SOUTHERN SKIES

Volume 14 Number 2 April 1994

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Journal of the Southeastern Planetarium Association

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***Southern Skies* Editor**
Linda Hare
3602 23rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Phone: 813-746-3522
Fax: 813-747-2556

***Southern Skies* Associate Editors**

Astro-Video Review
Mike Chesman
Bays Mountain Planetarium
853 Bays Mountain Park Drive
Kingsport, TN 37660
Phone: 615-229-9447

Featured Planetarium
Dave Hostetter
Lafayette Natural History Museum
& Planetarium
637 Girard Park Drive
Lafayette, LA 70503
Phone: 318-268-5544

Graphics
Mike Cutrera
Bishop Planetarium
201 10th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Phone: 813-746-3522
Fax: 813-747-2556

Laser Talk
Mark Howard
John Young Planetarium
Orlando Science Center
810 E. Rollins Street
Orlando, FL 32803
Phone: 407-896-7151
Fax: 407-896-3561

Reviews
Kris McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
Cumberland Science Museum
800 Ridley Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: 615-862-5160
Fax: 615-862-5178

Small Talk
Elizabeth Wasiluk
Berkeley County Planetarium
Hedgesville High School
Rt. 1 - Box 89
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Phone: 304-754-3354
Fax: 304-754-7445

Southern Skies

Volume 14 Number 2 April 1994

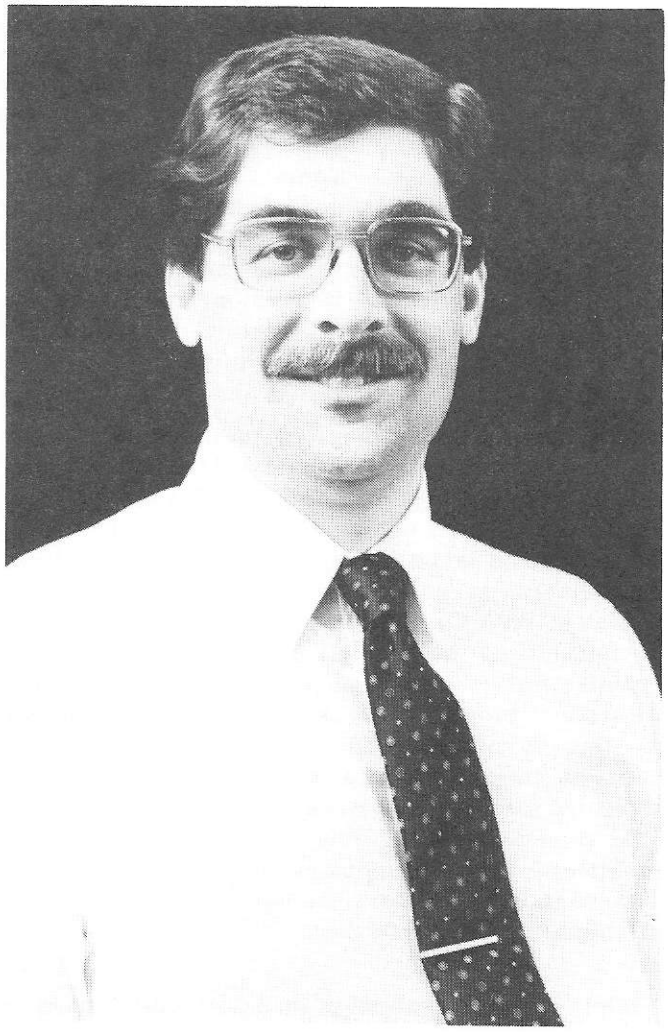
A Message From Your President

Some Notes on the Future

Again, we're rapidly approaching the time for the annual SEPA conference. (It seems as if we just finished up with the Bradenton meeting--but then again, I suppose that's just a sign of old age setting in!) I know we're all looking forward to the exciting agenda that Sue Griswold and her crew at Kelly Planetarium have in store for us. The theme of the conference--"Back to Basics"--dovetails nicely, I think, with last year's SEPA theme, "Technologies". As I've stated before, though our institutions are technological in nature, the technological component cannot exist in a vacuum. Personally, I've always felt that the success of a planetarium has fundamentally less to do with its hardware than with the expertise and enthusiasm of its staff, and the resulting innovativeness of its programs. For me, these are the real "basics". So, I'm particularly excited that the Charlotte meeting will concentrate on the more creative aspects of planetarium operations.

I would encourage everyone to attend the Charlotte conference. No doubt, there is considerable interest in the IPS meeting in Cocoa, Florida, and I would hope for broad SEPA representation there, too (I wish the best of success to Mike Hutton and his staff at Brevard Community College). Full participation at each conference would be beneficial to both organizations, but there are, no doubt, time and economic realities which will force some SEPA members to ultimately choose between the two. Holding two separate conferences (both a regional and the international) within the same region in the same year is something new and previously untried, and it constitutes an experiment, of sorts. The results should prove intriguing. Regardless of whether you choose Charlotte, Cocoa, or both, my message is the same.."Please do your best to participate"!

In the way of a progress report, I'm pleased to announce that SEPA is now, officially, an associated group of the National Science Teachers Association



Richard McColman
Morehead Planetarium, Chapel Hill, NC

(NSTA). I've asked Cyndi Zeger to serve as the official liason between SEPA and NSTA, and she has graciously agreed to serve in that capacity. I also directed her to attend the NSTA annual convention in Anaheim, where she received a plaque from NSTA on SEPA's behalf. You can read Cyndi's NSTA report in this issue of *Southern Skies*.

Our affiliation with NSTA was something that Bob Tate initially proposed in 1992, and it is an important move for this organization. There are a number of benefits that can be derived from an association with NSTA. First, since most of us count school-group visitation (and our related educational programming), within our primary missions, it is important for us to stay integrally linked to the rest of the science-education community. In doing so, we can keep on top of the latest trends and methods used in science education as a whole, and can better coordinate our programs and operations with science in the classroom. Second, such an organizational link can provide planetarians with a larger voice in advocating more effective astronomy education in schools, as well as a better representation of astronomy within science curricula. It is important that SEPA maintain and strengthen this essential tie within the science-education community in the future, a move which should be of mutual benefit to SEPA and NSTA.

On another note, a major item on the agenda at our upcoming business meeting in June will be the election of officers. In Bradenton, council selected a nominations committee composed of George Brown, David Dundee (Chairman), and Jayne Ray. Since that time, they have been deliberating, and have selected a solid slate of candidates. With this particular nomination process, we have reinstituted the traditional practice of having the committee finish its work soon enough to publish the candidates' biographical information in *Southern Skies*--thereby assisting the membership in making informed voting decisions. I am grateful to Dave, Jayne, and George for their hard work (and the attention given to the calendar) during this process. The work of committees is often an unglamorous and thankless one, but these individuals have, nonetheless, shown a real commitment to the organization. My thanks go out to them.

While I'm on the subject of thankless work, I need to say a few words about someone else who's been a real trooper for the organization for a long time now. A number of years ago, Linda Hare took over in the role of *Southern Skies* editor, and through much dedication, saw to it that our then-flagging journal got back on track with regular publications and good contributions. (For example, if a deadline was approaching and she wasn't getting but a trickle of incoming material, she jumped on the phone and prompted people to submit contributions--a highly successful tactic, I might add.) After several years of that, she bowed out of the editorship to become Secretary-Treasurer--another job to which she gave her devoted attention and diligence. As if that wasn't enough, almost a year and a half ago, she again came to the rescue of SEPA. Once more, *Southern Skies* needed help, and Linda provided that help by stepping in to resume editorship of the journal, in addition to her Secretary-Treasurer's duties! To my amazement, she's hung in there without complaint, wearing two hats at once--either of which, alone, represents more responsibility than any other role in the organization, except possibly for a conference host (but, of course, she worked on the Bradenton conference last summer, too!).

But, all good things must end...eventually. Several months ago, Linda reluctantly informed me that she needed to pass on her SEPA duties to someone else. That explains why you'll not see her name in nomination for another term as Secretary-Treasurer. But, her departure will also leave a huge void to fill with the *Southern Skies* editorship. No doubt, the years of intense work--not to mention having to put up with the current president for the last year-and-a-half (my wife can sympathize with that!)--have taken their toll on Linda. I'm sure there were many times when she felt that the weight of the entire organization rested squarely upon her shoulders, and with good reason. Frankly, I hate to think where SEPA would be today if it weren't for the drive, dedication, and loving but tough guidance that she provided in so many ways. For that, Linda, we all owe you a profound debt of gratitude.

Which leads me to my final point--the need for broader participation in the organization. For some time now, a number of active SEPA members I've spoken with have quietly worried that a precariously small number of its members are active participants in the work of the organization. I think it is important that we all think of ways, if only small ways, to help accomplish the work of SEPA--***and that means getting involved.***

During our most recent lapse with *Southern Skies*, I recall hearing many folks asking, "What's happening with the journal?", and..".What's the matter with SEPA?". Ironically, just a few individuals provided concrete input on the problem, and fewer still offered to take on the editorship. As a result, one person, already shouldering at least her fair share of responsibility, felt compelled to do more to "keep the wheels turning".

I write these words as a small attempt to heighten awareness on a potentially critical issue. For SEPA (or any other organization for that matter) to function over the long haul, it needs a broad base of participation among the membership. Sometimes, that participation will involve only a minor stint on a short-lived committee, or delivering a paper at a conference, or writing an article for the journal, or sending the president an e-mail

message expressing your disappointment with his performance (and hopefully telling him how he can do it better), or offering a wonderfully new idea for the organization that maybe, just maybe, nobody has ever thought of before.

With the upcoming change in personnel, it is important for us, I think, to keep this perspective in mind. Certainly, we all stay very busy at our own facilities. Often, it seems an impossible task to merely run our own planetariums on a daily basis. But, with literally just an hour here, and a few minutes there, the contributions of individuals combined within the group can make a lasting difference in the long term health of our organization.

Oh well, that's enough of the ol' soapbox routine. I look forward to seeing all of you in Charlotte!

News has reached us, with much regret and sadness, that Dan Zirpoli, a dear friend of many in the planetarium field, passed away on March 30, 1994. Dan was the first Planetarium Director at the Maryland Science Center and, more recently, the Executive Director at the Phoenix Science Museum.

Condolences may be sent to: Sarah Zirpoli, 1402 West Rovey Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85013.

For those wishing to, contributions may be made in Dan's name to: The Nature Conservancy, 1815 North Lynn Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

To join S.E.P.A., or to renew your S.E.P.A. Membership, simply fill out this form and mail with $15.00 to:
Southeastern Planetarium Association
Linda Hare, Secretary/Treasurer
3602 23rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Name _____

Position _____

Facility _____

Business Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

SEPA 1994

Dear Planetarian:

Discovery Place and the Kelly Space Voyager Planetarium invite you to attend the Southeastern Planetarium Conference June 7 - 11, 1994. From the preliminary agenda enclosed, you will see that we have many planetarium programs, workshops, and other exciting activities in store for you.

Our conference theme, **Back to Basics**, is one that I know will appeal to planetariums throughout the region. Whether your planetarium is small or large, affiliated with a museum, college, or school (or stands alone in the wilderness), the primary focus remains the same - to inform and excite the public about the science of Astronomy. I invite you to join your colleagues in Charlotte for four days of sharing ideas and techniques for program development as well as enjoying a visit to the heart of the Carolinas. Before or after the conference you might choose to visit one of the other many fine planetarium and museum facilities close by (there are over 12 planetariums within a 2 hour drive of Charlotte!) or plan a visit to the nearby mountains or beaches.

Be sure to make your reservations directly with the hotel by May 15. The phone numbers are listed on the registration form. The Dunhill Hotel will be the location of the vendor display area and our evening cocktail receptions. The Holiday Inn is also very conveniently located only one block from Discovery Place. Both will provide free airport transportation upon request.

