

UP FRONT

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Jim Page/Talking Blues



Jim Page will be returning to Eugene on Jan. 12. Page is a longtime Seattle street singer and has become over the years an internationally-known folk-poet, a master of the talking blues. "Composer of instantaneous songs and improbable rhymes, and inveterate chronicler of his own curious history and life story. His gift for improvisation is what separates Page from the rest of the folk

pack. . . . He is spectacular at it. . . ." says Paul Gregutt of the *Seattle Weekly*. Jim Page will be singing and playing at the Community Center for the Performing Arts, Jan. 12, at 8:30 pm. Admission will be \$4.50 in advance, \$5.50 the day of the show. Advance tickets are available at EMU, House of Records, Balladeer Folk Music, Earth River Records and the WOW Hall office, 8th & Lincoln. 687-2746.

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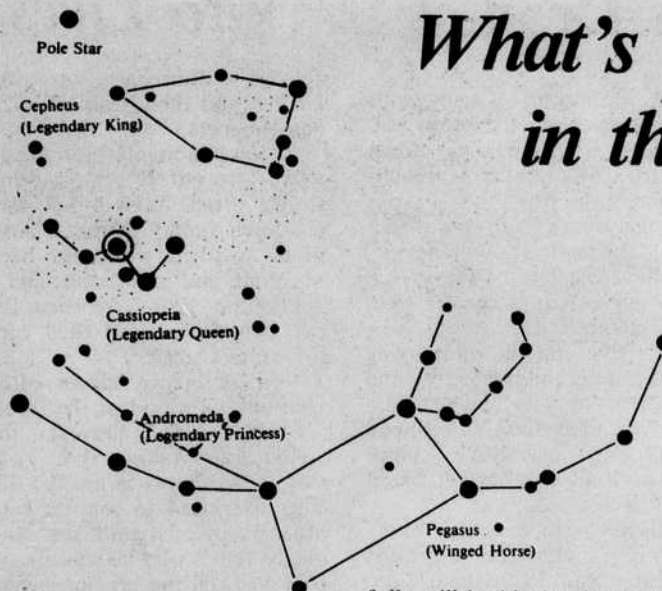
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What's Happening in the Sky



January 5-11

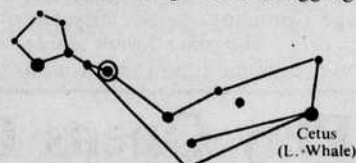
This week marks the anniversary of the discovery of Jupiter's moons by Galileo. On January 8, 1610, this brilliant Italian explorer aimed a primitive telescope at the familiar giant planet and saw four small lights strung out on either side of it. More mysterious still, these lights changed position from night to night and practically from hour to hour. Of course, we now know that Jupiter has at least sixteen satellites surrounding it, with each of the four large "Galilean" moons comparable in size to the planet Mercury and visible even with binoculars.

One of my favorite recollections is seeing the shadow of one of Jupiter's moons on the planet's surface as the sun rose. Even when whitish Jupiter was washed out from view, I could still make out a tiny black dot hanging in space which showed where the satellite's shadow remained.

As we experience cold nights this week (dropping to an estimated low of 33°), and the sun sets at 4:52 p.m., the stars hope-

fully will be blazing in their full glory.

Returning to the drama strewn across a vast portion of the celestial vault, you may remember that the "King" and bragging



"Queen" are up near the pole watching their daughter Andromeda being sacrificed to the sea and connected to the flying horse Pegasus. The new character to recognize now is the "monster" sent to devour Andromeda, Cetus the whale. This largest of constellations is quite distinct as a carnivorous sperm whale with articulated tail and giant mouth. At this point in the sacrifice/redemption story, Andromeda is helpless and vulnerable as the sea-monster sent by the ocean gets ever closer. Incidentally, from mid-northern latitudes the whale actually seems to be connected to the horizon, as if it's swimming on the sea to the waiting sacrifice. This "cliff-

hanger" is visible in the south at about 6 p.m., filling up an entire celestial hemisphere. Its redemptive conclusion will be presented next week. (Stay tuned!)

While dusk is being punctuated this week by the increasing light of the crescent moon, the pre-dawn hours are home to a collection of planetary wanderers. Mars breaks the eastern horizon first at 3 a.m., glowing a deep red. A brief hour later, yellowish Saturn rises into consciousness right below Mars, looking brighter than almost any radiant star. Finally, at 6 a.m., unmistakably brilliant Venus pops up, casting enough light to produce a shadow. If you've got binoculars or a telescope, you might also be able to make out the pale green disk of Uranus a moon's width below Venus on Tuesday morning. As the greenest object visible in space, it awaits observation until overwhelmed by sunlight and the day's beginning at 7:48 a.m.

This Week's Terrestrial Eye-Opener (taken from the book, *Felton and Fowler's Best, Worst, and Most Unusual*): "A Mr. Daly, manager of the Dublin Theater, bet a pub pal of his that he could introduce a new word into the language within twenty-four hours. Overnight, Daly hustled around the town chalking the letters Q-U-I-Z in bathrooms and other public places. The next morning, the Dublin citizenry were all asking one another, "What does 'quiz' mean?" Daly won his bet. The probable explanation for the durability of the term is its similarity in sound and meaning to 'inquisition'."

—Larry Deckman

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