THE ALBRIGHTIAN

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Serving Albright College

Admission standards lie in question as Albright falls in Barrons latest rankings

Matthew Kemeny Editor-in-Chief

Due to falling admission standards, Albright College has dropped to the fourth tier of National Colleges and Universities, as reported by the newest edition of Barron's Guide to Colleges 2001. This annual report ranks college and Universities across the country placing them in categories such as Most Competitive, Very Competitive, Competitive, Less Competitive, and Non-Competitive. As far back as 1992, Barron's ranked Albright in the ery Competitive bracket, and by 1998, Albright had fallen down to Competitive.

The new drop into the Less Competitive bracket is a result of a decline in admission standards, as the college had admitted nearly 86% of all applicants, a number significantly higher than we used to, and nowhere near our competition. The average S.A.T. admittance

scores have fallen too, almost 100 points lower than that in 1992.

"After speaking with Dr. Zimo It has come to my attention that many of the rankings are simply a popularity contest," commented Dan Black '02. "They are merely numbers set forth. You can visit a college to see what it is all about or you can look at rankings in a book. The choice is yours."

Questions have been raised to college president Col. Henry Zimon, who was appointed during the 1999-2000 year, who vowed to the Reading Times, that he planned on turning Albright into "a world class institution." However, since his appointment, there has been a downfall in the ranking of Albright amongst its competitors. Both Zimon, and Dean of Admissions Greg Eichorn declined to comment on the subject.

Barron's is not the only guide that has dropped Albright lower down the scale of Colleges. In a new study by U.S News and World Report, Albright was ranked near the bottom of the fourth quartile of

away to keep prospective students

he wrote.

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all national liberal arts colleges. The average S.A.T. score was fourth from the bottom out of 160 college, and it also shared the 146th spot with five other schools in reputational score. In comparison, in 1991, that same report showed Albright as one of the leaders in

falling, and we fall further in the

S.A.T scores in the third quartile.

In 1996, Albright moved into the fourth quartile and has fallen

The administration is concerned

about issues of accuracy and

Albright officials confiscate copies of college newspaper administration locked the papers

Steven Henshaw Eagle/Times

Albright College administrators have confiscated copies of the campus newspaper to delay its distribution until they can meet with student editors to discuss concerns about the content.

The decision Friday triggered accusations of censorship from the student editors of the paper, Albrightian.

But a spokeswoman for the college disagreed.

"It is not censorship," said Barbara Marshall, director of college relations at Albright. "We have no intention of censoring the newspapers. We have a meeting set up with the students Monday to discuss our concerns about it.

Security personnel removed stacks of the Nov. 9 edition from the campus center late Friday afternoon after it had been distributed by Albrightian staff members. Papers were also

taken from the newspaper office. Matthew Kemeny, Albrightian editor-in-chief, said he believes the



publisher

possible copyright infringement, she said, refusing to be more specific.

Kemeny said his article is factual. "They have no right to censor the newspaper that way," he said. further down that list ever since. Once again, both Zimon and Eichorn failed to offer any comment to these facts.

"It is important for students to understand how these rankings will affect them in the future," said sophomore

Brian McAveney. "If the admission standards e e p falling, and fall we further in h rankings. then it will i v e Albright a роо reputation. and make it harder for

us to receive decent job placement

after college.

(from the Nov. 9 issue Albrightian)

"They have no right to take all of my newspapers as long as it has factual information. That's a direct violation of my right to free speech.

Kemeny said he wrote the article to inform prospective students as well as the student toby.

"That's my job as editor-in-chief of the newspoper, to let people know what's going on in the college," he said. "I don't want to hide behind Maials.

Marshall said the college is liable

'We're a private institution and the college is ultimately the publisher of the paper," she said. "Our obligation is to protect our students."

She said the students may distribute the paper after the meeting Monday.

