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New study predicts age of univer UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON (AP) — The universe is

about 13 billion years old, slightly younger than Beginning Fall 2002, The Rawls College of Business will offer previously believed, according to a study that measured the cooling of the embers in ancient 75 New Scholarships Experts said the finding gives "very compa-

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Biol 113	Thu May 2	Fri May 3	Sat May 4	Sun May 5	
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Biol 114	Mon Apr 29	Tue Apr 30	Wed May 1	Thu May 2	
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Chem 101	Part 1 of 4 Mon Apr 29	Part 2 of 4 Tue Apr 30	Part 3 of 4 Wed May 1	Part 4 of 4 Thu May 2	
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Info 364	Test Review	www.4.0andGo.com			
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Math 151	Mon Apr 29	Tue Apr 30	Wed May 1	Thu May 2	
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Math 152	Part 1 of 4 Mon Apr 29	Part 2 of 4 Tue Apr 30	Part 3 of 4 Wed May 1	Part 4 of 4 Thu May 2	
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Phys 201	Thu May 2 8:15pm-	Fri May 3 9:15pm-	Sat May 4	Sun May 5	
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	1:15am	1:15am	1:15am	2:15pm	

Part 1 of 4

7:15pm-

Phys 218

Part 2 of 4

Tue Apr 30

7:15pm-

10:15pm

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Ancient stars shed light on age of universe

an independent reading of the age of the universe. The stars are white dwarfs, the oldest burned-out stars in the galaxy. Because astronomers know that these stars were formed shortly after the birth of the universe, they can calculate the universe's age by studying them. rable results" to an earlier study that used a different method to conclude that the universe burst

into existence with the theoretical "Big Bang" between 13 and 14 billion years ago. Harvey B. Richer, an astronomer at the University of British Columbia, said the Hubble

dying stars it could find in M4, a star cluster some 7,000 light years away.

Richer said the fading stars, called white dwarfs, are actually burnt out coals of stars that were once up to eight times the size of the sun. After they exhausted their fuel, the stars collapsed into Earth-sized spheres of cooling embers that eventually will turn cold and wink out of sight.

Space Telescope gathered images of the faintest

Earlier studies had established the rate of cooling for these stars, said Richer. By looking at the very faintest and oldest white dwarfs possible, astronomers can use this cooling rate to estimate the age of the universe.

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday, Richer said the dimmest of the white dwarfs are about 12.7 billion years old, plus or minus about half a billion years.

Richer said it is estimated that star formation did not begin until about a billion years after the Big Bang. He said this means his best estimate for age of the universe is "about 13 billion years.

Three years ago, astronomers using another method estimated the age at 13 to 14 billion years. That was based on precise measurements of the rate at which galaxies are moving apart, an expansion that started with the Big Bang. They then back-calculated — like running a movie backward — to arrive at the age estimate.

Globular cluster M4 Milky Way 100,000 light

Stages in the evolution of a star in the M4 cluster

burning phase -30 million years Helium core M4 cluster burning phase 10 million years

Asymptotic giant branch phase lasting 1 milli the core is carbon and oxygen; outer layers of helium and hydrogen continue to burn. Post-asymptotic phase lasting 10,000 years. The o layers are lost, exposing the hot and de gradually cools to become a white dwarf

Detail of M4 one light yes

Cancer

forms

Continued from page 3B

are most susceptible to UV ray damage, but even dark-skinned people can get skin

Rice said the eyes are also very sensitive to sunlight, especially blue eyes, and suggests wearing sunglasses when outside.

When choosing a T-shirt to wear, she suggests wearing a darker-colored shirt or

ollege one that has been washed several the Bryan-"The dark colors absorb more be and optical whiteners from lambaddition, s

gent help reflect light," Ricesaid politics that Even with all that is known and assume th cancer and how to prevent it hall, to their doctors are seeing an increase in ease. She said it is difficult touthese decis people that a tan is not a sign of he a sign of damaged skin and a pre other skin problems.

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