

THE Albrightian

A DIFFERENT WAY OF REPORTING

IN THIS EDITION



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Albright student witnesses Japan earthquake over Skype

By **ELIZABETH GORDON**
The Albrightian

It is routine for the Japanese Language Exchange to meet on Thursdays in Masters Hall, to exchange Japanese and English phrases and laugh as the students stumble over pronunciations. But there was little laughter on March 22, as American students asked Japanese student Emiri Kitabayashi what phrases they could use to comfort grieving Japanese friends.

“How is your family?” “Where is your family?” and “I pray for you,” were just a few of the sentences Kitabayashi translated for the handful of students who attended. The atmosphere was far less light-hearted than usual as everyone repeated: *Watashi ha anata no tame ni imasu* - I am here for you.

Kitabayashi was in her dorm room at Albright when she witnessed the effects of the earthquake while chatting with a friend in Tokyo via Skype.

“We were talking and laughing as always but he suddenly said that he felt something was happening; then he realized that it was earthquake and told me so. I could hear some noises of things shaking and dropping from his room immediately. But we actually didn’t care about it because it was not unusual since Japan is subject to earthquakes.

“Then we kept chatting, but the earthquake had not

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Albright battles to keep four-way stop sign, ensure student safety



A stop sign at the intersection of North 13th and Richmond Streets

Photo courtesy of Morgan Jones

By **AMBRE JURYEAMOLE**
The Albrightian

An article in the Fall 2010 Welcome Mat edition of *The Albrightian* proclaimed the excitement of the Albright community as stop signs were installed at 13th and Bern streets.

“Albright College can finally enjoy safer driving conditions courtesy of the Reading Police Department,” wrote Anna Berzins.

But following the Feb. 28 Reading City Council meeting, the four-way stop sign, as well as the crosswalks on 13th and Richmond streets, may be in jeopardy.

City Council members say the signs and crosswalks cannot be placed without an ordinance, which Albright College has been unable to obtain.

According to Reading Councilman Stratton P. Marmarou, the stop signs cannot currently be enforced by Reading police because they were placed without an ordinance. Marmarou said that cases

are being dismissed in situations where driv-

ers are caught driving through the stop signs.

Barbara Marshall, associate vice president of college relations and marketing at Albright College, said, “We had petitioned the city way more than a year ago to install a four-way stop sign [on 13th and Richmond streets]. I personally witnessed three accidents out here on this corner. The traffic is very, very heavy, and the pedestrians and students and people from the neighborhood have a terrible time trying to cross the street.”

Albright College petitioned the City of Reading and said that they would pay for the stop sign. The city requested that the college conduct a traffic study at the intersection to make sure the stop sign is justifiable. The college paid for the study, which was assisted by Albright’s public safety officers, and revealed that the four-way stop sign is warranted based on the automobile traffic alone.

According to Marmarou said that cases are being dismissed in situations where driv-

Works Director Charles Jones authorized the city’s public works crews to install a stop sign at the intersection.

“As a matter of fact, they not only installed them, they put yellow flashing lights on them so people could see,” said Marshall.

Following the installation of the stop signs, the college was informed of a law stating that they had to obtain an ordinance to place stop signs and that the four-way stop sign at 13th and Richmond streets was placed illegally. In response, Marshall along with several Albright students, attended a city council meeting in July 2010 to ask the city to keep the four-way stop sign. The motion to pass an ordinance to keep the stop sign was denied at the meeting, because city council did not want to pass the ordinance in Marmarou’s district without his presence at the meeting.

The college is now in wait mode for a decision about the signs and Marshall said the city council “has been dragging

their feet for months.”

Marmarou said that city council is “trying to work it out” with Albright College President Lex O. McMillan III by contacting him, but no action is currently being taken.

According to Marmarou, the issue about the crosswalks at 13th and Bern streets must be solved before further action can be taken with the four-way stop sign. Like the stop sign, city council says the crosswalks are illegal because they had not been approved by the city. But Marshall said, “We’ve done nothing without talking to the city. Whether the city recorded it ... or told us verbally, that’s another issue.”

When told about Marmarou’s plan to wait for the crosswalk issue to be solved before action can be taken with the stop sign issue, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Services William W. Wood said, “Now why would you hold

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Albright places first in Berks Got Talent (again!)

By **SARAH TIMMONS**
The Albrightian

Albright snatched up first place for the second year in a row at Berk’s Got Talent, at Kutztown University on April 1.

The show was hosted by Jason LeVasseur, a musician/comedian who is currently on tour on the east coast. At the show, he performed both original and covers of songs, as well as some improved comedy.

Competitors showed varied talents including singers, dancers, and musicians alike. First place went to Albright’s own Clark Runciman and Jared Mason. The second place winner was a rapper named Synclair Jackson, and the third place winner played a twelve string guitar.

April Jones, a sophomore, also represented Albright in the competition with her vocal talents.

Judges included the mayor of Kutztown, as well as other prominent figures.

The duo took home \$250, and a contract to do shows at each of the six schools that competed, including Albright. “And we got t-shirts,” said Mason, “which we were MOST excited about.” The dates of the future shows have yet to be decided.

Inspired by comedian acts like Flight of the Conchords, Mason and Runciman have written approximately six more songs, with more on the way. “We’ll be doing our banter and faux-arguing, and we’re thinking about possibly adding a few characters,” said Mason, “we’re trying to write a two hour show, but we think

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subsidized and it seemed to get worse. He was watching the news on TV, so he kept informing me what was going on and I realized that this time was completely different from what we got usually," Kitabayashi said.

Kitabayashi and her friend began to try contacting other friends in Japan and were able to reach three of them. They all connected via Skype to talk.

"I tried to reach my family and friends, but the line was just being busy so I couldn't even call them. It made me more panicked. So I just kept talking with my friends and couldn't get sleep on that day," Kitabayashi added.

Cindy Krupnik, a senior and the primary student who teaches English during the language exchange, did not hear about the earthquake or the tsunami until the evening of March 11, but met with Kitabayashi that night to discuss what had happened.

"I stopped at my grandmother's house on my way home," Krupnik said. "She asked me if I had heard about Japan. She turned on CNN and I got up and moved closer to the TV and stared at it in awe. There are no words to describe the images being played on loop on the television. My grandparents and I sat in deep sorrow, probably deeper than I have ever known. What I saw was so horrific, so terrifying.

"My heart was breaking for friends and family and strangers that we will never know. I feel bad, because I left my grandparents without saying anything ... I was really in shock. I called, texted, emailed, Facebooked and prayed for every person I knew that was in Japan or had family or friends in Japan. Hearing a word from a friend was like lighting another candle in this horrible darkness that surrounded all the fear and sorrow of the tsunami. At Albright, my friends, especially my close Japanese friends, are family to me. I remember talking with one of my friends and being so relieved that [she] and her mother and father were safe. I love her family as my own and I was worried about them more than anything, because they are such amazing people.

"Yet, I only knew friends that lived in Japan. I can't even begin to fathom how someone with family in Japan felt. I can't imagine how the Japanese people feel now ... no food, no home, not knowing where their family is, where their children are."

But, the Japanese people are not alone. Not only have international relief efforts collected funds and aid to help those affected, but Albright College is doing its part, too.