We called them, we let them know we are going to put the paper in safekeeping until we can talk to them Monday, at which time we'll tell them what our concerns are,' Marshall said. "They are free to distribute it after they know what

Find out the reactions o

Albright College Confiscates Student Newspaper

- 17. 2000

EADING (AP)

he Morning Call

Students who work on the college ewspaper at Albright College say dministrators pulled the latest edition rom campus before a Friday oper ouse for prospective students

Newspaper adviser Acha fehra, who teaches in the ommunications department, said undreds of newspapers were moved from the campus center an other spots as they were being distributed, and security staf nembers then went to the newspape office and took the rest of the 1,500 apers

Student Matt Kemeny, editor o e Albrightian believes that the ollege feared that prospective its at the open house would se ritical articles on the paper's fron

The articles contained studen eaction to reported declines, which irned out to be erroneous, in the ollege's admissions standards an ational ranking. The publisher o arron's profiles of American College nd Universities issued the rating ed on erroneous data sent by the ollege, and it will be corrected in ture edition

'That's my job as editor-in-chie of the newspaper, to let people know what's going on at the college, meny said.

"They have no right to cense newspaper that way," he said. "The have no right to take all o

ny newspapers as long as it ha actual information. That's a direc actual information. That's a direct iolation of my right to free speech. A college spokeswoman said the ewspapers "are in safekeeping" unti-planned meeting with studen ditors today. She said the students an distibute the newspapers after the

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continued on Page 2.



Inside This Special Issue of The Albrightian...

Read the "censored" article that started a controversy, here at Albright...Front Page.

The Albrightian editors voice their opinion of the censored article, and the false aligations of copyright

issued the rating based on erroneous

It is to be corrected in future editions.

Marshall denied the open house had anything to do with the decision to

data it received from the college

remove the newspapers.

infringment ... Page 3, 4

Check out the Personals again...shout outs for our students.

the Albright Community: including Administration

students, faculty and Page 3 staff...Pages 3-4.

the consequences are."

for the content of the paper.

Students claim victory in Albright dispute

AP State and Local Wire

READING, Pa. -- Students who work on the college newspaper at Albright College got busy Monday after administrators returned seized copies of the latest edition of The Albrightian. "We were victoius in getting our papers back," said Matt Kemeny, editor of the paper. "Everything was returned to us. We're putting them out as we speak.

Administrators and students met Monday afternoon to discuss the confiscation of hundreds of newspapers from the campus center and other locations Friday, followed by the seizure of the rest of the 1,500 copies from the newspaper office. "I fell that the administration

learned their lesson when they tried to censor us. I am sure after this incident they will not try to do this again," Kemeny said.

Kemeny had said he believed college officials feared that prospective students attending an open house Friday would see articles on reported declines in the college's admissions standards and national ranking. The publisher of Barron's Profiles of American Colleges ssued the rating, which turned out to be erroneous, based on data sent by the college, and college officials have said it will be corrected in future editions

Barbara Marshall, director of college relations, said the open house did not prompt the seizures. "Their contention was that that

was the reason for confiscating the papers. The college denies that," she said

Marshall said officials were concerned about the Albrightian's use of material from another newspaper, which turned out to be by agreement with that paper, as well as about the material concerning the rankings

"We had a conversation with the students about correcting it," she said. "The basic upshot of the meeting is that he college administration gave the newspapers back to the students. The students allayed our concerns."

Kemeny said he expects to publish "a slew" of articles about the incident in the next edition of the paper, due out in early December.



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Albright College officials return seized student paper

After a contentious meeting, college officials release copies of the campus newspaper they had seized earlier.

Charles Schenk Eagle/Times

Albright College returned copies of the student newspaper to the young journalists who had created them after a newarly twohour meeting Monday.

The meeting was often loud enough to be heard through the doors of the conference room in the Campus Center, where it was held.

Student journalists who write and edit the Albrightian, and their academic adviser, English professor Achal Mehra, came out of the Meeting asserting they had won a victory

Editor-in-chief Matthew Kemeny said the college returned the newspapers with out getting any concessions from the student journalists and without trying to penalize them

Later Monday, the student hournalists issued a press release that quoted Kemeny accusing Albright administrators of military style strong-arm tactics.

Distribution of the Albrightian came just one day before a Saturday reception for 160 prospective students and their families

Reportets and editors who produced the Nov. 9 issue of the Albrightian continued to say they believe administrators seized the 1300 copies because a front page article cast the school in a bad light. Thomas C. Brogan, acting executive vice president for academic affairs, denied the charge. He said the main reasonthe school seized the papers was concern about infringement of copyright.

