(Nederlandse versie: z.o.z.)

Propositions of the Ph.D. thesis

Edge-on Disk Galaxies | *A Structure Analysis in the Optical and Near-Infrared*

1. Only voluntary service counts as real work, people take other jobs just for money. *(Loesje, 1995)* Fortunately, astronomical research cannot be classified this easily, since the majority of astronomers try to satisfy their curiosity, while being paid to do so.

2. The vertical *luminosity* distribution in galaxy disks is consistent with an exponential law; the vertical *mass* distribution may be less sharply peaked. *(This thesis, Chapter 8)*

3. The intentions of the European politicians to increase youth mobility and, as a consequence, to stimulate intercultural exchanges and mutual understanding, are in conflict with the European policy to create a "fortress Europe" by enforcing very strict immigration and visa application procedures.

4. Although the exponential vertical scale height of disk galaxies is constant to first order, the presence of a so-called *thick disk* causes an apparent increase of the disk thickness with (projected) galactocentric distance. *(This thesis, Chapter 7)*

5. From an environmental point of view, the government, or the European Union, should not only stimulate the recycling of used paper, but stricter legislation governing the distribution of commercial advertising by means of direct mailings would help to preserve the remaining forests in the long run.

6. The frequency of warps in stellar galaxy disks is comparable to that of gaseous warps. *(This thesis, Chapter 9)*

7. The classification of all ethnic music as *world music* is a manifestation of ignorance and Western arrogance.

8. The optical/near-infrared colour-absolute magnitude relation can be used not only as a distance indicator for elliptical galaxies, but – under certain favourable circumstances – also for spiral galaxies. Its accuracy for spiral galaxy distances is comparable to that of the often-used relationship between the absolute magnitude and the rotation velocity of a galaxy (the Tully-Fisher relation). *(This thesis, Chapter 6)*

9. If the government wishes to increase the productivity of scientific research, then scientists should be encouraged to carry out non-related, non-profit activities apart from their research efforts.

10. Possible loss of time due to delays of the public transportation services, particularly of the intercity train services, cannot rightly be used as an argument to travel by car, in view of the likely traffic jams and parking problems that one will encounter in that case.

11. Non-profit or foreign aid in developing countries that is for a large part *motivated* by the urge to spread a mission is the relic of an outdated feeling of superiority. It is recommendable, however, if one is for a large part *inspired* to be involved in such aid by a (not necessarily religious) philosophy of life.

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