

Morehead Planetarium Has Audiences Seeing Stars

By **CHRISTINE ELLIOTT**
Staff Writer

The double doors opened and revealed 307 reclined red chairs rimming the floor of the dome and a dumbbell-looking thing in the middle. "It feels like Space Mountain," said Paul Barnhardt, a sophomore from Stanfield.

Lee T. Shapiro, the director of the Morehead Planetarium and one of the narrators for the "Sky Rambles" show addressed the nearly empty room on a typical Friday night.

"The strange looking thing in the center of the room is our star projector," he said, clearing up any misgivings at the beginning of the show.

For one hour, the dome ceiling became the Chapel Hill night sky in September. Different constellations were pointed out on the celestial theater ceiling while songs like Pachelbel's "Canon D" played in the background.

The Star Theater in the planetarium offers five featured shows that are open to the public.

Sara Hardesty, a junior from Goldsboro and student technician at the planetarium, said the planetarium was a great place to cultivate the campus's intellectual climate.

"Chancellor Hooker should hype this place up," she said. "You're still coming in here to learn, but it's pretty interesting."

One of the five shows, "Stellar Odyssey," is specifically about the life cycles of stars.

Lori Catt, a junior from Hickory who saw "Stellar Odyssey," said she thought it was interesting and fun.

"My favorite part of the show was when they talked about black holes," she said. "Even light can't escape (from them). It's kind of scary."

The other three shows available to the public are "Mars: Return to the Red Planet," "Sol and Company" and "Winnie-the-Pooh and the Golden Rocket." The latter two are children's shows.

Technology is the key to having these shows. For example, there are only five other Carl Zeiss model six star projectors in the United States,

Shapiro said.

"Consider it a rotating slide projector," he said. "But it projects a whole hemisphere and has 16 lenses instead of one."

Justin Fansler, a sophomore from Burlington and console operator at the planetarium, said the technology at the planetarium was amazing.

"The Zeiss (star projector) can show you any nighttime sky from any place in the world in any given time," he said. "You could see exactly what the nighttime sky looked like from Siberia on the night Jesus was born if you wanted to."

There are also 65 slide projectors and literally hundreds of special effects projectors in the theater. Shapiro said they were all necessary for the shows.

"We're dealing with only a very small subject - the universe," he said.

Besides shows in the Star Theater, the 50,000 square foot Planetarium has the largest walk-in model of the solar system in the world. This one contains the sun and the six planets closest to it.

Also, there is an open terrace with telescopes on the third floor and an



DTH/FILE PHOTO

Aside from shows in the Star Theater, the Morehead Planetarium provides an observatory and walk-in model of the solar system that are managed by the Departments of Astronomy and Physics.

observatory in the copper dome on the east side of the building, both run by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

There are actually four domes in the

Planetarium, though only two are noticeable from the outside. Neither the Star Theater's dome nor the Genevieve B. Morehead Memorial Rotunda's dome is evident.

"This campus is banded by domes, the Morehead domes on the north end, the Smith Center dome on the south end," Shapiro said. "And they both deal with stars."

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Application deadline: Monday, October 19, 1998. Awards will be announced November 4.

Minority Orientations Come Under Fire

Critics have recently cited minority orientations for causing racial tensions among university students.

By **EMILY CRAMER**
Staff Writer

Some students at Northern schools think special minority freshman orientations, much like UNC's Pre-Orientation, encourage racial tension among students, according to recent reports.

The latest issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education cited opposition to separate minority orientations for incoming freshmen, such as Yale's Pre-Orientation Program.

Some people argued that these programs prompted segregation practices throughout a student's college experience.

However, advocates of the programs said they were positively motivated and

well-received by those who attended them.

Robert Jackson, associate director of Undergraduate Admissions and Minority Recruitment at Yale, said PROP was simply a way for minority students to become accustomed to campus life.

"PROP prepares them for college and gives them a preview of campus life," he said.

"I don't think it encourages segregation,"

Jackson said Yale had a variety of other programs available for students who were not chosen for PROP or who did not wish to attend the orientation for other reasons.

"Though PROP is mostly a minority program, we do have other programs," he said.

"Minority students can go to other orientations."

