

July 1991 Telescope Shutdown

Having hardly recovered from the July 11 Total Solar Eclipse, two weeks later, on July 22nd, we started a 10-day telescope shutdown. As usual, multiple objectives were achieved, with many parallel activities, of which the following are highlighted:

- Repaired Dome shutter brakes, drives, and guide wheels. This was heavy-metal, awkward work, in very confined quarters, or high up above the telescope, with potentials for accidentally dropping damaging matter onto glass or electronics. Therefore, for safety, we elected to remove the primary mirror off the telescope, and down to the aluminizing room. There the Optics Group decided they would also realuminize, as the schedule permitted it. To remove and replace 32 guide wheels and side-restraint cam-followers, which ensure true tracking of the shutter when opening and closing, was time-consuming hard labor, but well organized and carried out by Jim Walbur of Coast Steel (Vancouver) and Arakaki Mechanical (Hilo), plus Gus English.
- Realuminized primary mirror, previously done September 1990, when recovering from mercury spill damage from the f/8 secondary mirror support system rupture. Once more, drops of mercury were vacuumed, found under the primary mirror, and clinging to radial support mechanisms.
- Removed, refurbished, cleaned, repainted, recabled and reinstalled the Cass Environment, a job never done since its original installation, sometime in 1981. A combined effort of electrical, electronics, mechanics, painters, and cleaners made an especially efficient job of it, including removing remainders of tenacious mercury droplets from places where previous access had been impossible.
- Replaced existing PF Access Cage, a veteran of the moun-

tain, with a new one from Transcrane, Montreal. Those who have ridden in the old one, can recall moments of terror, as the 4 gear drives provided "shake, rattle and roll" alignment adjustments, complete with sound effects. Also, crane and handling controls, wiring, hydraulics systems now provide smooth safe operation using modern technology, replacing items of 1950's vintage. Of course, much prior design, checking of as-built conditions, procurement and shipping logistics were essential, to enable timely delivery to Hawaii of the new Access Cage from Eastern Canada. Due to the Solar Eclipse just prior, many normal travel and shipping facilities were unavailable, being used strictly for the "Big Event," so just-in-time tactics were somewhat worrisome! Nonetheless, the Operations Crew, with the help of Transcrane's Perry Smith, ensured everything happened on schedule, as though we had done it a hundred times.

- Stripped, cleaned, repaired and retuned the primary mirror axial support regulation system, which, for a few months, had begun to behave erratically.
- Replaced the dome crane, used for upper end changes, and upgraded it to 12 tons capacity. The previous model, especially when lifting the IR upper end, had been encroaching into design factors of safety, not code permitted.
- Painted the inside of the Caisson Centrale and the tops of the primary mirror covers, an appealing flat-black, sharpening the images even better!

Once again, a well-planned, smoothly executed effort, amidst a heartening atmosphere of cooperative team spirit. We accomplished our goals, albeit at higher-than-expected expenses for shipping and extra assistance. Thanks and congratulations to all those who contributed, with hard mental and physical work, creative skills, innovative problem-solving, and good cheer. Our CFHT Users' will all be pleased with the added reliability and increased image quality thereby enabled.

J. Sovka

CANADIAN AGENCY

Canadian Applications Committee CFHT
c/o Director
Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics
National Research Council Canada
100 Sussex Drive, Room 2003
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1A 0R6

NOTE: One original, six (not FAX) copies.

DEADLINES (Date of receipt):

For time in first semester — September 1
For time in second semester — March 1

FRENCH AGENCY

Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers
M. le Directeur
77, avenue Denfert-Rochereau
75014 Paris
FRANCE

DEADLINES (Date of receipt):

For time in first semester — September 1
For time in second semester — March 1

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Director
Institute for Astronomy
2680 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
U.S.A.

DEADLINES (Date of receipt):

For time in first semester — September 1
For time in second semester — March 1

Requests for observing time on the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope are made to the member agencies. There are two competitions per year—one for the first semester (January-June) and the other for the second semester (July-December). The mailing addresses and deadlines for proposal submission are indicated for each of the three agencies.

Les demandes de temps d'observation avec le Télescope Canada-France-Hawaii doivent être soumises aux agences associées. L'attribution de temps, sur une base compétitive, est effectuée deux fois par année: une fois pour le premier semestre (janvier à juin) et une fois pour le deuxième semestre (juillet à décembre). Les adresses postales et les délais de soumission sont indiqués ci-contre pour chacune des trois agences.

AGENCE CANADIENNE

Comité canadien de demandes CFH
c/o M. le Directeur
Institut Herzberg d'astrophysique
Conseil national de recherches Canada
100 Sussex Drive, Room 2003
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1A 0R6

A noter: Un original, 6 copies — pas de FAX.

DATES LIMITES (date de réception):

Pour le premier semestre — 1er septembre
Pour le deuxième semestre — 1er mars

AGENCE FRANCAISE

M. le Directeur
Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers
77, avenue Denfert-Rochereau
75014 Paris
FRANCE

DATES LIMITES (date de réception):

Pour le premier semestre — 1er septembre
Pour le deuxième semestre — 1er mars

UNIVERSITE D'HAWAII

Director
Institute for Astronomy
2680 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822,
U.S.A.

DATES LIMITES (date de réception):

Pour le premier semestre — 1er septembre
Pour le deuxième semestre — 1er mars