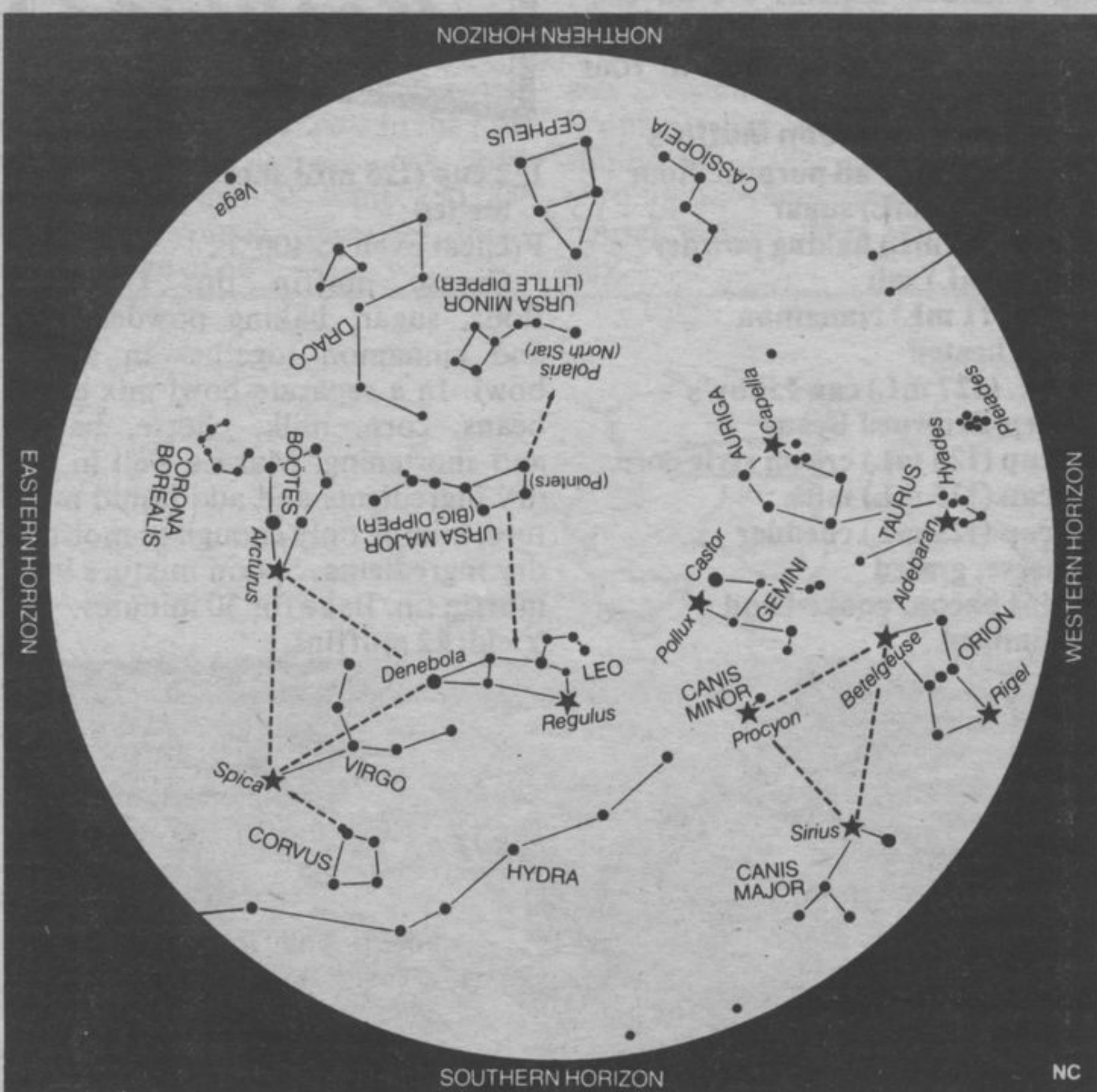


NATIONAL MUSEUM
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STARGAZING

APRIL



Face south to find Leo

(NC) — Face south and hold the map up against the sky to find the constellation Leo. The mighty westward-facing Lion crouches across the meridian, well above the southern horizon at maphime this month (10:30 p.m. at the beginning of April; 8:30 p.m. at the end).

One of the oldest constellations, Leo was associated with the sun by some early civilizations. The Egyptians were said to have worshipped Leo because the annual flooding of the Nile coincided with the entrance of the sun into the constellation. Some believe that the sphinx symbolizes the head of Virgo on the body of Leo.

The stars of Leo outline a large 16° sickle or reversed question mark shape which represents the head of the Lion, and a somewhat smaller triangle that defines his hindquarters. Leo's brightest star, *Regulus*, lies at the tip of the sickle.

Comet Halley: When Comet Halley is closest to the earth on April 11, it cannot be observed from Canada. By the 15th it is visible very low in the south from 4-6 hours after sunset, with a short tail stretching horizontally toward the east. From night to night it appears earlier and higher in the southern sky, but moonlight is a problem until the 26th. Binoculars will be necessary.

Planets: Venus is the brilliant "evening star" low in the west for 2 hours after sunset. Saturn rises in the southeast late in the evening and is low in the southwest at sunrise.

Mars and Jupiter are in the morning sky, Mars rising about 5 hours before sunrise and Jupiter, 2. On the 8th Mars is 1.4° south of Neptune in a moonless sky and should help to locate the fainter planet. A telescope will be necessary.

