

Cassiopeia

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**CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'ASTRONOMIE**

Editor: Doug Hube, University of Alberta

Editorial

Many controversial and substantive matters are normally raised and discussed during the annual meetings of CASCA as is indicated in the report in this issue of the most recent meeting. However, because many members are unable to attend those meetings, all points of view are not heard. Members of the Canadian astronomical community should be making greater use of CASSiopeia for this purpose and, as well, for initiating discussion on other matters of policy and principle which concern them. This is effectively accomplished, I believe, through the publication of 'letters to the editor'. This issue, indeed, contains the first such letter on a matter of controversy to appear in the pages of CASSiopeia. Let us hope that it is not the last. In particular, I would like to see more input from our student members. What are your present concerns about the employment crisis, the funding of fellowships and scholarships, allocation of telescope time, etc., etc. Let the rest of us know how you really feel! (Expletives deleted, please!)

This issue of CASiopeia (and the following four) has been put together at the University of Alberta in order that Colin Scarfe might enjoy a sabbatical leave in New Zealand and Australia. The editorship will revert to Colin upon his return. As in the past, the deadline for submission of material for a particular issue will normally be the 15th day of the month of issue. Please keep in mind that without submissions of material from the general membership CASSiopeia cannot exist.

LETTERS

Dear Sir;

Jacques Vallée presents some good ideas in his latest manifesto, and I'm sure these will be discussed at the CAS meeting in May. It's too bad, though, that he can't resist sticking the old knife into NRC at every opportunity -- it makes it harder to take his valid points seriously. Since there hasn't been any response to Jacques' article published last year, I'd like to make a few points of my own, and on my own volition, in spite of the fact that I'm one of those "hired for their capacity for following orders without question". (In my next job, I think I'll be a bodyguard for Idi Amin).

First, could "mediocre performance" -- the fact that Westerbork is better than Penticton--be the result of mediocre funding and not blind incompetence on the part of NRC? Do the Dutch have a TRIUMF (or TRIOMF) or an AECL? Or could the universities really have done it much better, as suggested in last year's broadside? Queen's, UBC, U of A, and U of T all have, or had, their own radio telescopes, with varying degrees of impact on the international scene. Of course, funding and manpower restrictions, etc..., as I was saying. And do we poor relics of the dawn of radio astronomy snoring away on the Ottawa River really deserve to be left off the list of places where there exist astronomers and an airport (and where the Canadian Computer Centre might be established)?

In both of his Cassiopeia articles Jacques suggested that NRC astronomers are required to use NRC telescopes (presumably no one would do so if they had freedom of choice). This is simply rubbish, and Jacques should know this, having spent several months with us. Of course it's true that we have an obligation to test and maintain the observatory instruments (after all, university astronomers must occasionally erect themselves before the unwashed masses to justify their existence) but the policy, at least unofficially, is that if you can get observing time elsewhere the money will be found for travel expenses. The reasons ARO is used extensively by NRC astronomers are, fairly obviously, that there are a fair number of us, and that we do find ARO quite well suited to a number of different programs, such as molecular line observations, radio star and variable source work, long-baseline interferometry, etc. In fact, even that bastion of separatist sentiment, Queen's University, is the biggest user of ARO after NRC. It is less well suited to other programs, such as single-beam mapping to low levels at high frequencies, where the atmosphere, and not some arcane trickery or gross incompetence of the humble servants of Her Majesty, can make success very difficult to attain.

Before resuming my disguise as mild-mannered Clark Kent, I'd like to make it clear that I do support the ideas presented in the article, including the funding of a new radio instrument -- a share in the Australian telescope is an attractive proposition, but not the only one-- and the establishment of an autonomous foundation for radio astronomy,

which could hire "young Canadian astrophysicists with experience on large interferometers in Westerbork and the USA". I suspect that "out with the old and in with the new" gets less and less attractive as one ages, so lets hope there will be room for all of us in the Canadian astronomy of the future.

Yours sincerely

A. Woodsworth,

Andy Woodsworth

POSITION AVAILABLE

Department of Physics

The University of Calgary

Astronomy postdoctoral position available immediately for work on synthetic light curve - and spectroscopic analyses and related work on close binaries. The appointment is for one year, possibly renewable.

Send application, curriculum vitae and two letters of reference to:

Dr. E. F. Milone
Department of Physics
The University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

REPORT ON THE NINTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The University of Saskatchewan was host to the Ninth General Meeting of the Canadian Astronomical Society. About 60 members registered for the meeting.

