

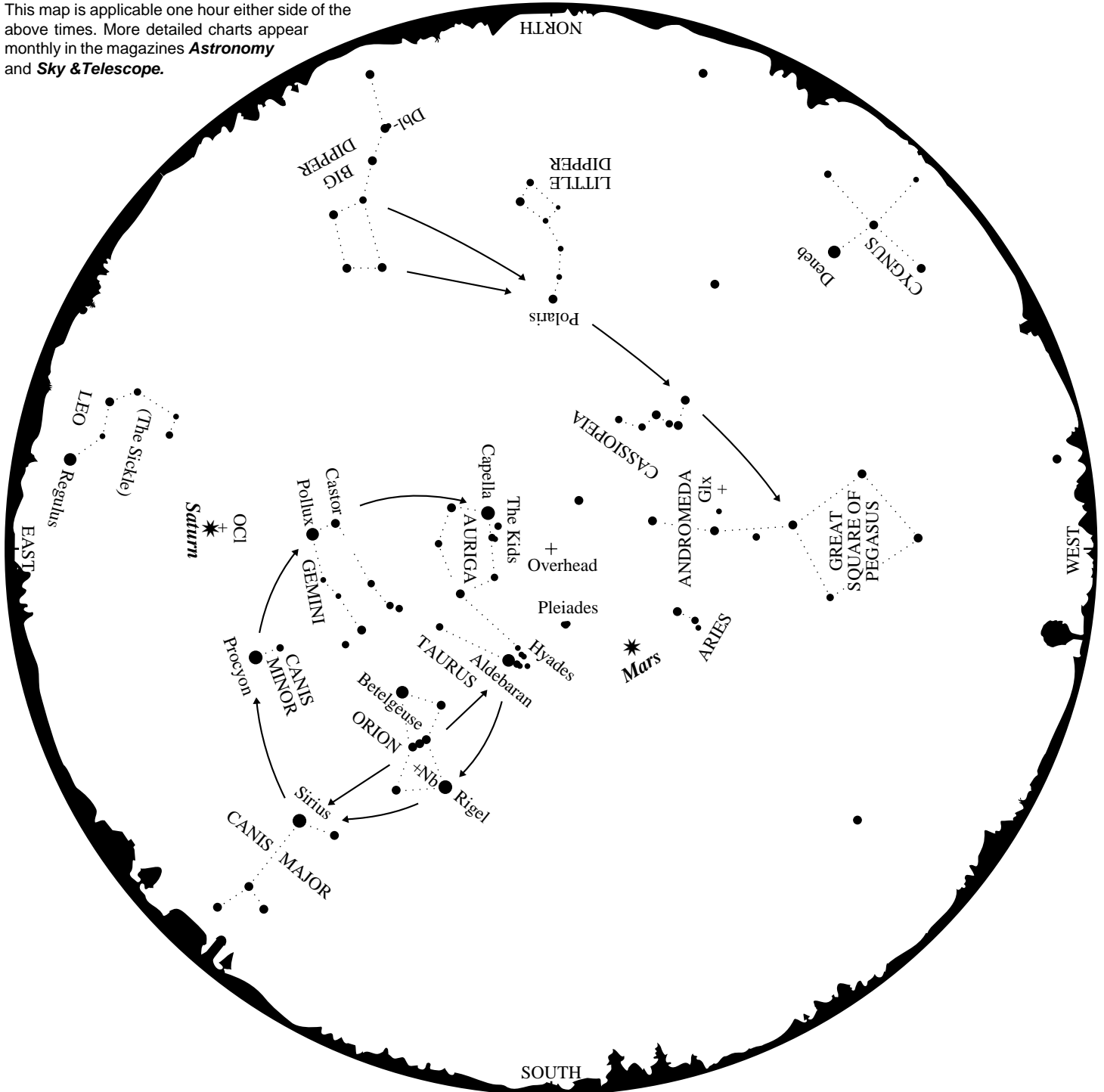
January Evening Skies

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local standard times:

Late December	10 p.m.
Early January	9 p.m.
Late January	8 p.m.
Early February	7 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. More detailed charts appear monthly in the magazines *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope*.

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The planets Mars and Saturn are plotted for mid-January 2006. At chart time 11 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Sirius, Mars, Saturn, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Pollux, Deneb, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Db) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper should be detectable. The famous

Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.