



THE GUILFORDIAN

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Neil Tyson helps "Celebrate the Sciences"

Daniel Fleishman

News Editor

With the confidence and flair of a brilliant teacher, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson delivered a rousing speech about science in the media and emphasized that the simple act of thinking carefully and analytically can broaden your intellect.

He spoke on Thursday, Oct. 26, at the New Garden Friends Meeting of certain core concepts that are repeatedly misunderstood by the general public. He placed the blame on careless misrepresentation in newspapers and on television. He also attempted to grow in the audience some enthusiasm for astronomy and physics that may not have previously existed, while at the same time demonstrating how important science is in our everyday lives.

By speaking in non-technical terms with ingenious metaphors -- comparable to the late science popularizer, Carl Sagan -- Tyson explained certain scientific ideas that can often be confusing.

For example, Tyson gave his own definition of the scientific method, which, by dictionary terms, is a method of investigation involving observation and

theory to test scientific hypotheses. He said, for clarity, "The scientific method is any system of actions designed to prevent you from fooling yourself. Built into that is, of course, skepticism."

At the speech on Thursday, as part of his desire to correct the common misconceptions of his field, Tyson explained that "science is a way of thinking, science is a way of knowing, science is a way of connecting yourself to the world around you in ways that you might not have of appreciated."

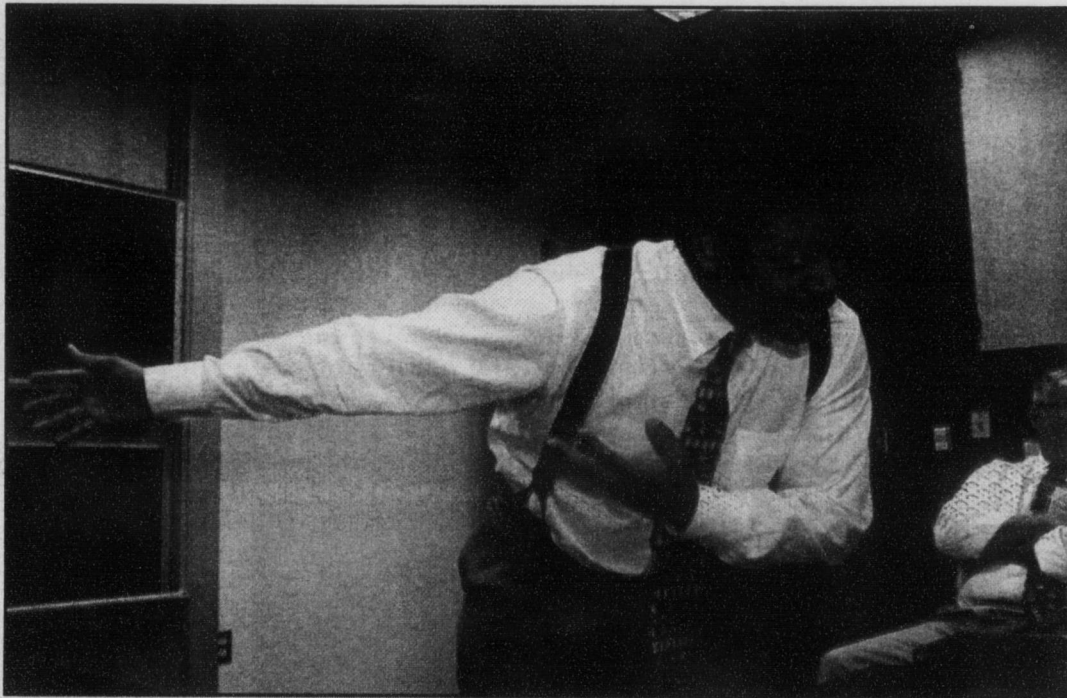
Tyson, director of the recently rebuilt Hayden Planetarium in New York City and visiting research scientist and lecturer at Princeton University, told his stories with a genuine eccentricity, and drew innumerable laughs with a knack for witty one-liners. The audience wel-

comed his warmth; it seemed that not one person sat unaffected by his passion for the subject.

He grew up in New York City, where he was educated in public schools until he went on to Harvard University for his B.A. in Physics. He then received his Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Columbia University. He has done research in problems related to star formation models of dwarf galaxies, exploding stars, and the chemi-

cal evolution of the Milky Way's galactic bulge.

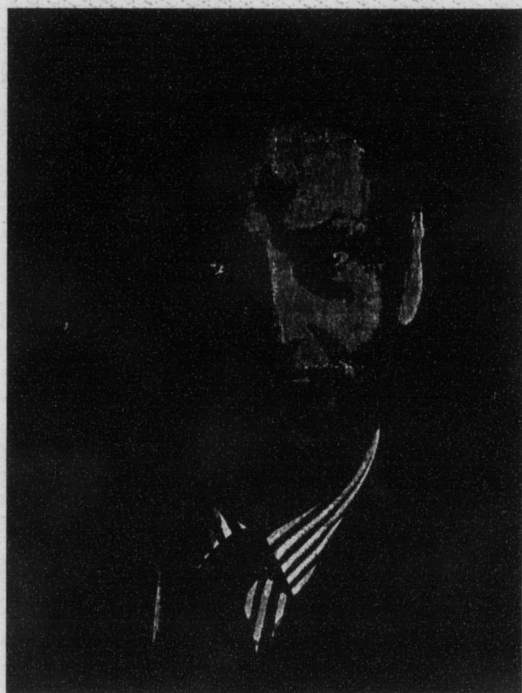
Tyson was the featured speaker for the weekend's dedication of the new Frank Family Science Center, a series of events entitled "Celebrate the Sciences." The events included short lectures all day from alumni who have gone into the various fields of science, and culminated with the dedication of the building and a picnic dinner.



Neil Tyson gives one of his technical talks in the Frank Family Science Center.

COURTESY OF GUILFORD COLLEGE

Bradley to speak on Thursday and conclude speakers' series on "The American Presidency"



Bill Bradley

COURTESY OF GUILFORD COLLEGE

Staff Reports

Bill Bradley, former U.S. senator and presidential candidate, will speak on leadership, politics and the American presidency. The speech is this Thursday, November 9, in Dana Auditorium, at 9 p.m.

Bradley served in the

U.S. senate for 18 years and is known as a leader, athlete, writer and presidential candidate. He is the author of four books, with *Values of the Game* in 1998 becoming a New York Times bestseller.

Since retiring from the U.S. Senate in 1995, Bradley has served as chair of the National Civic League and has

been involved in public affairs and higher education. He headed an institute focused on leadership at the University of Maryland, worked on issues in international affairs at Stanford University, and taught an undergraduate seminar in public policy at the University of Notre Dame.

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