

Mars—as the Mariner flew by Venus last December.

Already such a Soviet Martian probe is on its way; if all goes well it will report back within a few months. Perhaps within a year the U. S. Mariner B will be launched toward the red planet—and it will give us by television some brief close-up glimpses of the Martian surface.

• Science News Letter, 83:122 February 23, 1963

### Celestial Time Table for March

March EST

1	11:00 p.m.	Pluto nearest earth, distance 2,985,000,000 miles
2	12:18 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
6	1:01 a.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum
	5:00 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
8	9:51 p.m.	Algol at minimum
10	2:49 a.m.	Full moon
13	3:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,200 miles
16	5:00 p.m.	Jupiter behind sun
18	7:08 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
20	6:00 p.m.	Venus passes Saturn
21	3:20 a.m.	Sun over equator, spring begins in Northern Hemisphere
22	5:00 a.m.	Moon passes Saturn
	8:00 a.m.	Moon passes Venus
25	7:10 a.m.	New moon
26	2:47 a.m.	Algol at minimum
	3:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 222,600 miles
28	11:36 p.m.	Algol at minimum
31	10:15 p.m.	Moon in first quarter.

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three hours for PST.

• Science News Letter, 83:122 February 23, 1963

### ASTRONOMY

## Exploding Star Visible In Early Morning Sky

► AN EXPLODING STAR, a nova that has suddenly blazed forth with tens of thousands of times its normal brightness, can be seen by the naked eye in the early morning sky.

The fourth magnitude nova is low in the northwest in the constellation of Lyra, the lyre, not far from the bright star, Vega, which outshines it. It was discovered independently on Feb. 6 by the Swedish astronomer Dahlgren and on Feb. 7 by Leslie C. Peltier of Delphos, Ohio, an amateur astronomer who has spotted many comets.

The new star is the first nova of this brightness since 1960. However, in the past, eight of the recorded novas have brightened to first magnitude or higher. An unaided eye can detect stars of sixth magnitude on a clear night away from city lights.

It is not yet known whether the new star is brightening or fading but all nova eventually return to their original faintness, although some takes years to do so. This return suggests that the effect of the explosions on the stars is only superficial.

News of the nova's discovery was sent to Western Hemisphere astronomers by Harvard College Observatory at Cambridge, Mass.

The nova's astronomical coordinates are right ascension 18 hours, 13 minutes; declination 41 degrees, 50 minutes. This is quite close to where a bright nova appeared in Hercules in 1934.

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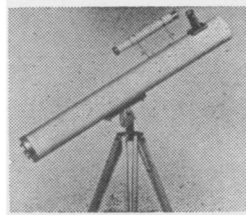
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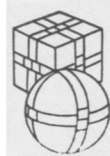
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