

# SOUTHERN SKIES

Volume 13

Number 2

Spring 1993

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**Journal of the Southeastern Planetarium Association**

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**DEADLINES:** Submit all copy and artwork to the Editor in accordance with the following:

Winter Issue (No. 1)	January 1
Spring Issue (No. 2)	April 1
Summer Issue (No. 3)	July 1
Fall Issue (No. 4)	October 1

# *Southern Skies*

Volume 13

Number 2

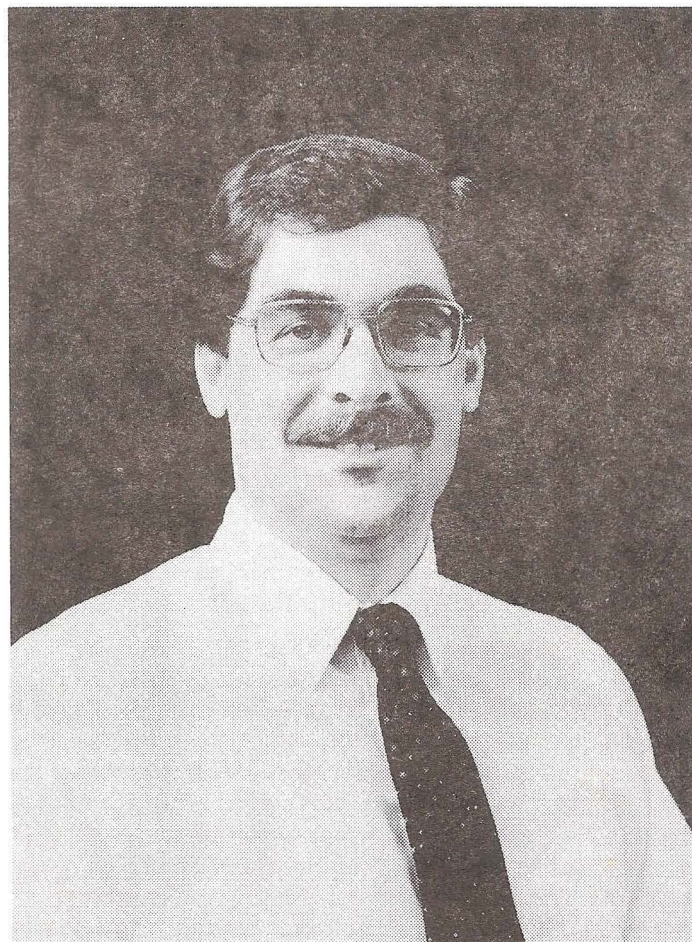
Spring 1993

## A Message From Your President

Why should we belong to a planetarium association? Do such organizations serve any real purpose, or are they basically just a waste of time and money?

Obviously, most of us who belong to planetarium associations consider them to be professionally valuable, but this attitude is by no means universal. Most SEPA members, for instance, can think of a number, perhaps even a majority, of planetariums in their home states that are seldom, if ever, represented at any planetarium conferences--and the individual staff members of such institutions are listed on association membership rolls nearly as infrequently. Simply skimming through the listings of a current planetarium directory leads me to the disturbing conclusion that the majority of planetarians *do not belong to any professional planetarium association whatsoever*. In fact, according to my best reckoning (based upon a perusal of a recent directory listing) there appears to be something like 164 planetariums currently operating (or at least established) within the SEPA region alone, with a minimum of 260 total staff working at those institutions. Given that the attendance at SEPA conferences averages less than 100 per year, one can immediately see that only a minority of planetarians within the region are active participants in SEPA--and only a handful more are currently listed in the membership at all. No doubt, similar participation levels can be seen in other regional associations, as well as in IPS.

Why is this? In a number of cases, sheer ignorance is the culprit--some planetarians may not even be aware of the existence of planetarium organizations. Other stated reasons (or rationalizations) include:



**Richard McColman**  
Morehead Planetarium, Chapel Hill, NC

- "I really don't have the time".

- "My school/museum won't give us the money for association memberships or conference fees."

- "Nothing of value ever happens at these things anyway."

- "They're basically just glorified social organizations."

- "Most of those people are just techno-freaks who spend all their time playing with the latest gadgets."

- "I belong to enough professional organizations already."

To varying degrees, some of these comments may be at least partially valid, while others are little more than gross over-simplifications. Certainly, there are limits to the amount of institutional time and money available to some planetarians. Furthermore, a particular conference may turn out to be comparatively less valuable than the one before or after it. Also, there will always be social components to any gatherings of human beings. And by their nature, planetariums have always had a strong technological component (though it is *important* that we not let "the tail wag the dog"). Finally, for some, a planetarium association may be only one of many relevant professional organizations.

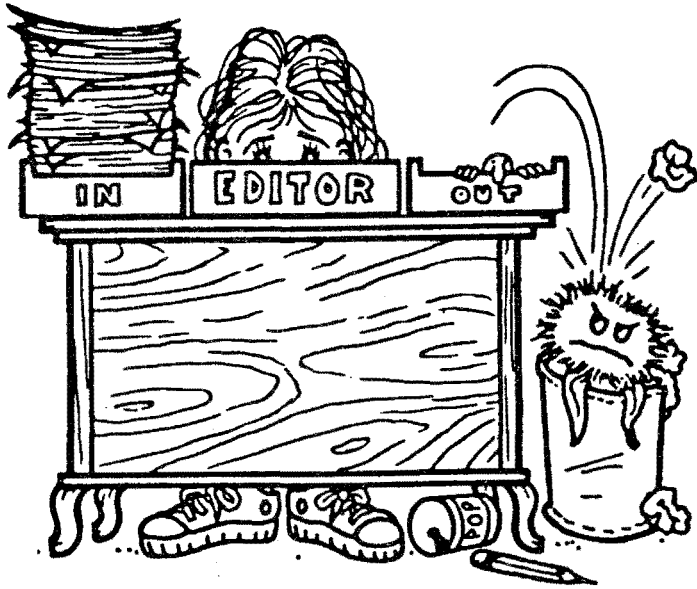
However, while our planetarium associations aren't perfect, nor exclusive in their importance to us professionally, the majority of non-participant planetarians are simply unaware of the valuable knowledge and specialized support that can be gained from "rubbing elbows", if you will, with others in their field. I am constantly amazed by the similarity of problems encountered by planetarians--evidenced in both formal and informal discussions during conferences, as well as in planetarium journal articles--despite the distance and relative isolation of these individuals and institutions. Because of the unique nature of what we do, it is often stated by planetarians that "my principal/museum director/department chairman doesn't understand or care about my problems". In many cases, trying to run a planetarium is much like being left alone and isolated on a deserted tropical island. While each situation can carry with it an array of positive experiences, both can nonetheless become desperate and potentially destructive to the individual(s) involved because of inadequate support mechanisms. Although planetarium associations cannot intervene to directly offset an individual planetarium's lack of funding, low staffing, or poor administrative backing, they *can provide* members with valuable input in the way of ideas, information, and moral support like no other professional organization.

In my view, those who consistently neglect to maintain ties with the rest of the field are shortchanging their 'clients' in the same way as doctors or attorneys who disregard their professional relationships with medical or

legal associations. In fact, in most circles, such individuals are usually considered guilty of gross professional negligence. The reality is that the planetarium field, more than almost any other, can be one of extreme professional isolation. In very few areas of specialization, do their practitioners remain as physically separated as do planetarians. In many cases, individual planetarians can claim an exclusive territorial realm of hundreds or even thousands of square miles. Consequently, many of us would have little in the way of a professional support network if it weren't for SEPA or IPS. Left on their own, our non-participant colleagues will almost surely suffer a stagnation of professional growth, at least insofar as planetarium-specific knowledge and interaction is concerned. In most cases, their planetarium audiences will ultimately be the losers, as they are the ones who must endure the outdated methods of presentation that most certainly will result.

What is to become of the scores of planetarians in our region who currently have no affiliation with SEPA or any other professional planetarium association? Surely these individuals bear primary responsibility for their own professional growth. After all, few SEPA members have to get 'beat over the head' to maintain their professional affiliations. Indeed, a number of us in SEPA show the dedication to occasionally, or even regularly, pay for dues and conference registration fees out of our own pockets. But human nature is such that many of us, for good or for ill, cling maddeningly to the status quo despite all reason--possibly out of nothing more than a fear of the unknown.

