

President's Message

I've been President for over a year, yet it seems like yesterday Richard McColman (Chapel Hill, NC) handed over the slings and arrows that come with the job. I haven't really encountered any arrows which makes me wonder if I have served the organization well. I need ideas from you about what I should be doing or could be doing better.

There are several issues I hope to be able to address or resolve before my term ends. At the top of the heap is the thorny membership matter. Special Committee chair Mike Chesman (Kingsport, TN), has been busy investigating and discussing all sides of the debate. Mike's report is in this issue.

The goal is to propose by laws changes based on the committee's recommendations and for Council to provide additional clarification. I hope we can vote on this in the business meeting this summer. If you have opinions to add to the stew, get them to Mike ASAP. Proposed changes will be published in the next issue, so be looking for them.

It'll be a busy business meeting. Though we had a special election last summer, it's time to hold regular elections for officers. I'm putting together a nominating committee that will consider potential candidates to lead SEPA into the next century. If you'd like to suggest names for consideration, contact me soon so all the election information makes it into the next issue of our Journal.

I'm looking forward to Pensacola in '97, but where will we meet in '98? I went to a GLPA meeting years ago and was impressed they had conference sites planned three years in advance, but this year they're looking for someone to host their '97 conference.

I'm calling for bids for the '98 meeting. Bear in mind it looks like IPS in London will start on either June 28 or as early as June 21. The best dates for SEPA '98 may be June 9-13, but the following week would be acceptable with the understanding there may be some overlap with IPS. Sometimes you can do nothing to make everyone happy, so we should do what's best for the organization and its members.

If you're brave enough to meet the chal-

lenge, and you plan to bid for '98, contact me ahead of time. We must get you in the conference agenda and allow enough time for presentations at the business meeting. If 1998 is just too soon or you will be opening the world's neatest, most sophisticated dome about that time, please start thinking about 1999 or even 2000. Or you could host SEPA 2001, the 30th annual gathering of this unique group of individuals.

And while we are planning for SEPA 1998, we can also cast our vote for IPS 2000. There are an unprecedented five bids for that opportunity: Calgary and Montreal Canada, Charlotte, SC, Adler in Chicago, and Morelia, Mexico. According to IPS President Jim Manning (Bozeman, MT), all are neat places. It would be good if we could give our IPS representative John Hare (Bradenton, FL) an idea of our preference before he votes at IPS in Osaka in July.

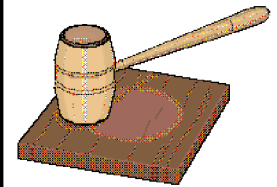
I recently received a note from Sue Reynolds (Syracuse, NY) who heads up the IPS Portable Planetarium Network. She asked if SEPA had a similar group and if there was a specified representative. Since SEPA does not have a formal portable group, I volunteered Sharon Mendonsa (Nashville, TN) as an interim representative for SEPA in this area. She will be funneling information to SEPA members as it becomes available. If there is someone else who wants the job or has suggestions for Sharon, please do not hesitate to get in touch with her.

That's about it for the real official business. However, as I review some of my recent editorials, the theme of communication keeps coming up. Reach out to your fellow planetarians in and out of the region members of SEPA and those who are not. Help them become part of the larger planetarium community. Invite them to our conference. Write articles for your Journal. Get your two cents worth into discussions. Share ideas, concerns, stories, and jokes.

Erich Landstrom (Savannah, GA) asked what we're doing to commemorate the tenth

(continued on page 26)

Kristine K. McCall
President
Sudekum Planetarium
Nashville, TN



Membership Committee Re-

Mike Chesman
President-Elect
Bays Mountain Planetarium
Kingsport, TN

In the last issue of Southern Skies I detailed how the Membership Committee would be taking a broad look at SEPA's membership policies. To that end, our committee has spent long hours reviewing and evaluating current SEPA policies through faxes, email, and many phone calls. (If you want an interesting experience, try conducting a six party conference call some time!)

Some people from outside the committee were solicited for comments, and even a few folks (although very few) responded to our request from last issue. I won't repeat anything from that last letter, but it might be helpful for you to review it before tackling the findings and suggestions detailed below.

A survey of other planetarium regional groups showed that membership policy did vary. A few groups had no restrictions on individuals voting or holding office. One had a geographical restriction on those privileges similar to SEPA's. Another had restrictions placed on corporate or institutional style memberships. In looking over the by laws of these organizations, it was also noted a few had gray areas where policy could not be determined by just looking at the groups by laws. We wanted to avoid any such confusion in SEPA by laws and actually found that our current policies were accurately worded in the by laws.

It was also surmised that groups that had very open membership policies similar to the I.P.S. had evolved these policies before a national or international professional planetarium community had fully grown and matured. The most common comment we received from the members we contacted was to keep a regional focus!

For that reason, it was decided that whatever we came up with should strive to maintain SEPA's strong regional identity and should not replicate the benefits of a national or international planetarium group.

In 1995, a by law change which provided full membership to a broader range of individuals within the geographical boundaries of SEPA was passed. This

event sparked quite a bit of controversy after the business meeting and was the reason Kris McCall asked us to look at all of SEPA's membership policies for the 1996 conference.

Having done so, the committee feels that it is not necessary to make any change to the by law as it was passed. Furthermore, the intent of the by law change is in perfect keeping with the desire to maintain a regional focus to SEPA. The group is in agreement that the right to vote or hold office is a privilege that should continue to apply to individuals only and that they reside within the SEPA region just as it is stated in Article Two, section 1A.

It was also agreed by this committee that Article Two, section 1C on Patrons is no different from the requirements for Associate status. Therefore, we recommend that this class of membership be dropped. A goal for us was to investigate the membership of groups in our organization. The only place where this membership can be inferred is under Associate status where the wording persons or institutions is used in the by laws. We interpret institutions to be businesses, museums, schools, or any other group interested in the aims of the Association. We would like to drop the implication of group membership under Associate status by dropping the use of institutions in Article Two, section 1B. Also to clarify that Associates are indeed members and have the right to certain benefits, we are recommending that Associate status be changed to read Associate membership.

With those minor changes, we have fully included any individuals who wish to join SEPA by providing either Full or Associate membership. But have no fear; we still believe that companies, benefactors, museums, schools, or any others who wish to join us in promoting our agenda should be able to do so. (See the Statement of Purpose that leads off our by laws). To address that need we are suggesting a new classification of membership for Supporting members.

Some of these groups will no doubt

(Continued on page 23)

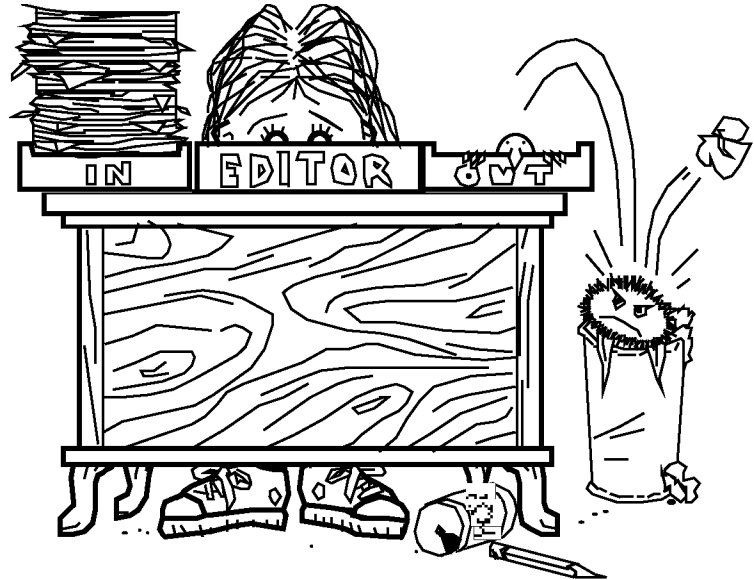
Do-Be-Do-Be-Dues Be Due

I certainly outsmarted myself this time! I assumed I could just put the expiration date for your SEPA membership on your mailing label and then dues checks from sharp eyed planetarians would just start rolling in. Hah! So here's your notification in a not so subtle form. Pay your dues! Now! All but a precious few are receiving this issue of Southern Skies gratis. This is the last one you'll get unless you whip out that check book and mail me that \$15.00 right away. Please photocopy and send in the form at the bottom of this page along with your check.

Though we have no official policy toward purchase orders, please refrain from having your parent institution pay your dues. Mine strictly forbids that practice. Pay your dues yourself and get yourself reimbursed. Your officers serve with no compensation. It's a pain in the fiscal butt to have to generate an invoice for \$15.00 and fill out the paperwork some institutions require to show SEPA is a non profit organization. Tell your employer SEPA's federal employer identification number is 000 00 0090. Purchase orders! Geez!

SEPA's By laws are now in electronic form to allow easy updating if we change them in the future. You can find them immediately following Mike Chesman's Membership Committee report.

Duncan R. Teague
Secretary/Treasurer
Southern Skies Editor
Craigmont Planetarium
Memphis, TN



A final thought: the next deadline for Southern Skies is April 1. No foolin'.

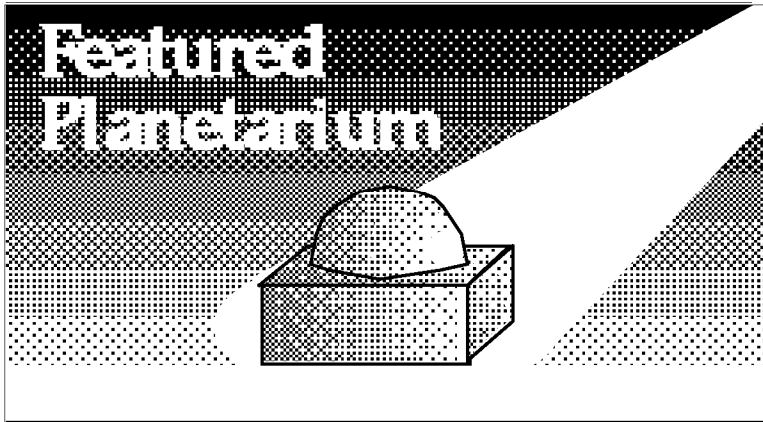
Send your \$15.00 check made payable to SEPA to the following address:
Craigmont Planetarium, 3333 Covington Pike, Memphis, TN 38128 3902

Name		
Planetarium		
Organization		
Address		
City		
State	Zip	
Area	Voice	
Area	Fax	
Position		

Pink Palace Planetarium

Memphis, Tennessee

Dave Hostetter
Featured Planetarium Ed.
Lafayette Natural History
Museum & Planetarium
Lafayette, LA



Mike Cutrera

Anthony Hall
Author
Pink Palace Planetarium
Memphis, TN

When the original Memphis Pink Palace Planetarium opened its doors in 1954, it brought the wonders of the universe to a town still struggling to know itself. In a sleepy little river city that was watching the blues evolve into rock and roll while beginning to come to terms with the civil rights movement, the people were being given the opportunity to understand their place in the cosmos.

