

# Special Report : Albright Woods Complex Showing Its Age

Amy Lucas  
The Albrightian

For more than 10 years, the Albright Woods Apartments have been offered to juniors and seniors. However, due to a lack of interest among the upperclassmen, sophomores will be moving into the Albright Woods Apartments beginning in fall 2005.

Director of Housing and Residential Learning Tim Narrow says that 26 sophomores will be residing in the apartments. He claims the lack of interest among upperclassmen is due to the problems that the apartments have had in the past year.

Beginning in August, the condition of the apartments, combined with technological and mold problems, were enough to cause the shortage of applications.

Narrow predicted this and did not expect a lot of interest from students. He said, "For the most part, every year we've had enough interest, but with the mold, and several other problems, I really thought they would deter the attraction."

The Woods apartment buildings are more than 15 years old and have not been renovated or upgraded. When students came back to the old buildings last fall, not only did they have no renovations, but many were missing furniture - including beds - and it took several days for the furniture to be delivered.

Also, black mold overran the apartments forcing all residents to evacuate to investigate for the extent of damage. More than half the apartments were infested and students were relocated to hotels or on-campus houses for two or three weeks until the apartments were safe.

Due to these problems, many students are opting to live off-campus - including residents who lived in the Woods this year. Sarah Skillman, 21, said that she is moving to Deer Path apartments next year. She said, "I can't stand the apartments. I always feel like there is a problem." She thinks the mold was a major reason why current juniors are moving off-campus. "I'm moving off-campus," Skillman explained, "because it's cheaper and after all the problems we've had, my friends don't want to live here either."

Like Skillman, it seems that another reason students are moving off campus, is because of the expense. The cost of the Albright Woods per semester is \$2,640. This rate includes electricity, all heating and air conditioning, cable and the internet. However, despite including all facilities, the four-student apartments must have four students and each must pay \$2,640 per semester.

In comparison, the cost for an off-campus apartment, such as Deer Path, can be split between as many as four students, seri-

ously cutting down the cost. Many students have chosen this instead, and split their cost saving nearly \$3,000 per year.

Junior Heather Mooney lives in the Deer Path Apartments. She moved in for the current school year and prefers living there rather than on campus. She said, "It's cheaper to live off campus and you have more freedom and space. I have my own room and it just seems like the better choice."

Mooney feels that security is a big downside to the Albright Woods Apartments and limited parking is a turn-off. But most importantly, Mooney explained that she saves more than \$1,000 per year living off-campus. "Total, I pay \$8,800 year and I split that with just one other person."

Tim Narrow understands the students' decisions. He admits that the problems and finances are reasons why the college is losing its upper-class residents: "Small things add up and upset students. The college has a lot of work to do to make sure that things happen to improve these apartments. I really hope that these things are going to happen so we can keep our students on-campus."

Despite the negative vibes from many of the students, some students prefer to live on campus. Mike Redick, junior, was affected by the mold situation and was moved to an on-campus house for two weeks while his

apartment was decontaminated. Despite the nuisance, he will be living in the Woods next year. He feels that the lack of interest among upper-class students speaks poorly for Albright, but feels that some students are overreacting about the problems the Woods have had. He said, "You know, it happens, and having to move out for two weeks was inconvenient but was just a mistake on the college's part. I can't hold it against them. It could have happened at any apartment."

Brendan Ward, junior, agrees. He too was relocated due to the mold but is staying in the Woods next year. Ward said, "I like living in the Woods, I have no monthly bills, and I know all my neighbors."

But, despite the advantages, Ward feels that there are many problems with the apartments. "We were missing two beds upon arrival," Ward recalled, "and that is totally unacceptable. We are even still waiting on a chair and coffee table for our apartment that we requested in August." Ward explained the buildings are in poor condition and badly in need of renovation. He said, "We're paying tenants and we're not getting our money's worth."

Like Redick, Ward feels that despite the renovations that need to take place, some people overreacted about the mold situation: "Some people were just going nuts about it, but you have to just adapt. It's a lesson that sometimes, things just happen, and you just have to roll-out the punches. I was grateful to housing for acting so quickly and so efficiently about the situation."

Ward feels however, that unless the college makes some changes, the upper-class life at Albright will deteriorate and move off campus. He said, "If things aren't addressed, it will be all sophomores."

Narrow, too, feels that the school has work to do to rectify the problems it has encountered this year. Narrow understands that the Woods needs work. "People want these improvements to happen, but financially, the college is in turmoil. If the money is there in the future, I know the apartments will be renovated, but I just am not sure when it's going to happen." But until the money can come through, Narrow says these events have really opened our eyes to the issues that the students are contending with. Narrow vows, "These issues will not occur again."