For this reason, it seems to me that we all should assume some responsibility for bolstering the level of participation by giving our recalcitrant colleagues a friendly and periodic 'nudge' to encourage their professional interaction. It is important for our regional planetariums, their individual staff members, and for us as a professional organization, to promote the growth of our planetarium associations. Too often perhaps, outside of attending conferences, we fail to give thought to folks just like us who work day-in and day-out in planetariums very much like our own. Usually when we do, our concerns are only with those colleagues who we see year after year at the annual association conferences. The non-participants nearly always remain forgotten--and with them, their audiences. I would encourage us all to make a conscious effort to establish and maintain contact with these individuals. In the end, this can only serve to strengthen the planetarium field as a whole. No doubt, the process of broadening professional participation will be a slow one, much slower than most of us would prefer. But, in the final analysis, the future growth and vitality of our field, in large measure, will depend upon it.



In the center of this issue of *Southern Skies*, is a copy of the SEPA Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Ethics. You might want to bring these pages with you if you come to the '93 Conference. Paul Campbell is chairing a committee to suggest possible changes in our By-Laws, and having a copy with you at the business meeting will be a big help.

I want to thank all of you who have helped me get this issue to press. I have been associated with the planetarium profession, in one way or another, for almost 30 years and am well aware of the fact that planetarians work far more than the "normal" 40 hour week. I am a firm believer in the old adage "If you want something done, ask the busiest person you know." You can see the proof for yourself by reading the names of the contributors in *Southern Skies*.. THANKS!

The deadline for the next issue is July 1st. If you have something you would like published, an idea on how to better the *Journal*, a suggestion for a new feature, would like to edit a column, please let me know. I am asking any of you who might be presenting a paper at the '93 Conference to please bring a copy of your paper with you, if you would like to see it published in the next issue.

I want to thank those of you who sent contributions for "News From SEPA States". If you have news for this column, either get in touch with the person listed next to your state, or put me on your facility's mailing list.

Once again, I can't say "thank you" often enough to those of you who helped me out with this issue!!!!

If there is a star on this page, your SEPA dues are paid thru December 1993. If you have paid your '93 SEPA dues, and there is no star, please contact me.



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 \_\_\_\_\_



NOTICE  
CHANGE OF VENUE  
FOR 1994 SEPA CONFERENCE SITE

To All SEPA Members:

It's with great regret that the Virginia Living Museum must withdraw its offer to host a joint SEPA/MAPS conference in 1994. I've just left Newport News to head up planetarium operations at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, Florida, and museum management at VLM felt it would be impossible to put the conference together without my direction. I'm very sorry for this development (although I am having great fun in Fort Pierce!), but am cheered by the knowledge that Sue Griswold will put on a great conference in Charlotte next spring. I'll see you all at John Hare's facility in Bradenton in June, to commiserate and compare suntans.

Jon U. Bell

**1994 SEPA CONFERENCE  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**  
By Sue Griswold

I hope everyone has already made their plans to attend the 1993 SEPA conference in Bradenton, Florida. John Hare and staff always stage an extraordinary conference filled with invaluable information and good times.

NEXT, please put onto your agenda the 1994 conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dates have not been completely worked out, but the intent is to make the dates fit into a mid-June time frame. Charlotte has been chosen as the '94 site due to some changes in the museum and theatre management at the Virginia Living Museum (chosen as the '94 SEPA Conference site at the '92 meeting in Greenville, South Carolina).

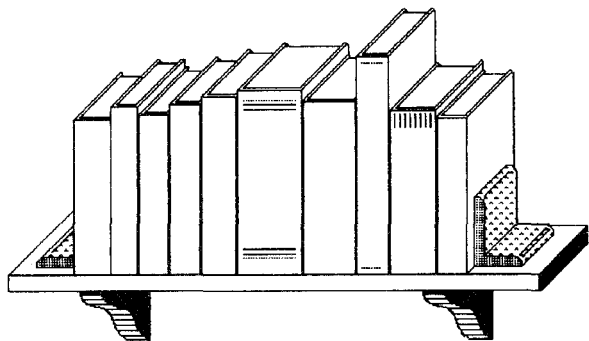
The Kelly Space Voyager Planetarium at Discovery Place in Charlotte opened in November, 1991. A Spitz Voyager instrument and associated computer controls and special effects equipment share a 79 foot diameter tilted dome with an OMNIMAX projector. The theatre seats 307 and has presented planetarium programs and films to over 400,000 visitors in the first year of operation.

Discovery Place is a 160,000 square foot science and technology center, opened in 1981, serving school children and public visitors from the Southeastern U. S. The major areas of the museum include: Physical Sciences (Chemistry, Mechanics, Computer Sciences), The Challenger Learning Center, Astronomy (new 4100 square foot exhibit area completed in the Fall of 1993), Life Sciences (Health and the Human Body), Biological Sciences (Aquariums and Rain Forest) and Natural Science Collections.

Two exciting travelling exhibits will be on temporary exhibition at Discovery Place during the conference: THE MEASURE OF EARTH and THE SCIENCE OF FORENSICS. As a part of the conference, a film festival will be presented so that SEPA members can see a number of recently released OMNIMAX films.

As you begin budget planning for the next fiscal year, keep in mind the 1994 SEPA conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The conference committee will provide updates at the '93 meeting in Bradenton, and throughout the next year in your Journal.





## Reviews

by Dave Hostetter  
Lafayette Planetarium  
Lafayette, Louisiana

### Handbook for Visual Meteor Observations

Edited by Paul Roggemans  
Sky Publishing Corporation,  
Cambridge, MA, 1989  
ISBN 0-933346-57-3  
193 pages  
Softback  
\$24.95

### Reviewed by: Dave Hostetter

**Handbook for Visual Meteor Observations** has a pretty descriptive title. If you are interested in learning about meteor photography or radar observations of meteor showers, you'll want another source; but if you want to get the most out of observing a shower, you should read this ahead of time. The **Handbook** is the official manual of the International Meteor Organization (IMO); it is emphatically not for the casual reader or for the observer with only a passing interest in meteor showers, but it is a good guide for entering one of the few remaining fields in astronomy still largely handled by amateurs.

The **Handbook** has only a few faults. There are a few odd spellings and phrases due to the book's translation from the original Dutch, but not enough to worry about. The star maps are a bigger concern because constellation identification can be difficult. To the American eye, many of the star figures are drawn incomplete or with non-standard shapes; constellation names and star designations are missing, and constellations are connected into regions for star counts. Add to this the distortions caused by the use of gnomonic projections,

and you have maps with great potential to confuse (hardly what one wants while trying to plot a meteor's path as quickly as possible).

In IMO's defense, there are solid technical reasons for designing maps like that: meteor paths can be plotted as straight lines and the star count regions can be used to determine limiting magnitudes. It will take practice to use the maps well, but they are well designed for meteor observations. Incidentally, I initially bought this book for the maps of star count regions, and don't regret it; I highly recommend IMO's simple method for determining limiting magnitude any time you need to determine that accurately.

Various chapters in the **Handbook** include information on different kinds of meteor observations, including the forms needed for recording counts or plots and returning the data to IMO. Although making good observations is clearly not as simple as one might expect, the instructions are clear enough to get a beginner started (but the information stresses the critical importance of being very familiar with the sky before attempting some of the studies). There is some basic information about data analysis, but IMO recommends and requests that observers send them the data rather than the analysis. One chapter shows how to calculate Zenithal Hourly Rate, taking into account observations and real life observing conditions. I have also been able to use this to get predictions of how many meteors might be seen for a given ZHR under typical Louisiana conditions of limiting magnitude and light pollution. When phone callers and the media contact us in the days prior to major showers, this information allows us to give out realistic predictions of the numbers of meteors they might really expect to see.

The last half of the book contains information about 29 meteor showers, ranging from the major ones to showers so obscure their very existence is uncertain. The descriptions include histories, typical rates, peak dates, and much more. It's a gold mine of information useful for phone inquiries and star shows.

