May skies might be frustrating for spectators



WATCH

WATCH

If April qualified as T. S. Ellot's "cruelest month," then May will qualify as one of the most frustrating for skywatchers; the annual Eta Aquarid meteor shower earlier this month was disappointing, and there will be an underwhelming partial soler this month was disappointing, and there will be so insignificant from Michigan it will be possible to missi taltogether.

On the plus side, it will be possible to missi taltogether.

On the plus side, it will be possible to see Venus in broad day-light, Mercury will be well-placed for spotting by month's end, Mars enters the "Beehive," and Jupiter has an extremely close encounter with Eta Virginis. (Not to worry

about the description that follows; this is a family newspaper.
Full Moon officially occurred at 11:34 p.m. on the 5th. The May full moon was called the Planting Moon (obviously, since planting occurs this month) or the Milk Moon (whose name is not so obviously by some Native American Indians. The moon will rise around sunset and be visible all night long.

The orange-red star to the left of the moon on the moning of the 7th makes an excellent counterfeit for the planet Mars. The star is Antares (an TAR ees), whose name means "Rival of Mars" because it rivals that planet in color and brightness. On the following morning the moon will be above and to the left of Antress, which represents the "heart" of Scorpius the scorpion.
Also on the morning of the 7th, Venus attains maximum brightness. Since it is a planet, not a

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star, Venus does not make it a own light; it reflects the light of the sun. Its closeness to the sun and fills thick cloud cover makes it an excellent reflector. It also makes it an excellent over; the surface temperature is about 480 degrees Celaius (800 degrees Parhenbeit)!

By the morning of the 9th the moon has drifted from Scorplus into Sagittarius. It will be located above the "epout" of the "teapot" that marks that constellation on the morning of the 9th. On the following morning it will be found above the "handle."

Mars will be high in the southwest on the evening of the 11th. Still in Cancer, it will be found within the faint "Beehive" star cluster. If you wonder how this cluster came to be so nemd, it is best to use binoculers or a telescope and observe it for yourself.

Raymond Bullock is the former continator of the abstractions of the planetarium continator of the abstraction.

Raymond Bullock is the former coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at the Cranbrook

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