"Emiri Kitabayashi and I stayed up all night that night [of the tsunami] and every night that week trying to find something, anything we could do here to reach out a hand to those people. We are designing t-shirts to sell on campus and t-shirts to sell in the community and t-shirts for large organizations

to fundraise for their projects.

"We know that we can't change what happened. Yet, I feel like something this terrible can bring about a change in people, we can help each other and give hope to each other. Even if we are just giving five bucks for a t-shirt or a huge hug for a friend, the people of Japan just need to feel supported now. Family and friends are really important to them and I think they need all the friends they can get now," Krupnik said.

The students of Albright College have shown no lack of support. South Asian Student Association raised donations via a "dorm storm" event, during which volunteers knocked on doors of the various dorm buildings on campus.

"[South Asian Student Association] dorm stormed with the help of members from Agon, Pre-Med Society [AED] and the Language Exchange program. We raised exactly \$200.01 with the greatest contribution from residents of North Hall," said Preeti Kaur, vice president of the South Asian Student Association.

The dorm storm - during which North Hall raised the most money with a donation of \$58.68 - was followed by a coffeehouse on Friday, April 1. The coffeehouse was hosted by AGON and included improvisation sketches, poetry and story readings, vocal performances and artwork sales. Altogether, students raised about \$80 to benefit Peace Winds Japan.

But relief efforts will not end there. Albrightians are aware of the greater impact sustained relief efforts have, and the campus has joined together to raise funds. The Language Exchange is supporting the Friends Supporting Japanese Relief Efforts event, which will be held on April 15 and 16 as a cultural celebration and fundraising fair. Housing and Facilities will sponsor an end of the year yard sale. The International Students Association has designed t-shirts for sale and scheduled an origami workshop.

Kitabayashi closed with a message of hope so prevalent throughout those who have suffered from the earthquake and tsunami.

"Even though I've heard about what's going on in Japan from my friends, family and a relay broadcast from internet, I still cannot believe what's going on," Kitabayashi said. "It just seems like some kind of scene from a movie. I've told [Americans] that, but I also told them that Japan will be fine soon because I know we will.

"We are the only country to have experienced nuclear attacks and lost WWII - also, we suffer from many natural disasters every year and of course the earthquakes. However, we are the country that has always stood up and overcame such difficulties, and we even make it better. So I just believe that it's going to be ok."

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the shows will be an hour."

"The first step is to grab some more attention in the area," Runciman said, "and we're talking to an agent about going to NACA (The national association of campus activities) which might allow us to tour colleges across the country, if we get booked, which would be awesome!"

The NACA discovered Daniel Tosh, a stand-up comedian who hosts a show on Comedy Central called "Tosh.0," as well as fellow comedian and ventriloquist, Jeff Dunham, who also frequents Comedy Central.

Runciman and Mason are not just partners in comedy, they're also roommates.

"It helps, absolutely," Mason said. "We're constantly talking and cracking each other up, and then being like "write that down! we can use that!" plus we have more time to practice and write."

The final step, according to Runciman? "Super-fame and world domination!"

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one safety issue hostage to another. ... I have told the city manager and anybody else that it's absurd. These are two separate issues, and they're not related whatsoever. They're both safety issues, they both need to be addressed, not held hostage."

Neighbors and Marmarou say that the intersection is confusing because the natural pathway when driving on Linden Street toward the college leads to the dining hall and the natural pathway on College Avenue leads to a parking lot.

Marshall and Wood met with Jones and Reading Police Chief William M. Heim to discuss plans for the intersection at 13th and Bern streets. They were asked to develop a proposal for the intersection, but the proposal was rejected by Jones and Heim.

Marshall says the second proposal is currently being developed by an internal committee, and Wood will be meeting with several city representatives March 29 to discuss the progress. Among the solutions are proposals to turn the entire intersection into a crosswalk or to make Bern Street a one-way street so people are only driving west to east.

"We understand about the crosswalks being confusing, but the stop sign ... we're baffled," said Marshall.

Wood also expressed his bemusement with the two issues.

He said, "We have a city that's [in] Act 47. It's essentially bankrupt. [Reading] is one of the poorest cities in the country, and they've got crime downtown. Those are better problems to worry about."

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Nuclear policy in Japan affecting U.S.

By **ELIZABETH REBER**
The Albrightian

When the earthquake caused tsunami hit Japan, the affected nuclear plant compounded the already disastrous situation. A problem not encountered in other natural disaster crises, injured and homeless citizens had to worry about contaminated water and exposure to radiation. Meanwhile, Americans worried about the possibility of that radiation reaching the west coast. And this inevitably led to inquiries and discussions about both U.S. nuclear policy and renewable energy.

The sustainability and less polluting qualities of nuclear energy place it at the top of an ever growing list of alternatives to the quickly evaporating oil reserves. However, the difficulties encountered with the Japanese plant, as well as the near reactor meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant near Harrisburg, Pa., has many worried that nuclear energy brings with it more a horror story waiting to play out than a godsend to the energy crisis.

Due to trepidation concerning the unmanageable quality of nuclear energy, when considering renewable energy regulations, lawmakers representing the apprehensive population leave the topic

somewhat untouched. But the catastrophe in Japan places nuclear energy in the forefront of the energy discussion.

In his address to Georgetown University concerning a new energy agenda, President Barack Obama said "America gets about one fifth of our electricity from nuclear energy."

However, as realized in nuclear plant disasters like Chernobyl and now Japan, Americans worry about what safety guidelines protect them if a nuclear plant emergency occurs.

To answer this President Obama stated, "In light of what's happened in Japan, I've requested a comprehensive safety review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make sure that all of our existing nuclear energy facilities are safe."

Adamant about his plans to move forward examining the possibilities behind nuclear energy, this Nuclear Regulatory Commission dually represents both a first step in the process to increased nuclear dependence and a way to assuage public fears. Hopefully any safety problems identified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission receive appropriate equivalent regulations.

Along with nuclear energy, the White House's Blueprint for a Secure Energy Fu-

ture also includes regulations and guidelines on other alternative energy possibilities like natural gas, biofuels and even offshore oil drilling. Now for many, this last consideration appears negligent and even oblivious in light of the catastrophic oil spill that occurred last June. On the other hand, President Obama insists that outlined in this blueprint include stricter rules preventing a spill of such magnitude from happening again. For instance, in order to begin offshore oil drilling companies must provide a detailed plan for how they would handle and clean up any future spills.

President Obama said, "We're working to expedite new drilling permits for companies that meet these higher standards. Since they were put in, we've approved 39 new shallow water permits, we've approved seven deep water permits in recent weeks."

Firm in their support of offshore drilling, these new strategies require companies to have some form of written arrangement for how they would manage an oil spill. To obtain permits companies need to have a plan for spills after they happen, however they do not need to have a plan for a more efficient way to prevent a spill from happening in the first place. Furthermore, the

Blueprint does not mention whether these companies have to actually implement their course of action before they begin drilling or simply have a written agenda.

Biofuels have also received a lot of speculation and even testing to determine their suitability as an energy source. President Obama mentions that instead of just using the traditional corn converted to ethanol source, investigations into other possible sources of biofuels need initiating. While the area of biofuels has potential, the natural resources used to create biofuels face their own depletion and the resulting impact on their respective industries.

