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Pending court ruling

Bulb exchange to continue

Detroit Edison will continue to exchange light bulbs pending settlement of a lawsuit which seeks to end the practice.

The Detroit Edison Company has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to allow it to continue exchanging light bulbs without cost. Ending this long-standing Edison practice, the company said, could cost its customers more than \$3 million a year.

Lawrence Cantor, a Detroit drug store owner, claimed in a 1973 class-action suit that Detroit Edison's light bulb policy violates federal antitrust laws because it takes business away from retailers who could otherwise sell more light bulbs to their customers.

Quoting from a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court, Leon S. Cohan, Edison vice-president and general counsel, said the lamp program provides substantial cost savings to Detroit Edison's customers because its bulbs are longer-lived and cost 50 to 75 per cent less than what the leading

manufacturers recommend and the petitioner (the drug store owner) charges.

Cohan said that in 1972 Detroit Edison bought 18.5 million light bulbs for \$2.8 million. "If our customers had purchased the same number of bulbs from retailers such as the petitioner, they would have been likely to pay almost \$6 million for them," he said.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, ruled in favor of Detroit Edison in 1974 and this judgment was affirmed by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in April 1975. Cantor appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court last October.

Detroit Edison customers have been able to exchange burned out bulbs for new ones since the company's incorporation in 1903. Cost is included in the rate structure regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Brisk days mark remainder of month

More sunlight but colder temperatures will mark the rest of the month of January, according to University of Michigan astronomer Hazel M. Losh.

"Even though in January our days will increase by an hour over the shortest day of December, don't get your hopes up too high for the coming of spring," she says. "The increase in daylight will have little impact on the weather until the rate of the earth's heating overtakes its rate of cooling, which won't occur until roughly the beginning of February."

She explains that a "lag of the seasons" causes the lowest temperatures of the year to be delayed for several weeks after the winter solstice, the day the sun reaches its most southerly point in its apparent yearly journey around the earth.

"Acting like a blanket, the atmosphere holds back some of the surface heat until well after the solstice, with the result that the northern hemisphere continues to lose more heat at night than can be replaced during the shorter-than-average days."

Losh says that because the sun does not move at a constant rate, as do our clocks, but rather speeds up and slows down in a predictable fashion, the lengthening of the day will be more noticeable evenings than mornings.

"Although the winter constellations center around Orion and his hunting dogs pursuing the hare across the heavens, two zodiacal groups—Gemini and Cancer—are also in good position for observation," she says.

The heads of Gemini, the twins, are formed by the stars Pollux and Castor. Lying on their sides, the twins rise over the eastern horizon soon after dark, but as they move across the sky they assume a more upright position.

The Michigan astronomer characterizes Cancer, the crab, as the most inconspicuous of all the zodiac pictures. She says the faint stars of this group form an inverted letter "Y." Near the junction point of the upright and the branching lines is a misty star cluster popularly known as the Beehive.

"When Galileo constructed his first little telescope, this hazy patch was one of the first objects he examined," she notes.

During January Venus will continue its bright morning vigil in the southeastern sky. The red planet Mars will spend the whole month near its bright red rival Aldebaran, a star in Taurus. Mars is about six times brighter than the star.

High in the sky near the meridian at sunset, Jupiter will dominate the western sky until after midnight. Rising in Gemini, Saturn may be found directly below Castor and Pollux.

Legal aide courses set

Evening courses for legal assistants, a growing field of employment, will be offered beginning the week of Jan. 19 by Oakland University's division of continuing education.

The courses come under the division's unique non-degree diploma program.

Three basic foundation courses include introduction to the law, legal research and writing I, and principles of accounting. All courses are conducted from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for 16 weeks.

After completing the basic foundation courses, enrollees may concentrate in one legal specialty. Concentration courses are offered in general practice, litigation, probate administration and estate planning.

Among concentration courses offered beginning in January are real property transactions, an overview of all phases of real property transactions, decedent's estate administration, an intensive study of the process of estate administration; federal estate and gift taxes; and estate planning and documents.

The remaining concentration courses range from legal research and writing II to estates and trusts and courses on litigation from pretrial case preparation to local practice and procedure and appellate practice and procedure.

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