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Bye, Bye, Hazleburg!



The Engineers take a study Break.
Bush, are you going limp on us?



Colleen, your floor just loves you don't they?

Sheardy Receives Grant

Dr. Richard Sheardy, associate professor of chemistry at the Penn State Hazleton Campus, has received a \$100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for continuing research on the unusual DNA structures. The grant will provide for equipment, a fellowship for a Hazleton Campus undergraduate student to assist in the research, and for additional support through travel to other universities where research in Dr. Sheardy's field is being carried out.

Dr. Sheardy spoke of his field of DNA research: "About ten years ago, we had a picture of the DNA molecule -- the genetic messenger -- as the way it had earlier been defined in the 1950's. It looks, in fact, like a right-handed spiral staircase. We now know that deviations from this ideal structure do occur and are biologically important in terms of the viability of a cell."

"The unusual types of DNA structures which I am studying may behave as 'molecular switch-

es.' If we can understand the nature of these processes, we can better understand the mechanisms by which cells maintain their life cycles."

This research has great importance in the study of certain diseases -- why cells become malignant, for example, or in the study of those diseases of genetic origin.

This is the second grant that Dr. Sheardy has received from the National Science Foundation that has enabled him to build upon his earlier work in the field of molecular research.

The scholarship will provide funds for a student fellowship that will enable one of Dr. Sheardy's science students to work with him on a variety of research tasks such as setting up experiments, assisting in analysis and computation.

Sheardy's success in acquisition of grants of this size is a reflection of his reputation in the field. It is also unique in that these kinds of grants are rarely given to Commonwealth campuses, but rather to large research in-

stitutions.

Dr. Sheardy earned his B.S.T. degree in chemistry from Michigan State University, and his Ph.D. degree in bio-organic chemistry from the University of Florida. He joined Penn State Hazleton in 1981, after a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Rochester. In the past, he has done a good deal of research in collaboration with scientists at the University of Pennsylvania and the State University of New York at Albany. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Penn State Hazleton Campus Faculty Research Committee.

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