

# This Flu Season, Get in Line

Amy Lucas  
*The Albrightian*

With the development of the flu vaccine, hundreds of people nationwide flocked to get a dose of this wonder drug, which was said to help prevent contracting the flu. The shot, which is administered on a yearly basis, contains inoculation created by the Center for Disease Control. The CDC uses data accumulated from prior years' flu strains and studies of the environment to predict which strain will be rampant this season.

The effective vaccine, however, while not a 100 percent guarantee to prevent the flu, has been proven to reduce the likelihood of contraction, minimize symptoms and minimize the incubation period by a substantial amount. This wonder drug can even bring a feeling of security to those who found themselves down and out with the flu each season.

This year, because a contaminate dosage was developed by English global supplier Chiron thousands of people found themselves on waiting lists

to receive the vaccine, and now have an even smaller chance or receiving it at all this season.

It is no different here at Albright College. The Gable Health Center orders their supply of flu vaccination in December, and it arrives in October the following year. Head Nurse Practitioner Samantha Wesner has worked at the Gable Health Center for the past six years. Wesner supports administering the flu shot despite its less than 100 percent effectiveness. She said that like many local doctors offices, "We had to set up a waiting list to receive the vaccine, and we had to refuse about 30 Albright community members." Wesner explained the shot was in such high demand that if patients missed their appointment, they were forced to give away their vaccine to someone else in line.

Wesner also explained that they were lucky that they even received the vaccine at all. Many doctors' offices nationwide ordered their



There are two types of vaccines that protect against the flu. The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. A different kind of vaccine, called the nasal-spray flu vaccine (sometimes referred to as LAIV for Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine), was approved in 2003. The nasal-spray flu vaccine contains attenuated (weakened) live viruses, and is administered by nasal sprayer.

vaccinations from Chiron, however because they had an outbreak of bacteria which contaminated the doses, hundreds of doctors' offices and thousands of patients could not receive an immunization.

Wesner thinks that people understand why they could not receive the shot from the campus. "This was a national problem popularized by the media and unfortunately there was nothing that we could do."

Like other medical centers, Albright used the same philosophy when administering the injection. Wesner explained the philosophy and said, "People with chronic conditions were the first to receive the vaccine. Even though college students

are susceptible to getting sick every year, we had to protect those at higher risk of complications from contracting the flu." Wesner explained that "chronic" was defined as those with asthma, a lowered immune system or ongoing medical conditions. Older people who are over 65 and children under three are also extremely susceptible.

The Gable Health Center had ordered their yearly supply of flu vaccination from Aventis, and because they had no association with Chiron, or  
*(Continued on pg 6)*

## The College's Spore Card

Jackie Siegle  
*The Albrightian*

Since mid-September, approximately 45 students residing in the Woods have had to be relocated from their apartments due to contamination with mold. The last students were scheduled to move back into their apartments on Nov. 9.

Strachybotrys Aspergillus Penicillium is a slimy, greenish-black mold that thrives in warm, moist areas. According to the Center for Disease Control, it is responsible for hundreds of cases of lung disorders across the country. The mold issue first arose on campus in early September when students in Albright College's residential apartments, the Woods, complained of health issues such as headaches and breathing problems

according to Director of Housing Tim Narrow.

The affected apartments were tested in response to complaints and mold was discovered. The Facilities Department then had all apartments tested to make sure the other units were not affected. Testing found that 12 out of the 40 apartments contained the mold. After the first apartment was assessed, it was evident that specialists needed to be brought in according to Head of Facilities William Hill. Two private contracting firms were brought in to check for the mold and remove it from the apartments.

The Housing Department immediately contacted students and located alternative housing for them while the repairs were taking place. Nelson

Baitzel, a student residing in the Woods, was one of the students who was relocated due to the mold. Baitzel had heard of problems in other apartments but was not experiencing any health problems and did not suspect a mold problem in his building. However, testing was done on Oct. 7 and contamination was found. Baitzel was forced to move out that night. Hill explained that the students were moved out quickly "due to the recommendation of the experts that were brought in." Baitzel was relocated for approximately two weeks.

Another Woods resident, Megan Lynch, also



According to the Center for Disease Control, black mold is responsible for hundreds of cases of lung disorders across the country.

did not know her apartment was contaminated but was relocated for nearly four weeks after testing. While Baitzel was moved to an empty house on Linden Street directly across from other Albright dormitories, Lynch was moved to a hotel in Wyomissing about 15 minutes away.

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**HOUSING'S  
GROWING PAINS**  
PG. 4

**ELECTION DAY  
RECAP**  
PG. 5

**SHIRK STADIUM  
TO BE REBUILT**  
PG. 7

**FACULTY  
PROFILE: MARIAN  
WOLBERS**  
PG. 6

**IMPROVEMENTS  
TO FACILITIES  
DEPARTMENT**  
PG. 4

### CONTACT US:

#### MAIL

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE  
# 107 • 13TH  
NERN STREETS  
BOX 15234 •  
READING, PA  
610-261-5234

#### EMAIL

MARIAN@ALB.EDU

#### PHONE

610-261-7558

#### FAX

610-261-7530



# THE ATTIC

## Letters to The Editor

*Editor's Note: The following letters were received immediately following the release of the Sept. 29th issue. They are being printed because the topic is still considered current due to the lag in publication.*

Dear Editor,

In response to your article dated September 29, 2004 I must say that the statements regarding the rumors on campus are false and misleading. Furthermore, unsubstantiated accusations of discrimination are hurtful and damaging. This is outrageous and wrong and damages the good name of Albright College. The statements are also demeaning and disrespectful to our diverse student population.

The application process referred to in the article is not a blind process. Peer Orientation Persons (POP) participants actually passed out applications and collected the applications from their friends. Written applications with names were rated. The ratings with names were circulated to the Steering Committee. The interviews were then conducted in closed sessions without the advisors to conduct interviews and new POPs were chosen. This is de-facto discrimination. The POPs have been advised of this numerous times and have consistently resisted the necessary changes.

