

# NOAO

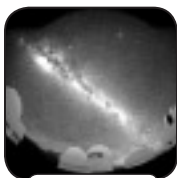
## In This Issue



USGP

### Gemini Sharpens the Galactic Center

Gemini "Demonstration Science" observations of the Galactic Center are now available, three months after they were obtained with Hokupa'a/QUIRC. Nearly diffraction-limited near-IR images of the central arcminute of the Galactic Center give an unprecedented combination of sharpness and field of view to provide a clearer understanding of the complex relation between the stellar population and the extreme density found in the nucleus of our galaxy. [Page 3]



CTIO

### SOAR Continues to First Light in 2002

SOAR passed a minor milestone with the completion of the building structure and siding. A temporary roof will be installed before the arrival of the dome in March 2001 so that electrical and HVAC systems can be installed. [Page 13]



KPNO

### WIYN Improves Performance

Observers report an increase in the fraction of 0.5" to 0.7" images after an airbag tertiary mirror support system was installed and an improved pointing model came into use. Image sizes of 0.4" were consistently seen in 5 min exposures during one night of NOAO time and 0.26" exposures noted with the Yale speckle camera. [Page 17]

# NSO



NSO

### ATST to Design and Development

The Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST), a 4-m, off-axis reflecting telescope with adaptive optics and thermal control, has entered the design and development phase. The science objective of ATST is to study magnetic fields in the plasma structures on the Sun with the intent of understanding the mechanisms responsible for solar variability. [Page 24]

## On the Cover

### A Digital High-Resolution Solar Spectrum in an Old Way

A high-resolution digital spectrum of the Sun is displayed to mimic an echelle spectrogram. Nigel Sharp (NOAO/KPNO) colorized the digital atlas observed with the Fourier Transform Spectrometer at the McMath-Pierce Solar Facility on Kitt Peak by Robert L. Kurucz, Ingemar Furenlid, James Brault, and Larry Testerman (*National Solar Observatory Atlas No. 1*, June 1984) and sliced it into orders like those produced by an echelle.

This image and a colorized version of a spectrum of Arcturus are available in the NOAO Image Gallery ([http://www.nao.edu/image\\_gallery](http://www.nao.edu/image_gallery)).

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