The **Handbook for Visual Meteor Observations** isn't exactly what one would call a page-turner, but it is a reference that would be useful to almost any planetarian.



## **Clyde Tombaugh: Discoverer of Planet Pluto**

by David H. Levy  
University of Arizona Press  
Copyright 1991  
211 pages  
ISBN 0-8165-1148-9  
QB36. T6L48

**Reviewed by: Kris McCall**  
**Sudekum Planetarium**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

Clyde William Tombaugh was born on a farm in Kansas in January of 1906. He discovered the ninth planet, Pluto, in February of 1930, at the age of twenty-four. How could he have come to accomplish such a feat, and what does one do for an encore? This wonderful book by David Levy answers these questions and others by presenting the reader with a detailed, personal, and insightful glimpse of one of the most significant people of the twentieth century.

Based on extensive interviews with Tombaugh's family and his colleagues from throughout the years, David Levy paints a vibrant portrait of Clyde Tombaugh. The author also conducted months of intense research in the plate vaults and libraries of many historic observatories to unearth additional support materials related to Tombaugh's many and varied discoveries.

The book explores his youth and the circumstances that led a young man from Kansas to become an observatory assistant at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, in January of 1929. Hired specifically to expose the photographic plates for the fourth trans-Neptunian planet search, it wasn't long before he was responsible for all aspects of the program. Pluto was found after less than a year of searching, but what many people don't realize is that the planet search and its related observations continued for another thirteen years.

Levy includes a very personal and detailed account of the actual discovery and the events surrounding it; how the search was carried out, Clyde's emotions, the actions of others at the observatory, the announcement, and the aftermath.

And, while another planet was not discovered after Pluto, Mr. Tombaugh kept very thorough records about everything he observed. He cataloged thousands of asteroids, nebulae, and galaxies. He soon realized that if

he plotted the positions of all those thousands of galaxies that he would begin to get an idea about how the Universe was laid out. Clyde Tombaugh was one of the first to "see" the large scale structure of the Universe; clusters and superclusters of galaxies, bubbles, walls, and voids.

In the mid-forties Tombaugh spoke with Edwin Hubble about his observations but could not dissuade him from his belief in the uniform distribution of matter throughout the Universe. It would be some years before Tombaugh's picture would be confirmed and accepted.

While he is best known as the discoverer of the ninth planet, Mr. Tombaugh went on to develop new methods of gathering optical tracking and ballistics data for the Army at the White Sands Missile Range during the 1950's. For this he was inducted into the Missile Range Hall of Fame along with Werner von Braun in 1980. He also went on to serve as a professor of astronomy and physics at New Mexico State University.

In August of 1980, fifty years after the discovery, at a meeting of the Western Amateur Astronomers, he produced his "Ten Special Commandments for a Would-Be Planet Hunter". I had never heard these before but found them filled with humor and insight. They include such sage advice as "Though shalt not engage in any dissipation, that thy years may be many, for thou shalt need them to finish the job!".

I have always been as interested in the people who are involved in astronomy as in the objects they observe. Though there are a few places where it gets a little technical and strays slightly from the personal history, this is a good, solid biography that will make very enjoyable reading for astronomy enthusiasts and the general public alike.





## **Apollo - Race to the Moon**

by Charles Murray  
Simon and Schuster

Copyright 1989  
ISBN 0-671-70625-X

Library of Congress Catalog Number  
TL789.8.U6A558

507 pages  
\$12.95

**Reviewed by: Richard Shores**  
**Shores Consulting Services**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

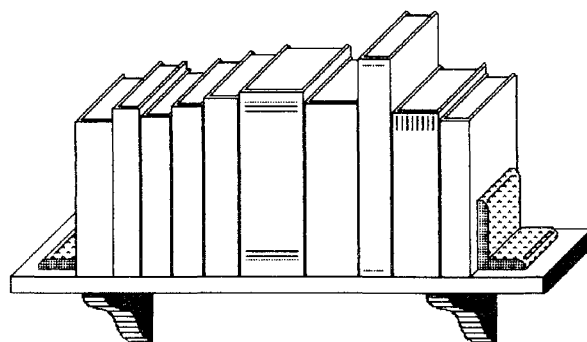
Back in 1961, President John F. Kennedy addressed a joint session of Congress to challenge America to land men on the moon and have them return safely to earth. At the same time, the American space program was suffering many setbacks and the Soviet Union was taking the lead in space exploration. When President Kennedy made the decision to go to the moon, the Apollo program was only an idea on the drawing board. Charles Murray has written a fantastic chronicle of how the idea of Apollo was marched into action and accomplished in less than ten years.

This book presents a "behind the scenes" look of how the massive Apollo program was conceived and carried out from the eyes of some of the people who were there. The author's interviews with the participants give us such a wonderful human and scientific look of one of the most important technological achievements of the twentieth century. The reader gets to relive, as an inside observer, the tragedy of the Apollo 1 fire, reaching President Kennedy's goal with the Apollo 11 mission, the near fatal Apollo 13 mission, and the best years of the American space program.

The scientific aspects of the Apollo program are covered in a way which is not too technical nor too simplistic. But the human aspect is the finest accomplishment of this book. After reading this book, one comes away with a feeling that they were participants in the meetings and part of the decision making processes. I felt as if I had met Chris Kraft, the cool and calm person in charge of Mission Control and watched Joe Shea, a brilliant manager who put the giant puzzle of Apollo together and then saw him depart the program in a storm of controversy after the Apollo 1 fire. You actually feel close to the action.

I have read many chronologies of the Apollo program, but this is the first book that gives the best view of the difficult decisions and the spectacular successes of the program.

Twenty-four years after America's goal of landing a man on the moon was realized, the Apollo program is just a pleasant and distant memory, detailed in a few pages of a history book. If you would like to relive the excitement of the early days of the American space program, I highly recommend this book.



# ELECTRONIC VISUALS

By: Mike Chesman

Bays Mountain Planetarium

Kingsport, Tennessee

High technology is having an amazing and positive impact on the planetarium community. Major changes regarding the way we create programs are rapidly being adopted by planetariums large and small. I have welcomed these changes at Bays Mountain and would like to acquaint you with our growth into one of these areas and provide some hints on what the future still holds.

Our facility obtained a video projector in 1988. We use an S-VHS tape deck and a consumer laserdisc player as sources. (The consumer player allows us to do still frames on any disc, CAV or CLV, something the pro models have as yet not included.) Surely by now, everyone has seen the wonderful way video projection enhances the special effect capabilities of our theaters. Video tape enables us to produce certain visuals unobtainable by traditional methods. And though still relatively costly, I can't forget to mention the outstanding special effect laserdiscs currently being marketed by Sky Skan.

Almost coincident with video on the dome our facility started playing with CCD imaging for our observatory. This development gave me an "excuse" to upgrade our department's desktop computer and we happily began our experiments into desktop publishing, graphics design, and other interesting software packages. The first thing that happened was that layouts for Kodalith titles, etc. were printed out from the computer and simple color graphics were easily photographed directly from the computer's monitor. Still I saw a need to bypass these steps and produce materials electronically directly for the theater. My budget had prevented getting a projection unit capable of direct display of computer imagery, so I purchased a modestly priced VGA to NTSC convertor box to give the ability to record videotapes from the computer. (If you're thinking of a similar approach, purchase a unit capable of at least 800 x 600 resolution.)

Having fooled around with a program by Autodesk, called Animator, our staff began wondering if we could replace some slide animations with computer animations. Initially, we were not pleased, as the 320 x 200 resolution of the program was not very good. Since then, Autodesk has released Animator Pro, an upgrade capable of resolutions of 1024 x 768 and beyond. This has become our package of choice!

Our first project has been to animate the characters for use with the McDonnell Planetarium's "The Little Star That Could". Let me briefly outline how the animations were produced.

First we used a color paint program to generate 3D spheres to represent the various star characters. Next, we hand scanned the black and white line-drawing faces that came with the show package. These faces were then colored through the paint program. In Animator, the background sphere and colorized faces were merged as cartoon cells and then sequenced to produce talking stars. The animations are primitive but very superior to the old Kodalith and gel technique. Considering the fact that the artwork included with the show was not designed for animation work, the results are very pleasing. I can't wait for us to try some animation from scratch using our own artwork.

