

**Stony Brook Gets  
Grant** Page 2

**Police Blotter** Page 5

*The Stony Brook*

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# Statesman

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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 10

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2000

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

# More Than

# Four

## GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Statistics Show 51  
Percent of All College  
Students Graduate in  
Five Years**

Page 3

# USB Wins Grant

## Money Will Go to Support a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Facility

By SULAIMAN BEG  
Statesman Contributor

The State University of New York at Stony Brook was awarded a \$1 million grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation, one of the nation's largest charitable organizations, last Thursday, to support the founding of a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) facility.

"This grant helps make possible the kinds of research which have benefit to all segments of the population," said Gail S. Habicht, vice president of research for the University, who made the announcement. "It will also help ensure that the University will remain a national leader in scientific and biomedical research."

The grant, which recognizes excellence in research, will provide for enhanced research capabilities in the area of structural biology, specifically on the structure of membrane proteins.

A membrane protein is a protein embedded in the cell membrane that allows for the transport of materials to and from the cell, such as the sodium-potassium pump. They are the traffic lights of the human body.

Habicht said the grant would allow two things, the purchase of some special NMR equipment and it will "support computational facilities here and in Brookhaven."

"It's a very prestigious award," Habicht said. "A large award."

The late W. M. Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Company, found the W.M. Keck Foundation in 1954. The foundation's grants are primarily focused on revolutionary efforts in the areas of higher education, medical research, science, and engineering. To date the foundation has awarded grants of over \$875 million nationwide.

"The grant will help improve the quality of life," said Patrick Calabria, director of media relations at SUNY Stony Brook.

According to Calabria, the grant brings to the University "recognition by a large and prestigious and philanthropic organization," and gives additional research power to better the community. "It's beefing up the structural biology program," he said.

Habicht said that the structural biology program offers students the opportunity to learn one of the most important fields after the post-



Statesman Archives

The Nuclear Magnetic Resonance facility will be housed in the Center for Molecular Medicine.

Genomic era.

"The post-Genomic era refers to the time period when scientists discovered that genes are responsible for genetic information being passed on," said Christopher Enright, a 21-year-old biochemistry major.

Stony Brook recruited Professor Steven O. Smith, who is responsible for developing the method that uses high-resolution magic angle spinning to undertake the structure of membrane proteins, to serve as the director of the Center for Structural Biology.

The Center of Structural Biology will bridge the molecular and cell biology programs at Stony Brook with the know-how of BNL. Along with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the University shares an x-ray beam line at National Synchrotron Light Source at BNL. This plan takes advantage of the world-class facilities for x-ray crystallography at BNL and the solid-state NMR

spectroscopy at Stony Brook to answer major questions in the biomedical sciences.

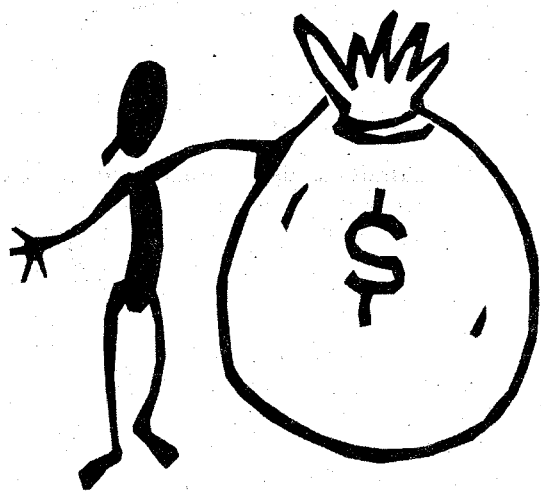
Calabria hopes that the new facilities will expose undergraduates to research. "It's research that really looks into how things develop," he said.

Michael T. W. Liu, a graduate student studying biological chemistry who has recently published a paper in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* concerning structural biology, said, "There's a lot to be learned in that field now."

"It's a worthwhile field so anything that contributes to the advancement of Structural Biology at USB is good," he said.

The new facility, to be named the W.M. Keck NMR Facility, will be placed in Stony Brook's Center for Molecular Medicine, a \$34 million state-of-the-art research building that was dedicated in November, located next to the Life Sciences building.

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# It Takes Time

## Study Says College Students are More Likely to Graduate in Over Four Years

By JULIE MINGIONE  
Statesman Editor

As many Stony Brook students are finding out through experience, college is not necessarily a four year endeavor.