Discrimination is a serious issue to the College and it must be addressed. My challenge is to implement a fair process that includes clear position descriptions, applications that include the EEO statement on the application form, clearly articulated position qualifications, clear deadlines and a fair interview process. This will be accomplished by working with the Human Resources department of the College. I will establish a selection team that will include students and administrative staff.

I am fortunate that the ignorance expressed in this article is not reflective of my experience with most of this student body. I dare to also believe that most critical thinkers realize that inclusion is

actually the opposite of racism. But the fact that this article seems to represent that the program participants object to the inclusion of all students is much more compelling evidence that intervention is warranted than any other evidence I could offer.

Albright College boasts consistently about its diverse student body. Within this year's entering class we came very close to a 20% student of color population. Yet, over the past five years with approximately 400 POPs only 1.9% have been from diverse backgrounds.

Orientation is an Albright College program designed to promote the transition from high school to college for all students entering Albright. The POP program has been an excellent way to make this happen up to this point. However, POPs is not a student organization, but is rather advisory to and an extension of the Vice President and Dean of Students. The College is an Equal Employment Opportunity campus and as such must abide by the anti-discrimination laws. The POP program participants must be representative of this diverse student body. These are the first students our incoming class meets.

If the expressed views are in fact the views of the POP program participants then it becomes clearer to me why so many students from diverse backgrounds report feeling shut out and somewhat alienated on this campus. The students who do not share these views need to be more proactive so that it becomes uncomfortable for those who condone values that are not consistent with the community we wish to build at Albright College. I challenge my colleagues and my friends on the faculty to take up this issue of inclusion as well. What does Albright College really stand for?

I am frankly glad to have this out in the open. I am sure that the students who launched this attack wanted to hurt Andrea Blassingame and me. But now that these views have been openly expressed I hope that everyone understands that the racial incidents, the harassment

of gay students, harassment of Jewish students and the isolation of international students are not occasional incidents. There is work to be done on this campus daily to better prepare graduates for the world in which they have a 50% chance of being supervised by someone from a diverse background during their careers.

In a recent meeting with the POP steering committee I gave them a copy of the Albright College Human Resources webpage and a statement of policy regarding EEO. One of members of the group asked if this meant that applicants would be given a gold pass to become a POP and I asked for clarification of that question. I concluded that he was asking me if a pass, the same pass he had received, would be given to someone else who might be a from a diverse background.

Encouraging students or any group to maintain the status quo is ultimately not helpful to the development of the individual. It perpetuates the fear to compete. What I heard in the question about getting a gold pass was "if I can't have the advantage of inheriting the position I am afraid I will not be able to compete for it."

Albright College is a wonderful school. I have met so many exceptional students and alumni. The Board of Trustees and the administration are sincere in their desire to be inclusive and forward thinking. Diversity enriches our lives and every person here is to be valued.

Finally, on behalf of the College I wish to address the other rumors that were referenced in this article:

- The administration is not pushing for a dry campus. We are however, committed to enforcing our own Alcohol Policy.
- Albright College is not trying to get rid of Greek organizations. This is a rumor that often comes up particularly as organizations receive sanctions from the College or their national organization. Currently, one organization is facing restrictions imposed by the national and the College.
- Discrimination is unlawful. Neither the President of SGA nor the Dean of Students practices

discrimination.

The irony here is that this it is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, that "separate is inherently unequal." The best way to counter racism is by promoting and practicing

inclusiveness.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Daniels, Ph.D.  
Vice President and Dean of Students

Dear Editor,

I have just recently read the September 29<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Albrightian*. I was horrified to read the interview with Andrea Blassingame. I thought that when one was a journalist there was research, unbiased approach, and integrity in their writing. From reading this article I was wrong. I spent the summer both working and playing with Mama Dre, me a white sorority girl. We also worked with several other sorority girls, fraternity boys, independents, black kids and white kids. There were no problems on the staff with anyone. Imagine that. Never once did she make statements about hating greeks and actually spent a great deal of time trying to understand the greek system instead of trying to get rid of it.

I would recommend a couple of things before writing another article or having another interview. First, at least pretend to be unbiased even if you aren't. This article starts with a slant against Mama Dre and her "hectic" schedule. It happens. Get over the fact she won't jump on the chance to talk to the college paper. Number two what's with her every pause being noted? Was that all-

important to this interview?

Who cares if she takes a moment to collect her thoughts? Third, if you are going to accuse somebody of something make sure that your sources aren't just college rumors. It's not generally a great idea to take unfounded slander against a person and then put it into print. We've all been victims of the rumor mill on this campus. They've circulated about all of us and none of us would like put in print for every eye. It would be wonderful to walk to one of my classes and have my professors look at me and say, "Oh wait I read in the paper that you are a racist." That must be great for her and I'm sure she's excited to have that label now on campus.

So Dear Editor, I would keep tighter reigns on your columnists before you allow them to start publishing libelous material. Thankfully this is just *The Albrightian* and Mama Dre has a good sense of humor because were this the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*, you'd have a law suit on your hands. So much for journalism.

Nell Persing

## THE ALBRIGHTIAN

Albright College Box # 107 • 13th & Barn Streets  
P.O. Box 15234 • Reading, PA 19612-5234  
Phone: (610) 921-7556 • Fax: (610) 921-7530

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

*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 property of *The Albrightian*.

## A Note From The Editor's Desk

Dan Ruedy  
*The Albrightian*  
I promise to be brief. I retired from this position last year after serving three semesters. It is a difficult job. I salute those who made the attempt this semester to keep things rolling. I am happy to get this issue produced, especially out of courtesy to those reporters who have likely been scratching their

heads over where their stories had ended up.

To address this paper's brief fall semester history, let us be cautious of being too critical towards views that might not be our own. Let us also not be so quick to condemn those that have the courage to turn over some rocks looking for answers. Finally, we're not all crack libel lawyers, nor should be pretend to be. The

rocking chair arguments and threats must stop.

Next semester the Student Government Association, along with faculty and administrators, will seek to establish a more organized support structure for *The Albrightian*, as well as formally interview for and appoint students to staff and administrative positions.



