**PEOPLE WATCHING** by Faye Campbell

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**astronowatch** by Kati Kovacs

Happy Equinox everyone! On Wednesday at 2:30 pm, the sun crossed the celestial equator. That means it’s officially fall, although the weather of the past couple of days doesn’t seem to reflect that. Oh, global warming — I love that you extend the use of my summer wardrobe. I’m not ready to wear tights and socks yet. Bare legs all the way!

Humanity now has a new destination among the stars. CoRoT-7b. Last week scientists released their latest findings about this exoplanet, which is located in the constellation of Monocerus. The Unicorn.

CoRoT-7b is the first confirmed rocky planet that we’ve detected outside our solar system. While its diameter is about 1.8 times larger than that of Earth, its density is almost the same. Too bad it’s almost 500 light years away and likely hidden by its extremely close orbit.

CoRoT-7b has one side always facing away from its sun and one side constantly burning. It orbits its star once every 20.4 hours. Just imagine all the birthday parties you’d have!

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