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ANDROMEDA AND THE MAMBO

When an enterprising bandleader, in tune with the times, recently recorded his version of *Stardust Mambo*, horrified Hoagy Carmichael fans began to mutter that "this thing had gone too far." Shocking as it may be, however, the new title could be quite appropriately applied to this week's issue of LIFE, wherein both stardust (pp. 44-70) and the mambo (pp. 14-19) are current news.

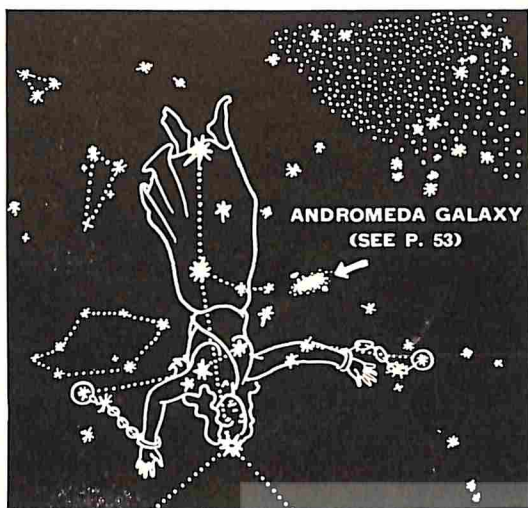
Not that either is really new. The mambo has been around in the U.S. in a more or less quiescent state since at least 1949. The universe, with its stardusted galaxies, has been around about five billion years. The point is that the mambo has been bustin' out all over, in juke boxes, fashions, dance halls and the national economy.

And not to oversimplify matters, the universe, according to Lincoln Barnett's account, is also bustin' out all over. Our last report on its condition (LIFE, Oct. 9, 1950), based on then-known

facts, has to be revised in the light of new discoveries. The distant galaxy which sharp-eyed star-watchers see beyond the constellation of Andromeda (see p. 53) is really twice as far away as it

was thought to be not many years ago. Leaving to the country's planetariums the pleasant task of displaying to their visitors next week what the heavens over Bethlehem looked like at Christmas time 1,954 years ago, LIFE proffers its star-gazing readers an idea (left) of how shapely Andromeda, upside down, will look to the Earth on Monday night, Dec. 20, 1954. Looking due west, the star on top of her head will be just 45° above the horizon. And the light seen from her galaxy started coming our way 1.5 million light

years ago. That puts it 9,000,000,000,000,000 miles away, according to the latest measurements, which makes its celestial appearance easily the oldest and the newest piece of news for this week.



HOW INVERTED ANDROMEDA WILL LOOK DEC. 20

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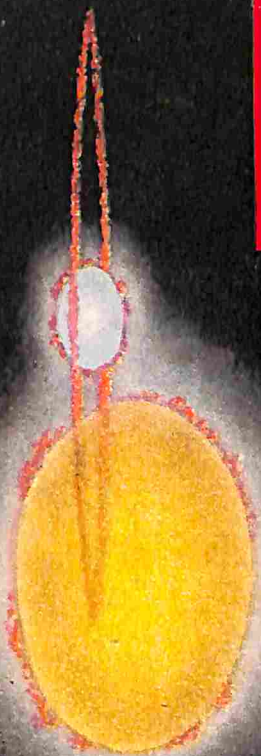
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