

## Changes in the CFHT Time Allocation Calendar

Over the years it was felt that the previous calendar suffered from 2 major drawbacks:

- Observers scheduled early, i.e. close to 1 January or 1 July, have very little time for travel arrangements, at the two worst possible periods of the year (plane and hotel reservations).
- The demand of telescope time is traditionally much lower in two periods, 15 December to 15 February and 15 June to 15 August. It would be more efficient, for optimum allocation purposes if they can each belong to a single semester.

It has been approved by the Board of Directors that the new division for the I and II semesters would hereinafter be 1 February to 31 July, and 1 August to 31 January. On the other hand, the deadline dates remain unchanged; they are always 1 September for the Semester I and 1 March for the Semester II.

This scheme is similar to that of KPNO/CTIO. It also keeps 2 strong points of the previous calendar namely: it has the two peak periods of 15 February to 31 May (VIRGO) and 15 August to 30 November (Local Group) each contained in a single semester, and the deadline for submission of proposals to, say semester I, occurs after the end of the previous semester I of the previous year.

*J. Glaspey, G. Monnet*

## Staff Changes

Dr. Jerry Sovka tendered his letter of resignation, effective June 30, 1993, not wishing to continue his association with CFHT in the proposed reorganized format. The position of Chief Engineer had been vacant for some eight months prior to Dr. Sovka taking up the role in May, 1985. Over the years, Dr. Sovka has tackled numerous technical projects, i.e. dome sealing, implementation of C.A.D. at CFHT, adaptive optics, detailed organization of almost yearly shutdowns, handling of various disasters (mercury spill, dome crane failure, hydraulic oil spill, etc.) and of course the many weeks of preparation work prior to the 1991 Solar Eclipse. The all important, solar screen, which has now become a permanent feature on our telescope was Dr. Sovka's suggestion of using a jib-furler device to hand operate the solar screen — thanks to his past sail boat experience.

J. Seerveld joined CFHT in February 1993, coming from Tucson, Arizona, where he has been working at Infrared Laboratories for the previous 5 years. He was involved in the development of Infrared Lab first IR large array (which in these days of rapid development is no more so large). His duties implied the coordination and re-design the mechanics and computer system in order to provide a turn-key product. Before that he was working on the development of low temperature (liquid Helium) trans-impedance g-fet amplifiers. He is working with the optics group and has the responsibility of the LAMA mask cutting machine, the newly acquired phase-shift interferometer (see article in this Bulletin) and the new Coude f/4 spectrograph.

This last recruitment brings CFHT to a full staff. This situation happened 2 years ago (summer 1991), at which time it lasted a mere 6 months. Before, this period we have to go back to March 1990 to see a full staff situation, which also was short. This is not too surprising since the average period spent at CFHT by its staff is 6.8 years. This means we should expect to have on average 7 employees gone at all times! This could be shortened if the hiring procedure could be sped up, but as everyone knows, issuing position description, waiting for responses, sorting the best candidates and coming up with a short list, is a heavy work load, that implies many delays. It takes, on average, a year before a new staff member can be hired.

Visiting astronomers will remark, or have remarked, that CFHT has had, almost on a regular basis for the last year, a limited student contingent (7 at the time of this writing). There has been a definite presence of the University of Victoria students (cooperative program) but also of students from other institutions collaborating with staff astronomers. CFHT is pleased with this young addition to its staff, that results in a mutual benefit.

Marc Sauvage has finished his 16 month cooperant term at CFHT in late April. He returns to Saclay where he will pursue his astrophysical research. Marc has been of great help to the software group; his talents were put to contribution to optimize the image quality evaluation scheme and the data archive.

Jean-Pierre Veran began his term as cooperant at CFHT. Jean-Pierre has finished his degree at the Ecole Nationale des Telecommunications de Paris, and is not unknown to CFHT. He spent 6 months a year ago investigating efficient compression algorithm for large format astronomical images. He will work with the software group and will be involved in the archival system and current software projects.

## Distribution de Prix

Une fois de plus, l'appel à la contribution des utilisateurs du TCFH pour le rapport annuel s'est traduit par une moisson de grande qualité; tant en volume qu'en contenu scientifique. Nous vous en remercions d'autant plus que nous nous rendons bien compte du caractère un peu ingrat de cet effort. Les éditeurs de ce rapport, J. Glaspey pour la langue anglaise et G. Monnet pour le français, ont en outre particulièrement apprécié que la grande majorité des articles soumis aient étroitement suivi les consignes de présentation, et n'ont en conséquence généralement requis que des modifications mineures. Pour encourager ces excellentes dispositions, nous avons décidé de créer deux prix annuels, respectivement pour les meilleures contributions en langue anglaise et française ceci d'ailleurs d'un strict point de vue éditorial, sans préjuger du contenu scientifique.

Pour l'année 1992, les deux prix, consistant en 6 boîtes de noix de Macadamia, sont attribués à D. Rouan (Observatoire de Paris-Meudon) et H. Richer (Université ou British Columbia).

En espérant encore un meilleur cru 1993!

*J. Glaspey, G. Monnet*