COMMENT ON BRUCE CARNEY'S PAPER

J.E. Hesser
Dominion Astrophysical Observatory

Bruce, as well as Russell Cannon in Joint Discussion II, concentrated their beautiful discussions of ages on the well studied, metal-poor clusters; but there is a seriously discrepant cluster that Russell asked me to bring to your attention. It is NGC 288, a relatively metal-rich cluster in the southern hemisphere. When one matches its horizontal branch luminosity with those of M3 or 47 Tuc, which bracket it in metal abundance, one finds that its turnoff luminosity may be as much as 1 mag. fainter than that of all the other clusters so well fit by VandenBerg's isochrones and an age of 15-18 billion years. Naively interpreted NGC 288's turnoff luminosity leads to an age of $\sim 25 \times 10^9$ yrs. Alternatively something is seriously wrong with our assumption of a unique $M_{V,HB}$. Finally, let me enter a plea with the members of the AAT Time Allocation Committee to let Russell finish his photoelectric photometry in this extremely important cluster !

Richard M. West (ed.), Highlights of Astronomy, Vol. 6, 267.