

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cape Centre, held at the SAAO at 8 pm on 13th June 1984.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed everyone. Apologies for absence were received from Mr & Mrs Sessions, Mrs Kramer and Dr Gault. After the minutes were read the Director of Observations announced that David Overbeck wanted observation of the occultations of Jupiter moons, and that there would be no trip to the Heidelberg for the next 3 months. It was announced that the photo competition would be judged at the AGM. ~~and that as~~

The speaker for the evening was Dr Robin Batchelor, who received his doctorate from UCT for his work on ~~IR~~ infra red observing. The subject of his talk was on ~~IR~~ infra red observations of the galactic <sup>centre</sup> pole. For the past 10 years infra red observing has been a major part of the work of the observatory, involving in addition to himself Dr Glass and Whittlock. Short I.R. is used mainly for the cool stars or where it is necessary to penetrate through galactic debris. Many <sup>stars</sup> ~~stars~~ which cannot be ~~seen~~ observed with visible light ~~are~~ show up in infra red.

A scan of the sky is made at the rate of 25 <sup>very small area</sup> ~~per~~ samples <sup>of a</sup> ~~per~~ <sup>very small area</sup> ~~per~~ second, of three different wavelengths. These <sup>raw</sup> ~~pictures~~ <sup>raw</sup> are stored on tape and by manipulating <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ a computer, pictures are built up and useful conclusions can be drawn. By plotting a graph of absorption vs angle off the galactic plane (after allowing for the absorption of interstellar dust) an apparent concentration of mass at the galactic centre was found. More detailed observations show very dense absorbing clouds near the galactic centre, and some strong radio sources. It is also ~~speculated~~ speculated that because of the approximate 3 million solar masses in the ~~exact~~ centre and small absorption ~~that~~ in the exact centre, that it may be a black hole. Much of the IR work is not so concerned with the exact centre but with the surrounding central bulge, looking for nova variables and metal rich stars.

The speaker was thanked by Mr Hurley and the meeting closed for tea at 9.10.

*A.B. Turf*  
1984 Sep 12.