On inside pages, the issue reprints two articles from the

Reading Eagle and Reading Times. Reading Eagle Company has a long-standing practice of allowing the Albrightian to reprint its articles, but college administrators did not

know that, Brogan said. Kemeny said he wrote the article solely from the Barron's guidebook and other printed sources because Dean of Admission Gregory Eichhorn and Dr. Henry A, Zimon, Albright president, declined to be interview ed.

Eichhorn said Monday that he sat in on Kemeny's attempt to interview Zimon.

Before the interview, Zimon wrote responses to questions Kemeny had submitted in advance. Zimon declined to give responses to Kemeny when the editor said he might quote them in an article for the Albrightian.

Zimon wanted his responses to be used only in an article for Kemeny's course on news writing, Eichhorn said.

Eichhorn said he didn't commnet because Kemeny didn't ask him to.

Kemeny said Zimon asked him sign an agreement not to quote Zimon's reponses for publication. Kemeny refused.

Kemeny also said he asked Eichhorn to comment but that Eichhorn declined.

Zimon was unavailable for comment.

Kemeny's article is similar to an anoymous press release that Mehra sent over a month ago, to the Reading Eagle and Reading Times.

Mehra acknowledged in a recent interview that he wrote the release

Mehra's release cited the same information in Barron's that Kemeny's article cited.

Asked about the release, Albright administrators said Barron's had lowered the college's academic ranking only because someone at Albright had sent Barron's incorrect admissions data.

A Barron's spokeswoman said the information and ranking will be revised in future printings. Both Kemeny and Mehra said they had not known about the other's work.

Mehra said he was in Illinois late last week and did not see the Albrightian before it went to press.

Kemeny said he came up with the idea for the article while looking through the Web site of a magazine that also ranks colleges and universities

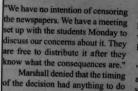
Stefan Presser, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, said he was profoundly disappointed to hear about the seizure of the newspapers.

As a private college, however, Albright probably did not violate th : students' rights under @e constitution, Presser added.

The Student Press Law Center in Arlington Va., which provides free legal advise to student journalists and their advisors, condemned the wizure.

Brogan responded that administrators regard the school as The Albrightian's publisher, and so

had the right to seize the papers. The college has a responsibility to protect students from copyright infringement," Brogan said.



continued from page 1

h the open house. Mehra, the adviser, was i Illinois when his students reache him with the news. He has been al critic of college Presider Henry A. Zimon.

'It's rather curious," he said 'I'm in Skikie, where the KKK wa allowed to march, and in Albright we can't write stories

Student Newspaper

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The Albrightian is published six times a semester by the students of Albright College except during vacation, holidays, and examination periods. This publication is printed by The Susquehanna Printing Press in Ephrata, PA. All submissions to *The Albrightian* become the property of *The Albrightian* and the editors hold the copyright. All opinions expressed in *The Albrightian* reflect those of the author (columns and letters) or Albrightian reflect those of the author (columns and letters) or the editorial board (editorials) and are not necessarily those of Albright College, its faculty, staff, or administration.

Letters Policy: The Albrightian encourage on news coverage, editorial policy, and college affairs. Letters must be submitted on a 3.5 inch IBM diskette, and the author should include an address and phone number for verification. All letters must be signed. The Albrightian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste. Send letters to Campus Center Box 107. All letters received become the property of *The Albrightian*.



THE ALBRIGHTIAN

Catherine Smith, Since when do		Pat,	Buttercup and daddy,	Haughney,
cats become pigs! ??????? Hummel.	The girls	let's step into the square Wynn,	I miss you guys. We need to hang out again.	I kicked you ass! Don't F*** with me again!!!
Switching Sisters?		you were a great date. Thanx for	Love, Momma	The door
Not a good idea! Next time wait a couple daysor	ext time wait a uple daysor nd cat	not getting sick! LD,	Big Rig and Zeus, Stay up next time. Who goes to bed before 2??? The Samoan	Administration, why did you pull me, i haven't been pulled in 20 years?
smithmeow!		still love yaalways hereget off your		
Jackson, H-A-W-K-S Go Hawks!!! Are we ever gonn meet again?	Shady talk Club,	lazy ass and come see me for a change.	Cappello, The Zima is just too	The Campus Center fire alarm
	•	????????	cold to chug. But i challenge you to do it! She Bangs	Kristen, Geoff, Achal, and staff, we did it!!!!!!

