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Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi Speaks to Albright Community

Pamela Herb
The Albrightian

Mahatma Gandhi is widely considered to be one of the great leaders of the twentieth century, and the fact that his grandson was to speak here at Albright College was a source of interest and anticipation on campus and in the local community.

As the 2003 James J. Gallagher Jr. lecturer Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi was perhaps the largest name to grace the lecture series in recent years. His speech, titled "Evil, War and the Force of Truth: Is There a Place for Gandhi's Non-Violence in 2003?" was listened to with rapt attention by a full audience in the MPK Chapel.

Dr. Gandhi kept the night relatively light, considering the seriousness of his topic, starting off his speech with a joke about the solemnity of the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony led by Dr. Roxanne Gupta; he also peppered his talk with the wit of his

grandfather's many words of wisdom. His message however, was anything but a joke. He proved through many examples that Mahatma Gandhi's wisdom is still relevant today. Instead of being the absolute pacifist whose only course of action is sitting by and waiting for peace, he instead showed how non-violence can be firmly rooted in the realities of today's world. He balanced patriotism with criticism and insisted on wisdom and communication as a means to achieve peace, blending Gandhi's doctrine of non-violence with the views of modern Americans.

Dr. Gandhi showed that he held no illusions about his grandfather, and that we should not either, by pointing out the fact that Mahatma was not always an absolute pacifist. He drove an ambulance during the Boar War in Africa and recruited several people for WWI, as well as drafting a resolution that would have given India independence

while allowing British and U.S. troops to be stationed in India. Several other instances of Gandhi's human and realistic view of the world were also cited. He recognized the fact that tough actions may be necessary, but insisted throughout his speech that communication and intellectual consideration must be paid to the subject first.

Central to Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs is his absolute dedication to the practice of non-violence. As Dr. Gandhi stated, non violence to Mahatma was an extension of love, but he preferred non violence to love because love does not connote struggle. You must cling to the force of truth, which will lead you down the right paths. *Satyagraha*, the Indian word for a type of soul-force, is stronger than fire-power.

Religion and spiritualism, both Western and Eastern, played a large part in the considerations of the correct course of action for

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A New Look on The Way For Albright

Julie Jones
The Albrightian

Have you ever noticed that every college except Albright seems to have an official logo that they use consistently? Here at Albright you can find several different logos; there's the lion leaning on the capital A and the seal with the genie lamp in it. While all of these logos represent Albright, there is no consistency. The letterheads for every department on campus have different logos, making it difficult for prospective students and the community at large to connect Albright College with one particular logo. The college relations office recognizes that this is a problem and has begun a project to develop a new official logo for Albright.

You might remember getting an email from the college relations office not too long ago asking students to submit any design ideas they had for this new logo. "Unfortunately we only had one student

submit a design," stated Barbara Marshall, the Associate Vice President of College Relations and Marketing. Together Marshall, a small committee, and an outside design firm came up with a few new logos and finally decided on one. When asked if I could have a sneak peak at this new logo, Marshall responded with, "Right now it's in the hands of the President, I'd rather not show it to you until after it has been approved." She assured me that once everything was final, she'd be happy to share it with the Albright community. "Our goal is to have one graphic identity," she concluded. Hopefully all will go well with the rest of the approval process and we will soon see this new official Albright College logo!

Julie Jones is a sophomore reporter for *The Albrightian*

"A terrible beauty is born" at Albright's Freedman Gallery

Jennifer P. Stoult
The Albrightian

Albright College's Freedman Gallery presents *Industry and Entropy*, on view from March 25 through April 17. Curated by Christopher Youngs, the exhibition features photographic work by two artists: Edward Burtynsky and Mark Ruwedel. Documentation of the articles and artworks of Robert Smithson form a preface to the show.

Industry denotes progress, organizational order and efficiency. Entropy suggests a process of breaking down, of destruction and decay. Yet many industrial manifestations over the past 150 years are examples of entropy; the massive destruction of our natural environment is an allegorical tale of the entropic process.

The photographs are snapshots with an attitude and an agenda. The exhibition presents a reconsideration of contemporary beauty—a vision that is hardly a picture of a pretty place. As Yeats wrote in the midst of a state of war: "All changed, changed utterly / A terrible beauty is born."

Robert Smithson's article, "The Monuments of Passaic," included a series of his photographs of the industrial wasteland surrounding his hometown and an account of his walking tour of the industrial area. The images included the cluttered debris of *The Great Pipes Monument* and *The Fountain Monument*, spewing foul liquids into the river. Smithson revealed these monuments to our achievements, are nothing more than industrial residue, the by-products of a short-

sighted enterprise based on greed. He suggests that these monuments are really more telling than all the false facades of commissioned monuments in Washington.

Among the photographs are Mark Ruwedel's images of Smithson's famous *Spiral Jetty* in a submerged state (it has since resurfaced), and *Amarillo Ramp* in the process of eroding back into the desert floor. In 1983, Burtynsky coincidentally photographed a series of mines that included the Bingham Copper Mining Pit. This site was identified by Smithson in a 1973 proposal for land reclamation.

Burtynsky's works are of four different subject matters: shipbreaking in Bangladesh (the salvage operations on the shore of an economically disadvantaged country), quarries (some abandoned, some still working), mine

tailings (the run-off residue of mining operations), and tire piles (dump sites in Oxford, California). A common element is the unusually large size of these photographs. A scale of 40 x 50 inches in many of these photographs helps convey the huge dimensions of the subject matter. The initial view is of incredibly lush and seductive images, but more detailed observations pull the carpet of effort from under our feet. The recognition of beauty shifts.

Burtynsky cites a journey through Pennsylvania as having provided the fodder for his *Mine Tailings* series: "I realized that as far as my eye could see everything had been transformed, there was nothing natural left." In these works we are belittled, and perhaps a bit shamed. Burtynsky reminds us of another world beyond our consciousness. He brings it into sight—not as an evangelical

revelation, but as a quiet, yet turbulent journey into another world.

Ruwedel is on common ground with the works of Smithson and Burtynsky. He is a keen observer of the residue of man's imprints on nature. His images are both beautiful and frightening, but he also seems amazed and occasionally amused by our stupidity. With the advent of the nuclear age, mankind has developed technology to the point where the entire civilized world could be eliminated in a cataclysmic explosion, hastening entropy across the face of the earth. Ruwedel seems to be saying that we should stop and reflect on our world in a more realistic manner.

His photograph

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The Smell of the Mushroom Farm

(formerly "From the Editor's Desk")

Dan Ruedy
Editor-in-Chief

Now that the weather is warm and the war in Iraq is fully underway, all the ingredients for complete chaos on this campus are present. Warm weather can sometimes influence us to do crazy things, and our viewpoints on the war can put us up in arms with those of opposing views. Dr. Gandhi's visit added a zestful spice to the mix, followed by two protest marches on Friday, met with considerable news coverage and criticism from a few camps. The water balloon incident probably wasn't the best way

to share pro-war views or support for troops, but that behavior can be likely be blamed on the warm weather. I suppose.

