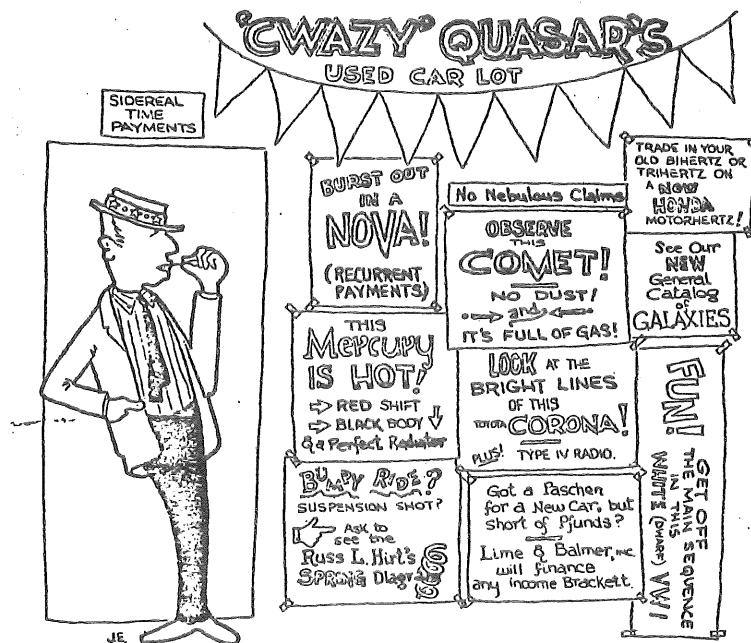


DAVID DUNLAP DOINGS

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Merchandising



(Author uncertain, John Eddy suspected)

ACADEMIC HIERARCHY

The Dean

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound,
is more powerful than a locomotive,
is faster than a speeding bullet,
walks on water,
gives policy to God.

The Department Head

Leaps short buildings in a single bound,
is more powerful than a switch engine,
is just as fast as a speeding bullet,
walks on water if sea is calm,
talks with God.

Professor

Leaps short buildings with a running start and
favorable winds,
is almost as powerful as a switch engine,
is faster than a speeding bullet,
walks on water in an indoor swimming pool,
talks with God if special request is approved.

Associate Professor

Barely clears a quonset hut,
loses tug of war with locomotive,
can fire a speeding bullet,
swims well,
is occasionally addressed by God.

Assistant Professor

Makes high marks on the walls when trying to leap
tall buildings,
is run over by locomotives,
can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury,
dog paddles,
talks to animals.

Graduate Student

Runs into buildings,
recognizes locomotives two out of three times,
is not issued ammunition,
can stay afloat with a life jacket,
talks to walls.

Undergraduate

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter buildings,
says look at the choo-choo,
wets himself with a water pistol,
plays in mud puddles,
mumbles to himself.

Department Secretary

Lifts tall buildings and walks under them,
kicks locomotives off the tracks,
catches speeding bullets in her teeth and eats them,
freezes water with a single glance,
She is God.

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN

The word is now official that Sidney van den Bergh will be the next Director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, B.C.. His appointment begins January 1, 1978. After his nineteen years at the DDO, the gap he will leave will be a large one, but Toronto's loss must surely be Victoria's gain. We offer Sidney our most felicitous congratulations and wish him every success in his new post.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Bob Garrison was back in town briefly on April 18 and 19 after an observing run with the Cerro Tololo 4-metre telescope in Chile. He has now returned to California.

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Don MacRae was in Washington March 24-25 on USRA business.

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Sidney van den Bergh spent April 11-22 observing at Cerro Tololo, was in Geneva April 26 - May 1 to attend the ESO Workshop on the Magellanic Clouds, and returned to visit Cerro Tololo May 2-6.

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John Percy gave a lecture, Life on Other Worlds, at Northview Heights Secondary School on February 8. On March 18 he gave a seminar on Multimode Cepheids to the Astronomy Department at the University of Western Ontario, and that evening delivered the H.R. Kingston Memorial Lecture (Life On Other Worlds) to the London Centre of the RASC.