What's next with our foray into electronic visuals? Well, I've been following the development of Kodak's photo CD for the last year and a half and am ready to purchase. If you're not yet acquainted with this technology, greatly simplified, it allows your local photoshop to put your slide images onto a special CD. The Photo-CD player has several special effects features, in particular random access. The players run from \$400 to about \$700 and plug directly into your video projector. By the beginning of this Fall's school year I want to have a disc filled with the images I require for my school shows.

Another neat feature, which I expect to exploit, is that Photo-CDs can be read by some computer CD-ROMs. (If you're planning to buy a CD-ROM drive anytime soon you owe it to yourself to insist on an XA format drive. The XA stands for extended architecture and allows the CD-ROM to handle a number of newer tasks including the playing of Photo-CDs.)

Imagine photographing a spaceship model, transferring it to Photo-CD, bringing it into an animation program to add moving exhaust gases, zooming and panning the image through animation, then converting the computer files into a videotape for display on your dome...all done locally with no outside production house. This technology is not only here now, its within the budgets of almost all of us.

[The information in this article is based on my experiences with the IBM or MS-DOS computer platform. Those of you using another system will no doubt find similar, and in some cases superior, products designed for your use.]



SOUTHEASTERN PLANETARIUM  
ASSOCIATION

**CONSTITUTION**

**BY-LAWS**

**CODE OF ETHICS**

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PLANETARIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. To promote the spread of knowledge of astronomy and related disciplines in the school curriculum and among the general public at all levels of age and interest.
2. To encourage planetarium and educational institutions in planning the development of the planetarium as an effective educational and cultural medium.
3. To seek to improve professional standards among our members, and to provide assistance to those wishing to improve their knowledge and skills in this field.

## STATEMENT OF METHODS

1. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas at an annual meeting to be held at a convenient location.
2. To issue periodic newsletters dealing with current ideas and issues within our profession.
3. To provide information and encouragement to those interested in establishing new planetariums.

## RATIFICATION

This document was ratified by a majority of members of the Southeastern Planetarium Association on the 9th day of June 1977 in Atlanta, Georgia.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE ONE

#### Name of Association, Situation of Offices, and Seal

Section 1. Name - Southeastern Planetarium Association, Inc. (SEPA). Our name shall hereafter be called the "Association".

Section 2. The Association shall be a non-profit organization.

Section 3. Situation of Offices - The head office of the Association shall be the Gibbes Planetarium, 1519 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 and any other Offices designated by the President.

Section 4. Seal or Insignia - The President, Vice-president, Secretary-Treasurer, or other such officer of the Association as the Council may appoint, shall have the authority to affix the Seal of the Association to any document requiring the same.

### ARTICLE TWO

#### Members and Dues

Section 1. Conditions of Membership - The members of the Association shall consist of:

A. Full membership is extended to persons engaged in the administration, professional, educational or technical activities at a planetarium in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and all U. S. Territories off the southeastern coast of the U. S.

B. Associate status can be granted to those persons or institutions interested in the aims of the Association but who do not fulfill the above requirements.

C. Patrons - Individuals not necessarily in the planetarium field whose interest and support is beneficial to the Association.

Section 2. Election of Members - Applications for all classes of membership shall be subject to approval by the Council. The Council shall review the membership roll annually and shall exclude institutions or individuals

which no longer meet the requirements of membership.

Section 3. Dues - Annual dues shall be an amount determined by a majority vote of the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 4. Privileges of Membership - All members shall be entitled to all benefits of the Association, but only those individuals described in paragraph A of Section 1 shall be entitled to vote and to hold office.

Section 5. Use of Funds - All dues and monies received by the Association shall be used to accomplish the statement of purpose and methods as set forth herein.

Section 6. Dissolution - In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Association shall be turned over to an organization which is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code as amended from time to time, which organization appears most likely to carry out the purposes of this Association.

### ARTICLE THREE

#### The Executive Council of the Association

##### Section 1.

A. Councillors - The Council shall consist of three or more persons. The President, the Vice-president, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Past President, (hereinafter referred to as the "Officers") and any other members designated by the President.

B. All members of the Council shall be elected for a two-year term ending on the 31st of December of even numbered years. The Vice-president, however, shall serve as President for the following two years. No member, except the Secretary-Treasurer, is eligible for re-election to the same position for a consecutive term.

C. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Council, who shall exercise all such powers of the Association not delegated to the general meeting.

D. The Council shall have power to authorize expenditures on behalf of the Association from time to time.

E. Transfer of a member of the Council out of the geographical areas designated in Article Two, Section 1, paragraph A, or transfer to an occupation not described in Article Two, paragraph A of Section 1 shall terminate that member's Council position. Vacancies on the Council may be appointed by the Council for the remainder of the term.

F. In preparing a slate of officers, the Nominating Committee shall insure that at least two planetariums are represented.

##### G. Meetings and Notices

(1) Immediately after the Annual General Meeting of Members in each year there shall be held a meeting of the Executive Council provided they shall constitute a quorum, without further notice, for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before the Council.

(2) Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President at his discretion, or by written request of two Council members. Meetings may be held by telephone or through the mail, if all Council Members are polled on each issue.

(3) A quorum of Council shall be three members, one of whom must be the President or Vice-President.

(4) Questions arising at any meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority vote of those present.

H. Remuneration of Council Members - Members of the Council as such, shall not receive salary for their services.

Section 2. President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Council and shall have the second or casting vote in the event of a tie vote upon any resolution. The President shall represent SEPA on the Council of the International Planetarium Society (IPS), if possible. The President will appoint a representative to the IPS Council if the President is not able to serve. He shall, jointly with the Secretary-Treasurer, sign all written contracts made in the name of the Association.

Section 3. Vice-president - The Vice-president shall in the absence or demise of the President, perform the duties of the President, and when so acting he shall have all the powers and be subject to all responsibility hereby given to or imposed upon the President.

##### Section 4. Secretary-Treasurer

A. The Secretary-Treasurer shall attend to and record the minutes of all proceedings of the Association, shall give and service all notices of the Association and Council and shall be the custodian of all records.

B. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper keeping of the books of account and such other records as may be prescribed by law and as may be required by Council; shall deposit any funds of the Association in a bank or banks approved by the Council, and shall not invest them without due authorization by

the Council. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, in advance of the General Meeting, provide an audited statement of accounts for the perusal and approval of the Members of the Association.

C. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Custodian of the Seal of the Association.

## ARTICLE FOUR

### Annual Meeting

Section 1. The annual Meeting of the Members of the Association shall be held at such place and at such time as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Council; to receive the Annual report of the Council and report of the Secretary-Treasurer; to sanction, if approved, decisions and actions of the Council since the preceding Annual General Meeting; to elect members of the Council; to consider, and, if deemed fit, to sanction and confirm the repeal, amendment or re-enactment of any By-Laws; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Section 2. Notice of Meeting - At least thirty days notice in writing of any General Meeting, specifying the place, the date and hour of meeting, and, in case of special business, shall be given to the Members, but the non-receipt of such notice by any Member shall not invalidate the proceedings at any General Meeting.

### Section 3. Quorum and Voting

A. Quorum - The presence in person of one-fourth of the voting Members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at General Meetings.

### B. Voting

(1) Each Member is entitled to one vote, subject to Section 4 of Article Two, to be cast either in person or by written proxy.

(2) The election of Members of the Council may be by acclamation unless there is more than one candidate for a particular office. In that event, a secret ballot shall be used for each such office.

(3) A simple majority of the votes cast by Members in good standing at a General Meeting shall constitute a decision of the membership of the Association except where the vote or consent of a greater proportion of the members is required by the By-Laws.

## ARTICLE FIVE

### Fiscal Year, Accounts and Audit

*I thought this had been changed*  
Section 1. Fiscal Year - The Fiscal Year of the Association shall end at midnight December 31 of each year.

Section 2. Accounts - The Council shall cause to be kept proper books of account with respect to:

A. All sums of money received, donated, or expended by the Association and the particulars in respect of which the receipts and expenditures take place.

