A Day to Discover and Dream about Mars

The Alkins and Zone diets may be chic among celebrities, but did you know that on Mars, a 150 pound person would only weigh 57 pounds? See, it's gravity that weighs you down, it couldn't possibly be all those paczki, you ate earlier this mouth.

And you know how you're always wishing there were more hours in a day? A Mars day is 24.6 hours — more than half an hour extra to get things done.

Lots of facts about Mars will be revealed Sunday, March 22

be revealed Sunday, March 22 when the Exhibit Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor hosts "Journey to Mars Discovery Day."

The all ages event features talks by former astronaut Tory England and NASA educator Jim Fitzgerald. A quarter-scale model of a Mars Habitation model of a Mars Habitation module will be parked outside the museum, and a live feed from the Michigan Mars Rover Team test site in Utah will be viewable in the museum's

viewanie in the museum's rotunda.
Students from the U of M College of Engineering will have hands-on activities, and there is also a planetarium show narrated by Star Trek's Patrick Stewart that is recommended for children in grades four and up. Families also have the opportunity to enter a contest to win a trip with the Michigan Mars Rover Team.

"Kids are always interested in

the unique aspects of weight-lessness," says Fitzgerald, an aerospace education specialist who provides NASA workshops and presentations in Michigan and Ohio. They are fascinated by the details of daily life such

by the details of daily life such as eating, sleeping and, of course, going to the bathroom in space. Students always ask about going to the bathroom and get a big laugh out of the description of the astronaut's waste management activities. Well, kid or not, who hasn't wondered about that?

The Discovery Day is one of several events and lectures centered around the red planet (which is actually buttersouch in color, the red comes from the rust in Martian rocks and dust).

Through April, the Museum has a Through April, the Museum has a

photography exhibit in the rotunda featuring many photos taken using Viking Orbiter data and facts about Mars and its moons, Phobos (meaning "fear" in Greek) and Deimos (meaning panic"). The "discovery day" has become a popular annual event at the museum and drew more than 1,200 visitors last year. Washtenaw County libruries also have activities to coincide with the "Journey to Mars" theme. Though the targedy of the Space Shutte Colombia is still fresh with NASA, and all Americans, the space program is

Americans, the space program is also known for moving forward.

"Inspire the next generation of explorers...as only NASA can," is one of its stated missions. For NASA's mission to Mars,

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Turn south on Novi Road. Turn right onto Expo Center Drive. The Expo Center is located one block on the right.

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FROM PAGE B1

this summer, and will land in January 2004, if all goes as scheduled. "NASA is in the business of developing technologies and doing research that will enable humans to expand their presence away from the Earth," says Fitzgerald. And that often begins with a child's fuscination with space, So what advice does Fitzgerald give for children who dram of traveling in space?

traveling in space?
"Keep dreaming. This is "Keep dreaming, This is where motivation, aspiration and determination begin," he says. We have built our dream of spaceflight on the shoulders of the dreams of others in the part and our own. Exploration and innovation are both seated in the realm of the possibilities that we consider in our dreams DICTOVERY

What: Journey to Mars Discovery Day

Where: The Exhibit Museum of Natural History, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes, Ann Arbor

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 22 Information: Call (734) 764-0478 or on the Internet visit

www.journeytomars.org Admission: No charge, planetarium shows are \$3 per person

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cases our primary interest and makes a statement about the breadth and depth of our collection.
The founders of Cranbrook,

lection.
"The founders of Cranbrook,
George and Ellen Booth were
dedicated students of
Egyptology. They were in Egypt
in 1922 when King
Thunkhamun's tomb was discovered. That's a photo of theno namel back. George tried to
buy King Tults throne from the
British government and when
they turned him down he had
the replica at the front of the
exhibit done.
A timeline shows the history
of the institution and the
Booth's 1926 trip to purchase
277 minerals in Denver.
"Mineral's were one of the
founding collections of the
Institute, said Stafford.
George Booth collected them
world-wide.
Hundreds of objects tell the
history of cultures and nature
through artifacts and specimens. A birch bark cance hung
from the ceiling demonstrates
he skill of the craftsman who exhibit of usually hidden objects. For the first time in decades, visitors can ace Treasures of the Institute Collection, which spotlights the rare and mysterious wonders of 12 areas of scientific study from anthropology to geology, ornithology, entomology, mammalogy, and paleontology, The exhibit continues to Sunday, May 4. On Saturday, March 29, Stafford will give an in depth tour of the collection as part of Archaeology Day. "It's our first major exhibit in three decades, the first time in the collection," said Stafford. "We have 5,000 square feet her and generally rotate traveling exhibitions. Treasures show-

through artifacts and spect-mens. A birch bark cance hung from the ceiling demonstrates the skill of the craftsman who created it from a single piece of bark. There's a 1890 bear toten from Vancouver, British Columbia, an Arapaho Bison headdress from the late 1800s, gold jewelty from 1000 A.D., Roman glass, a tusk from the toothed whale known as the Narwhal, an African sword, and Japanese Samurai Armor. Want to learn more about the botany of Michigan? In addition to looking at dried plants in the exhibit, visitors are welcome to use the resources of the museum for research.

resources of the museum for research.

The exhibit only tells a portion of the story. Stafford is quick to point out highlights an extinct passenger pigeon from 1900s, and large elephant bird egg from Madaguscar that belonged to an emu-like species hunted to extinction at beginning of the 1700s.

The ornithology collection tells the story of how the natural world is disappearing from certain areas, said Stafford.

The Carolina parakeet was the only parret native to the U.S. and is now extinct. We can only show I percent of the collec-

tion. The idea is to get people interested in natural history, draw them in with objects and specimens. They're blown navay by the size of the elephant bird egg and it makes them want to learn.

"Many objects are too fragile or to valuable to bring out. That's why we're having Archaeology Day. We'll bring out Inca gold, 17th and 18th century trade silver, spears, swords, feathered dresses from 'Paraguay, It will be an up close and personal experience. Visitors can learn about archaeology. Well demonstrate how stone tools are made and they'll have a chance to get their.

stone tools are finder and they in have a chance to get their hands dirty in a simulated archaeological dig." The ability to see nature and the rocks Mandy Maitland is learning about at Southfield Christian School is the reason her mother Holly agreed to chaperone the field trip to the

her mother Holly agreed to chaperone the field trip to the museum.

They're enjoying it, said Mailand of Bloomfield Hills. They're curious, asking a lot of questions. It's fun seeing things through kids' eyes, to see their excitement about a basket. Stafford points to baby turtles in a glass case and explains the jagged edges on their backs warn passersby of snapping tendencies. It's apparent this father of six loves spending time with the children.

Tfeel a degree of frustration as head of science, said Stafford who was appointed director in November after seven years as a curator. Thene what was here. I saw kids of this age, their excitement, taking them into the collections and decided to do the exhibition. The Institute is headed in an exciting new direction. We want to appeal to kids tuned out to the natural world. We're in the science and learning business. As a father I see the impact of the museum on my own children. Wer all lifelong learners. We have stuff if you're 6 foot 2 inches or 3 foot 2 inches.

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