create healthier communities and make stronger, longer lives possible for more Americans.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 21ST ANNUAL METRO DETROIT YOUTH DAY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize an important event that will soon be held in my home State of Michigan. On July 9, 2003, community residents, business owners, and area youth will gather at Belle Isle to celebrate the 21st Annual Metro Detroit Youth Day.

Metro Detroit Youth Day was founded to improve relations between youth and other community members in the metropolitan Detroit area. Before its creation 20 years ago, a series of altercations had occurred between Detroit area youth and several grocery store owners. Since that time, Youth Day has provided an opportunity for all community members to work and play together and has drastically reduced the level of violence in the area. Youth Day includes games, meetings with celebrities, motivational speakers, sports events, and a wide variety of other activities designed to promote unity within the Detroit community.

I am pleased to recognize Metro Detroit Youth Day as an example of a proactive community effort that has promoted positive change. I am sure that my Senate colleagues will join me in saluting this event and in wishing Metro Detroit Youth Day continued success in the future.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MARQUETTE COUNTY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize an outstanding county in my home State of Michigan for receiving a prestigious community recognition award. Marquette County, which is located in the beautiful upper peninsula of Michigan, was recently named an All-America City by the National Civic League.

The National Civic League has presented the All-America City Award annually for the last 54 years. The award recognizes outstanding communities such as Marquette for their excellence in combining grassroots efforts with local government and businesses' community programs to address critical local issues. This year Marquette County was selected in recognition of its efforts to increase access to health care, create a countywide nonmotorized trail system, and build support for at-risk youth in the community.

Marquette County was one of only 10 communities nationwide to be awarded the distinction of All-America City. The selection was made out of a pool of more than 700 applicants and 30 finalists. A 10-person jury comprised of nationally recognized public and civic affairs experts evaluated Marquette County based on a 10 category model developed by the National Civic League. Criteria include significant evidence of results which have improved the community within the last 3 years, extent of public participation, evidence of collaboration between multiple jurisdictions, and creative usage of available resources.

In addition to being an active and caring community, Marquette County includes some of the nation's most beautiful beaches, waterfalls, and wildlife. Thousands of tourists each year are attracted by the breathtaking scenery and numerous outdoor leisure activities such as golf, skiing, canoeing, hiking, and fishing.

I take great pride in congratulating Marquette County for the award of All-America City. This award is well deserved and is a source of pride for everyone in my home State of Michigan. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in saluting Marquette County and wishing its citizens continued success in the years to come.●

NEBRASKA'S TOM ALLAN

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, Tom Allan wasn't born in Nebraska, but that didn't stop him from falling in love with my State or from making the entire State feel like part of his family. Tom traveled the highways and byways for over 40 years, seeing the beauty of Nebraska, making friends, and sharing his experiences through his often humorous and always insightful news articles. When he passed away recently there were Nebraskans in every city, town, and village that mourned him and fondly remembered their favorite Tom Allan stories.

Tom Allan was born in Scotland and moved to Nebraska when he was only 9 years old. After graduating from high school and Ottawa College he served his Nation honorably in World War II with tours in the Philippines and Alaska. He retired as a major in the Nebraska National Guard.

He began working for the Omaha World Herald in 1947 and became the paper's roving reporter in 1959. He traveled more than a million miles and wore out 20 cars while filing stories from every community in the State. He covered the occasional big news story, but Tom Allan specialized in simple stories that touched the heart. For readers in Omaha, Tom brought to life the unique people and small towns that can't be found on a map.

Tom Allan outran tornados, trekked through the Amazon jungle, and even stood in for a U.S. Ambassador in Finland. He covered the State fair with such regularity that he was honored with ''Tom Allan Day'' at the Nebraska State Fair in 1997. His humor and humility were clear when he wrote, ''I'd rather they'd just given me a fat-hog blue ribbon and let it go at that.''

In that same column Tom described his job as the privilege of discovering what is over the next hill and who is around the next bend in the road along the byways of Nebraska. On behalf of all Nebraskans, I would like to thank Tom Allan for the privilege of his company and for the wonderful stories he shared with all Nebraskans for over 50 years. We will always remember his love for the State of Nebraska, and we are grateful that through his stories he taught us about Nebraska and helped us understand ourselves.

Tom Allan passed away on June 27, 2003.●

RECOGNITION OF THE MAGDALENA RIDGE OBSERVATORY

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Office of Naval Research for the successful design review to begin development of the next great astronomical telescope. The Navy is the preeminent authority in the areas of Precise Time and Astrometry, and distributes Earth Orientation parameters and other Astronomical Data required for accurate navigation and fundamental astronomy. Now they are managing an international team to build the Magdalena Ridge Observatory, MRO, on a 10,000 foot mountain in central New Mexico. The Navy, along with the Air Force, Army, and a consortium of universities from the United States and the United Kingdom, will break ground on October 20 this year.

This month, the prestigious scientific journal, Physics Today, published a superbly written article that explains the MRO. The project will create a unique array of mirrors that can take pictures of bright celestial objects with a resolution equivalent to a huge telescope measuring 400 meters in diameter.

I ask that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

NEW MEXICO PLANS OPTICAL INTERFEROMETER AND FAST-SLEWING TELESCOPE

How does a minor university land a major observatory? In New Mexico Tech's case, it helped that the university has access to a high, dark site, that the Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO) will have national security applications, and that the project has allies in Congress.