As we breach the mid term and some begin an impromptu "shock and awe" academic campaign to bring up those grades, let us not become too complacent or ignorant of the goings on around the globe or even in our secluded chunk of suburbia.

Don't limit your expression to your color AIM profile of astute quotations and quizzes of sorts; instead, write for The Albrightian, it takes about as much time.

Terrible Beauty... from page 1

Witnesses presents the outdoor seating overlooking the distant ground zero of a nuclear bomb test area. One can almost see the occasion of scientists and the military convening to have hot dogs and drink soda pops, like at an outdoor movie showing, in anticipation of the greatest show on earth. As with Burtynsky's work, Ruwedel seductively draws us into a beautiful scene that on closer inspection becomes disruptive. From a distance, the *Bomb Crater Series* appears to be craters on a desert floor. But, it becomes clear that these are craters left on a bomb and missile practice range at Wendover Airforce Base. These are disquieting images of the aftermath of violence.

The *Uranium Claims Series* marks the aftermath of a time when there was a huge demand for uranium. But the big boom went bust as demand diminished because of an abundance of nuclear warheads and the eventual end of the Cold War. The desert landscape is now littered with the markings of mom and pop prospectors.

The *Salt Mine* series is of abandoned industrial sites. As this land has outlived its usefulness, it lies deserted, barren except for the ruinous aftermath of the salt producing process and the artifacts of the machinery not worth salvaging. Ruwedel points out that we have always

thought of the West as being so vast that we could use it as a dumping ground, like the ocean.

A message here is that despite mankind's monumental structures on the earth's surface, all of these things are inevitably destined to become ruins and eventually disappear from any recognizable form. To realize the relative insignificance of our lives is also to realize the magnitude of our surroundings. This exhibition promotes the hope that from a heightened state of consciousness, we can adapt our worldview to encompass a truer appreciation for the beauty and preciousness of life, of mankind and nature, and, suggests that unless change comes, we face a final desperate rush towards oblivion.

Gandhi... from page 1

the United States to take. Hinduism, Gandhi's own religion, does allow the government to punish evildoers.

However, Dr. Gandhi pointed out that violence brutalizes the user and the victim, and comes back to the user as retaliation. The person using violence assumes the position of God. Gandhi himself also believed that when evil becomes too powerful and harms society, God sends someone to stop him.

Dr. Gandhi urged people to remember that religion taken out of context does not determine behavior, but instead societal influences like the media and our parents determine our choices. Also, both Muslims and Christians long for the same things, and pray to the same God. Invoking God to destroy evil is also a risky proposition, because you must ask yourself if that makes your cause the right one, or if disliking your enemy truly

makes him evil. He insisted that for any nation it would be hazardous to say "God told me to do this."

As a solution, Dr. Gandhi said that dialogue is necessary with Islamic people and nations, as well as with each other as we are split along anti war and "not so unhappy about the war" lines. We as a nation must work together with Europe and all factions in Iraq. He has not lost hope, and still believes in the U.S. as a microcosm of the world. He concedes that tough actions might be necessary; however he believes that the U.S. was too hasty in giving up on the U.N. He also expressed that the sense of unity found on the day of the attacks needs to be rediscovered, and that the world needs to remember that the September 11th attacks happened on U.S. soil and only U.S. soil. Instead of unilateral actions, when questioned, Dr. Gandhi said that "cool, mature, wise discussion" should precede national policy,

and that we should show love to our enemies: if they reject our invitations for peace, we should send another invitation with a more attractive person!

Persistence is a major theme for both Gandhi's, and Dr. Gandhi said it must apply to protesting the war and peace efforts. It is also necessary to be persistent in looking for the truth, and in clinging to it, because in clinging to the truth you will embrace non-violence and love.

Whether the group gathered in the Chapel agreed or disagreed with Dr. Gandhi, no one could doubt that the intelligence and wisdom found in Mahatma Gandhi's work was passed down to his grandson. His speech gave all present a great deal to consider before taking a stand on the war with Iraq, war in general, and even international relations.

Pamela Herb is News Editor and a sophomore reporter for The Albrightian



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WHEN SMART STUDENTS GO

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NEWS

Crime Watch

Protect Yourself, in College, at Parties

It's Friday night and you've lined up a couple of parties. You're psyched about mingling with strangers, sipping a couple of beers and getting slightly buzzed to forget about tests and term papers. Slipping into your favorite miniskirt, you wonder who's eyes you might catch as you make a grand entrance.

The next thing you know, you wake up in an unfamiliar bedroom, wearing nothing, and with zero memory of how you got there. The last eight hours are a blank. Is that normal? It could happen if someone slipped something into your drink. That something could be GHB - Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate, chemicals used to strip floors and clean drains. Or you may have taken Ecstasy, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

And you may have known nothing about it.

Ecstasy and GHB are relatively new highs. At Albright College, Robert Gerken and Samantha Wesner first noticed students getting high on Ecstasy and GHB three years ago.

"It's cheap. That's real important for college students. They get an immediate effect and it's tough to detect," said

Wesner, a nurse practitioner and health educator at Albright.

"They (students) are street saavy when it comes to a lot of things - but not to this date-rape drug," said Gerken, director of safety and security for Albright College.

Gerken is a former state trooper who worked in undercover narcotics. He and Wesner are members of a drug task force started by The Community Prevention Partnership of Berks County.

Fueled by \$346,000 in federal money, the goal is to tell people in Berks County about the growing use of club drugs such as ecstasy, also known as E-pills, rolls, beans, and X. The findings of a survey of club drug use at three local schools will be released April 10, said Mike Johnson of Community Prevention Partnership.

Colorful Ecstasy tablets are stamped with cute characters; GHB is a clear liquid usually carried in water bottles. It can also be in powder form, according to the web site, GHB Project.

Both GHB and Ecstasy heighten good feelings and lessen inhibitions.

Sometimes, they are called "Love Drugs."

But one gulp of GHB can put you in a coma that you don't wake up from, Wesner said. Just because Ecstasy and GHB wash out of the system quickly doesn't mean they're not sinister, Wesner said. The drugs do brain damage, harming the memory first and down the road, who knows?

While drug use is not rampant at Albright, which has 1,450 students this year, it is a problem everywhere for people like Gerken and Wesner who help young people cope with the aftermath of party drugs - from invasion of privacy to the loss of innocence and criminal prosecution.

"They're scared, they're confused. They don't know what happened to them. They lost charge of the last eight hours," said Wesner, who is usually the first person to meet with a girl who has just woken up from a bad experience with GHB or Ecstasy.

