

Saturn in the east

by James Stokley

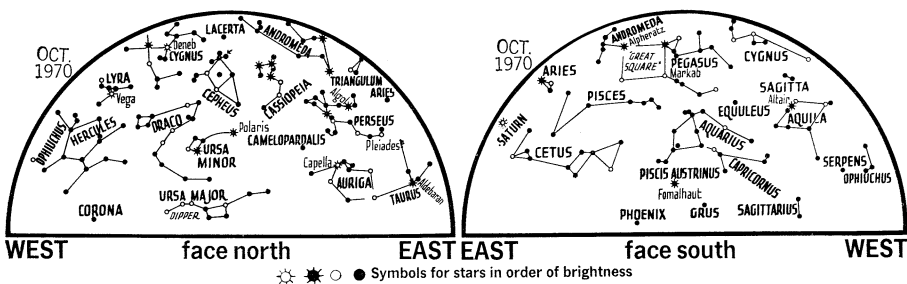
October is the first full month of autumn, with only one planet remaining easily visible in the evening sky. This is Saturn, which rises in the east in early October about two hours after sunset—about 9 p.m. local daylight saving time. At the end of the month it will rise less than one hour after sunset. Saturn will exceed most of the stars in brilliance later in the night. It is in the constellation of Aries.

The accompanying maps depict the sky as it looks about 11 p.m. daylight savings time on Oct. 1; an hour earlier at the middle and two hours earlier as the month comes to a close.

Vega, the brightest star seen on October evenings, is high in the west in Lyra. It is only about 10 percent fainter than Saturn, but its scintillating light, characteristic of a star, is quite different from the steady glow of a planet.

Cygnus, with its bright star Deneb, is above Vega. To the right is Altair in Aquila (shown on the southern sky map).

Low in the northeast is Auriga with the bright star, Capella. Capella is ac-



tually only about 10 percent fainter than Vega. However, it is dimmed even more because of its low position. This is true of Aldebaran in Taurus.

Low in the south stands Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus. It is about as high as we can see it from our northern latitude. At Porto Allegre, Brazil, at

30 degrees south, it passes overhead and appears much brighter than it does to us.

The Big Dipper, part of Ursa Major, is low in the north, in its poorest evening position of the year. Above it is Ursa Minor, with Polaris, the polestar. □

Beverly Hills Unified School District, California / Kenneth L. Peters, Superintendent
Frank C. Memmer, Planetarium Director / Rowland H. Crawford, A.I.A., Architect

CELESTIAL TIMETABLE

Oct.	EDT	
2	12:40 a.m.	Algol at minimum brightness
3	10:00 p.m.	Moon passes north of Venus
8	12:43 a.m.	Moon in first quarter
12	9:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 224,700 miles
14	4:21 p.m.	Full moon ("Hunter's moon")
16	10:00 p.m.	Moon passes north of Saturn
21	10:47 p.m.	Moon in last quarter
24	6:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,600 miles
	EST	
27	5:00 a.m.	Mercury behind sun
	3:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Mars
30	1:28 a.m.	New moon

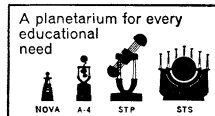
Active student involvement and pertinence to the curriculum are the key ideas at the Beverly Hills planetarium. Frank Memmer, the director of the facility, seeks out teachers in the non-science departments and develops planetarium themes based on current classwork. Students are actively involved to prepare and deliver related programs.

Take Vasco da Gama, the unit in a recent tenth-grade social studies class. Students researched the day by day course of the voyage. They prepared the lecture, planned the sequence of planetarium motions, selected the appropriate background music . . . and relived the epic voyage of 1498.

Beverly Hills initiated their Spitz planetarium program with the expectation of substantial student motivation and involvement. Results, as reported, far and away exceeded expectations. Superintendent Kenneth L. Peters recognizes this facility as "bringing a new dimension to instruction."

School systems all over the country—larger, smaller, richer and poorer—are motivating and teaching students in this space science laboratory.

Isn't it time for you to have a planetarium in your school. Why not send for complete information.



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