The parallel message in President Obama's speech and blueprint involve a call to the American people to work together not only to allow these new policies to work, but also in the hope of discovering other possibilities in the pursuit of new energy sources. With the high price of fuel complicating the already suffocating economic situation, newer and more cost-savvy options need exploring. And this outlook gives the American people both a sense of government commitment to alternative energy and a feeling of their own power in formulating and making these new policies a reality.

S.O.S. poster campaign out-of-line, poorly communicated

Editorial

By **TYLER PARMER**
The Albrightian

As Editor, I have the right to share my educated opinion with the readers. It is, in my mind, purely a privilege, and one I don't take for granted.

My disclaimer is that every organization is held in equal regard, and in doing so, also respect the display of freedom of speech on the divisive S.O.S. poster campaign. I am an ardent supporter of people civilly expressing their views through appropriate channels.

Dozens of controversial posters laden with frustration about Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett's budget were plastered across campus approximately two weeks ago. The poster included information about Corbett's slashing of funds with facts, including \$1 billion in state funding.

The manner in which the message was distributed was wrong at its worst, tactless at its best.

Not only was the poster campaign inap-

propriately displayed on campus, an AllNet email greeted us less than eight hours after the postings were first seen on campus. The slogan "Albright College... A Different Way of Sinking... to new lows" took an unwarranted sucker punch at the college for a decision made well ahead of the Governor Corbett's controversial budget measure.

Kathy Cafoncelli, executive assistant to the president since 1999, has been a part of the commencement speaker selection process for 11 years.

Albright does not pay for a speaker and most colleges like Albright don't pay. It makes sense, considering one would not pay someone they are already honoring.

The twist is, Albright is not honoring Corbett with a degree. Corbett's budget was announced exactly one day prior to a faculty meeting which included a vote on whether Corbett should receive an honorary degree.

The result? A near-unanimous decision denying a degree to Corbett. No

surprise when one considers the faculty would be offering an honorary degree who in their minds lacks commitment to their livelihoods and the state's future.

As fast as Corbett seemed like a golden ticket for a commencement speaker did he lose the luster with his expansive cuts in education funding both for the state public funding. The last time a committee existed that was tasked for selecting a commencement speaker, under former President Henry Zimon ceased to exist due a lack of interest. There has been none since.

Dedicated alumni and even some former trustees, including current or former ranking state leaders such as Sue Perotti (Chief of Staff under Midge Rendell), Bob Bittenbender (former finance top dog for the state) and Sharron Minnich (high-ranking official in the budget/IT area of the state) have been instrumental in keeping Albright in the friendly graces of the State of Pennsylvania.

It's from strong connections in the Red

and White alumni base that offer Albright the privilege to have the Governor speak. Those same connections paved the way for a \$5 million grant from the state for the soon-to-be-completed science center.

Corbett was not my first choice for Governor. But a man elected to his position deserves respect, even if you do not agree with his policies or budget. Governor Rendell's successor was going to be viewed as the bad guy no matter what considering he or she would have been handed a state in \$6 billion of debt.

If his selection irks you so much, write to the President's Office to re-ignite the committee for the commencement speaker selection. They are sure to accept a helping hand.

Exercise the right to free speech.

Just keep in mind that crucifying the college for a decision it made prior to Corbett's unpopular budget is far beyond damaging to the school's future.

It is unacceptable.

A new view on the Middle East crisis

Eleventh annual Ellen Hurwitz lecture

By **CHRIS FRANK**
The Albrightian

Amidst the turmoil that has resulted from the recent uprisings in the Middle East in countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain and Libya many questions about the current state of affairs in one of the world's most volatile regions have been raised and people want to increase their understanding. Dr. Charles Kimball, presidential professor and director of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma, came to Albright to offer his expertise in making sense of the most recent developments in the region. His presentation, "What's Going On in the Middle East," took place Wednesday, Mar. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel.

Kimball stated that the high stakes in the region and competing visions for the future in many countries cause many to wonder what kind of governments will replace the ones that fall and how Islamic will they be. He con-

tinued to offer three lessons that must be taken into account during this time.

The first is that religion is an extremely powerful and persuasive force as it has inspired people to do extraordinary things, both good and bad. Second, that we live in an extraordinarily interconnected and interdependent world, providing the recent earthquake in Japan and the global economic situation as prime examples of how true this is. Finally, it takes only a small group of people to wreak havoc on a global scale, as shown by the 9/11 hijackers.

Kimball continued by saying that in the Middle East there are many countries and issues which have a part of the picture, chief

among them being the Palestinian situation which he referred to as "the single most important conflict in need of resolution."

He acknowledges that solving this issue would mark the end of all of the region's problems, but it is desperately needed since this conflict has helped exacerbate others.

He then turned his attention to Egypt saying that the country's was "a genuine cry for political and economic freedom and human rights and was not anti-Israel or anti-U.S.," although there was frustration with some U.S. policies.

One major change that resulted from the Egypt uprising was the loss of status-quo with Hosni Mubarak, which results in a less predictable situa-



Dr. Charles Kimball Press photo

An educator at heart: McDaniel appointed director of public safety

By **MANDIE MULCAHY**
The Albrightian

Thomas McDaniel was appointed Albright College's new director of public safety on March 14. He replaced former Director Robert Gerken, who had served as Albright's public safety director since 2000.

McDaniel worked 25 years with the state police, mostly working investigative cases. This position also allowed him to work closely with the Reading and Muhlenberg police departments. He has worked in every county between Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

McDaniel has always liked the academic setting. In fact, he worked at local colleges, including Kutztown University and other colleges in Pennsylvania, for 12 years. When this opportunity presented itself, he had finally found a way to mesh his two loves together.

McDaniel was familiar with the Albright campus prior to starting his new job here because he had spoken as a guest lecturer in years prior, and the atmosphere and welcoming community drew McDaniel to Albright.

"The people on campus: students, faculty, staff are all very, very friendly," McDaniel said.

He enjoys helping people be success-

ful and believes that is a huge upside to working for a college. He is enthusiastic about expanding Albright's Criminal Justice Society, which he now oversees.

As program coordinator of Reading Area Community College's Criminal Justice Society, McDaniel was able to expand the program from a mere 39 students to an overwhelming 300 students. Sophomore Jack Gombach met McDaniel shortly after he began working at Albright.

"Not only was [McDaniel] friendly, he seemed to understand the safety needs of a small liberal arts college, like Albright, and the importance of team work," Gombach said.

As the director of public safety at Albright, McDaniel plans to advance technology. He is hopeful that the way incident reports are taken will change and the idea of potential web-based applications will be implicated. McDaniel is also looking to add diversity and more training to public safety officers.

McDaniel is determined to make Albright's campus as safe as possible.

His goal is to "provide the best service for students, faculty and staff, and develop a partnership where everyone makes the safest possible environment," McDaniel said.

McDaniel co-founded the Crime Stopper/Crime Alert Berks Program,

which is a volunteer organization of Reading citizens who work to reduce crime and crack unsolved crimes. The program also provides awards for citizens who are able to offer knowledge that leads to the arrest of criminals.