"It's more dangerous than it was even five years ago," Wesner said about the party drug scene. Gerken said there are more date-rape situations

out there than his office knows about, because of rape victims' classic reluctance to report the crime. Girls who are underage drinkers are typically the last to report sexual assaults he said.

Last year there were three rapes reported at Albright College, and one male student was responsible for all of them, Gerken said.

"He's no longer with us."

The girls did not know or believe they could be raped that way. While the use of Ecstasy happens in clubs, more frequently it's going on in people's homes, at casual parties, said Gerken and Wesner.

"We don't see a lot of drug use on this campus, we really don't," Gerken said.

But what he and Wesner are seeing as a result of people taking Ecstasy and GHB is frightening, especially when it's slipped to someone.

Part of the problem is that little is known about Ecstasy and GHB, especially its long-term effects.

A California college student who talked about her

experience with Ecstasy one a "48 Hours" segment last year warned women to "Watch the drink go from the bartender's hand to your hand."

That can be difficult in a house party situation.

Gerken said women have to stay alert and be aware of their surroundings. Don't accept a drink from a stranger at a party.

"It's good that people will be more aware of their surroundings. They won't be complacent," Gerken said. "We have to change the way we live."

"Just getting the word 'Ecstasy' out there isn't enough," Wesner said. "People need to know it's out there and what its long term effects are." And the medical professionals are just learning about them.

Gerken noted the invisible nature of Ecstasy.

"People who ingest Ecstasy are not out there burglarizing homes and robbing stores," the security director said.

"They usually end up in a bedroom. I guess the neighborhood is glad to hear that."

This article is reprinted with permission of The Reading Eagle

Albrightian Exclusive: Interview with Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi

Bethany Adams
The Albrightian

It is just after 4:00 on Friday, February 28th and a tall gentleman enters the room. The room was already host to myself and three other reporters from local news sources. We stand for him and he immediately shakes our hands and asks our names without hesitation or annoyance. As we all sit, he calmly answers our questions one by one for the next hour . . .

How does life change for you as you travel from the United States to India?

They are and they are not the same. The internet and television connect the two worlds but they are still two different worlds. However, the United States is very hospitable to people of different cultures. You can have the food and the music from any country any time. This country is a wonderful country.

Has terrorism directly affected you?

Many people in Northern India that I know have been victims of terrorism. This is a thing I have dealt with so many times. I wonder why the innocent sometimes suffer the way they do. I was in India when the attacks of September 11th occurred. I am particularly keen on [the] people of the United States remember[ing] the difference between Islam and Muslims, and those who claim to be. The 9/11 attack was an abomination.

Do you think it is possible to prevent terrorism from happening?

There is hate in the world, you know, we must find ways to deal with that. I don't think we will ever have the whole planet in peace . . . I think people will see that hate and the blame game cause problems. Listening is the key, we are all so keen on spreading our opinions . . . we must listen. You should be honest with your fears but you should not let them dictate you. It is important to remember the message we leave people in our homes and towns. We can all be true to our best thoughts.

Are you concerned with the United States' war on terrorism?

I think there is a possibility that unthinking acts . . . taken in anger could create the thing we want to stop. . . . The United States is not only the sole superpower but it has a great legacy . . . to protect itself is a great goal . . . but it must be part of a greater endeavor. I appreciate President Bush's statement "God is the God of everyone and every human being is of equal worth." If the United States would follow that it would be a fantastic thing.

How do you feel about the war on Iraq?

I don't advocate absolute violence . . . [but] there are times when it is inescapable. I personally was not in favor of a unilateral action. I would have preferred an action with the United Nations. We have to look beyond the war. We must look for reconciliation. How can there be reconciliation? I'd like the war to end before long and I'd like to see the United States involve the whole world . . . to see how Iraq can be reconstructed. I think it is important for the rest of the world to stand by the United States after the war.

How do you perceive the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq?

The people of India are more than willing to support the United States' war on terrorism. However, bombing day after day . . . the persistence of these attacks trouble human beings all over the world . . . they raise questions that must be asked by all people.

What would you most like to see happen in the world?

I have a very deep longing for my own part of the world where there is such hunger for hating. I would long for India and Pakistan to find peace . . . but also good relations between the United States and the Arab world.

What is the one thought you would like people to walk away from your speech with tonight?

That there is always a silver lining . . . even in dark times. We should be thankful for many good things that are happening. And, that realization and discovery should probe us to establish what path to take.

. . . as we prepare to leave, he asks our names again and thanks us for coming to speak with him. He poses for pictures and signs personally addressed posters for us. Throughout the entire afternoon he was pleasant, courteous, and sincere. This was the true sign that he honestly believes everything he said to us that afternoon.

STUDENT LIFE

From Albright's PhDs of Love...

A Brand New Column on Love, Dating, and Hooking Up

Q: I am having problems with my boyfriend from home. I am a freshman and we have been together since junior year of high school. Last semester, he would call me every night. Now, it can be up to a week before we talk. He is shady when we talk and I'm concerned. He uses the excuse that he is just "busy" and does not have time to talk. What should I do?

A: First of all, you must compare yourself now to what you were in high school. College can induce a change, not necessarily a bad one, in an individual. Taking this into account, decide whether your relationship is bringing you more stress or happiness. If you find yourself unhappy with this person the majority of the time, then we would say...move on. As hard as it may be, you will learn who you are in the process and become a stronger person. Take a risk and venture out of your comfort zone.

Q: I think I made a terrible

mistake. I started hooking up with this guy whom I was very attracted to both physically and emotionally. We would get together many nights, however, he refused to socialize with me during the daytime. I thought he was just uninterested in me, but he calls me almost every night to come to his place. I really like him, but I don't know how to get him to talk to me more when we are not hooking up.

A: Wake up! You are being used. There are plenty of nice guys who would be better worth your time. I do not care how much you may like him or how good he is in bed; he does not respect you and therefore does not deserve your attention.

Q: I just found out that my new love interest has an uncircumcised penis. I'm worried about any health risks. Can you give me any information? Should I be concerned?

A: You have nothing to worry

about. For a time, uncircumcised penises were thought to cause urinary tract infections, penile and cervical cancer, and sexually-transmitted diseases. However, that risk is so low that it is inconsequential. The only case that some people make in the "to circumcise or not" issue is that circumcised penises offer more sexual enjoyment. We say, if there is love between you two, it should not matter anyway. Enjoy and be safe.

Until next issue, we hope that everyone stays happy and healthy.

