

Physics 174
Homework B - Due 15 December

30 October, 2006

The Sagan Planet Walk

This homework is optional. It can be used to replace your lowest homework grade, from the second half of the course, just as Homework A can be used for the first half.

Your assignment is to purchase a Passport to the Solar System and complete the Sagan Planet Walk in downtown Ithaca. The Sagan Planet Walk is a scale model of the Solar System extending $3/4$ of a mile from the Commons to the Sciencenter. To get credit for this assignment, you must submit the following:

Your completed Passport to the Solar System. You will need to fill out the front page of the passport, as instructed, and get it stamped at each station. The passport has more complete instruction on how to do this. One note: The station for Saturn and Uranus has changed ownership and has been renamed from Hill's Drugs to Kenny's Drugs.

A brief description of the walk. Each planet station comes with information about that planet. Can you find any errors? There is at least one at the stations on the Commons. What are your impressions of the relative spacing of the terrestrial planets compared to the jovian planets? What about their size? This does not have to be a lengthy essay. A series of comments will suffice.

You have until the end of the semester, but don't forget, it's only getting colder as the weeks go by. An ideal time to visit the Sagan Planet Walk would be late on a Saturday morning, as all of the stations where you would get your passport stamped will be open. If any are closed, the Sciencenter will help you out with stamps.

The passports are available from the Sciencenter for \$2 (plus tax). They are also available at several other locations in downtown Ithaca. See the Sciencenter website about the Sagan Planet Walk for more details:

<http://www.sciencenter.org/saganpw/>

The Sciencenter is open Tue. to Sat. from 10 am to 5 pm, and on Sun. from noon to 5 pm.

Have fun!