

Protect vision while watching eclipse

By Diane Galt
staff writer

Even though partial solar eclipses are rare, astronomers warn star gazers not to look directly at the partial eclipse that is expected from 11:14 a.m. to 2:09 p.m. May 30.

The sky will darken as the moon blocks approximately 75 percent of the sun. It will be the first partial eclipse visible in the area since February 1979. Another one isn't expected until May 1994, according to Raymond Bullock, Cranbrook Institute of Science coordinator of astronomy.

It's usually a natural response to protect your eyes by looking away from the sun. But, during partial eclipses, Michiganders will be tempted to gaze upwards.

Bullock warns against doing so.

"During an eclipse the brightness safeguard is gone so people think it's OK. Some people wear two pairs of sunglasses, but even that's not safe," Bullock said.

"It will cut out the physical light, but it's the ultraviolet light that will blind you. A lot of people say no eclipse will blind you, but in fact it's the sun that will blind you."

SOLAR FILTERS, sold with small telescopes, also are not safe, he warns. An eclipse of the sun happens when the moon, orbiting around the earth appears to cover the sun. Most of the time the moon's orbit appears to pass above or below the sun.

Total eclipse is when the moon appears to cover the entire sun. The last total eclipse was in 1808 and the next visible anywhere in the United States

will be in 2017, Bullock said.

For those who want to safely observe the partial eclipse, Cranbrook is providing observations of the sun projected through a telescope from 11 a.m. to 2:15 a.m. Maximum coverage of the sun will be at 12:33 p.m.

Bullock described how to view the partial eclipse using household items without endangering eyesight.

Put your back to the sun, make a pinhole through a piece of paper, cardboard or aluminum foil and hold it at shoulder level. Allow the sunlight to pass through the hole so it shines on a second piece of paper. The image of the partially covered sun will be projected through the pinhole onto the paper. Moving the papers closer together or farther apart will decrease or increase the size of the image.

What you'll see on the paper is the

sun with "a big bite" taken out, Bullock said.

"The moon is 30 times further from the earth than the sun, so it appears smaller than usual, because of its distance so it won't totally cover the sun. Instead, at the mid-point of the eclipse, a little ring of the sun will be visible around the moon."

THIS TYPE of eclipse is called an "annular eclipse" from the Latin word "annulus," which means a ring.

Interest in astronomy "peaks and wanes" with happenings, Bullock said. Presently, curiosity is at a high point, because of the upcoming eclipse and recent Challenger missions.

Interest of people who attend the planetarium varies. Questions range from specifics about living in space

colonies to theories about where the stars come from, Bullock said.

"We try to take advantage of things that are happening in the sky," Bullock said. "So when people think of the sky they'll think about going to Cranbrook to find out more about it."

For instance, through May 27 the demonstrations in the planetarium will be about eclipses. The program, "Hidden Sun" will examine the sun in comparison to other stars and discuss facts about the center of the solar system. Hours are 1:30 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays plus 7:30 p.m. Saturdays.

This month, the institute is sponsoring for the first time a family astronomy series focusing on the mystery of the universe.

Included in the four-session course is an introduction to the sky, its motions and how it appears from different locations on earth, an explanation of the skies using the institute's six-inch re-

fracting telescope, sky mapping, including constructing sky charts and plotting planet positions and solar eclipse exploration.

The program also provides a preview of the upcoming May 30 partial solar eclipse.

National Astronomy Day was celebrated at Cranbrook May 5 with a variety of related events.

MEMBERS of the Warren Astronomical Society were at the institute with telescopes set up around the reflecting pool for viewing the sun and later the crescent moon, as well as Mars and Saturn. Members' hand-fashioned instruments and their sky photographs will be on display.

Observatory demonstrations featuring the institute's six-inch refracting telescope, its clock drive and dome with inlaid shutter and window, is being given from 8:30-10 p.m. Saturdays.

Hills exec is honored

Harry Kalajian, vice president for regulatory and external affairs at Michigan Bell and a Farmington Hills resident, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the United States Telephone Association (USTA).

A Detroit native, Kalajian joined Michigan Bell in 1985, shortly after earning a master's degree in engineering from Wayne State University. He held a number of management assignments, including division manager and assistant vice president-regulatory, before assuming his current position in February 1983.

Formerly a member of the Wayne State associate engineering faculty, Kalajian is now vice president of the board of the Engineering Alumni Association at the university.

Kalajian and his wife Elaine have three children.

Based in Washington, D.C., USTA represents the interests of the nation's more than 1,400 local exchange telephone companies. It represented only "independent," or non-Bell, companies for 87 years but welcomed the former Bell System exchange carriers after they were divested from AT&T in January.

Kalajian was one of 15 new directors named at the association's spring board meeting in Palm Springs, California, April 11.



Harry Kalajian

Ethnic program slated

The Botsford Inn, in cooperation with Farmington schools, is presenting an Ethnic Extravaganza at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 30 in the garden courtyard of the Inn.

Featuring a musical presentation representing the rich cultural background that exists in Farmington, this production is presented by the Bilingual Department of Farmington Schools.

Acts reflecting the heritages of Japan, China, Korea, India, the Middle East and Eastern Europe will highlight the show.

This presentation of dance and songs is a product of an annual bilingual open house planned each year by Director Haroun Alameddine. It has been such a success, the Botsford Inn has decided to display the colorful festival on its grounds to the people of the Farmington area as part of their Michigan Week.

IN PROGRESS earlier this week, the Botsford Inn will host a diorama competition on May 29. Sixth graders of the Farmington Public Schools will be creating dioramas depicting various Michigan attractions. The winners of each school will be on display in the main Ballroom of the Inn.

At 7 p.m., judging of the creations will take place and prizes will be awarded to the top three grand winners courtesy of the Botsford Inn. First prize will be a \$100 savings bond, second prize will receive a \$50 bond and third prize a \$25 bond. The dioramas will remain on display through the 31st of May.

Judges for the competition will be William F. McLaughlin, president of the Metropolitan Detroit Convention & Visitors' Bureau; Steve Barnaby, editor of the Farmington Observer; JoAnn Soronen, director of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce; and Lewis Schulman, superintendent, Farmington Public Schools.

Albion lists area grads

Richard Smith, editor-in-chief of Newsweek magazine was graduation speaker at Albion College's spring commencement May 6.

Smith, a 1968 graduate of Albion, spoke to over 3,000 family, faculty, staff and friends on "The Press: Can You Trust the Watchdog?"

The graduation list included Farmington residents Matthew G. Chuba, Cynthia A. Jump, Gregory M. Lemanski, Michael A. Marok and William D. Parker, Jr.

Graduates from Farmington Hills included Brian T. Bowditch, Thomas M. Drury, Margaret L. Falk, Edward G. Furst, Karl G. Gordon, John M. Leitch Jr. and David B. Timmis.

An honorary doctor of humanities was awarded to Julian Rammetkamp, professor of history who is retiring from Albion after 30 years of teaching.



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Kindergarten open to public

Oakland University's Lowry Early Childhood Center offers two programs designed for children of kindergarten age.

The program for "Young 5s" is a half-day, five days a week class coordinated to meet the needs of children who are not ready for the traditional kindergarten classroom.

For information of fall enrollment procedures or to observe the program call OU at 377-4100.

AGORAPHOBIA

- FEAR of driving alone
- FEAR of crowded public places (streets, stores, restaurants)
- FEAR of waiting in lines
- FEAR of shopping malls or large stores
- FEAR of going far from home
- FEAR of being trapped
- FEAR of social situations
- "FEAR OF FEAR"

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- Methods to overcome avoidance of fearful situations
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