Discovery Place is located in the center of Charlotte and offers 150,000 sq. ft. of science and technology exhibit space, in addition to the Space Voyager Planetarium and OMNIMAX Theatre. Tours of the museum's permanent and traveling exhibits, as well as OMNIMAX film showings, are on the agenda. SEPA's arrival in Charlotte marks the grand opening of a major permanent exhibition called Astronomy - How Do We Know? This $1.1 million project was sponsored in part by the National Science Foundation and was 3 years in the making. A field trip to the Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium, in Gastonia, NC, is also scheduled.

Join us in Charlotte for SEPA '94 and be a part of the tradition of excellence in the Southeastern Planetarium Association.

Sincerely,

Sue Griswold, Director
Kelly Space Voyager Planetarium

1994 SEPA CONFERENCE
Discovery Place, Inc.
301 North Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28202

SEPA 1994

CONFERENCE AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

2:00 - 6:00 PM	Registration	Dunhill Hotel
5:30 - 7:30 PM	Cocktail Reception	Dunhill Hotel
8:00 - 8:45 PM	*Starseekers* Planetarium Show	Kelly Planetarium
8:45 - 9:00 PM	Presentation by IMAX Representative	Discovery Place
9:00 -10:00 PM	*Blue Planet* OMNIMAX Film	OMNIMAX Theatre
		Discovery Place

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

9:00 - 9:15 AM	Welcome by Freda Nicholson CEO, Discovery Place Overview & History of Discovery Place by Bev Sanford, V.P. of Education	First Union Science Theater Discovery Place

3 Tour Groups
9:15 - 11:30 AM

	Who Dunnit Exhibit	Overall Museum	Astronomy Exhibit
9:15 - 10:00 AM	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
10:00-10:45 AM	Group 2	Group 3	Group 1
10:45-11:30 AM	Group 3	Group 1	Group 2

11:30 AM- 1:30 PM	(Box Lunch in Trade Show Area)	Dunhill Hotel
1:45 - 2:45 PM	Panel Discussion: School System/Planetaria Connection	First Union Science Theater Discovery Place
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Afternoon Break	First Union Science Theater
3:00 - 3:50 PM	OMNIMAX Film: *Africa The Serengeti*	OMNIMAX Theatre
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Paper Sessions	First Union Science Theater
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Networking Time & Cocktails	Dunhill Hotel Vendor Area
7:00 - 8:15 PM	Dinner	Discovery Place
8:15 - 9:00 PM	Planetarium Show	Discovery Place
9:00 -10:00 PM	Planetarium Show	Discovery Place

1994 SEPA CONFERENCE
Discovery Place, Inc.
301 North Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28202

SEPA 1994

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Behind the Scenes in the OMNIMAX/Planetarium Theatre
9:00 - 10:15 AM

	Projection Booth	Main Theatre Equip.	Upper Projection Rm. & Behind Dome
9:00 - 9:20 AM	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
9:25 - 9:50 AM	Group 2	Group 3	Group 1
9:55 -10:15 AM	Group 3	Group 1	Group 2

10:30-11:15 AM	Planetarium Show: *Frontiers In Space*	Kelly Planetarium Discovery Place
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Lunch	Special Events Room & Sun Terrace - Discovery Place
1:30 PM	Board Buses for Trip to Gastonia, NC Schiele Museum of Natural History & Planetarium	
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Introductions and overview of the museum	
2:30 - 3:15 PM	Planetarium Show: *Magellan-Report From Venus*	
3:15 - 3:45 PM	Cinema 360 Film: *Another Day*	
3:45 - 5:00 PM	Tour Schiele Museum (on your own)	
5:00 - 5:30 PM	Buses return to Charlotte	
5:30 - 7:30 PM	Cocktail Reception & Vendor Open House Dinner on your own	
8:00 PM	Laser show by AVI	Kelly Planetarium Discovery Place

1994 SEPA CONFERENCE
Discovery Place, Inc.
301 North Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28202

SEPA 1994

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

9:00 -10:15 AM	Demonstrations in the Planetarium	
10:15 -10:45 AM	Morning Break	IBM Hall-Discovery Place

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

	Star Lab Demo	Workshop
10:45-11:30 AM	Group 1	Group 2
11:45 - 12:30 PM	Group 2	Group 1

12:30 - 2:00 PM	Lunch	Discovery Place
2:00 - 3:30 PM	I Technical Session	Dunhill Hotel
	II Sound / Art Session	Discovery Place Annex
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Break	Dunhill Hotel
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Repeat Technical I	Dunhill Hotel
	Repeat Sound / Art II	Discovery Place Annex
5:30 - 7:30 PM	Cocktails	Dunhill Hotel
7:30 -11:00 PM	Closing Banquet and Keynote Address	Special Events Room Discovery Place

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

8:30 - 9:30 AM	Breakfast	Special Events Room Discovery Place
9:30 -11:00 AM	Business Meetings Closing Announcements	First Union Science Theatre

Saturday Afternoon

For Conference Guests staying on in the area, suggestions for after conference activities:

Museums / Cultural Activities:	Museum of York County - Rock Hill, S.C. Mint Museum of Art - Charlotte Nature Museum - Charlotte Blumenthal Center for the Performing Arts, Charlotte
Shopping:	South Park Mall Carolina Place Mall Eastland Mall
Other:	Carowinds North Carolina Zoo - Asheboro

SEPA 1994

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
JUNE 7 - 11, 1994

NAME: _____
(Please underline surname)

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____

PLEASE INDICATE TO WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES YOU BELONG:

(A) Theatre Administration _____ (B) Technical _____ (C) Education _____

(D) Art/Sound/AV Production _____ (E) All of the Above _____

REGISTRATION FEE - $100.00

Early registration, by May 1, would be appreciated. $ _____

A late fee of $25.00 will be accessed on all registrations received after May 25. $ _____

Annual SEPA Dues @$15.00 $ _____
(Required for attendance; not required if paid through 1994)

Guest fee for Conference @$50.00 $ _____
(Includes all theatre showings, Wed. dinner, Fri. banquet)

TOTAL ENCLOSED
$ _____

GUEST NAME for name tag _____

Payment by: Check _____ (payable to Discovery Place, Inc.)

Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

SEPA 1994

HOUSING INFORMATION:

Delegates have a choice of The Dunhill Hotel - directly adjacent to Discovery Place ($70.00 per night single or double) or The Holiday Inn Center City - one block from Discovery Place ($65.00 per night single or double). Please indicate below where you will be staying. NOTE that you must make your reservations directly with the hotel and indicate to them that you are with SEPA.

_____ The Dunhill
(704) 332-4141

_____ The Holiday Inn Center City
(704) 335-5400

_____ Other

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TOGETHER WITH FULL PAYMENT TO:

SEPA 1994
Mary Karahalis
Discovery Place
301 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Telephone: (704) 372-6261
Fax: (704) 337-2670

PLEASE NOTE: Paper Proposal Deadline: May 4, 1994

SEPA 1994

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Planetarium: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone #: (___) _____ **Fax #:** (___) _____

Title Of Paper: _____

Summary/Abstract: _____

_____

_____

Papers should be no more than 12 minutes in length of time, including questions.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR PRESENTATION:

☐ Slide Projector	☐ Video Projector	☐ Overhead Projector
☐ Laser disc player	☐ VCR Player	☐ Audio Cassette
☐ CD Player	☐ Video Monitor	☐ Other (Specify)_____

_____

NOTE: PAPER REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **MAY 4, 1994**
YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY **MAY 13TH**
EITHER BY FAX OR PHONE AND
GIVEN A TIME SLOT FOR YOUR PRESENTATION

IF ANY OTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT **CASEY COPP** AT **(704) 337-2659** OR BY **FAX** AT **(704) 337-2670**

SUBMIT PAPER PROPOSALS TO:
Casey Copp, Lead Host and Technical Assistant
Kelly Planetarium, 301 North Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson - David Dundee
Fernbank Science Center
Atlanta, Georgia

The 1994 Elections Committee consists of myself, Jayne Ray (Muscle Shoals High School Planetarium, Muscle Shoals, Alabama), and George Brown (Pink Palace Planetarium, Memphis, Tennessee).

The following short biographies will introduce you to those on the 1994 ballot. Voting will take place at SEPA '94 in Charlotte.

PRESIDENT ELECT
Carole Helper
Director of Physical Sciences
Mark Smith Planetarium
Museum of Arts and Sciences
Macon, Georgia

I first began to work in a planetarium when I took over responsibilities at The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. I left there to teach at Kutztown University, where I spent two days each week giving planetarium shows to school children. I then became Buehler Intern at Buehler Planetarium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and I have now been at the Mark Smith Planetarium for 2 years.

When I first started at the Buckstaff Planetarium in Oshkosh, my shows consisted solely of constellation identification and other celestial sphere concepts. The equipment looked so intimidating. I thought I needed to wait until someone could show me how to "really" work things. I took a chance by attending IPS in Richmond the next summer, and it made a big difference in my outlook. I left feeling so excited and overwhelmed with new concepts that I couldn't wait to try. I have attended SEPA meetings the last three years and I still come home excited and enthusiastic and full of new ideas. SEPA is a wonderful way to share ideas, to learn new skills, and to meet your neighbors.

PRESIDENT ELECT
Rick Greenawald, Planetarium Curator
T.C. Hooper Planetarium-Sciencesphere
Roper Mountain Science Center
Greenville, South Carolina

First, I would like to say how honored I am to have been nominated to run for the presidency of SEPA. I feel that we have a strong organization made up of good people; it is with this in mind that I have accepted the nomination.

I am a native of Wisconsin, and a 1987 graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, with a Bachelor's degree in physics, and a minor in mathematics. It is at UWEC where I first became interested in a career as a planetarian (although I have had an interest in astronomy since I was five), working as an assistant in the planetarium and observatory. In 1987, I began work as the co-curator of the LASC Planetarium in Baton Rouge, and shortly thereafter began my affiliation with SEPA. At the end of 1988, the planetarium was shut down and has never re-opened, due to numerous problems. I continued to work on a renovation project up until the time I left in 1989 to come to my current position. Here in Greenville I opened a new theater filled with some of the latest technology available to planetariums, selecting all of the theater's equipment with the exception of the star projector. The Hooper Planetarium is a 50 foot, 15 degree tilted dome, the largest in South Carolina, housing an Evans and Sutherland Digistar, a Sky Skan Spice automation system, and a quite adequate sound system. Those of you who attended the '92 SEPA Conference, hosted by yours truly, have seen the facility. Here at RMSC, I set the course for the planetarium and oversee the daily operations. My duties include producing all of the shows and presenting a good many of them. I am also the sole Digistar programmer.

As for my involvement in SEPA, you are already aware of the conference hosted at RMSC and you should be aware, through *Southern Skies*, that I gather the news from South Carolina for the journal. Something you are probably not aware of is that John Hare and I have been working on the "Conference Bid and Host Guide" for the organization which will soon be submitted to current president, Richard McColman. Serving as president would be an extension of my involvement which will continue even if not elected.

In conclusion, I offer myself to serve you and the organization, and I invite you to seek me out at our upcoming conference or to pick up the phone and call if you have any questions you would like answered before casting your vote. I thank you for your consideration.

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Jeffery S. Guill, Director
Gibbes Planetarium
Columbia, South Carolina

I worked as an assistant at the Rollins Planetarium under the great guidance of Jimmy Westlake. That is where I decided to make Astronomy my career. I moved to Valdosta, Georgia, and worked in the planetarium at Valdosta State College, while I earned my Astronomy degree. After graduation, Phil Groce gave me the opportunity to work at the Mark Smith Planetarium. After four glorious years in Macon, I moved to Columbia, South Carolina, to work as Director of the Gibbes Planetarium.

I have been a SEPA member since 1988, and have attended all SEPA Conferences since 1991.

