

necessitated the cuts are those incurred from delays to the Rosetta comet mission because of the failed Ariane 5 launcher (see PHYSICS TODAY, March 2003, page 28). Also taking a toll were making early payments to keep the European space industry afloat and covering expenses for ESA member states and other partner organizations that defaulted on their contributions to various missions.

The cuts to Eddington and Bepi-Colombo save around €450 million (\$536 million). The financial juggling also includes a loan of €100 million to keep Rosetta on track for launch next month. The revised program is affordable, says Andersen, but it is "a scientifically unacceptable program because it kills off fields where Europe is in the lead." **TF**

Telescope time for sale. Seeking access to the stars? For \$150, you can buy an hour on the 32-inch telescope at Tenagra Observatories, 60 kilometers south of Mt. Hopkins in Arizona. When the 24-inch telescope arrives, it will be available for \$100 an hour.

The telescopes are completely ro-

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botic. Among the current projects by outside users are searches for asteroids, variable phenomena such as active galactic nuclei, and optical signals from gamma-ray bursters. Michael Schwartz, the observatories' director, founder, and owner, focuses on supernovae and says that more than 40 have been discovered with Tenagra telescopes.

Schwartz earned his fortune from a software company that he started in 1981 and sold, propitiously, in 1997. Two years later, he used his own money to create Tenagra; the name is taken from a character in a *Star Trek* episode. "I am a renegade academic. I've been interested in astronomy since I was a child," says Schwartz, who holds degrees in archaeology, physics, and physical anthropology—but not astronomy. **TF**

New CTIO chief. Alistair Walker is the new director of the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in La Serena, Chile. He took the reins of the US National Optical Astronomy Observatory's outpost in the Southern Hemisphere on 8 November.

Perhaps best known for his work measuring the distance to the Large Magellanic Cloud, Walker first went to the CTIO in 1977. Except for seven years at the South African Astronomical Observatory, he's been there ever

since, and served for the past four years as deputy director. The observatory operates the 4-meter Blanco telescope, will celebrate the dedication of the 4-meter Southern Astrophysical Research telescope (SOAR) in April, is building an adaptive optics facility for SOAR, and is conducting site tests for the Thirty Meter Telescope and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope.

Walker succeeds Malcolm Smith, who stepped down after a decade in the job. Smith will stay on as director of the AURA Observatory in Chile, which provides operational support for the CTIO and the Gemini South telescope. As president of the International Astronomical Union's commission for the protection of existing and potential astronomical sites, Smith plays a leading role in the effort to protect ground-based observatories worldwide from light pollution, radio frequency interference, and light from orbiting space debris. **TF** ■

WEB WATCH

<http://www.advancedphysics.org>

Physicist Fernanda Foerter has created **Advanced Physics Forums**, a site where her fellow graduate students can exchange ideas about things physical. More than 100 people have signed up to use the moderated site since its launch last August.

<http://www.dctech.com/physics/errata>

Although he now works for a software engineering company, former physics professor Doug Craigen hasn't lost his interest in teaching physics. Among his hobbies is collecting items for his site **Physics Textbook Errata**.

<http://www.foresight.org/Nanomedicine/Gallery/Captions>

More science fiction than science fact, the **Nanomedicine Art Gallery** nevertheless reflects contemporary views of how medical nanorobots and other nanomedical devices might one day appear. Robert Freitas of Zyvex Corp curates the online exhibition, which is hosted by the Foresight Institute.

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit <http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html>.

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