

Stargazers' guide for April

By DR. THOMAS D. NICHOLSON

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April 3-4: A partial eclipse of the moon occurs tonight. It will be visible throughout North America (except in northwestern part of Canada and Alaska), everywhere that the moon is above the horizon from 10:30 p.m. on April 3 to 12:06 a.m. on April 4, eastern standard time. Times are, of course, an hour earlier in each time zone to the west.
 The eclipse will not be spectacular. Only a small crescent of the moon (less than 20 per cent of its diameter)

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will be in earth's shadow at mid eclipse at 11:18 p.m., e.s.t.

April 5: The moon is nearest the earth, the position known as perigee. At about 5 p.m., e.s.t., it passes in front of and covers the planet Uranus (an occultation) in the sky over Europe and Central Asia.

April 6: Venus is in inferior conjunction with the sun (passing between sun and earth). It has been an evening star all through the autumn and winter, quite prominent from mid-December on. It now enters the morning sky, and by the end of April it will be seen easily in the east at dawn.

April 10: Mercury is at its greatest distance to the left of the sun (greatest easterly elongation) placing it in its best position as an evening star. This is a favorable evening elongation: At sunset, the planet is 17 degrees above the horizon in the west. It should be relatively easy for those with an unobstructed western horizon to see the planet on any clear evening from a week before to a week after this date. Look for it low in the east about 40 minutes after sundown.

April 11: Since last autumn, Saturn has been moving slowly to the right (west) among the stars of Cancer. This retrograde motion has taken it slowly away from the prominent star Regulus, in Leo. Today the planet becomes stationary, and it resumes its normal easterly motion. This takes it to the left and closer to Regulus over the remaining months of the year. By next November and December, when Saturn is a morning star it will be very close to Regulus.

April 15: Perhaps you can find Mars in the morning sky today, just after dawn, by looking below and to the right of the slim waning crescent moon.

April 18: A solar eclipse occurs today, but it is not visible in North America. A partial solar eclipse will occur in a broad area from eastern Brazil, across the South Atlantic, Central and South Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Southern Asia. Along a narrow path in the center of this region, the moon will pass centrally across the sun's disc, but it will not be quite large enough to cover it entirely. The resulting annular (ring-form) eclipse will be visible in Southern Africa along this path, up to about 65 miles in width.

April 19: Mercury is in conjunction with the early crescent moon. They

Study heart disease in children

IOWA CITY, IA. — Dr. Ronald M. Lauer, professor of pediatrics and head of pediatric cardiology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, is studying children who are particularly likely to develop heart disease. They are the sons and daughters of men who have had heart attacks before the age of 50.

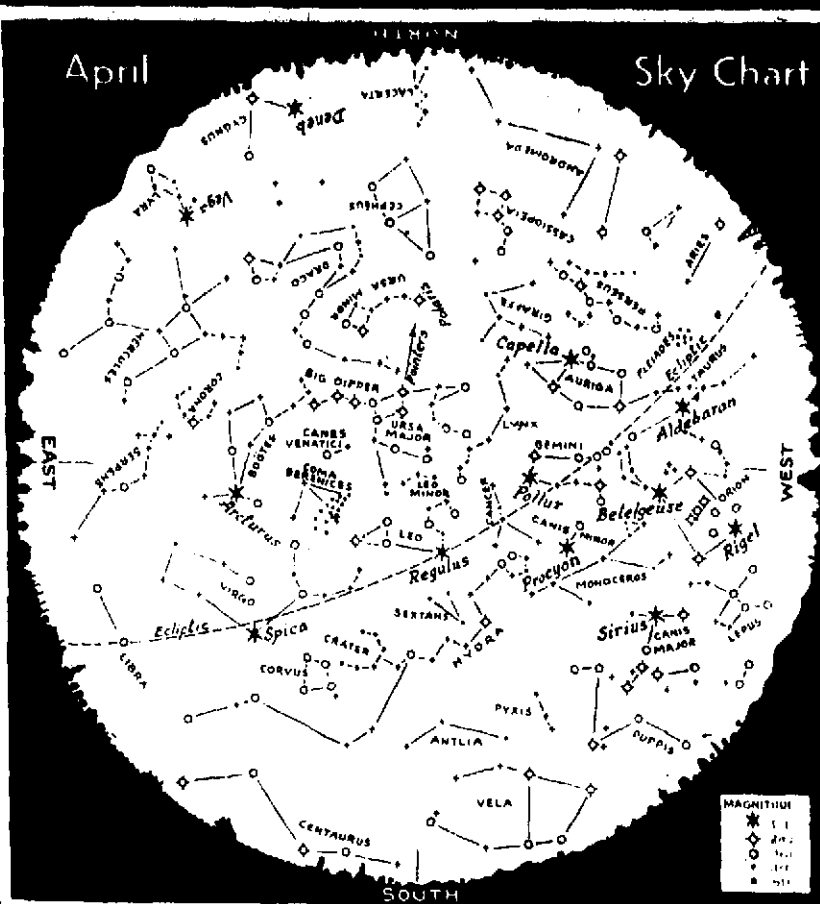
The project directed by Lauer, and funded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, will focus on changing the diet of the family of the young heart attack patient. He hopes that dietary intervention will lower the cholesterol levels and eliminate other risk factors in these susceptible children.