Much love to all,

The Love Doctors

The Love Doctors are genuine Albright Students and can be contacted at Albrightian@hotmail.com., with "Love Doctors" in the subject heading

Albright Campus is Host to Rally of Support for Troops

Autumn Wilson
The Albrightian

The current situation in the world has propelled many social thinkers to become more vocal in their actions. The war in the Middle East has been the subject of a number of protests and marches, ranging from "Throw-Up" protests in Seattle to "Bomb Iraq" rallies in Washington, D.C. In recent months, Albright has become a home for students and community members to voice their opinions in public forums. On Friday, March 28th, a group of students headed by Andrew Holets, Timothy Loewing, and Benjamin Geffken felt compelled to show their opinion. They decided to do their part and hang up flyers across the Albright campus which called for a "Support Your Troops" rally. The first notion could be that it was

brought on because of the Anti-war protest on that same day, but Holets believes differently. When asked for his motives behind the gathering, Holets states, "This idea wasn't brought on because of an anger towards those that believe this war is wrong. It was brought on because my friends and I believed that there should be a positive rally of understanding and support for the United States troops." Since the rally was arranged in a "pell-mell" manner, the students were only able to display their opinions on non-Albright owned property. They moved to the 13th and Union Streets intersection where they showed their personal opinions with signs and calls for friendly honks by cars passing by. When asked, Ben Geffken wanted to reiterate that "the difference between our rally and their

[anti-war] rally was that they wish for the troops to come home immediately, while we want their missions to be accomplished. Then the troops can safely come home." Everyone at the gathering agreed that what they did was not an opposite of the anti-war protest, so many students went down to the rally down the street to mingle and hold intelligent and peaceful discussions about current issues. "I think all of our effort was paid back today with the reaction and smiles we received from people passing by," says Timothy Loewing on his reaction to the rally. With the war seeming to be more of a prolonged conflict, it may be likely to see more of these rallies and protests. Asked if he thought this were true, Holets replies, "If it must go on, it must, but we won't support violence more than we support understanding and a sharing of ideas and support for everyone."

The family of the late Devin Papp would like to extend sincerest thanks to all who have expressed their love and support during their time of great sorrow. God bless you all.

Robert, Dolores and Rory Papp

Thank you and best regards,
Robert J.Papp
1379 Coriell Drive
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Concert Review

Adrian Chesh
The Albrightian

Big Wig Rocks Allentown

If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself. This old adage held true Friday, March 28th as local punk rock band Ritter organized a concert at the Allentown American Legion Hall where New Jersey punk powerhouses Big Wig headlined a night of rock and roll rarely seen outside local commercialized clubs. The difference is that this D.I.Y. (Do-It-Yourself) show was completely set up, promoted, and run by Ritter without the draw of alcohol like many bars and without security goons getting between a band and their fans. In fact, there was no elevated stage at this show and bands played right in front of the crowd of almost one-hundred fans with little more than two feet between the crowd and the band.

The show kicked off with the Fall Line from Baltimore. Maryland shredding into a blistering set of hardcore. Set to release their debut EP later this year the Fall Line seemed to stun the crowd with their screams and crushing riffs, providing an unexpected exciting start to what would be quite a night. The Goodwill, a 5-piece from Long Island, New York were up next with a blend of punk and pop bringing to mind other Long Island favorites Taking Back Sunday, Brand New, and the Movielife. The crowd seemed to love every minute of their fast pace set taken from their recently released album "This Was A Moment".

As local favorites and those responsible for the concert, Ritter took the stage to a crowd of friends, family, and an impressive group of fans. From the moment the group ripped into their new anthem "Free", this crowd was whipped into a frenzy as vocalist Justin Fowler sang through songs from their debut EP as well as new songs from another upcoming EP this summer. Somewhere between punk, metal, and pop, Ritter definitely rocked everyone that came to the show, acting as great direct support for Big Wig, who, to the delight of the crowd, was up next.

Filling their set with hardcore and punk anthems from all three of their full-length albums including their latest "Invitation to Tragedy" on Fearless Records, Big Wig turned the legion hall into chaos. A cover of the Cheers theme song and crowd favorite "Numbers", highlighted the set of perfectly executed punk. They also included songs about pressing issues such as saving the environment ("Appreciate") and abortion ("Pro-Life Taker"). Overall, the roomful of dancing and pumping fists provided an amazing evening of intimate punk rock the way it was meant to be seen, with no rockstar attitudes and plenty of on and offstage mayhem. So go out there and support your local D.I.Y. shows, you may be in for quite a treat.

Adrian Chesh is a sophomore reporter for *The Albrightian*

In Memory of Devin Papp

Scott Poroski
The Albrightian

One month ago, the Albright Community suffered a very devastating and saddening loss. February 27, 2003 proved to be a fateful day, as senior Devin Papp was tragically killed in a freak automobile accident. Devin's death came as a major surprise and an even bigger shock to the majority of the Albright community as classes were cancelled, memorial services were attended, and everyone's lives seemed to have been put on hold for a few days at least.

Devin was a friend to all and a very outgoing person who always seemed to live life to the fullest. Everyday you saw him, he would always have a smile on his face and laughter in his heart. Devin was very active throughout his tenure at Albright being a brother of Kappa Delta Phi, member of RSA, and part of the Domino Players. Devin

was also a very popular person at Albright as he was one of the nominees for homecoming court. One thing that made Devin stand out in people's minds was his love of life.

Devin's death was a tough time for all, it seemed that everyone who knew him was affected in some way shape or form. But Devin's death also was a time where many people came together and helped each other go through the sad times. This goes to show you how close the Albright Community is and, even though some argue about going to a small college, being part of a tight-knit community is one of the reasons many of us feel at home when at Albright.

Scott Poroski is a brother of Kappa Delta Phi and a contributor to *The Albrightian*

SPORTS

Student Athletes Recognized at Winter Awards Ceremony

John Kane
The Albrightian

Reading, PA - Albright College held its annual winter sports awards banquet on Tuesday, March 25th. Ten athletes were honored for their individual accomplishments and for upholding the high standards of Albright athletics.

Freshman Eric Daney (Newtown, PA/Council Rock) was named Albright's Most Outstanding Male Swimmer. He qualified for the NCAA 'B' qualifying standard in the 200 back stroke and won two individual gold medals at the MAC championship meet. Junior Dan Carr (Doylestown, PA/

C.B. West) took home the John Spannuth Award for his efforts. The award, named after an Albright alum who is now the CEO of United States Water Fitness Association, is given to a male and female swimmer for their leadership, dedication and teamwork qualities. Carr won gold in the 200 fly at MAC's and was a member of the gold medal winning relay teams.

The Most Outstanding Female Swimmer Award went to sophomore Cindy Barner (Harrisburg, PA/Central Dauphin East). Barner hit the NCAA 'B' qualifying times in the 100 back and 100 free at MAC's while collecting five gold medals. Senior Brooke Heebner (Reading, PA/Reading) won the

Spannuth award. Heebner was a leader in the 100 and 200 fly events for the Lady Lions.

