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# The Astronomer

Founded 1964

## COMET PANTHER (1980u)

We are pleased to report that the comet referred to in E.W.C. 46 has been confirmed and designated as above.

Brian Marsden telexes the following elements and ephemeris, the latter having been further extended by P. Birtwhistle:

T = 1981 Jan. 28.374 ET  $w = 106^{\circ}82$   
 $\Omega = 331.19$  ( 1950.0  
 q = 1.6366 AU.  $i = 82.37$

1981 ET	R.A. (1950)	DEC (1950)	Earth	Sun	m1
Jan. 1	18 <sup>h</sup> 50 <sup>m</sup> .1	+40°29'			
6	18 52.9	+42 00	1.828	1.664	
11	18 55.9	+43 45			
16	18 59.1	+45 46	1.741	1.645	
21	19 02.5	+48 04			
26	19 06.1	+50 41			
approx 8.7					

Latest visual results received: (Total mags and coma dia)

1980 Dec. 25.79UT, 10<sup>h</sup>1, 5'(Panther); 27.22, 10.0, 3'(Panther); 27.75, 9.5, 2.5'  
 (Panther); 27.75, 8.8, 2.7'(Keitch); 27.79, 9.5, (Dowdell); 28.76,  
 9.4, 3.5'(Hurst); 31.79, 9.5, 4'(Panther).

Further observations should be sent to Editor at weekly intervals.

## COMET BRADFIELD ( 1980t)

Confirming the initial announcement on E.W.C. 46, William A. Bradfield of Dernancourt, near Adelaide, reports discovery of a comet, his eleventh;

1980 UT	R.A. (1950)	DEC (1950)	m1	Observer
Dec. 17.751	16 <sup>h</sup> 20 <sup>m</sup> .0	-36°16'	6	Bradfield.
18.72	16 23.6	-35 58	5-6	Herald.

The object is described as diffuse with condensation.

Ephemeris by Marsden:

			Earth	Sun	Elong.	m1
Jan. 6	19 <sup>h</sup> 55 <sup>m</sup> .7	-06°04'				
8	20 14.4	-03 12	0.895	0.400	24°	4.8
10	20 29.3	-01 04				
12	20 41.4	+00 32	1.045	0.494	28	6.0
14	20 51.3	+01 46				
16	20 59.7	+02 42	1.196	0.589	29	7.1

As mentioned on E.W.C. 46 the comet will be excessively difficult to observe, very low in the west at sunset, as it will be quite close to the sun, evidenced by the above solar elongation figures. Observations are urgently required.

## HONDA'S VARIABLE IN CYGNUS(= PROBABLE NOVA c.f. E.W.C.45)

This object reported in E.W.C. 45 has been detected on a photo taken by J.T. Grills with the following pre-discovery result: 1980 Nov. 2.92UT, 12.1pv. Further details, chart and sequence, will appear in Observers'Bulletins (Section B).