You can tell a lot about stars by their color

A star's color tells us a lot. A red star is like the red part of a gas-fampe, it lan't very hot. A red star is aligo very old, nearing the end of its slig, cycle. As stars age they cool duyn, swell up and become giants.

—Betelgeuse is a supergiant among giants. It is so huge that, if placed where our sun is, it would extend out to the orbit of Jupiter.

The name Betelgeuse is roughly translated as the "armpit of the giant." The giant in question is the mightly hunter Orion (oh RYE yan) and, Betelgeuse marks the location of histright, "shoulder." This star is the 11th brightest in the sky and one of tig best examples of a red giant type sign.

"Dbserve the moon drift through high gathering cluster of planets on

tag best examples of a red giant type slay.

"Diserve the moon drift through the giant special state of planets on the evenings of May 15-18. On the steeling cluster of planets on the evenings of May 15-18. On the sext evening the moon the tag of the special spe

It is estimated that this cluster is

ions! (Obviously the light that reached tailieo's telescope had left the cluser 525 years before his observations a 1610.) The Beehlve cluster is a naed-eye object, but bright lights in netropolitan areas make seeing is

ped-eye object, but bright lights in metropolitan areas make seeing is difficult. Having bright Jupiter as a beacon makes locating the Beehive Pety easy.

The moon has passed Jupiter on the evening of the 19th and is four Degrees to the left of the star Regulus is the heart' of Leo the lion. Hegulus is about 28 light years Nwy. That's much closer than Be-tight. Regulus is not as reight. Regulus is not as brightest star in the sky, it is a blue fail, (Cooler Betelgeuse looks brighter because of fu great size.)

SATURN begins retrograde (back-

brighter because of its great size.)
SATURN begins retrograde (backward) motion on May 17. It has been drifting eastward through the stars of Capricornus all year, but will now appear to back up and move westward from night to night.
Retrograde motion is an optical huston caused when the faster moving earth passes a slower moving planet as both orbit the sun.
Mars, Pollux and Castor form a straight line on the evening of the 21st. Also note the large triangle

GOP women host Patterson

I. Brooks Patterson, former Oak-land County prosecuting attorney, will speak at the Republican Women of West Oakland's membership tea, from 2-4 pm. Sunday, May 19. Interested people are invited to at-tend-the event at the home of Ray and Theresa Davis, 38317 Golfview Drive, Farmington Hills RSVP to 427-7371 or 469-0948.



Host families needed now!

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will form a line with Pollux and Castor.

The moon is approaching the ataryolic (SPV eq.) in Virgo on the evening of the 23rd. On the 24th the moon is three degrees directly below Spica. Spica, a blue white star like Regulus, is the 16th brightest star in the sky. It is about 275 light years away from us. Since it's much farther than Regulus, but appears brighter, it must be a very hot and luminous star.

Jupiter, Mars and Venus are with-

Jupiter, Mars and Venus are with-



in 20 degrees of each other on the evening of the 25th. Just a little more than three weeks until their spectacular grouping!

The moon is approaching the star Antares on the evening of the 27th. Look toward the southeast about one

Have a look at the moon on the evenings of the 30th and 31st. Once again it is in Sagittarius, close to the brightest star in the sky and is also a superglant like Betelgeuse. It is also the same distance from us, about 520 light years. On the following evening he moon is past Antares. He moon to past Antares. Venus is four degrees to the left of

Sagittarius will be too close to the sun to be visible. An excellent aid for learning constellations and keeping up to date with the sky is the monthly Sky Calendar. A one year subscription is 46 and is available from Abram Planetarium, Michigan Stat: **University, East Lansing 48624.

Raymond Bullock is the former coordinator of the observatory and planetarium at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloom-field Hills. He now works for a Troy company which specializes in laser displays and effects.

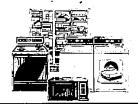
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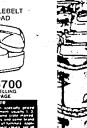
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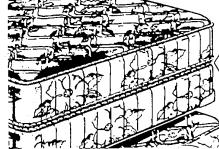
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