# STUDENT LIFE

## The College's Spore Card (cont. from pg. 1)

Lynch and her roommates were told around 3 p.m. one afternoon to be moved out by 8 a.m. the next morning. According to Lynch, the actual moving was the hardest part. Lynch and her roommates were unsure of how long they would be gone and had to pack up everything with no help from the school. It was also an inconvenience to drive to class every day. "When you live on campus you can run back to your room any time," said Lynch "When you are driving, you have to plan out your whole day and bring everything with you." It was especially hard for Lynch as she is the president of her sorority and is involved in many clubs on campus. It was difficult for Lynch to attend all of her activities without driving back and forth to campus several times a day.

Lynch and Baitzel said that the Housing Department handled the situation well. "Housing did the best they could to

accommodate us," Lynch said. Baitzel also felt that housing did a good job assisting the affected students. The house he was moved to initially did not have kitchen appliances, heat, cable, internet service, furniture, or telephone service. All of these issues were quickly addressed, and within a few days only telephone service remained unavailable. In addition, housing will help the displaced students by

response Narrow said, "There probably should have been better communication from the start ... but this was a new situation to everybody. Once we understood the process and what the students wanted, it was much smoother on our end."

Lynch believes that the problem could have been prevented from the start. Both Hill and Narrow maintain that the

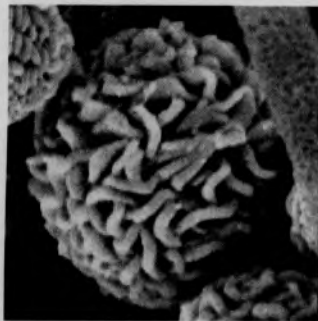
this summer was so moist, why didn't they come in August to check for mold?" Lynch also feels that the cleanup could have been done quicker and that the college could have saved money by

hiring an extra contractor to avoid paying month-long hotel bills. Hill declined to comment on the cost of the mold elimination process. Despite this, Hill said that the Facilities Department handled the situation very well. "How we conducted our business was right on the money," Hill said.

Some students like Baitzel feel that Albright did everything they could to make the situation better. He said, "You just have to roll with it." Other students like Lynch feel that the problem should have been taken care of earlier. Commenting on the response of students, Hill said, "Sure we had a few complaints from students who felt they weren't getting treated fairly, but you're going to have that in

any environment once you get moved from your surroundings."

The mold cleanup process is now complete according to Hill. He expects to be receiving air quality certificates to ensure that the contractors properly eliminated the mold. Hill said that steps were taken to prevent the reoccurrence of mold in the future. A special paint and sealer were applied to prevent future growth. All heating units in the affected apartments were also cleaned out to prevent the spread of airborne mold. Hill also said that there would be routine checks in the future to prevent the mold from returning.



Pulmonary Enemy #1: *Strachybotrys Aspergillus Penicillium*, alias "Black Mold"

*"There probably should have been better communication from the start ... but this was a new situation to everybody. Once we understood the process and what the students wanted, it was much smoother on our end."*

*-Tim Narrow, Interim Director of Housing*

reimbursing them for certain expenses like food, gas, and laundry. Lynch felt that housing was helpful in answering some of her questions but could not answer many due to "a lack of communication between housing and facilities." In

particularly damp summer and it was the environment of the Woods that led to the contamination. Hill said "Albright was not alone" in the mold issue as schools and homes all over the area have been contaminated. In response, Lynch said, "If

## Pi Kappa Phi's Push America is at The Top of Its Game

Dan Ruedy  
*The Albrightian*

total of well over \$500 raised for Push America, Pi

Kappa Phi's own national philanthropy benefiting

persons living with disabilities.

READING, Penn. - There was thunder on the lanes early Saturday, Nov. 6, as brothers of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity struck the ivory during their second annual Pins for Push. A local bowling alley, Heister's Lanes, donated two hours of lane time for the event.

Andrew Holets, Push America Chairman for the Zeta Chi chapter of Pi Kappa Phi said, "The event was very worthwhile. Our success is owed to the outpouring of support from fellow students, friends and family members."

Brothers of the fraternity solicited students, faculty and family members for monetary per-pin pledges or flat donations. The generosity of the community contributed to a



Members of the Zeta Chi Chapter "strike" a pose at their second annual Pins for Push event

This past summer, Albright College's student chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity was recognized for its contributions by being one of just 11 student chapters nationwide to be inducted into the Centennial Society, recognizing chapters raising more than \$100 per member. Last year, brothers of the fraternity traveled to Bethlehem, Penn., to assemble a specially designed, accessible playground, entirely funded by Push America.

Said Joe Harkins, Vice Archon of the Zeta Chi Chapter, "opportunities such as these that directly benefit others lend so much more to the college experience. I wish there were more ways to get involved like this."



# NEWS

## Facilities Department Makes Service Improvements

News Staff  
*The Albrightian*

The Facilities Department at Albright College has been working towards improving the work order process to better accommodate students who have had problems with the timeliness of the responses in the past.

"What I've been doing now is when I get their order I send them [the students] an e-mail back letting them know that I have received it [the work order] and that I have processed it to the proper craftsman," said JoAnne Boyer, administrative assistant of Facilities.

According to Jamie Lokaj, a junior at Albright College, customer service is something that Facilities needs to improve. Last semester Lokaj had a cracked window that was leaking air and making it extremely cold in the room. After calling Facilities, putting in a work order online, and telling the resident advisor about the window, she had to wait a month for them to take care of the problem.

"My dad called because the problem was put off too long ... I think that Facilities should not act like they do not care. It is not fair to us; we pay too much money to go here and we would like our voices to be heard," stated Lokaj.

Boyer feels that the department has been improving, and stated that they want to do more but are short of staff. Facilities is hoping to hire more maintenance people so that they can provide students with a more efficient and satisfactory service.

A few months ago a new employee, who Boyer referred to as "Mr. Fix It," was added to the Facilities staff. Mr. Fix It was hired to take care of the little jobs around campus, such as replacing screens and fixing light bulbs. Boyer claimed that he has been a big help in relieving the other maintenance persons of the easier jobs so that they can concentrate on the more urgent problems.

Thomas Shawver, a junior at Albright College, feels that

students should have more patience with the Facilities workers. "I think the system works well. People complain all the time about the speed of Facilities, but what they often times fail to realize is that they don't have unlimited staff and need to prioritize the problems that come up," said Shawver.