* * *

Don Fernie gave a seminar, Astrophysics in the Andes - Harvard's Early Days in Peru, to the UWO Astronomy Department on March 24.

* * *

Ernie Seaquist presented a seminar, Radio Emission From Selected Novae and Emission-Line Stars, to the UWO Astronomy Department on March 31.

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SHAPLEY VINDICATED AT LAST!

Most of our readers know of the great 'Shapley-Curtis debate' of 1920 during which Curtis proposed that the 'nebulae' were outside the Milky Way and were in fact galaxies in their own right, while Shapley supported the view that they were part of the Milky Way. This was presumed solved by Edwin Hubble in 1924 when he presented evidence that the 'nebulae' were too far away to be a part of our galaxy. However, it turns out, if the Library of Congress is to be believed, that Shapley was right all along. On your next trip through the library try and find a book on 'galaxies'. You will find them on the shelf marked 'Clusters and Nebulae'.

Rick McGonegal

SEMINARS

April seminars were as listed in our last issue, except that Dale Russell's talk was postponed from April 5 to April 19. Sidney van den Bergh stepped into the breach at the last minute on April 5 and gave an extemporaneous talk on the Magellanic Clouds. The topic of Tom Barnes' seminar on April 26 was An Independent Distance Scale for Pulsating Variables.

The only seminars scheduled for May are:

- May 17: Sidney van den Bergh, University of Toronto
"Musings on Galaxy Classification"
- May 24: Richard Henry, Johns Hopkins University
Title to be announced.

P O T P O U R R I

Our congratulations to John and Rose Lester on the birth April 5 of their daughter Margaret. Congratulations also to Irene and Jim Priestley on the birth April 3 of their daughter, Nicole.

* * *

Rick Crowe, who has an M.Sc. from the University of Western Ontario, has been hired as our Resident Astronomer on Las Campanas, effective May 1.

* * *

Dot Fraquelli passed her Ph.D. General Examination on March 25.

* * *

Lee Rickard, of Charlottesville, Virginia, in a recent issue of *Time*, takes that magazine to task for a reference to science as a "pampered sacred cow". "How do you think it feels," he says, "to work in a country that spends less on its national observatories than it does on jigsaw puzzles?"

* * *

The April 13 issue of the Richmond Hill *Liberal* carried a large picture and report of the general meeting of the Richmond Hill Power Squadron. Central in the picture was the Squadron's Commander, Dave Earlam, who was retiring that position to become Lieutenant-Commander in charge of training for ten local squadrons.

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Bill Sherwood (M.Sc. 1967) reports that he and his fellow workers in infrared astronomy have been invited by Prof. Ambartsumian to spend two months this summer in the Soviet Union. Their stay will include observing time on the Russian 6-metre telescope.

* * *

Well, you've got to hand it to good old René Racine. Man, he really knows how to pick an astronomical site! A report in the *Sherbrooke Record* tells us that not only is the new Megantic Observatory in Quebec coming along very well, but that "meteorological studies indicate that there are about 1200 clear nights per year in the Megantic area during which star gazing can be done." Quite unnecessarily, the report continues that "astronomers consider the Megantic site excellent...."

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Don Fernie has been appointed as the Royal Society of Canada's representative on the NRC Associate Committee on Astronomy. Don MacRae now steps down from the chairmanship of that committee, and will be replaced by Bill Wehlau.

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Changes at the DDO: Helen Hogg is giving up the office she has occupied for the past forty years to move into the smaller office that was previously René's. The larger room will have more desks added for the use of downtown staff members on their visits to the Observatory.

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Further changes at the DDO: Most of the library's rare books have been moved downtown to the University's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, where, reports Zane Sterns, "they are finally receiving proper tender loving care." The move, long contemplated, finally came to fruition after last summer's scare when, for a ghastly couple of days, it seemed that one of our books - valued at up to \$7000 - had been stolen.