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Duncan Teague, Director
Craigmont Planetarium
Memphis, Tennessee

I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and Humanities from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1968, and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Memphis in 1970. After teaching physical science and physics for four years, I became Director of the Craigmont High School Planetarium in 1974.

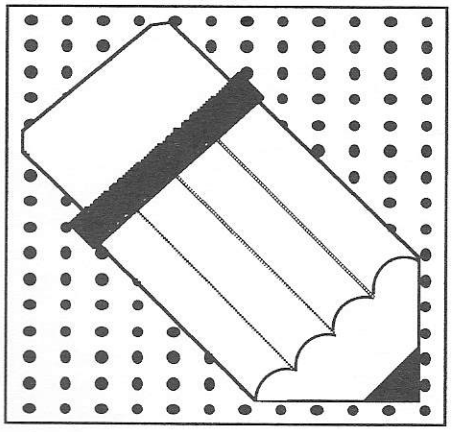
With a grant awarded by NASA's Ames Research Center in California, I developed *On the Shoulders of Giants*, the story of the Pioneer-Venus mission, in 1978; *Saturn: Gateway to the Stars*, the journey of the Pioneer 11 spacecraft, in 1979; and, *The Age of Space* in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Robert Goddard, in 1983. I have been involved with three PBS elementary science series. I wrote scripts for and appeared in one episode of *The Scientific Bureau of Investigation* and four episodes for *The Science Corner*. I served as writer and host for the six program series *Vantage Point*. In 1993, I started an electronic publishing business (DTPublishing) which specializes in newsletters for planetariums and other educational organizations.

I have been a member of SEPA since 1975, serving as President-Elect from 1981-82, and President from 1983 - 84, and co-hosted the 1981 SEPA Conference.

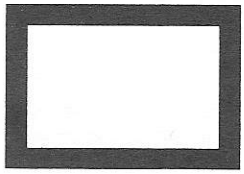
SEPA IPS REPRESENTATIVE
John Hare, Director
Bishop Planetarium/South Florida Museum
Bradenton, Florida

My planetarium career began as an employee of Spitz in 1963. I then served on the staff of Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University from 1964 until 1979. In 1979 I assumed my current position as Director of Bishop Planetarium/South Florida Museum in Bradenton, Florida. I have been a SEPA member since 1979, and have participated in all SEPA conferences since then. I served as SEPA President in 1985-1986. I have been an IPS member since its inception in 1971, and have participated in all IPS conferences to date. I was recognized as an IPS Fellow in 1986. I have represented SEPA at the IPS Council meetings in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1992, and 1993. Additionally, as IPS Historian, I have attended the IPS Council meetings, in a non-voting capacity, in 1990 and 1991.

I have a strong interest in the organizational aspects of the profession and have worked extensively in both SEPA and IPS to foster the growth and viability of those organizations. I would welcome the opportunity to continue those efforts as the SEPA Representative to IPS.



VOTE



FEATURED PLANETARIUM

Edited by Dave Hostetter
Lafayette Natural History
Museum & Planetarium
Lafayette, Louisiana

SUDEKUM PLANETARIUM
CUMBERLAND SCIENCE MUSEUM

Nashville, Tennessee
Contributed by Kris McCall
Director, Sudekum Planetarium

In March of 1992, the Sudekum Planetarium celebrated its 40th anniversary, making it one of the oldest planetariums in the southeast and indeed the country. What follows is a brief look at this institution; past, present, and future.

THE PAST

The Nashville Children's museum was established in 1944, and like so many other similar institutions across the country, it started small but grew quickly. Its' first home was the old Howard School Building on Second Avenue. During those early years the museum flourished because of the outstanding efforts of people like Mr. Tony Sudekum. A local civic leader and theater executive, Mr. Sudekum served as a founding trustee of the new museum until his death in 1946.

Early in 1951, Mrs. Sudekum generously donated funds for the construction of a planetarium as a gift to the children of Nashville in her husband's memory. At the same time, Dr. Carl Seyfert was the Director of Vanderbilt's newly constructed Dyer Observatory. In fact, there was a planetarium at the observatory as early as 1951, according to an article in *Sky and Telescope*.

According to Mark Petersen's LNP Compendium, by 1952, it seems that there may have been no more than thirty planetariums open in the United States. It is also interesting to relate events in our lives to world events of the same time. For example, in early 1952, Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne of England after the death of her father, King George. This news item shared the front page of the Nashville paper with the announced opening date for the new planetarium.

The Tony Sudekum Memorial Planetarium was dedicated on March 3, 1952, with Dr. Armand Spitz as the guest of honor. Dr. Spitz believed that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the wonders of the universe in a planetarium. But, at that time, most planetariums were built for large theaters in big cities, at great cost. So, he set out to design and construct a planetarium instrument, at a reasonable price, that would allow most cities, and even small towns, to have such a facility for their citizens. Astronomy had been made accessible, and Nashville was truly fortunate to have a planetarium.

The new Sudekum Planetarium was squeezed in between the Bird Hall and History Hall on the second floor of the Children's Museum on Second Avenue. It housed a Spitz A-1 instrument under a 20 foot, acoustic, plaster dome. I'm not quite sure what was meant by "acoustic". Ours was a model A-1 #10. I suppose that would make it the tenth built, or perhaps installed. Regrettably, Spitz does not have any records of this. We still have the star ball, and it still works. Unfortunately, that is all that has survived.

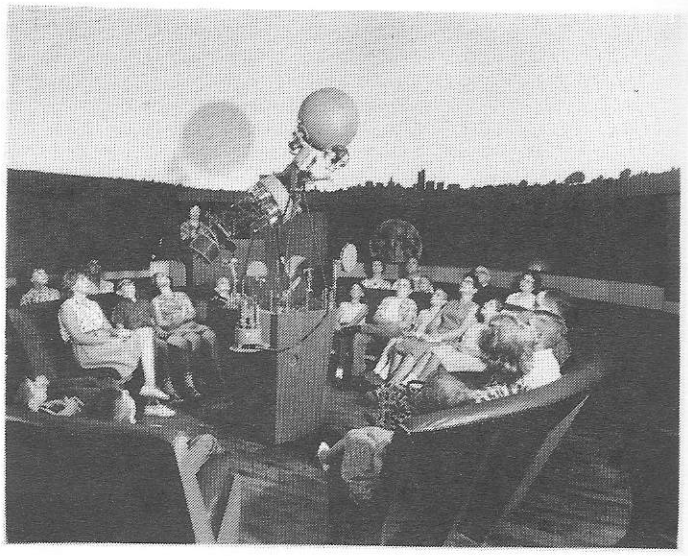
The theater was designed by the Museum's Exhibits Curator, Philbrick Crouch. The seats were custom built and upholstered with maroon fabric. According to Mr. Crouch, Dr. Spitz was quite dismayed that the seats were not black like the walls.

In the original brochure the "Theater of the Skies" was promoted as a wondrous place to view the night sky. Even the city skyline horizon cutout was touted as adding to the realism.

The planetarium was a huge success. I am told that it was filled to capacity for months after the opening. One newspaper article specifically mentioned that special programs would be offered for colored people. Was planetarium attendance segregated? This is not clear. Was attendance segregated in other cities?

During this period, no one held the title of Planetarium Director. Everyone on the museum staff had to be able to do everything. Bill Hassler, the Museum Director, all the educators, and even Phil Crouch, gave planetarium programs. Late in 1952, Phil Crouch became Museum Director, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1970.

In 1958, Jacqueline Avant was hired to serve as Planetarium Director. In 1963, after a special grant from the Sudekum family, the A-1 was replaced with a state-of-the-art Spitz A3P planetarium projector and was rededicated as the Sudekum Memorial Planetarium.



During the sixties, the planetarium was very busy keeping people up to date about the latest developments in astronomy and the space program, and generating monthly almanacs for celestial events. In the archives I found a flyer for a program titled "Our Moon...And How To Get There".

Jacqueline Avant left in 1972, while plans were still underway for a major expansion. The Museum was bursting at the seams, and by 1974, more than 350,000 people had visited the "Theater of the Skies".

In 1974, the Nashville Children's Museum changed its name to the Cumberland Museum and Science Center, and moved from cramped quarters on Second Avenue to new facilities at 800 Ridley Boulevard perched on the north side of St. Cloud Hill overlooking downtown Nashville. The planetarium also moved; from a 20 to a 40 foot dome, and the old A3P was traded in for a new Spitz 512 still leaving room for 127 unidirectional seats.

Mr. Chap Percival was Planetarium Director from 1974 to 1976, followed by Mr. Pat Quarterman from 1976 to 1978. Larry Miller became Director in 1979, and stayed until 1989. A lot happened while Larry was Director. Laser shows came and went, there were a series of minor renovations and improvements, and he hired me as Assistant Director in 1987. I served as Acting Director from November, 1989, until being named Director in March of 1990.

I don't know what happened to Mr. Quarterman. Mr. Percival just recently retired in Boulder, Colorado. For those who are curious, Larry Miller was Planetarium Director in Daytona for a short time in early 1990. He then left the profession to do some computer work for TVA in Chattanooga, and at last word was calling Atlanta home.

THE PRESENT

Traveling through the Universe requires a fair amount of equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, slide projectors, movie projectors, zooming and slewing projectors, and assorted special effects. Theater sound from narration to launch rumble is provided by a tri-amplified system yielding 1500 watts of power.

Programs frequently discuss what's visible in tonight's sky, but topics range from the birth of the universe to the death of stars and everything in between. Mythology, dinosaurs, the history of the space program, the future of planetary exploration, or how not to buy a telescope are all likely subjects. Shows are presented year-round for school groups as well as the general public, with attendance in 1992-93 nearly 80,000.

The planetarium also presents programs for member events, facility rentals, and camp-ins. Camp-ins are when schools, scouts, or families spend the night at the Museum doing a variety of activities. Evening events such as these may take place as many as one hundred nights during the year. The planetarium staff also provides support for the Museum's very extensive summer camp offerings. Concentrated science camps in rocketry and astronomy are offered to students in grades 5 through 8, while day campers in grades 1 through 4 visit the planetarium periodically throughout the summer for a variety of lessons.

In addition to regularly scheduled programs, the planetarium works with the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society and other local organizations on such projects as the annual August Star Party and Meteor Watch, the Visions of Space Student Art Contest, and the annual Middle Tennessee Astronomy Celebration.

There is not an observatory on site, but a variety of telescopes frequently travel to other locations. A Questar 7, Tasco 80mm refractor, 10 inch Cave-Astrola, 10 inch Odyssey 1, and Swift 11 x 80 binoculars do quite well for showing people the rings of Saturn, Jupiter's moons, or any other conveniently placed object.

In the fall of 1990, through a grant from the Tennessee Department of Education, the Science Museum purchased a STARLAB with the goal of getting it operational by March of 1991. Actually, it went into service much sooner than expected when a star lamp exploded fifteen minutes after I left for Christmas vacation. This is a very busy time for the Museum, so rather than shut down entirely (a very tempting option), shows were presented throughout the holiday season and into January in STARLAB, while the staff desperately searched for the cause of the star lamp problems. After many checks, tests, and calls to Spitz, it was finally determined to be defects in the star lamps themselves. A service representative was working on our instrument but could not seem to find anything wrong or make a star lamp fail. When he went to make a phone call, the star lamp blew up in the short time he was away.

This went on for several months, making me and the educators quite nervous. You never knew when it would happen. One Sunday afternoon, I had one explode in the middle of a show. Rather than give up, I invited the audience to stay while I changed lamps, cleaned out the star ball, and resumed the program. Those who wanted refunds could leave if they wanted. A couple dozen people stayed and got a little extra "show" for their money.