Facilities receives about 25 work orders each day, either by phone or through the online submission form, according to Boyer. After receiving these requests, Boyer makes two copies of the order, keeps one for the department records, and places the other into the mail bin of whichever craftsman will be needed to fix the problem.

From here, it usually takes one or two days for the work order to be completed, according to Boyer, depending on the severity of the situation and the number of emergencies going on at the time. "If a building has no heat or a toilet that is overflowing, this is considered an emergency, but a light bulb that is out is not quite as

important and may not get fixed until the emergencies are taken care of," said Boyer.

Some students did not have such bad luck with the work order system. Shawver explained a time when he submitted a work order online on move-in day because his air conditioner was not working. According to Shawver, the air conditioner was fixed later that day when a man came in to his room, pulled out the broken unit, and slid a new one right in its place that worked perfectly.

Megan Flannery, also a junior at Albright College, reported that last semester when the light bulb in her room was flickering, she sent in a work order about it and the next day she had a new light bulb.

Flannery was pleased that her work order was completed so promptly and stated that she felt that Facilities' service had improved greatly since the beginning of the school year. When Flannery moved into the dorm room there was chair on her side. Even though her

peer educator was aware that the chair was missing, the matter had not yet been dealt with. "I submitted a work order online and did not have a chair until an entire week later. How was I supposed to sit at my desk?" said Flannery.

Shawver offered some advice for his fellow students who may feel frustrated with Facilities, "Next time you get angry because the screen on your window keeps falling off, remember there's probably someone else whose bed might have broken and can't even sleep at night, or whose heater won't turn on and the room is so unbearably cold they can't stay there. And for the really big problems, like heating and such, outside companies are brought in to help. In this case, how fast your problem is solved depends on more than just Albright. So if it's not solved fast enough, use duct tape."

## Housing's Growing Pains

News Staff  
*The Albrightian*

Tim Narrow, Interim Director of Housing, says if the 2005 incoming freshmen class is as large or larger than this year's, the college will have to begin looking elsewhere to house its students; he denies that there has been any talk of not guaranteeing housing to all students. "There's never been any talk of not guaranteeing housing since I've been here," says Narrow. Albright currently houses 1,070 students with room for approximately 30 more thanks to the addition of 37 beds added to Walton and Krause over the summer.

"We're in a good

situation, this is the most people we've had in housing. We can accommodate a few more. If we get a large freshmen class, we'll have to look for alternative housing," says Narrow. According to Narrow, this additional housing has not been discussed yet, but he says that they will probably look into purchasing off-campus complexes or expanding if necessary, once they are able to anticipate the size of the incoming freshmen class. He says there was some discussion of turning the first floor of Mohn Hall into more dorm rooms, but the idea was dismissed.

When it comes to the current state of the dorms, Narrow says there are some

plans for improvement. The lounges in the Quad have all been renovated and the lounges in Mohn will be renovated "soon." The Woods Apartments, however, are a different story. "The Woods have been talked about, but nothing's been done," says Narrow. The amount of dorm renovations is determined by the amount of money the College allots to Housing, leaving Narrow's hands tied when it comes to major renovations.



The Albright Woods provides upperclassmen with more independent living arrangements

## A FRESHER PERSPECTIVE...

By Andrew Holets



"and the Albrightian comes out..."

## Steve Birdine: A Catalyst For Change

Dan Ruedy  
*The Albrightian*

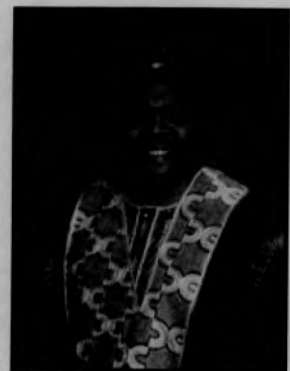
"If you listen to me for the next hour, I'll say something that'll change your life." Steve Birdine made good on this promise as he addressed members of the Albright community in a diversity talk in November. Birdine challenged audience members to understand the many misconceptions about diversity, how it applies to college campuses, and life experiences in the more general sense.

Recent events on campus make a broader understanding of diversity an issue of importance. "If you leave your house looking for

something to offend you, you will be offended," said Birdine. Diversity has nothing to do with niceness, nor an exclusive search for similarities.

People have a natural tendency to self identify into groups. This behavior can be observed every lunch hour in the student union as social groups reclaim tables in a daily migration pattern. Does this behavior create a hostile environment? If you find yourself alienated, it might not be someone else's fault, according to

Birdine. "Don't expect people to have the courage you don't."





# STUDENT LIFE

## Be Gentle, It's My First Time: An Election Day Recap

Andrew Holets  
*The Albrightian*

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004.

The day offered an opportunity to choose the next president. Late-night talk shows told jokes, satire was at its fullest, and Internet cartoon links were cut and pasted at rampant levels over instant messenger. Remember the emotion, the fervor, and the suffrage? At 20 years of age, I could not contain my excitement to vote in the presidential election. My mother had taken me with her to every election and I was sick of simply watching the process play out. Tuesday was my day. It was my chance to break free from what my parents had always told me. I could voice my opinion with my vote, so my arguments at the current issues dinner table actually could inflict change on my parents' vote. And since I didn't want to vote by absentee ballot, I did what any proud young American would do in this scenario: have my mom pick me up from school and drive me to the polls since I didn't buy a car yet.

The location is Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in the parking lot of my old

high school. My American spirit dwarfed my Zephyr pride that day, for I was

on my couch watching the television, my thoughts finally begin to slow down

fellow students that never even say hello to me and they asked who I thought

election and how she hoped that I took Him into account when I made my decision.

People were smothering their cars in bumper stickers that would only serve a purpose only a few more hours. Never have so many phrases like trim the Bush or whip the Dick out been stated publicly before without regard for manners.

