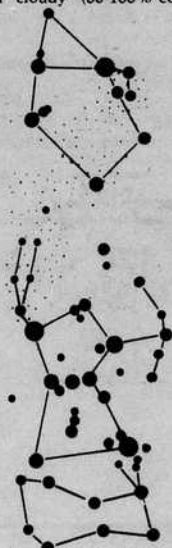


What's Happening in the Sky

January 20-27

Most of the time practically anyone in Eugene/Springfield can easily answer the question, "What's happening in the sky?" It's probably cloudy. In fact, weather station statistics show that Eugene/Springfield are "clear" (that is 0-30% cover) 74 days a year, "partly cloudy" (40-70% cover) 81 days a year, and "cloudy" (80-100% cover) 210 days a year. I'm the first to admit, it's not an ideal environment for star-gazing! Nevertheless, when we do have one of those beautiful clear days, the night skies here are relatively dark and, especially in winter, rich with bright stars. Should we be lucky, such will be the case a few nights this week.



Looking above Spencer's Butte at 9 p.m. through the 27th, the stars shown at left will be in the sky. Auriga, the "charioteer," is very high in the sky as a pentagonal figure. Especially distinctive is the white star, Capella, one of the brightest in the heavens. Below Auriga is the winter's hunter, Orion. You should be able to make out the three stars of his belt and, below them, his sword. Look also for the shield he is holding up on his right. Finally, below Orion (and just above the Butte) is Lepus, the Hare, with its rabbit-like ears and hindquarters.

Following sunset, try looking for brilliant white Venus in the southwest. It will be up for one-and-a-half hours after the Sun vanishes. The red planet, Mars, should also be distinctive to the left of Venus, about 20 moon widths away. At sunrise, Jupiter is the most brilliant object in the sky (next to the Sun) in the southeast. It, like Venus, is bright white. Just prior to sunrise, yellowish Saturn will also be very prominent, glowing serenely due south, above Spencer's Butte.

This week's celestial eye-opener (taken from the book, *The Story of Cosmic Rays*): "A billion billion cosmic rays strike the earth every second. When you are lying down, this means that about seven thousand such particles go through your body every minute."

—Larry Deckman

Glow-in-the-dark maps of the Heavens over Eugene/Springfield are now locally available. Forget the rain outside as you look above your bed each night and see the stars shine! The map also makes a "glowing" birthday or holiday gift. They can be purchased for \$7 from Larry Deckman at 2740 Monroe St. in Eugene. Call 343-7166.



The Cyclones Blues Band plays hot Rhythm & Blues at the WOW Hall, Saturday, Jan. 22. See Saturday's listing for details.

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Eugene Opera and Symphony

Saturday 22

Dance

Adult Singles Dance, The Statesmen play live music 9-1 am. Above Gullivers at Valley River Center, \$4. Cascade Singles, 342-8241.

Dance/Party preceded by speaker Ken Keyes on "Loving Relationships." Laurelwood Country Club, 9:30 pm.

Radio

Star Wars, episode #9, 6 pm, KWAX 91.1 FM.

New Dimensions, "Taking the Eightfold Path" with Robert Aitken Roshi. 11 am, KLCC 89.7 FM.

Blackberry Jam, presented live from the Balladeer Music Shop with Tom Mitchell. 6 pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

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Saturday

Films

Chariots of Fire, EMU Ballroom, UO Campus, 7 & 9:30 pm, \$1.50.

Jeremiah Johnson, 177 Lawrence, UO Campus, 7 & 9 pm, \$1.50.

Putney Swope, 180 PLC, UO Campus, 7 & 9 pm, \$1.50.

Theatre

The Misanthrope continues. (See Thursday.)

New Rag Bag Theater of Portland performs a puppet show, *The Big Boss*, at 10:30 am and 2 pm, Eugene Public Library.

Concert Music

Riders in the Sky, classic cowboy tunes, at 2 & 7:30 pm, Soreng Theater at Hult Center. 687-5000.

Boogie Music

The Cyclones, dance to blues, rock and swing. **The Milkmen**, rock 'n roll for big kids. All ages welcome. Wheelchair accessible. \$3. 9:30 pm. WOW Hall, 8th & Lincoln.

Sports/Recreation

Elk Lake Lodge Ski Tour, a 10-mile trip into Deschutes National Forest, in-district \$17, out-district \$34, includes transportation, leadership and lodging. 7 am-10 pm. Willamalane, 746-1669.

UO Men's Basketball team plays Washington State (KEZI-TV). Mac Court, 8 pm.

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