

and harsh, potentially dangerous, overtime work, with a price tag easily in the \$ 40,000 range.

What is perhaps less well known is that we regularly experience near misses, where a combination of careful checking, thorough planning, and sometimes even a bit of good luck, just averts a disaster to be. A good recent (November 1992) example is the replacement of the dome shutter control cable: after 10 hours of extremely hard work during a single day, this operation was achieved, with no time lost for the observers during the subsequent night. Examination of the old cable, which had given clear sign of weaknesses during the previous months, showed that we were at best weeks before a catastrophic failure, which could have left the dome stuck open during winter time!

There are still now, as has been and probably will always be the case, a sizeable number of such known dangers lurking at CFHT: the dome shutter moving unit has been only half-repaired, from lack of time, during the 1991 July shutdown. We have all the necessary parts at hand, and can only hope that the sure mishap will wait until the next planned shutdown (most likely during July 1993). And of course that is only one example, to which we can add the old/ailing control of the Cassegrain Bonnette, the lack so far of spare parts for critical components of the complex LASer MACHine, the horrendous mechanical behavior of the Cassegrain f/8 focussing unit, and more.

We are, of course, continuously working to solve, hopefully in time, these recognized problems, which unfortunately divert a lot of manpower and hefty sums of money which could otherwise be used for upgrading of image quality, detectors and instruments. We also know, from painful experience, that unexpected failures still occur, and ask for your understanding, however frustrating such event could be.

*G. Monnet*

## Changement au sein du Personnel

**Stéphane Béland** a quitté le CFH en janvier 1992 après quatre années de loyaux services au sein du groupe optique. Stéphane a été à l'origine de plusieurs améliorations apportées au spectrograph Herzberg. Sa connaissance approfondie du logiciel IRAF constituait un atout sans conteste non seulement au sein du groupe optique mais du CFH aussi. Il a joint le groupe informatique du VLA à Socorro, où il contribua à développer un système d'archivage pour les données de l'interféromètre radio. Good Luck DUDE!

**Tom Gregory** and wife Gwerfyl left Hawaii at the end of July to return to the balmy shores of Wales after seven years at CFHT. While he was here Tom was well known and highly regarded not only at CFHT, but at all the telescopes on Mauna Kea, as the resident expert on optical coatings. His constant vigilance and attention to detail was and I'm certain still remains the hallmark of all his work on whatever project, be it the setup up of the coude spectrograph, mirror coating, the setup of our laser mask cutting equipment, or the fabrication of his underwater camera. We wish both he and Gwerfyl all the best in their new endeavors ... and want to let him know that we're still looking for the pictures of the undersea hordes to be had for the taking (after the finding) off the Welsh coast !

Since **Ann Boesgaard** of the Institute for Astronomy will be moving from the Big Island in late 1992 to become a Professor at Penn State University, the CFHT staff would like to thank her for her contributions to the scientific life at CFHT while she has been Visiting Scientist, since September, 1990. During this period, she has continued her observational study of the evolution of Beryllium abundances in the Galaxy using the f/8.2 coude spectrograph to measure the difficult-to-observe Beryllium line near 3130 Angstroms.

**Mark Laurance** joined the optics group of CFHT last summer. He comes from the University of Washington, where he completed a master degree thesis under the direction of George Wallerstein and Pat Waddell. Mark has demonstrated his skill by putting into operation and characterizing a CCD at the Manastash Ridge 30" telescope. He will be responsible for the Coude f/4 and f/8 spectrographs at CFHT.

**Gregory Barrick** comes from the University of Colorado (Denver) where he interrupted his Ph. D. to take up a position in the optics group of the CFHT. His master thesis dealt with plasma confinement techniques. He will be responsible of MOS/SIS and is already involved in the commissioning of the new Coude f/4 spectrograph.

**François Rigaut** est arrivée à Waimea au début août 1992, pour débiter son terme d'astronome résident. François nous arrive de l'Observatoire de Paris-Meudon, où il a terminé une thèse sur les techniques d'optique adaptative pour l'astronomie avec le Pr. P. Lena. Il a été largement impliqué dans les projets d'optique adaptative, COME-ON et, COME-ON+. Inutile de dire que ses compétences sont déjà mises à profits au CFH, car François a joint l'équipe d'optique adaptative du CFH et participe à la définition du projet AO Bonnette.

**François Hammer** se joint au petit groupe d'astronome du CFH pour une période d'un an, en tant que visiteur. François est très actif dans le domaine des lentilles gravitationnelles, de la matière noire, et des galaxies à haut redshift. Il mettra à profit cette période d'un an pour poursuivre ses recherches dans ce domaine, et aussi s'impliquer dans la détection IR des objets à haut décalage spectral. Il nous arrive aussi de l'Observatoire de Paris-Meudon.

**Scott McArthur** brings the electronic group to a full staff status. Scott spent the last 7 years at the Naval Ocean System Center (Kaneohe, Oahu) where he has been working, as an electronic engineer, on fiber optics telemetry system and underwater acoustic. He will be supervising the electronic group in concert with W. Cruise and C. Clark, and some rumors want that he might get involved in the refurbishing of the Cassegrain Bonnette electronic control.

**Linda Evans** has joined the CFHT software group for a one year period. She will be involved in the development of a graphical interface editor for PEGASUS. She spent the last 1.5 year at Redwood City (CA) working for Adaptive Corporation where she was responsible of Networking Management System.

**Dan McKenna** left the Institute for Astronomy to join the CCD group at CFHT. He is an electronic engineer, and was a member of the prestigious adaptive optics group of F. Roddier. Before that, he spent 7 years at the Meteorology Department of the UoH, where he developed instrumentation for the study of atmospheric seeing.