I turn on the Daily Show with Jon Stewart ending his show with a degree of disappointment, as it seems like his candidate was not going to win. Some people were happier than a three-legged man in a game of Kick the Can when Bush had the lead while some people decreed that idealism was dead since Kerry was losing, but after some time to think about it, I ended up in the most appropriate position. At the end of election night, I wasn't watching the major networks with all of their experts, or hearing a debate between two bezerk pundits, or listening intently to the late-breaking news, I was sitting on my couch watching Comedy Central. I think that sums up the whole darned event.

### The Timeline...

7:43 AM: My mother makes a remark about flip-flopping John Kerry and stares down at my sandals and laughs. A voter nearby makes a correlation between my intelligence level and my footwear. The Bush voters had a good laugh, but I don't even care because my toes could fall off in the frigid weather of the morning. My attempt to describe my frozen feet digits to an elderly gentleman in front of me as a part of the privilege of waiting in line is smiled upon, but he is wearing wool socks and Wolverine boots.

8:58 AM: My vote is cast.

8:59 AM: High-five a 40ish woman and a grandmother. The grandmother then yells out, "Good for you, American." This feels good.

11:17 AM: Arrive back in Reading, Pennsylvania.

12:04 PM: Enter the Ramada Inn conference room to volunteer for America Votes. I am assigned the task of going door-to-door in Reading and asking if the inhabitant had voted yet.

12:32 PM: The volunteers are split up into groups of eight, with six of them being Washingtonians that wanted to help out Pennsylvania. The seventh volunteer was Maria, a lifelong resident of Reading that spoke fluent Spanish. I really enjoyed working with her, especially after she gave me a tin of cinnamon oatmeal cookies.

1:02 PM: After not getting any quick response from knocking, a woman opens her front door no more than an inch and asks what I'm doing there. I inform her that I'm just trying to see if people had voted yet today. She says, "You bet your f'n ass I did" and slams the door. Good for her.

2:35 PM: Find out that not everyone knows that it is election day. They went to vote once they found out, but I'm not sure if I was helping anyone out with that one.

3:21 PM: Have a 7 minute conversation about the two main candidates with a man that opens the door not wearing any pants. I'm glad that I don't have ADD because never have I ever focused so intently on sustaining eye contact with another man.

4:25 PM: We decide to end our work for the day and head back home. I sit down to watch some television, but my phone keeps ringing with my friends telling me their plans for that evening. All of them say that they are either going out to celebrate or going out to forget about the outcome.

8:00 PM: Pennsylvania polls close.

10:00 PM: FOXNews, CNN, CBS, MSNBC...None of them matter when compared to the political knowledge possessed by one of my roommates. After my extremely conservative roommate makes the comment, "Yo, Kerry might actually win this." I don't even care if he doesn't for a minute. I just wanted to hear him admit to the possibility.

standing in line to vote for my first time in a presidential election. Let's begin at this point.

That night while sitting

and collect. The whole day had its ups and downs with so many people being passionate for their candidate. I walked by

was going to win and what it meant if this guy won or lost. I had my grandmother call me up stressing the importance of Jesus in this

## Off-Campus Living Arrangements Draw More Student Attention

Jordan Mauger  
*The Albrightian*

With many apartment complexes conveniently located in close proximity to campus, many Albright students are making the choice to live off campus. Apartment complexes like Deer Path Apartments and Autumn Park Apartments provide students with an alternative to housing on campus.

The pricing of off-campus apartments vary depending on the complex chosen. For a two-bedroom apartment in Deer Path, the rental prices range from \$800 to \$845 per month. These apartments also include two bathrooms, one of which has a shower, as well as utilities such as water, trash pickup and gas heat. Other amenities include an eat-in kitchen, air conditioning and a washer/dryer unit.

Andrew Holets, class of 2006, appreciates the amenities and utilities

included in his apartment in Deer Path and said, "These make a huge difference in my college experience by making the necessary chores more manageable." Electricity and cable are not included in the rental price at Deer Path.

Autumn Park's two-bedroom apartments are similar to those in Deer Path. "Water, trash, and heat are all amenities included at Autumn Park," said Loren Morgan, class of 2005 and an Autumn Park resident. The monthly rental price for a two-bedroom apartment in Autumn Park is \$620, not including electricity and cable. "Certainly there are pros and cons with both on and off campus," Morgan said. "While living on campus, utilities like electric and cable are provided."

Even though all utilities are not provided in off campus housing, many students appreciate the

freedom associated with living off campus. "After living on campus for three years, I decided it was time for a change. It's really nice to have a kitchen and my own bathroom," said Morgan. Holets said, "College is a time for freedom, they say, but living in Deer Path can be a freedom from Albright College."

While there are some students who choose to live off campus, a large majority are still utilizing on campus housing. One reason for this, according to DeNere Postell, Class of 2005 and Smith Hall resident, is the easy access to campus resources like the library and the computer center. "I'm always on campus in class or for a meeting or something, so living on campus makes it easier to fulfill all of my obligations," Postell said. Money is also a deciding factor for many students. "I chose to live on campus



The Deer Path Apartment Complex is located a brisk quarter-mile from campus

because I have a scholarship that awards me money which covers the cost of my board," commented Amy Lucas, Class of 2006 and Albright Woods resident.

Students living on campus do feel that some changes need to be made to both the residence halls and Albright Woods. Concerns exist over the condition of both the Albright Woods Complex and the residence halls. "When I moved in this past semester, a lot of things were broken and I

did not have a bed," said Lucas. "Everything since then has been rectified, however I think that everything should have been checked out in detail and fixed before I moved in."

Postell had other ideas for changes. "The size of the rooms should be bigger and more singles in other buildings besides Court and Mohn should be provided. Renovations to the bathrooms are also needed to keep them up to date."



# STUDENT LIFE

## Faculty Profile: Marian Wolbers

Jessica Bair  
*The Albrightian*

Most students at Albright College may not know that Marian Wolbers, an adjunct instructor for the English and communications department, is planning to sell movie rights for her first novel, "Rider."

St. Martin's Press released the novel in 1996. The protagonist is a woman who has abandoned her marriage and career to ride the Tokyo subway. She notes the ways women are ignored or abused within the trains and indoor malls of Japan and eventually helps to save others in the subways during an earthquake.

