

## A clock for Christa McAuliffe

The Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord, N.H., is the state's official memorial to McAuliffe, the Concord social studies teacher who was killed in the Challenger space shuttle disaster in 1986. The planetarium gets about 110,000 visitors a year, and this 8-ft., 2-in. clock (see the photo at right) helps keep them, and the planetarium, right on schedule.

The clock was made by Fred Puksta of Peterborough, N.H., who titled the work "One Moment in Time." It took Puksta, an artist and designer, three years to line up the 21 private and corporate sponsors. Puksta had offered to seek financing to protect the planetarium's "fragile operating budget."

The body of the clock is made of curly maple veneer. It sits on a base of black-dyed boxwood veneer, separated by solid-copper molding. The head of the clock sits on two black boxwood triangles that are supported by two copper columns. The head is accented with copper and stainless steel. The face of the block is made of alternate veneers of satinwood and zebra-wood. Black aluminum hands keep the time. "At first glance," Puksta writes, "the sculpture's coloring and scale are reminiscent of space craft. The sculpture's ability to tell time has many interpretations regarding the age-old relationship between time and space."

Puksta spent more than five years on the project. The clock was dedicated on Jan. 23 and set for "universal time," what used to be called Greenwich mean time. —S.G.

*In memory of Christa McAuliffe. Fred Puksta's 8-ft., 2-in. clock is a tribute to the Concord, N.H., teacher who died in the Challenger space shuttle disaster in 1986. The clock keeps Universal Time at the McAuliffe Planetarium.*

