



# Scientists hail Beta Pictoris evidence

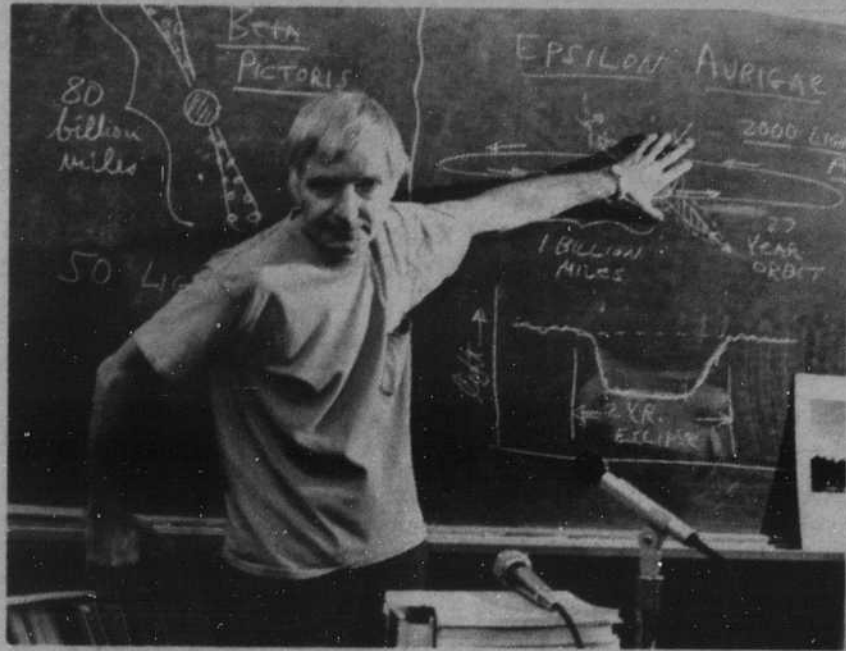


Photo by Bill Harpole

Jim Kemp, University physics professor, explains new findings from research done on developing solar systems.

By Michael Doke  
Of the Emerald

Monday's release of a photograph of the Beta Pictoris star and what appears to be a young solar system developing around it may have taken many people by surprise, but not University scientists at the Pine Mountain Observatory.

"To me it may be the most important discovery in the astronomy field for the whole century — we have a direct picture of (a young solar system)," said Jim Kemp, professor of physics and astronomy at the University.

"This is the beginning of proving theories we've had for 20 years in terms of understanding our solar system," said geology Prof. Gordon Goles.

But while the Beta Pictoris star is 50 billion light years away, scientists at the University's observatory have been studying another star 2000 billion light years away, Goles said. The Epsilon Aurigae body and a star that eclipses it every 27 years have been the objects of astronomer's telescopes since 1820, when it was discovered by a German astronomer, Kemp said.

The two-year-long eclipse can be seen with the naked eye; the system finished one five months ago, Kemp said.

While the Beta Pictoris star can only be seen on ground from the Southern Hemisphere, Epsilon Aurigae is seen from the Northern

Hemisphere. Scientists at the Pine Mountain Observatory, located 30 miles southeast of Bend, have been able to study the more distant star, he said.

What scientists, both here and around the world, have been looking at is the eclipse and its relation to the Epsilon Aurigae star, Kemp said.

It appears that a smaller star surrounded by a 1 billion mile nebula of dense material orbits the larger body every 27 years. During two years of the rotation, this dark body reduces the larger star's light by some 50 percent.

This is the phenomenon scientists have been studying, he said.

The significance of both stars is that scientists have found two bodies with what appear to be solar systems in two different stages of creation, Kemp said.

"We can't wait for these systems to change, but there may be many more of them out there hatching like eggs," Kemp said. "The real answer is to catch a bunch of these things in different stages."

But scientists can only watch the Epsilon Aurigae star from ground observatories until the technology is developed that will enable people to send a probe to get a closer look, he said.

"(The Epsilon Aurigae) is so far away it's impossible to get a direct photo (like the Beta Pictoris picture) at this time," Kemp said.

## Homecoming deadlines

By Jolayne Houtz  
Of the Emerald

Deadlines for several Homecoming activities approach as preparations for Homecoming week, Oct. 22-28, reach their final stages.

This year's event, titled "Welcome Back!," includes a Webfoot society brunch, the second annual Town and Gown Light Parade, pep rally and giant snake dance, and a cake decorating competition.