"'Rider' is very slow to get in to, [it's] real psychological in the beginning and then, as one of the reviewers said, the last 40 pages takes off like a freight train," said Wolbers. According to Wolbers, this is the way most Japanese novels pace themselves and she followed this pattern naturally without being aware of it.

Wolbers came up with the idea for her novel while visiting Japan on a cultural visa to study Aikido, a form of martial arts, while she was also working for Time

Life Books.

Fluent in Japanese, Wolbers would listen to the Japanese women around her talk during lunch about their days. She found that a common topic of conversation that she had already observed first hand was the negative treatment of women in Japan. After hearing these stories, Wolbers realized that she was not just seeing women being groped in the subways; women were talking about it and were upset about it.

While Wolbers was treated very nicely by the Japanese men and women that she encountered, she was very surprised by the way Japanese-American women were treated in Japan. Because she was roommates with three such women, she was able to hear first hand her friends' very different experiences.

According to Wolbers, the Japanese-American women were expected to speak Japanese fluently, even though they had never been exposed to it before and were visiting Japan in order to learn the language. She said the Japanese felt that if you had left Japan before, you should not bother to return. "They didn't really understand the need for someone whose

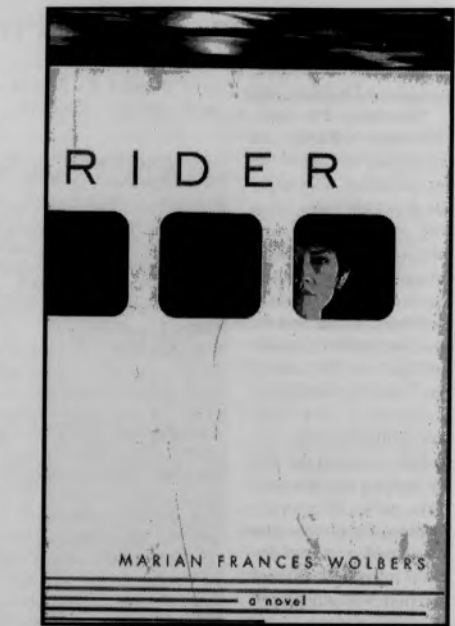
parents have left the country to come back to their roots," said Wolbers.

Wolbers said that some of the experiences of her Japanese-American friends were woven into her novel. The main character is a Japanese-born woman who is the daughter of a native Japanese woman and a Japanese-American father, who could not accept Japanese society and left her and her mother when she was 8 years old.

At first, Wolbers wrote out her feelings about the treatment of women in Japanese society in a journal. Eventually, she realized that she was really writing a novel. "What's happening is this woman character is forming inside of my brain and she's not me at all and I needed to just give her a voice," said Wolbers.

Wolbers went ahead and did just that. "Rider" received positive reviews from *Publisher's Weekly*, *Library Journal* and *Booklist*. Movie rights, which fell through after the initial publishing of the novel due to a family crisis that kept her from writing the script, are currently being negotiated.

Represented by Frances Collin Literary Agency, Wolbers has experience as



"'Rider' is very slow to get into, [it's] real psychological in the beginning and then, as one of the reviewers said, the last 40 pages takes off like a freight train." -Marian Wolbers

a playwright, author of children's books, freelance writer and editor. She is currently working on her second novel, tentatively entitled "Pennsylvania Pow-wow," which she hopes to finish by next spring.

Wolbers has found that her writing style develops in a cinematic way and would like to pursue movie rights for this novel as well. "It's a very strong American

story; the action is right up front," said Wolbers, explaining why she feels her new novel would work well as a film.

Wolbers is also working on an autobiographical piece, entitled "The Japan Diaries," and "The Art of Intuitive Foot Massage," a self-help book.

## Flu Shot (cont. from pg. 1)

the spread of bacteria, the doses were unaffected. Wesner explained that because the community outside Albright's campus could not receive their vaccination, they started to come to the college and request immunizations. Wesner said "Because so many extra people wanted the shot, we are completely out of the vaccine and will not be receiving any more this year."

In one year, the Gable Health Center receives 3,600 visits to their office for hundreds of various ailments. Several of those visits each year are from students with the flu, or with flu like symptoms. Wesner said whether students do or do not receive the shot, they can still help reduce their chances of getting the flu. "People need to be more

cognizant about what the flu is," Wesner said, "and remember not to be in close contact with those who may have the flu or a cold."

Wesner understands that prevention can sometimes be unavoidable due to the close living conditions that exist among students. She added that stress can raise your chances of getting sick. Wesner expressed that a key component to avoiding sickness is to come to the Health Center the first day you are feeling under the weather. Wesner said, "We have medicine that can be administered within 48 hours of the first stages of illness that can minimize symptoms and shorten the duration. If you procrastinate and try to wait out your flu, we have to treat you symptomatically, the best that we can."

Senior Albright student Maren Kepler will not be getting the flu shot this season. Kepler relies on prevention that has been proven to reduce chances of spreading bacteria, and the flu. She said, "I don't really get the flu that often and I take especially good care of myself to help prevent it. I always try to wash my hands, and don't share with people who are sick." Kepler said that people should try to plan ahead if they want to get the shot. Even if people aren't in high risk, they should be able to receive the immunization.

Another student, Phil Gloniger, 20, agrees with Kepler and said that, "I never really thought the flu shot was necessary. I don't usually get sick very often and I heard that if you get the shot, it can make you feel a little sick for a day or

so," Gloniger has not gotten the flu in the past few years and said he is not concerned that he will get the flu without a shot. He added that he will "probably get the shot when he is older because the flu is a serious health risk." However, Albright junior Jordan Mauger feels that it is important to get the flu shot even though he is not considered to have a chronic disease. "I do not want to take the chance of getting sick, especially if there is a way to prevent the illness. I think I should have the same rights as anyone else. It shouldn't have to be limited to people who are at risk." Mauger got his flu shot in the beginning of October and has not gotten the flu so far this year.

Samantha Wesner thinks that because of the Chiron

issue, the college does not need to prepare for a shortage again next year. "We have had enough immunization every year, and this is the first time we have refused anyone. We will not order more next year because this is a fluke."