Junior Terron Buchanan (Reading, PA/Reading) was named the Most Outstanding Male Basketball player. Buchanan finished led Albright and finished fourth in the Commonwealth Conference in scoring at 17.4 points per game. He was named to the All-Commonwealth Conference Second Team.

Senior Anne Dougherty (Pottsville, PA/Nativity B.V.M.) collected the Most Outstanding Female Basketball player award. She finished the season in the top ten in the Commonwealth

Conference in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots. Dougherty led the Lady Lions in scoring and rebounding with 11.8 and 7.2 per game respectively.

The most outstanding wrestler was senior Brian McElrone (Easton, PA/Notre Dame). He captured third place at the MAC championships in the 157 pound weight class and finished the regular season with a 28-8 record.

Freshman Matthew Yoder (Oley, PA/Oley Valley) and sophomore Lakeisha Fairley (Oxford, PA/Oxford) won the Most Outstanding Indoor Track Award for the men and women. Yoder set a school record in the 800 meter

run. Fairley broke the MAC record in the 400 meter dash and was the first ever woman to break a minute in the event at the MAC championships. She also holds school records in the 400 as well as the 200 meter dash.

Junior Nicole Huber (Freeport, NY/Freeport) was named the Most Outstanding Badminton player. Huber advanced to the quarterfinals of the B flight division at the Middle Atlantic tournament. She finished the season with a 3-3 record at No. 1 singles for the 3-4 Lady Lions.

John Kane is a junior sports correspondent for The Albrightian

Albright Baseball Loses Home Opener to Elizabethtown, Rallies against Dutchmen

Jeff Feiler
The Albrightian

Reading, PA - The Albright baseball team suffered a season sweep at the hands of Elizabethtown with a 12-8 loss at Kelchner Field on Tuesday, March 25th. The loss drops the Lions to 0-3 in the Commonwealth Conference and 5-6 overall.

The Lions struggled defensively in their home opener committing five errors. Offensively the team banged out 10 hits but left 11 men on base.

Senior third baseman Mike Tinney (Pottstown, PA/Owen J. Roberts) hit two homeruns and collected four RBI's. Tinney's first blast gave the Lions a 1-0 lead in the third. In the fifth, he went deep again tying the score at six.

The Blue Jays went on to score six runs in the final three innings to seal the victory. Damien Jones went 3-for-6 with a homerun, three RBI's and two runs scored to lead Elizabethtown. Steve Luongo, who hurt the Lions in the previous two games,

went 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored. He also started the game on the mound going five innings with eight strikeouts and four earned runs to earn the win.

Freshman Mike Sheerin (Southampton, PA/Archbishop Wood) took the loss in relief. Sheerin surrendered a two-run homerun to Mike Nocar in the seventh, which gave Elizabethtown an 8-6 lead.

Senior Mike Strack (Janesville, PA/Hazleton) and sophomore Justin Holland (Shillington, PA/Governor Mifflin) each went 2-for-5 on the day.

The Lions overtook Lebanon Valley later in the week. A five-run eighth inning propelled Lebanon Valley to a 7-5 victory over Albright on Thursday. The Lions remain winless in the Commonwealth Conference at 0-4 (5-7 overall).

Albright took a 5-2 lead into the eighth before the Flying Dutchmen rallied, tying the score at five. Then a two-run single by second baseman Chris Hotchkiss put Lebanon Valley ahead for good.

Senior Matt Slivinski (Selinsgrove, PA/Selinsgrove) led the Lions going 3-for-4 with a two-run homerun and two runs batted in. Slivinski's homerun came in the seventh, which gave Albright its biggest lead of the day. Senior Mike Strack (Janesville, PA/Hazleton) chipped in with two hits.

Sophomore Jonathan Dochterman (Lititz, PA/Manheim Twp.) started the game on the mound and went 4 1/3rd innings allowing just one earned run on six hits. Junior Dan Jarrett (Warrington, PA/Central Bucks West) took the loss in relief. Jarrett (0-1) threw 2 plus strong innings before meeting trouble in the eighth.

Anthony Gebhard got the win in relief for Lebanon Valley. Gebhard threw 2 2/3rd scoreless innings, allowing just one hit. Joe Zielke led the Flying Dutchmen with three hits. All but one starter in the lineup collected at least one hit for Lebanon Valley who improved to 5-0 in the Commonwealth (9-2 overall).

Softball Falls to Widener 2-1 in 8 Innings

Jim DeLuccia
The Albrightian

Chester, PA - The Albright College Lady Lions began their Commonwealth Conference play with a heartbreaking 2-1 loss to Widener in eight innings.

Albright took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Freshman Abbe Dague (West Lawn, PA/Wilson) singled, advanced to second on a wild pitch, then scored on an error. However, the Pioneers quickly responded with a first inning run of their own. These early runs were all the teams could muster in 7 innings.

In the bottom of the eighth, a two-base error lead to the winning run for Widener.

Senior Shannon

Kline (Oley, PA/Oley Valley) pitched very well for the Lady Lions. Kline surrendered only three hits on the afternoon, giving up two unearned runs, while striking out six.

In the loss, sophomore Christina Kobylinski (Bridgeton, NJ/Cumberland Regional) went 2-4 at the plate with a pair of doubles.

Game two of the scheduled double header was called in the first inning because of rain.

The Lady Lions will face E-Town this Saturday at 1pm, at home.

Jim DeLuccia is a senior sports correspondent for The Albrightian

Greenawalt named Men's Soccer Coach

Jim DeLuccia
The Albrightian

Reading, PA - Albright College Director of Athletics Sally Stetler announced the hiring of Thomas Greenawalt as the new men's soccer coach Thursday afternoon. Greenawalt, who came to Albright last fall as the women's soccer coach, will continue to oversee that program as well as the men's team.

Greenawalt is a Muhlenberg High School graduate, earning all-state honors his senior year with the Muhls. He graduated from Marshall University in 1999, where he achieved All-American status on the soccer field as well as being named to the conference All-Academic team.

After graduation Greenawalt served as an assistant men's soccer coach at Washington College for two seasons, followed by a year as the assistant women's soccer coach at Haverford College. He has also coached numerous youth and amateur teams.

Additionally, Greenawalt is a member of the Reading Rage Professional Soccer Club.

Greenawalt enjoyed a successful freshman campaign with the Albright women this fall, leading the team to a school-record eight wins. The Lady Lions set another school record with a seven-game unbeaten streak.

"We feel this is a positive direction for our program, and should bring good results for both teams," Stetler said.

Men's Golf Performance Under Par

Jim DeLuccia
The Albrightian

Middletown, DE - Sophomore Greg Heller finished tied for ninth in the Widener Invitational golf tournament at Frog Hollow Golf Club Thursday afternoon. Heller fired an 80 lead Albright, as the Lions finished 12th in the 18 team field. Sophomore Jeremy Gilliam shot an 85 to place

33rd in a field of 93 golfers. Freshmen Brian Lawshe and Sean LeBlanc posted 92 and 94 respectively to round out the team scoring for the Lions at 351.