Meanwhile, STARLAB started going out to schools within a hundred mile radius of Nashville on March 1, 1991. At first it was to be only two days a week, but all available slots were booked in two days. Another twenty days were added to the schedule and immediately filled by schools on the waiting list. In the first three months on the road STARLAB served more than six thousand

people. There are currently STARLAB programs offered for grades K through 12, but the primary audience is still K through 6.

STARLAB frequently travels to remote areas of Middle Tennessee. It usually gets good coverage by the local paper where it appears, and serves as a great promotional tool for the Science Museum and the Planetarium. The Outreach Program has not caused any decrease in attendance at the main theater. In fact, the opposite seems to be the case.

Planetariums have frequently been the setting for unusual events. Many facilities have played host to weddings, BUT what about a funeral? Well, it wasn't actually a funeral; more like a memorial.

In late 1989, Dr. Hardey, Director of Dyer Observatory during the 1960's, passed away. His two great loves were the sky and classical music. His family felt that the combination of the two would be most appropriate in celebrating his memory. I had only recently met Dr. Hardey, but he was a fascinating man. The dome was filled to capacity as a solo classical guitarist performed under the stars. It was a moving experience, but I don't think I'd want to do it on a regular basis.

Ever since coming to Nashville, I have tried to make the planetarium a greater asset to the Museum and more visible to the people of Middle Tennessee. Sometimes it seems that it is underutilized. Of course, a good way to get the public's attention is through the media.

In the fall of 1990, we co-sponsored Bill Hall's Out-of-This-World Weather Contest. Each week night in November, Bill Hall, the most-watched weathercaster at the time, gave a planetary weather fact as part of his forecast on the six o'clock news. Students had to write down a key word each night, and send in at least ten of the twenty words given, to be entered in a drawing for a computer for their school. The local station said they received more than twenty thousand entries.

There have also been a number of articles in local papers in the last couple of years including notes about Comet Austin and Astronomy Day. It seems that we get more coverage when co-promoting events with other organizations such as the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society, or local parks.

Another successful tool has been the creation of monthly star charts. These are donated by a local printer in exchange for credit on every page. They are distributed to schools, our audiences, and anyone who sends a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Planetarium

One of the most successful projects has been the Visions Of Space Student Art Contest. Open to students in grades K through 12, from throughout Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, the number of entries and sponsors has grown every year. There are now an average of 600 entries in six divisions. Our sponsors may give as little as $50 or as much as $1,000. One of the most satisfying aspects of the contest is seeing the art as it comes in and then meeting the students responsible for these masterpieces.

Some people did not get the chance to stand in the moon's shadow in July of 1991, yet the Eclipse of 1991 was a big deal in Nashville even though only 38% of the sun would be covered. The media was very interested and excited. The Planetarium was featured on several newscasts in the days before the eclipse, and the phone rang incessantly. Our goal was to get as many people to observe the eclipse as safely as possible. People in the area were surprisingly enthusiastic about the event.

Our technician, Bill Dodson, built a solar eclipse projector that provided a large, bright image in the air-conditioned comfort of the dome. After people viewed outside, using more traditional methods, they were invited inside to rest for a spell and continue watching the eclipse. When maximum had passed, I went inside for the first time. There had been intermittent clouds all day, and whenever the sun would reappear, the audience broke into spontaneous shouts and applause. It was standing and sitting room only. People were everywhere. The event had a real communal feel to it.

Way back in 1988, the Sudekum Planetarium first offered programs for sale. We've learned a lot since then, and I firmly believe that the quality of our productions has improved dramatically. *The Light - Hearted Astronomer*, based on the book of the same name, was written by Ken Fulton, Larry Miller, and myself. The script won Second Place in the 1990 Eugenides Script Competition. *The Planet Patrol - Solar System Stake Out* features two galactic gumshoes cruising for clues as they investigate our solar system. In 1992, it won Second Place in the audio-visual division of the Tennessee Association of Museum annual awards. *Our Place In Space* received Honorable Mention in 1993 from TAM. More than one hundred of our award-winning programs have been sold to planetariums, big and small, throughout the United States.

On March 3, 1992, the Planetarium was rededicated at a special ceremony featuring Phil Crouch and Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen. Most of the local members of the Sudekum family were in attendance when a bronze plaque, made from the original 1952 plaster dedication plaque created by Mr. Crouch, was unveiled.

The staff of the Sudekum Planetarium currently consists of: Director, Kris McCall; Educators, Sharon Mendonsa and Shawn Laatsch; Artist, Jim Chapman; part-time Technician, Bill "Planetech" Dodson; and, part-time Educator, Robin Levine-Fields. As has always

been the case, visitors are welcome. We like to show off our facility. In fact, we are such exhibitionists that we are considering bidding to host SEPA in 1996.

THE FUTURE

In May of 1994, starting the day after the solar eclipse, the Sudekum Planetarium will be closed for three and a half weeks for major physical renovations. After more than twenty years and almost two million people, it is time to clean the dome and install new carpet and seats. Next year we anticipate adding a video projection system, replacing our pin-registered camera, and buying a color computer workstation for the planetarium staff. The next phase of our renovations should take place in the Spring of 1996, with the replacement of our Clearlight automation.

SEPA ' 94
Kelly Space Voyager Planetarium
Charlotte, North Carolina
##########

SEPA '95
Mark Smith Planetarium
Macon, Georgia
##########

SEPA '96
If you are interested in seeing

YOUR FACILITY'S NAME HERE

Please plan to make a presentation at SEPA '94

M E M O

DATE: Before July 1, 1994
TO: All SEPA Members
FROM: *Southern Skies* - Assistant Editors
MESSAGE: **Please get in touch with us with information you would like to see included in upcoming issues of *Southern Skies*.**

FEATURED PLANETARIUM
Dave Hostetter
Lafayette Natural History Museum & Planetarium
637 Girard Park Drive
Lafayette, LA 70503
Phone: 318-268-5544

LASER TALK
Mark Howard
John Young Planetarium
Orlando Science Center
810 E. Rollins Street
Orlando, FL 32803
Phone: 407-896-7151
Fax: 407-896-3561

REVIEWS
Kris McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
Cumberland Science Museum
800 Ridley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: 615-862-5160
Fax: 615-862-5178

SMALL TALK
Elizabeth S. Wasiluk
Berkeley County Planetarium
Hedgesville high School
Rt. 1 - Box 89
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Phone: 304-754-3354
Fax: 304-754-7445

ASTRO-VIDEO REVIEW
Mike Chesman
Bays Mountain Planetarium
853 Bays Mountain Park Road
Kingsport, TN 37660
Phone: 615-229-9447

LASER TALK

Edited by Mark Howard
John Young Planetarium
Orlando, Florida

In this, the third installment of Laser Talk, we hear from Fran Biddy, Producer/Astronomer at the Strasenburgh Planetarium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. They have produced a very popular Family Show entitled *Touch the Stars* which uses lasers. It is available as a show kit even if you don't have a laser projector (the laser graphics are recorded on video tape). As always, I welcome input from anyone wanting to share their experiences or ideas in non-traditional uses of lasers in planetariums. Please send your comments to:

Mark Howard
John Young Planetarium
810 East Rollins Street
Orlando, Florida 32803

****

LASER-ANIMATED CHARACTERS IN A FAMILY SHOW

Contributed by Fran Biddy
Producer/Astronomer
Strasenburgh Planetarium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center
Rochester, New York

I don't pretend to understand why, but kids are just as fascinated as adults by laser effects. We recently produced a family show, for five- to eleven-year olds (and the adults with them), which included laser-animated cartoon characters and three two-minute astronomy songs illustrated as mini-laser shows. The lasers were an obvious hit -- the excitement was palpable amongst the audience whenever the laser effects flashed over the dome. And the show, *Touch the Stars*, became our all-time family show hit. For three years, we had averaged 25,000 visitors annually for our family shows, but *Touch the Stars* attracted 35,000 visitors.

Why the popularity? After all, even a fairly sophisticated laser drawing of a character is a simple line drawing, and our characters aren't even particularly accomplished at lip synch. There's no shading, little variety in the colors, and almost none of the artistic sophistication common to the best of animated film. Nevertheless, the kids loved the laser-animated characters, perhaps because of the brilliance and purity of the laser colors; perhaps also because of the word "laser" itself; and perhaps because of the novelty of the experience for kids not yet jaded by years of laser-rock shows. And, if they loved the characters, they went *wild* over the laser show treatment of the three astronomy songs in the show.

A few technical notes... Our laser system consists of two lasers: a 5-watt argon (producing green, blue, and cyan), and a 1-watt krypton (producing red). The control system used to generate geometric shapes is a P-4, by Laser Systems Development Corporation. Graphics are generated by a system based on an Atari 800, and home-made by our laserist/technician, Joe Ricci. The optical bench was designed and built in-house by our own technicians, and includes color modification and beam effects as well as the usual assortment of scanning mirrors (five X-Y scanner pairs), diffusers, and diffraction gratings.

For *Touch the Stars*, the characters were traced into the system on a graphics tablet, then Joe Ricci animated them. The laser effects were kept in synch with the soundtrack via SMPTE code on one track on an eight-track, half-inch tape deck. The laser control signals occupied four of the other tracks, and the audio for the show was on two of the remaining three tracks.

A final note about the popularity of *Touch the Stars*: the core of the show is a series of backyard astronomy experiments. *Touch the Stars* showed children -- through activities, humorous skits, and catchy songs -- that there's a lot of astronomy they can do themselves, right in their own backyards. They can see planets, watch the earth rotate, chart how the moon travels around the earth, make a model of the earth-moon system, and see moons around another planet. They can observe artificial earth satellites and shooting stars, and even safely observe the sun as it follows its apparent daily path across the heavens. Every child admitted to *Touch the Stars* received a sixteen-page booklet filled with astronomy activities they could try on their own. So, *Touch the Stars*, with all the excitement generated by its laser effects, was a show that didn't end when the house lights came up.

Astro-Video Review

by: Mike Chesman

ASTRO-VIDEO REVIEW

Edited by Mike Chesman
Bays Mountain Planetarium
Kingsport, Tennessee

In this issue I'll bring your attention to a nice little film that was produced for the Smithsonian Institution and carries a 1992 copyright date. The film is *So Many Galaxies...So Little Time* and it documents some remarkable galactic research carried out by astronomer Margaret Geller and her colleagues.

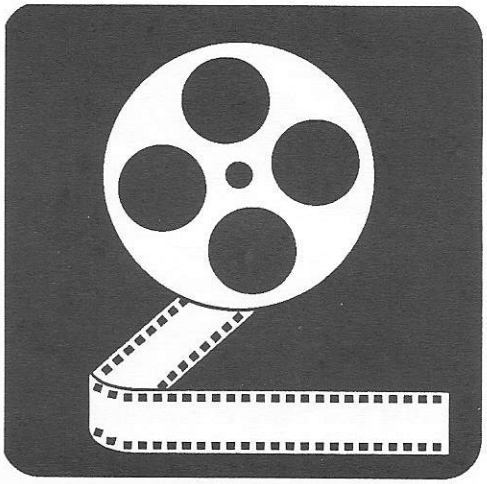
The film opens with stark images of various galaxies along with some scrolling dialog ala the opening of Lucas' Star Wars epics. The music is orchestral and dramatically appropriate. Interspersed with these galaxy shots, we watch footage of a person descending into the dark catacombs of some building. Suddenly our last galaxy view crossfades into a negative image and we discover that the person has entered the basement photo plate storage room of an old Harvard building.