A trend has been developing since the mid-1970's, showing that it takes an average of five years or more to complete a bachelor's degree program.

According to a report published by the American College Testing (ACT) organization, "...the proportion of freshman who enrolled at four year colleges in the fall of 1993 and graduated with bachelor's degrees within five years fell to a new record low of 51.6 percent, down from 52.1 percent last year."

This is an issue pertinent to the Stony Brook community, as many seniors are finding themselves without housing for the fall 2000 semester, a result of the University's "eight-semester-and-out policy."

Experts say that college no longer simply takes four years at one institution. A federal survey found that it takes an average of five years to earn a bachelor's degree, and that the bulk of students do change schools at least once.

When Natasha Elie entered Stony Brook this fall as a freshman, she registered for courses for a computer engineering major. She was advised to take MAT 131 and PHY 131, but the classes proved to generate an enormous workload, forcing Elie to take the Pass/No Credit option in both. In order for her to make up for the credits she did not receive last semester, Elie will



It will take some students more than four years before they don a graduation cap and gown. Statesman/Ruth Chung

be attending summer school. However, Elie said, "I probably will be here an extra semester."

When asked if she is worried that the eight-semester rule will affect her, Elie said, "I wasn't worried about anything until I heard about the policy. Now that I know, I'm realizing that living off campus

students choose courses that will help them to graduate on time. Ellen Hopkins, director of the Academic Advising Center, expressed concern about the policy. "I think the eight semester plan is great if a person starts out knowing what their major is and if it's appropriate for them. But many students don't know how

to devote the time to their studies," she said.

Hopkins also cited a lack of SUNY funding as a explanation for students not finishing degree requirements in four years. "I've had many students complain to me that they get closed out of the classes they need."

University Senate President Aaron Godfrey also cites SUNY cuts in funding as a roadblock to a four year bachelor's degree.

Vincent Trino is the chairman of the higher education program at Syracuse University. He says that many people can only afford college by going to work and school simultaneously. Some students even attend less costly two-year community colleges, and then transfer. Sometimes credits can be lost in the shuffle of transferring, hindering a student's graduation. Under the University's new housing policy, transfer students are allowed only six semesters to reside on campus.

"With more high school graduates - now about 67 percent- going directly to college, you also have larger numbers of inadequately prepared college freshmen," said Wes Habley. "These students have more academic gaps to fill before they can progress toward their degree."

*"A federal survey found that it takes an average of five years to earn a bachelor's degree, and that the bulk of students do change schools at least once."*

will probably be more money out of my parents' pockets."

It is no surprise to anyone that the transition from high school to college can be tough to handle. Wes Habley, director of the ACT Center for the Enhancement of Educational Practices, said that most high school graduates are not ready for the more rigorous academic workload that college brings.

Academic advising can help

to manage their time and don't know how to study," she said.

"I think it's possible to graduate in four years if the right choices are made," she said.

But Hopkins conceded that Stony Brook students have full schedules. "A lot of typical Stony Brook students have serious work commitments. Many of the people we've seen expressed work as the main reason they haven't been able

# POLITY - YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## **POLITY ELECTIONS** **TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY** **APRIL 11 & 12, 2000**

Monday, March 6th at 8:30am to Friday, March 10th at 4:30pm:

### **PETITION PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES AND REFERENDUM**

#### **POSITIONS:**

President, Vice President, Senior Representative,  
Junior Representative, Sophomore Representative,  
Secretary, Treasurer, Student Assembly,  
Stony Brook Council, SASU Representative

#### **REFERENDA:**

Academic, Ambulance, Blackworld, Cheerleaders,  
College, Intramurals, SPA Security Equipment, SASU,  
SB Childcare, USSA

#### **POLLING STATIONS:**

Union, SAC, Melville Library, Javits, Roth Quad, Kelly Quad, H quad, \*HSC  
Hours of Operation 9am- 7pm  
\* Open only Tuesday April 11, 2000

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## AFRICAN STUDENTS' UNION

The members of the AFRICAN STUDENTS' UNION (A.S.U.) cordially invites you to attend a program on 'HIV/AIDS in Minority Communities.'

