago, was easy to spot as a fake: it was the top of a Corning coffeepot.

"It was obvious to me because I had just bought one for my wife," Pabon laughed.

The course also will examine the various forms that life could take, given the conditions on various planets.

"Actually, some things in microbiology and marine biology are more exotic than anything that's ever been created in the movies," he said.

Pabon's credentials for teaching the

extraterrestrial life

course include his master's degree in physics and advanced course work in astrophysics from the University of California at San Diego, research in laser development, work in trajectories for the Apollo program and some 15 years of teaching in California community colleges and giving public and classroom lectures.

Pabon, who lives in Rohnert Park, taught an astronomy course in Stockton last summer for Stanislaus State and has scripted a monthly television program on astronomy for Chabot College.

The course, entitled "Search for Extraterrestrial Life," will be offered on the Delta College campus. Information regarding it and other upper-division courses offered in Stockton through Stanislaus State College may be obtained through the Turlock-based college's Stockton center at 209 N. El Dorado St



Stanislaus State's spring term begins Feb. 17. Those wishing to take courses must make regular application to the college, and should act soon to permit time for processing of transcripts and application papers.