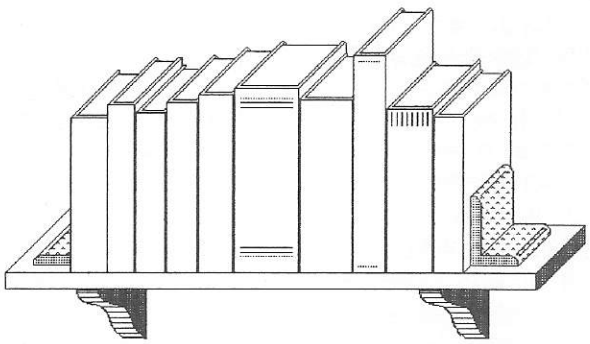
This approach seems more Orson Welles or Hitchcock than a typical educational film, and that is what makes this 40 minute film such a gem. Producers Boyd Estes and Margaret Geller have made this production a labor of love. A film that deals with astronomical research on a variety of levels. The characters are real and each is played by the actual person, not an actor. We gain insight about each of the researchers, and a varied cast it is....with two graduate students, a computer specialist, and several veteran astronomers. We learn why they chose a career in astronomy, what motivates them, and how they function as a team. All of this attention to detail certainly paints these serious scientists as very human and accessible people.

Of course the main purpose of the film is to show the process followed by the astronomers in measuring the distance of galaxies, and their efforts to make a three dimensional map of a small part of the universe. Viewers will learn how a typical night's run at a major observatory is conducted. They'll watch how the equipment is used, and learn about galaxy spectrums and red shifts. The 3-D plots that the researchers produced were instrumental in providing evidence for the "bubble and void" model of galactic distribution. This idea is indelibly pressed into the viewers memory by a gorgeous fly-through of their three dimensional maps, courtesy of a super computer. One can only be impressed by the dedication it takes to obtain data on 20,000 galaxies and one researcher's optimism in hoping to get measurements of 50,000 more within his lifetime. Indeed, their biggest problem is so many galaxies...so little time.

The VHS-HiFi video of this film sells for $39.95 and is available from the publications department of the...

Harvard Center For Astrophysics
Mail Stop 28
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138





REVIEWS

Edited by Kris McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
Nashville, Tennessee

I NEED YOUR HELP!

Since Kira Celeste was born I haven't had a lot of free time to read books or write reviews. The last time I sent out letters soliciting reviews, I got just one response.

Surely somebody out there is reading all the books I wish I had the energy to read. If so, please take a few moments to jot down your reaction to an astronomy or space science book you recently perused. Even if your comments consist of only two paragraphs, they would still be useful and appreciated. Good and bad reviews are welcome.

Should I drop everything (except the baby) to read it, or is it only marginally useful as a doorstop? Inquiring minds want to know. All I know for sure is that I look forward to hearing from all of you soon.

Thanks!

Space Probes to the Planets

by Fay Robinson
Albert Whitman and Company
copyright 1993, 32 pages
ISBN 0-8075-7548-8
QB602.R62

Reviewed by Kris McCall

I realize that this book is intended for a juvenile audience but, even taking that into consideration, I still found it to be lacking in substance.

The first picture in the book is of the space telescope and shuttle orbiting the Earth. The text below talks about how space probes travel to the planets by themselves. This is misleading. Then there are several pages featuring pictures of various probes. The text discusses probes in VERY general terms but doesn't even tell us which probes visited which planets. This is followed by descriptions of all of the planets and their features. Passing reference is made to probes and their discoveries, but it never really links the two subjects.

Toward the end the author describes how landers are still sitting on the surface and how flybys are hurtling into outer space. The disturbing statement here is that orbiters are still circling their respective planets.

For me, the best page was the last page; not because it was last, but because it had the neatest information. How do space probes get to the planets? How do space probes "know" what to do? How do scientists get the pictures from the space probes? These are three questions that are briefly, but wonderfully, answered right at the end.

I think that young students are fascinated by the technology of space exploration, and space probes are no exception. If the author had highlighted the probes and mentioned their significant work at each of the planets, I believe that it would have been a much stronger book.

Space Exploration: Opposing Viewpoints

Charles P. Cozic, Editor
San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 1992
Lib.Ed.ISBN 0-89908-197-5
Paper ISBN 0-89908-172-X
price info not available to reviewer

Reviewed by Tom Hocking
Education Coordinator
Morehead Planetarium
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Many articles have been written about the desirability of space exploration and the debate which ensues (so it seems) whenever the topic is brought forth. This book is an excellent attempt at bringing together divergent viewpoints on a number of space exploration-related topics. Aimed at a juvenile audience, this volume makes fine reading for secondary-level and adult readers.

I prefer to think of the book as a one-volume debate on four main topics (also the chapter titles): 1) What Should Be the Goal of Space Exploration?; 2) Which Space Programs Should the U.S. Pursue?; 3) Should NASA Be Eliminated?; and 4) Should Space Be Used for Warfare?

(See "**Reviews**" on Page 21)

SMALL TALK

Edited by Elizabeth S. Wasiluk
Berkeley County Planetarium
Hedgesville, West Virginia

I received not a word from any of you since the last column. Now that Spring has finally sprung, it's time to crawl out from under your blankets and write or fax me a note about what you have been up to, or anything else that may help out a fellow SEPAite.

I think my last column's musings about why I do this column was answered after I read Richard McColeman's "A Message From Your President".

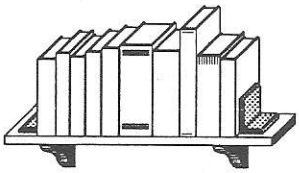
This column is called "Small Talk" because I run a "small planetarium" and "small" doesn't necessarily mean insignificant. You may have noticed that if you have ever gone to one of Jane Hastings' "small" planetarium sessions at a SEPA meeting. At these informal get-togethers the definition of the term "small Planetarium" is different for each planetarium person there. Why do you consider yourself small? If you send me any thoughts on the matter I'll be happy to print them.

I have a dilemma. The principal at the high school where my planetarium is located wishes me to have a course, for credit, instructing high school students to become interns. Has anyone in SEPAland any words of wisdom on this matter? Has anyone any comments on things they have done and what to avoid? If I get anything, I'll print it here.

I don't have anything else to say because no one has sent me any info. I can't print things I don't have.. send info to:

Elizabeth S. Wasiluk
Berkeley County Planetarium
Hedgesville High School
Rt. 1 - Box 89
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Phone - (304) 754-3354
Fax - (304) 754-7445

Reviews - Continued from Page 20



In the first chapter, six position papers are presented, each with a different emphasis. At the end of each chapter, there is a critical thinking activity and a periodical bibliography on the issues raised in the chapter. Each of the other chapters present position statements and and papers on opposite sides of each issue. For example, in Chapter Two, the question is broken down into four subquestions with an article for each side of the subquestion.

The contributing authors include such notables as Bruce Murray, George Keyworth II, Thomas McDonough, Michael Collins, the National Space Council, the National Space Society, NASA, Gregg Easterbrook, and Sriharaburti Chandrashekar.

At the end of the book, a glossary of terms, a chronology of events, a list of organizations to contact, and a bibliography of books are all included, as is a very thorough index.

The bottom line is that this book is a goldmine of highly readable information. *Space Exploration* can help you (or anyone else) keep a balanced view of these questions which are bound to come up if you hang around a planetarium for any length of time. Other books in the series include: *America's Defense, America's Future, Economics in America, The environmental Crisis, Global Resources, The New World Order, Paranormal Phenomena, and Science & Religion.*

IPS REPORT

by John Hare
IPS Council Representative
Bishop Planetarium
Bradenton, Florida

As I hope everyone is aware, IPS will be meeting at the new facility at Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Florida, July 8 - 15. This will be the most affordable opportunity for SEPA members to attend what is always a very worthwhile conference.

By the time you read this, those of you who are IPS members should have received your new planetarium directory. This vital resource has been long in coming and not a moment too soon (my current copy has just about disintegrated from use). Even if you can't attend this conference, the directory, which lists every known planetarium with loads of factual information about them, along with *The Planetarian*, the journal of IPS, make membership in the organization a good investment. Current dues are $40 annually. Contact: Keith Johnson, Treasurer, Fleischmann Planetarium, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557. (702) 784-4812.

I will be representing the interests of SEPA at this summer's IPS conference and need your input on one matter most importantly. The site for the 1998 IPS conference will be selected (I reported on the 1996 site -- Osaka, Japan, in the last issue of *Southern Skies*). Three invitations have been received and presentations by representatives from each facility were given to Council at the IPS Council meeting in Oklahoma City last October.

1. London, UK

The soon to be refurbished London Planetarium would be the primary host site for the first four days of the conference which would include the Royal Observatory and Planetarium at Greenwich, with The Jodrell Bank Planetarium hosting the final two days. A visit to Stonehenge would be included on the trip to Jodrell Bank. An optional post conference tour would include The Armagh Planetarium in Northern Ireland, visits to the Rosse Telescope at Birr Castle, the Stone Age Astronomical site at New Grange, and Astronomical facilities in Dublin. Early July is the preferred time frame. Estimated conference fee is $250.00, accommodations $265-450, post conference tour $600.00

2. Paris, France

The host facility would be the LaVillette Planetarium with a Spitz Space Voyager projector. The planetarium is located in Europe's largest science museum complex. Three other sites would be visited; The Paris Observatory, The Meudon Observatory, and The Naucay Observatory. A 4 day post conference tour of a French Provency would run about $640.00. Conference fees would be about $490.00 to $725.00 and accommodations would be $63 - 128 per night.

3. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The host facility would be the new Buhl Planetarium at the Carnegie Science Center. Proposed dates are July 15 - 18. The conference hotel would be the Westin William Penn at about $70 per night. The conference fee would be around $200.00. Post conference visits would include the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia; NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio; and the Historical Allegheny Observatory. The provisional conference theme is "The Transforming Planetarium".

The above summaries are just that -- summaries. Each proposal was very comprehensive and well organized, and any of the sites would host a very worthwhile meeting. Let me know <u>your</u> preference before the IPS Council meeting which will be held on July 10.

See you in Charlotte!

A REPORT FROM ANAHEIM
THE NSTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE MARCH 30, 1994

by Cyndi Zeger
NSTA SEPA Representative
Woodson Planetarium
Salisbury, North Carolina

SEPA is an official affiliate of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). A plaque recognizing SEPA as an associated group was presented to Cyndi Zeger by President, Gerry Madrazo at the opening session of the national conference on Wednesday, March 30, 1994.

SEPA received a warm welcome from the board of directors of NSTA. Personal good wishes for the participation of a planetarium organization as an affiliate of NSTA came from Wendell Mohling, retiring president, and Barbara Morgan, Teacher in Space designee. As a part of the National Science Teachers CAG (Chapters and Associated Groups) Organization, SEPA will take part in a number of activities. During the recent conference, a CAG breakfast, orientation sessions, and publication workshops were an education in the way in which associated groups can work with NSTA in promoting and improving science education. The summer retreat, to be held in Colorado Springs this summer, will be an opportunity for SEPA to have input into the direction and mission of the larger organization of NSTA. Participation in Regional and District conferences is another way that associated groups can promote their special interest within the activities of the Science Teachers Association.

In addition to participating in associated group activities, there was time to attend some sessions on space science education. Sessions relating to space education ranged from ideas for classroom activities for teaching astronomy to addresses by NASA administrators and Star Trek personnel.

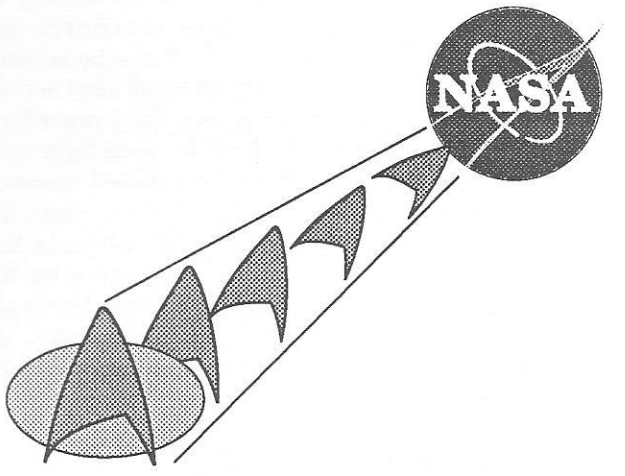
One highlight of the conference was the Space Educators' Luncheon where both astronaut Ellen Ochoa and Nichell Nichols of Star Trek fame spoke of their commitment to space exploration. Ellen also talked about the recent Hubble servicing mission and the experiences of astronaut training. There were two men with the "right stuff" who sat at the table next to me: Wally Shirra and Pete Conrad of Gemini and Apollo fame.