HIV/AIDS is one of the top causes of death in the minority communities presently. Our goal is to bring awareness and focus on the issues of HIV/AIDS. Various guest speakers and people living with this disease will be in attendance and speak on the topic. This is a great opportunity to educate minorities and the campus at large about this deadly disease.

The program will be held on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, at 9pm in the UNITY CULTURAL CENTER (U.C.C.). Please have members of your organization sign an attendance sheet, so that your club or organization could be acknowledged during the program. For further questions or information, please contact Joy Andrew at 216-4285 or Evelyn Benson at 216-4283. We are looking forward to seeing you all.

## SAB PRESENTS



# Billy Joel

## **"AN EVENING OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS . . . AND A LITTLE MUSIC"**

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**Tickets: \$30 USB Students/\$35 USB Faculty/Staff/Guests**  
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One Day Tix Sales on Friday, February 25, 9AM - 6PM at the Polity Box Office (Stony Brook Union). Must have valid USB ID. Two Ticket Purchase Limit. Students - one ticket @ Student Rate and one ticket @ Guest Rate. Faculty/Staff - up to 2 tickets @ Guest Rate. Polity Box Office: (631) 632-6464.

**Brought to you by The Student Polity Activities Board**

If special accommodations due to a disability are needed, contact Student Polity. 632-6460

Thursday, February 17

12:11 am A pizza delivery man was stuck in the mud in the Mendlesohn Inner Quad. A tow truck was called.

5:21 am A motorist was stuck inside the garage behind the Administration Building.

9:00 am Graffiti was spotted on the walls of the hallway connecting Harriman Hall and the Physics building.

4:14 pm A laundry bag was stolen from Drieser College.

Friday, February 18

12:12 am Three to five males were seen throwing rocks at the exterior of Greely College. The suspects were gone upon police arrival.

2:22 am Three intoxicated males caused a disturbance in the Taco Bell of Kelly Cafeteria and disappeared before the police arrived.

2:31 am Three subjects were taken into custody for brandishing a knife to fellow students prior to engaging in a fight. The victims refused to press charges and the subjects were released and referred to judicial affairs. The knife was confiscated by police.

2:41 am Extensive damage was done to the entire Greely College lounge. There are currently no suspects.

3:06 am Massive flooding occurred on the first floor of Gray College. The water was extremely hot and set off the fire alarm.

3:46 am The smell of marijuana was reported in Gray College and all contraband was confiscated. The students in question were referred to judicial affairs.

5:19 am One female was assaulted during a fight in Langmuir College (see 2:31 am entry). She was treated in the UHER and released.

9:25 am A stolen computer and printer were stolen from the Social and Behavioral Sciences building.

Saturday, February 19

1:52 am An intoxicated man was taken to the UHER from the Bleacher Club in the Student

8:41 pm Obscene phone calls were reported to police by the same party.

Sunday, February 20

4:23 am Two males were beating on the door to a room in Hand College. One student was referred to judicial affairs.

7:05 pm A male passed out in Cardozo College but refused treatment.

Monday, February 21

12:43 am An employee's vehicle was stolen from the Roth Cafe Loading Dock. A surveillance video was obtained and is being reviewed.

12:49 am A verbal dispute between a boyfriend and a girlfriend was broken up. The RA and the RHD were on the scene.

12:47 pm Various merchandise, valued at \$100 was stolen from the Student Union TV room.

1:10 pm Four car tires were slashed in the Roosevelt College parking lot.

8:14 pm A bomb threat against the campus was received over marine radio by the Setauket Fire Department. It later turned out to be a prank by local kids.

Tuesday, February 22

12:23 pm The smell of gas was detected in the Graduate Chemistry building, and turned out to be unfounded.

11:23 pm A person in the Roosevelt Quad parking lot was seen laying in a prone position in their car. The person turned out to be just resting.

Blotter of the Week: 8:14 p.m. A bomb threat against the campus recieved over marine radio by the Setauket Fire Department. It later turned out to be a prank by kids.

Union.

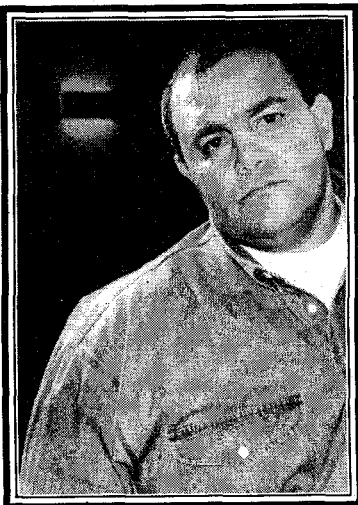
10:19 am A TV, VCR, and purse, valued at \$600 was stolen from Douglass College.

