

Faculty group seeks donations for planetarium

Posted by the Ocean County Observer on 05/2/07

We all have read that Ocean County College was taken for a ride by a fraudulent philanthropist named Edward Devine from Berkley Township who had pledge millions to save the planetarium.

It was nothing more than a cruel hoax.

The local newspapers, freeholders, school districts, PTAs and local education associations continue to say that it is a crime that OCC has closed the planetarium after 32 years of service to the children and adults of Ocean County.

It is said that more than 30,000 children have visited the site and received their first taste of the heavens.

That figure doesn't count into it the seniors citizens and the star-gazing folks on Friday nights.

The cost to repair the unit is about \$60,000.

To replace it and bring the 32-year-old system into the 21st century would cost about \$1.5 million.

After conversations with the administration, the Ocean County College Adjunct Faculty Association has been assured that there are no plans for an administrative dining room in the planetarium, as rumored on campus.

What is on file at the Toms River Planning Board is a room that will be used for "planetarium shows, events and credit instruction."

We are advised that Steve Leone will chair the public campaign effort.

The college will also have a kick off event for the fundraising very soon.

Therefore the OCC Adjunct Faculty Association is pledging \$750 to help fund the new planetarium because we believe in academics.

We, in turn, are calling on the county's local education associations, school boards, businesses and the county freeholders to match that or do better.

Come on people, put your money where your mouths are.

It's for the children.

It's for academics.

To make a donation or a pledge contact Save the Planetarium at: www.savetheplanetarium.org or the Ocean County College Foundation.

I would recommend that you have your donations earmarked for the planetarium.

ROBERT M. SILVA

President

MICHAEL ZAHLER

Vice President

STACY NEKERVIS

Secretary

FRANK SIRACUSA

Treasurer

Ocean County College Adjunct

Faculty Association

Copyright © 2007 Ocean County Observer. All rights reserved.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). (Updated June 7, 2005) Site design by [Asbury Park Press](#) / [Contact us](#)