

bright star called Canopus. This is the second brightest star of the nighttime sky, exceeded only by Sirius. It can be seen from the southern states. When Sirius is on the meridian (i.e., directly south) as it is in March at an earlier hour than the times for which the maps are drawn, Canopus is almost directly below it.

Celestial Time Table for March

March	EST	
2	midnight	Mercury farthest west of sun
3	5:00 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
4	12:22 a.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum brightness
6	5:00 a.m.	Moon nearest; distance 221,800 miles
	5:31 a.m.	New moon
12	9:11 p.m.	Algol at minimum
	11:39 p.m.	Moon at first quarter
19	4:00 p.m.	Moon farthest; distance 252,500 miles
20	9:30 p.m.	Sun over equator, spring commences in Northern Hemisphere
21	2:56 a.m.	Full moon
26	10:57 p.m.	Algol at minimum
28	11:11 p.m.	Moon at last quarter
29	7:46 p.m.	Algol at minimum

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

Know the Sky to Watch Satellites

These star maps showing the positions of stars and planets can help you locate satellites when they flash briefly across the sky. Familiarity with the constellations and their relative positions makes locating artificial moons much easier whenever they are visible from your area.

• Science News Letter, 81:122 February 24, 1962

BIOPHYSICS

Cell Division in Humans, Bacteria Same Process

► HUMAN TISSUES and the one-celled animals, bacteria, have something in common: a similar process governing cell division.

Research on *Escherichia coli*, a tiny bacterium of the intestinal tract of man, shows that the bacterium has a "normal" distribution of cell generation; that is, it reproduces at the same rate as other biological units. This distribution "would seem to be the first evidence of common mechanisms of control of cell division," Dr. Herbert E. Kubitschek of the Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill., reported at the Biophysical Society meeting in Washington, D. C.

Comparison of information from this cell and other cells under study indicates some common factor is influencing cell division, he said.

Studies of reproduction rates for sister cells and mother and daughter cells also indicate that the forces underlying cell division are similar. A strong correlation between rates for sister cells points to inherited protoplasmic factors affecting generation time.

• Science News Letter, 81:123 February 24, 1962

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