



Fig. 1. — The irregular tails around NGC 5291 and its companion galaxy. The material can be traced over 9 arc min which corresponds to 200 kpc at the distance of NGC 5291. Remark also the absorption lane crossing the eastern part of NGC 5291. The plate is an unfiltered 60-min exposure on IIIa-J. North is up and east to the left.

luminous stars imbedded in the gas. But since the outermost knots are separated by as much as 100 kpc from NGC 5291, the transfer time of material drawn out would exceed by orders of magnitude the short life-time of the exciting stars.

The nature of the extragalactic material was therefore an open question, and since one of us had observing time on the 3.6 m telescope at La Silla, we decided to pursue the matter by some further observations. Plates were taken in the prime focus on two nights in March 1978. One of the plates (Fig. 1) is an unfiltered 60-minute exposure which was taken during the night March 9–10 when the seeing was good, about 1". Another plate, a 60-minute red exposure, was taken two nights later when the seeing was inferior, about 3". The first of these plates confirmed the knotted structure of the extragalactic material and a comparison of the two plates shows that it is clearly bluer than the galaxies in the field. These facts have led to an interpretation in terms of "extragalactic H II regions".

Such an interpretation does, however, call for further confirmation and we hope to be able to continue our studies, in particular by obtaining spectra of some of the brightest knots. But the knots are faint and the task will consume considerable time, even at a large telescope.

## PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS

### (A) Staff

#### ARRIVALS

##### Garching

Gisela VOSSEN (German), secretary, 1. 6. 1978

##### Geneva

Alain PERRIGOUARD (French), systems programmer, 1. 4. 1978

Roy SAXBY (British), photographer, 1. 5. 1978

#### DEPARTURES

##### Garching

Imke HEIDTMANN (Swedish), secretary, 31. 5. 1978

##### Geneva

Sten MILNER (Danish), mechanical engineer, 31. 3. 1978

Rudolf ZURBUCHEN (Swiss), electronics engineer, 30. 4. 1978

### (B) Paid Associates – Fellows – Coopérants

#### ARRIVALS

##### Geneva

Scientific Group: Jean SURDEJ (French), Fellow, 27. 5. 1978

##### La Silla

Patrice BOUCHET (French), Fellow, 1. 6. 1978



With great grief we have learned that

### **Svend Bohn Lorensen** 1942–1978

died suddenly in Copenhagen on March 1st, as a result of a serious illness. He leaves three children.

Svend, who joined ESO in 1971, had an early interest in astronomy (his father is also an astronomer although he later became a teacher) and concluded his studies at the Copenhagen University Observatory in 1969 with a brilliant Ph.D. Svend could have made important contributions in any astronomical field of his choice, and he soon developed a special interest in the application of highly sophisticated computer techniques in astronomy, a field in which he became a leading figure. He was the author of the control software for many of the ESO telescopes, in particular the 3.6 metre, in high esteem by visiting astronomers. Much of the present and future ESO software is due to his foresighted ideas. A sudden deterioration of his health forced him to return to Copenhagen by the end of 1977 to undergo continuous medical treatment.

Svend was a true friend to his friends, and all of us who knew him—at ESO and elsewhere—can testify to his eagerness to help whenever and wherever needed. His modesty about his important accomplishments was legendary. He was always optimistic and continued to teach student classes until the day before his death. He had an inquisitive scientific mind with a great interest in artistic fields, he was a great music lover and a very good piano and organ player.

We all miss him very much.

Richard M. West