B. All sales and purchases by the Association.

C. The assets and liabilities of the Association.

D. All other transactions affecting the financial position of the Association.

Section 3. Audit - At the end of each fiscal year the accounts of the Association shall be examined. If deemed necessary by the Council, the correctness of such accounts and of the balance sheet shall be certified by an auditor approved by the Council. Such accounts shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Association for scrutiny and approval.

Section 4. All the necessary tax returns; corporate forms and any other necessary returns or information shall be filed in their proper and respective places.

## ARTICLE SIX

### Contracts, Checks, Drafts and Bank Accounts

Section 1. Contracts - Any and all deeds, documents, investments and writings signed for and on behalf of and in the name of the Association by the President or Vice-president and Secretary-Treasurer with the authorization of the Council, shall be binding upon the Association. Save as aforesaid or as otherwise stipulated in the By-Laws, no Officer, agent, or Member shall have any power or authority to bind the Association by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit.

Section 2. Checks and Drafts - All checks, bills of exchange or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued, accepted or endorsed in the name of the Association shall be signed by the Treasurer. Only the Treasurer or Council Member approved by the President may arrange, settle, and balance all books and accounts between the Association and its bankers and may receive all paid checks and vouchers and sign all the bank's forms of settlement of balances and release or verification slips.



Section 3. Deposits - All funds of the Association shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Association in such banks or trust companies as the Council may approve.

## **ARTICLE SEVEN**

Section 1. Authority - The Council may appoint by resolution such committees as may be required from time to time.

Section 2. Terms - All Committee memberships shall terminate at the Annual Meeting. It shall be the duty of Council to reconstitute such committees as required.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT**

Amendment. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any regular meeting, if the proposed amendment has been sent to every member at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

# CODE OF ETHICS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PLANETARIUM ASSOCIATION

Adopted: June 19, 1981

## Commitment to Patrons

The professional planetarian knows that his position exists because people have a need to be served. In serving the needs of people to understand our universe, the planetarian understands that he is seen as an expert and responds by maintaining the highest standards of integrity.

In fulfillment of the commitment to patrons, the planetarian:

promotes and extends public knowledge of, and appreciation for astronomy, science, the scientific process, and the planetarium profession;

shall not on the ground of race, color, creed, sex or national origin exclude any patron from participation in or deny him benefits under any program, nor grant him any discriminatory consideration or advantage;

shall not promote subjects and opinions not grounded upon scientific principles;

shall make every reasonable effort to protect patrons from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety;

shall respect the rights, beliefs, and sensitivities of the patrons;

shall not misrepresent an institution or organization with which he is affiliated, and shall take adequate precautions to distinguish between his personal and institutional or organizational views;

shall seek opportunities to be of constructive service in civic affairs and work for the advancement of the safety, health, and well-being of the community.

## Commitment to the Profession

No planetarian can perform his duties in a professional way without interacting with others in the profession. This interaction with other planetarians nurtures both the professional and the profession, providing new developments and techniques. The professional planetarian recognizes the value of working with the professional organizations and deals equitably with others in the profession.

In fulfillment of the commitment to the profession, the planetarian:

continues professional development throughout his career;

should strive to increase knowledge within the profession and share developments with colleagues;

shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession;

shall admit and accept his own errors when proven wrong and refrain from distorting or altering the facts in an attempt to justify his position;

avoids any act tending to promote his own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession;

shall not misrepresent his personal qualifications;

shall not knowingly distort evaluations of colleagues;

shall withhold and safeguard information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves professional purposes;

shall not refuse to participate in a professional inquiry when requested by an appropriate professional association;

shall not use coercive means or promise special treatment in order to influence professional decisions of colleagues;

shall give credit due to others for work, contributions, discoveries, or creations;

respects the rights of other artisans and professionals to collect just compensation for the fruits of their labors;

should actively support and participate in activities and programs of professional organizations;

should establish harmonious relations with other colleagues and members of other professions, and endeavor to inform members of related professions of services provided by the planetarium profession.

# NOTES



# "MEDIA MANIA" "STAR WATCH" THE NEWEST FRONTIER

By: George Fleenor  
Bishop Planetarium  
Bradenton, Florida

One of the main objectives for many planetarians is to present their product to a vast number of people in hopes of stimulating individuals to learn more about the cosmos. In some cases to make a buck as well! In today's society, planetarians have a unique opportunity to reach countless numbers of the populous. If every planetarium could run sold-out shows back to back, they still could not handle the number of people they could reach using the media. During this time of economic crunch, it is important for planetariums to use the news media to its fullest potential. The "Big 3" (newspaper, radio and television) offers the planetarian a unique opportunity for peddling his "star stuff". Producing monthly or weekly programming for the media can produce an increase in patrons visiting your facility.

The Bishop Planetarium has been producing monthly sky information articles for use in the local newspapers for over eleven years. These articles are designed to point out stellar events that even the most casual observer can enjoy. The "Sky Reporter" appears in approximately eleven newspapers located along the western Suncoast of Florida. The articles include a star chart which provides readers with six or seven of the brighter Messier's and a brief description of the object. The monthly sky column is a good way of not only introducing individuals to the wonders of the night sky, but a *great* way for the institution to be recognized. Many curious readers have responded by phone as well as by visiting the planetarium. The sky column is a good way to stimulate visitors without having the expense of paid advertising. Many newspapers welcome the opportunity for professional contributions without having to pay for them. Monthly sky columns serve both parties well, make for a long lasting relationship, and generate revenues for the institution.

In addition to monthly newspaper articles, you can take advantage of monthly or weekly radio shows. Unlike newspapers many radio stations target specific audiences. "Talk" radio stations are often looking for interesting and timely information to be used for discussion. If a radio station can rely on a facility monthly at a specific time slot, that facility is guaranteed to reach a larger audience than that reached in the newspaper media alone. A "live" radio program enables the planetarian to better elaborate

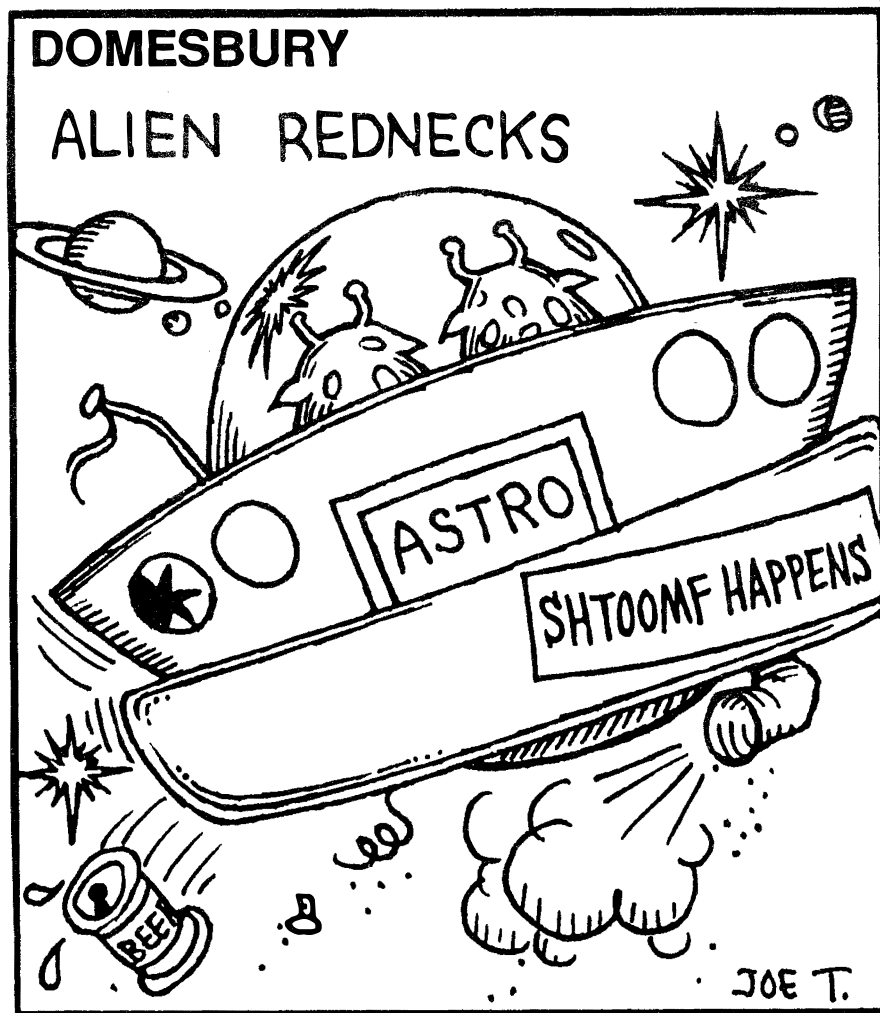
on the topics of discussion and share large amounts of information with the listening audience. Call-in "question and answer" shows can be very helpful and a lot of fun. Planetarians are often contacted for their professional knowledge during times of special events, and can capitalize on this media thirst for free information. Finding a local radio station to promote your facility is easy if you approach the idea from the point of view of the radio station and how you can best help them in entertaining their audiences.