grich Library From the editor's desk, I have become the teacher

We the students:

My father, who was an intelligent man, once told me, "Matt...stand up for what you believe in, or you will fall for everything." However, never would have known how crucial that advise would be to me this past weekend.

As editor of the Albrightian, I seem like tiny star in the sky, compared to my journalistic peers But no matter how small this newspaper is, I refuse to have my most basic rights taken away from me. Administration at Albright College confirmed to me that they do not read the Albrightian on a regular basis. Or else they would have came up with that bogus "copyright infringment" charge years ago. Since the Albrightian has consistantly printed articles from the Eagle/Times in past years it can be easily inferred that this charge was one that was a blanket statement just to cover up the real reason why they pulled the newspapers. I

believe the real reason why the administration pulled the papers, was because there was an open house at the college, and they did not want the perspective students to see how the college has declined academically. They constantly reassure students that Albright is a "best buy," for incomers, when in fact it is not. Administration insists on lying to students to "pass the buck." This is not right.

Free speech and freedom of the press is a consitutional right that our forefathers gave their lives for so that their ancestors would not be subject to suppression. As a military man himself, Col. Zimon should understand that. If we continue to lose our freedom, this will not be America, but rather a dictatorship. It's a particular freedom that I hold very dear, because it is one that lets us as a community express ourselves and contribute to this democracy that we live in. I want to live in a society, where I have the choice, to pick up the newspaper and read it if I want to, or throw it in the trash if that is where I think it belongs. Yet, I do

hope that we the students read our Albrightian, to learn more about our institution and to voice our opinion and be heard. On another note, 1 Nor thrilled with student and Sculty support in retrieving our papers back. Without you it would of been a harder hill to climb.

But we did reach the top of that mountin. We retrieved our papers back. We fought against the odds, and did not at any point back down to the stern and bullheaded administrators. We eventually proved at the outcome that we did in fact have copyright permission from the Eagle/Times.

editor-in-chief of the As Albrightian, I am thrilled that we stood our ground and stopped the military-type form of censorship that administration used in pulling our papers. I want all students opinions on the subject, I want to hear the voices of Albright in the next edition.

And as for administration, I hope that you learned your lesson, and I hope that in the future you think twise about halting our right to speak. If not the consequence may be more severe.

And father :: I'm glad that you gave me that advise when i was knee high, I saw you reading the as Philadelphia Inquirer. Just as the freedom of press of that paper lives on, so does ours. And father: I may have lost alot of the values that you taught me, but when I dumped the Albrightians on the floor of the campus center, I remembered that one important one, I didn't back down, and I protected my right and my societies' right to free speech. Administration should thank me for teaching them that lesson. For once, I became the teacher and they were the student.

THE ALBRIGHTIAN

Opinions

Dean of Admission gives his thoughts on the newspaper confiscation this past weekend

To the Editor

The lead article in the current edition of the Albrightian contains a number of factual errors that grossly misrepresent the school and our admission standards. I would first like to put all of you who care about the College at ease. The fact is that our standards and acceptance rate have been steadily improving since the mid-90's. The College did fall to the fourth tier in US News & World ports in 1996, principally because

of our poor financial situation during the earlier part of the decade. Our academic reputation as reported by US News is determined by how other liberal arts colleges perceive us. The declaration of financial exigency in 1993 was detrimental to that perception. Unfortunately, it will take many years to improve how other colleges perceive us. As for Barron's, we are still ranked as a 'competitive" school. Summer editions of the guidebook did list us a "less competitive" because of a

reporting error made by the College. As many of you are aware this error was disclosed publicly and Barron's has made the appropriate changes for future editions.