Though unimpressive by today's standards, the first planetarium was a major addition to the Pink Palace Museum. In a museum which was still unable, by law, to provide education for both black and white children on the same day, an 18 foot dome was placed in small room just off a stair landing between the two floors of the mansion which houses the museum.

The windows were then painted and a Spitz star projector was placed in the middle of single row of seats which backed up to the wall of the circular room. The museum was now ready to teach Memphians about the universe.

In 1977, the museum underwent a major renovation project. Part of this renovation included the construction of a new planetarium. In 1978, the city unveiled the current facility.

The Memphis Pink Palace Planetarium now has 165 concentric seats beneath a 50 foot dome. The dome is brought to life with a Viewlex/Minolta Series IV star projector and a system of 44 carousel projectors.

Today, the planetarium offers a wide variety of programming for the whole community. Like any planetarium, teaching people to appreciate astronomy is our primary focus. As a result, we have kept live presentation as the primary focus of our school shows. The ability to tailor a show to the needs of a specific group is the most efficient and entertaining way to teach astronomy.

Public shows are often more theme oriented offerings meant to delve a bit deeper into specific areas of astronomy. For instance, our current show, Earth Watch, deals with the possibility of Earth being struck by Near Earth Objects such as asteroids and dead comets as well as the history of such collisions. EarthWatch, like most shows presented, was produced in house by the planetarium staff.

We do not, however, ignore the public's need for basic astronomy. Twice a year, during the fall and spring, we offer live lecture series to the public. And let us not forget about laser light shows.

Over the course of the year we produce and present several laser shows. Most are, of course, rock oriented shows geared toward the younger audiences, but we also have our Holiday Laser Spectacular and, most notably, our Elvis: Legacy In Light show which we present every August during Elvis International Tribute Week. This year we are also going to develop a Memphis Music Laser Light Show which will showcase the variety of music and musicians that have made Memphis known around the world.

At this point, if you are like most other sane people, you are asking yourself; Where did the name Pink Palace come from? The Museum was originally housed in a mansion which had been built by Clarence Saunders, a wealthy entrepreneur who is best known as the man who started Piggly Wiggly supermarkets. Because the mansion was constructed primarily of pink

marble, the local newspaper dubbed the house The Pink Palace.

In 1923, before the mansion was completed, Saunders lost his fortune in a vicious Wall Street battle. The City of Memphis eventually took control of the unfinished structure and turned it into a museum. Since this time, The Pink Palace has undergone many changes. Today, there is an expansive permanent exhibit hall and a recently developed changing exhibit area.

The museum completed the construc

tion of an IMAX® theater in early 1995 and is currently renovating the original mansion, which is scheduled to reopen to the public in the spring of 1996.

Over the years The Memphis Pink Palace Planetarium, like the museum and city which surround it, has changed for the better. Through strong educational programs and public observing events, the planetarium staff is achieving the goal of creating and maintaining awareness of astronomy; an awareness that, like all types of education, helps a community prepare

Featured Planetarium:
Pink Palace Planetarium
Memphis, TN
continued

SEPA Fever

It was with excitement and anticipation of SEPA 96 information that I opened my latest copy of Southern Skies. Due to circumstances and scheduling beyond my control, I was unable to attend the 95 conference in Macon, GA. I made many friends at the 94 gathering in Charlotte,

NC and wondered if summer programming conflicts would let me enjoy the comraderie of SEPA members again. It now appears I will be able to attend SEPA 96 in Nashville, TN in June. (I'll get out my Road Atlas!)

(continued on page 10)

Barbara Reynolds
Settlemyre Planetarium

Costa Rican Naturalist Tour

Explore the tremendous biodiversity of Costa Rica's wildest forests. This value packed trip includes visits to mountain wet forests of Tapanti Wildlife Refuge, the dry forests of Santa Rosa National Park, cloud forests in the Talamanca Mountains, and a Caribbean low land rainforest.

Additional features include visits to Costa Rica's largest geothermal power plant and

hotsprings, an indigenous Chorotega Indian community famous for its pottery, Lankester Gardens, the oldest churches in the country, the largest tropical agricultural research center in the New World, rafting the Corobicí

River and a city tour of San José.

The land cost of \$1,987 is per person, double occupancy, and is all inclusive except items of a personal nature. Reduced airfares available throughout the U.S., starting at \$294 from Miami to Orlando (subject to availability). Group size is limited to 15 persons.

This trip will be led by Chris Migliaccio, Associate Professor of Natural Science, Miami Dade Community College/Wolfson Campus.

For reservations, contact Holbrook Travel/Group Department at 800 451 7111. Your \$200 deposit (fully refundable until May 31, 1996) will guarantee your space on this tour.





Jalie Pfifer
Morehead Planetarium
Chapel Hill, NC

Global Mythology, Part 1: The Winter Constellations

Global Mythology will be serialized in four parts within the 1996 issues of *Southern Skies*. Fall and circumpolar constellations plus a bibliography will appear in part four.

ORION



mads, who would steal their food. To defend themselves, at the end of summer every year the farmers would organize and select a leader to direct their battles. Tsan, then, was the commander of the forces. (P. 67, 70 *The New Patterns in the Sky*)

5. (MARSHALL ISLANDS) In the islands of the Pacific, people saw in these stars a fisherman being attacked by an octopus. The fisherman quickly struck the octopus with a stone tool, and the octopus squirted its smokescreen of dark liquid into the water. The constellation captures the action at this point in time. (P. 68 *The New Patterns in the Sky*)

6. (BRAZIL) The Bororo Natives picture a giant cayman, a relative of the crocodile and alligator. The cayman is a fear

some and dangerous creature, and this constellation was sacred to the Bororo. These same people sometimes imagined a turtle in the same stars: Jabuti the Turtle. (P. 70-71 *The New Patterns in the Sky*)

7. (BORNEO) The Dayak people saw an animal trap in Orion. (P. 68 *The New Patterns in the Sky*)

8. (HAWAIIAN) The Hawaiians saw the belt of Orion as darts, and called the group Kao Makali i Na kao, which means, the darts of Makali i.

TAURUS

1. (GREEK) Taurus the Bull was an avid follower of Bacchus, the Greek god of wine. During festivals, Taurus was adorned with beautiful flowers. The Hyades, the faint stars that seem to be hiding in the bull's face, were dancing girls, as were the Pleiades in his body. The Pleiades are the famous Seven Sisters. They were the seven daughters of Atlas, the giant who held the world up on his shoulders. Their names were Alcyone, Merope, Celaeno, Electra, Asterope, Taygete, and Maia. The Hyades were their half sisters. One day, Orion decided to go after the lovely Pleiades, but Venus changed them into doves, and they all flew away. (P. 75 *The New Patterns in the Sky*)

The Pleiades were also seen as seven grapes, as Taurus served the god of wine.

2. (CHINESE) The Chinese divided the sky into four seasons of constellations. Springtime was the Blue Dragon; summer was the Red Bird; autumn was the White Tiger; and winter was the Black Tortoise. Each one of these animals was divided into seven houses of stars, along with many additional constellations. The stars in the face of Taurus the Bull were the fifth house of the White Tiger, and were called Py, the Net. The Pleiades were pictured as a second net sometimes, and the two nets were to

gether called Tien kang, the Celestial Snares. (P. 63 Stars of Jade)

3. (HAWAIIAN) The eye of the bull, Aldebaran, was called Makali i. The Pleiades were called Na huihui a Makali i, which meant the eyes of Makali i. Long ago, Hawaii Loa, a fisherman and expert on star lore, used to make long fishing trips out to sea. Makali i was his Chief Navigator, the Eyes of the Chief. On one of these long trips, Hawaii Loa discovered Hawaii. Hawaii Loa became the mythological founder of Hawaii's ruling chiefs (welo ali i), while Makali i became father of the commonfolk (welo kanaka). Makali i is often associated with the island of Kauai.
4. (POLYNESIAN) Once upon a time, the six stars of the Pleiades were only one, single star, so full of beauty and brilliance that it began boasting that no other star in the heavens could be compared to it. After listening night after night to this bragging, the other stars in the sky became angry and asked the god Tane if he would do something about it. Tane plucked red Aldebaran out of his place and threw him at the boastful star with tremendous force. Strong Aldebaran was happy to help punish the conceited star, and when he slammed into the star, he wasn't hurt at all, while the bragging star was shattered into six smaller stars. But are the Pleiades humble even now? The Polynesians say when the night is clear, one can hear the six Pleiades whispering that they are now even more beautiful than they were before being shattered, because now there are six of them rather than only one. (P. 132-133 The Constellations, how they came to be)
5. (NATIVE AMERICAN) In American Indian legend, the Pleiades were seven young boys who loved to play all day, but never liked to do their chores. One evening, their seven mothers called to the boys to come eat dinner. But the boys decided to run away so they would never have to do any chores again. When their mothers realized the boys were not coming, they went after them, calling. The boys started dancing together, faster and faster. As they danced, they started to rise up above the ground. The mothers caught up to the boys just as they were starting to rise up out of reach. Come back! the mothers called, but the boys paid no attention. One

mother just managed to catch the ankle of her son, the youngest boy, and pulled him back down to earth. But the other six rose higher and higher, until now we see them as six little stars, still dancing together. (P. 116-117 They Dance in the Sky: Native American Star Myths)

CANIS MAJOR and CANIS MINOR

1. (GREEK) Canis Major and Canis Minor were the big and little hunting dogs of Orion the Hunter. They are seen close by their master in the winter sky, following him into his battle with Taurus the Bull. Sirius, the dog star, happens to be the brightest star visible in the entire sky with the naked eye. It is a beautiful, white star which is fairly close to us.
2. (HAWAIIAN) Sirius is Aa, meaning fire. Aa is also a type of ragged lava that hurts your feet to walk on bare foot.
3. (ARABIC) Canis Major is Al Kalb al Jabbar, the Dog of the Giant. Sometimes two different names are used: Al Kalb al Akbar, The Greater Dog, and Al Kalb al Asghar, The Lesser Dog. A second Arabian legend is that the bright stars Sirius and Procyon were two sisters, and the Milky Way was a great river in the sky. One day, the sisters were following their brother. He swam across the Milky Way, and so they tried to follow him. Sirius, the older sister, was strong enough to make it across the currents, but her younger sister Procyon was not. Procyon stayed on the other side, and that is why the two stars (and the two constellations) are on opposite sides of the Milky Way. (P. 141, 143-144 The Constellations, how they came to be)
4. (EGYPT) Five thousand years ago, the ancient Egyptians referred to Sirius as Mistress of the Year. When Sirius first arose at dawn, it was the beginning of the New Year for the Egyptians. Sirius was linked in their legends to Isis, who was the goddess of fertility. Isis's husband was Osiris, who was celebrated in the constellation of Orion. When Osiris died, Isis cried many tears, making the Nile River flood its banks. (P. 142 The Constellations, how they came to be)
5. (ZIMBABWE) Sirius is Imbwa, meaning dog.