Today more and more planetarians are getting into (or on) television. Television offers a very unique way of getting people to "keep looking up!". There is not a real need to produce a weekly elaborate sky information program since most P.B.S. stations already carry Jack Horkheimer's "Star Hustler". To produce a good quality professional program takes a lot of time, effort and MONEY! However, there are ways to produce television spots that won't bankrupt you or take much of your time. Several planetarians have already discovered this and are currently soaking the television stations for all the time they can get. Television station news teams are in competition with one another and are looking for new ways to promote their stations. Station Meteorologists are entering the world outside their normal atmosphere and are beginning to explore space! A few planetarians are conducting live astronomical presentations during newscasts. If the planetarian can work it out with the television station a lot of errors in communicating the science of Astronomy can be avoided. In some cases it is not practical for the planetarian to travel to the station. So how can a planetarian produce a weekly television sky show and not leave the comfort of the planetarium? The answer is easy. FAX THE FACTS!

Recently the Bishop Planetarium was approached by Tampa Bay's N.B.C. affiliate station. Their television news team has one of the highest ratings in the state, as well as the nation. WFLA's meteorologist Steve Udelson contacted the planetarium with the idea of producing a weekly spot to be used in the "weather" section of their morning news reports. Of course we said "Great! No problem!", and the rest is history. Every Tuesday morning the planetarium sends a fax to the television station providing information regarding celestial events for the upcoming weekend. We try to keep the materials exciting, yet uncomplicated, so we can educate the casual observers, as well as the weatherman! Each week's fax consists of written text and a celestial map of a specific part of the sky. After the fax arrives at the television station the meteorologist reads and briefly researches the information, and the star map goes to the graphics department. Beautiful graphics are produced representing the chosen topic, and a pleasing high tech presentation is made. Each "Star Watch" episode lasts from one and a half to two minutes, and is followed by a graphic identifying the facility, and giving the telephone number for more information.

The program has been a success and recently, due to the popularity of the spot, the station has asked if we can now provide information to be used twice a week! Twice a week on a major television station for FREE?! How could we say no? Twice a week, viewers in the Tampa Bay's potential audience of 1.8 million have the opportunity to be inspired by the Bishop Planetarium and the planetarium *suffers* from severe exposure.

By getting your facility mentioned in a positive and professional manner in the media, your attendance figures and revenues will most certainly rise. We, at the Bishop Planetarium, have found this approach to be very rewarding, with a minimal amount of effort.





# IS TECHNOLOGICAL ALWAYS LOGICAL?

by Rick Greenawald

T.C. Hooper Planetarium-Sciencesphere  
Roper Mountain Science Center  
Greenville, South Carolina

Technology, oh how we planetarians love to embrace it. This is obvious every time we attend a conference, whether it be a regional conference or the big one, IPS. At these conferences we get to see and hear about the latest toys and techniques available to us if we can just find the money. We also get to see other theaters with their technological wonders and how the staff uses the technology in their shows. Now, while I have seen many wonderful uses of technology, I have also seen its use strike a mortal blow to the heart of a show. All of this leads me to pose the question: Is technological always logical?

Now from the start don't get me wrong, I like technology. The Hooper Planetarium is a very technological theater. It houses a Digistar projector, a very fine automation system, a video system with laser disc players, a fiber optic connection to the observatory's CCD camera, and a host of animation arrays and special effects not to mention the sound system. I will also be the first to admit that I use all of this technology in our productions and I would feel lost without Digistar. However, the trick is to use the technology wisely.

Recently, we purchased a very fine show from another planetarium. This show is, in my opinion, superbly written and crafted. However, I have one problem with the show. This particular show came with laser discs, an interesting development, that had many wonderful video segments and it also had many still images. My problem is the use of video still images instead of slides. While the video stills wipe on and off in interesting fashions adding some motion to the show, they are in no way as crisp and clear as slide images. The result is a show with sharp slide images mixed with the video stills and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see a difference. The theater that put the show together was trying something new and I applaud them for their willingness to try something new, but I think it shows a clear case of technology not working as well as intended in a planetarium program. Having seen this flaw with my own eyes, I now wonder how long it will be before we see planetarians jumping onto the new cd photo system technology and displaying poorer quality images on their domes. Sure, it may save time and it would do away with pesky slide projectors, but at what cost? At some point we have to put quality at the top of the heap even if we use older and simpler technology.

I think there are a couple of good analogies we can use when putting together our shows. The first is to compare ourselves to model makers. If one was to go out and buy two identical model car kits and have a child assemble one and an expert model builder assemble the other, we all know that we would have two different cars for all practical purposes. The expert would carefully choose his glue, tools, paint and whatever else he felt was necessary to do a good job. The expert would probably also add things to the basic model. On the other hand, the child would be happy to use any old model glue and paint, and most likely would not add anything to the kit. We must strive to be like the expert model maker, carefully choosing our tools when working with our basic show kits. Of course even the experts make mistakes, but they learn from their mistakes and move on.

The second good analogy is comparing ourselves to an artist, say a painter. When a painter sits down to paint, he or she has a palette full of different paints to choose from. The way in which the painter selects these paints defines his style just as much as his brush strokes do. A painter will not only select, but also mix paints in just the right way to achieve the desired effect. As planetarians, our palette is full of different technologies: slide projectors, special effect projectors, video, lasers, Digistar, etc. If we, like the artist, choose carefully from our palette, we can create a show with just the right effects and variety to leave our audience duly impressed.

In the production process, one of the most important questions I ask myself is: What technique or technology looks best for the desired effect in the show? The whole idea is to use what looks the best so that the program is stronger for it. If that means using a slide instead of a video still image, then we use the slide. If a simple special effects projector looks better than video, then we use the special effect. Even if video works better than Digistar we will use the video segment. I try not to let the price of the technology dictate its use. As you probably know, there is strong tendency to say we have got it so we have got to use it. This is especially true as the price of the technology increases. But if it weakens the show, why use it?

Another important question I ask myself is: Am I beating a dead horse? If I have used a certain effect in my last two shows, I try to find a new way of creating the effect. The last thing I want my audience to experience is *deja vu* if I can possibly avoid it. Unfortunately we cannot always avoid it if we only have one way of creating the desired effect. I also try to avoid repeating the same effect over and over in the same show. I can think of another show kit we bought where a certain scene was repeated a good half dozen times or more with only a few slides provided to carry it off. To overcome the problem, we used several different techniques including Digistar, video, special effects, panoramas and slides to avoid that *deja vu* feeling. A good mixture of technology helps keep a show fresh for the audience and therefore helps hold their interest.

There are a couple of other technology trends I would call into question. The first being these new low cost programs that provide a complete show on a video tape with the use of a few wide angle slides. Why not just produce a whole video and market directly to the home audience? If video carries the complete show, can we really call this a planetarium show? My answer is no. The general program might be fantastic, but in my opinion it is not a planetarium program. It is another case of one technology being relied on too heavily. The second technology trend is the audience response system, where your audience has a say in the direction in which the program goes. This can be a terrific technology in that no two shows are the same and the audience is involved in the show. But, if the list of choices illicit no great desire on their part to participate, the technology dooms the

show. The whole concept is based on the audience members caring about the choices and such shows must be carefully written and crafted to keep them interested.