As for our acceptance rate, the actual figure for last year was 71%, meaning that 71% of all applicants were admitted, and not 86%. This figure compares favorably with our peers. As for US News, we made significant gains last year. We are currently ranked 127th, up 11 places from a year ago. This actually puts

us at the top of the tier, not the bottom. SAT scores are something that we place far less emphasis on than many of our peers.

I am deeply disappointed by The Albrightian's failure to report the story accurately. Your story does a disservice to our students, the College and your readers.

Gregory E. Eichhorn Dean of Admission

From the assistant editor: thoughts on censorhip To the Albright Community,

As the Assistant Editor-in-Chief of The Albrightian, and as an active member of the Albright Community, the past several days have left me with a barrage of amazement and disbelief as to how students and their rights as free citizens have been blatantly, "walked all over." I write to you today, as both an Editor and a student of Albright College.

I find it hard to fathom, even as a student at a private institution such as Albright, that students are perceived as "customers" In the eyes of administrators and college personnel, we are only a market, openly available to the services Albright offers. There's only one catch: you are required to give up your rights as an individual, and a member of a civilized society; a society which grants each and every person the protection of the Constitution and its twelve Amendments. Well, this week, my rights as a student and as an editor of a private college publication, were taken for granted and in fact, taken from me. I want to first talk to you from the position of an Albright Student, and then from my view as an Editor of The Albrightian.

I have found myself battling my conscience, my morals and my

known rights as an American citizen, as I began to unravel the facts of what I believe to be an atrocity committed last Friday. I find as a student, or as a paying recipient of services of Albright, (as I commonly feel like), that my right to information was denied, as administrators confiscated a newspaper who only reported the facts. It is not the fault of the reporter or the staff of the Albrightian for a rather subtle error made and reported to Barron's, and several other notable national ranking institutions by a school official. It is the responsibility of the school to see that these inappropriate mistakes do not occur, and that when they do occur, to take action appropriately and in a timely fashion; which includes notifying not only faculty, but the entire Albright community as well. Everyone here at Albright deserves the chance to be involved in what is happening in, around, with and to Albright College. This includes the notification and report of our national ranking, which Albright is currently published as, whether it be the fault of the college or not. This mistake may have hurt Albright's admissions, whether this article was published in The Albrightian at all. I feel it should not be the decision of administration to determine what is newsworthy, and what is not, just

because some feelings were stepped

Now, as an Editor: I believe I have the right and the responsibility to protect The Albrightian and its staff, from infringement of their rights and the rights we have as members of not just a private college publication, but that of a publication in general-period. The actions which administrators took were both inappropriate, and unconstitutional I feel that the reasons given surrounding the removal and censorship of the paper were both irrelevant and unsubstantiated. I

too, as well as many other members of both the Albright community and The Albrightian, have my own opinions and ideas which I have formed due to the confiscation of the paper. But it is my job as a journalist to report only the facts and relevant information pertaining to a story from an objective point of view. With this in mind, I support Matt Kemeny and his effort to report factually accurate report, cording to two highly respectable and nationally excepted publications

As I support The Albrightian and Matt Kemeny in its decision to print the article, I am also able to see administration's point of view regarding this matter. I believe the school was in fact, "looking out for

its best interests", as they came to the decision to remove the paper. But as I understand the college's view, I believe administrators not only conducted themselves in a very unprofessional and devious manner, but also violated the rights of students, faculty and staff. After all, The Albrightian is "The Voice of Albright College"-therefore, the entire Albright community is welcome to participate and submit both articles and editorials to the office of The Albrightian.

With this in mind, I believe the rights of not only the students, but the entire Albright community were infringed upon. I think it is not only students who should feel violated, but everyone who is involved at Albright. I hope administration has reconsidered its actions and will, in the future, be respectful toward the rights of not just The Albrightian, but the Albright College community in general.