## ST-BREAK EDITION

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## Presidential Search Looks for New Candidates

Kristen Lucas  
The Albrightian

Albright College is currently seeking a new president to lead the college through the next decade. The search is open to all qualified individuals, regardless of whether they are currently affiliated with the college.

The search is being led by the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for the college's overall direction and governance.

This search currently leaves open the possibility of a search for a new president and a new vice president.

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student community.

"This is very exciting," said Michael. "I search for a leader who can lead the college through the next decade, and I am confident that we will find the right person."

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# Former College President, Henry Zimon, Finds Self Washed Up on West Coast

Eladio Bobadilla  
The Rip

Henry Zimon, one of the losing finalists for the position of president at Bakersfield College, faced tough questions Feb. 16 at an open forum held in the Fireside Lounge at BC.

In his opening statement, Zimon gave a speech focused on his personal life and experience as an army officer and college administrator.

Zimon, a former army colonel, faced a different audience than the other three candidates, however. Before the open forum, information was distributed via e-mail to the faculty that raised questions about Zimon's credentials. The e-mail pointed to an article written in 2000 and published in the Chronicle of Higher Education, which suggested he had misled administrators by claiming he had written two books listed as "forthcoming" in 1999 on his resume. Neither book is published.

Zimon said the allegations were the product of an "anarchist professor." He said Achal Mehra, then a journalism professor at Albright College, where Zimon was president, was out to get him from the day they met.

Mehra "physically harassed my wife and I," Zimon said. "He would intentionally bump into me or into my wife." In a phone

interview, Mehra denied harassing Zimon or his wife.

"I'm not sure what he's talking about," he said. "I have never even met his wife."

Zimon maintained that the conflict began the first day he met Mehra. "After he was hired at Albright [College], he sent me an email- I still don't know how he got my email address, but he introduced himself and said, 'I'm professor Mehra, and I will be your enemy until the last day of your presidency.'"

Mehra acknowledges he sent the email but disputes the content.

"What he's talking about is an Indian proverb that is meant to be a challenge... you will always strive to do better to prove yourself to your enemy," he said. "It was never meant to be provocative or personal. I just had questions about his resume. And it wasn't just me. Many faculty members had the same questions."

He accused Mehra of being motivated by anti-military and anti-religion ideology, which Mehra denied. When asked to explain why neither book listed on his resume was published, Zimon said one book, titled "CFE: The Making of the Treaty and Its Im-

plications for the Future," which he claimed was to be co-authored by R. James Woolsey, was scrapped because a similar book surfaced. The Chronicle, however, noted that at the time, Woolsey denied having plans to co-author it. The other book, "Reshaping U.S. National Security Strategy: Peacetime Engagement, Regional Stability,

accused Zimon of attacking him to dodge questions about his resume.

"First of all, my wife was never my student, not that it would matter if she was," he said. "And I was never deported. I left the country after I got a notice that my visa had expired."

"I find it remarkable that his whole response is based on personal attacks rather than on explaining his resume. I think it just illustrates what kind of man he is."

The tough questions did not end there, however.

Beth Kinchla, a 72-year-old woman who attended all the forums, attacked Zimon for not being specific enough on what he would do as president.

"I'm just a feeble old lady," she said. "I pay taxes, and I come here to hear what you have to say,

and you don't give us a single idea of what you would do for BC. Why is it that you refuse to answer any questions? Why won't you tell us what you would do to improve Bakersfield College?"

A tired-looking Zimon responded: "Well, because I don't want to say at this point what I would do ... I think the purpose of this [forum] was for you to get to know me a little better. I only want to make decisions after listening to the community and after learning about it."

"I'll have to be honest. I couldn't tell you what's best for BC next week, next month, or even next year."

Eladio Bobadilla is a staff writer for *The Rip* at Bakersfield Community College, CA. Reprinted with permission.

*"I'm professor Mehra, and I will be your enemy until the last day of your presidency."*

and Global Security" may still be published, he said.

"The interesting thing is it hasn't been published yet because it is so good that we need to add and make changes to it," Zimon said.

He again said the controversy was triggered by Mehra blowing things out of proportion.

He went on the attack again, saying Mehra has once been deported for residing in the U.S. illegally.

"He was deported to the country of India after it was found that he was an illegal alien," he said. "The only way he was able to come back was by bringing one of his students to India. He later married that student and got back in as a spouse."

Again, Mehra denied it, and

## Flamingoes Flock Campus

Jordan Manger  
The Albrightian

Inflatable flamingos invaded the offices of over 30 Albright staff members March 16 as part of the "Flock of Flamingos" fundraiser organized by the Volunteer Center to benefit the tsunami victims of Sri Lanka.