Wesner has received her flu shot this year. She recommends that people get the flu shot and said, "It's an especially good idea that college students get the shot." Hopefully next year those who want a shot will have accessibility to receiving one. But until then, those of you who have aichmophobia have no fear. No needles will be injecting you with a flu vaccine anytime soon.



# STUDENT LIFE

## Shirk Stadium Set to be Rebuilt

News Service  
The Albrightian

A \$1 million gift to Albright College from local alumnus John D. Scholl is helping to launch reconstruction of Albright College's Shirk Stadium as a new multi-sport stadium. Demolition of the existing stadium will begin in December 2004. The \$4 million first phase of the stadium project is expected to be completed by fall 2005. The stadium reconstruction is the first initiative in the College's new master plan for athletics over the next decade.

The new stadium's footprint will be the same as the existing structure, from 13th Street on the north to Exeter Streets on the south and 12th Street on the west. A new field house/grandstands building will be constructed. The existing stands will be completely replaced, and new locker rooms added. The new field will be large enough for football, field hockey, soccer and lacrosse. Grass will be replaced with artificial turf.

According to David C. Stinebeck, interim president of Albright, the College has critical needs for two building projects: reconstruction of Shirk Stadium and construction of a new Science Center.

"We have been planning stadium reconstruction for a long time, and with our new athletics master plan have

been working to find a way to make it reality," Stinebeck said. "John Scholl's generous gift, added to college funds, was the final part of the funding equation and is allowing us to finally begin construction. The stadium is a much smaller undertaking than the new Science Center, so we are able to get it underway immediately."

According to Stinebeck, with Albright enrollments at their highest levels ever along with Scholl's gift, the time was right to tackle the stadium project.

The century-old stadium "has become an eyesore that detracts from the rest of our beautiful campus," Stinebeck said. "It does not make a very good impression on prospective students and visitors."

Stinebeck stressed that fundraising will not be necessary for the stadium, but that funds will need to be raised to construct the planned Science Center.

John Scholl, Albright class of 1969, of Mohnton, Pennsylvania, is a member of Albright's Athletics Hall of Fame and previously served on the Albright Board of Trustees. Scholl is owner of Berkco Properties, a real estate investment company. In 1998, Scholl spearheaded a \$425,000 renovation of Albright's Bollman Center gymnasium and basketball



John Scholl, Albright class of 1969, of Mohnton, Pennsylvania, is a member of Albright's Athletics Hall of Fame and previously served on the Albright Board of Trustees. In 1998, Scholl spearheaded a \$425,000 renovation of Albright's Bollman Center gymnasium and basketball court.

court. Scholl's gift to the stadium comes to Albright from the Scholl Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation.

At Albright, Scholl was a star athlete in basketball, track and baseball. He retains the College's single-game scoring record in basketball of 54 points against Lycoming College in 1969.

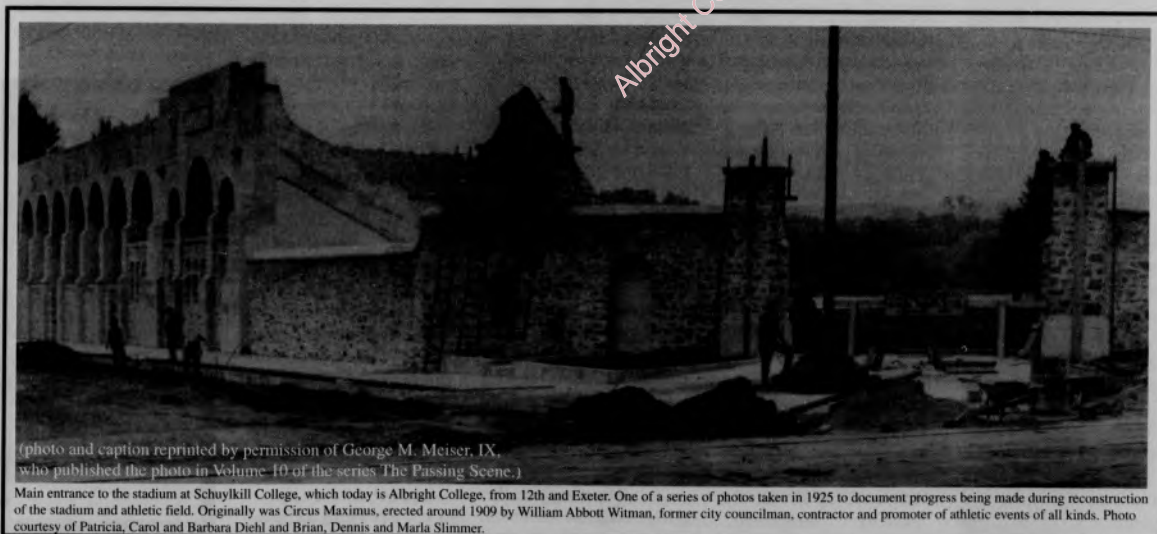
"I am happy to make this donation to the stadium project because Albright needs a new facility. I am pleased with the overall direction of the College and its administration," Scholl said. "Back in the late '90s I saw a need when I compared Albright's athletics and fitness and wellness facilities to other

colleges', and we tackled the Bollman Center. Albright and I share the same vision and I was willing to step up to the plate to keep the momentum going so we can complete our athletics master plan. The stadium was obviously the first thing to do. Renovating the stadium is good for Albright and for the Reading community."

Shirk Stadium, built around 1909 as Circus Maximus, was originally the home of the Tri-State Minor League Baseball League. The stadium was donated in 1923 to Schuylkill College, which then merged with Albright College in 1929 when Albright moved to its current location in Reading.

The College named the facility Eugene Shirk Stadium in 1981 after the beloved Albright professor and former mayor of Reading.

The athletics master plan is by Derck & Edson Associates, LLP and The Ray Group Architects. The 80,000-square-foot Science Center that will replace the 75-year-old Merner-Pfeiffer Hall of Science is in the planning stages. According to Stinebeck, the College must raise funds for the project, which has been approved by the Berks County Capital Campaign Review Board for a 2006 campaign, and there is no date set for groundbreaking.



(photo and caption reprinted by permission of George M. Meiser, IX, who published the photo in Volume 10 of the series The Passing Scene.)