7:51 pm A TV and VCR was stolen from a room in Toscanini College.

8:07 pm Annoying phone calls were received and reported in Hamilton College.

YARON SVORAY

In October 1992, Yaron Svoray (A.K.A. Ron Furey) went undercover to determine the strength, financial base, and leadership of Germany's neo-Nazi movement... His findings have proven the neo-Nazi danger to be far larger in numbers and much more pervasive than previously suspected. Svoray discovered that the neo-Nazis were not merely skinhead thugs, but that their ranks included lawyers, engineers, professors, policemen, and military personnel...



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Yaron Svoray

Wednesday, March 1st 8:00 pm SB Union Auditorium

In 1997, Yaron again attempted to expose evil when he sought to reveal the sordid and criminal underground snuff film industry... Most recently, Yaron embarked on another secret mission into Germany and France that will be the exciting basis of his next book!

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 24, 2000

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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members.

The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus. Write to:

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PO Box 1530

Stony Brook, NY 11790

or: Room 057

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The Stony Brook Statesman has been a member of the Associated Collegiate Press since 1994.



## Editorials

# No More Out in Four

Within a democratic system, there usually exists some sort of provision stipulating that the majority rules. At least, that is what we are taught. This should (ideally) mean that the wishes of the largest sector of the people are carried out. Are we, as SUNY students, part of a democratic system?

Conventional wisdom will tell you yes, of course we are. We get to vote for the people who will appoint others to carry on their duties in our best interests. But time and again, SUNY students are faced with final decisions that appear as though their interests were totally disregarded.

Most of you probably already know that it is nearly impossible to graduate in the prescribed and so-called "normal" four years. These late bloomers, known as superseniors," bare the brunt of many a joke: "Hey, don't they call you people doctors?"

But can anyone expect anything different? Students with families, multiple jobs and other extra curricular activities simply do not have the time to take the fifteen plus credits per semester in order to get a diploma at the end of a four year stint. But personal issues aside, the government does not make the process any easier.

With constant tuition

increases (courtesy of Pataki) and harsh slashings of financial aid (courtesy of Pataki), just finding a way to finance your education is a four year project in itself. No wonder people go part time. Besides the time factor, and

*"Should seniors be penalized for needing more time to finish their studies? Only if you want to punish more than half of the student body along with it."*

the lack of it, this is sometimes the only option wallets and bank accounts will allow.

But as if the stress of trying to be "on time" was not enough, being a student here at Stony Brook and not getting out in four years can prove to be much more detrimental than being called late. It might make you homeless.

A recent proposal made by USB administration is looking to give students the boot after they have lived on campus

eight semesters. In order to make room for the ever-increasing enrollment of freshmen, USB could find no other solution than to force seniors up and out of their dorms. The policy has met with strong opposition to students on campus who fear that they will have a hard time finding housing in the surrounding area. But knowing statistically that the majority will need more than eight semesters, shouldn't an alternative be explored?

According to a recent survey by American College Testing, 51% of students that entered college in 1993 did not graduate in four years and the trend is continuing.

As we have mentioned in this space before, it is sickeningly ironic that increased enrollment is constantly used as a gauge to measure USB's success. But typical of most administrative moves, they effectively block the other negative side of the coin from view. Heaven forbid we get any bad press.

Should seniors be penalized for needing more time to finish their studies? Only if you want to punish more than half of the student body along with it. But homeless students will not look too good sleeping in the lobby of the Administration building. Will it take President Kenny tripping over a sleeping bag that something will be done?

## Grievances With the Phone Company

To the Editor:

As a resident that has lived on campus for the past eight semesters, I have seen the university squeeze every penny they can from the students. If it isn't the meal plan, it's the increase in university fees. But I'm not going to write about that. Many articles have discussed them already. No, I want to talk about our latest phone company.

The other day I received a bill from Student Telephone Services (STS) pertaining to my December phone calls. I expected the bill to be a small amount because I hadn't made many

phone calls that month. To my surprise, the bill was more than I expected.