Other project researchers are Mary Ann Reiter, project nutritionist; Dr. Guy Carter, program director, and Dr. William Clarke, biostatistician.

Lauer earlier directed a study of school age children in Muscatine and discovered that 24 per cent of the youngsters had serum cholesterol levels of 200 mg. or above. About 16 per cent of the children between the ages of 14 and 18 years had elevated blood pressure readings.

The new U of I study will follow about 100 families for three years. Families for the study will be selected from those of heart patients at University Hospitals and the Veterans Administration Hospital at Iowa City, and hospitals in Cedar Rapids.

The children will be given periodic examinations. In the test group, all members of the family will receive intensive instruction on decreasing the amount of animal fat in the diet. Cholesterol is found only in animal fat. Common sources in the American diet are whole milk, butter, egg yolks and liver. Studies indicate that after infancy, the need for dietary cholesterol decreases.



The April Sky Chart is designed to correspond to the sky at 10 p.m., local standard time, the first of the month; 9 p.m. the middle of the month and 8 p.m. and the end of the month.

will be quite low in the west after sunset tonight. On the 20th, Mercury begins its retrograde (westerly) motion, taking it rapidly toward the sun.

April 20-21: The crescent moon shifts from west of Jupiter on the evening of the 20th to east of the planet on the 21st. And the moon is at apogee (farthest from earth) on the 21st.

April 22: The Lyrid meteor shower reaches maximum this morning. Expect to see up to 15 meteors per hour radiating from the eastern sky during the after-midnight hours this morning.

April 24: Venus, after having passed between earth and sun, ends its retrograde motion and resumes its normal (easterly) movement through the stars. The planet should be seen easily by now as a morning star, low in the east just after dawn.

April 26: The bright object near the moon tonight is Saturn. On the 27th, the moon will be near Regulus, in Leo, with Saturn to the right (west).

April 30: Mercury moves between earth and sun (inferior conjunction), leaving the evening sky and becoming a morning star.

All Month: Jupiter and Saturn are our evening stars for April, and Mercury, usually so difficult to see, makes one of its rare favorable evening appearances during the first half of the month.

Jupiter is in Taurus, near the Pleiades (the so-called Seven Sisters), low in the west at dusk, setting a few hours afterwards.

Saturn, at dusk, appears high in the south as darkness begins, much brighter than the twin stars of Gemini (Pollux and Castor) to its right and Regulus (in Leo) to its left. Together with them and the dim stars of Cancer close by, Saturn sets a few hours after midnight. The moon moves close to Saturn on the 20th.

Venus (for most of the month) and Mars are in the morning sky. Neither is well-placed for viewing early in the month, but the situation improves. By the end of April, both will be rising an hour or more before the sun, but Venus will be the easier to see because of its brightness and position. Also in the morning sky, Uranus is in Libra and Neptune is in Ophiucus. Pluto, an evening star, remains in Virgo.

MOON PHASES
 Full moon: Apr. 3, 11:09 p.m., l. s.t.
 Last quarter: Apr. 10, 2:15 p.m., l. s.t.
 New Moon: Apr. 18, 5:35 a.m., l. s.t.
 First quarter: Apr. 26, 10:42 a.m., l. d.t.
Evening stars: Mercury, Venus (until Apr. 6), Jupiter, Saturn, Pluto (after Apr. 2.)
Morning stars: Venus (after Apr. 6), Mars, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto (until the Apr. 2.)

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TARGET

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