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COMET C/2006 E1 (McNAUGHT)

Further to *IAUC* 8688, R. H. McNaught reports that images taken with the Uppsala Schmidt telescope by G. J. Garradd on Mar. 18.8 UT show this comet to be slightly diffuse with an extension ~ 5″ long to the northwest; additional images taken by McNaught on Mar. 23.7 show a similiar appearance. Additional astrometry, the following preliminary orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-F28.

$$T = 2006\ \text{Dec.}\ 14.954\ \text{TT} \qquad \left.\begin{aligned}\omega &= 230^\circ\!.496\\ \Omega &= 94.949\\ i &= 82.985\end{aligned}\right\}2000.0$$

$$q = 6.10616\ \text{AU}$$

SUPERNOVA 2006ax, 2006ay, 2006az

Three new apparent supernovae have been reported from unfiltered CCD images: 2006ax and 2006ay by D. R. Madison, N. J. Ponticello, and W. Li (LOSS/KAIT; cf. *IAUC* 8680), and 2006az by J. Newton, L. Cox, and T. Puckett (0.35-m reflector at Portal, AZ; cf. *IAUC* 8664).

SN	2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Offset*
2006ax	Mar. 20.37	$11^h24^m03^s.46$	$-12^\circ17'29''.2$	17.1	51″ E, 18″ N
2006ay	Feb. 24.56	15 59 12.76	+20 44 27.9	19.0	12″.2 E, 22″.7 S
2006az	Mar. 23.39	12 12 14.68	+56 10 45.8	17.1	1″.7 E, 5″.8 N

Additional approximate magnitudes for 2006ax in NGC 3663: Feb. 10.39 UT, [18.5 (KAIT); Mar. 21.15, 16.5 (S. Gonzalez, Las Campanas Observatory, 1.0-m Swope telescope). N. Tokimasa, H. Naito, and H. Yamaoka report that low-resolution spectroscopy obtained on Mar. 21.7 shows 2006ax to be a type-Ia supernova a few days before maximum light (additional details given on *CBET* 437). The offset for 2006ay above is with respect to the nucleus of the southeast component of UGC 10116 (a group of six galaxies also known as 'Seyfert's Sextet'). Additional approximate magnitudes for 2006ay: 2002 July 7.30, [19.8; 2006 Feb. 10.56, [18.8; Mar. 21.26, 20 (V-band image taken by Gonzalez). Nothing is visible at the location of 2006ay on the Digitized Sky Survey (limiting red mag ~ 21; see also *CBET* 436). Additional magnitudes for 2006az in NGC 4172 from Puckett: Feb. 8, [19.0; Mar. 24.29, 16.3.

2006 March 24 *Daniel W. E. Green*