

Observatoire de Paris (DASGAL), for providing me with the masks and the Lyot stop. F. Rigaut ran COME-ON during the observations and N. Hubin helped to install the coronagraph on the COME-ON adaptive optics system.

References

Malbet F., to be submitted to A&A.

ESO at EXPO '92

A grand fiesta, lasting for 176 days and with more than 18 million participants, this is what the ancient Andalusian city of Seville is looking forward to as the final preparations for EXPO '92, the Universal Exhibition, now move into high gear.

On an area covering 215 hectares on the island of La Catuja, more than 100 pavilions have risen during the last 18 months. Most of them are national pavilions or represent geographical regions. Others are specifically devoted to the main theme of this Universal Exhibition: "The Age of Discovery".

Among the string of specialized pavilions is the "Present and the Future Pavilion", a 10,000 square metre building which will house exhibitions on robotics, energy, communications, artificial intelligence, etc. It will also be the home of an exhibition which has been put together by CERN, ESA, EMBL and ESO as well as by several Spanish research institutes. There will also be a planetarium, models of various ESA spacecraft, laboratory equipment from CERN including a big custom-built spark chamber, through which courageous visitors can walk and "see" the cosmic particles which pass through them.

ESO will show a huge, interactive model of its 16-m Very Large Telescope, together with short, specially-produced videos on different types of front-line astronomical programmes which will be undertaken with the VLT. Inside this pavilion there will also be many large colour photos from ESO on display, as well as an 11-m long photographic ESO-produced transparency of the Milky Way. And last, but not least, the outside entrance of the pavilion will be covered with a 400 square metre ESO colour photo (the largest astronomical enlargement ever made?) of a spiral galaxy. It is so large that it should be easy to see it from the city of Seville, across the river of Guadalquivir.

A universal exhibition like EXPO '92 has been described as one of the most

Jean-Luc Nieto (1950–1992)

Jean-Luc Nieto was born in Algiers in 1950, and came to France in 1962. He studied in Paris, obtained a Master's degree in mathematics, and in 1974, he received an engineering degree from the Ecole Centrale as well as a graduate degree (DEA) in astrophysics. He then worked on a doctoral thesis (doctorat de troisième cycle) under Jean-Claude Pecker.

In January 1977, Jean-Luc went to the University of Texas in Austin for a post-doctoral fellowship. He began to study galaxies with Gérard de Vaucouleurs. Two years later, he was hired at the Observatoire du Pic-du-Midi at Bagnères-de-Bigorre. In 1983, he moved to Toulouse, within the same observatory, where he obtained his PhD in 1984.

During the 15 years of his scientific career, Jean-Luc Nieto earned an international reputation in the area of high-resolution imaging with the purpose of understanding the nature and origin of extragalactic jets, and later of elliptical galaxies. Working tirelessly, he collaborated in many research projects – national as well as international – where his enthusiasm made him a driving force of many of them. All the big telescope domes – of ESO, CFHT – rang with his discoveries at one time or another. He played a leading role in the preparation and development of an ESO key programme to establish a physical classification of elliptical galaxies, bringing on active collaboration with the Observatories of Padua and Heidelberg.

His reputation earned many responsibilities: president of an IAU working group (1982–88), member of the French committee for telescope-time allocation (1982–83), lecturer at the National Aeronautics School since 1984, associate professor at the Uni-



versity of Padua in 1985, team supervisor at Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées since 1986. The French scientific community recognized the value of his work with the CNRS bronze medal in 1986.

Jean-Luc Nieto died on January 5, 1992. We will all remember his energy, his impulsiveness and his creativity, the passion with which he defended his scientific projects. His temerity and refusal to set limits did not always let us follow him, but we respected him for his bold and unique approach. After spending a year as visiting astronomer in Hawaii at the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope, he was preparing to work on exceptional images of central regions of elliptical galaxies obtained at CFHT and NTT. Mountaineering, one of his passions, took him away from us.

*E. DAVOUST
(on behalf of French astronomers)*

comprehensive and ambitious cultural events of our time. It is a forum for demonstrating all facets of human endeavour. It brings together presentations of the latest advances in the arts, technology and sciences. As such it is a most fitting place to present the 16-m VLT project to the public at large.

... and in other places

On a smaller scale, ESO's own exhibition continues its travels on two conti-

nents. It closed in Santiago de Chile on January 23, 1992, when certain parts of it moved north to form a stand at the annual Penuelas Fair in La Serena, which opened on January 30 and closed on February 9.

On the day of the inauguration, the first visitor to the stand was the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Figueroa, to be followed, a few days later, by the Minister of Mining and Energy, Mr. Hamilton. Further the Governor and deputies and senators for the IV Region of Chile, the