

# Good Place To See Comet

One of the best seats in the house to view the return of Halley's Comet will be in North Carolina. Because of the trajectory of the comet's path this time around and the state's high mountain elevations, viewers in the southern latitudes of the northern hemisphere will see the most spectacular show here.

In March, Halley's Comet will be readily visible to the unaided eye looking at dark, clear skies even at a low position in the sky. Each morning, early in the month, it will rise a little and get bigger and brighter while moving from the constellation Capricornus, the sea goat, to Sagittarius, the archer.

The ideal viewing time will be in the middle of March, when the moon is out of the way. By late March, the moon will be full, and its light will wash out the view. During early April, the comet will get even lower in the sky when it loops under the tail of Scorpius, the scorpion. However, it will be visible because there will be a new moon again. By mid-April, when the comet passes by us in space at the closest point,

it will be very low and difficult to see.

Optical aid will enhance viewing of Halley's Comet. Small telescopes that give a wide view with moderate to low magnification, and binoculars, which provide the same thing, are helpful for casual observations. In bright city skies, the comet will be seen poorly, if at all. Comet watchers will need dark, country skies with low, southern horizons to see the comet well.

Lee Shapiro, Director of the Morehead Planetarium, said, "This passage of the comet is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see. It will be to one's advantage to try to view the comet in an area away from the bright lights of cities or any type of obstruction. Everyone should make an effort to see it."

One of the best places to see the return of the comet will be in the mountains of western North Carolina, with their high elevations and dark, clear skies. This region has the highest points in the eastern part of the hemisphere, where one has a

better chance of seeing the comet.

Mount Mitchell, the highest peak in eastern America at 6,684 feet, and Ghost Town, more than a mile above sea level, will offer promising viewing conditions.

Special tour packages for the sightings will be available from several Asheville area motels and inns in conjunction with the event, and shuttle buses will take participants to the viewing sights.

For more information on these packages and shuttles, call the Asheville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at its toll-free numbers: 1-800-548-1300 (inside North Carolina) and 1-800-257-1300 (in the east).

Grandfather Mountain is an excellent vantage point, for it is the highest peak in the Blue Ridge mountains. With the comet being so low on the horizon, one's chances of having a decent view are indeed better at such a high elevation. For more information, call Grandfather Mountain at (704) 733-2013.

The Morehead Planetarium is helping us

learn more about Halley's Comet with a program open to the public called "Return of the Comet." The program can be seen now through April 14 as follows: weekdays, 8 p.m. nightly; Saturdays, 11 a.m. and 1, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2, 3, and 8 p.m. For more information

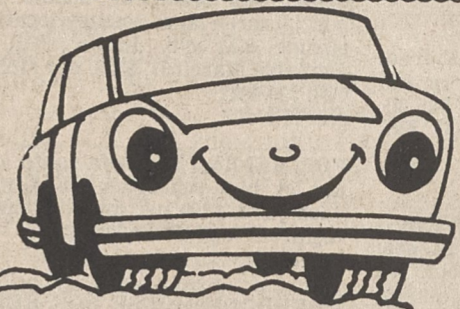
and ticket prices, call the Morehead Planetarium at (919) 962-1248.

So make your plans now. If you miss seeing this spectacular show this time, you may not have another chance. Remember -- Halley's Comet won't return again until the year 2061.



The Huang Ho, or Yellow River in China, got its name from the loamy yellowish-brown earth it collects as it flows.

"For a man to achieve all that is demanded of him he must regard himself as greater than he is." Goethe



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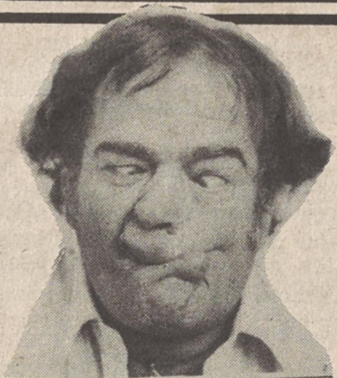


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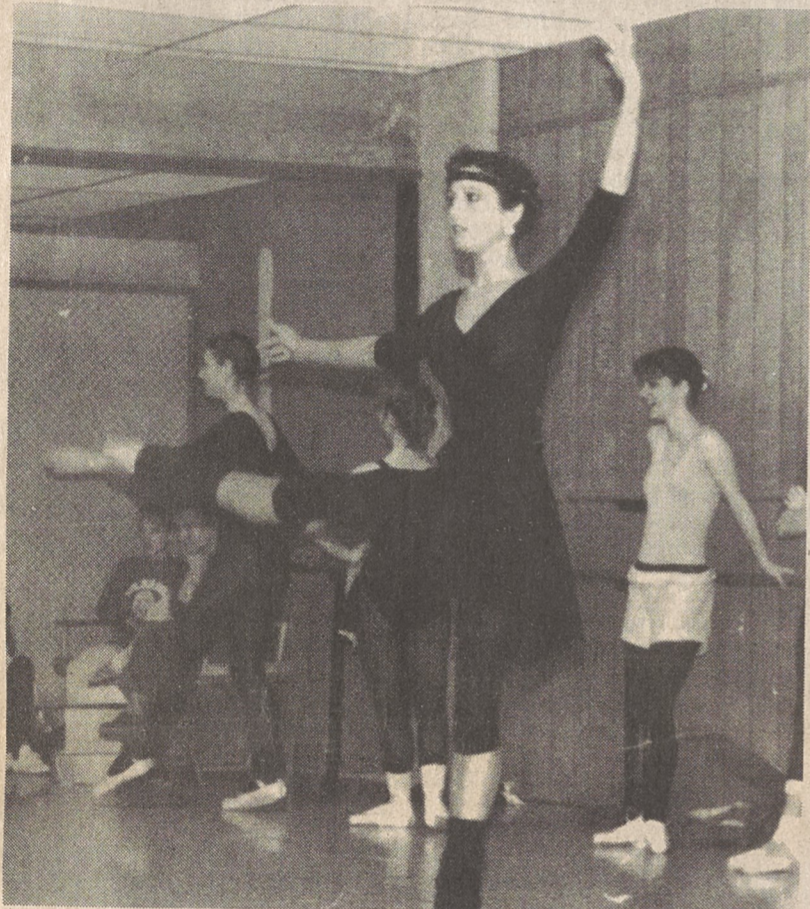
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IT TAKES PRACTICE TO BE A GOOD FAIRY—Robin Farmer rehearses for her role in Gaston Dance's production of Cinderella.

See CINDERELLA  
On Page 5-B

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