Furthermore, McDaniel received the Commissioners' Commendation Award, Citation of Honor from the Mayor and Police Chief of Pittsburgh, and the U.S. Attorneys' Commendation.

"I was highly impressed with his accomplishments, including co-founded the Crime Stopper/Crime Alert Berks Program, and the numerous awards for his work including the Commissioners' Commendation, Citation of Honor from the Mayor and Police Chief of Pittsburgh, and the U.S. Attorneys' Commendation," Gombach said. "It was obvious that he is highly dedicated to his job. I think he'll be a great asset to the college not only because of the experience he has but because of his team player attitude."

The former Philadelphia resident grew up in a police family. McDaniel's grandmother was a police matron for 40 years, his father was a lieutenant with the Philadelphia police and he has cousins who work for the Irish Guard. Furthermore, McDaniel's wife, Mary, is a former police officer who has recently become a district attorney.

McDaniel graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice after getting a two-year start at a community college. After graduating from Temple, McDaniel went on to earn a master's degree in criminal justice at Saint Joseph's University.

McDaniel made a lasting impression on Student Government Association President Kat Biehl.

"Officer McDaniel seems like he will be a great addition to the Albright community," said Biehl. "It was clear to see from the moment I met him that he was really passionate about students. He talked about working for us, and wanting to provide us with a safe environment to excel. He was especially passionate about advancing our criminal justice program."

Biehl is under the impression that McDaniel genuinely wishes to make sure that students who are interested in college have the connections and the skills to advance in their field of interests.

"Overall, I think, like so many other great people we have working here, that he truly understands what it means to be part of the Albright family," Biehl continued, "and I expect nothing but great things from him and the public safety department in the future."

Innovative professor joins Albright's history department

By **CHRISTOPHER FRANK**
The Albrightian

Dr. Ian Wendt is the latest addition to the History Department at Albright College. Before moving to northeastern Pennsylvania to get married, he taught at Washington State University. Since moving to the area, he taught at eight schools in eastern Pennsylvania before settling in at Albright at the beginning of this academic year.

When Wendt was informed of the position, a professor of World History, he became interested in the opportunity, stating, "I love the environment and sense of community at liberal arts schools."

Dr. Wendt's experience and education make him well-qualified to teach at Albright. He holds a B.A. in History from Brigham Young University, in addition to both an M.A. and Ph.D. in South Asian History from the University of Wisconsin.

After Wendt taught at Washington State University but later moved to Pennsylvania for family reasons and taught at Moravian College a year before coming to Albright. In addition, he has extensive foreign travel and living experience. Wendt visited India, the Netherlands, Nepal, Malaysia, France, and Germany in years past. He thoroughly enjoyed his time overseas.

Holding his traveling experience as

invaluable, as he studied many languages in order to be able to read historic documents. He does not, however, claim to be conversant. He studied Telugu for four years, as well as an early form of Dutch, upon which he spent three years. In addition, he studied Portuguese, as well as Farsi and Hindi, for two years.

Wendt recalls a time when he was going through the Dutch Archives and requested a specific record. When he opened it, he found the handwriting almost impossible to read. However, he gained something from that experience:

"Now, it is easier for me to decipher students' handwriting."

Wendt teaches a number of history

courses at Albright, including World History, History of India, History of the Muslim World, and Southeast Asian History. In the future, Wendt wants to continue to research the social and economic history of India. He plans on being at Albright for at least one more year, although he "will possibly be here longer."

Outside of his academic work, Wendt is an eclectic reader who enjoys many forms of literature. He has recently read *Mistress of the Art of Death*, a book about 11th century England; *Hunger Games*, a dystopian novel by Suzanne Collins; and *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.

X-bikes raise intensity of Schumo Center classes

By **RACHEL ZACCARELLI**
The Albrightian

Spring is just beginning and swimsuit season is right around the corner. Needless to say, the Schumo Center has become a popular place on Albright's campus, picking up speed from the winter months. With several different fitness programs and new equipment, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

One of the most recent additions to the Schumo Center is the X-bikes and X-biking classes. The classes launched in February and more than 320 people participated in that month alone.

"I love the X-biking class, it's the way I start my day on Tuesdays and Thursdays," said sophomore Karina Grossman, who participates in the morning classes with instructor Cindy Barner. "The high energy of the instructor and class in general makes me ready for the rest of my day."

"The students asked us to look into spinning classes and getting bikes; we followed up and decided on the X-bikes," said Schumo Center Director Alison Camlin.

The X-bikes are different than nor-

mal spinning bikes. They have an upper body component that allows for the person to work their arm muscles in addition to the muscles that are normally used with biking. This was an influential factor that went into picking the type of bikes that Camlin wanted to get for the Schumo Center.

"The upper body element intensifies the program and makes it fun and different," Camlin said. "It was the most dependable bike with a certified program that went along with it. They gave us a deal; along with the bikes they allowed us to certify 10 instructors as well.

But of course, biking may not be the thing for you. The Schumo Center offers group fitness classes like Zumba, Cardio Kickboxing, Yoga, Aqua-Fit Pool, Butts and Guts, Tai Chi, Russian Movement and Total Body workouts.

"Julie [the instructor] did such a great job in the yoga class. It really calmed me and gave a good stretch," said sophomore Emily Summers, who participates in "Power Yoga Flow" on Mondays.

All of the instructors are certified in the specific area that they teach.

Camlin said that having certified instructors allows for the participants to receive safe, appropriate workouts.

Although it can be difficult to get yourself to the gym, Camlin said, "Group workouts have that element of motivation that you don't normally get when you are working out on your own."

In October, there were 474 students who participated in group fitness classes. The most popular group fitness classes for this spring are X-Biking and Kickboxing.

After participating in the kickboxing class, junior Katy Oeste was pleased.

"That was a great class," Oeste said. "The instructor is so energetic; it makes it so much fun."

With state of the art equipment and a fairly new gym area, Albright students might consider themselves lucky when they compare their workout facilities with other colleges in Berks County.

"Penn State Berks does not have as great as facilities as Albright; their interns come here," Camlin said.

The Schumo Center is open more hours than most other facilities and is open to all Albright students, fac-

ulty and members of the community.

There is even talk of making an Albright fitness video. There is already a YouTube video that showcases the features of the Schumo Center and all of the classes that it offers. It's a nice touch for prospective students and even current students who do not know what is offered.

The Schumo Center promotes well-being and fitness, and to accompany those goals, the center implemented a spring weight loss challenge in which participants can win a free t-shirt if they lose five pounds.

"We offer a diverse amount of programs to help promote stress management, nutrition and fitness," Camlin said.

The gym is always busy and the group fitness classes are popular. The Schumo Center even has individualized programs available as well as personal trainers. Also there are incentive programs, like the weight loss challenges, which motivate people to get in the gym.

"There are so many opportunities to get started," Camlin concluded. "At the Schumo Center, it's a healthy approach to a healthy lifestyle."

Who's hot and who's not? A battle of soulful divas

By **AMIR HARDY**

The Albrightian

Amy Winehouse and Adele are living proof that people across the globe understand what soul is all about. With their impressive pipes and passionate artistry, Winehouse and Adele leave their American counterparts in the dust. As graduates of the school of legendary singers like Etta James, Lauryn Hill and Mary J. Blige, both singers transcend geographic barriers with their vulnerable songs of love, heart-break and inner-turmoil that have spoken to the broken hearts of the world.