I looked at the list of calls I had made. Apparently, STS had charged me for all the one minute phone calls that I have been making since the beginning of the fall semester. But the problem was that I never actually connected to the people that I was charged for.

I went to the STS office and complained about my grievances. I spoke with their representative and she told me what had happened.

Apparently, STS's system will charge a connection fee after two rings. No matter if the other party picks up.

From my experience it takes at least four rings before the other party answers.

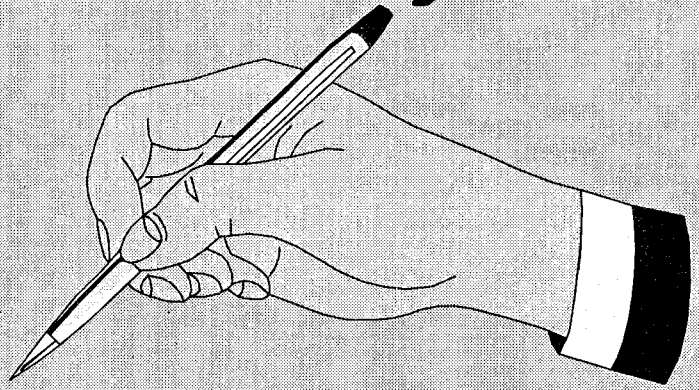
I know of other students that have been charged for those calls that were never connected and their upset over it as well. I was thinking that if everyone using the PAC was charged, then STS sure raked in a lot of money.

What kind of corrupt business practice is this? The least they could've done was send a message telling students how they run their company. I just hope there is enough outrage that the system changes.

Sincerely,  
Jian Wen

# Contribute to *Statesman's* Literary Supplement

The *Statesman* is looking for submissions for its annual spring literary supplement. All poetry, short stories, photography and artwork are being accepted. Submissions are due by April 8 and can be brought down to the *Statesman* office in the basement of the Union in room 057. For more information call 632-6479 and ask for Kat.



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# A Doll's House Comes to Staller

By JESSICA LEFFLER  
Statesman Staff

Changing the face of the theatrical world, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* opened the doors to a subject that was often unheard of a century ago: the issue of women's rights. Penned during an era when performances only idealized current issues, *A Doll's House* revolutionized modern drama by constituting a theme of the equality of women in society. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Stony Brook Theatre Department will journey back in time when the struggle for equality was just beginning.

The play features a unique couple, Nora and Torvald Helmer. Widely respected and admired by peers in the community, Torvald devotes his time to work, his wife, and his children. Although content with her life, Nora believes that there is something missing. In accusing her husband of never loving her, Nora discovers Torvald's true feelings

