

Star's a puzzlement to world astronomers

High in October skies is a strange star called SS 433 "an astronomical puzzle," says Richard Teske, University of Michigan astronomy professor.

Lying in the constellation of Aquila, the Eagle, and near to Altair at the Eagle, and near to Altair at the southern tip of the Summer Triangle, SS 433 is so named because it is number 433 on a list of unusual stars compiled by two Cleveland astronomers, Teske says.

"It is too faint to see without a large telescope. Nothing like this object had ever been sighted until two years ago, when an Earth satellite disclosed that it was emitting X-rays. Often the emission of ultra-short wavelengths by something that looks star-like is a sign that a neutron star, or even a black hole, might be involved."

Astronomers who have been studying SS 433's behavior are unable to agree upon an explanation for the unusual properties the object displays, Teske said.

"When the ordinary light of SS 433 was examined at the telescope, observers were astonished to note enormous shifts in some of its wavelengths."

"The shifts indicate motions of mate-

rials and they appeared to indicate that one part of it was approaching earth at about a tenth of the speed of light (or one-tenth of 186,000 miles per second) while at the same time another part was receding from the earth at nearly a sixth of light speed. Moreover, there were great changes in speed from night to night.

"At this point," Teske added, "SS 433 achieved notoriety as being truly bizarre and rose in status to become one of the most important current objects of astronomical study."

Using many different methods to observe it, Teske noted, "Astronomers have amassed a great wealth of information that leaves them still puzzled today. They ponder: Is SS 433 really a star? What is its shape, if it is coming and going at the same time?"

"But they are now sure that the object can be explained with laws already known," he said.

Teske says "a difficulty in understanding the observations is due to the object's distance and faintness. It can only be seen as a point of light in even the largest telescopes."

Power in Belgrade for UNESCO talks

Philip H. Power, chairman of Suburban Communications Corp. and a member of the board of the World Press Freedom Committee, is a special advisor to the U.S. delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO in Belgrade. SCO is the parent of company of Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

Power will attend the 154-nation meeting, which will deal in large part with international press freedom and a proposal to set up a communications development program inside UNESCO.

Power was appointed to the position by Richard L. McCall, assistant secretary of state for international organizations.

Debate over the role of western news organizations and their alleged dominance over "third world" news and information has been staple fare of international conferences for more than six years.

Some third world countries have attempted to use UNESCO to bring about a "new world information order" which would redress imbalances in news and information flows between developed and undeveloped nations. American and western news organizations have been fearful of such a development because it might provide a justification for further restrictions on press freedom.

Power attended the past two UNESCO general conferences in Nairobi, Kenya, and Paris, and was a special consultant to the U.S. dele-



PHILIP POWER
gation at an intergovernmental meeting earlier this year which reached a compromise on a communications program under UNESCO supervision.

"I seem to be spending almost as much time on world press freedom as I do on my own newspapers," Power said. "But it is a vital subject — vital for American interests, vital for the health of developing countries, and vital to the cause of press freedom."

"I very much hope we can work out a system which will help developing countries improve their news and information networks while at the same time not tearing down or curtailing our own news-gathering freedom. But it won't be easy," Power concluded.

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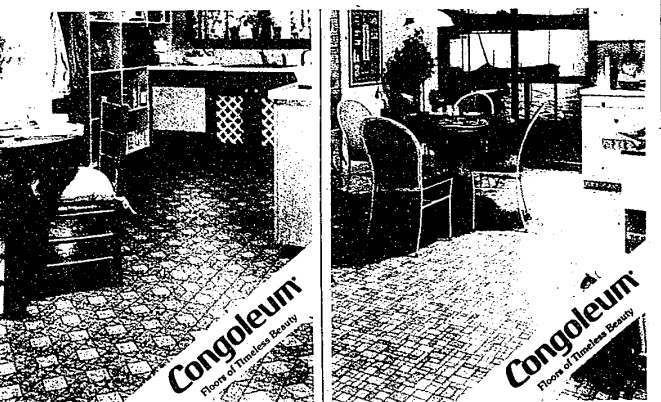
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