



Jupiter shines in south

by James Stokley

High in the south appears the only planet you can see easily on April evenings. This is Jupiter, in the constellation of Virgo, the virgin, which also contains the first magnitude star called Spica. It is about a sixth as bright as Jupiter.

Next to Virgo, toward the right and a little higher, stands Leo, the lion, with bright Regulus. This is in a small star group, not an official constellation, called the Sickel.

These stars, and the planet, are shown on the accompanying maps, which indicate the appearance of the sky at about 10:00 p.m. (standard time) on April 1. They look about the same on the 15th at 9:00 p.m., and on the 30th at 9:00 p.m., daylight saving time, which will then be in effect.

Planets, sun, stars: all seem to move from east to west, because of the earth's rotation from west to east. This means that, for times earlier than those given, the stars in the east will be lower while those toward the west will be higher. Those shown in the south will be to

the left of the positions shown. Later in the night they will be to the right.

Ten first magnitude stars appear on the maps, although several, near the horizon, are dimmed because their light is absorbed by the earth's atmosphere. Most prominent is Arcturus, high in the east, in Boötes, the herdsman. (This constellation is divided between the northern and southern maps.)

The majority of the bright stars of the April evening appear toward the west—a remnant of the brilliant assemblage that adorned the southern sky in midwinter.

Low in the southwest is Sirius, part of Canis Major, the great dog. Although dimmed by its low altitude Sirius is so bright that it is still conspicuous. Above, in Canis Minor, the little dog, stands Procyon. Even higher, directly west, you can see Pollux, of Gemini, the twins. Toward the northwest is Capella, in Auriga.

Only part of Orion, the warrior, remains visible low in the west but you can see Betelgeuse. And to the right, in

Taurus, the bull, is Aldebaran, another star dimmed by low altitude.

This also is true of Vega, low in the northeast and part of Lyra, the lyre. Vega will become prominent in the evening in the coming months while Aldebaran and its neighbors will disappear. ◊

CELESTIAL TIMETABLE

April	EST	
1	4:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Jupiter
2	1:46 p.m.	Full moon
6	7:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 228,800 miles
	11:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Mars
8	10:00 a.m.	Venus nearest, distance 26.3 million miles
	6:00 p.m.	Mercury on far side of sun
9	8:59 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
16	1:16 p.m.	New moon
18	3:00 p.m.	Saturn on far side of sun
22	9:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 251,500 miles
24	2:45 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
	EDT	
28	9:00 p.m.	Moon passes south of Jupiter



Nova Planetariums
Are Designed
For Any School
Anywhere In The World.

nova planetariums
 Union Hill Road, W. Conshohocken, Pa. 19428
 215-825-0434

march 22, 1969/vol. 95/science news/289