

(Section A, TA Supplementary Sub). Price 14p + postage.

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The Astronomer

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SUPERNOVA IN NGC 6946

A telephone message from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux, relayed by Dr. Paul Murdin, reports the discovery, via satellite, of a supernova in NGC 6946 which is located at: RA 20h 33m.9 DEC +59°58' (1950). The supernova is located 280" east and 166" south of the nucleus of the galaxy.

The galaxy, which is in Cepheus, is quoted as of type Sc and of mag nitude 11.1 in Burnham's. It is a very faint and very large galaxy, dimensions quoted as 3!0 X 8!0.

Other supernovae discovered in this galaxy occurred in 1917, 1939, 1948 and 1968.

Photographs of the galaxy appear on pages 617 and 620 of Volume 1 of Burnham's Celestial Handbook which should aid identification of the supernova.

Ken Medway, Southampton, reports successful visual observation, in response to a TA Cable, with an approximate magnitude estimate of 10.8 on 1980 October 31 using a 4inch refractor.

Alan Young, Hemingford Abbots, informs us that he has successfully photographed the supernova.

Mike Swan, Wimborne Minster, reports that there are possible images on pre-announcement photographs of 1980 Oct 30 which will be analysed.

Guy M Hurst, observing from Manor Park Observatory, recorded the supernova as slightly fainter than star 2 on the drawing below, using 26cm reflector; date of observation 1980 November 2.82UT.

Observers are requested to send their estimates, in full, using the numbered stars on the 'free-hand' drawing below, for reduction, to Guy M Hurst at the new address given above at weekly intervals for the time being. Please state time of observation to nearest minute, full instrumental details, conditions and 'class' of estimate. For photographs, please submit negatives for analysis; these will be returned in due course.

