

VISITING COMMITTEE EVALUATES CFHT

It will soon be ten years since the Tripartite Agreement joining NRC, CNRS and UH in the CFHT Corporation was concluded on June 20, 1974; five years have nearly elapsed since the inauguration of the 3.6 m telescope on Mauna Kea. As the CFHT now enters its normal operating phase, the Board of Directors deemed it timely to have a Visiting Committee of experts evaluate the structure and the operation of the Corporation.

The Visiting Committee was chaired by Prof. L. Woltjer (ESO); the other members were Dr. R. Pellat (CNES) (unable to attend the Hawaii meeting), Dr. J. Lindner (TRW) Prof. M. Schmidt (Caltech), Prof. P. Strittmatter (U. of Arizona) and Prof. E. Vogt (TRIUMF). The Committee met in Hawaii on November 14-16, 1983. The members were hard at work during these three days, visiting installations at the Mauna Kea summit, at Hale Pohaku and in Waimea. They had in depth discussions with the CFHT management and staff, and with the representatives of the national agencies, M. Charvin (Obs. de Paris), Dr. J.L. Locke (HIA) and Prof. S.C. Wolff (IFA) who had come to the Big Island for the occasion.

Comprehending and evaluating a multi-faceted organization such as the CFHT must have been an interesting task for the committee members. The discussions, and the ensuing report and recommendations to the Board of Directors, have focussed on a number of key issues which the Board and the management had

themselves been considering for some time: operating budget, staffing, research opportunities for resident astronomers. The ambitious instrumentation program and the general question of the scientific role and leadership of the CFHT were among the main themes of discussion of the visitors.



The coming of the Visiting Committee has provided an extremely valuable opportunity for all to reflect on the structure, role and performance of the CFHT. The results of these reflections, and the report the committee presented to the Board, should very significantly contribute to make the CFHT a still better facility for research in astronomy for the scientists of Canada, France and Hawaii.

René Racine

Staff Changes

Departures

Jean Pierre LEMONNIER, who set up the installation to get good aluminizations on the Primary Mirror and was our expert in electronographic receptors, returned to France in July after three years at CFHT in the optical group. He will often come back to Hawaii however as leader of the detector group which has been formed at CNRS.

Guy MONNET, who had spent a sabbatical year with us and worked on the commissioning of the Fabry Perot and photon counting system, returned in June to his directorship at the Lyon Observatory.

Diane PEPIN who had filled a vacancy in the secretarial staff left us in August.

Arrivals

Susan ALVAREZ has joined the secretarial staff in September. Susan, a resident of Paauilo, comes to us from the University of Hawaii in Hilo, where she completed a course in Secretarial Science.

Pierre GIGAN who had specialized in servo-system techniques at the Paris - Meudon Observatory joined the CFHT instrumentation group in August. He is in charge of the IR chopping secondary, the FTS, and the IR dewars. He will work also on the telescope servo-system.

Richard BOCHONKO on sabbatical leave from the University of Manitoba arrived with his family in August to spend a year at CFHT. In addition to participating in activities as a support astronomer, he is researching a variety of instruments including the RETICON, CCD camera and the computer systems with the idea of using the experience to improve systems back in Manitoba.

Dennis CRABTREE arrived in October to become our system manager for the VAX image processing system. He comes from UBC where he was a post doctoral fellow and heading a similar system at the Department of Geophysics and Astronomy.