The Albright golfers collected their first wins of the season with victories over Wilkes and Widener in a rained-shortened match at Golden Oaks on Monday. The match was reduced to nine

holes due to rain Monday afternoon. The Lions shot 157, followed by Wilkes with 163 and Widener with 169. Sophomore Greg Heller led Albright with a 35 on the front nine, the lowest round of any player on the day. Senior Mitch Lauver fired a 38, freshman Brian Lawshe shot a 41, and freshman Sean LeBlanc shot 43 to round out Albright's team score.

VARIETY

Horoscopes

Aries:

March 21 - April 19

Your creativity is on fire these days. Remember all the little stories you make up, or some of them may come back to bite you. Ask someone you trust for his opinion.

Taurus:

April 20 - May 20

You're planning a party and you're ready to pull out all the stops. Right now you really understand that money isn't everything. How could the right person not love you?

Gemini:

May 21 - June 21

You can't deal with bad attitudes and personal rain clouds. Going where you'll be happy is the ultimate climate control. Anyone who you think can play this game is welcome to come along.

Cancer:

June 22 - July 22

Offer shelter for somebody who needs a safe place for a while. You have the perfect remedy for this ailment. A few hours with you might be all it takes to set things right again.

Leo:

July 23 - Aug. 22

Fun is fun, but are you getting careless? Hit the brakes before celebration slides into self-destruction. Wait before the next adventure. Get a grip by explaining something to a data-challenged person.

Virgo:

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Your brain is functioning on many levels this week. Thinking keeps you amused, and talking about it spreads the love. Get as many people as you can on this train. You're all heading somewhere.

Libra:

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Turn down the volume on your own soap opera -- you'd rather hear about someone else's. That way, you can offer advice. Also, you could meet some of the best people in the supporting cast.

Scorpio:

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Anyone who says that life is unfair hasn't seen you lately. Things go your way with an uncanny ease as you live by the golden rule. It's an easy equation to remember when you're living it.

Sagittarius:

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Behave in public, and be yourself with your friends this week. If anyone's looking for subversive adventure, let them come to you. You're sure to have some plans up your sleeve.

Capricorn:

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Everybody thinks you have all the answers. Well, it's true. Your legendary wisdom really could make it a better world. Leave something for yourself, too. Work a few parties into the plan.

Aquarius:

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

For once you get serious. Maybe you're in love with someone who's making you work for it. Maybe your boss is on the warpath. Spill your guts to the one person who understands.

Pisces:

Feb. 19 - March 20

Think like an artist this week. You like the softness of impressionism, but cubism really does it for you. You can do it all when you see the world from secret angles.

Sex, Love, and Dating Advice

From

The Love

Doctors

At Albright College

We, the Love Doctors, would like to offer our expert advice on all aspects of relationships to the Albright community. Our responses will be mature and hopefully, truly helpful in intent.

Please forward all questions and concerns to the Albrightian at albrightian@hotmail.com.

All names will be kept anonymous.



Greek Athletes Beware

Maurice Klesko
The Albrightian

I have observed a change in the attitude the college has on Greeks. Being a Greek, I see these things first hand. Greeks across the country are seeing this same attitude change this is not just localized in the hallowed halls of Albright. Greeks are seen as the troublemakers. And to some point that is not untrue, but those troublesome Greeks are college students first. In reality being Greek is a label, it does not change who you are or the way you act. The biggest problem I see with singling out Greeks is simply the fact that college kids in general do the same things Greeks do. It is not just the Greeks who throw parties and drink alcohol. Sometimes I think to myself that is what a lot of college officials think; at least this is conveyed through their actions and statements. There are still parties being thrown by independents, clubs, sports teams, and any other group you can think of that exists on a college campus. I have friends that go to state schools and I hardly hear them talk about going to this fraternity or that fraternity house for a party, it is always about going to the football house or the wrestling house or the lacrosse house. Yet you don't see

colleges trying to rid the campus of those activities. Now don't get me wrong here I am not trying to say that all Greeks are saints, we're not in fact we are far from it. We are no worse than any other college students though.

I think a lot of college administrators think that by eliminating Greeks they will eliminate a lot of the problems on campus. I ask this question; how many college students would honestly stop going out on the weekends and having the occasional alcoholic beverage all because there are no fraternity and sorority houses to go to? Answer. Not a single one. You'll still go to a friend's house or room and do the exact same thing you would be doing at a fraternity or sorority house. How is this going to eliminating problems? It is actually shocking that the people in charge of these higher education institutions can believe such an asinine theory. If anything I think this would create more problems for a college. They would then have to deal with individuals along with more places to patrol. They now know the areas they have to watch and they can go to the organization in question and work with them. I would
(Continued on pg. 7)

African Diaspora Presents

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FEATURES

Greeks Beware... from page 6

think that is a lot more effective than expelling an individual. After all, when a student is expelled, the college loses the income from their tuition.

Recently, actions of certain college employees have hit home in the Greek Community. Following this past football season, the coaching staff quietly introduced a new requirement to its members. E.J. Sandusky decreed that no member of the team would be allowed to pledge a fraternity and still remain on the team. My first thought after hearing this was "Why does he have any say in what the players do in their personal life?" After all this is hardly a D-1 scholarship football program. I have talked to friends who have spoken with him about the decision. Every one was given different answers. Three different people, three different answers from the same person.

The first answer being a complete passing of the blame, in which he says that it was not his decision, but his assistant coaches wanted it. I'm sorry but fail to see any validity in that statement. I

know of no successful coach that doesn't run his program as a dictator where he has the final decision regardless of the situation. The second answer I heard was "We felt this was the only way to make the team better" Huh? Excuse me but how does being in a fraternity effect their on field performance? The third answer, personally my favorite, is that he felt that being in something that takes so much time like football and something else that takes a lot of time like a fraternity doesn't leave much time for school work. Additionally he stated that he felt fraternities limit a student's experiences. My friend who is still on the team then asked the coach, "What if a player wants to join the theater club? That takes a lot of time too." The response to that question was "That's not the same, that's like comparing apples and oranges." I don't see much of a difference, but maybe I am wrong. I have another friend who happens to be Greek and following the introduction of this new requirement he made the decision to no longer play football for Albright. He did

not feel welcomed on the team because of this new requirement. He felt like it was saying he was not wanted on the team because he was Greek.

Personally I disagree with his decision but he does make a valid point. The coaches said there is not a problem with the current Greeks on the team but they do not want the younger guys to join a fraternity.

It is also interesting that he is now more involved in activities and groups on campus then when he was a member of the team. Those Greek organizations really limit the things a student can participate in, don't they. As I said before, I don't agree with his decision, but he does make an interesting point. One fact he brought to my attention was that a few members of the coaching staff are adamantly anti-Greek. I question the motives behind the requirement if this is the case. Are they doing it because it's truly better for the team, or do they still harbor some personal

vendetta leftover from their college years?