Without a doubt, Winehouse has one of the most distinctive voices of all time, but her artistry is equally incredible. Winehouse wrote the bulk of the material from her classic album *Back To Black* which brilliantly laced honest lyrics with dark, Motown-inspired production in an irresistible and focused effort from the singer. With two albums under her belt, she has already acquired a worldwide fanbase that anxiously awaits

to hear the magic of her third album.

However, Adele is one to fall asleep on. Her smash "Chasing Pavements" went on to become one of the most critically-acclaimed songs of 2008 and earned the singer major international success, including the ever-difficult American market. Her latest album, *21*, arrived in February to immense critical acclaim and has already sold over a million copies in the United States alone. As a gifted vocalist, songwriter and musician, Adele has serenaded music-lovers around the world with her awe-striking multi-talents and her ability to evoke human emotion with her music.

While the two are far superior than the majority of pop music's leading singers, only one reigns supreme over the other. In terms of vocal, lyrical and general artistic abilities, who's hot and who's not?

The Superior Vocalist

HOT: While both ladies surely have some of the best pipes in the industry, Adele's voice has the versatility and technicality that would shine on any

track - no matter what she is singing about. There is such a beautiful tone and warmth to her voice that Adele uses as an instrument with amazing control.

NOT: Like Adele, Winehouse brings the emotion behind her lyrics alive through her scratchy and raw vocals. However, because of the unique sound of her voice, there is not much venturing Winehouse could do outside the sound she championed on her first two albums.

The Lyrical Virtuoso

HOT: With the poetic and expressive nature of her music's lyrical quality, Winehouse is the winner of this category. Like most talented songwriters, Winehouse writes about the dark moments of love in ways that the Average Joe cannot. Winehouse's songs are written in deep and profound ways instead of being literal and predictable.

NOT: Though Adele's songs are written beautifully, her lyrics only have impact when they are backed by music and voice. Direct and straight-forward, Adele's songwriting is not as striking and artistic.

The Total Package

HOT: When Adele released *21*, it was cemented that she will be celebrated for decades to come. Blending the sounds of country, vintage pop and blues, Adele showed true artistic evolution from the acoustic, folksy sounds of her debut. With just two albums, Adele has proved that she not only has the vocals to outshine the competition but an ever-growing artistry that delivers unexpected excellence.

NOT: Though a close second, Winehouse will need to demonstrate growth as an artist in all aspects, as Adele has done with *21*, to maintain the fame she has garnered thus far. She has all of the ingredients to be one of music's greatest; it's all about how she uses them on her third LP.

With Winehouse's comeback rapidly approaching this year, it will be interesting to see how the duel fares between these British songbirds. As these two acts aim to carve their place in music history, it is truly a great time for music. Let the best blue-eyed soul diva win.

Albright gets a sex talk 2011 Vagina monologues recap

By **SARAH TIMMONS**

The Albrightian

On Saturday, April 2, students gathered in the Wachovia Center to hear a panel of 23 actresses recount past experiences and personal opinions. These speakers focused on what some women said in interviews about the most taboo part of their body. It has many names, but perhaps the most proper of titles is the vagina.

A nominal entrance fee of \$2 was charged for admission. Ten percent of the proceeds went to the V-Day organization, which is a global movement to end violence against women and young girls. V-Day has become a movement that aims to raise awareness and funds in order to see a safer world for women through creative demonstrations, books, fundraisers and more.

The remaining 90 percent of the proceeds raised were given to Berks Women in Crisis, a local coalition dedicated to providing aid to victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

Director Jess Ritter first got started

on the project as an actress in *The Vagina Monologues* during her freshman year. V-day was celebrated last year with another show, "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer." This year, however, the monologues returned in all their glory.

V-Day prohibits actresses from memorizing their monologues, instead requesting that they be read from index cards. This didn't take away from the show. Albright junior Ashlea Lilley left the show



Director Jess Ritter

Photo courtesy of John Pankratz

highly amused.

"It was hilarious!" Lilley said. "I especially liked the monologue called 'My Vagina is Angry' and it was funny because it was so true."

"My Vagina is Angry" was performed by Aly Ramos, a freshman at Albright. It expressed the frustration women often have about tampons and gynecological examinations, among other invasive aspects of being a woman.

Senior

Melanie Bai-

ley, an actress in her third year of celebrating V-day, wouldn't change a thing about the show.

"I love the way it's organized and how informal it tends to be ... that makes it more fun for the audience and encourages them to participate. I think it's about the empowerment and celebration of women. They can come and hear things they can relate to ... things that are normally taboo. It's really empowering to the female community."

A controversial subject matter drew plenty of attention to the show but those working on it eventually found themselves in a newfound comfort zone when talking about "down there."

Ritter said, "I was a bit uncomfortable when I told my mom, but she was all for it after I told her what it was."

With events like these, women are claiming the right to refuse to keep silent about their bodies and sexuality.

"As to what people took from it," Ritter said, "I'm not really quite sure because I think it's different for everyone who came."

Hangover 2: so good, they destroyed the preview trailer

By **TOM SPINCIC**

The Albrightian

In 2009, "The Hangover" stumbled half-drunkenly into theaters, captivating millions in the process. On Nov. 24, 2010, Warner Bros. Entertainment officially released a synopsis of the sequel, "The Hangover 2," debuting May 26.

"The Hangover" was an instant smash. Picture four friends venturing out to Las Vegas for the night with the intent to throw a bachelor party to end all bachelor parties. Cut to a scene of the crew waking up drunk the next morning, grasping at clues in their pockets in order to piece together broken memories to recover the things they lost. The evidence does not nearly shock them as much as the things they find they've done. The gang, undaunted, triumphs and return to Los Angeles intact but

barely on time for the ceremony.

Warner Bros. promised like-minded mayhem in their initial press release - "In the follow-up to the record-breaking hit comedy "The Hangover," Phil (Bradley Cooper), Stu (Ed Helms), Alan (Zach Galifianakis), and Doug (Justin Bartha) travel to exotic Thailand for Stu's wedding. After [Doug's] unforgettable bachelor party in Las Vegas, Stu is taking no chances and has opted for a safe, subdued pre-wedding brunch. However, things don't always go as planned. What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but what happens in Bangkok can't even be imagined."

Within the limited scope of the Albright community, public opinion seems optimistic.

Senior Greg Gillespie found the decision to release a sequel so quickly to be "[predictable] because

the last one did so well, so soon."

Releasing a sequel so soon was arguably a strain on the actors, as well.

"I think there was a sense that we had to really rise to the occasion and elevate the sequel, so we put a lot of pressure on ourselves," said Helms in a January interview with Screen Junkies.

Helms cited the actors' sense of camaraderie and strengthening the bonds forged in making the first installment of "The Hangover" as the most effective means of relief, stating, "It was a hard movie to make. Fun as hell but hard as hell."

Director Todd Phillips said himself at the release of a trailer, "I've never done a sequel before, so I was really outraged until I just realized I just did one."

