Telescope Progress:

In March Jean-Luc Nieto was the first guest observer to have telescope pointing under computer control. The system has been gradually improved since then and now includes refraction and astronomical corrections during both pointing and tracking. Instrumental errors will also be taken into account when sufficient data has been accumulated. A dome encoder was installed in February which greatly facilitates the task of the telescope operators. At present the system gives only the misalignment value between the telescope and the dome slit. Soon dome tracking will be automated. Complete computer control for both slewing and tracking is to be implemented at a later date.

The coudé turrets have undergone extensive reworking to make them trouble free and remote controlled. The turrets M4, 5 and 6 are already installed and the completion of the coudé train is scheduled for the late summer. The three colors, UV, blue and red, will then be available on the entire train including the secondary mirror and the objective lenses. These also will be under computer control.

The infrared upper end was installed in mid April but was found to be too heavy because of dummy weights which had been installed at the factory in la Rochelle. These dummy weights were found impossible to remove. A lighter fin arrangement is being fabricated and will be installed in July for the testing of the Cassegrain bonnette.

A sustained effort is underway to improve the dome seeing by optimizing the cooling floor temperature and the general building ventilation. Most heat leaks have been eliminated and all building heaters have been trimmed to the bare minimum. However, more data is required on heat flow patterns and correlations between weather conditions, floor cooling controls, and seeing before optimization can be obtained.

Thanks to a diligent search on the part of the day crew for oil leaks and drips in the telescope support system, the telescope and the observing floor have a more professional look. Oil puddles are now a thing of the past.

In addition to the improvements mentioned above, the next few months should see the sky testing of the Cassegrain bonnette, the commissioning of the IR upper end and the installation of the new prime focus central unit.

Commissioning Program

The commissioning of the f/35 infrared focus has been delayed. (See article on Telescope Progress.) It is now expected that the f/35 focus will be available in the first semester of 1982.

The following instruments are now available to guest observers:

- prime focus wide field corrector
- prime focus U.V. corrector
- prime focus bonnette
- ITT image tube, plus interference filters
- blue and green grenses
- Racine wedge
- f/7.4 coudé spectrograph
- 1872 Reticon system
- hydrogen fluoride absorption cell
- Fourier Transform Spectrometer

The main instruments still to be commissioned are:

- CCD camera: Spring 1982
- Cassegrain bonnette: Fall 1981
- IR photometers: Fall 1981
- Spectrograph No. 1: 1982
- Spectrograph No. 2: 1983
- TV photon counting: 1982
- Electronographic camera: 1982
- EMI image tube: 1982
- Visible photometer: 1982
- Polarimeter: 1982
- Fabry-Perot: 1982

Requests for Observing Time

Observing time on the CFH telescope is allocated twice a year. Available time for the second semester of 1981 has already been allocated.

Requests for observing time for the first semester of 1982 should be submitted before September 1, 1981.

Application forms and technical data on the telescope and instruments can be obtained from the following associated organizations:

For Canadian astronomers:

National Research Council
(Attention Dr. J.L. Locke)
Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics
Room 2003
100 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A OR6

For French astronomers:

Monsieur le Directeur de l'Institut
National d'Astronomie et de
Géophysique
77, avenue Denfert-Rochereau
75014 Paris
France

For Hawaiian astronomers:

Prof. J.T. Jefferies
Institute for Astronomy
University of Hawaii
2680 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
U.S.A.

For any supplementary informations write to the headquarters of the Corporation at the address shown at the end of this bulletin.