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PAPERS SUBMITTED

S. van den Bergh	The NGC 1275 Enigma
J.R. Percy	Astronomy in the Classroom: Some New Resource Material
P.P. Kronberg, M. Reinhardt, and M. Normandin	New Upper Limits to an Intergalactic Magneto-Ionic Medium

P.P. Kronberg

Extragalakische Radioquellen

D. Turner, R. Lyons,
and C.T. Bolton

HD118246 - A New Be Star at High Galactic
Latitude

REVISIONIST'S CORNER

From the Toronto Star of March 21:

*Spring made its official entrance at 12:43 p.m.
when the sun crossed the equator 3250 miles
from the city.*

FINAL ITEM

In Praise of Uncles

It was during the course of my graduate seminar on the history of astronomy that I recently made a most profound discovery. Scarcely able to stifle the cry of 'Eureka' that sprang to my lips at the time (it so infrequently does that I would stumble over the pronunciation) I have now regained sufficient composure to bring you the good news. It is quite simply that modern astronomy wouldn't be what it is had not most of the great figures in the Copernican Revolution had uncles.

Take the case of young Nicolaus Koppernigk. There the kid was as a typical eight-year-old in Torun, fighting with the other boys and getting his clothes mussed up and throwing rocks at the ducks on the Vistula and all that, and probably looking forward to a great future emulating Dad as a magistrate. This all changed in 1483 when Dad passed on to The Great Court in the Sky, and Nick, now ten, and the other Koppernigk kids were packed off to live with Uncle Lucas

Watzelrode. Uncle Lucas was a martinet. He was also a tyrant and a nepotist. No sooner had he been made Bishop of the local area, Ermland, than he began to see what he could do for the family. Nick and his no-good brother Andreas (whose avowed ambition it was to become a pirate) were appointed minor officials of Frauenburg Cathedral. This brought them a small but steady income, although years would pass before they ever did anything to earn it - in Andreas' case, never. In due course Nick's older sister was appointed the Mother Superior of a major convent, and the younger sister had an excellent marriage to a wealthy nobleman arranged for her.

By the time Nick was 24 Uncle Lucas had got him appointed as a Canon of Frauenburg Cathedral, which brought a yet better income. Nick celebrated this by immediately going off as a student to Italy for ten years, there to study medicine, Canon Law, and mathematics. And incidentally, we suppose, to think his first dark heretical thoughts about the solar system. When he returned he became a kind of secretary-physician to his Uncle, who was having a hell of a time of it riding herd on the local Teutonic Knights. These merry cutthroats claimed Ermland as their own, while Uncle Lucas, in effect the local ruler as well as Bishop, had to forcibly nullify such claims. And he was pretty good at it, being described by the Grand Master of the Knights as "the devil in human shape"; they prayed daily for his death. Eventually, finding prayer ineffective, they did him in by food poisoning, and even Dr. Koppernigk was unable to save Uncle Lucas. Not too surprising really, when one considers one of his surviving medical prescriptions: Armenian sponge, ivory shavings, deer's pulped heart, a beetle, boiled lizards and earthworms, calf's gall, and donkey urine. Uncle Lucas was probably glad to go.

And so Nick finally took up his post of Canon, sixteen years after his appointment, and settled down to his life's work as Church administrator, economist, statesman, and soldier (the Knights battled on). And, of course, fooled with theoretical astronomy in his spare time. With his lifetime publication record of one preprint and three publications he would never have made associate professor, but he did become the father of modern astronomy. And all because Uncle Lucas got him a cushy job and let him go to Italy for training.