Subsequent press releases add more comprehensive details. Mel Gib-

son was rumored to have made an appearance, but director Todd Phillips told Hollywood Reporter that it was not going to happen, citing creative differences in pre-production. Actor Ken Jeong, known in the first "Hangover" for playing Leslie Chow, confirmed his returning presence in an interview with BuzzSugar on March 29. In the same interview, Cooper announced cameos from Mike Tyson, Paul Giamatti and former president Bill Clinton.

Though the release of this sequel is close in proximity to the first film's debut, a sense of optimism instilled by Todd Phillips classics like "Superbad" and "Old School" shines through. The Vegas trip was pandemonium; what could possibly come as a result of this unassuming Thai romp?

"We got a drug dealing monkey," Cooper smirked.

Albright welcomes new coach for anticipated lacrosse team

By **MATTHEW DAVIS**

The Albrightian

Newly appointed Albright men's lacrosse coach Jake Plunket has found success in every program he has been involved in as both a player and a coach.

This is a good sign for the recently formed Albright men's lacrosse program, which was started in July after the college received a \$1 million gift from the John K. Roessner III Trust to build a new multi-sport practice field and to begin men's and women's varsity lacrosse programs. Albright has had a men's club lacrosse team since 1994. However, the college will make the jump to Division III next year, and the team will begin competition in the spring of 2012.

A native of New York, Plunket was a team captain and four-year member of the Syracuse University lacrosse team. Plunket helped the Orangemen win two national titles before graduating in 2005. Soon after, he became an assistant coach at SUNY Cortland. As a defensive coach, Plunkett was part of a team that captured the 2006 Division III national title. His final stop before Albright was as an assistant at Hampden-Sydney College, where he helped lead the Tigers to a program-best 13 win season in 2010.

Plunket was named the first Al-

bright men's lacrosse coach on Oct. 1. In a statement about the hiring, co-director of athletics Rick Ferry said, "I know he [Coach Plunket] will not only get this program started, but he will make it an instant competitor for a Middle Atlantic Conference championship."

In his journey to build a champion, Plunket first has the responsibility of building up the program from scratch. He's in charge of fielding a full roster, ensuring the team has the right equipment and scheduling a competitive inaugural season.

Even though he has only about one year to prepare, Plunket is willing to take on the test. While one of his major reasons for accepting the job was that it brought a new challenge, another major factor was his love of the Division III athlete.

"The Division III athlete in my mind is an athlete that puts their heart and soul into what they do," Plunket said. "In dealing with the attitudes at the Division III level, I just feel it is so much easier to connect and coach each individual."

Two of his recurring focuses were the education of his future athletes and the tremendous facilities available to begin a lacrosse program. Plunkett admires the academic environment at Albright, his future home field of Shirk Stadium and the Bollman Center's weight room.

While Plunket sees the inherent advantages Albright offers, the responsibility he has been given is a difficult one. He is not only the man picked to begin the entire program, but the position is also his first ever head coaching job. He also faces the task of attracting players to a program that is just beginning.

"I think his (Coach Plunket) past experience as a national champion will really help the program begin," said former Albright club lacrosse player Rory Koch.

A full team needs to be fielded for the program's first practices in the fall of 2011. Coach Plunket mentioned that interest has been expressed on campus from current members of the lacrosse club team as well as a number of football athletes.

"As a club player at Albright, it was hard getting organized and finding field times," said Koch, who graduated last spring. "Club players going out for the new team will also have a chance to go to the NCAA Tournament."

Plunket has also been putting in long hours to secure recruits from high school and other colleges.

"Coach Plunket has already exceeded expectations since coming to Albright last summer," said Albright College Sports Information Director Dave Walberg. "His tireless recruiting and amazing

work ethic has helped secure some of the top high school prospects from New York and Pennsylvania."

The coach enjoys building relationships with recruits. He knows not every player is equipped to deal with the adversity that comes with a startup program. However, Plunket has offered a greater opportunity to play as a freshman to high school recruits considering Albright.

"Some well-known programs might not take the chance on a young kid and give him a shot from the start," Plunket said. "Here at Albright, if you can prove yourself as a leader and competitor, you're going to find a spot on the field and play from day one."

Because the first season has yet to begin, Plunket has a simple short-term goal of having everything in place to have a season next year. He aims to get 20 to 25 talented and academically-eligible players, including a core group of freshmen to build with for the next four years. Once that's accomplished, the field, equipment and schedule need to be set up for the spring.

"It's great to be able to put your own program together. And the process, as you can see, is more of a marathon than a sprint."

Lady Lions' comeback falls short with loss to Misericordia

By **MANDIE MULCAHY**

The Albrightian

READING, Pa. - On Monday afternoon at North Field, the Misericordia Cougars led Albright by six runs entering the fifth inning before the Lady Lions mounted a comeback. However, the comeback fell just short as Albright lost 7-6.

Albright went into the game with a fighting mentality and left the game with their heads held high.

Junior third baseman Becky Crandall enjoys the pre-game activities.

"We prepare for the game by a combination of running, stretching, hitting, throwing, and ground/fly balls. At home games, we have a warm up mix to listen to get pumped up. We also have secret psychs who give us a special something to wish us good luck for our game," Crandall said.

Misericordia started out the game with a quick 3-0 lead. Maria Kidron, Nicole Wenner and Caitlin Cromley scored in the top of the first.

Olivia Miller scored one run to put Albright on the scoreboard in the bottom of the third and cut Misericordia's lead to two runs, 3-1.

In the top of the fourth, Hollie Sarnack scored her first run and Kidron scored her second run of the day to put the Cougars up 5-1.

Misericordia continued to increase their lead. Jennifer Cory and Sami Cragle added two more runs to give them a 7-1 lead in the top of the fifth.

When the bottom of the fifth

came around, Albright started down the road to a comeback. Melanie Chapman, Miriah Wilson, Brandy Lagomarsino, Jackie Bohanan and Crandall all scored for the Lady Lions. They cut the lead to 7-6 and kept Albright in the game.

Along with Bohanan's contribution to Albright's standout fifth inning, she also went 2-for-4 with RBI for the game.

For the remainder of the game, no more runs were scored by the Lady Lions, or the Cougars. Misericordia took a 7-6 victory over Albright. Thus far in the season, Misericordia's record is 9-9.

Albright will learn from their mistakes.

"Contributing to the loss was both mental and physical errors. Also, we did not start hitting until the 5th inning. If we started when the game started, we would have had a better game," Crandall said.

After today's game, Albright's softball team is 7-17.

The Lady Lions are not discouraged and will work as a team to bounce back from this loss.

"We just let the past games go behind us. Our team motto is "Win the

Day". This means that at the end of each day, win or lose, we play for that day. We do not go on to our next game thinking about

past losses. We think positively with each day," Crandall said. Saturday the women will face Dickinson College.



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“Tell me how you really feel” President’s Council hosts community conversation

By ANNA BERZINS

The Albrightian

Freedom of expression is one of the most important values associated with American ideology, but how is one to know when the decision to exercise their freedom limits that of another?

On April 6 in the Campus Center Main Lounge, the President’s Council on Diversity and Community sponsored “Campus Conversation on Civil Discourse.” The campus conversation was a free expression of ideas open to all students and administrators.

