# DIRECTORS' CORNER

## Palila Eulogy

The scanning Fabry-Perot Focal Reducer "PALILA" is the second in the list of initial CFHT instruments to be decommissioned, after having been put in full operation at the telescope (the first being the IR photometer). It is replaced by the Fabry-Perot mode inside MOS/SIS.

The instrument, developed by Y. Georgelin at the Observatoire de Marseille, has been used almost ten years, from December 1982 to June 1992, for a total of 155 nights. Its initial cost, excluding the interference filters, the etalons and the Queensgate controller which remain in use at CFHT, was about 100,000 ($$1980).

In its "normal" scanning Fabry-Perot mode, extensive work by the three CFHT communities has for instance led to a better understanding of the physics of giant extragalactic HII region, the kinematics of the gas in barred galaxies, and the existence of super-winds at a galactic scale in M82_type galaxies. PALILA has also served as a test bed for the development of multi-slit spectrographic technique, leading ultimately to the MOS/SIS. And, somewhat ironically, it is by far, the simplest mode of the instrument, wide-band imagery, that arguably gave its most important result, the first discovery of a giant gravitational arc by B. Fort and his colleagues.

The total number of publications (by end 1991) is 31 and still counting.

*G. Monnet*

## Data Reduction Facilities at the Summit

For the benefit of observers coming to use CFHT in the near future, we would like to describe the present status of the data reduction facilities available at the summit. The hardware is as follows: one Sun Sparc-2 (called wiki) with 32 Mb of memory; four hard disks with a data reduction area of 1.8 Gb local to wiki; one Exabyte-8500 (5 gb capacity); one videopix card for television type picture display and transmission; and one [Postscript] Sparcprinter.

The available software includes: SunOS 4.1.2; OpenWindows 3.0; Fortran compiler version 1.4; Sun's unbundled C compiler, IRAF 2.10.1; STSDAS 1.2.1; Supermongo 2.1.1.i.

With this configuration wiki is integrated into the network so as to give it independence from network link to Waimea via its large local disks, yet the "automount" facility of SunOS gives wiki access to most other directories in the network. Since it also has access to the raw images in /users/observer, there is no need to copy raw data files to waimea to process them. For network security reasons, off-site (i.e. non-CFHT computers) communications are not allowed directly from wiki.

By the time this issue of the Bulletin appears, there should also be a Sun Sparc-2/Exabyte/Sparcprinter system in the CFHT office at Hale Pohaku, which has most recently been served by an Xterminal connected to the CFHT computer network.

A special reminder to observers: CFHT only supports IRAF for data reduction and processing. Since IRAF is a large, powerful, and sometimes complicated facility, observers not familiar with it should not expect to learn IRAF in a few minutes, or even a few hours. If you foresee the need to do some processing of data during a run, it is your responsibility to learn what you need about IRAF **prior** to your arrival at the summit. Your support astronomer does not have the time either to teach you at the start of the run or to do the reductions for you afterwards.

A word of warning also about the technical support for wiki and the Hale Pohaku system: there is currently no spare workstation that could be used as a backup in case of a hardware failure. Any repairs would be carried out on the next **working day** at best, not during a night, a weekend or a holiday.

*J. Glaspey, R. Link*

## Service Observing

CFHT is accepting proposals for "small" observational programs for the 93II semester using either FOCAM (with CCDs) or with the Redeye 1-2.5 μm infrared cameras that can be carried out in a service observing mode. Proposals should be limited to standard instrument setups involving very specific observations easily carried out by a CFHT Resident Astronomer, and should not require any special equipment or complicated instructions. Total time required for taking data (including any calibration frames) should be no more than one night. The characteristics of FOCAM (and CCDs) are given in the current FOCAM Users Manual available from CFHT Headquarters. The performance of the Redeye cameras is described in this Bulletin.

The proposals should use the same Observing Time Request form as normal proposals, and should be sent to the normal agencies at the normal deadlines. (See page 20.)

*J. Glaspey*

## Dangers Lurking at CFHT

For obvious reasons, the Information Bulletin tends to be filled with reports of technical progresses and astrophysical successes, with very little place for setbacks, e.g. unplanned shutdowns or repeated telescope/instrumentation failures.

While it is not indeed a very pleasing subject, it is important that our community realizes that the CFH Telescope, and its associated instrumentation, is a complex machinery evolving in the severe environment of the summit of Mauna Kea. No wonder then that, despite a comprehensive maintenance plan and regular, almost yearly, 2 to 3 weeks carefully planned shutdowns for extensive repairs, catastrophic failures still happen from time to time. Observers and CFHT staff, for instance, painfully remember the September 1990 Mercury spill disaster and the June 1992 Dome crane break. For observers it means precious observing time lost, for CFHT staff incredible pressure