The Business Meeting considered a number of important matters.

NRC Grants

The president, Rene Racine, reported that, after the motion expressing concern that no astronomy applicants had received NRC post-doctoral fellowships was passed by the 1977 Business Meeting, two NRC post-doctoral fellowships were granted to astronomers.

John MacLeod, reporting for a committee considering the position of non-faculty university appointees re NRC grants, noted that astronomy had done better this year. Three PDFs had been offered to astronomers which represented 1.1% of all successful applicants in all disciplines and 1.3% of all money granted was allotted to astronomy. However, the question of grants to non-faculty appointees appears to be a difficult one. MacLeod noted that, currently, about 70 astronomers are receiving NRC grants and that there are 17 people in the position of being non-faculty appointees at universities, who are partially or wholly paid from NRC grants and, therefore, are ineligible for NRC grants themselves. MacLeod brought forward for consideration a proposal to be presented to the new awards granting agency, the National Science and Engineering Council. The proposal reads as follows:

Whereas - the objective of grants-in-aid of research is to allow competent scientists to pursue their researches;

Whereas - some competent research scientists in Canadian institutions are currently ineligible to compete for such grants, be it due to the nature of their appointment, or to the source of their remuneration;

Whereas - this situation is contrary to the best interests of scientific research in Canada and, especially to the research performance of a number of young Canadian scientists;

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

granting agencies accept as eligible to compete for grants-in-aid of research any individual who

- i - has demonstrated his research capacity, e.g., through the earning of a Ph.D. degree, or equivalent, in his discipline;
- ii - is associated with a recognized institution, in a position such that he would normally be expected to carry out an independent research program for a period of at least one year after receipt of the award;

iii - is submitting a grant application approved by his institution, who would then administer the funds received.

Such an individual would be eligible even if part or all of his salary were paid from research funds.

However - grants-in-aid of research obtained by an individual whose salary is paid in whole or in part from research funds may not be used to pay the salary of persons who would be ineligible to apply for research grants under the terms of the present recommendations.

Discussion of this proposal was very animated. The main concerns were a) the need for young researchers, who were not in faculty positions, to be able to apply for NRC grants independently, b) the question of how many more applicants there would be for a given amount of money if non-faculty appointees or even people not associated with a research institution were allowed to compete for grants, and c) how many people in other disciplines would become eligible for grants, and d) whether a person hired by someone's research grant should be allowed to be independent.

The meeting passed a motion that the Society accept the above proposal in principle and leave details to the committee headed by John MacLeod.

The following related motion was presented by Geoffrey Bicknell:

The Committee of the Council of the CASCA, charged with the study of research grants to non-faculty appointees, is instructed to consider the allocation of research grants in Astronomy with a view to ascertaining whether additional independent post-doctoral and/or research associate positions should be created.

The meeting passed this motion and Council was instructed to appoint a young astronomer to the MacLeod committee.

Future Meetings

1979 - at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

1980 - at St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia to be held jointly with the R.A.S.C.

Membership Dues

The new treasurer, Bill McCutcheon, points out that a number of members are delinquent in dues payment. The total of unpaid dues is about \$1000.

Council Elections

The results of the election for council were as follows:

Vic Gaizauskas, Ottawa, was elected 2nd Vice-President and Jean-René Roy, Quebec, and Bob Garrison, Toronto, were elected to Council. The Council of

the CASCA now is:

President:	Carman H. Costain
1st Vice-President:	Gordon A.H. Walker
2nd Vice-President:	Vic Gaizauskas
Treasurer:	Bill McCutcheon
Secretary:	Richard Bochonko
Councillors:	John M. MacLeod
	Bob Garrison
	Jean-René Roy
Past President:	René Racine

Amendment to By-Law Article V, Section 6

The amendment concerning the reimbursement of members of Council for travel expenses incurred in connection with meetings of Council was passed.

CCD Imaging Arrays

The meeting approved the following motion by Bruce Campbell:

Whereas large CCD imaging arrays are potentially extremely useful for optical ground-based and space astronomy, be it resolved that the CASCA strongly supports the development of these devices.

Overall

The General Meeting was considered a great success. Professor E. Kennedy and his committee, especially Irene Wohlgemuth, are to be heartily thanked for their efforts on our behalf.

