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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET P/2006 U4 (SHOEMAKER-LEVY)

R. H. McNaught and D. M. Burton report the recovery of comet P/1991 V1 = 1991b₁ = 1991 XVIII on images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope at Siding Spring, the comet's images on Oct. 26.5 UT being fairly weak, with a coma of FWHM 6'' and an ill-defined faint tail 10'' long in p.a. 120°. At the request of the Central Bureau, the comet was observed on Oct. 27.4 by A. C. Gilmore at Mt. John Observatory (0.6-m *f*/6.4 reflector), who in poor seeing described the comet as a diffuse spot of FWHM 4''; the final position is of poor quality, with the image located between star trails. The indicated correction to the prediction by S. Nakano (*MPC 48384* and *Comet Handbook 2006*) is $\Delta T = +8.0$ days.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	Observer
Oct.	26.46792	19 ^h 23 ^m 14. ^s 36	-39°35'06''.7	18.2	McNaught
	26.51716	19 23 25.63	-39 34 08.1	17.4	"
	27.40930	19 26 52.56	-39 16 40.2		"
	27.41528	19 26 53.93	-39 16 32.6		"
	27.43316	19 26 57.96	-39 16 06.8	18.7	Gilmore
	27.44152	19 26 59.92	-39 15 57.4	18.6	"
	27.44991	19 27 01.81	-39 15 46.7	18.7	"
	27.47842	19 27 08.58	-39 15 16.1		"

The following orbital elements linking the two apparitions are by B. G. Marsden:

Epoch = 1991 Oct. 31.0 TT					
T	= 1991 Oct. 13.8642 TT	ω	= 333°1337	}	2000.0
e	= 0.705912	Ω	= 37.9308		
q	= 1.132412 AU	i	= 16.8569		
a	= 3.850584 AU	n°	= 0.1304410	P	= 7.556 years
Epoch = 2006 Dec. 11.0 TT					
T	= 2006 Nov. 25.0013 TT	ω	= 333°5580	}	2000.0
e	= 0.706643	Ω	= 37.8728		
q	= 1.127551 AU	i	= 16.9267		
a	= 3.843617 AU	n°	= 0.1307959	P	= 7.535 years