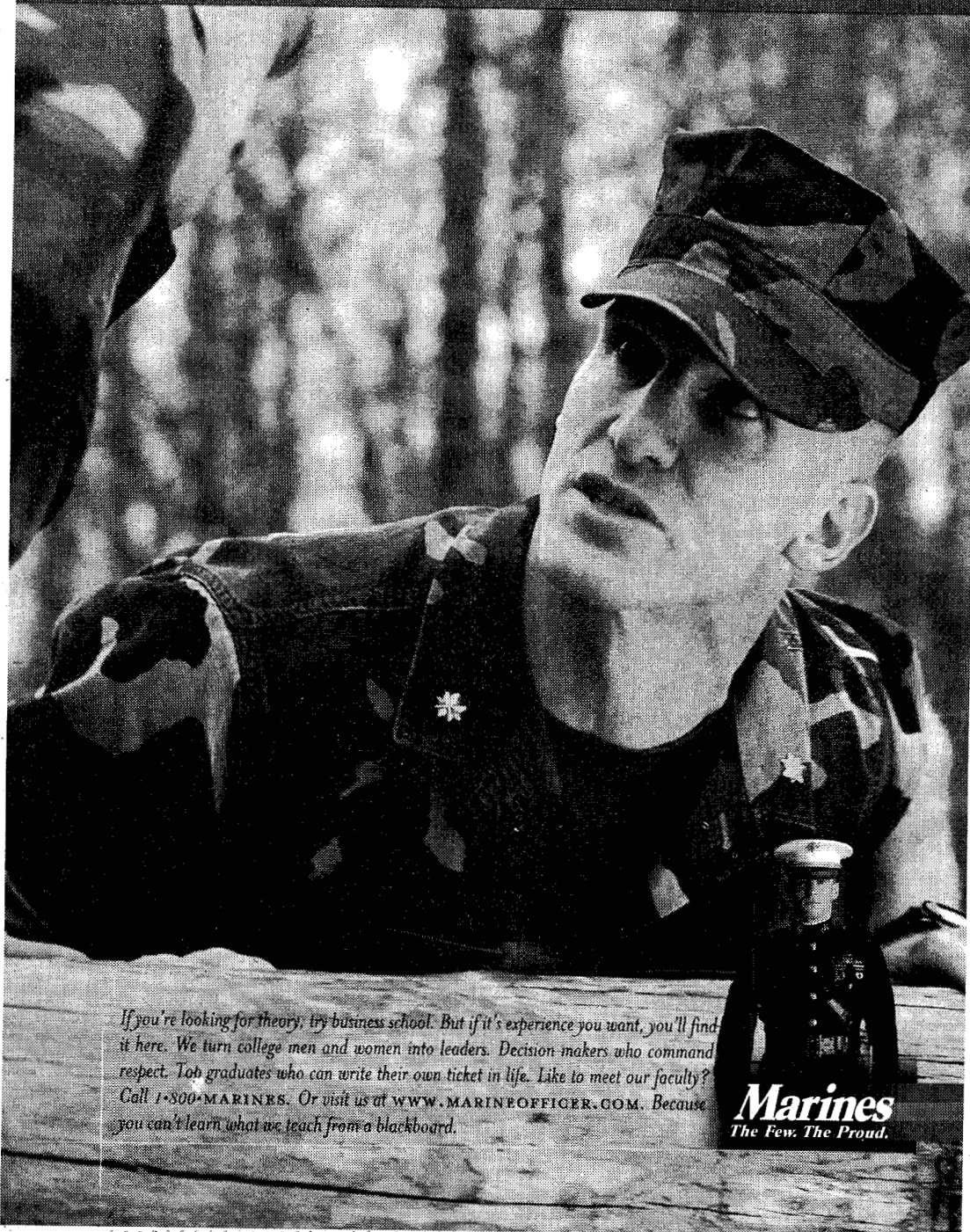


Statesman/Ruth Chung

The performance of *A Doll's House* will feature an innovative plot twist - three women playing the role of Nora.

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regarding her role in the marriage. When Nora questions him as to what her most sacred duties encompass, Torvald responds, "your duties to your husband and children." Nora stubbornly replies, "I think before all else I am a human being."

Leaving behind the only life she has ever know, Nora escapes from the bond of marriage. Determined to alter the role of the ideal woman, she crusades to achieve a message of freedom and equality. Believing that the limitations of women in society need to be expanded, Nora sets out to convince others of her views on the subject.

Critics have viewed *A Doll's House* as a success, and as controversial. Nora ruined her marriage with Torvald, despite the fact that she realized the limitations of women in society. Standing up for what a person believes in was not the status quo at the end of the nineteenth century. It was especially discouraged in Nora's case, because it put her husband's reputation in danger. However, Ibsen's work caused theatre to look at the ramifications of the women's liberation movement. Idealistic theatre practices soon became unfashionable and more realistic themes were presented.

Theatre instructor Aaron Leichter states that "*A Doll's House*" was the "starting point of modern drama." He continued by noting that before 1879, theatre had an idealistic focus. After performing this play, the theatre world was compelled to look at the issue of changing female styles in a more realistic manner.

Set on a "stylized set," *A Doll's House* will feature costumes that will transform the image of nineteenth century England. The "female Hamlet" will be played by three women; Jennifer Guernieri, Liz Breznak-Arata, and Candice Thacker. Glenn Beck has assumed the role of Torvald. Stony Brook's *A Doll's House* is being directed by Paul Kassel. The play will be performed from Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The show begins at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and the Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. For more information, please call 632-ARTS.

*A Doll's House* is a play that has caused a multitude of controversy through the years, and has, in its own way, altered the course of history. Brave women of the 1800s demanded equality and freedom of the demands of men, and succeeded in doing so. *A Doll's House* is a realistic and evocative testament to their struggle.