A special session by Daniel Goldin, NASA administrator, provided a unique insight into the current mindset of NASA regarding the space station, Mars missions, and space exploration in general. Mr. Goldin proposed that it is time for NASA to put aside plans that take decades, and make plans that will show immediate progress. He is a proponent of the aerospace plane, completion of the currently proposed international space station, and robotic missions to Mars that can provide new data within the next two to three years. He is a dreamer, a risk-taker, and an administrator who showed commitment to both education and exploration.

Nearly 15% of the exhibit space was occupied by NASA exhibits. Planetary lithographs, information on space phenomena, observations from robotic space craft and the Hubble Space telescope, and models of space station habitats and space craft were accessible to all who were interested. Teachers were delighted to have access to the free NASA materials and continue to use space exploration as motivation for learning science.

The Planetary Society sponsored a lecture by David Levy and David Morrison on the Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 and its impending collision with Jupiter this July. Plans are being made to provide live data on the collision from the spacecraft Galileo through the existing internet and NASA select networks.

In addition to the sessions, it was obligatory to dance the night away at the 50th anniversary celebration on Wednesday evening, and the President's Reception on Thursday evening!



COUNTDOWN TO IPS "94"
(Final Installment)

Michael T. Hutton
Astronaut Memorial Planetarium & Observatory
Brevard Community College
Cocoa, Florida

Ed.: The following article also appears in The Planetarian

This is the final installment of "Countdown". In the previous installments I have shared with you the history of the Astronaut Memorial Planetarium & Observatory, the people who have made it a success, the planning and construction of the new planetarium and IWERKS theatre, and, of course, the planning of IPS '94. I hope the articles were beneficial to you as you made your plans to visit Cocoa Beach this July.

If this is the first time you are reading "Countdown", the past five issues of *The Planetarian* contain all the information you need to know about IPS '94 and everything you need to register for the conference. The bad news is that if you have not registered for the conference by now, you will have to pay a $50 late fee, (after May 15) and you will have difficulty finding a hotel room along Florida's Space Coast. However, it is still possible for you to attend this very special gathering of planetarium professionals from around the world. Although all of the basic information about IPS '94 has already been published and distributed, there are still a few items of late breaking news which may be of interest.

Special Display Area

Outside the trade show hall we will be setting up tables for you to share your facility brochures, job announcements, or product brochures. Please be advised that space on these tables is on a first come first served basis. As such, these tables often become quite disorderly and your materials may get lost. To help those who need this type of exposure, we are offering controlled space on tables in the small exhibit hall for $25. These spaces are approximately 24 inches x 24 inches, and will include a sign indicating which planetariums or companies are displayed on the table. If you want to be sure that your show kit brochures or other services are seen by all of the delegates, you might want to consider one of these spaces.

Speakers

Bill Gutsch, chairman of the speakers committee, has been hard at work to provide us with informative and entertaining speakers. Through his efforts, we will be privileged to hear from Dr. Margaret Geller, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University and Senior Scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

In addition to Bill, Bob Tuck has been working to arrange a presentation about Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9. The impending collision of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter has given us the opportunity to coordinate some of The Planetary Society's Jupiter Watch '94 activities with IPS '94 events. Bob has scheduled a free, illustrated public presentation by Rob R. Landis. Rob is a member of the Planning Branch at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, where he provides technical support to HST's Science Observation Team for the collision.

An astronaut will be on hand for the free public forum, "Growing Up With Rockets: Reflections from Cape Canaveral to the Kremlin", Saturday, July 16, 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event, which is supported by a major grant from the Florida Humanities Council, will feature Oleg V. Sizukhin, director of the Moscow Planetarium, and U.S. space program experts and historians.

IPS '94 International Affairs Report

Interest in IPS '94 from planetarians around the world continues to increase. There is little doubt that more countries will be represented at this IPS conference than ever before. If everyone who has expressed interest in the meeting actually attends, we will have representation from over 30 countries! Our volunteer staff will be ready to show them some good old fashioned southern hospitality.

We continue to hope many of our colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe will join us at IPS '94. The outcome of our applications to the International Science Foundation's travel program won't be known until after this article goes to press. Arkadiy Stepanovich Esman, director of the Cherkassy Planetarium, Ukraine, has let us know he plans to attend. We also expect to welcome at least one colleague from Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Space Shuttle Launch

As I mentioned in the last installment of Countdown, STS 65 is scheduled for launch in July. I have been in contact with official sources at the Kennedy Space Center, and a target launch date of July 8 has been set. If launch plans move forward in the traditional manner, the chances are very good that the actual launch will occur during the conference.

I have made plans to bring the entire delegation to the Kennedy Space Center to observe the launch. The actual location is still being discussed, but it will be close enough for you to feel the full impact of the Shuttle as it lifts off the pad and streaks skyward.

C-360 and Digistar Users Group

There are two planetarium related meetings which will be held just prior to the IPS Conference. The Digistar Users Group will begin their meeting on Thursday, July 7. This meeting is limited to users of the Digistar system and is a closed meeting. If you own a Digistar, this meeting is for you and the registration fee is only $20. For those of you who do not have a Digistar, but are interested in the system, there will be special demonstrations of the Digistar during the IPS conference. And there will be several representatives from Evans & Sutherland, including the mother of all Digistar, Jeri Panek, who will be happy to discuss what Digistar can do for you.

C-360, Inc. is a planetarium organization for those facilities that use motion picture film as part of their programming. Originally a 35mm film group, C-360 has expanded to include 870 and other film formats. As part of the C-360 conference, an 870 film festival will be held in the new IWERKS theatre at the Astronaut Memorial Planetarium and Observatory. Except for the board of directors meeting, this conference is open to anyone interested in using film in their planetarium. The C-360 conference starts Saturday, July 9, and ends with a board of directors meeting Sunday afternoon, July 10. The cost is $45.00.

Local Developments

Even though the construction of the new planetarium is several months behind schedule, there is no doubt that you will see the first Infinium/Digistar planetarium in the world. In late March, the Infinium became fully operational, and Evans & Sutherland completed installation of the Digistar. The planetarium is substantially complete except for the installation of seats.

The starfield produced by the Infinium performs as advertised. It truly is worthy of inspection with binoculars. The effect 28,000 stars has on the appearance of the sky is something you must see to understand. The way the sky is projected, you cannot see all of the stars. Instead, their presence provides a type of texture that is only seen under ideal conditions. For those of you who are avid stargazers, you know what I mean. For those of you who have not seen the sky from a dark site for a while, you are in for a treat.

The Infinium and the Digistar work well together with the strengths of each complimenting the other. The starfield provided by the Digistar is bright and clear. Even when projected at the same time as the one provided by the Infinium, the two blend together better than we ever dreamed. The real surprise was how well the Digistar graphics look projected over the Infinium sky. Against the Infinium stars, the Digistar graphics look sharp and bright. No special adjustments were required to achieve the proper balance between the two systems.

As with anything new, there are problems. However, from what we can see, the potential of the dual system exceeds all expectations. No matter what your reaction to the concept may be, it certainly will provide food for thought.

With the delay in construction, we have postponed the opening of the planetarium to the public until July 16. This means that delegates to the IPS conference will see the facility before we begin routine operations. Of course, you are all invited to watch the pandemonium when the public sees this remarkable facility for the first time.

Special Concert

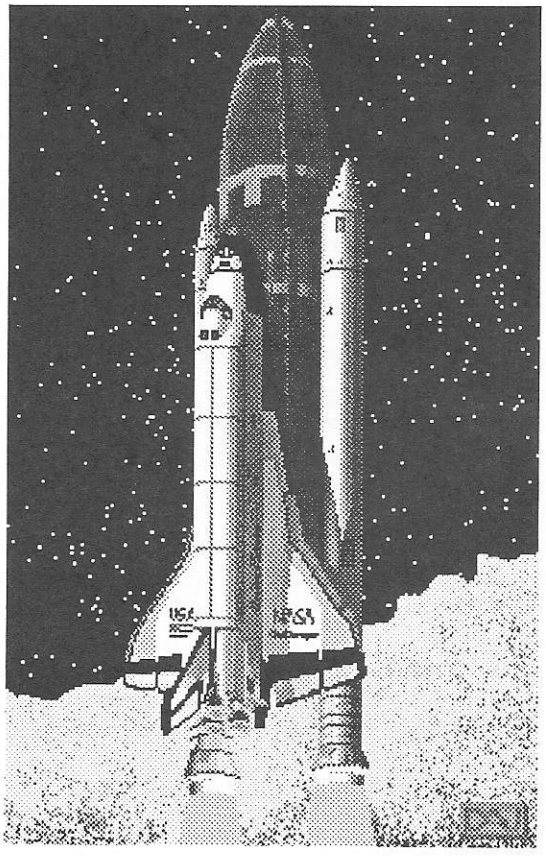
During the opening reception, we are going to have a special form of entertainment. The leading composers and musicians who have provided so many excellent shows and soundtracks are going to stage the largest jam session of its kind for IPS delegates. The composers and musicians who will be performing include: Jonn Serrie, Robert Resetar, Jeff Bowen, Paul Kaplan, Joe Hopkins, and Mark Petersen. If you have been in the planetarium profession for even a short time, these names should reflect the finest musical talent in the business. Jeff Bowen is organizing the event and if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, I'm sure he would be happy to hear from you.

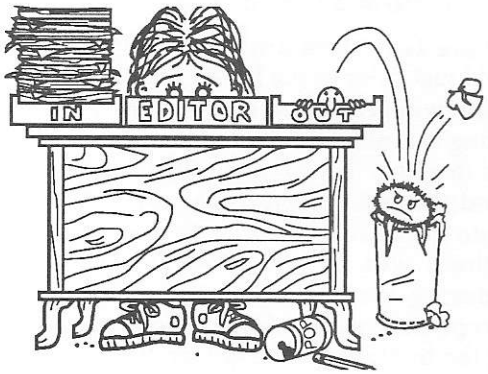
"Thank You"

I know I will be doing this many times during the conference, but I must take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the people who have worked so hard to make IPS '94 the best conference possible. IPS '94 would not be possible without the encouragement and support of Dr. Maxwell C. King, President of Brevard Community College, and Dr. Tace Crouse, Provost and my boss. For all their help and support, thank you. Thank you to the members of the conference planning committee especially: Bill Gutsch, speakers committee; Jim Manning, workshops committee; Linda Hare, door prizes and sponsorship committee; John Hare, nostalgia committee; Sharon Parker, papers committee; Bob Tuck, special events-proceedings-international affairs committee; Mary Thrall and Karen Kick, logistics committee; the staff of the Astronaut Memorial Planetarium & Observatory; and, John Mosley for publishing Countdown to '94. I also appreciate the help and support of Mr. Phil Groce of HPS Inc., who provided much needed advice and consul. Thank you to the delegates who attend IPS '94 for sharing your triumphs and tragedies, presenting papers and workshops, and being understanding when things don't go quite right. Thank you to the volunteers from the Brevard Astronomical Society, the Jaycees, Florida Spacecoast Council for International Visitors, Brevard Community College International Students, BCC RTV 2333, Florida Tech. International Student Organization, Space Coast Area Mensa, and The United Nations

Association, also Alex Crovetto and Chick Fricker. Thank you to the vendors and Nationwide Exhibitors who worked with me to put together a truly professional trade show and for their financial support of the conference. Thank you to the staff of the Cocoa Beach Hilton, the Howard Johnson's Plaza, the Kennedy Space Center public affairs office, Spacecamp USA, Spaceport USA, BCC Publications and Travelmax. Finally, a very special thank you to my wife Joanne for all your creative ideas, hard work, and comforting words during those "difficult moments".