D. Richard Bochonko,
Secretary

REPORT OF I.A.U. NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE - MAY 1977

The Preliminary Announcements for the XVII General Assembly have been distributed. Well over 600 "Cards of Intent" have been returned that indicate approximately 1,000 people are already planning to come. This is rather less than the number of cards received by the French committee before the Grenoble Assembly, but their deadline was five months closer to the Assembly than was ours. We believe it is realistic to continue to plan for a meeting of about the same size of that in Grenoble (approximately 2,300 persons) or maybe somewhat larger.

Work is now in progress on the Preliminary Programme and the design of the Participation Form. Both these documents are dependent on a number of important decisions about the arrangements for the Assembly, so by tackling them we are necessarily directing our attention to the various problem areas that must now be studied. Considerable progress has been made on the social programme. A number of interesting tours are being arranged for registered guests, as well as for all participants for the Saturday afternoon and Sunday during the Assembly. A tour will be offered in connection with each symposium (or colloquium) that has so far been approved by the I.A.U. Executive. Two evening concerts are being negotiated now, and the Faculty of Music of the Université de Montréal has undertaken to provide the customary musical interludes at the Inaugural Ceremony.

The scientific programme of the Assembly is, of course, not the responsibility of our Committee. Already, however, sufficient information is available about plans for Joint Discussions and Invited Discourses to lead us to suppose that the Assembly will live up to the standards of its predecessors.

The next meeting of the Committee will be in October and will extend over two days. At this meeting we will approve the text of the Preliminary Programme, send it for translation and printing, and we will set the participation fee. We are trying to obtain, now, as close estimates as possible of all foreseeable expenses so that we can set this fee as low as possible. We aim to distribute the Preliminary Programmes by the end of January next year, and we will probably set May 15th, 1979 as the latest date for pre-registration. We have accepted in principle a very favourable group health-insurance plan from Ingle and Associates of Toronto. Some details remain to be clarified, but the plan will provide coverage to participants all the time they are in North America. The recent decision of the Quebec government to remove the tax on hotel rooms is an appreciable help to us.

The Committee engaged its first permanent employee on January 3rd. Mlle Huguette Guilbault has joined us as Executive Secretary. She is fluently bilingual, a hard worker, and keen to make a success of the Assembly. She has already eased the work load on the astronomers involved in the preparations for the Assembly, and we are all glad to have her working with us.

NOTES FROM UNIVERSITIES

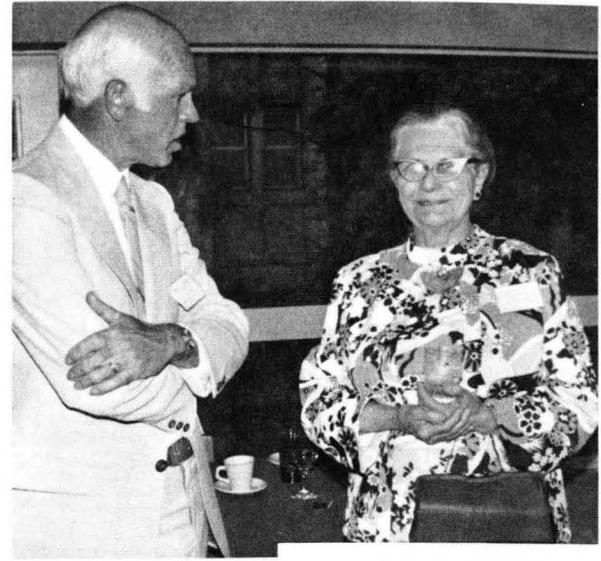
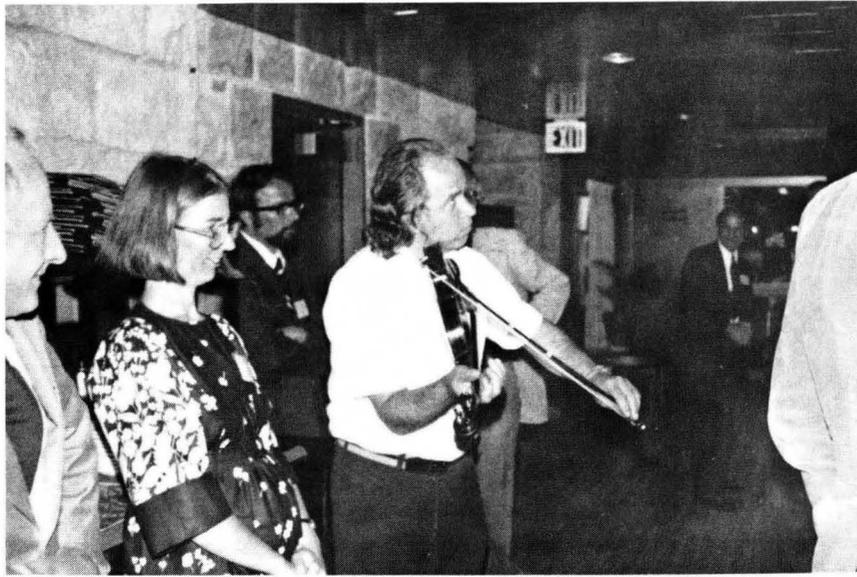
Department of Physics, University of Alberta