GEMINI and CANIS MINOR

6. and 1. (CHINESE) The Chinese saw two rivers in the sky. One was formed by the two brightest stars in Gemini the Twins, Pollux and Castor; the other was formed by the stars of Canis Minor. Pollux and Castor made Pe ho, the Northern River, while Canis Minor was Nan ho, the Southern River. When the Chinese observed these two rivers to come up in the evenings of May, they knew that summertime had finally arrived. These two star groups were seen as the doorways in the sky through which the summer heat came. (P. 83 The New Patterns in the Sky)

GEMINI

- (GREEK) In Greek legend, Gemini was two twin brothers, Pollux and Castor. Pollux was immortal, but Castor was an ordinary man. When Castor died, Pollux missed his brother. So Zeus arranged for the two brothers to spend half their time in the underworld together and half their time in the stars together. You can remember that Pollux was the immortal one, because his star shines a little bit more brightly than Castor's. Legend says the Twins watch out over sailors, protecting them from pirates. They are known as St. Elmo's Fire, the lightning balls which can appear high in the rigging of sailing ships during a storm. According to one superstition, if two lightning balls appear, then all will be well, but if only one lightning ball appears, there lies trouble ahead. (P. 139 The Constellations, how they came to be)
- (NATIVES OF MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL) Gemini is a flute. Pollux and Castor are the holes close to the end of the instrument. They have a poem about it:

The three flutes are in the flute house;
The sacred flutes are in the jakui
In the middle of the village.

The Sun gave the flutes to men,
Taught them the tunes to play,
Taught them the dances to dance

When the large cicada begins to sing,
And the rains commence
And the rivers rise;
When the fruit of the piqui tree ripens,
And the guardian of the tree must be

honored;

When the rains end,
And the fields dry,
And the food grows scarce,
Men play the sacred flutes,
The great flutes,
And dance
As they were taught by the Sun,
Their ancestor.

(Poem #3 The Stars are Silver Reindeer)

AURIGA

- (GREEK) The constellation Auriga is prominent in the night skies of winter, shining like a golden ring. But to the Greeks, this was Erichthonius, mythological king of ancient Athens. Erichthonius was the son of Vulcan, god of fire, and Athene, goddess of wisdom. He was the first person to design a chariot pulled by four horses. Erichthonius patterned this new invention after the brilliant sun chariot driven across the sky each day by Apollo. Zeus, the king of the gods, was pleased with Erichthonius work, and honored him with a place in the stars. He can be seen on winter nights, driving his chariot in the Panathenaic Games, where he often won the races. (P. 31, 32 Star Tales Ridpath)
- (CHINESE) Auriga was Wou Tche, the Five Chariots, one for each of the five brightest stars. This represented the troops that banded together to fight off nomads who tried to raid their food supplies in winter. (P. 66 Stars of Jade)
- (HAWAIIAN) Auriga was a beautiful lei of flowers, called Hokulei, or Flower of Stars. Capella was the largest flower of this lei.
- (GREEK) Auriga was Myrtilos, the Charioteer of King Oenomaus of Elis. King Oenomaus had a beautiful daughter, Hippodamia. But King Oenomaus was afraid for her to get married because the ancient oracle foretold that who ever married her would bring about his death. To hide the real reason for his not letting her marry, the king decided to set up an impossible situation. Whoever wished to marry Hippodamia had to compete against the king in a chariot race, with the loser being put to death. Although a dozen men tried,

King Oenomaus had the best horses, the best chariot, and the expert driver Myrtilos, so he always won the race.

One day, a handsome, young man named Pelops arrived to challenge the king. Hippodamia fell in love with Pelops and secretly got Myrtilos to take the pegs out of the king's chariot just before the race, so Pelops could win. She probably only meant to slow her father down, but

when the race was held, the king fell off and was killed. Pelops, seeing that Myrtilos also loved Hippodamia, threw the Charioteer into the sea. Pelops and Hippodamia were married. Myrtilos was not forgotten by the gods, however, and he was placed up in the stars for all to see: Auriga the Charioteer. (P. 79 The New Patterns in the Sky, P. 32-33 Star Tales Ridpath)

Global Mythology, Part 1
continued

IPS Report

IPS 96 was the primary focus of the IPS Council meeting held in San Diego on Friday, October 13. As we've all been told from the day the Osaka, Japan site was chosen, it will be a very expensive conference to attend. Registration is 20,000¥ (approximately \$230.00). Conference hotels range from \$80 to \$150 per person. The lower price hotels require subway transportation to and from the conference center. The conference hosts are working on the idea of having Japanese hosts accompany groups from the various hotels for the purpose of convenience not safety. The subway system has been described as being very modern and very safe!

Conference registration and opening sessions begin on July 13. A pre-conference tour, at approximately \$175.00, to Kyoto and Nara, begins with registration on July 10 and concludes on July 12. A post-conference tour will visit various astronomical sites as well as Minolta and Goto corporate facilities. The post-conference tour begins on July 17 and concludes in Tokyo on July 20. Approximate cost is \$575.00.

The conference hosts are expecting about 250 participants including members of the Japanese Minolta and Goto users groups who have agreed to meet with IPS. Realistic expectations are for about 70 participants from North America, 30 from Europe, and the remainder from Asia and other locations.

Although the cost of participating in IPS 96 is at an unprecedented level, there are several reasons to attend if at all possible. Behind the scenes efforts by the conference hosts, Japanese planetarium manufacturers, and IPS officers have resulted in significant subsidies. If you've

ever entertained the idea of visiting Japan, you'll never have another opportunity to do as much for less. Also, as we recently discovered in Sweden, our associates from elsewhere have a wealth of ideas to contribute to our profession.

Japan is second only to the United States in the number of planetariums. With the strong emphasis on science education in Japan, we have a unique opportunity to experience firsthand their ideas and approaches to astronomy education and planetarium operation. Add this to the cultural experiences and the various networking opportunities and you have compelling incentives to attend!

Council also received invitations for the conference site for the last year of the decade, 2000. Five well-prepared invitations were received. From north to south they are: Calgary Centennial Planetarium, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Dow Planetarium, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Adler Planetarium, Chicago, Illinois; Kelly SpaceVoyager Planetarium, Charlotte, North Carolina; Planetarium y Centro de Convenciones de Morelia, Morelia, Mexico. Selection will be made at the Council meeting in Osaka. Between now and then you need to make me aware of your preferences.

Regarding IPS business, or anything else, don't hesitate to contact me at:

John Hare
3602 23rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205, USA
Phone: 941 746 3522
Fax: 941 758 1605
email: jlhare@aol.com

See you in Nashville

John Hare
ASH Enterprises
Bradenton, FL

Worlds Apart: A Textbook in Planetary Sciences

Patrick McQuillan
Book Review Editor
Alexander Brest Planetarium
Jacksonville, FL

Worlds Apart:
A Textbook in
Planetary Sciences

by Guy Consolmagno
and Martha Schafer

Copyright 1994
Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
323 pages
ISBN 0-13-964131-9

Reviewed by
Dennis J. Cowles
Louisiana Nature Center
New Orleans, LA

SEPA Fever
continued

I will state from the beginning that I was prepared to like this book before I opened it. I had a bias in favor of one of the authors, whom I saw use CCD images by Donald Parker (an amateur if the rumors are true) at a science conference, and this impressed me. This good impression was completely justified after reading



this book.

The book is (as the title suggests) a text book, designed for undergraduate majors in science. It is intended as an overview of planetary sciences. No prior knowledge of astronomy or geology is assumed, but freshman physics and chemistry are assumed. The authors are very good about reminding readers of facts that they may have forgotten, which I found very useful.

In general, the book devotes one chapter to each planet. There is good coverage of the Moon (an entire chapter), meteorites

Planetarians occupy a special slot in the worlds of education and astronomy. The SEPA conference affords us the opportunity to share ideas with one another and to remind us that we must not take too lightly the responsibility of delivering clear, accurate, and up to date instruction in the Planetarium. The students and general public attending Planetarium programs deserve the best we can give them; they hold us in high esteem and rely on our

and asteroids (another chapter), the Sun, comets, and the origin of the solar system. Each chapter is divided into sections, and each section is followed by several (usually five) questions that are pretty easy to answer. Each chapter also has questions at the end that are not so easy to answer. (Some of them are damn tough.) Each chapter concludes with a list of books for further reading.

I found this book easy to work through, but I do have some familiarity with many of the topics discussed in it. Even so, I don't think that anyone will have any difficulty using this book, especially if the reader already has a desire to know about the planets.

There is a lot of information here, and it is nice to learn about the planets from a geological perspective. I learned a lot of geology from this book, which is good because I knew almost nothing about geology before reading it.

This book would make an excellent reference (and refresher) for any planetary scientist. After reading this book, I have a much greater appreciation of the planets as places, and not as just the neat photos that NASA releases.