''We had a coalition of universities looking for an observatory,'' says Van Romero, vice president for research at New Mexico Tech (officially the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology), which has around 1800 students and 110 faculty members. New Mexico Tech and its partners—New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, and the University of Puerto Rico—learned that the US Army's neighboring White Sands Missile Range wanted better missile tracking capability and the Air Force Research Laboratory in Albuquerque was interested in developing adaptive optics. ''We seemed to have a critical mass—universities, along with more than one military user,'' says Romero. Representative Joe Skeen and Senator Pete Domenici, both New Mexico Republicans, supported creating the MRO because the potential for education outreach, adaptive optics research, and world-class astronomy ''all came together in a happy confluence of ideas,'' says Stephen Traver, a legislative fellow in Domenici's office who used to work for the now retired

Skeen. Domenici led the way in winning a congressional markup for the $48 million observatory.

The observatory's future home is on a ridge in the Magdalena mountains near Socorro, about 130 kilometers south of Albuquerque. Besides the clear skies and roughly 3200–meter-high perch, the site's advantages include that it is near both White Sands and New Mexico Tech, it has room for the observatory to expand, and it has a road and other infrastructure already serving ecological and atmospheric studies and the university's lightning lab (see box).

The MRO will consist of an optical-infrared interferometer with eight to ten 1.4-meter telescopes in a reconfigurable Y-shaped array up to 400 meters long plus a single 2.4-meter telescope. Groundbreaking is scheduled for 20 October.

STARS AND SCUDS

The MRO array will have a large number of bigger elements distributed over a wider range of baselines than any other optical interferometer in the works, says Chris Haniff, whose University of Cambridge group is involved in the project. MRO's angular resolution, he adds, ''will be a factor of a hundred higher than the Hubble Space Telescope. That means that for any class of astronomical object, you can see more detail.''

''One of the exciting things we think we will be able to do is to look at the central engines of active galactic nuclei,'' says David Westpfahl, project scientist for the MRO interferometer. ''All the models have a massive object at the center, such as a black hole, and an accretion disk and polar outflow, but the detailed shape and arrangement of these things are still being worked on. We hope to be able to resolve several of these objects and decide among the models.'' The MRO interferometer will also be used to deduce the relative rotational axes of stars in clusters, which could shed light on the importance of turbulence in star formation, and to study other aspects of star birth, as well as star aging and planet formation.

Fast slewing is the special feature of MRO's single telescope. It will be able to zip to a particular part of the sky at 10° per second. The slewing was initially incorporated to accommodate the US Army. The MRO offers a good look at target missiles fired from Fort Wingate in western New Mexico, says Tomas C. Chavez, chief of test technology at White Sands. ''We could collect phenomenology data during the target's boost and coast phases to help home in on the target with an interceptor.'' Adds Romero, ''This is a match made in heaven. The army wants to use [the telescope] during the day and early morning, we want to use it at night.'' The 2.4-meter mirror was donated by the air force. Originally intended for classified space-based research, it has hardware added to keep it from sagging in Earth's gravitational field.

Astronomers will take advantage of the fast slewing, too. ''One big use of the telescope will be 'alert response to transient astrophysical phenomema,''' says project scientist Eileen Ryan. ''An example would be to find the optical counterpart of gamma-ray bursts.'' For that, the telescope would automatically interrupt other observations when it receives signals from Swift, a satellite NASA is supposed to launch in December. The MRO telescope, Ryan adds, will be bigger and will slew faster than other ground-based telescopes currently hunting for GRBs (see Physics Today, July 2002, pages 24 and 25). Mostly, though, the 2.4-meter telescope will be devoted to studying ''small Solar system bodies—asteriods, comets, and Kuiper Belt objects,'' says Ryan. ''We want to use the telescope to ask how fast asteroids are spinning. How big are they? What are their shapes?

POSSIBLE WITH PORK

What with the MRO being funded directly by Congress, the project often gets labeled as pork. Says Romero, ''Without this type of funding, we would not be able to build it. But we think this is a facility that funding agencies like NASA and NSF will take the opportunity to fund research at.'' And, unusual for a federally funded project, New Mexico Tech and its partners will foot the running costs, estimated at $2 million a year. If all goes as planned, the single telescope would see first light in 2005, and the interferometer could be up and running a couple years laters.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3008. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that provides the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia, relative to Plan Colombia; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3009. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3010. A communication from the Staff Director, Office of Regulatory and Management Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Land Uses; Revenue Producing Visitor Services in Alaska'' (RIN0596-AB57) received on June 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3011. A communication from Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''West Virginia Regulatory Program'' (WV-097-FOR) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3012. A communication from the Staff Director, Office of Regulatory and Management Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''Forest Land Enhancement Program'' (RIN0596-AB95) received on June 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3013. A communication from Staff Director, Office of Regulatory and Management Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities'' (RIN0596-AB89) received on June 25, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3014. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Rev. Proc. 96-30'' (Rev. Proc. 2003-48) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3015. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Business Purpose Under Section 355—Fit & Focus—Capital Allocation Purpose'' (Rev. Rul. 2003-75) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3016. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Assumption of Partner Liabilities'' (RIN1545-BB83) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3017. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2003 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment'' (Notice 2003-43) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3018. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2003 Marginal Production Rates'' (Notice 2003-44) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3019. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—July 2003'' (Rev. Rul. 2003-71) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3020. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance Regarding Election Under Section 953(d)'' (Rev. Proc. 2003-47) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3021. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''CRP Cost-Share Payments'' (Rev. Rul. 2003-59) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3022. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Compliance Initiative for Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Corporations'' (Notice 2003-38) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3023. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Ruling: Mass Obsolete Ruling'' (Rev. Rul. 2003-67) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3024. A communication from Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Report Concerning the Pre-Filing Agreement of the Large and Mid-Size Business Division for the Calendar Year 2002'' (Ann. 2003-43, 2003-26) received on June 24, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.