

DIRECTORS' CORNER

Decommissioning of Instruments

At its meeting in May, the SAC considered the level of use of CFHT's ten commissioned instruments. During the two most recent semesters (87II and 88I) five of the instruments were used for 221 nights, while the other five were used for only 10 nights. In order to make way for new instruments (Multi-object spectrograph MOS/SIS, Coudé f/3.7) and to allow CFHT staff to concentrate their attention on the most heavily used equipment, SAC has recommended that some instruments be decommissioned. Specifically, SAC recommends that the Casshawec spectrograph and its electrostatic camera be decommissioned immediately and that both infrared photometers be decommissioned at the end of 1989. Photographic observing (including the gresnes) would continue to be available but observers would have to take full responsibility for specifying, preparing, testing, and processing all photographic materials. These recommendations were accepted by the Board at its meeting in June. The currently available CFHT instrumentation is displayed on (insert) pages 5 and 6 of the Observing Time Request Form

R. McLaren

Manuel Des Observateurs

La troisième édition du manuel des observateurs a été publiée le 1^{er} mars 88. 150 copies ont été envoyées dans tous les instituts de la communauté CFH, ainsi que dans de nombreux instituts étrangers. Pour faciliter sa mise à jour, le manuel est édité sous le logiciel Wordperfect pour le texte et sous AutoCAD pour la plupart des illustrations. Chaque observateur est invité à consulter ce manuel pour préparer les missions d'observation au CFHT.

G. Monnet

Second CFHT Users' Conference

SAC has decided to organize a second Users' Conference early in May 1989; the first conference was held at Université de Montréal in May 1986. This is an especially appropriate time since next year marks the tenth anniversary of CFHT's dedication (September 28, 1979). The organizing committee comprises SAC chairperson Jacqueline Bergeron and fellow SAC members Paul Felenbok, David Gray, Jean-René Roy, and Alan Stockton. Tentative plans call for a three-day conference with at least 40 participants. Observatoire de Paris-Meudon has expressed an interest in hosting the meeting. SAC favors sequential rather than parallel sessions with contributed papers on both scientific topics and instrumentation.

R. McLaren

Observing Time Request Form

There is a new version of the Observing Time Request Form and all applicants are asked to please use the new form beginning immediately. There are two major changes. First, lunar phase constraints are now expressed in terms of maximum days from new moon. Secondly, a section has been added in which applicants may request an extension of the two-year proprietary period.

There is now an official Tex version of the form available from Carol Christian at CFHT. Those wishing to try this new method of preparing their proposals should contact Carol. Allow extra time for your first attempt. Also, please keep in mind that this is simply an alternate method for preparing the request. The submission procedure remains unchanged.

R. McLaren

Driving on Mauna Kea

As explained in Section 2.9 of the Observers Manual, it is CFHT's policy to allow guest observing teams to use a CFHT four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicle for commuting between Hale Pohaku and the summit. Earlier this year, however, we experienced a series of mechanical breakdowns with our vehicles which were due in part to improper use by visiting observers. At one point we had only one functioning CFHT vehicle on the mountain. There have also been a number of vehicle accidents on the mountain over the past six months. Fortunately there have been no serious injuries so far, but this is clearly a warning that we need to tighten up our procedures. We have temporarily suspended visitor use of 4WD's and beginning in second semester we will be holding familiarization sessions to better acquaint our visitors with the proper operation of our vehicles and with safe driving practices for Mauna Kea. Visitors who wish to use a 4WD must first attend one of these sessions. Requests to attend a session should be made under "Other Requirements" on the Guest Observer Information Sheet.

The project to pave the upper portion of the access road started on June 6, with completion expected late next year.

R. McLaren