

JUNIOR STAR DUST

VARIABLE STARS FOR A 3" TELESCOPE

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Max. Mag.</u>	<u>Period</u>
001755	T Cass	8.2	443 days
045514	R Lep	7.3	420 days
065208	X Mon	7.3	155 days
070122a	R Gem	7.1	370 days
094211	R Leo	5.9	313 days
014620	V Hya	6.0	530 days
151822	RS Lib	7.6	218 days
184205	R Sct	4.5	146? days

All stars are now at maximum. (Courtesy Leon Campbell, AAVSO)

LUNAR ECLIPSE (Eastern Standard Time)

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Hour</u>	<u>Minute</u>
Total Eclipse Begins	April 12	10	28
Middle of Eclipse	"	11	11
Eclipse Ends	"	11	54

METEORS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

March 10-12. Look for meteors from Bootes.

April 20. Look for meteors from Lyra.

All meteor counts should be sent to:

Dr. C. P. Olivier, Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Pa.

THE THIRD ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR run by the science teachers of the District of Columbia, and sponsored by the Washington Academy of Sciences and affiliated societies, and the Science Service, will be held in the Department of Commerce at the end of March. The four fields of entry for projects of junior and senior high school students are: biological, physical and chemical, engineering, and physiographical (including astronomy, geology, and meteorology). Prizes for the winning entries will be awarded on the evening of the NCA lecture on April 2 in the Commerce Department Auditorium.

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THE NCA SCORES AGAIN

As I was looking through the Washington Daily News on February third in search of the latest exploits of the Central High School Basketball Team, my eye chanced to fall on an article telling of new triumphs for the NCA. Carl Werntz and Walter Gilbert win in the Science Talent Search!

Needless to say, both these boys are members of the NCA. Carl, who has long been known as a variable star fiend, wrote his essay on, amazingly enough, variable stars. Walter has done photographic work on the sun, even though his essay was entitled, "One Step Separation of Zirconium and Hafnium."

Although they will not be able to take an all-expenses-paid trip across the country, they will have street-car fare and hotel board at the Statler furnished free for them. They will meet thirty-eight other young scientists from all parts of the country, hear prominent scientists give lectures, and discuss their own work with leaders in their fields. They will visit such places as the Carnegie Institution's cyclotron, the Bureau of Standards, and the Washington Monument. They will have a chance to be selected to receive the Westinghouse Grand Scholarship Award, one of the awards made annually in the talent search conducted by the Science Clubs of America, and Science Service. All in all, they will have lots of fun.

-- Miles Davis

JUNIOR NIGHT TOPICS

March 18 - The Spring Sky  
April 22 - Variable Stars

PLANETS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 1949

MERCURY is in the morning sky all of March and of Mag. 0.3. The planet is in the evening sky after the 15th of April and will be well placed 15° above the horizon toward the end of the month.

VENUS is in the late morning sky and remains very close to the sun all through March. Distance on March 31 is 160 million miles. The planet remains in the late morning sky still too close to the sun to be observed during April.

EARTH is still too close to the Earth to be observed and is expected to remain so for some time.

MARS is in conjunction with the sun on the 17th of March and thereafter in the morning sky. It is still too close to the sun to be seen during April. On the first of April its distance is 222 million miles.

JUPITER is now in the morning sky on the Capricornus boundary and can be picked up before sunrise. The planet is in quadrature on the 21st of April.

SATURN is in fine position for observing with a small telescope. It does not set until dawn. In April the planet sets about 3 A.M. Its position is north and east of Regulus in the constellation of Leo.

URANUS is now located in Taurus and sets about midnight. Its distance on the 15th of March is 1,758 million miles. Throughout April the planet is still well placed in the sky for observation.

NEPTUNE is a telescopic object in Virgo, coming into opposition on the third of April.

— John E. Lankford

VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS made since the first of the year are as follows:

John Lankford	17	Morgan Cilley	50
John Edmonds	17	Carl Werntz	13
Miles Davis	2	Bob Wright	7
		Janet Perkins	4

OCCULTATIONS

John Lankford	1
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THE JUNIORS GO ON THE AIR. Thursday, February 10, marked the first of a series of astronomy programs for juniors in which the participants were NCA juniors. The station is WARL and the time 9:45 A.M. Judy Wubnig, John Lankford, and Deborah Dorsey took part in this first program. The subject was basic astronomy, and covered rotation and revolution of the earth, phases of the moon, and what we would find if we were to travel there in a rocket ship, comets, and a short discussion of constellations.

The next in the series will deal with THE SUN, and the participants will be Miles Davis, John Edmonds and Joy French. Perhaps you can persuade your science teacher to tune in this 15-minute program on Thursday, March 10, at 9:45 A.M., Station WARL (780 Kc).

OCCULTATIONS

March	Star	Magnitude	Immersion E.S.T.	Hour Angle
3	252	7.4	5:57.6 PM	3 W
3	264	7.0	8:54.9 PM	6 W
5	485	6.9	9:22.1 PM	5 W
6	611	7.0	7:15.4 PM	2 W
7	750	6.9	5:31.1 PM	1/2 W
9	1093	6.4	11:13.1 PM	3 W
10	1105	6.5	1:21.6 AM	4 1/2 W
10	1108	6.9	2:12.0 AM	5 W
11	1251	5.9	2:04.7 AM	4 W
<u>April</u>				
2	584	6.0	8:33.6 PM	5 1/2 W
5	1035	6.8	7:42.7 PM	2 W
6	1056	7.0	12:25.0 AM	6 1/2 W
6	1181	6.8	8:40.5 PM	3 W
8	1334	7.0	1:23.9 AM	6 W
9	1462	7.4	2:53.6 AM	4 1/2 W
10	1576	5.3	1:40.2 AM	4 W

All on dark edge.

An occultation of unusual interest is that of Antares on April 16. It occurs after the full moon and on the moon's bright edge. Magnitude: 1.2.

Immersion; 1:35.7 AM (H.A. 1 1/2 E). Emergence 2:50.3 AM.

— Morgan Cilley