Next, take a look at Tyghe de Brahe (who, as a teenage snob, changed his name to Tycho as soon as he'd learnt Latin). Here the avuncular influence began almost at birth when his Uncle Jorgen Brahe abducted him, apparently without any great concern being shown by his parents (although his father, in a fit of mordant pique, did initially threaten the uncle with murder). Uncle Jorgen, described as coming of a line of truculent and quixotic noblemen, was a country squire and also vice-admiral in the Danish navy. In 1560, when Tyghe was thirteen, he was sent off to Copenhagen University to study rhetoric and philosophy, and it was while here that - much to Uncle Jorgen's horror - the boy became infected by astronomy. Hardly a subject suitable for a nobleman who must one day manage his considerable estates! So Uncle Jorgen packed him off to study at Leipzig and other universities, but this time with a guardian-tutor who had strict instructions that the boy was to have his nose kept to the grindstone of law and philosophy and other gentlemanly pursuits. No science! But Tycho, as he had now renamed himself, was one of those rich kids who could afford to slip out and buy up books like the *Almagest* and small astronomical instruments when his tutor, Vedal, wasn't looking, and then wait until Vedal had fallen asleep at night before sneaking out the window with cross-staff in hand and joy in his wicked heart.

Eventually Vedal had to admit defeat, but Uncle Jorgen was spared the ultimate appalling spectacle of Tycho going at astronomy fulltime. Shortly after Uncle Jorgen had returned from distinguished efforts at battling the Swedes, he was visited in his castle by the Danish King. The latter must have been half-blind or something, because he fell off the drawbridge, and Uncle Jorgen, being a vice-admiral and all, leapt into the moat to save his sovereign. Presumably a worthy sacrifice, but it ended in Uncle Jorgen dying of pneumonia.

There was one last effort made to save Tycho from his chosen dissolute career. This was the effort of another uncle, Uncle Steen Bille. Uncle Steen was a respectable alchemist, and for a while after he had taken young Tycho under his wing it looked as though Tycho would find happiness in searching for the means to turn base metals into gold and so forth. But Fate was against Uncle Steen. On the evening of November 11, 1572, as Tycho was stumbling home after a hard day at the lab, he relapsed into his bad habit of looking up at the sky, and there was this bloody great star blazing away.... Life would never be the same again.

In the case of Johannes Kepler the avuncular influence was decidedly negative. He spent his early years in a house that must have bulged with relatives, of whom he later had this to report: "My grandfather Sebald is remarkably ignorant, short-tempered and obstinate. His face betrays his licentious past." His grandmother was "restless, clever, and lying, a bearer of grudges, an inveterate troublemaker." Heinrich, "my father. A man vicious, inflexible, quarrelsome ... he ran the risk of hanging." Mom was accused of witchcraft, and later would have been burnt at the stake had Johannes not been able to save her. The numerous uncles and aunts fitted in nicely, for instance Uncle Sebaldus "was vicious and disliked by his fellow townsmen ... led a most impure life ... died in the end of Dropsy."

Little wonder that Johannes was practically psychotic by his adolescent years. But one can only believe that without these pressures he would not have been driven to escape home and take up school-teaching, where, since his class enrolment dropped to zero in his second year, he had time to do what really interested him - astrology.

And finally Isaac Newton. You may recall that he came of a farming family, and that his father died before Isaac was born. Since Isaac was an only child, this meant that his struggling mother could hardly wait for him to grow up and take over the running of the farm. She saw little value in an education, and only on Uncle William Ayscough's insistence was Isaac sent to a Grammar School. Here he proved an indifferent student until the school bully set upon him. Isaac, jolted out of his lethargy, not only rubbed the bully's nose along the school wall, but, his sense of revenge unassuaged, took on the bully academically as well. Isaac won. To his mother's despair, though, he turned out to be an unreliable farmer. When she'd go out expecting to find him slaving in the fields she'd discover him instead reading books under the hedgerows. It was Uncle William again who finally convinced a reluctant Mrs. Newton that her son might do better at Cambridge.

And what, you say, of that one other towering figure in the Copernican Revolution - good old Galileo? Well, so far as I recall, Galileo had no uncles, or at least none that impinged significantly on his life. And you know what happened to Galileo, don't you? He ended up in the hands of the Inquisition!