This book places the planets in the contexts in which they should be viewed, both astronomically and geologically. Each planet and moon in this solar system is literally a new world with unique conditions and history, and each is as complex as our own planet. This book highlights this viewpoint.

The only thing that I did not like was the fact that all of the pictures were in black and white. But I guess you can't have everything. All in all, there is enough here to keep you pondering the planets for expertise.

There are many exciting astronomical events coming in the next year or two, and I'm certain SEPA '96 will be abuzz with these topics: Galileo at Jupiter; Comet Hale Bopp; the March 1997 solar eclipse which will allow those in the path of totality in Siberia to see Hale Bopp during the eclipse; and the ever changing information from the Hubble Space Telescope. If winter comes, can spring be far behind? Make

Small Talk

As I write this the halls are quiet and there is the sound of freezing rain hitting the roof of the school. It is yet another day where I do not see my student assistants because the classes have been let out early due to bad weather. It's a tough job, but someone's gotta not do it.

Actually I shouldn't talk. Just before Xmas, I received a note from former student, fellow Buffalo State College Astronomy Club member and space artist, Beverly Botto. Bev took astronomy when I was a graduate student at Buffalo State College in Buffalo because she was an artist and thought the pictures were pretty. Now that she is married and living near Troy, NY, she has a space art t shirt business on the side while working to become a mom. (Is working really the right term?)

Anyway, I had just sent her pictures of David Levy and Eugene Shoemaker wearing her Comet Crash Jupiter Tie. Bev designed a tie to commemorate this event and sells it as well as some of her t shirts in the Starry Night Gift Shoppe at the Chabot Planetarium and Science Center in Oakland, California. Shoemaker and Levy actually bought the tie while doing a fund raiser for this facility during comet crash mania.

Back to Bev's letter; Bev had told me she and Richard Monda, the planetarium director from Schenectady, NY, had gone to Don Hall's and Vic Costanzo's retirement roast at Strassenburgh Planetarium in Rochester, NY. She said it was great fun, but the festivities were affected by sadness in knowing that after Vic and Don are gone, Strassenburgh is due for many, many cuts to its budget. Personally, I'm going to miss hearing Vic's little kid voice in all those Strassenburgh programs.

She also told me that planetarium director Art Gielow at Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium has been given another duty (the position of someone who was once full time) and his planetarium duties cut to part time.

Finally she confirmed the information that was reported by Dave Maness of the Peninsula Planetarium at the Virginia Living Museum, that McLaughlin Planetarium, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada was

being closed by its parent organization, The Royal Ontario Museum.

The last news was difficult for me to take. I have been to McLaughlin many times, both in the past as a college student and just I've spent many happy there, and more often, even though I know how all the special effects are done, I have often been from the darkness of theatre weepy eyed as be a planetarian.

A friend from California called with info from a Toronto News service on the Internet. In it a spokesman from the R.O.M. mentioned that they were looking for something else to turn the planetarium into, that people did not find astronomy interesting anymore. The remarks seemed rather hard to believe since I'd never been to McLaughlin when the place was empty! I just can't believe that McLaughlin won't be there to go spend a happy Saturday in Toronto anymore!

On my last trip to Hamilton and Toronto, everytime someone heard that I was a planetarium director, people would ask me if my job was in danger. Actually, things here are going quite well and at Christmas and Thanksgiving, I can definitely say I am very grateful and thankful I can do what I do.

How about you? I assume that things are going quite well in SEPAland. Is that true? Do write and let me know. I'd especially like to hear some good news for a change. Perhaps it'll brighten up that long winter stretch until Easter.

As a plug, if you are interested in getting a t shirt or tie or just hiring an artist to do some special, last minute work, you can write or call for a catalog. The address is as follows:

Beverly Botto
Star Stuff
P. O. Box 83
Ancramdale, NY 12503
(518) 329 1275

Elizabeth Wasiluk
Small Talk Editor
Berkeley County Plan-



etarium

Hail, Hale-Bopp and Hyakutake! (Bless You)

Riki Haley
Senior Intern
Craigmont Planetarium
Memphis, TN



Hale Bopp may be the brightest comet of the century! That's how astronomers are billing a new comet discovered by Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp on July 23, 1995. Hale Bopp is still outside of Jupiter's orbit. It is expected to reach perihelion on April 1, 1997. No fooling! It will then be in the constellation Andromeda.

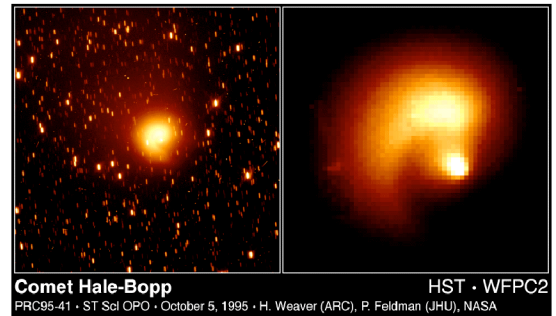
Hale Bopp has been visible in small telescopes. We'll be able to see it in binoculars by March, and by August the comet will reach naked eye visibility. The comet will be seen as a spray of gray green light glowing in the northwestern sky after sunset. Its tail will be between 10 and 20 long.

Comets are small bodies orbiting the Sun. Most are in the Oort Comet Cloud far beyond the most distant planet. Some comets, however, fall inward toward the Sun. When this happens the dirty snowball warms, and a coma of gas surrounds the nucleus. The pressure of sunlight and the solar wind blows the coma material into dust and gas tails which can be quite

long.

Another newly found comet is Comet Hyakutake. Right now Hyakutake is an 8th magnitude puff traveling between Cygnus and Pegasus. This comet is expected to reach 1st magnitude brightness by the end of March. Its closest approach to Earth will be at a distance of 10 million miles. On May 27, 1996 it will be only 4 from Polaris. All indications so far say that Comet Hyakutake is large and will not likely disappoint observers.

Don't miss out on these great opportunities to see comets creep across the night



Twilight of the Red Moon

Stephanie Lim
Senior Intern
Craigmont Planetarium
Memphis, TN



April 3, 1996 the Moon will rise as usual. But its pearly white gleam will be replaced by an eerie red glow. At moonrise this year's first total lunar eclipse will occur.

During a lunar eclipse, the Moon enters Earth's shadow. In a total lunar eclipse, the Moon enters the darkest part of the Earth's shadow, the umbra. The Earth's atmosphere creates the reddish color. Red light has the longest wavelength, and it is bent into the center of the umbra. How dark the reddish color is varies with how clean the atmosphere is at the time. If the air is clean, the Moon takes on a paler shade of red. If the air is dirty, from the eruption of a volcano, for instance, the Moon will appear a darker shade of red.

Over the years our fascination with the Moon has, ahem, waned. Familiarity breeds contempt. The Moon's association

with mystery and romance has faded as we have found out more about our satellite. Why should people wonder about the Moon when we have seen it up close, brought back pieces of it, or even walked on it? It seems that these violations have contributed to the loss of interest in our Moon — its mysticism was lost with the advancement of the space program. A lunar eclipse is one time when the Moon recaptures its mystery. Though we know how a lunar eclipse occurs, the rarity and beauty of the event still creates awe and wonder.

Parts of the U.S. will miss the eclipse. Viewers east of the Mississippi should be able to see the Moon rise in totality at about 6:21 p.m. CST. The Moon will slowly begin to exit the Earth's shadow at 6:53 p.m. CST. People west of the Mississippi will have another chance to view a lunar eclipse this fall. Watch the skies at

An Essay:

Are Special Effects Fading Away?

I read with interest Mike Chesman's review of laserdisk based special effects in the Fall '95 issue of *Southern Skies*. (AstroVideo Review: Sky Skan and Planisphere Productions Laser Discs, et al.) I found Mike's assessment of this video imagery to be right on the mark, though his commentary also sparked a reminder of recent conversations I've had with some other planetarium colleagues. In those discussions, concern was raised as to the possible demise of the more conventional variety of planetarium special effects. In fact, one planetarian even suggested that the conceptualization, design, construction, and use of optical style special effects may well become a lost art in planetariums before long.

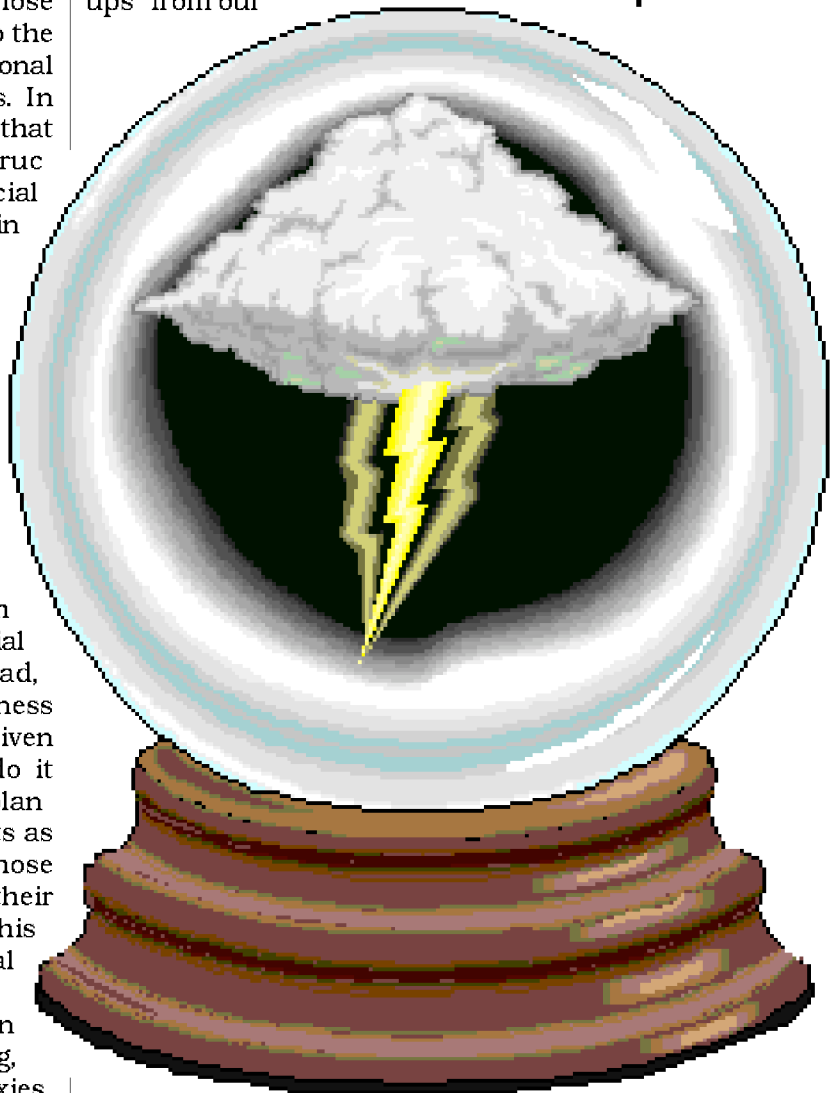
This concern is not out of some misguided nostalgia for the good ol' days of projection coves chock full of the classic filmstrip projector based gadgets (complete with ripple wheels, anamorphic lenses, rotator mechanisms, revealers, etc.) to the tune of thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of hardware. Nor is it a reactionary response against technological progress. (In fact, I for one am a strong advocate of video based special effects whenever applicable.) Instead, this worry is more out of an awareness that video effects cannot—at least given the current state of technology—do it all. Some of us are concerned that planetarians may begin to see video effects as a panacea—a replacement for all those pieces of projection hardware and their accompanying controllers—and that this trend will leave a gap in the visual content of many starshows.

