

The Newsletter of  
The Royal Astronomical Society Of Canada -Kingston  
Centre and the Queen's University Astronomy Club.  
The beginning of November, 1977.

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Greetings!

An Unusual Aurora

At the last meeting I reported on seeing a fairly spectacular auroral display on Oct. 18th. Two days after the meeting on Oct. 27th, I saw another, quite different and unusual type of aurora. What was unusual about it was the time at which I saw it and its intensity in very small areas of the sky.

I saw it roughly between 6:30 and 6:50 p.m. E.D.T. which was shortly after sunset and while there was still very bright twilight. This was both before and after I saw the rising of the moon-a moon that was only 24 hours after full moon, and being the Hunter's moon it is an "early-riser" moon in the days following full moon.

It is unusual to see an aurora under such "bright-sky" conditions . Not only did I see it, but I saw colours like blue, yellow and perhaps a bit of green. It was very intense in several small patches toward the north-east (azimuth 25° to 75°) and it did not move around or "bounce-up" very much as many auroral displays do.

At first I thought that the night would be one of rare delight for those who are fascinated by these displays. Then realizing that the moon would shortly rise, I told myself that its effect would be considerably lessened but again seeing its intensity in the twilight, I started to look forward to seeing just how good it would be, in spite of a bright sky.

Amid all these wonderings and my anticipation, the clouds started to move in. I was in for a disappointment: Within half an hour there was little chance of seeing it at all. A clear afternoon and evening became a very cloudy night. (Those clouds spoiled what promised to be a very interesting display.)

## The "Mosquito" Contest

The winner in the "Mosquito" Contest was announced at the last meeting. Some people wanted to hear some of the entries. Here are some of them:

Dear Contest Editor:

The last time I was out observing the mosquitoes were so bad that they kept stealing the telescopes.

D.B.

Dear D. B.:

We highly recommend that you tie down your telescope with one-inch wire cable, and secure it with the most intimidating-looking lock that your money can buy. Write me later and tell me if this method prevents the larceny you describe.

C. E.

Dear Contest Editor:

The last time I was out observing the mosquitoes were so bad that they put Count Dracula to shame.

D. B.

Dear D. B.:

That's blood flowing in those veins. What do you expect? (On second thought, find a friend in Chemistry and challenge him with a project--to develop a high-potency blood additive to make that elixir less delectable to the taste of such creatures.)

C. E.

Dear C. E.:

T. l. t. I. w. o. o. t. m. w. s. b. that I thought their buzzing was a meteor falling.

S. M.

Dear S. M.:

The last issue carried a report of someone who confused a comet with a meteor. Now there is this! Where will it all end?

Dear C. E.

T. l. t. I. w. o. o. t. m. w. s. b. that I had to spray my telescope with "Off".

E. K.

Dear E.K.:

We normally don't like to put in a plug for any one product. If you think that this one really worked for you in the past summer perhaps you would write and tell us how many gallons you used for each hour of observing. If only I had known about this and had been able to secure a few barrels for the June 26th observing session!

C.E.

(P.S. Perhaps you could also let us know about its pricing system: what's the world price and is there a two-price system in effect?)

C.E.

Dear C.E.:

T.l.t.I.w.o.o.t.m.w.s.b.t.w.s.t.b.f.a.r.a.t.t.k.t.y.s.

B,D.

Dear B,D:

I d.t.t.y.s.w.t.m.i.t.f.l.w.s.a.a.o.t.w.e.t.w.s.t.

C.E.

We hope to publish in the next issue some of the letters that we have not room to publish here.

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Reminders:

1. I hope these pages reach you in time to remind you of our planned Taurid observing session on Nov. 4th (weather permitting). "If you're in doubt, phone Doug".

