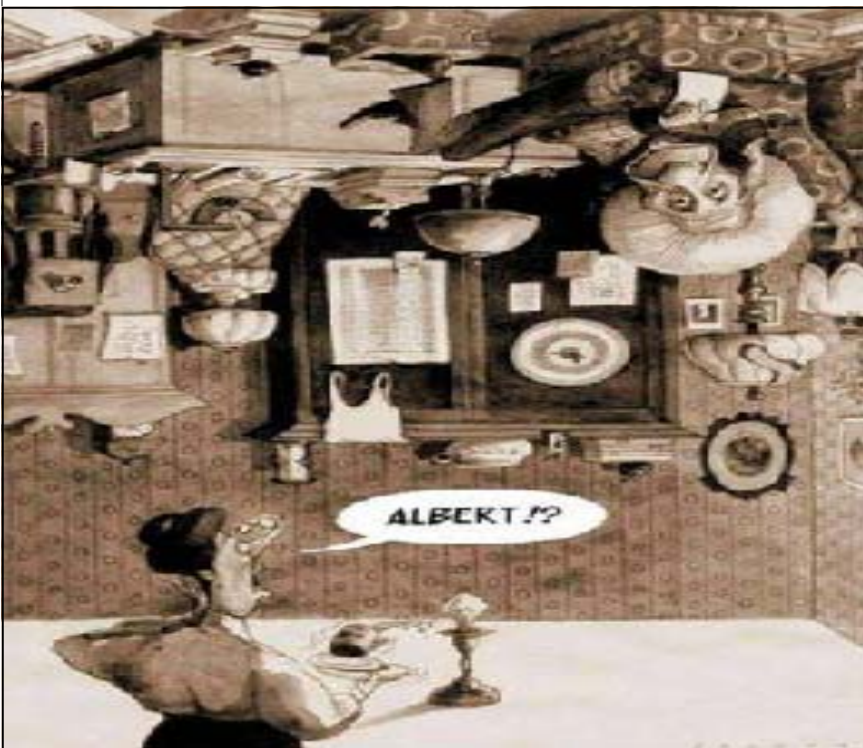




The Latest telescope project from Gary Stone of the Saskatoon Centre. It is a F63 Reflector and has a 37' focal length. He designed it for planetary work. Regular refractors are in the foreground. The inset picture in the bottom right is designed for searching for Spiral Galaxies.



A ROAR EN



April 1st The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 04, Number 01

Flier

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2005
8:00 p.m. UTC

at

Maderock Kay uv Cee Hall

Speaker: 4 inch Round

Topics: All about the Equator
(Oh sorry, I thought it said tropics)

Upcoming Events

SOLAR NEWS!!!

The sun is expected to rise tomorrow morning and should reach its highest point sometime around noon.

This will be followed by its setting later in the day. This is expected to continue for the next few million years.

Meetings:

The Centre's annual meeting on Procrastination is expected to be held some time last week.. Notices will be going out sometime soon (or not).

The Lazy Astronomer's Guide to Excuses

By Crystal Steppes

Are you a lazy astronomer like me? Too lazy to make up your own excuses? Well, here's a list of useful excuses culled from years of experience in using them. Note that a careful application of these excuses will allow you to avoid all observing sessions while still enabling you to buy mountains of new equipment and pay for it with a job you can hang on to indefinitely while managing to nap during working hours.

Excuses to not go observing:

- I heard there was a cloud in the sky, so the seeing must be bad.
- I accidentally looked out the window this afternoon, so my dark adaptation is completely shot.
- The batteries for my electric socks are dead.
- Beavers stole my red headlight covers to make windows for their lodge.
- I'll have to upgrade my equipment before I can go observing (see below).
- My boss says he'll fire me if I fall asleep during another meeting (see below).
- My significant other will be really mad if I miss another anniversary / birthday/religious holiday.
- I don't want to catch the West Nile virus, so I'll have to avoid any potential contact with mosquitoes.

Excuses to buy new equipment:

- Gee, my equipment is so old I'm not observing very much (see above).
- 4 megapixels is SO last year.
- The latest software version has an extra million objects (DO NOT mention that they are only visible from Hubble).
- Orange is no longer the "in" colour for telescopes.
- The astronomy day coordinator said I had to buy this new laser pointer.

Excuses for falling asleep at work (see above):

- I didn't want to miss last night's rare event. Note that anything can be used - aurora borealis, gibbous Moon, Jupiter's moon, Saturn's rings, etc. - but be sure to not use any one too frequently or else it'll seem less rare.
- I wasn't sleeping. I was just dark-adapting.
- I was participating in an evening learning opportunity.

Courtesy of StarBUST (Edmonton Centre)

You know you're a deep sky person when...

1. You consider the moon a major annoyance.
2. You consider Jupiter 'light pollution'.
3. You spend most of your time looking at or for objects you can barely see.
4. Your favourite objects are objects you can barely see.
5. You enjoy looking at faint fuzzies with the smallest possible aperture.
6. You enjoy looking at faint fuzzies with the largest possible aperture.
7. You like to choose objects that are easier to imagine than to see.
8. Your observing schedule demands that you search for objects in twilight.
9. You keep thinking that if only the stars would go away, it might really get dark.
10. You wonder how your favourite objects missed getting included in the New General Catalogue or the Index Catalogue.
11. You're not sure that anything in this solar system counts as astronomy any more.
12. You're amazed that anyone needs artificial light to read charts.
13. You could do a Messier Marathon from memory, if you still bothered with Messier objects.
14. You can read all the NGC abbreviated visual descriptions without using the key, but you have to be careful not to cheat by just remembering what things look like.
15. You view a major earthquake as an opportunity for a close-in dark-sky star party.
16. You welcome (and have even considered instigating) power cuts, but only if they occur on clear moonless nights.

Recognise anyone?

Courtesy of Edmonton Centre

Other Names For "The Big Bang"

The Best Of Times, The First Of Times

The Grand Opening Sale

Pop Goes Existence!

The Time, Space & Energy Factory Outlet Sale

Dude, Where's My Void?

S&T Contest entries:

The Instantaneous Beginning of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Bob

The Whole Enchilada

Let There Be Stuff

Jiffy Pop

Thanks to the Edmonton Centre