



MINUTES

BOOK REVIEW

by John Mlinar

The August meeting of the TCAC was held August 2, at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of the Science Museum of Minnesota. Jim Fox informed members that the Reflector would no longer be sent to individuals who were members of organizations belonging to the AL. Individual membership and subscription information had been mailed to members.

A release will be made to the press and radio/television media for the Perseid meteor shower, the night of August 11. Some members indicated a willingness to observe at the Metcalf site in the event of large public response.

The matter of constitutional amendments first proposed at the February meeting was again brought up. Since the proposed amendments have since been revised by the Executive Board, it was agreed that they should be published and voted upon at the Sept. meeting. The proposed amendments are as follows:

Article III, paragraph 4b, change to read:
The President shall appoint one student representative to serve on the executive board for a period of one year.
Formerly it read two student representatives.

Article III, paragraph 6, change to read:
The Executive Board will consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one student representative.
It formerly specified two student representatives and a student advisor. The Advisor office has been abolished.

Article III, paragraph 6a, add:
A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of not less than three members.

The evening's programs were given by Al Ominsky and Bill Larson. Al presented photographs from his tour of English Observatories. Bill gave us a glimpse of telescopes in the Southwest.

The meeting was graced by a visit from Ed Halbach, prominent Milwaukee astronomer.

The book in question this month is The Collapsing Universe. It is one more of Isaac Asimov's "science for the layman" books. The book's subtitle is "The Story of Black Holes", and unfortunately only the last 38 pages out of 204 pages actually deal directly with black holes. Even in these 38 pages most of the ideas are just lightly brushed over. The rest of the book deals with forces, compressed matter, white dwarfs ect. I will have to agree that these things need to be discussed before talking about black holes, but not over 80% of a book needs to be the introduction! I believe that this book was not written up to Isaac Asimov's par. If you are in the market for a book that deals in general with stars then this is a good book, but if you want a book about black holes The Collapsing Universe is not the book you want.

DOPS! A Mistake. The Author of last month's article on Mercury was Ivan Policoff.

EDITORS CORNER

The Publication of this month's Gemini is the first official task of your new co-editors - John Mlinar and Peter Steirmetz. We will work diligently each month to bring you the quality publication that you are accustomed to. Both of us would like to extend our thanks to Andy Fraser and Al Ominsky for their help.

All articles that are to be published in Gemini should be typed in columns 48 spaces wide elite type or submitted rough draft.

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In your articles please use illustrations if possible. We appreciate all contributions.

LOCAL NOTES

The next scheduled observing session is the night of Sept. 16 (Friday), with the alternate night Sept. 17 (Saturday).

FOR SALE: 8" f7.6 Newtonian tube assembly, 3 eyepieces, finder with mount, excellent optical quality. \$130.00. Mark Peterson, 784-6979

Those members who would like to participate in the network of TCAC observers to be notified of short lived phenomena, please complete, detach, and mail the following form to: K. Sproll, 1554 Hillside Ave.N., Mpls., MN 55411 before the Sept. meeting. Instructions for participants will follow.

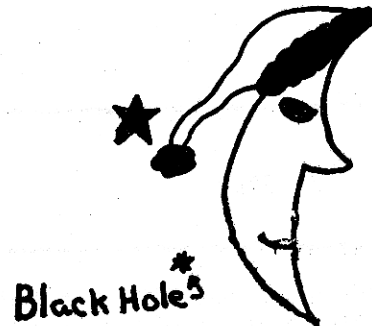
NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: day _____ night _____

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Sept. Don Tate variable star observing
- Oct. Carl Harstad meteor, comet observation
- Nov. Andy Fraser Local Group galaxies
- Dec. Lauren Nelson The Sun



GEMINI

Co-editors-----John Mlinar
Peter Steirmetz

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The TCAC strives to promote amateur astronomy through its publications, meetings, and public programs. Membership is open to anyone. Annual regular member dues are \$16 and student member dues are \$5, of which \$1.50 is allocated for a subscription to Gemini. Subscription to Gemini is available to non-members at \$2.50 per year. Inquiries may be directed to: TCAC, Science Museum of Minnesota, 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

Advertisements for publication in Gemini are welcome and inquiries may be directed to Lauren Nelson c/o TCAC.

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