

JD 4.D.17

The Use of Apts in the Development of Astronomy

E. Budding, G. Hudson, R. Hudson, J. Priestly (Carter Observatory, P.O. Box 2909, Wellington C.1, New Zealand)

The development of an automatic photometric telescope (APT) at the Kotipu Place Observatory is summarized. This project has interesting implications for low budget contexts, e.g. amateur and school groups.

Its application to useful astronomical research programs is briefly reviewed, with some results presented.

The parallel direction of skill development in fields such as computer programming, mechanical and electrical engineering and cybernetics are also noted.

JD 4.D.18

From a Rose-Bud to Rosette Nebulae: On Popularization of Science and Astronomy Through the World

Cecylia Iwaniszewska (Institute of Astronomy, N. Copernicus University, Chopina 12/18, 87-100 Torun, Poland, email: Cecylia@PLTUMK1 1.Bitnet)

Motto: A real rose may be observed at different stages, from a rose-bud to a flower in full bloom. But Rosette Nebula does not change during our life-time ... (adapted from S. Isobe, 1993). On looking over the National Reports on astronomy education published in the IAU Commission 46 Newsletter, we find a great variety of forms and methods, by means of which science, and more specifically astronomy, is being introduced to the general public. The author wants to emphasize the fact, not very well known to non-scientists, that the evolution of celestial bodies goes on at a much slower rate than the plant or animal life with which we are accustomed here, on the Earth.

JD 4.D.19

The Pedagogical Programmes in Astronomy and Astrophysics at IUCAA

Jayant V. Narlikar (Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, India. email: jvn@iucaa.ernet.in)

The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) was created by the University Grants Commission to nucleate, support and upgrade teaching, research and development (TRD) of A&A within the university sector in India. The Centre was established in 1988 and now has a complex of buildings spread over a campus of eight hectares at Pune in Western India.

During its brief history the IUCAA has put into operation several programmes to fulfill its mandate. This presentation will highlight the IUCAA programmes directed at teachers, amateur astronomers and the general public. These programmes are aimed at education in astronomy, information transfer, creation of instrument-friendliness and the spread

of the scientific temper. Some examples are: school-teacher meetings, telescope and planetarium making workshops, amateur astronomers' meets, star parties of night-sky watchers, summer vacation projects for secondary schoolchildren, lecture demonstrations and science quizzes etc.

The response to these efforts has been overwhelming and illustrates how an institution can combine "R" & "D" at the advanced international level with "T" at the elementary level.

JD 4.D.20

A Cloudy Night Under the Stars: Overnight Extravaganzas at the Carter Observatory, Wellington, N.Z.

Wayne Orchiston and Frank Andrews (Carter Observatory, PO Box 2909, Wellington, New Zealand)

A recent innovation at Carter Observatory are "Overnight Extravaganzas" for groups of up to thirty children and accompanying adults. They are offered a tour of the Astronomy Centre (the Observatory's visitor centre), two different planetarium shows, and sky-viewing (weather-permitting). Glow-worm viewing (in the Botanic garden) and astronomical videos are popular optional extras. Following supper, the children bed down for the night under the "stars" in the planetarium. After a while, it "clouds over" and the stars disappear (actually, we simply switch off the planetarium!).

Overnight Extravaganzas offer a unique astronomical experience and are proving particularly popular with brownies, cubs, and girls brigade.

JD 4.D.21

A Bold Project for a Public Observatory in Romania

Magda Stavinschi (Astronomical Institute, Cutitul de Argint 5, 75212 Bucharest 28, Romania; email: mstavins@roear.bitnet) and

Bogdan Fezi (Institute of Architecture "Ion Mincu" Academice 18-20: 70109 Bucharest, Romania)

On 11th of August 1999, Europe will enter in the shadow of a total eclipse. The map's centre is near Bucharest. But this city is not prepared yet for this event. The dramatic situation of the last 50 years, the difficult financial situation now hinder the realization of a public observatory.

But Bucharest Observatory of the Astronomical Institute is situated in the Southern part of the city, surrounded by a large park. Just near the Observatory, there is a Mausoleum devoted to keep "for ever" the communist figures. Today almost everybody would want to change its destination.

Our solution was: a Public Observatory. In the close precincts on the ground could be installed a planetarium. The hemicycle surrounding it could be joined by a glass ceiling making a good space for exhibitions and conferences. Between the arches rising to the heaven could climb the glass cabin of a lift to a terrace from which one observes the sky.