Inspired by discussions about prevalent issues that should be addressed on campus, a team of Albright faculty and administrators including President Lex McMillan III, Chaplain Paul Clark, Tim Steinrock, Sally Stetler, Jason Hartsfield and Dean Gina Crance felt it necessary to have a campus conversation on civility.

Some questions addressed in the open forum included the definition of civil discourse, limits of freedom of expression and the time at which discourse becomes

uncivil. People expressed ideas on whether or not civil discourse is limited to words, their comfort levels listening to other perspectives, whether uncivil discourse is grounded in ideas or emotions and if civil discourse means that criticism is off limits.

“I don’t think that these conversations can happen in the ‘bubble’ of an experience event only once a year,” Crance said. “In terms of student discussions,” she added, “I was impressed and inspired by how the students shared their opinions, candidly assessed the campus environment and gave thought to what was needed to make Albright even better than it is.”

McMillan was pleased with the turnout.

“Never should civil discourse be used as a reason to shut down debate or exclude unpopular ideas, but educated and civilized people should be able to discuss difficult topics in a thoughtful and respectful way without insult or personal disparagement.” McMillan said, “I thought students talked about good topics and there were animated conversations.”

A representative from each table took turns speaking in front of everyone

about their individual table conversations. Fighting intolerance, prejudice, stereotypes, racial slurs, negativity on social networking sites such as Facebook and degrading language were brought up. Many tables agreed that the key is to be civil – to demonstrate civility through thoughts and actions – and that the campus can benefit by bringing awareness about this issue to the community.

Albright Dean of Adult and Professional Studies Dr. Andra Basu said, “People were totally comfortable talking about different things they have experienced, not through email or other forms of communication, but face-to-face.” Basu added, “Students have told me in the past that they find these conversations difficult to have, and they need a safe space to do so.”

Students and faculty acknowledged that this issue is not only one to simply think about, but also to consciously make a part of their everyday lives.

Crance hopes that this event was “another opportunity to speak freely, be thoughtful, learn from peers and faculty, engage with adminis-

tration and just generally have an out-of-class learning experience.”

“Being able to stand up for what you believe in, and doing it in a respectful manner, while at the same time enlightening others and giving insight into other forms of beliefs helps people learn to accept and understand different points of view,” said Claude Louis, a sophomore.

“As liberally educated individuals we should care deeply about the state of discourse in our culture and be advocates for civil discourse as a key value of a civilized society,” said McMillan.

Added Crance, “It is my hope that we continue to offer safe, productive, motivating opportunities for students and all members of our community to grow and develop, individually and as a community, through these types of forums.

“Hearing different students’ perspectives and opinions on the many different topics and noticing how similar they were to mine blew my mind,” said Louis. “I feel like I can relate to other students now [and] we can have in depth conversations, whether our views clash or not.”

Students amazed by magician Norman Ng

By JORDAN BONTE

The Albrightian

Norman Ng (pronounced “ing”) held a show for students at Albright College on April 8, 2011. Ng has been performing as a magician for 19 years and has captured audiences in 48 out of the 50 states. He is also named the country’s best novelty performer.

This magician’s expansive array of tricks used a multitude of items from playing cards to toilet paper. The first trick of the show involved a bowling ball, slips of paper and a pen. During the pre-show dinner, Ng asked students write words out on slips of paper. He asked sophomore Leigh Ann Gregiore to pick out one of the slips from a bowl and remember the word.

Next, he drew pictures of what he thought the word was until he finally drew a picture of a bowling ball, which

was the word on the paper Leigh Ann had drawn. After drawing the picture, Ng turned the drawing pad sideways and a real bowling ball seemed to fall out. He showed the picture again, but this time the picture was gone and only the words remained.

For his second trick, Ng drew a picture of a fork and told an audience member to sign the picture. He then proceeded to tell an audience member to hold it up for the audience to see. Onlookers were instructed to imagine the picture of the

fork bending in half. He unfolded the paper to reveal the picture was now of a bent fork.

Transposition, or the exchange of two objects at the speed of light, was incorporated into Ng’s act. He borrowed two one-dollar bills from the audience and folded them into a wine glass. The glass was covered with a red handkerchief as Ng snapped his fingers.

Upon removal of the handkerchief, the contents of the glass then consisted of two batteries. These batteries came from the flashlight he gave to an audience member to hold. Ng took



Norman Ng Photo courtesy of AC²

the flashlight back and after opening it, he pulled out the two one-dollar bills.

Ng’s final trick involved a hockey stick and playing cards. Shanna Ramsdell, a sophomore, was told she would play as goalie on his hockey team and given a hockey stick to hold. Ng told Ramsdell to think of a card, which would stick to the hockey stick in her hands.

He threw the stack of cards in the air and they fluttered to the floor. One card stuck to the hockey stick that he was holding. This card was the five of hearts and was Ramsdell’s card; this card also appeared on the back of the jersey he was wearing.

Jameia Boone, a freshman, thought the show was great, citing “the whole night” as her favorite act.

“I liked the whole thing in general... it’s amazing. I would stay here for hours and just watch the different tricks by him, honestly.”

A country in transit Egypt in the wake of Mubarak’s abdication

By ELIZABETH REBER

The Albrightian

Before the chaos in Libya broke out, Egypt captured the world’s attention with a fight for democracy. After weeks of violent protests and riots, Egypt’s long standing despotic ruler, Hosni Mubarak, stepped down. However, the country has since turned toward more peaceful approaches to obtaining their long sought after freedom.

The country had its first election since the removal of Mubarak, when Egyptians voted on their new constitution. The turnout alone drew more than many previous elections, in which citizens acknowledged corruption overshadowed the votes. Although new terms were created they kept many of the old ones from the previous constitution, with some adjustments.

The election, organized so quickly after this sudden and dramatic change of power, speaks to the promise of this new government. The construction of a new constitution represents a move towards not only a different regime, but a more involved idea of citizenry among Egyptians.

However, not without problems, some fear security systems have too much control under this new constitu-

tion. While waiting for their presidential elections in November, Egypt’s precarious position makes it vulnerable to powerful organizations who can muscle into prominence through concentrated economic and political alliance.

The Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamic association in the Middle East with long standing ties to Egypt. This group is an example of the citizens who see the collapse of Egypt’s government as an opportunity to obtain influence. Egypt, a country with a history of Islamic fanaticism, some perceive this as Islam’s growing control over the Middle East.

Dr. Geoffrey Schad, assistant professor of history at Albright College, said, “The constitutional amendments that were passed by referendum last month should open the way for new parliamentary elections, but it remains to be seen if the forces that led the revolt can arrange themselves into parties that would stand a chance against the reconstituted NDP [National Democratic Party - Mubarak’s old ruling party] and the Muslim Brotherhood.”

Another Muslim faction, the Salafis, also seek supremacy in the newly exposed government. Again, some see this as a sign

of Islamic groups expanding power. And, with the enormous supply of oil reserves in Egypt, whoever controls the government has hegemony over the country’s natural resources as well. And citizens want a president who won’t siphon money to organizations with private agendas.

Recently, Egypt hinted at the idea of attempting to negotiate peace with the Iranian extremist group Hezbollah. However, some see this move by the new regime as slighting Israel, with whom Hezbollah has had long standing animosity. As of now the move represents an outward display of shifting affiliations by the new country.

