

NEWS NOTES

Eruptive Variable in Andromeda: P. Wild, Astronomical Institute, Berne, reports the discovery of an eruptive variable at RA 0h39m.2 +26°21' (1950). Magnitude estimates available are: Sept. 16.90UT, (17; 19.01, 13; 27.88, 15). In response to a note in a TA EWC, no photos have been reported for the area at that time but perhaps all readers could recheck to see if they have taken any shots of the area in September. IAUC 3412.

1979QB; was reported in TA 186 as a possible new Apollo object detected by E. Helin on plates secured Aug 22-23. K.R. Russell reports that it has been observed on plates with the 1.2m UK Schmidt telescope at Coonabarabran on Aug 16 and Sept. 21. Marsden has calculated the following elements:

T=1979 Sept. 25.005ET

w= 11.304 )

$\Omega$ =342.155 ) 1950.0

i= 3.381 )

q= 1.29996 AU

e = 0.44299

a = 2.33379 AU

n° = 0.276446

P = 3.57 years

IAUC 3412.

Probable Nova in Sagittarius: Further to the report in TA 186, E.P. Belserene, Maria Mitchell Observatory, reports that the object mentioned is visible at mpg = 12.5-13.6 on plates obtained during 1978 June 30-Oct 3. IAUC 3414.

G.M. Hurst reports that photos centred on this field were obtained in 1977 Oct and 1978 Mar/Apr (also coinciding with the discovery plates) but object is visible brighter than mag 9.5.

New Ring and Satellites of Saturn: T. Gehrels et.al, report: "A new Saturnian ring, provisionally named the F ring, was observed by the optical and energetic-particle instruments on Pioneer 11 during the recent Saturn flyby. The ring has a width of approx 2000km and is centred on 2.35R<sub>S</sub>, where R<sub>S</sub>, the approximate equatorial radius of Saturn, is defined to be exactly 60 000km. An absorption feature in the intensity of energetic particles was observed in the F ring for at least one tens-of-kilometers-sized object. The separation between the F and A rings was provisionally named the Pioneer Division; its width is approx 2600km. The optical instrument observed a satellite, designated 1979 S 1, at approx 2.53R<sub>S</sub>. Independently, three energetic-particle instruments observed an absorption feature at 2.534 R<sub>S</sub>, attributed to a nearby satellite, 1979 S 2, of diameter approx 170km. The positions in the orbit indicate that 1979 S 1 and 1979 S 2 are the same object; the orbital radius is similar to that reported for 1966 S 2." IAUC 3417.

SU Tauri: Following the 'fade' report in TA 186, G.H. Herbig, Lick Observatory reports: "The spectrum of SU Tau was observed in the yellow-red region on Oct. 2 with the coude spectrograph on the 3-m reflector at a dispersion of  $3.4 \times 10^{-6}$ . The visual magnitude was 14.5, or some 4½-5 mag below maximum light. The spectrum consists of sharp emission lines on an (underexposed) continuum. It closely resembles that of R CrB at the deep (8mag) minimum of that star in 1977, except that the intense Na I emission lines in SU Tau lack the complex structure seen in R CrB. The other bright emission lines are due to BaII, ScII, Ti II and (weakly) Fe II. There is no sign of H $\alpha$  emission!"

Photoelectric observations by A.R. Landolt on Oct. 23.330UT gave:

V= 16.9, B-V approx +0.6.

IAUC 3418.