I hope this series of articles has answered your questions about IPS '94. I certainly have enjoyed writing them and sharing the process of organizing a major conference. IPS '94 will be an opportunity for you to share the kind of fellowship only Planetarians can enjoy. The architecture of the conference will encourage the informal exchange of ideas in a relaxed and comfortable environment. Leave the formalities at the door, put your beachwear on, and I will see you on Cocoa Beach this July.





Thanks again to all who have contributed to *Southern Skies*, and have thus made my job easier. I can't possibly thank you enough.

All of the folks whose names you see in this journal are very busy people, yet when asked to take even more time away from what little spare time they have, they always come through.

One of my goals as editor has been to get something submitted for each of the states in the region. In this issue, I have come close. If you live in one of the states with no news printed, drop me a line and let me know what is happening at your facility. We really would like to know!

Well, time is getting close for SEPA '94. Can't wait! Charlotte is a wonderful town, and Sue Griswold runs a fantastic facility. Hope to see you all there!

DEADLINE
NEXT ISSUE
JULY 1, 1994

If you are presenting a paper, or participating in a workshop at SEPA '94, and would like to see it printed in *Southern Skies*, please bring a copy of your presentation with you. Also, if you are a regular contributor to *Southern Skies*, and have your contribution ready a little ahead of time, I would appreciate receiving it at the conference.

Since I will be attending the IPS conference shortly after SEPA '94, you could help me out tremendously by having things ready for me in Charlotte. Being in Cocoa will take a week away from my editing time, and I really don't want to be a week late getting the next issue to SEPA members.

Thanks again for putting up with my "friendly reminders".

NEWS FROM SEPA STATES

ALABAMA

FLORIDA

George Fleenor
Bishop Planetarium
Bradenton

St. Pete Jr. College, St. Petersburg - Career number three for Kenneth E. Perkins, Planetarium Director at St. Petersburg Junior College, will end with his retirement on May 10, 1994. Ken started career number one as a junior high school science teacher in Fairfield and Vandalia, Ohio, from 1952 to 1970. In 1970, career number two began when Ken became planetarium director for the Vandalia-Butler City Schools. When Ken retired from that position in 1980, he was asked to become planetarium director at the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus, under a 7.3 meter dome with a Goto GE-6-S projector and 47 seats. In appreciation of his work and dedication over the years, a special eclipse of the sun is planned in St. Petersburg, Florida! Good luck Ken in all that you have planned for the future!!!

Bishop Planetarium, Bradenton - The Bishop Planetarium is currently running *More Than Meets the Eye* and *The Cowboy Astronomer*. The spring seasonal crowds were exceptionally high, and starshow attendance was very good. Laser show attendance is also "maintaining an even strain" with several new shows drawing respectable numbers. The planetarium celebrated National Astronomy Day a month early. This was done because there was a conflict with another county celebration, and we also wanted to take advantage of visitors from the north. A couple hundred visitors joined staff members and the local astronomy club on the museum's front lawn for observing. Visitors were able to view through several large refractors, dobsonians, and Schmidt cassegrains. On the first Saturday of each month the planetarium is presenting a new sky lecture series *The Night Sky*. Participants have expressed delight with the added format, and attendance has been steadily increasing. Plans are being made for the upcoming partial/annular solar eclipse, the collision of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, and the 25th anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing. The planetarium will have an open house, and the video link from the observatory will be displayed on the dome for interested eclipse viewers. George Fleenor will be going to Ohio for the event, and making reports back during the eclipse. Plans are also being made to try to capture information for ALPO on the upcoming comet crash. The staff plans to use the Lynx CCD camera system for this event.

The Saunders Planetarium, Tampa - Spring is always a busy time for museum and planetariums. This year is even more complicated with all of the special events happening, and the construction of our new facility. For all of the SEPA delegates who are attending the 1994 IPS Conference in Cocoa, please feel free to stop by MOSI if you happen to find yourself on Florida's *other* coast. The doors are always open to fellow planetarians. Just give us a call at 813-987-6337. The show schedule for this summer will include Bowen's *Sandy, Pepper, and the Eclipse* and Loch Ness' *Magellan: Report from Orbit*. Presently, the staff is working on next year's budget that has a projection of over 100,000 visitors coming through the planetarium doors. Planning for May's partial solar eclipse is well under way. In July, following IPS, MOSI will be celebrating its first Space Week and coordinating with The Planetary Society on the Jupiter Watch comet impact event (who planned the timing on that event anyway?!). In November, Al Peche, Planetarium Director, will be guest lecturer on an Eclipse Cruise to catch the total solar eclipse off the coast of Brazil. Finally, on a sad note, Tony Butterfield is leaving The Saunders Planetarium and Florida to move to California with his family. Tony has been a part of the staff since the planetarium's opening in October of 1992, and a part of our success can be attributed to his hard work and dedication. Thanks Tony, and good luck with your company - Planisphere Productions.

Buehler Planetarium, Davie - The current starshow is *The Cowboy Astronomer*. Two new laser shows, *Laser Rush* and *Laser U2*, opened March 4. On March 17, there was a special presentation entitled *Islands in a Sea of Night*, guided by astronomer Jan Fiolka and based on Timothy Ferris' book *Galaxies*. Jim Blake reported in the *Florida Skies* newsletter that, "January 1994 was the first birthday of laser shows at the Buehler Planetarium. No party was planned, instead we were all hard at work preparing the latest laser show, *Rush*.".

Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola - The Science and Space Theatre of Pensacola Junior College, for the first time in its history, has full-time staff members. Clint Hatchett is the new Director, and Joyce Divina continues as Vax system manager and Digistar programmer. Frank Palma and Wayne Wooten assist part-time in planetarium presentations, while continuing in their positions as college astronomy instructors. Cayne Marchetti has been hired

part-time to produce 3-D AutoCad images. Last fall's public shows opened with *Planet Patrol*, produced by The Sudekum Planetarium in Nashville, followed by a holiday show using Digistar graphics with a Christmas theme. Current public shows are *Bear Tales* , produced by JHE, and another Digistar graphics show running concurrently. The theatre recently hosted local science fair participants and parents. The spring addition to the program repertoire will be Strasenburgh's *In the Deep Shadows of Space.* Future production efforts center on activities associated with the May 10th solar eclipse, the comet impact at Jupiter, and a few as-yet-untitled shows on geologic time. The Spitz A3P projector and its 30-foot dome, formerly housed across campus in the E.G. Owens Planetarium, have been purchased by the Palm Beach school system for installation in a science theme magnet school. Ash Enterprises is handling the removal from Pensacola and the installation in Palm Beach.

The Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach - Roger Hoefer, Curator of Astronomy, reports that all is going well at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Roger will be hosting the spring FLOR-PLAN meeting in May. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. All Florida planetarians (along with any other able body willing to do labor) are urged to attend to help Mike Hutton get organized for the upcoming IPS conference. It is always a big help when everyone pulls together! Roger will be sending more information to Florida planetariums in mid April. Any others interested in this event should contact Roger at (904)-255-0285 ext. 19.

Alexander Brest Planetarium, Jacksonville - Kathleen Poe, Director of the Alexander Brest Planetarium, reports the premiere of their newest production, *With Stars in Their Eyes: Women in Astronomy,* to celebrate National Women's History Month in March. The show is sponsored by CSX Transportation, and is available for sale. The starshow is twenty minutes in length and features 18 women astronomers of the past and present.

GEORGIA

Carole Helper
Mark Smith Planetarium
Macon

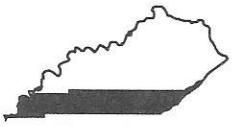
The **Mark Smith Planetarium** is running *Larry Cat In Space* through the end of June. Our annual Pet Show (after 38 years the price is still only 50 cents) will feature a Larry Cat Look-alike Contest. Highlights of this years' Astronomy Day, are a talk by Space Shuttle astronaut C. Lacy Veach and tours of the Lamar County Elementary School's school bus/space shuttle, the LCES Panda Explorer. The planetarium staff will also be presenting live science theatre demonstrations this summer.

Bob Dunagan, at Albany's **Wetherbee Planetarium** reports that his planetarium has new carpeting, new seats, and a newly painted dome. The planetarium building now also houses a new Discovery Center, which features 15 interactive exhibits designed by Philip Groce. **Wetherbee Planetarium** is now running 12 - 14 short shows each day. Currently playing is *More Than Meets the Eye.*

The **Jim Cherry Memorial Planetarium** of the Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta is showing *Other Moons,* about other moons in the Solar System. This summer, they present *The Adventures of Hercules.* Director David Dundee reports that their show *African Skies* has been purchased by 9 other planetariums. April Whitt, formerly of Adler Planetarium in Chicago, has joined the staff at Fernbank. Welcome to Georgia, April!

The **Savannah Science Museum Planetarium** has been offering *In From Deep Space: The Journey of A Comet* for their Sunday public shows. The staff is planning an Eclipse Watch for the May 10 eclipse.

Sunrise Planetarium at Camp Sunrise in Fairmount offers a different free program each Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. throughout the school year. Recent selections include *The Chronology of the Crucifixion* (for Easter Sunday), *Concert Under the Stars, Our Sun,* and *A Visit with Mr. Moon.*



KENTUCKY

LOUISIANA

Dave Hostetter
Natural History Museum and Planetarium
Lafayette

The Planetarium in Lafayette remains closed awaiting a decision by the City Council as to whether its Museum will be reopened or moved to a larger building; either way, opening is projected for August, 1996. Public programming continues at the recommended larger building in a temporary 15' dome using a portable star machine. Upcoming program topics include the May 10 solar eclipse and the 25th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing; the Museum will also curate an exhibit entitled "Apollo: One Giant Step". School programming continues with "Star Truck", a mixture of STARLAB and

classroom--style presentations in regional schools. The May eclipse, Spaceweek, a Jupiter Watch (in conjunction with the Planetary Society), and National Aviation Week should make a busy summer.

Gary Meibaum's 20' facility at the **St. Charles Parish Library** in Luling is planning an aggressive schedule of commercially available programs during the next year. Beginning with National Library Week in April, all of the programs will be first-runs for that particular dome. Looks like Gary is going to have a busy year!

Mike Sandras reports from the **Daily Living Science Center in Kenner** that he expects to display a mock-up of the version of the Space Station previously proposed by Martin Marietta, and that the Planetarium and Observatory at the Center continue to be very popular. Upcoming events include public observation of the May 10 eclipse and Jupiter Watch activities in conjunction with The Planetary Society.

MISSISSIPPI

Gary Lazich
Davis Planetarium
Jackson

Jackson's **Davis Planetarium** closed on January 1 for renovation of its 15-year-old McNair Space Theater and re-opened to school groups on March 21. The new dark grey carpeting minimizes reflections; low-voltage strip lighting helps visitors find their seats in the dark. Expansion of the projection gallery opening permits easier aiming of projectors. Delays in receipt of new seating from American Desk have pushed the Grand Opening forward to the Last weekend in April. The first public feature in the "new" Theater will include Loch Ness Productions' *More Than Meets the Eye* and a hemispheric film tour of Kitt Peak National Observatory produced by Flandrau Planetarium in Tucson.

The Production team has taken advantage of the closure to expand laser capability. A loan from a local bank enabled the purchase of a choreoGRAPHICS™ production system from Laser Images as well as projector upgrades and a monitor system from East Coast Control Systems. Team members have been working feverishly to complete the Planetarium's first original laser show, a contemporary country medley scheduled to open with the public feature. Work also continues on *The Great Silence* and *The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*.