Honestly, to me it seems like the last in a long line of excuse from the staff on why they don't have a winning record. Now I follow the team, a number of my friends are on it, and we do have discussions about it, so I am up to date on my information. Following the 2000 season the team was 3-7, and the reason for it was lack of team chemistry. Ok, that is a valid excuse. The next year,

"Honestly, to me it seems like the last in a long line of excuses from the staff on why they don't have a winning record."

2001, brought a new regulation, freshman would have to wait until their sophomore year to join a fraternity; the team goes 7-4 and are ECAC Southwest champions. No excuses needed because they, after all, had the first winning record since 1997. Now this next point is pure speculation but they must have thought "since we told them they have to wait a year and we went 7-4, if we tell them they cannot do it at all, then maybe we'll have an even better record." Originally

the new class was told they must wait until their sophomore year. Following the 2003 season the team was 2-8 and then the new requirement was introduced.

Now that being said, isn't a rule like that a violation of the players' constitutional rights? Aren't we all guaranteed rights to freedom of speech and freedom of association? I didn't think students waive their constitutional rights when they decided to come here. If I am wrong could someone please inform me of this?

Now I don't know how accurate this next statement is but I am going to say it nonetheless. Over half, or close to it, of the football records are held by Greeks. Additionally, Greeks also hold a large number of baseball records. And if I were to look into it I would probably find the same is true with many other sports. I guess that is proof Greeks make bad athletes and poor students since all their time is involved in athletics and their Greek organization.

Maurice Klesko is a junior columnist for *The Albrightian*

Antibiotics: Do They Help or Hurt?

Samantha Wesner
The Albrightian

Contrary to common belief among the nonmedical community, antibiotics will not treat all infectious disease processes. Many different viruses and bacterias cause infections. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, more than 90% of upper respiratory infections, including bronchitis and colds are caused by a virus and are therefore impervious to antibiotics.

Every winter millions of people contract viruses that cause the common cold and also influenza, or "flu" as it is commonly known. There are about 200 cold viruses but only a few types of flu viruses. Cold and flu viruses are spread through the air by sneezing and coughing, by direct contact such as shaking hands with someone who has a virus and then touching your nose, eyes or mouth and by sharing objects such as a glass, telephone or towel with someone who has a virus. You cannot catch a cold from going outside with wet hair, getting soaked in the rain or by being in a cold draft.

Signs and symptoms of the common cold and the flu include cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, and fatigue. You will also notice a fever and muscle aches with the flu.

How does one relieve

the symptoms? Because both of these illnesses are caused by viruses, antibiotics are ineffective in their treatment. Antibiotics cure infections caused by bacteria. Headache, fever and body aches are relieved by acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Drink plenty of liquids, including water and juice; avoid milk products during the illness. Get plenty of rest, never exercise when you have a fever or are feeling extremely tired. Avoid using alcohol and tobacco. Getting a flu shot every year will significantly decrease your chance of getting the flu. The flu shot does not cause the flu because it does not contain a live virus form. Peak flu season usually occurs between late December and March. Although the term "stomach flu" is often used to describe nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, these illnesses are caused by other viruses and are not related to influenza, thus symptoms associated with this illness should be termed gastroenteritis and not the "stomach flu".

Rapid strep vs. throat culture

Bacterias and viruses also cause sore throats or pharyngitis. The organism of concern is streptococcus group A. Only a minority of patients with pharyngitis are infected with group A streptococci. Group A streptococci is the only form of acute pharyngitis

for which antibiotic therapy is indicated. The symptoms for bacterial and viral pharyngitis overlap broadly, thus it is virtually impossible to make a diagnosis based on a patient's presenting complaint and physical exam. According to the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the gold standard in terms of testing for group A streptococci remains to be the throat culture. The sensitivity of the throat culture in determining group A beta hemolytic streptococci is 90-95% as opposed to the rapid antigen detection test, which has a sensitivity of 80-90%. If a patient is found to have a negative rapid antigen detection test, it is indicated that a throat culture be performed to make a confirmatory diagnosis. The throat culture is also less expensive than the rapid antigen detection test.

What is the big deal?
Antibiotic resistant bacterias have emerged because of the overuse of unnecessary antibiotics and patients not completing a course of antibiotics as prescribed. Stopping antibiotics prematurely allows the hardest bacteria to survive and multiply.

According to the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc., Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci has developed

because of the use and misuse of antibiotics including vancomycin. This type of bacteria can be spread from person to person. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, first recognized during the 1960's has now become a worldwide problem in health care communities and the community at large. A major concern is that staphylococcus aureus may develop resistance to vancomycin, virtually eliminating all treatment options for these common disease-causing bacteria. Multiple-drug resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis had developed because of patients not taking their medications as prescribed. This bacteria can also be spread from person to person. Every time an antibiotic is used, one runs the risk of promoting antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Handwashing is a practice that is very important in decreasing the spread of infection. Handwashing involves the use of warm water, soap and friction for 10-15 seconds to remove the microscopic organisms that are present on the hands. It is important to wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing into your hands or facial tissue, prior to eating and after using the restroom. Completely rinse and dry your hands after

washing them. Use paper towels to turn off the faucet to decrease the chance of getting bacteria from the faucet onto your hands.

Protecting oneself from developing an infection caused by multiple drug resistant bacteria involves handwashing, taking antibiotics as prescribed, not taking someone else's medication, not sharing your medication with others, and not taking old or outdated medication. Make sure your immunizations are up to date. Do not pressure your health care provider to prescribe antibiotics to treat the symptoms of a cold, flu or other viral illness.

Patients demanding antibiotic treatment and health care providers yielding to those requests have led to over prescription of some antibiotics, which is becoming a major public-health problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than half of all antibiotics prescribed are unnecessary and can do more harm than good. So, I now ask you, did you really need that antibiotic that your physician at home prescribed, when the staff of the Gable Health Center told you that it was viral to begin with!

Submitted to *The Albrightian* by Samantha Wesner, CRNP, RNC for the Gable Health Center

COMMENTARY

The World vs. US- Is This the Right Path For Our Nation?

Andrew Harris
The Albrightian

Quiz time! Country A is actively and openly seeking weapons of mass destruction. Country B denies their existence and claims they are not going to develop them. Country A has threatened to break an armistice and is actively keeping the possibility of war open. Country B has actively tried to prevent war. Country C wants to protect itself. So how does country C deal with country A and country B?