First, let's examine what video can do well in a planetarium. Spinning, zooming asteroids, planets and galaxies, evolving stars, black holes, three dimensional appearing spacecraft, and graphical representations of lunar and seasonal motions are the sorts of images in which planetarium effects video really shines. But what do these types of visuals have in common? They all are images which can be made limited in scale on the dome. A view of Saturn, for instance, simulated as

though seen from a distance of one or two million miles away, is well suited for video projection in a planetarium program.

All of these from the outside, looking in perspectives serve us quite well, in fact, until one considers that they (a) only occupy a fraction of the projection screen (the dome), and (b) together they effectively serve to eliminate dynamic visual close ups from our

Richard McColman
Past-President
Morehead Planetarium
Chapel Hill, NC



shows. That's why some of us believe conventional effects shouldn't be forgotten. The downsizing of dynamic visualization through an over emphasis on video tends to negate the all encompassing visual character of the planetarium. It's roughly similar, I think, to going to the movies, only to find that they've hung a small TV

set up in the middle of the screen on which the film appears. I believe that in such a hypothetical situation the movie theater operators would soon find dissatisfaction within their audiences. In video effects intensive planetariums, we still use the stars as backdrop throughout much of our non constellation programs, but nonetheless, the projected starfield soon loses its visual prominence in such a context. In these situations, the brain tends to tunnel in on the smaller visuals, given the reduced subject relevance of the starry background.

Visual downsizing though the exclusionary use of video for effects is especially critical in those facilities having just one video projector (which includes most of us). Not only are all the special effects limited in scale, but they also appear in a single, predictable dome location, as well. And while multiple projectors can help alleviate

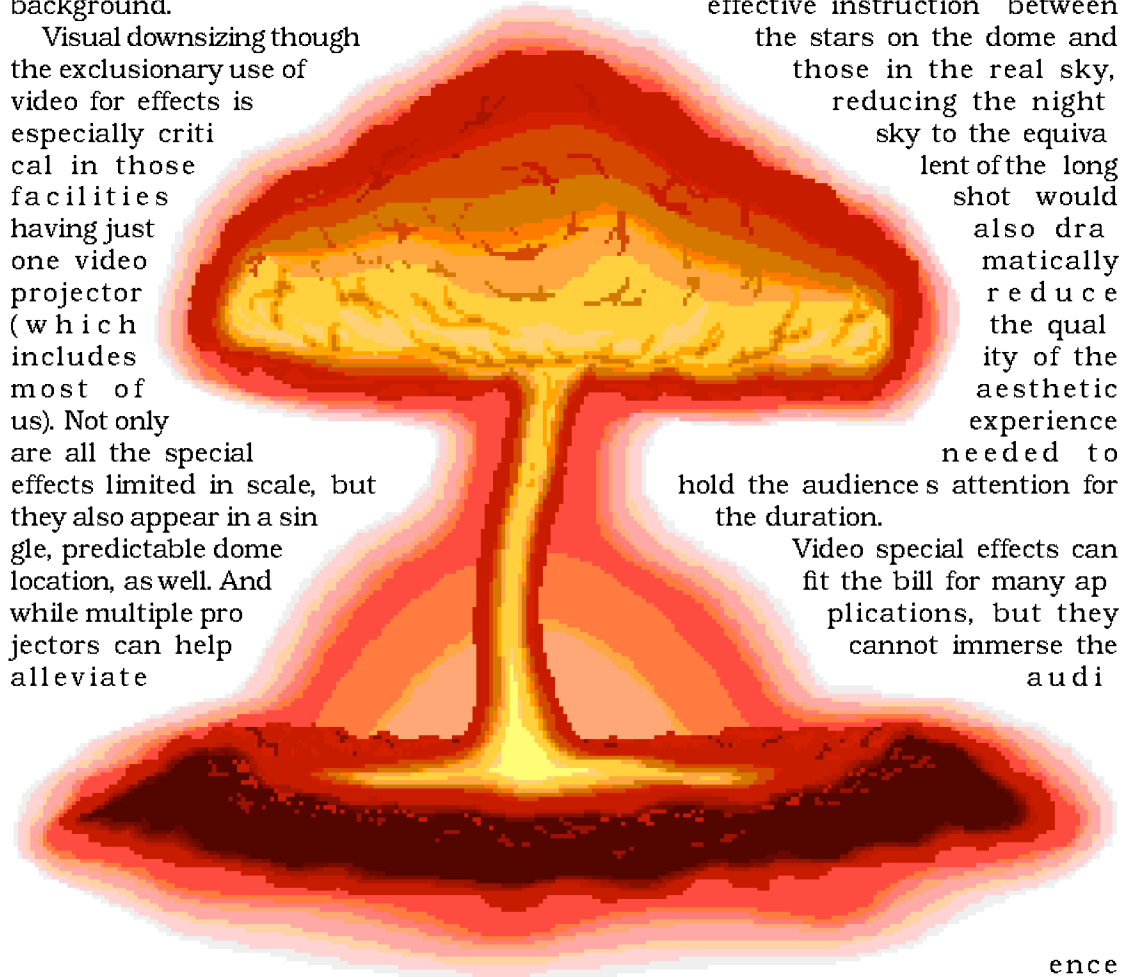
some of the visual tedium brought on by uniformly scaled down visual effects, the individual video projections within the array would still occupy only a fraction of the total dome area.

Motion picture and TV producers have long recognized that a lack of closeup shots in shows leads to a certain audience ambivalence toward the story and its characters. Imagine watching Schindler's List, The Fugitive, or even Forrest Gump with all the closeups removed and substituted with medium and long shots. Needless to say, you would immediately lose the intimate

audience connection with characters and story. We need to experience the major players up close and personal, in order to make and maintain a solid connection with what's going on.

I believe the same is true in the planetarium. Imagine shrinking your dome full of stars down to an area only 25 or 30 degrees across for constellation programs. Most planetarians would agree that, at the very least, such an approach would be counterproductive. Besides lessening the one to one directional correlation vital for effective instruction between the stars on the dome and those in the real sky, reducing the night sky to the equivalent of the long shot would also dramatically reduce the quality of the aesthetic experience needed to hold the audience's attention for the duration.

Video special effects can fit the bill for many applications, but they cannot immerse the audi



ence within an environment. All dome and large scale dynamic visuals such as terrestrial clouds, snow, rain, lightning storms, firestorms, Martian dust storms, other planetary atmospheric phenomena, aurorae, meteor showers, the Big Bang, underwater ripples, and, of course, the good ol' warpspeed, are just some of the effects that cannot be done well, if at all, with video. (Though video images can be made larger by throwing them all the way across the dome with some of the super bright video projectors now on the market, effective all dome projection still isn't possible with this technology. At

\$25,000 a pop, how many can afford such machines?) The answer is to use video when applicable and to mix in all dome or large scale conventional effects for those immersive environmental scenes to the maximum extent possible.

Fortunately, many all dome and large scale effects can be created with relatively low cost and low tech devices. A good number of these effects fall into the brute force category; they don't require elaborate or expensive optical projectors with which to be built. With just a motor, a lamp, and a variety of other common hardware or craft store items, some amazingly dynamic visual devices can be concocted for big, beautiful, stunning special effects.

Many planetarians think they don't have the skills to build even the simplest special effects projectors, but I don't believe this is really true. Nearly everyone working in a planetarium has enough understanding of light and physics and has the manual dexterity needed to handle small hand drills, saws, and screwdrivers in order to construct basic effects projectors. Not the Sky Skan, sell for a few grand variety but simple machines using bits of glass, plastic, wood, metal, and a few globs of epoxy. Planetarians shouldn't be fooled into thinking that only a super refined mechanical masterpiece can produce adequate visual effects on the dome. As long as the device performs reliably over time, and creates an image which is a reasonably faithful simulation of the phenomenon in question, then it serves its function. I'm sometimes amazed at just how beautiful and mesmerizing some effects can be, while created out of little more than a pile of recycled junk. (Not that I'm encouraging haphazardly built projectors, but many great visual effects don't necessarily require an engineering degree.) The projector itself doesn't have to be a piece of art for the special effect to be visually enticing. The major requirement for building special effects is willingness on our parts to tinker and experiment a bit, and we all have the intrinsic curiosity needed for that.

Creating special effects is just as much a part of running a planetarium as show presentation, scriptwriting, or publicity, and mechanical genius is not a prerequisite. In the early days of planetariums even in small one or two person facilities special effects construction was considered an important and integral part of the job. I recall seeing an old planetarium

educators handbook put out by the International Society of Planetarium Educators (the forerunner of today's International Planetarium Society) in which considerable space was given to special effects construction. This publication was aimed at planetarium educators, not technical folks.

But what of those who are short staffed? How does one find time to tinker and build, when we're already up to our eyeballs in work? Understandably, there are only so many hours in the day, a fact which is particularly critical in small planetariums. But despite the inevitable time crunch in small staffs, there are ways to circumvent limitations in manpower, and even expertise. Part timers and volunteers who love to tinker can be a valuable asset in many planetariums. And putting their names up in the stars in your credits can go a long way toward rewarding their creativity.