So now it is time for me to give you my answer to the question: Is technological always logical? My answer is two part. Yes, if it is entrusted to a caring and conscientious planetarian who will choose carefully and wisely from his or her palette. No, if technology is used just for the sake of using it and in the process it drags the show down with it.

Technology must always be used wisely to be of benefit. Take nuclear science, it has the potential to cure disease and the potential to destroy us all. It must be used wisely. A planetarium show is not life or death, but it is our area of expertise. So why not choose wisely?



# SEPA 1993

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER



Vendor Registration-----	May 14th
Hotel Reservations-----	May 14th
Paper Requests-----	May 17th
Delegate Registration-----	June 4th

For more information, write or call:

John Hare  
Bishop Planetarium  
201 10th Street West  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
(813) 746-4132

# TWIN PLANETARIA IN LAFAYETTE AND POITIERS

by Dave Hostetter  
Lafayette Natural History Museum  
and Planetarium  
Lafayette, Louisiana

Lafayette, Louisiana, and Poitiers, France, are two cities with official economic and business ties; they have been officially proclaimed "sister cities". Lafayette is the home of the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium, while Poitiers is the home of the museum Espace Pierre Mendes France, formerly called Devenir.

Historical ties between the two towns go back well before the founding of Lafayette itself, to early North American colonial times when the eastern Canadian seaboard (called Acadia) was colonized by French settlers. Many were from the Poitou region of France, of which Poitiers is a part. At the beginning of what Americans call the French and Indian War (really the fourth of a series of wars in North America between the French and British), most of the French-Canadian settlers of Acadia were banished by the British. Many ultimately made their way to what is now southern Louisiana. That area, including Lafayette, is now referred to as Acadiana, and many of the descendants of those original settlers are called Cajuns (apparently a corruption of the word Acadian).

Today, Lafayette is a city of about 100,000 people in the center of southern Louisiana and Cajun country. Although the area's Cajun heritage has left a distinct mark on the city, it is a fairly typical American city of its size. Poitiers is nearly as big, with a population of about 90,000, located some 250 kilometers southwest of Paris. As with so many European cities, it has a long history, with buildings dating back as far as the 4th Century.

Following a business trip to Poitiers in 1991, Mr. Phil Lank, then Director of Lafayette's Department of Community Development (of which the Museum and Planetarium is a part), requested that I make contact with the staff at Espace Pierre Mendes France to establish an official relationship between our planetarium and the one under construction at that time in Poitiers. Clearly such a thing fell within the concept of twin planetaria as outlined by IPS; since I had been thinking about trying to make such a contact somewhere in Europe anyway, I thought that Poitiers provided an ideal opportunity. The fact that officials in both museums and city governments already favored such a possibility only made things more interesting.

I attempted to make initial contact with Espace Pierre Mendes France during the summer of 1991. After a few

false starts due to language and time differences (not to mention vacation schedules), I was able to get in touch with Professor Jean Jacquesson. While not a planetarium staff member, he was instrumental in the development of Poitiers' planetarium; I was quite pleased to find him enthused about forming an official relationship between our facilities.

We corresponded several times during the Fall, particularly about sources for US programs and planetarium equipment. In December, Professor Jacquesson traveled to the United States for a visit. He spent a day in Lafayette observing school programs and scheduling, and examining our planetarium equipment and infrastructure, then flew to Memphis to the Pink Palace Planetarium and to New York City and the Hayden Planetarium. It must have been a worthwhile trip, as I later discovered he wrote a 60 page report about it!

The planetaria in Lafayette and Poitiers officially became twins as of January 1, 1992. Although we refer to our facilities as twin planetaria, they are of course physically very different. The planetarium in Lafayette has a 9.1 meter dome housing a Spitz A-4 installed in 1969. Its 58 seats are arranged concentrically, with each seat rotating 360 degrees. Dissolve units and special effects projectors are housed in a pair of projection booths, behind the dome, and in the cove; a system by MediaTech provides manual control and partial automation. In contrast, the planetarium in Poitiers has a 12 meter dome with an automated Spitz System 512; and has over a hundred seats in an epicentric arrangement. Dissolve units and special effects projectors are housed in an open area behind the seats and above the console, which features full computerized automation. Video can be projected from a position ahead of or behind the star machine. Four-color laser images are projected from opposite points in the theater, conducted to those points by fiber optics. The dome can be filled with fog to allow laser imagery to fill the theater.

I was invited to the grand opening of the planetarium at Espace Pierre Mendes France, and to my astonishment was sent as Lafayette's official representative. By the time I arrived I discovered the staff was virtually ready, probably with fewer last second problems than I normally have just putting in a new program! Events such as media programs and VIP programs went off quite well, officially adding a new member to the family of European planetariums.

We were able to use some of my time there to follow up on ideas previously suggested for cooperation between our twin domes. We hope that the Lafayette Natural History Museum will be able to borrow an excellent exhibit from Poitiers on the subject of Mexican archaeoastronomy, supplying English language labels in addition to the French labels with the exhibit itself. Since many of the people in southern Louisiana speak French,

we hope this will not only bring in some people who might not ordinarily visit the Museum, but will also provide them with a link to France itself. Other possibilities discussed included simple photo displays of the two facilities in each other's domes, satellite links between the two museums during festivals or other special events, participation of the Lafayette Natural History Museum in France's annual National Day of Science, and exchanging interns. One very exciting suggestion was the development of a special program to be run in each dome simultaneously; given the close cultural ties between the two regions, such a program promises to be unique.

As far as I can tell, there are a limited number of planetaria that have officially twinned. There don't seem to be many official guidelines or rules, so the staffs in Lafayette and Poitiers are more or less making things up as we go. It's been interesting so far, and I hope that we are laying the groundwork for what will become a long-lasting and mutually beneficial friendship. Although twinning requires a lot of work, I have found it to be so rewarding that I recommend trying it.



## THE PROOF IS IN THE VIDEO

By: B. G. Tatum  
R. L. Wiley Planetarium  
Cleveland, Mississippi

Recently, I had shown a video entitled *Space Age* to one of my Astronomy classes at Delta State University. A major portion of this video dealt with evidence to support the Big Bang Theory.

After viewing the video tape, I asked the class to write a short essay and answer a couple of questions about the video. While reading the papers I ran across the following account:

"I have never heard of the Big Bang Theory. However, I found it very interesting and would not mind knowing more about it. I did not catch when it happened, but from the way the people in the video were dressed, I figure it occurred about 30 years ago."



# NEWS FROM SEPA STATES



## ALABAMA

The three Atlanta school district planetariums (**Harper, Fulton, and Northside**) finished installation of East Coast Control Systems automation systems, enabling them to run identical shows. Bob Tate, of Harper Planetarium, met with other regional presidents in January to discuss plans for a National Planetarium Council.

**Rollins Planetarium** in Young Harris is looking for a person to fill in for director Jimmy Westlake during his one year leave of absence beginning July 1. Anyone interested should call Dr. Clay Dotson, (706) 379-3111 for more details.



## FLORIDA

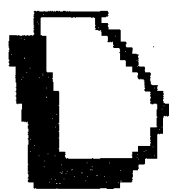
The **Jim Cherry Memorial Planetarium**, of the Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta, is currently playing a show based on the legend of Peter Pan, entitled, *Second Star on the Right, Straight on 'til Morning, and Search for the Golden Fleece*. This summer, they present *Happy Birthday Moon*, based on the books of Frank Asch, and *Worlds of Fire and Ice*, about the inner planets. Director David Dundee reports that they recently installed a second video projector.

Florida Planetarians (FlorPlan) met at the John Young Planetarium in Orlando on April 3. Planetariums represented at the meeting included: Bishop Planetarium, Bradenton; B.C.C. Planetarium, Cocoa; Buehler Planetarium, Davie; Nature Center Planetarium, Ft. Myers; John Young Planetarium, Orlando; St. Petersburg Jr. College Planetarium, St. Petersburg; Museum of Science & Industry Planetarium, Tampa. Other representatives attended from East Coast Control Systems, Joe Hopkins Engineering, and Audio Visual Imagineering.