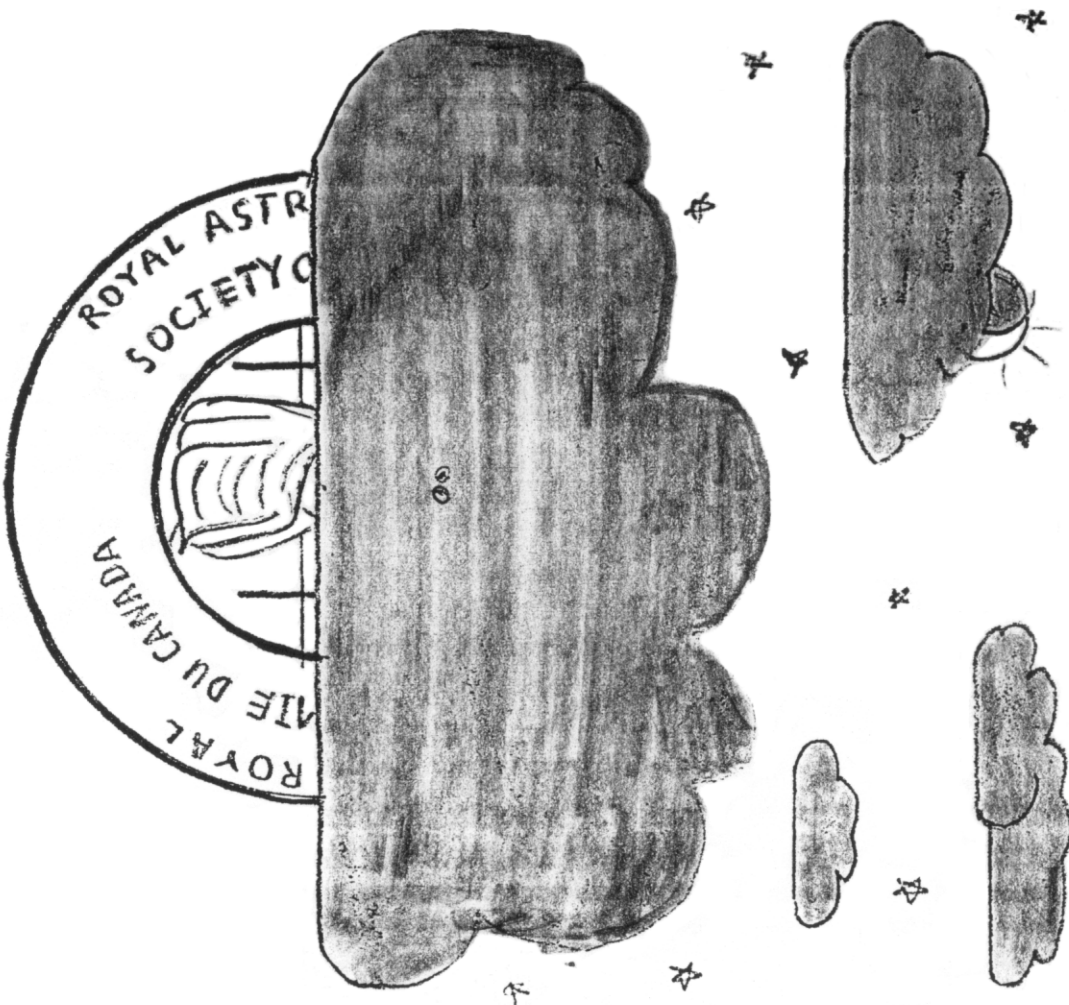
2. We now know the topic of Dr. Percy's talk to us on Dec. 6th. It will be on "Pulsating Stars".

3. Here is a piece of reading that you might find interesting in connection with the topic for the next meeting. It is the article on the V.L.A. in Sky and Telescope, (November 1976), on pages 320 to 322.

4. Most importantly, please remember to be at the next meeting, which promises to be one of the highlights of the year. Please remember also to bring a friend; even if the friend does not wish to join us regularly, he may find our guest exceptionally interesting. That's Tuesday, Nov. 8th in Ellis Hall. "See you there at 8 o'clock."

L.E.

# OVERCAST



NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGSTON CENTER OF THE  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
AND THE QUEENS UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMY CLUB