Knowledge is one of the biggest assets (or impediments) in building successful special effects. It helps to have some sort of reference of ideas and designs when starting out in this area. Perhaps some sort of effects design information packet could be assembled by SEPA members to aid us all in the creation of these effects. IPS is currently in the process of creating a new Special Effects Sourcebook, but this publication if and when it is completed will be available to IPS members only. In the meantime, however, some of us still have copies of the original 1982 IPS Effects Sourcebook and as this material is non copyrighted it conceivably could be shared via photocopying with other SEPA people. While a few of the designs in this older publication are a bit limited in usefulness, overall the book is still a valuable asset for those interested in learning how to design and built many types of home brew special effects.

Just as slides alone cannot create the most effective visual presentations in our planetariums, neither can video at least given the current state of the technology. As planetarium professionals, we need to keep our programs as educationally valid, and as aesthetically interesting as possible. Let us endeavor to keep our programs as visually stimulating as possible, using as many tricks and techniques as possible. We should continue to use conventional special effects projectors whenever applicable alongside video to help us achieve that goal.

An Essay:
Are Special Effects
Fading Away?
continued

News from SEPA States

George Fleenor
Bishop Planetarium
Bradenton, FL

(Six or seven weeks ago I received the IPS Report text file for this winter issue of Southern Skies from SEPA's IPS Representative John Hare via email on America Online. At the same time John's wife, ILDA Executive Secretary Linda Hare, sent a brief email note with the following somewhat surprising information, which will have to suffice as the Florida News.

Ed.)

Bishop Planetarium, Bradenton

I do not know whether you may have heard thru the grapevine or not about the recent changes at the Bishop Planetarium in Bradenton, Florida. John Hare's last official day to work there was January 31st. He will now be working full time with Ash Enterprises.

(Good luck, John, Ed.)

Michael Sandras
Freeport-McMoRan
Daily Living Science Center
Kenner, LA

Freeport McMoRan Planetarium and Observatory, Kenner

As many of you have read in recent issues, we are very fortunate that the Kenner City Council has approved a 50 ft. planetarium to be built next to our current facility. Design work continues on this facility with different options and equipment under consideration. I will be sure to keep everyone informed of this project; which obviously I am very excited about.

Currently we are presenting The Sky Tonight and the Loch Ness Presentation This Season, which as usual has proved to be very popular. For the kids, we have been presenting Jeff Bowen's Moon Witch. This show especially was popular just after Halloween. We also have had a renovation of our observatory lobby in which we are trying to increase the amount of presentations offered to the general public in this facility.

I am also making an appeal for anyone in Louisiana in the planetarium field who has not made a contribution to this column to please get in touch with me so they may be included in this listing.

Louisiana Nature and Science Center Planetarium, New Orleans

Mark Trotter and Dennis Cowles report a nice ending for 1995. They made 35% more revenue than projected for the year and they spent less than projected. For the public they are currently running The Sky Tonight, Kris McCall's excellent Planet Patrol: A Solar System Stakeout, and the Family Laser Show. On Friday and Saturday nights they run laser rock concerts and their line up includes: Pink Floyd's Dark Side of The Moon, Led Zeppelin, Metallica, Aerosmith, Rush, Pink Floyd's

The Wall, and the Alternative Show. Plans for 1996 include the production of at least one new laser rock concert and one public astronomy show.

Mark has been busy working on developing an astronomy workshop and fighting the 1996 budget demons. Dennis finally completed cataloging the planetarium's slide collection and has added some new specimens to his meteorite collection. They are eagerly anticipating the 1996 SEPA conference.

St. Charles Parish Library Planetarium, Luling

The end of the year brought a major construction phase to a final end. The dust has settled, and they now have a two story addition to the library. This new addition includes a large meeting room and much more space for books. Unfortunately it did not do anything for the size of the planetarium maybe next time.

1996 will offer the new Mars and Venus programs from Loch Ness Productions. It is heartening to reflect upon the past 12 years at the facility. It has seen the closing of a long time facility, namely St. Mary's Dominican College's Lewis Planetarium, and the opening of two new facilities in the New Orleans area. It is odd to think that for a while the 20 ft. dome with its ancient Viewlex Apollo was the only planetarium in the area. Now there are three: The Louisiana Nature and Science Center, The Freeport McMoRan Daily Living Science Center and the public library planetarium in the swamps of Luling.

We hope to see the upcoming year bring more much needed improvements to the planetarium community and to the state of the art.

Lafayette Natural History Museum Planetarium, Lafayette

Dave Hostetter has announced that the planetarium has re opened at their original site with a full slate of public and school shows with attendance picking up. The attendance is much better than when the shows were being done in the temporary dome. This facility is still having its political problems and it will be at least a year before a decision on the future plans for this facility are made. A small meteorite display has been very popular with the public especially children who seem to be fascinated with these rocks from space. Dave reports things are looking up.

Louisiana Arts and Science Center Planetarium, Baton Rouge

For the month of December the good old, traditional Search for the Christmas Star is being presented. The space show is a flat screen adaptation of the old star show of the same name. It is being offered to both the general public and to school groups throughout the month. In January and February, we will show some NASA videos about the Hubble Space Telescope.

Stargazes are held December February at the Highland Road Archery Field. The Baton Rouge Astronomical Society star gazes will be held at the LSU Observatory every fourth Friday of the month.

News from SEPA States continued

Michael Sandras
Freeport-McMoRan
Daily Living Science Center
Kenner, LA

Russell C. Davis Planetarium, Jackson

Russell C. Davis Planetarium in Jackson extended its Christmas features (Season of Light, The Alien Who Stole Christmas, and LASER VISIONS: A Fresh Aire Christmas) through January 7th to keep in phase with Jackson school holidays.

The Davis Planetarium Foundation continues to seek funding for an 8 perforation/ 70mm film system for wide screen/ hemispheric projection and plans to have the system installed and operational by early June. (In January the Foundation's membership bade a fond farewell to its original hemispheric film The Space Shuttle: An American Adventure prior to a month long closure for 35mm projector removal and site preparation for 8/ 70 installation.)

In February the Planetarium will reprise Loch Ness Production's The Cowboy Astronomer and its country laser show Bright Lights, Big Country to coincide with The Dixie National Rodeo. March should see premiere Jackson showings of a program on the Hubble Space Telescope. The production staff, energized by their participation in the International Laser Display Conference in Miami, is working

on a second original program featuring selected hits from Michael Jackson's HISTORY for a March premiere.

The Rainwater Observatory and Planetarium, French Camp

The Rainwater Observatory and Planetarium in French Camp is still waiting for Santa Claus to deliver its 6 refractor. The Planetarium had hoped to present public programs by December but needs a commitment by French Camp Academy administrators to staff its operation.

Director Jim Hill can use the help as he already works the equivalent of two full time jobs teaching classes, giving music lessons, directing a choir, and running the observatory. (He wants to join SEPA to find out what I've been saying about him!)

Rainwater Astronomical Association's vice president attended an autumn conference in Michigan and came back hooked on the Internet with plans for a World Wide Web site and home page. The next Mid South Regional Star Gaze will take place April 17 - 20, 1996 and will again include Memphis astronomer Gerrit Verschuur as well as some new fencing to keep the cows out of the observing area!

Gary M. Lazich
Russell C. Davis Planetarium

Woodson Planetarium

Cyndi Zeger Osterhus (married Ken, September 1, 1995) reports Woodson Planetarium is flourishing with new leadership from Patsy Wilson. A new video presentation used to explore a variety of sky phenomena augmented the holiday programs, Star of Wonder and The Alien Who Stole Christmas. Winter programming includes using the planetarium as a lab

space for inquiring minds on the physics topics of acceleration and the force of gravity. Planetarium shows include Space Detectives, Day and Night, and Daughter of the Stars.

The staff will be busy with three regional science fairs affiliated with the International Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Fair, a trip to the International Fair in Arizona, plus two programs for

Cyndi Zeger-Osterhus
Woodson Planetarium
Salisbury, NC

Cyndi Zeger-Osterhus
Woodson Planetarium
Salisbury, NC

future teachers and grants for summer programs.

SciWorks Planetarium

Duke Johnson reports that SciWorks Planetarium will run Just Imagine and The Planet Patrol from Cumberland, Galaxies from Hansen, Follow the Drinking Gourd, African Skies from Fernbank and a wide variety of laser shows for the spring. Work

on more special effects and a variety of strobes is planned for spring as well.

We will open Through the Eyes of Hubble and Rusty Rocket's Last Blast later this spring or in early summer. Due to large response, SciWorks will offer a wider variety of Summer Astronomy Camps.

We also welcome a new Executive Director in January: Beverly Sanford, formerly

Todd Slisher
Gibbes Planetarium
Columbia, SC

Settlemyre Planetarium, Rock Hill

Aside from a brief break provided by ice from mother nature, Glen Dantzler reports that their winter/ spring schedule is quite full. In addition to the rush of school shows in the theater they are also offering several classes including: Lightly Speaking, a middle school talk about light, Close up on a Star, a high school look at the Sun and stellar evolution, and Science Fair Fun for groups interested in competing in science fairs.

Their public shows, run by Van Abernethy, featured Star of Bethlehem over the holidays and The Drinking Gourd in celebration of Black American History Month. On the equipment end, progress is slowly being made on installing an ECCS automation system. Glen is also happy to report that Capella has made a reappearance in their sky after receiving a new lens and gel from Spitz.

Stanback Planetarium, Orangeburg

Jim Brown passes along word that their web page is almost ready and should be on line soon. When it's on the air the URL will be posted on Dome L for those interested. In January and February the feature shows will be The Mars Show and More than Meets the Eye. Scheduled spring shows include The Voyager Encounters and Fred and Martha vs. the Skies of Spring. In addition to these, school shows continue Monday through Thursday at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.

Dupont Planetarium, Aiken

Since opening on October 13th, Jim Mullaney has been extremely busy. As of January almost 5,000 people have been through his new 45 seat theater. During winter public shows include an opening Demo Show with a video tour of the solar system as well as a Star of Bethlehem program. Jim's school schedule also remains busy with an age tailored show using both live and automated sections.