The **Savannah Science Museum Planetarium** has been offering a show entitled *Jupiter* for their Sunday public shows.

Welcome to Florida Jon U. Bell!

Don Barry, a student at Georgia State University, has a working Spitz A-1 in his bedroom! No word on whether he gives public shows.



## GEORGIA

**Carole Helper  
Mark Smith Planetarium  
Macon**

The **Mark Smith Planetarium** is currently rerunning *A Planet Called Earth*. We are also gearing up to present Astral Projections' *Dinosaur Tales* this summer. We plan to run a shortened version of the show 95 times each week.

Bob Dunagan, at Albany's **Wetherbee Planetarium** will be presenting *Cosmic Catastrophes* through May. Bob runs three different versions of the show, all without an automation system.



## KENTUCKY



## LOUISIANA

**Dave Hostetter  
Natural History Museum  
and Planetarium  
Lafayette**

The Planetarium in Lafayette remains out of operation awaiting repairs and possible renovation. There

is some possibility of moving the entire Museum and Planetarium to another building, and funding has been authorized for a detailed study of that building's condition and what would be needed to renovate it as a museum. Since the study is not due until the end of the summer, planetarium and astronomy programming will probably revolve around a Starlab and school classrooms well into 1994.

From the **St. Charles Parish Library and Planetarium** in Luling, Gary Meibaum reports finding an inexpensive method of reducing hiss on old audio tapes using a noise limiter and an expander. Contact him for more information.



## MISSISSIPPI



## NORTH CAROLINA

The **Morehead Planetarium** in Chapel Hill is a busy place. They will be celebrating May Day and the 20th anniversary of Astronomy Day at an observatory session on May 1, from 8:30 -- 10:00 PM. They will be having activities for a week prior to May 1st to help celebrate Astronomy Day. Upcoming shows in the planetarium will be: *Mystery of the Universe*, *Ages of Discovery*, and *Rainbow War*. Courses and classes being offered during Spring and Summer 1993 are: *Training for Mars*, for grades 4 - 6; *Star to Star*, for grades 1 and 2; *Shadow Time*, for grades 3 and 4; *Astronomy Day Camp*, for grades 6 - 8; *History of Astronomy*, for adults; *NASA Teacher Videoconference Series: Space Technology*, for elementary and secondary education teachers; *Model Rocket Launch Pad*, for all interested parties.

## SOUTH CAROLINA



**Rick Greenawald**  
**Hooper Planetarium**  
**Greenville**

The South Carolina planetariums are remaining fairly busy these days. In Columbia, at the **Gibbes Planetarium**, Jeff Guill hosted 150 to 200 Girl Scouts who were working on their Space Explorers Badge. Gibbes is currently running *Cosmic Catastrophies*. The staff is working on the *Venus* program available from Loch Ness Productions, as well as the program *Space Bus* which they will be offering as a special children's show this summer.

James Brown, of the **Stanback Planetarium** in Orangeburg, has just opened a NASA regional teacher resource center and is hosting a NASA educators workshop the week of July 12th. The educators workshop will run from 9 AM to 4 PM, and a different topic will be covered each day.

From the **Settlemyre Planetarium** at the Museum of York County in Rock Hill, Glenn Dantzer reports that they are in the process of putting a video system and surround sound in the theater. Glenn also reports that they are trying to acquire a 24 inch f17 cassegrain telescope of research quality. The telescope will be placed in a new educational observatory at a sight near the planetarium.

Finally, here in Greenville, I will have seen the completion of the reupholstering of our theater seats by the time this is published. Those of you who attended the SEPA conference here may have noticed how worn the seats were after less than two years of use. The new fabric is a plush velour and still green. Have you ever noticed that my name is GREENawald, I live in GREENville, the predominate color of my theater is GREEN, and to top it off, I'm a native of GREEN Bay! There's just something about that color in my life (by the way my eyes are also GREEN). Back to more serious things - we are currently running *Venus: Earth's Fiery Twin*. The program originated at the **Buhl Planetarium** and we are very pleased with how it turned out and with the audience response.



## TENNESSEE



**Kris McCall**  
**Sudekum Planetarium**  
**Nashville**

Duncan Teague, Director of the **Craigmont High School Planetarium** in Memphis, sends news that after publishing *Skylights* for over seven years, they have begun a second newsletter called *Twinkles* for grades K thru 3. Both newsletters are written and produced by student astronomy interns and feature articles, charts, diagrams, puzzles, and games. They have also been providing planet positions and moonrise/moonset data the *The Commercial Appeal* for over a year. This daily feature has resulted in tremendous exposure for their facility, and has quadrupled the size of their community mailing list. Last summer, Joe Hopkins Engineering installed a ScreenMaster control system for their video and slide projectors. Duncan wrote an article about the new automation capabilities for the *Apple Core* (Apple & Macintosh user group) newsletter.

Lynn Blair, the new Science Facilitator at the East Tennessee Discovery Center in Knoxville, home of the **Akima Planetarium** reports that the Discovery Center is down to three full-time and four part-time staff. Lynn is certified in Tennessee to teach Earth and Space Science. After teaching middle and high school science for several years, Lynn says she is having fun in the planetarium and finds the museum to be a fascinating new experience in education programming.

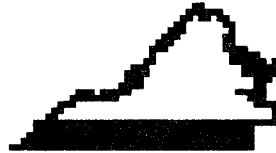
Dr. Gary Henson, assistant professor in the Physics Department at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, reports that their planetarium has been essentially dead since Bob Darling retired some years ago. However, Dr. Henson is working diligently to reverse that situation. Recent improvements to the theater include new headrests and air-conditioning. ("Yes, the completely enclosed, light-tight room had no air-conditioning for almost 30 years!") The main use of their planetarium is as a laboratory space for ETSU classes. Dr. Henson is hoping to offer programs to the general public in the near future, in addition to the shows he has already been giving for schools, clubs, etc. It is great to hear that the ETSU Planetarium is alive and well and in good hands!

The **Sudekum Planetarium** here in Nashville has just premiered a new, original program entitled *STAR STEALERS: Planet Patrol 2*. This show follows planetary investigator Sam Snork and stellar specialist Ursula Major as they track down the star stealers, Billy Bootes and Chester von Trifid. Along the way they learn about the constellations visible in the current night sky, how stars are formed, how they can die, and what happens if you get too close to a black hole. The **Sudekum** production of

*THE PLANET PATROL: Solar System Stake Out* just received the Certificate of Commendation (Second Place) as part of the Tennessee Association of Museums Annual Award of Merit. We are hoping to present either or both of these exciting programs at the SEPA conference in Bradenton this summer.

Sharon Mendonsa, planetarium and Starlab educator at the **Sudekum**, won first place in the Best New Product Idea Contest sponsored by Learning Technologies, the makers of Starlab. Sharon proposed an easily attachable cylinder cover that would block out the stars and leave the moon/sun visible. For this she will receive \$500 in Project STAR materials.

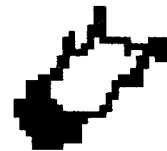
Robin Levine-Fields, planetarium and Starlab educator at the **Sudekum** give birth to a baby boy on March 8th. It should be noted that one of the first things the proud parents did was to show Max Emil the full moon that was shining brightly through the window. And some people say it's an old wives' tale that the full moon affects when women will give birth. Hah!



## VIRGINIA

The **Arlington Public Schools Planetarium** will be presenting *The People* - April 16 thru May 22, and *THE PLANET PATROL: Solar System Stake-Out* - April 18 thru May 23. They are also offering an Adult Education course entitled *Astronomy 0!0!0!: Life, the Universe and Everything* beginning April 29. The No. Va. Astronomy Club meets in the planetarium on the third Wednesday of each month.

The **Virginia Living Museum Planetarium** has announced the resignation of Jon Bell. Jon had been in Newport News since August 1979. He is now the director of the new facility at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, Florida. VLM's Assistant Planetarium Curator, David Maness, is now Acting Astronomy Director.



## West Virginia