Main entrance to the stadium at Schuylkill College, which today is Albright College, from 12th and Exeter. One of a series of photos taken in 1925 to document progress being made during reconstruction of the stadium and athletic field. Originally was Circus Maximus, erected around 1909 by William Abbott Witman, former city councilman, contractor and promoter of athletic events of all kinds. Photo courtesy of Patricia, Carol and Barbara Diehl and Brian, Dennis and Marla Slimmer.



# COMMENTARY

## The Last Word

Andrew Holets  
*The Albrightian*

Hoho, another one, you might say. Every year, someone prints an article that ushers in another malcontent piece from a student that tries to highlight the atrocious dark side of Albright College. They try to pick up and showcase the seedy disgusting underbelly of the liberal arts private institution that is Albright. Why do I dissent now after this introduction? Why bother to ask why? After so many tries, why not give up? I ask because we deserve it; never shall a community forego progress because of past failure, never believe that we are not adults, if not entitled consumers of higher education. We may live for the weekend, we may even live for the brown-nosed conversation with the professor, but we also live for the chance to find simple satisfaction from a college that should offer more.

Leadership is the trait that is possessed by few, yet falsely strewn about like it were a top 40 album owned by most. We

do not all possess it. I hesitate to make this statement, but my certainty is not questioned when I shout that our college officials, particularly those dealing directly with students do not possess such a quality. Figure it out and make a difference, student. Even if someone does act as

graduation will bring bills with your name on it and the company will actually expect you to pay them, not a parent. There are so many opportunities that we will all likely experience that we haven't thought of just yet. I know that I eagerly await the day when I get to answer my door on a community-

address numbers just so I can make my mailman deliver my posts with a bit more pride. Speaking of mail, what shall I make of the day when I receive an Alumni Association donation form? I know that my very first notion with it will probably make me feel proud and accomplished,

to act as advocates for either side in a dispute do not strive to consider and fairly present all sides of a situation? My most frequent reaction after reading or hearing the lamentation of some students lately has been to merely shake my head in disbelief.

Life offers few meaningful figures, so get to know your professors, find the students that care, find anyone that cares and grasp onto them like the proverbial nut to the late autumn squirrel. My hopelessness comes not from personal anguish, but from those that I care about. What am I supposed to take from the deterioration of those that come here as eager freshmen and end up an upperclassman disenchanting with college life because of a few jilting encounters from unyielding personalities?

I simply fear that the pacifists may be winning in our student proletariat.

*"Speaking of mail, what shall I make of the day when I receive an Alumni Association donation form? I know that my very first notion with it will probably make me feel proud and accomplished, but the second emotion is still in question to me at this moment."*

a leader, it's difficult for their leadership skills to be considered unflawed even past a miniscule of investigation. Everyone makes mistakes, but the ability to work with a situation and people rather than unseen forces is what makes decision-making great.

Life after

designated Halloween to greet Trick-or-Treaters, just so I can give out bags of pennies or even the foul-tasting Mary Jane candies in order to receive a forced thank you from an 8 year-old Spiderman or 10 year-old wolf man. I can travel to a hardware store and actually consider purchasing those shiny gold

but the second emotion is still in question to me at this moment. It kind of comes down to whether or not I have a trust in the leaders at Albright College. This is where the undergraduate time comes into effect. Any student leader can join a plethora of groups, but does it help that those employed by the institution expected

## Concert Review: Four Men With Sax

Megan Tanger  
*The Albrightian*

I rummaged for my phone as the clock was ticking away. It was 12:23 pm and I was worried that the musicians were lost or had already arrived at Albright and were trying to find me, since they said they would be here by noon. I went outside to look around for them and called my supervisor. Just as I began to say "Martha! They're still not here," three young men dressed in black walked around the corner. To my relief it was the *Prism Saxophone Quartet*. "Wait...quartet. Where's the fourth guy?" I asked myself. It turned out he was lost in Reading and needed directions. Luckily with my help and familiarity of the city and our handy cell phones, he was able to get here easily.

This goes to show how putting together a concert is not so easy. My

name is Megan Tanger and I am the student liaison to the many musicians who visit the College to perform for the Albright College Concert Series. It can be nerve-racking at times making sure the musicians' food orders are correct, meeting the musicians, making sure everything is in order the day of the concert, preparing programs, emailing the musicians with information, and making sure things are running on schedule. There are numerous details to manage, but as a music business major, getting the chance to meet talented, intelligent, wonderful, and witty musicians does not even compare.

On Friday, October 8, I got a chance to meet the *Prism Saxophone Quartet*. They were very friendly, laid back, and extremely personable. The four men that make up *Prism* are Timothy McAllister,

Michael Whitcombe, Matthew Levy, and Taimur Sullivan. They all play saxophones, but the ranges of their instruments encompass soprano through baritone. I was surprised as I read and listened to the range of pieces they performed. Their program featured Latin American music such as "Orange Mango Tango" with a heavy Latin tango feel, and North American music including a soothing adaptation of Billie Holiday's "God Bless the Child" with a slow jazz rhythm, and many others. It was amazing how the quartet played classical band instruments, yet adapted their instrument's sound to the type of music they played. I closed my eyes through a specific song and to my surprise I was not able to tell that I was actually listening to a saxophone quartet.

The energy of this group made the concert at

the Wachovia Theatre exciting and intriguing. Along with a dozen other students who took advantage of the "rush tickets," I think I may have been one of the youngest audience members that night. I enjoyed the concert not because this type of music interests me, but because the musicians were humorous, relaxed, and each one of them related well to both the young and the "not so young" in the audience. I really think that if more students had come out that evening they would have gotten a whole new perspective of the Albright College Concert Series and may have found a new interest beyond Experience credit. They would have even had a chance to meet the musicians afterwards at a lovely reception with elegant decorations and wonderful appetizers that were free!

I, along with the

rest of the audience, had a wonderful time at the concert. Through the craziness of the whole day, I was subdued in a dark theater listening to gorgeous music pour out of beautiful sounding instruments. It was an experience I will never forget and encourage each student to be a part of.

# 2

The Number  
of issues of  
*The  
Albrightian*  
out this  
semester