Sincerely,

M. Kristen Lavis

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Wave your rights!!! Come to Albright!!! Dear Editor:

Albright College has been the subject of controversy as of late. I suppose the head of public relations for the college deserves a pat on the back. After all, the questions surrounding President Zimon's integrity were never answered, and yet the subject seems to have died down in the local press. Unfortunately, the controversy didn't end there. Achal Mehra, a faculty member fed up with Zimon's evasion of truth took some measures to keep the subject alive and in question in the minds of students, faculty, and the public. Some of his methods may have been dubbed radical by some, the methods the school took to shut him up were equally as extreme. Maybe they haven't heard the old adage "two wrongs don't make a right.". Mehra

was stripped of his school e-mail account for sending a mass mail throughout the system with a subject Zimon and his allies didn't like. There were instances last spring during the heat of the controversy where signs posted around campus were torn down. Maybe if a book was written on the subject, they would throw a bonfire to "celebrate it. I don't know about you, but it seems that those in power are becoming more of a Gestapo than administrators dedicated to running a quality institution. Yes, Albright is a private college, and operates free from the law in some cases, but liberal arts or not, the people running this school are taking some liberties that erase our rights as citizens The latest chapter in the story

of controversy on this campus was the removal of the last issue of The Albrightian because it said some things the school isn't too proud to

admit. The neoval of the issue came without warning even to the staff of the paper. Two things bother me about the action and their excuses. Point One : The school claimed that the issue of the report was secondary. (Sorry, I thought they would be concerned with the quality of the institution they are running. Maybe the fact that academic excellence isn't the top priority might have a bearing on how well a school is ranked ...) Point Two : The college stated that their main concern was the reprint of several Reading Eagle and Reading Times articles. The Albrightian has been reprinting articles from these newspapers for the past several years. (I'm glad that the people running our college have a thorough knowledge of how things operate, since The Albrightian has had a working cooperation with these papers.) As Editor-in-Chief Matt

Kemeny had also mentioned, maybe it's just coincidence that the confiscation occurred at the same time as the open house. Perhaps the whole incident could have been averted if the school had the sense to find out what the situation was before they acted. You know, look before you leap. I'm tired of the problems that come about because the administration is reactive, not proactive. It affects my life here as a student, and will affect me after I graduate.

Let's take a look at where we stand now. Evidently, students at Albright don't have First Amendment rights. We don't have Fourth Amendment rights, either. Reports have come in from faculty that emails have been read by the school without you knowing it. These reports have not been confirmed as of yet. Students are also subject to unannounced

To the Albright **College** Community

After further review of th sues surrounding the confiscation f the November 9, 2000 issue of the Ibrightian, the Student Governmen ciation demands that the iministration apologize to the appropriately handling tuation. Furthermore, SGA reques tat Dr. Achal Mehra step down dvisor to the Albrightian.

SGA feels that the concern SGA feels that the concerns regarding the front page article of the Albrightian have legitimacy. But, the actions taken because of those concerns by the administration were not consistant with the mission of Albright College. We believe that the administration had ample vices to express their feelings, but instead chose to over look those avenues and opted to make a hasty decision nd opted to make a hasty decision GA also feels that the dministration provided no proof to ct on their allegations regarding ossible copyright infringement ade by the Albrightian. The issue f copyright could have been settle asily by the administration, w elieve they should have asked th aper's editors about their concerns n fact, the editors were not aske nd the administration use opyright infringement as partia rounds for their confiscation of the librightian. Consequently, the Albrightian does have permissio rom the Reading Eagle to reprir

dditionally, SGA does not feel that our concerns were adequately ddressed by the administration. We tid not receive clear responses when e asked questions regarding lecision to confiscate the paper berious actions were taken by the dministration, which we believe to administration, which we believe to have been inappropriate. SGA believes in the rights of all members of this community and that those rights should not be infringed Measures such as this should no be taken without proper engagement of all of the constituencies and without an exhaustion of all possible means of discourses eans of discou

ards to Dr. Mehra, SGA do n regards to Dr. Mehra, SGA does ot believe that he is adequately erving the students and the paper hat he advises. I We do not believe hat the Albrightian is a vehicle for ne man's plight. Especially wher hat preson is the advisor to the paper and thier actions take the focus of the students. e paper away from the stude id shift it to a personal conflict.

espectfully erek DeCosmo

inspections of their rooms and belongings. This is unacceptable to me. There needs to be a common ground, but right now, administration dictates what your rights are. Stand up for what you believe in. Question things that don't seem right. Scrutinize.

The Scrutineer