Mississippi's Student Space Station™ has obtained a grant from a county private industry council through the local Urban League chapter to expand its operation. Disadvantaged high school students now meet weekly at the Planetarium to plan and prepare for three weekend missions scheduled for later this spring. Activities have included training in human psychology and physiology, studies of animal and plant behavior, soft-landing experiments featuring "eggstronauts", and trips to Stennis Space Center, Space Center Houston, and The Alabama Space and Rocket Center. Full two-week missions will take place in July and August. For a brochure and application materials, contact the Planetarium at 601-960-1550.

Planetarium director Dick Knapp received a nomination for the Friendship Award presented by Jackson 2000, a local group dedicated to fostering communication, co-operation, and civic improvement among people of all races in Jackson. The certificate recognizes his accomplishments as planetarium director, executive producer of *The Space Shuttle: An American Adventure*, and developer of Mississippi Student Space Station™.

Former Planetarium cinematographer Don Warren and production supervisor Lenard Jenkins recently completed work on *Ron McNair: A Legacy of Achievement*, a 25-minute video celebrating McNair's accomplishments and sharing his principles for high achievement. Copies of the video can be ordered for $19.95 plus $2.00 for shipping and handling from Zero-G Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 24482, Jackson, MS 39225-4482. Portions of the proceeds benefit the National Technical Association (based in Houston) and McNair's widow Cheryl.

NORTH CAROLINA

Cyndi Zeger
Woodson Planetarium
Salisbury

Woodson Planetarium has opened the spring season with a new show, *Our Place in Space* produced by the Sudekum Planetarium. The show has been incorporated into the first grade curriculum and will also be used as the family show for the Earth Day celebration on April 17.

Kelly Planetarium at Discovery Place is looking forward to hosting the upcoming SEPA conference. A new astronomy exhibit will be showcased at the conference: *Astronomy, How Do We Know?* is a one million dollar permanent hands-on exhibit that highlights sky phenomena from an investigator viewpoint. Also a new OMNIMAX show, *Africa, The Serengeti* , will be ready for the conference.

Morehead Planetarium will premier *Orion Rendezvous: A Star Trek™ Voyage of Discovery* featuring the voice of LeVar Burton as Geordi LaForge on April 9. Also on April 9, you will be able to meet an Astronaut, and participate in

such things as a scrap exchange, a carnival, and the NASA Astrovan, by attending *Future Fest '94*. Tom Hocking, Education Coordinator at Morehead has recently been appointed as External Aerospace Education Officer of the North Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Congratulations "Captain" Tom.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rick Greenawald
Hooper Planetarium
Greenville

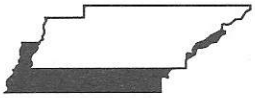
Jim Brown at the **Stanback Planetarium** in Orangeburg, says he is making plans to attend the IPS meeting this year, and that his NASA Teacher Resource Center is keeping him plenty busy. Other than that, there's not much to say from Jim except that he is plugging along like the rest of us.

Jeff Guill at the **Gibbes Planetarium** in Columbia, reports that they are working with South Carolina ETV on a broadcast on how to safely view the upcoming solar eclipse. The program will be broadcast to all teachers and students in the state, and a booklet with viewing information will be going out to all of the state's schools. Jeff also reports that Todd Slisher is working on the show *Lifestyles of the Stars*. Jeff said they are working on a 15 minute introduction under the stars to boost the program length. Finally, they are anticipating another large turnout of girl scouts to work on merit badges.

Glenn Dantzler at the **Settlemyre Planetarium** in Rock Hill, reports that the week long visit by Jon Dobson was a success with over 1,100 people in attendance from as far away as Illinois. Glenn also reports that he is about to launch his Saturday morning children's program and he hopes to have a modest pan system installed by the end of summer. Probably the biggest news is that by the end of May the museum will open an audio visual interactive astronomy display which traces astronomy's influence on mankind from the ice age to the Keck telescope.

Here, at the **Hooper Planetarium** in Greenville, I'm happy to report that our new fifth grade program *Journey to the Planets* is being very well received by the students and teachers alike. The show is a 32 minute whirlwind survey of the solar system, and I mean whirlwind! I have also been programming Digistar to be a live star projector using its button box. Some of you are aware of such programming I have done in the past, however, this will hopefully be the culmination of what I have learned in doing these programs. When it is all done, I'll challenge anyone to a star projector duel! Although you'll probably pull a star quality technicality on me. But, seriously, the system already sets up the sky for the current date at 9:00 p.m. EST and chooses which of eight sub-seasons (ie. spring, spring-summer, summer, etc.) to place the operator into. I currently have 60 hours of work invested in just the summer season with an estimated 60 hours to go. So now you know what's been keeping me busy.

TENNESSEE

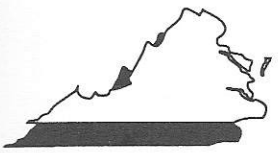


Kris McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
Nashville

For information on **Sudekum Planetarium** see *Featured Planetarium* in this issue. On the personal side - Kira Celeste McCall is doing very well. She was a perfect little baby when she was born except that she inherited the same vision problem that I have. Now, they can try to correct it, and at the tender age of five weeks, Kira had a corneal transplant on her right eye. She has really responded well to the operation, and you can bet I'll be showing her off in Charlotte.

In January, **Bays Mountain Planetarium** presented an in-house production called *Our Star, The Sun*, distinctive as being the first show written by their new staffer, Adam Thanz. Adam is a recent astronomy graduate from the University of Florida and has been with Bays Mountain for just a year and a half. He says he can't wait for his first SEPA conference this June. Bays Mountain is currently running a Hansen program entitled *Destination Earth*. In case you are thinking that Hansen has no such program, it is really *Cosmic Catastrophes* but only using the three modules on nuclear winter, the greenhouse effect, and ozone depletion. The 30 minute program works well with school groups at the nature center, and will tie in well with Bays Mountain Earth Day activities this spring.

In other news, Charles Ferguson is making some recovery from his debilitating brain hemorrhage of a year ago. Charles is physically fine, but experiencing some difficulties with memory. He is no longer at James Madison University and is living with his brother in Knoxville, Tennessee. Mike Chesman reports that Charles has come to Bays Mountain at two week intervals to work on relearning some of his planetarium skills. He currently assists with their Sun Watch solar observatory programs and has even practiced parts of a show presentation. Although he still has a very long way to go, everyone is encouraged by the progress Charles is making.



VIRGINIA

Eric Melenbrink
Ethyl Universe Planetarium
Richmond

We in Virginia are not very strong in the meeting category. The Capitol of the Confederacy folk see each other regularly (Jane and us'n's at Universe) but we haven't had a state meeting in years. Anyhow, I called several of the other southern Virginia planetarians to see what was up...

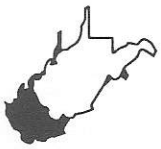
The Planetarium at the Edge of the Universe (Jane's place) is 25 years old this year, and Jane is hoping to do something to celebrate in conjunction with the anniversary of the Apollo landing.

Gary Close of the **Hopkins Planetarium** at the Science Museum of Western Virginia, in Roanoke, reports that the Museum has just been awarded State money for upgrades to exhibits and the planetarium. The Museum is working with the Exploratorium in San Francisco to bring in new exhibits. The planetarium hopes to make upgrades to their sound, video, and automation systems. The planetarium served 40,000 school children last year, and sponsored a Native American powwow in conjunction with a showing of *The People*. This was so successful, it is now an annual October event.

Dave Maness of the **Peninsula Planetarium** at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News reports they are looking for a new museum director. Bob Sullivan left the directorship at Newport News to be director of the Cumberland Science Museum in Nashville (i.e., Kris McCall's new boss). The planetarium just finished running their own production of a show titled *Cosmic Catastrophe*, they'll be running *Cowboy Astronomer* through early June. Dave and his staff (Pat McQuillan, Ken Moore, and Georgian Delgadilio) also operate the Hampton schools planetarium on a contractual basis. They'll be running their *Cosmic Catastrophe* show in Hampton this spring as a free public offering. In the fall, they run school shows at the Hampton planetarium.

The Planetarium at James Madison University in Harrisonburg continues to limp along without Charles Ferguson. Rob Grube is serving as an interim director, along with his other duties. Rob reports that Charles has almost fully recovered physically from his hemorrhage, but no word yet on when, or if, he'll be able to return to work. In the meantime, various people pick up the slack and offer some programming.

The **Ethyl Universe Planetarium** in Richmond is running the Hansen *Cosmic Catastrophes* until mid-June when an in-house production of *To the Moon* opens. The Science Museum of Virginia is definitely into train stations. In addition to the main museum housed in the old Union Station in Richmond, the Science Museum will be creating and operating a new Science Center in the 94 year old Danville train station. So far, almost $1.2 million has been raised for renovation of the Danville station and exhibit construction, thanks in large part to the Danville Kiwanis Club. The new satellite facility is probably too small to house a planetarium, but preliminary discussions have included a portable planetarium, or joint programming with the Pittsylvania County Schools planetarium about a half-hour north in Chatham. Building renovation, which is being funded by a Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, should start this summer. Exhibits, funded by the Kiwanis, should be in place by the summer of 1995. A small portion of the facility will still be used as an active Amtrak station, with two trains per day coming through.



WEST VIRGINIA

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planetarium Teacher

The Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, Wisconsin, is seeking a knowledgeable and creative person to fill the position of Planetarium Teacher. The Planetarium, located in Memorial High School serves the K-12 students of Madison and surrounding communities as well as preschool children and adults from the general population.

THE PLANETARIUM FACILITY: The 30 foot dome seats 64 persons and houses a Spitz A3P Star Projector. The 12 slide projectors, LCD video, VHS, Laserdisc, and various special effects are controlled by a JHE ScreenMaster Automation System. A significant slide collection is used to develop the wide variety of programs conducted within the facility.

SCOPE OF THE POSITION: The person in this position will develop and conduct all instructional programs and manage all supporting functions including scheduling and management of instructional materials and equipment. The major audience is the K-12 student population, but a significant number of programs are offered to preschool and adult groups.

QUALIFICATIONS: Previous experience developing and conducting planetarium presentations across the K-12 grade levels. Extensive academic background in earth and space science. Extensive experience working with elementary/middle school age children. Experience making community presentations. Knowledge of Spitz planetarium instruments and other projection systems. Certifiable as a teacher in Wisconsin.

AVAILABILITY: Immediately

SALARY: Commensurate with education and experience.

TO APPLY: Request an application from the office below and return it to the same office by **May 15, 1994.**

Human Resources Department
Madison Metropolitan School District
545 W. Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53703
608-266-6050

Planetarium Career Opportunity

OPPORTUNITY: Full-time position of Technical Producer (pending funding approval)

DATE POSITION TO START: No earlier than July 1, 1994

REQUIREMENTS FOR POSITION: A.A. or A.S. In electronics, or related technology field, and 2 years full-time (or 4 years part-time) experience at a planetarium or similar organization, or demonstrated equivalent experience are required. B.S. and 4 years full-time experience in a planetarium preferred. Required skills and experience include: electronics, computer technology, photography, film, audio-visual, mechanical, carpentry, lasers, multi-media shows, laser shows. Must be up to date on modern planetarium and computer age facilities. Additional desired skills: practical experience in theatre, audio production, video production, computer-based graphics, digital image development; interpersonal skills; ability to give live presentations with some public speaking.

SALARY AND WORK SCHEDULE: $26,000 to $34,000 for annual contract, for a 40-hour week. Generous benefits.

MAJOR DUTIES: To work with staff to plan, produce, and present planetarium and laser shows; to design and build special effects; and to repair and maintain equipment related to planetarium operation.

TO APPLY: Send a letter of interest, resume, the names of two references, and a copy of transcripts from schools or colleges attended to:

Dr. David H. Menke, Director
Buehler Planetarium
Broward Community College
3501 SW Davie Road
Davie, FL 33314

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: Friday, May 6, 1994