During a frantic three days in mid-May, the primary, secondary and tertiary mirrors for the f/8 folded Cassegrain system were aluminized, installed in their cells, and the assembly of the 0.5 m telescope was completed. First light was achieved on the night of May 18, and the instrument was ready for display to delegates attending the General Assembly of the R.A.S.C. Although precise polar and optical alignment remains to be done, we are very happy with the mechanical and optical performance of the telescope. The f/18 system was assembled for the first time on June 16. The complete process of interchanging the two upper ends was accomplished in approximately twenty minutes.

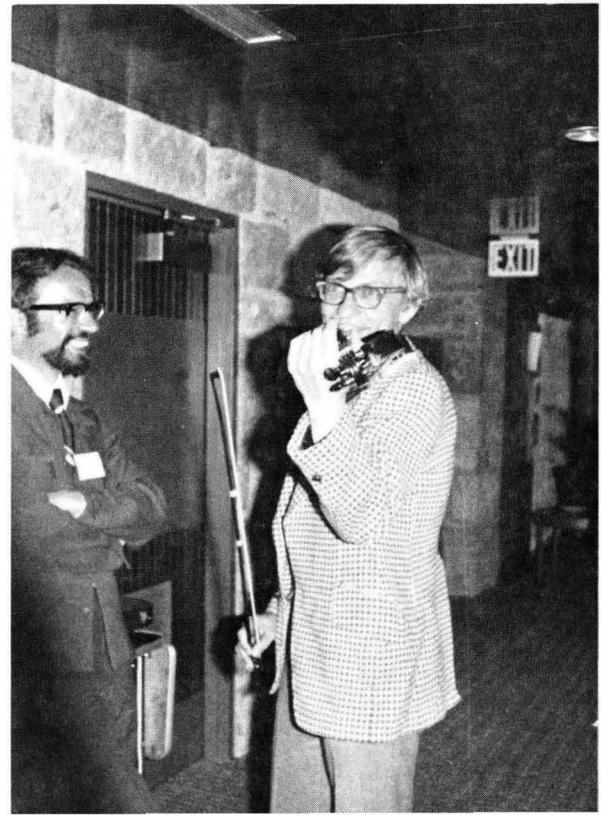
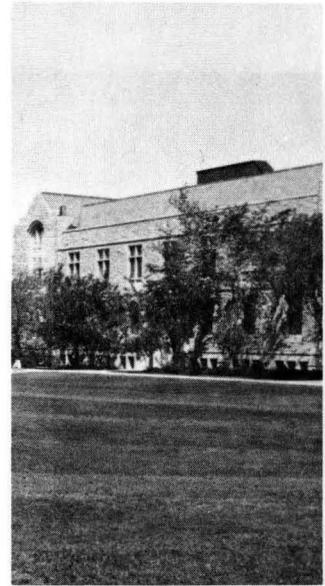
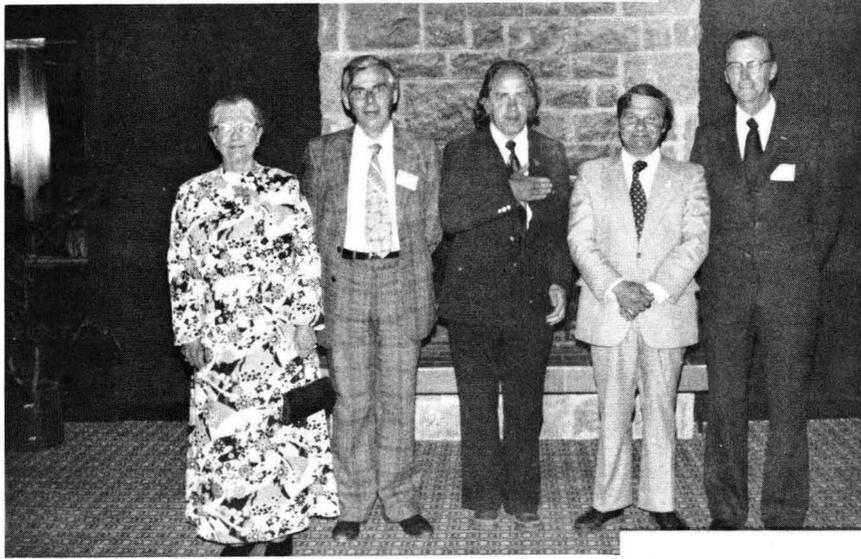
Austin F. Gulliver has joined the Astrophysics Group as a research associate following a stint as a NRC postdoctoral fellow in Victoria. Austin replaces Jack Winzer who is remaining in Edmonton (16126-100A Avenue) where he plans to develop an optical supply and fabrication business (telescope making kits, eyepieces, tubes, mirrors, etc.) primarily for the amateur astronomy market.

