

Re: C8 donation

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- *From:* oriel36 <geraldkelleher@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On 29 Sep, 15:50, Rich <rander3...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sep 28, 11:25 pm, "Dennis Woos" <dpw...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I donated my old orange Celestron-8 to my son's high school today! My son's physics teacher is a good guy and i think the scope will be well taken care of...

I am not saying that your donation was a bad idea, as I have no info about this specific school/teacher. However, I always discourage folks from donating scopes to our local schools. The teachers don't know how to use a scope, and so it ends up stuck in a storage closet. I suggest that the equipment is instead donated to a club or an individual who will use it at public events, where the students will actually get a chance to see/learn something.

Dennis

Given the emphasis on junk science in schools today (other than probably lecturing students on the "value" of the U.S. joining Kyoto,http://www.junkscience.com/MSU_Temps/Kyoto_Count_Up.htm) they've probably displaced many of their science programs with "social science" and other intellectually-lax disciplines. Maybe they can use the C8 to observe the poor and border-crossing aliens and find out why the current administration should be replaced with a socialist one to solve the World's problems? Our local science centre, where students used to be introduced to the REAL sciences at a young age, was taken over by left wing cranks who have turned this publically-funded institution into a socialist theory tank, dealing only with sociology, ecology and promotion of global wealth redistribution, otherwise known

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as "global warming theory." It's about indoctrination, not education.

You all want astronomy to be a magnification exercise and that is why nobody is interested in astronomy. Show students how Copernicus reasoned that Venus and Mercury moved faster than the Earth in an inner orbital circuit and they will enjoy it. There are excellent images which show how it happens as Venus overtakes the slower moving Earth with the central Sun as a backdrop –

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thBSDf4Ers4>

Once they understand the context that the Earth is orbitally moving slower than Venus and we see this directly, then they can move on to the more elaborate but equally appealing view of the outer planets.

Of course, it means making the effort to grasp that we are moving as well as the other planets as an actual experience rather than resorting to illustrated representations.