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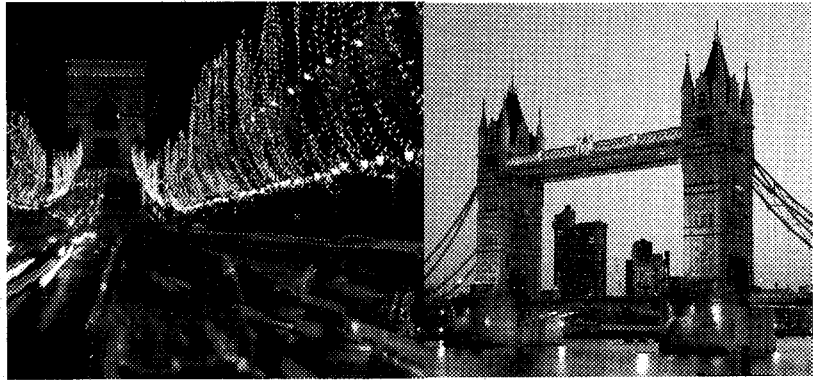
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—Rod Tidwell to Jerry Maguire

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—James Carville to the Clinton campaign

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2/28/00  
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Monday  
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3:00-4:30pm  
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 Features

# Seeing Red at the Library

BY ERIN ROSENKING  
Statesman Editor

With its water-filled panels, cables and wires, industrial sized fans and larger-than-life telescope, Nate Johanson's art exhibit looks something like a scene from a science fiction movie.

Installed in the gallery of the library, Johanson's piece, titled "Red Shift," attracted many an interested passerby at the show's opening last Tuesday. Those that wandered in were confronted with the soothing hum of two fans mounted on the ceiling. Johanson described the sound they created as very meditative, what he called a mechanized "om."

In addition, four transparent wooden framed panels were set up on a diagonal across the ceiling. Each panel contained pools of water that resulted from the drip of tubes that disappeared into the ceiling. As each drop fell, expanding ripple shadows spread across the gallery floor. The lights that allowed for this shadow effect are what the artist called the "creators" of the exhibit's environment.

But the huge telescope in the corner of the room is the show's main attraction. Made of curved wooden panels of decreasing size, tubes and metal, and propped up on portions of tree stumps,

the telescope is easily mistaken for some sort of missile. But with further inspection, one notices the outline of footprints in front of the scope's chair, also constructed on a tree stump, inviting the spectator to have a seat and take a look inside. Upon sitting, an image of a fireplace shows up in the telescope, the only red to be seen in the piece.

Although the show itself is of a much deeper meaning to Johanson than science, he admitted that a "red shift" does have some scientific grounding. He explained that the term comes from the ability to tell whether stars and galaxies are moving away from us, a phenomenon only noticeable through the use of advanced scientific equipment such as spectrascopes. He also admitted that the air turbulence and the watery effects of the shadows within the piece have a basis in physics.

But while the term "Red Shift" can be applied scientifically to correspond with Johanson's piece, the artist was more interested in letting it reflect something other than science. "It's about a kind of convergence," Johanson said. He explained that all the elements within the exhibit, including the telescope, the lights and the fan, all relate to events in his life. But by combining in the piece, they



Statesman/Ruth Chung

The exhibit at the library art gallery is interactive - viewers can look through a telescope.

represent something new.

Johanson said that the use of scientific ideas allowed him to speak metaphorically about his life and about human relationships. "The idea of focusing on those things that move away from us or "red shift" plays a part," he said. "After all, these ideas can relate to how humans relate to each other."

Regardless of the message he was trying to convey on a broad scale, viewers were impressed with Johanson's work. Graduate student Aicardo Vazquez described the floor shadows as "neat" and he wondered how Johanson was going to drain the water from the overhead panels. "I really like it," he said, "I'm amazed."

To celebrate the opening of the show,

Johanson provided those that attended with a small banquet almost as unusual as his work. As people dined on crackers and cheese in a can, bread, apples, bananas and baby food, student Man Lee wandered into the gallery. "I like what he did with the lamps," he said, "and I am trying to figure out what the artist was trying to do."

Johanson would have been able to offer an explanation. "I guess the lights, the water, the wind and the hum become things related to my predisposition in life," he explained. "The fire is also something you have to look inside for—it's just that you have to get past all the exterior to get to it."

"Red Shift" will run in the library gallery until Saturday, February 26.



Statesman/Ruth Chung Chung

A fireplace is visible through a telescope.