

Searching heaven for Greek twins

Nighttime is becoming scarce! Light slowly fades from the sky between 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. and the horizon begins to light up again before 4 a.m. ("astronomical twilight").

When the great dome of the sky darkens, it appears to be studded with stars that compose familiar objects. At dusk, two stars in the western sky, well above brilliant Venus, seem to peer down at us, like eyes.

The Greeks named them Castor and Pollux, for the mythological twin brothers of Helen of Troy.

Find red Mars a stretch away to the upper left of Pollux, the brighter of the twins. By 9:45 p.m. many more stars sketch the full figures of the brothers, drawing a convincing outline from the two heads down to their toes.

The patterns formed by the faraway suns move us to understand the names and stories ascribed long ago to the



EYES TO THE SKY

By Judy Isacoff

This weekend's western horizon features a wisp of a crescent moon below Venus on Saturday and above the planet on Sunday. It's an early show, with 9:30 p.m. it's mid-point.

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