While the North Korean and Iraqi crises are not as simple as the situations above, one could argue that America's foreign policy does not make sense. Generally most people are concerned with the war in Iraq. These people typically fit into one of four groups the anti-war side, the anti-Bush side, the pro-Bush side, and the war hawks. As the world and the United States fight

over Iraq, I question if we are missing the big picture. It seems that in light of the end of the Cold War and the events surrounding September 11, the world is in a flux.

This flux takes many forms. In the United States it creates many questions. What is the United States' role in the world? What is the best policy for defending the United States? How apparent does a threat to the country have to be for the United States to take action? Where does the United Nations fit into American security? What should the role of the United Nations be?

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and 9/11 show us we can no longer be complacent about foreign policy. I remember Professor Huck telling students during the Honor Club's 2000 Presidential Symposium that Gore and Bush did not have many differences in foreign

policy. Both were more concerned with domestic policy. In hindsight, I wonder if we should have demanded that our candidates be more articulate in their foreign policy.

endeavors in Somalia and Kosovo, or our lack of an endeavor in Rwanda. Yet, with American troops all over the world and military support in places like Colombia, it's time that we really start to

policy. Students should be discussing and exploring these issues with their opponents to learn from each other, not to create divisions of malice against each other. I think we need to look at issues like:

should the President create wars without a congressional declaration of war, what should the role of the United States be, and are their policies we can follow that would decrease the chances of war and terrorism? While I only offer questions, perhaps together we can reach answers.

"As students we need to be more concerned about the world we live in. We also need to start thinking about our personal world views and where we see our country in the world."

As students we need to be more concerned about the world we live in. We also need to start thinking about our personal world views and where we see our country in the world. Those that support the war and those who are against it show that we are more concerned today then we were during the United States'

think about what America is doing.

It's time to start learning about the rest of the world. While we may disagree with each other about a given issue, instead of ripping down our opponent's posters promoting their cause, we need to start learning from each other. The United States needs open discussions on foreign

Andrew Harris is a junior columnist for *The Albrightian*.

The Sport Utility Vehicle Debacle

Dan Ruedy
The Albrightian

I wrote about this same topic last year, but be it attributed to light circulation or poor reader retention, the SUV disease does not seem to be getting any better. Sportscar companies including Porsche and BMW, whom no one thought would ever sell out, have added their own "Ute" models to the mix, and the soup of impending doom by global warming is boiling over thanks to dropping gasoline prices. Thank you, Mr. Bush.

According to the Washington Post, the amount of Sport Utility Vehicles on the road increased from 15% to 25% in the past three years. All trends come and go, just like Ska Music and Hula Hoops, but the Sport Utility onslaught will have wrought some serious damage by the time it goes into remission. Designed and engineered for off road or agricultural use, SUVs have found a new home flaunting their girth on our fine nation's otherwise pristine roadways, usually while shutting a single business suit clad commuter to work everyday.

Their primary flaw is their weight, due to a poorly thought out structural design. Most SUVs are built on a ladder frame, just as their pick up truck counterparts are, but more cab is slapped where the bed would have been. Passenger cars can rely instead on a unibody -the strength of the formed sheet metal alone- for structural stiffness and occasionally a reinforced inner cage. The ladder frame of the

SUV, coupled with the additional weight of the cab results in an incredibly stiff, overbuilt, and obscenely heavy box on wheels. Additionally, the very high ground clearance on most SUVs, though practical for off road use, creates significant turbulence and drag at highway speeds. This might be why the Ford Excursion behemoth gets a puny 11.2 miles per gallon on the highway, and a ridiculous 3.7 in the city. For comparison, Honda's 2002 Accord can crank out a full 30 miles a gallon on the highway, and a reasonable 22 mpg in the city. In an era when global warming and fossil fuel exhaustion are no longer theories, it might be prudent to give a little more attention to these details. To put it into perspective, consider the traditional collegiate road trip: 4 friends, a case of amber-colored, full-bodied beverages in the trunk, and \$20 between all of you for gas. If you piled into the Excursion's spacious interior, ignoring gross weight and weather conditions, you would be lucky to get 186 miles away from Albright before the dough runs out and you're drinking your warm full-bodied ambers on the side of the road. Take the Honda Accord under the same conditions, however (albeit a little more cozy) and you could get up to 460 miles (within striking distance of Canada) courtesy of that one Andrew Jackson.

Especially befuddling is that a popular criterion

for choosing an SUV is their safety. They are most certainly safer- for the persons (though usually it is the single person) inside the SUV. The rigidity from the overbuilt ladder frame, coupled with the strength of the cabin's unibody, would undoubtedly shield through or smother most any passenger car. Unfortunately, in collision with a more formidable opponent, say a concrete barrier or steel girder, the vehicle would not be able to absorb much shock. Consequently, almost all G-forces from the subsequent instantaneous deceleration would be transferred to the delicate internal organs of the passengers inside their expensive steel box. In recent years, intelligent car manufacturers have implemented crumple zones into passenger car bodies that are designed to give on impact and absorb much of this shock. This is why teenage drivers are able to wrap their dads' sedans around telephone poles and walk away unscathed to drive another day. In my opinion, a truly safe automobile should be as conducive to avoiding accidents as it is at surviving them. The sheer weight and crappy suspensions on most SUVs make

them about as graceful and nimble as a three-legged dog.

Opponents argue that "SUVs are not cars, and therefore should not be held to the same standards of fuel economy or safety." At the moment, that is the case.



The Ford Excursion will produce an estimated 134 tons of Carbon Dioxide in its lifetime

According to the American Automobile Manufacturers Association, heavy SUVs, such as the Excursion and Sequoia, are permitted to emit 30% more Carbon Monoxide and Hydrocarbons and 75% more Nitrogen Oxides than cars and vans. For those of us who are not Chemistry Majors, these are noxious gasses that cause dizziness and headaches, and are precursors to ground-level ozone that cause asthma and lung damage. When a Sport Utility is used as a car, for transporting a single commuting passenger, it is a car. We can all agree that SUVs have features that make them perfectly suited for off-road applications and backcountry trekking, but only an estimated 5% of them ever get to leave the asphalt.

Passenger cars and light vans can do the job of the other 95% - and with two to three times the efficiency.

The Sport Utility Industry is thriving. As long as Baby Boomers and deep-pocketed young urban professionals are willing to fight over who gets to own the biggest and most expensive rigs, automakers will have no reason to change their ways. Politicians and lawmakers that have the power to yank back on the reigns of regulation never

will, either because they are lazy or are getting big pay-offs to keep their mouths shut. It is up to the consumers to get the point across that Americans demand better, not just bigger. If you already own an SUV, crash it and sell the parts, or try to refrain from operating it unless absolutely necessary. You can still be yo' bad ass self and own that big expensive SUV, just don't drive it. If you're still thinking about buying one-change your mind, or at least consider the cost of its everyday operation, both to the environment and to you, even if your parents still pay for your gas.

Dan Ruedy is a sophomore columnist for *The Albrightian*