Jim has also organized several public observing sessions with the Astronomy Club of Augusta. These continue on a monthly basis. His facility recently hosted a meeting of the same group with a record turnout of members. During all of the above events Jim has been dealing with a few glitches in his new Digistar II system, but he reports that the nice folks at Evans and Sutherland have been extremely helpful.

Gibbes Planetarium, Columbia

Here in Columbia Jeff, Sandy, Bryant and I have also been up to our eyebrows in projects. The holiday show, Season of Light, has been very well attended, and Through the Eyes of Hubble opens as the new feature show in January. Interest is already running extremely high for this show as Hubble images continue to be splashed around the news media.

January also brings the expected rush of school groups. Our schedule is already completely booked through April. We are currently offering a variety of 12 shows for differing age levels. Work also continues on a set of weekend camps for brownies and junior girl scouts, a new feature show on dinosaurs, and an lunar eclipse watch this spring.

Hooper Planetarium, Greenville

In November the Hooper Planetarium opened its new in house production Queen of the Solar System to go along with their Friday night observing sessions. Visitors got a kick out of seeing Saturn first on the dome, then through the telescope as the ring plane crossings were taking place. Solar observing through a hydrogen alpha filter is also being offered on Saturdays along with their public shows, The Cowboy Astronomer and More than Meets the Eye. Doug Gegen and the rest of the staff are also busy planning for spring when they will host a special event for the lunar eclipse in April.

Craigmont Planetarium, Memphis

Veering off from the ordinary planetarium mode for an instant, two of our interns, Stephanie Lim and Riki Haley entered the second annual Young Producers Contest sponsored by the Earth and Sky Radio Series. They wrote and produced a two minute radio program that explained some differences between stars and planets.

This program was in a dialog format, and it seemed to work quite well. The main emphases were creativity and content. The script, music, and, yes, sound effects all combined to produce two minutes of exquisite astronomy information. Sounds like it was right down our planetarium interns alley.

Now showing, Hubble: From Here to Eternity. After months of being put on the back burner due our busy schedule, production is complete, and it's finally up and running. We are excited about this new show because it lets our audience take a peek at just what the Hubble Space Telescope is capable of showing us. This is convenient due to the many new pictures of the universe Hubble has recently sent to us to study. Hubble: From Here to Eternity investigates vast amounts of information and many questions yet to be answered about our universe.

Up first in the show are facts about the deployment, first fuzzy images, and repair of the telescope. By comparing before and after photos one can tell that there is much more to be seen with a little corrective optics.

Next we attempt to uncover the mysteries of protoplanetary disks and dark matter. If that weren't enough, we engulf your brain with supernovae and gravitational waves. Just to make sure you're intellectually stimulated, consider the question,

How do we know how old the Universe is? How can the Universe possibly be younger than some of the stars it contains?

We're especially proud of this show because our talented interns put their hearts into it. They investigated the topics, wrote the script, auditioned music, output visuals from computer files to film, and recorded their own voices on tape. Voilà, an excellent planetarium show was produced. Only the Memphis Astronomical Society and a few SEPA members will likely be able to understand this extremely technical program.

Yet another project we are involved in is the Think Quest Contest. This contest

involves a team of two to three students collaborating via the Internet to design a World Wide Web page that is educational, entertaining, and visited by lots of other secondary students. This Web page is meant to attract students in grades 7 through 12. Our team plans to work with Geoff Holt and one of his students from Madison, Wisconsin.

Our interns have experience producing planetarium shows. Geoff has been teaching his student HTML and has experience creating Web pages. He's using WebWeaver, while we're using PageMill, but Geoff assures us the two applications are compatible with each other.

Last but not least we are still awaiting word from our grant request to GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA. You all know how that goes. You wait, and wait, and wait, until one day you get an answer.

The main purpose of this grant is to use the latest technology to help educate our students in mathematics and science. We would like to obtain a moveable satellite dish to provide live interactive video teleconferences for students and teachers in our community. This will allow us to take electronic field trips around the world and visit places our students could not afford to see.

Sudekum Planetarium, Nashville

The Sudekum Planetarium in Nashville is gearing up to host the SEPA conference in June. In case you have forgotten, the dates are June 18 through 22. You should be receiving the pre conference information package very soon.

To that end, a new East Coast Control automation system was installed in late January. The new system allows for the control of more than just informational slide projectors. The zoom, two slews, and a number of special effects can now be preprogrammed. Control for the video projector and video playback sources will be added in the future.

A new original production, Rusty Rocket's Last Blast, is slated to open on March 2nd. During the show, the audience will join a class of rocket rookies as they learn about how rockets work, some of the great moments in space exploration, some very interesting tidbits about the planets, and just how really far distances are in space.

News from SEPA States
continued

Lisa F. DuFur
Craigmont Planetarium
Memphis, TN

Dave Maness
Peninsula Planetarium
Newport News, VA

Virginia Living Museum Planetarium, Newport News

Through the Eyes of Hubble has been well received by the after Christmas crowds. Attendance seems to be down, but I think it's the weather and the usual post holiday lull.

We're making plans for our next summer Dinosaur exhibit. That means another death of the dinosaurs show. We may rerun the Great Dinosaur Caper: A Mesozoic Murder Mystery from McLaughlin Planetarium or possibly run it along with a new show. I hear JHE has a Dinosaur show coming out. After the Hubble show we will be running To Worlds Beyond till the June Dino shows.

I'd be interested to hear from other planetarians about Lunar Eclipse plans for April and September. For the April eclipse the Moon rises in totality, but we still plan to have a special event. Since there's another eclipse in September, we can actually schedule a raindate. Check out our home page at <http://www.pinn.net/~vlm>. Until next time, Virginia planetarians should send me info about their activities by phone at (804) 595 1900 ext. 31, by fax at (804) 599 4897, or by email at Pegasus321@aol.com.

Hopkins Planetarium, Roanoke

Britt Rossie says they are running a show called Backyard Critters that goes along with their new traveling exhibit called Backyard Monsters. In the spring, they will feature Visions of a Spring Night. Anyone in the market for a 35mm film projection system should call him. They want to sell it by June. They hope to replace it with an 8/70 film system, but the new system is not yet in the budget. Renovations are continuing, but he says that the slow pace of progress is frustrating at best. Britt is looking for a good (and humorous) family show for the summer. Any suggestions? He also told me about their new homepage at www.intrlink.com. Send email to brossie@intrlink.com, or hops_kns_plt@intrlink.com

Chatham Planetarium, Chatham

Chatham Planetarium is new to the SEPA Journal. Director Brian Buchanan operates the old Goto Venus in a 10.1 meter dome for the Pittsylvania School System. They primarily do live school programs. The public sometimes sits in on school shows. They also try to do a regular public sky tonight show one Sunday a month and do public programs by appointment. He's hoping for money from the school district to renovate the theater and replace the star projector. It's getting tough to find replacement parts. Contact him with ideas. I think I talked him into attending SEPA 96. He was interested, so we may see him in Nashville this June.

Ethyl Universe Planetarium, Richmond

Eric Mellenbrink reports after a successful 16 months laser shows finally ended making room for other special events. A minor show schedule change reduced planetarium shows to two a day and increased Omnimax film shows by one a day. They've also opened Backyard Universe by Leslie Boehinski. Leslie has left the museum to pursue a Master's Degree at Virginia Tech. Best of luck to her. Eric says there's much construction taking place in and around the museum. Exterior renovations include increased parking and three new outdoor amphitheater sites. Director Ken Wilson has a book out titled Making and Enjoying Telescopes co-authored by Robert Miller.

Portsmouth Planetarium, Portsmouth

Mike Nold is looking for good family shows. Currently the Children's Museum has a terrific traveling exhibit on light and the ways we use it called Light N Up. In conjunction with the exhibit the star theater is showing Adventures Along the Spectrum. Also showing is Larry Cat in Space and coming soon Our Place in Space.

John C. Wells Planetarium, Harrisonburg

Dr. John Staib (serving as half planetarium and half physics professor) reports they are limping along. Not long ago the budget axe was about to fall on Physics

Berkeley Co. Planetarium, Hedgesville

Student assistant, Frank M. Aliveto gave planetarium director Elizabeth S. Wasiluk an early Christmas present by helping his football team defeat Parkersburg, WV in

the state playoffs. Now she doesn't have to listen to fellow Project SPICA agent Larry Brown of Dwight O. Connor Planetarium in Parkersburg, WV talk about another Parkersburg victory!

Elizabeth Wasiluk
Berkeley County Plan-
etarium

represent commercial interests; others may represent parallel goals such as an astronomy research organization. We need to encourage these groups to participate with their support. SEPA has had a generous relationship with many vendors who contribute heavily to the success of our annual conferences. These groups need to be recognized in some unique way including annual listing as Supporting Members in Southern Skies. They also contribute without regard for geographical boundaries and represent anything from a one person business to a multinational corporation.

It was decided that everyone who chooses to seek Supporting Membership be treated with the same privileges. Council will have to recommend a fee, but we are suggesting that Supporting Membership comes with a minimum contribution to the Association of \$100. This would mean that those who have contributed generously to the success of the organization would no longer have to pay additional membership fees to attend conferences. We are also asking that Supporting Membership, because of its inherent group nature, not include privileges of voting or holding office.

A final thought: we do feel that every class of membership should receive all mailings and publications. This is not a change from our current policy, but there has been some confusion on this issue. In fact, we are recommending that Council generate a listing of existing benefits of SEPA membership for current and prospective members.

Below is the way we would propose our membership policy read:

A. Full membership may be extended to persons engaged in the administrative, professional, educational or technical activities at a planetarium in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and any U.S. Territories off the southeastern coast of the U.S. or who reside in the SEPA region (listed above) and provide substantial support services to planetariums. [This is the wording adopted in June of 1995 at the Macon conference, and it remains unchanged.]

B. Associate membership can be granted to those persons interested in the aims of the Association but who do not fulfill the above requirements. [This replaces

status with membership and drops the words or institutions to apply to individuals only.]

C. Supporting membership can be granted to institutions, businesses, benefactors, or other groups whose support is beneficial to the Association. [The old Patron category is dropped, encompasses groups, and would require an initial vote to establish a new fee.]

All other items in the by laws pertaining to membership would remain unchanged.