Another sign of sweeping revolutionary reform are workers pressure for a salary raise. Even the police, in an attempt to draw awareness to their appeal for higher wages, set the Interior Ministry on fire. This, too, shows the people’s move toward a more democratic way of life.

Wanting a higher income recognizes a progression toward several democratic conventions such as capitalism. Just like the protests that forced Mubarak to step down, these protests, initiated by the people, act as an assertion of their persistence to a more egalitarian direction.

In order to demonstrate their com-

mitment to represent the people, military personnel who killed hundreds of protestors from the January riots against Mubarak have met charges brought by the prosecutor. This is a demonstration of the improved protection the Egyptian people will now receive under the new regime.

“The Military Council that is currently in charge seems bent on restoring/maintaining order, and has been noticeably intolerant of continued agitation,” Schad added.

Along with the removal of the previous authoritarian government, the journalists under Mubarak’s reign, who monitored and published print that favored his party and supporters, were removed in favor of more objective voices. This transition toward a more free press places the media back in the hands of the people.

With the ability to publish information that advances the position of the people, the Egyptian people can continue their push toward the form of rule they want. Moreover, with the return of the media to the people they now have another format to express their ideas that symbolizes their evolution from strict control by the minority to more liberal expression by the majority.

What does it mean to be "green?" Earth Day commentary

By CRAIG SMITH

The Albrightian

The environmental movement has come a long way since the first Earth Day in 1970. Science and technology help us understand more about the planet every day. Even from a consumer's standpoint, "going green" is a good thing. Doing so helps preserve the planet upon which we reside, but many still do not understand what "green" really is. A lack of understanding allows one to see this voluntary action, "being green," as more of a trend than a sensible trait.

Many factors - buying all-natural cleaners, recycling paper and glass, walking to class rather than driving, re-using grocery bags or bottled water - are included in determining whether or not one is green because doing so allegedly helps save the environment. Observationally speaking, these things alone are nowhere near enough in order to accommodate "the environment."

A 2005 NEETF/Roper study on environmental literacy in the United States found some disparaging results - 120 million Americans still believed aerosol spray cans contained chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, which are chemicals known to

cause damage to the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs were banned in 1978. The study indicates only 32 percent of Americans had a basic knowledge of environmental issues; 12 percent of those polled passed a quiz on contemporary issues.

Some feel as if the inner workings of this planet are no longer a mystery, that we have mastered the Earth through our brilliance. The human race has asserted itself and claimed rightful ownership. But if we are the rightful owners, why do we abuse and neglect that which is ours?

The human race is merely a drop in the ocean when placed in the same context as the rest of Earth's living species. Of the approximately two million species we have identified, evolutionary scientists speculate five to 100 million variations among them exist. We share a complex web of interactions with all living organisms. All species share a part in the stability of the global environment, but humans have developed such complex technology that we now have the power to change the environment around us.

Contemporary philosophers like Peter Singer would agree with the utilitarian claim that the greatest amount of good should be done for the greatest amount

of living beings. Should that not extend beyond the human race, as our success as a species is dependent on the world around us? When the weather is pleasant, water and food are plentiful and healthy, disease and predators are rare and the world provides for our needs. We thrive.

Lately, we've been taking more than we need. When problems like diabetes and heavy metal poisoning crop up, we suffer. If the means of production used to produce food are wasteful, that waste can end up in rivers, streams or landfills. We must consider the consequences of mass production, in regard to its impact on the world around us. We have great freedom and power, but this also brings great responsibility. With the ability to destroy, we can also create.

Environmentalists care about what happens to the world because they feel as if they have the privilege of living in it. They care about what happens to the future of our race.

Environmental issues can become very complex and muddled because environmental policy often intersects with political agenda. Even the average consumer affects our world much more than we realize, in ways that are detrimental

to our ability to provide for future generations. Even recognizing an environmental problem doesn't fix the fact that the meat you buy at the grocery store could very well have been fed to a cow raised mostly on corn. Corn, different from the grass cows are biologically used to, causes problems in the cows. They are fed antibiotics to offset the dietary deficiencies, to which we become resistant.

By now, most of us have heard plenty of the "doom and gloom" prognosis made by scientists if nothing is done about certain key issues such as global warming. Instead of choosing to ignore or downplay the problem, think of what you as an individual can do. One of the most defining elements of humanity is the ability to look into the face of disaster, swallow fear and attack a problem. In spite of the magnitude of the environmental dilemma, we don't have to avoid the issue. In order to do the most good for the most living beings, humans have the ability to use science and technology to study the problem and make a change.

To be "green", all you have to do is recognize that your lifestyle choices have consequences for the world around you. All you have to do is care.

Barefoot brigade arrives as Albrightians participate in "One Day without Shoes"

By TOM SPINCIC and SARAH TIMMONS

The Albrightian

Most wait until summer to spend a day without wearing shoes, but some Albright students and staff members opted to go shoeless last Tuesday, April 5-- with the conditional attachment that it was for a cause.

"One Day Without Shoes" is part of an international endeavor to bring awareness to the plight of impoverished children who are forced to go days at a time without footwear. The event was organized by Mike Brady, a junior at Albright.

Though this is Albright's first year participating in the program, Blake Mycoskie of TOMS Shoes initiated it in 2006. Upon returning from a trip to Argentina, Mycoskie witnessed children in extremely unhealthy situations because of their low income status. He built upon the

simple Argentinian footwear called alpargata, redesigning the shoe for the United States marketplace.

For every pair of shoes sold, TOMS donates a pair to children in developing countries. This mission statement was enough to captivate Karina Grossman, a sophomore at Albright.

"A few of my friends on campus and



Students flash feet after walking barefoot across campus. Photo Credit: ACZ

I participated in 'A Day Without Shoes' last year, even though there was no organized event. I was super-excited that Mike put everything together this year. Bottom line, the mission of TOMS Shoes is simple, but effective... one of the most inspiring I can think of."

Grossman and the rest of the shoe-

less participants were undaunted by the cold rain. She cites the rain as a potentially demotivating factor; around 25 students participated in the event. Grossman continued in spite of the rain, realizing the seriousness of the situation in which these impoverished children find themselves.

"The reality is that these kids don't have the option [to choose to put on shoes]. Whether it's raining, or so hot that the ground gives them blisters, they have to go barefoot."

Grossman stated that she got "only a few" funny looks this year, but cited excellent promotion of the event in support of the statement that people knew what to look out for. Being asked why she was barefoot, however, was not an intrusion.

"I like when people ask," smiling, "it gives us a chance to spread the word."

NOT SO FAMOUS LAST WORDS
QUOTES HEARD AROUND CAMPUS

"LIFE, URINALS... ANYTHING COULD BE ART IN THIS WORLD."

"...FASTER THAN JESUS ON A COMET."

"GIRLS AT THE BAR GO CRAZY FOR GUYS WHO CAN CITE MLA AND APA."

"IT LOOKS KIND OF LIKE A PREGNANT AMOEBEA."

"UNLESS WE CAN GLUE THE DOOR TOGETHER, YOU MIGHT NOT GET YOUR SECURITY DEPOSIT BACK."