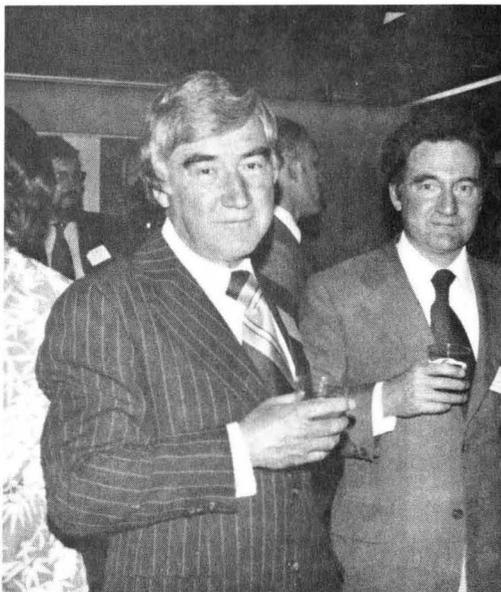
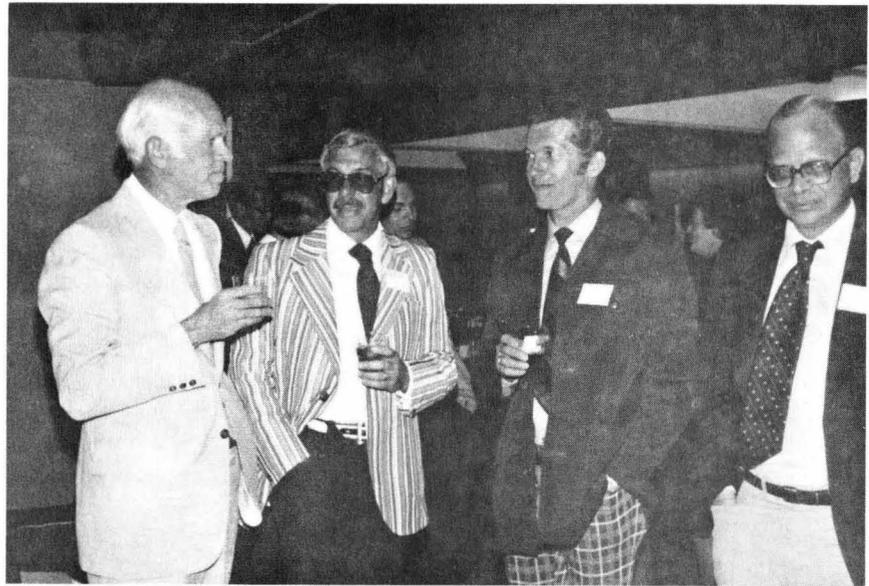
NOTICES

With this issue of CASsiopeia you are receiving a list of address changes for CASCA members. Note that for two of our members current addresses are lacking, and recent issues sent to their last known addresses have been returned by the postal service. Please, if you move, send your new address to Richard Bochonko and/or to Doug Hube.



SASKATOON
May 23-26, 1978





... and a good time was had by all.

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