Sign-up deadlines for entering the cake competition and the parade are Saturday.

The Town and Gown Light Parade is Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. The parade, with its illuminated floats, will start on campus at 15th Avenue and Agate Street. Campus organizations are paired with local civic groups to create a float combining aspects of both the community and the University, giving the parade its "Town and Gown" name.

This year, local coaches and athletes from the 1984 Olympics will be the special focus of the parade, says Charles Van Duyn, parade coordinator.

Mary Decker will be involved in the parade, as well as other area athletes, he says.

About 25 to 30 groups will be paired together to participate in the parade using floats, buses and cars, which could involve as many as 200 people, Van Duyn says.

The only requirement is that the floats are lighted, he says.

The parade will end at the downtown plaza, where a pep rally will be led by the University rally squad, the Fighting Duck marching band and head coach Rich Brooks.

Radio station KUGN will then sponsor a snake dance that will wind its way through downtown Eugene, ending at Center Court. Cake from the Duck Cake Decorating Contest will then be served.

Winners of the cake decorating competition will be announced immediately following the Light Parade on Oct. 26. The competition is open to anyone interested, and entry forms are available from the University Alumni Office in 221 Johnson Hall.

Cakes will be judged on their use of the "Welcome Back!" theme, the best use of green and gold as well as other categories. Judges are representatives from local radio, television and newspaper staffs.

Cakes will be received at the Literary Lion in the Center Court, downtown Eugene, from 8-10 a.m., on Oct. 26. Cakes will be on display to the public during business hours on Friday.

The Webfoot Society brunch is Oct. 28 at the Eugene Hilton. The Alumni Association will induct the first members in the newly formed organization to honor those alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions.

Brunch tickets are \$8 a person and are available at the door or through the Alumni Office.

# Treasurer's debate heats up over investment policy issues

By Stasia Scarborough  
Of the Emerald

In a race that has attracted lackluster attention among Oregon voters, the candidates for the office of state treasurer Tuesday battled over investment policies in South Africa and whether the State Land Board director should be replaced.

The debate, which continued to return to specific issues, centered on the democratic candidate Grattan Kerans' calling for the replacement of Ed Zajonc, the director of the Land Board, and divestiture of state money in countries that practice apartheid.

In what was the most heated issue of the debate, Kerans accused incumbent Bill Rutherford of allowing Zajonc to issue a permit allowing for the exploration of oil off the coast of Oregon.

Kerans called for Zajonc's dismissal for giving Atlantic Richfield Co. permission to explore within the three-mile

limit for oil reserves without a public hearing or notification, he said.

Rutherford denied the implication that there will be drilling for oil, saying that before any drilling would occur there would be environmental impact statements made and the proper people notified.

Defending Zajonc's performance as director, Rutherford said the job is a difficult one at best, with someone "always unhappy that he (Zajonc) doesn't give away the store."

Rutherford added that Zajonc's tenure as director will most likely end soon anyway. He noted that if Zajonc's wife, a candidate for secretary of state, wins election, Zajonc would resign, and if the democratic candidate wins, Zajonc would most likely be replaced.

Saying that Rutherford's explanation was "a red herring he's trying to drag across our path," Kerans called for Zajonc's replacement and accused Rutherford of not paying attention to what was going on with the Land Board.

The state treasurer, along with the governor and the secretary of state, directs the Land Board and is responsible for policies governing public land use.

Also focusing on investment policies — and decisions made by the state treasurer — Kerans called for divestiture of state funds in South Africa, which has been under fire for its apartheid policies.

Rutherford defended the state's current policy of in-



Grattan Kerans

vesting in only those companies that follow the Sullivan principle, which requires equal pay and opportunities. He said under the Sullivan guidelines, divestiture isn't necessary.

Rutherford added that he has read reports that promote the Sullivan principle as helping direct South Africa toward equality.

Saying that he "threw away" those reports, Kerans defended his call for divestiture on moral grounds, saying that he believes it's wrong for anyone to make a profit from a land where "the people have no citizenship."

Though the state treasurer is bound by the "prudent person rule" that requires the treasurer to invest in the most profitable ventures, Kerans said that divestiture is still possible.

Rutherford, in his closing statement, noted that he is not against divestiture, but that it doesn't seem necessary, and current policies allow for a wider choice of investments.



Bill Rutherford