If Council decides to bring these suggestions to a vote at conference this summer, I hope you will all respect the amount of effort each committee member put forth in reaching the recommendations stated above. We realize that not everyone will agree 100% with the ideas set forth. It took a lot of time before we were satisfied that we had come up with our best suggestions. I or any of the other committee members would be glad to answer specific questions you may have on how this consensus was reached. There is so much that was taken into consideration that this short letter can only briefly summarize our thoughts. We are confident that we acted in the best interests of SEPA and its entire membership body.

Committee members you may wish to contact:

Chair: Mike Chesman
voice: 423 229 9447
fax: 423 224 2589
email: chesman@tcu.com

Jim Hooks
voice: 910 671 6015
fax: 910 671 6017
email: jimhooks@unctv.org

Dave Hostetter
voice: 318 268 5544
fax: 318 268 5464

Gary Lazich
voice: 601 960 1550
fax: 601 960 1555
email: knap0500@spacelink.
msfc.nasa.gov

Britt Rossie
voice: 540 342 5714
fax: 540 224 1240

SEPA By-Laws

Amended 1995

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 and 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 Conference 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 Association on the 9th day of June, 1977, in Atlanta, Georgia.

BY LAWS

ARTICLE ONE: Name of Association, Situation of Offices, and Seal

§1. Name: Southeastern Planetarium Association, Inc. (SEPA). Our name shall

hereafter be called the Association.

§2. The Association shall be a nonprofit organization.

§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.

§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

§1. Conditions of Membership: The members of the association shall consist of:

A. Full membership may be extended to persons engaged in the administrative, professional, educational, or technical activities at a planetarium in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and any U.S. Territories off the southeastern coast of the U.S. or who reside in the SEPA region (listed above) and provide substantial support services to planetariums.

B. Associate status can be granted to those persons or 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.

D. Emeritus Membership may be extended to persons no longer active in the planetarium field in recognition of contributions made to the Association. Emeritus Members are not required to pay annual dues.

§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.

§3. Dues: Annual dues shall be an amount determined by a majority vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

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

§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.

§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 §501 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code as amended from time to time, which organization appears most likely to carry out the purposes of the Association.

ARTICLE THREE: The Executive Council of the Association

§1.

A. Councilors: The council shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, Past President, and the IPS Representative (hereinafter referred to as the Officers).

B. All Officers of the Association 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 and the President shall serve as Past President for the following two years. No Officer, except the Secretary Treasurer and the IPS Representative are eligible for reelection 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 Annual Business Meeting.

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

E. An Officer must vacate the office held if, because of a change in status, s/ he is no longer eligible to be a voting member of the Association. Except where otherwise covered in the By Laws, vacancies on the Council shall be filled by a vote of the Council.

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

G. Meetings and Notices

(1) During the Annual Conference, but prior to the Annual Business Meeting, there shall be a meeting of Council provided they shall constitute a quo

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF SOUTHERN SKIES IS APRIL 1. SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS ON A 3.5 DISKETTE OR VIA EMAIL ATTACHED FILE TO STARMANTNG@AOL.COM

rum, 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/ her 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.

§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, jointly with the Secretary Treasurer, sign all written contract made in the name of the Association.

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

§4. Secretary Treasurer

A. The Secretary Treasurer shall attend to and record the minutes of all proceedings of the Association and Council and shall give and service all no

tices 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.

§5. International Planetarium Society (IPS) Representative: The IPS Representative shall represent the Association on the IPS Executive Council. The candidates for this office shall have been a member of IPS a minimum of four (4) years. In the event the IPS Representative is unable to represent the Association at a meeting of the Executive Council of IPS, the President or his/ her appointee shall serve in his/ her place.

ARTICLE FOUR: Annual Business Meeting

§1. The Annual Business 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 Business 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 Annual Business Meeting.

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

§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 an Annual Business Meeting.

B. Voting

(1) Each Member is entitled to one vote, subject to Article Two, §4, to be cast in person.

(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 an Annual Business 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.

§4. Parliamentary Authority: The current edition of The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, when not in conflict with these By Laws or adopted rules of the Association, shall govern this organization in all parliamentary situations. The interpretation of the By Laws, adopted rules, and The Stan

dard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, shall be the responsibility of Council, and its decision shall be final.

ARTICLE FIVE: Fiscal Year, Accounts, and Audit

§1. Fiscal Year: The Fiscal Year of the Association shall end on December 31.

§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.

§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 Business Meeting of the Association for scrutiny and approval.

§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

§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.

§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 banks forms of settlement of balances and release or verification slips.

§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

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

§2. Terms: All Committee memberships shall terminate at the end of the Annual Business Meeting. It shall be the duty of the Council to reconstitute such committees as required.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Amendment. These By Laws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the voting members present at an Annual Business 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.

anniversary of the Challenger accident.

The Nashville media barely mentioned it. They were spending so much time on all the details related to the Houston Oilers NFL team's planned move to Nashville. I can't hold that against them because larger issues involving taxes, public funding, traffic, downtown development, and local politics are hugely impacted by that matter. We didn't plan any events regarding Challenger.

It's been said people mark their lives by such significant events. The most common example is President John F. Kennedy's assassination, but for many, even that event is ancient history. The Challenger accident has become one of those milestones.

I was standing in the Planetarium watching the last second graders leave when I got the news. I sat down where I was and wept. One of the children had just asked me when that teacher was gonna go up in space. It's likely I was giving my answer at 11:38 a.m.

The local paper printed a special afternoon edition featuring those unforgettable photos on the cover. It's the only time I remember their doing such a thing. I still have an editorial cartoon from the following morning's paper. It shows an adult and a group of children standing on the beach

looking at the smoke trails in the sky. The caption: Today we learned a lesson about life.

In the following weeks it was amazing to see how many students kept up with the investigation. Second and third graders could tell about O rings and ice. At the same time it was encouraging to see how many still wanted to go into space themselves. Considering what happened, there were a lot of young people rethinking their careers, but even so, many still felt the pull of the stars.

Today, when we present the show that reviews the American space program, students are amazed at what has been accomplished. Toward the end of the show we talk about Challenger. Invariably someone will ask if that spaceship really exploded? Did those people die? Ten years after Challenger, young people are coming to the Planetarium who were not even born in 1986. For them it is history something to be read about in books or seen in TV documentaries.

I sometimes wonder if accident is the best terminology. What about disaster or explosion or event? The public always has a morbid curiosity about such things. Look at the popularity of Apollo 13. A few students have asked if that really happened.

Southern Skies

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PLANETARIUM ASSOCIATION

WINTER 1996

In This Issue

President's Message.....	1
Membership Committee Report.....	2
Do-Be-Do-Be-Dues Be Due.....	3
Membership Renewal Form.....	3
Featured Planetarium: The Pink Palace Planetarium, Memphis, Tennessee.....	4
SEPA Fever.....	5
Costa Rican Naturalist Tour.....	5
Global Mythology, Part 1: Winter Constellations.....	6
IPS Report.....	9
Worlds Apart: A Textbook in Planetary Sciences.....	10
Small Talk.....	11
Hail, Hale-Bopp and Hyakutake! (Bless You).....	12
Twilight of the Red Moon.....	12
An Essay: Are Special Effects Fading Away?.....	13
News from SEPA States.....	16
SEPA By-Laws.....	22

Dues were due December 31!

Southern Skies is the quarterly journal of the Southeastern Planetarium Association published for the purpose of communicating association news, reports, reviews, and resources to its members. Contents © 1995 by the Southeastern Planetarium Association and individual authors. Permission is granted to reprint articles in other planetarium, astronomy, or science related publications under the following conditions: 1. Attach a credit to the article stating, "This article was originally published in Southern Skies, journal of the Southeastern Planetarium Association;" and 2. Send courtesy copies of your publication to the Southern Skies editor and the author.

Officers

President
Kristine K. McCall
Sudekum Planetarium
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203
Voice: (615) 401-5077
Switchboard: (615) 862-5160
Fax: (615) 862-5178
Email: mccalk@ten-nash.tenk12.tn.us

President-Elect
Mike Chesman
Bays Mountain Park Planetarium
853 Bays Mountain Park Drive
Kingsport, TN 37660
Voice: (615) 229-9447
Fax: (615) 224-2589
Email: baysmtn@triconnet

Secretary/Treasurer
Duncan R. Teague
Craigmont Planetarium
3333 Covington Pike
Memphis, TN 38128-3902
Voice: (901) 385-4319
Fax: (901) 385-4340
Email: StarManTNG@aol.com

Past-President
Richard McColman
Morehead Planetarium
Morehead Building CB #3480
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Voice: (919) 962-1237
Email: Voyager222@aol.com

IPS Council Representative
John Hare
3602 23rd Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Voice: (941) 746-3522
Fax: (941) 758-1605
Email: jlhare@aol.com

Southern Skies Editor
Duncan R. Teague
3308 Bluemont Drive
Memphis, TN 38134-8454
Voice/Fax: (901) 388-3266
Email: StarManTNG@aol.com

Associate Editors

AstroVideo Review
Mike Chesman
Bays Mountain Park Planetarium
853 Bays Mountain Park Drive
Kingsport, TN 37660
Phone: (615) 229-9447
Fax: (615) 224-2589
Email: baysmtn@triconnet

Digital Cosmos/Graphics
Mike Cutrera
Bishop Planetarium
201 10th St. West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Voice: (941) 746-3522
Fax: (941) 746-2556
Email: Zoot11@aol.com

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

Laser Talk
Mark Howard
Buehler Planetarium
3501 SW Davie Road
Davie, FL 33314
Phone: (305) 475-6681
Fax: (305) 474-7118

Reviews
Patrick McQuillan
Alexander Brest Planetarium
1025 Gulf Life Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: (904) 396-7062
Fax (904) 396-5799
Email: PatAstro@aol.com

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



Physical Science/Astronomy/ Planetarium Instructor

REQUIREMENTS:

Master's degree with 18 graduate semester hours of 5000 level or above coursework in physical science or related field. Planetarium experience required; experience working with groups from elementary school through college desirable. Knowledge of computers also desirable.

TO APPLY:

Send a resume and cover letter to
**Human Resources, St. Petersburg Junior
College, P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg,
Florida 33733-3489.**

DEADLINE:

Resume package must be postmarked on or
before **APRIL 12, 1996.** EOE