Meteors: Bright moonlight will interfere with observations of Lyrid meteors this year.

Eclipses: Two eclipses occur this month: a partial eclipse of the sun on April 19, and a total eclipse of the moon on the 24th. Unfortunately, circumstances of both are not favorable for Canadians. The eclipse of the sun is not visible in the northern hemisphere, and the total phase of the lunar eclipse will be visible in Western Canada only, with the moon setting shortly after totality begins.

April Calendar

d	h	(Universal Time)
11		Comet Halley closest to Earth (63 million km)
11	02	Venus 1.3° S. of Moon
17	11	First Quarter Moon
22	15	Lyrid Meteors
24	13	Full Moon. Eclipse
26	21	Saturn 5° N. of Moon
29	06	Mars 4° N. of Moon

Mary Grey,
Curator, Astronomy

For more information, write: Curator, Astronomy, SKY-SHEETS, National Museum of Science & Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa K1A 0M8.



Here comes Dad

A friendly contest between Schreiber Junior Belles ringette players and their fathers was held recently at the Schreiber Arena. One father is shown here

breaking into the opposition's end, with the Belles in hot pursuit. The final score was unimportant in this game, as it was held for fun and exercise.

Notice

The Schreiber Minor Hockey Association's Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday, April 20, at the Schreiber

Recreation Complex Community Hall beginning at 5 p.m.

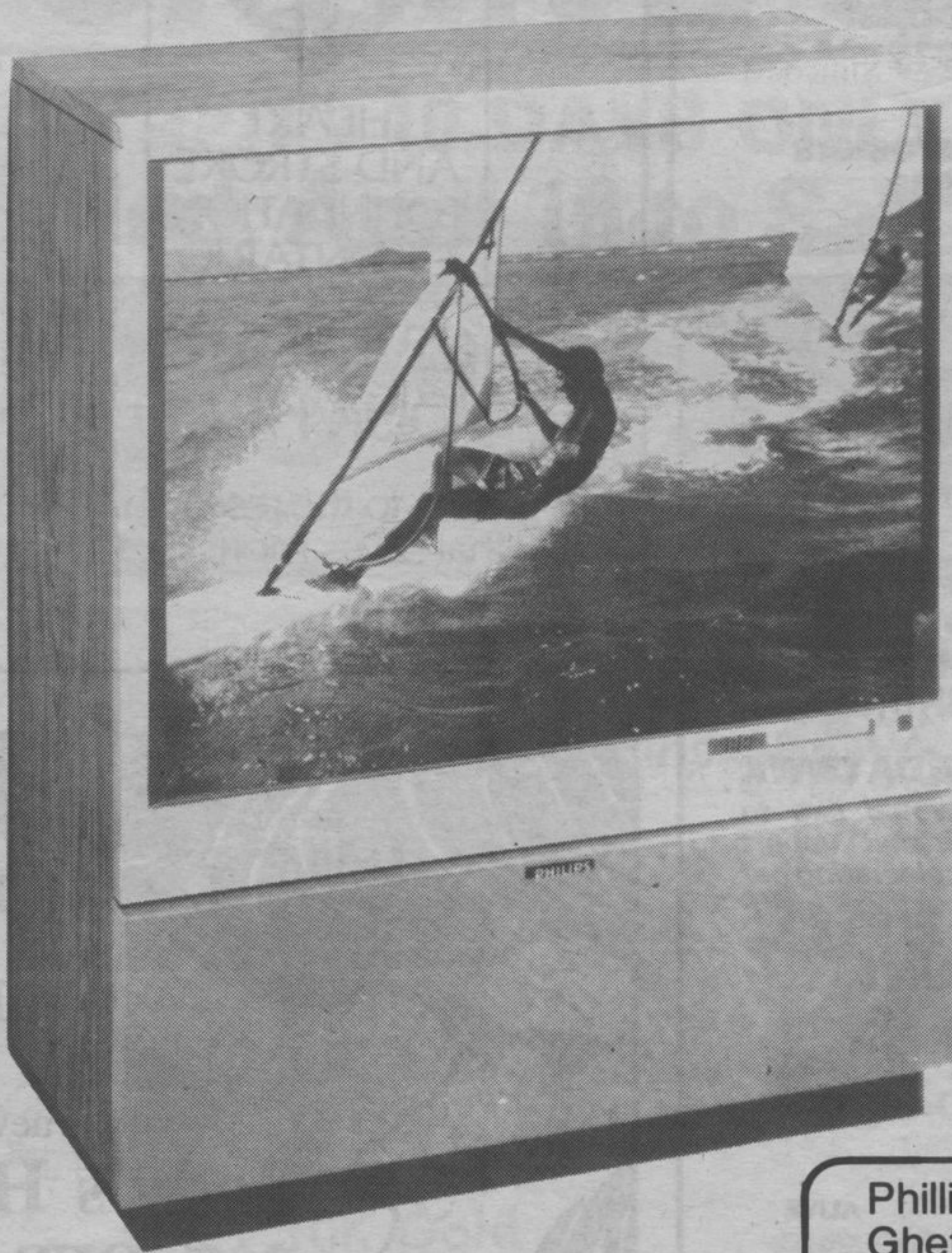
Mavis Godin
Banquet Chairperson

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