A spokesman for Brown University, whose Pre-Orientation program was also under fire for increasing racial tension, declined comment on what he

"(Orientation) prepares them for college and gives them a preview of campus life. I don't think it encourages segregation."

ROBERT JACKSON
Yale University

called a "sensitive issue."

Archie Ervin, director of recruitment and special programs at the Office of Minority Affairs at UNC, said Pre-Orientation was an important opportunity for minority students to become aware of all that the University could offer them.

"Our program acts as a transition mechanism," he said.

"It targets two or three of the most severely underrepresented minority groups - not to segregate them, but to give them different vehicles to explore."

Ervin said students who attended Pre-Orientation were overwhelmingly posi-

tive about their experience.

"Ninety-nine percent of the students who attended Pre-Orientation said they would recommend the program to next year's freshmen," he said.

Freshman Camp, a predominantly white orientation program, is currently working to diversify the experience of incoming students by breaking down the perceived racial barrier.

Christina Cupo, a sophomore from Hickory and a Freshmen Camp counselor, said the camp staff was working to integrate diversity into the campers' experience.

"The structure of Freshman Camp does not imply that of UNC," she said.

"We are working on that though," Cupo said. "We have a human relations committee to get multi-cultural organizations to come and speak."

"For example, we had Hip-Hop Nation perform and we had a mixer with Pre-Orientation."

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Wednesday

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - The American Red Cross will have a blood drive in the Great Hall. Blood types of every kind and from every ethnic background are seriously needed. Please donate! The drive will continue Thursday.

noon - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will present the weekly discussion group, "Around the Circle," in the BCC.

This week's forum will be on "The Black Student Movement and the BCC: Separate but Together."

7 p.m. - The Wesley Foundation will present a program dealing with service to the community. The cost is \$3. Come early for dinner at 6 p.m.

7:30 p.m. - Should the student body vice-president be elected with the student body president? Please come voice your opinions to Student Congress at a public forum in Union 208.

Items of Interest

Applications are now being accepted

for three student positions on the Board of Directors for the 1999 Yackety Yack, UNC's yearbook. Pick up applications between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday in Union 106, or in the Pit on Sept. 23 and 24. The deadline for applications will be Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.

Run the Franklin Street Mile!! Alpha Phi Omega will sponsor the event on Saturday. Proceeds will go to N.C. Special Olympics.

For more information or an application, please visit the Internet site www.RTPnet.org/~ctc.

There will be a CPR and home safety classes on two consecutive Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the James T. Hedrick building, 211 Friday Center Drive. Space is available for these two part classes: Oct. 5 and Oct. 12, Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, and Dec. 14 and Dec. 21. Cost is \$25 per person.

For the Record

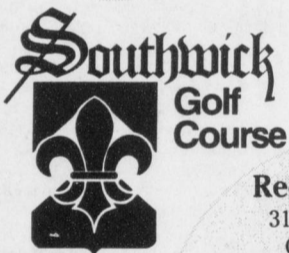
Monday's article, "Williamson Explains His Illness," should have identified Winston Crisp as a former assistant dean in the School of Law.

A raised quotation in Tuesday's article "Locals React to Lurid Details of Starr Report," should have identified the speaker as Joel Schwartz, professor of political science.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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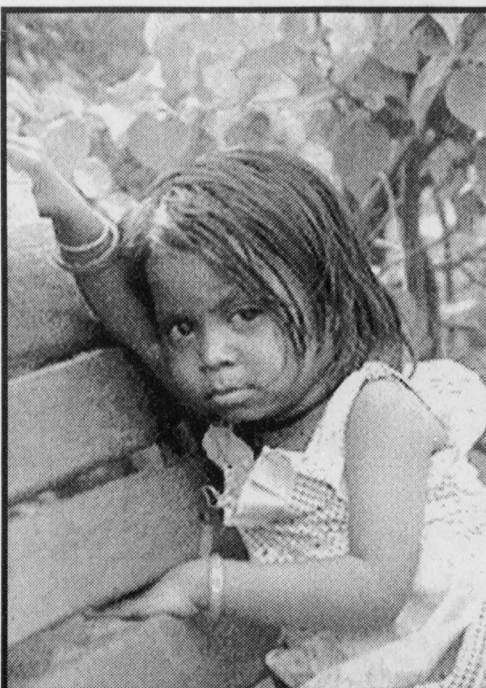
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