According to Volunteer Center student advisor Ashley Eisenhower, the specific purpose was to raise funds for a 5,000-liter water tank for tsunami victims in the southern Asian island through the nonprofit organization Action Against Hunger. Alvernia College will host a similar event before the end of March, and all proceeds from both schools will go toward the \$1,000 water tank. Each school has a \$500 goal.

"After the tsunami disaster, we had wanted to do a fundraiser to help raise funds for the victims," said Eisenhower. Jaime Gerhart, community service coordinator for the Higher Education Council of Berks County, provided the Volunteer Center with the flamingo idea. "She brought it up to us as a quick and fun way to raise donations," Eisenhower said. The

Volunteer Center purchased a dozen plastic flamingos online through eBay for \$5.

The Volunteer Center contacted Albright faculty, staff and administration before the fundraiser with details about the costs of the flamingo invasion and the cause it would benefit. "For those with busy work days, we offered flamingo insurance as a way for staff and faculty to still participate without interrupting their work schedules," said Volunteer Center student advisor Erin Jagielski. Insurance was available for a minimum \$5 donation, an option four offices chose.

Student volunteers manned the phones at the Volunteer Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Staff and faculty could call in throughout the day to flamingo another office or individual. Once a particular office, department or individual was flamingo'ed, student volunteers moved the flamingo flock to that location. The flamingo'ed party was then asked to donate \$10 in order to have the flamingos removed and sent to another faculty or staff member. The \$10 donation expectation was not strictly

enforced however. "We took whatever donations these offices were willing to give," Eisenhower said.

"Many enjoyed holding the power to flamingo others," Eisenhower said about the positive response from Albright faculty and staff. "Everyone seemed to have a fun time with this event," Jagielski said. "We also got the chance to take a photo of those flamingo'ed with the flock to add another humorous element to the event."

Participating campus offices and staff members praised the initiative of the Volunteer Center. "I thought the flamingo approach was a fun and creative way to get people's attention," said Jennifer Stoudt, associate director of college relations, one of the offices that was flamingo'ed. "Of course the cause is an extremely worthy one, and I hope that we are able to make our goal."

According to Eisenhower, the flamingo fundraiser was a great success. "We had positive responses and generous donations from as many departments as we could get to in one work day," Eisenhower said.

## THE ALBRIGHTIAN

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## Faculty Corner

**Brian Buerke**  
**Professor of Physics**

On October 21, 2001, newspaper headlines around the world announced the discovery of an ossuary (bone box) that belonged to "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." The box was discovered and studied by Andre Lemaire, a well-known expert on ancient writing, who said that the bone box and the inscription appeared to be genuine artifacts from first-century Jerusalem.

Lemaire's identification of the persons in the inscription depended on a mathematical calculation. The mention of a brother on a bone box is unusual. Lemaire calculated that this particular combination of names was unlikely to occur by chance unless the brother was someone important. Hence, the inscription probably referred to Jesus of Nazareth and his family. If so, it "may be the most important find in the history of New Testament archaeology."

While reading Lemaire's paper, I discovered that he had done the calculation incorrectly. Far from being unlikely, the names could have occurred by chance and there was, therefore, no reason to think that the brother was someone important. Lemaire was premature in his judgement. Even worse, a few months later the Israel Antiquities Authority announced that the inscription was a forgery, based on several scientific tests. Had Lemaire known how to calculate probabilities correctly, he would have been spared public embarrassment. His knowledge was not sufficiently broad to recognize the error in his analysis. In contrast, I was able to discover the error because I combined my knowledge of mathematics with his

knowledge of 1st century Jewish culture.

This unfortunate episode underscores an important point: interdisciplinary thinking is vital for success in today's world. It is not enough to be know-

ledgeable, or even an expert, in a particular field. The need to understand, to draw correct conclusions, and to design effective solutions requires the use of ideas from many different fields. This is why Albright College so strongly emphasizes

*Albright Reporter*

interdisciplinary study in its curriculum. To strengthen its interdisciplinary base, Albright decided to expand the physics department and establish a concentration in physics.

The decision was a good one because math and physics are essential to understanding the world around us, whether in public policy debates such as global warming, or in philosophical questions such as the origins of the Universe, or in the creation of new technologies that drive our economy. A strong interdisciplinary program is not possible without a strong foundation in science and technology.

The focus of the new physics concentration is the optics track. I was hired in 2000 as a freshly minted Ph.D. out of the University of Rochester, which is the foremost school for optics in the nation. My specialty is the use of very intense lasers to study how atoms - the building blocks of matter - behave under extreme conditions. As a graduate student I helped to build a laser that created a spot of light one trillion times brighter than the Sun, though

the spot would last for only one trillionth of a second! We learned a lot of fundamental and interesting things about atoms by using the laser to blast them apart and watch how they behave.

But the main interest in optics, and the reason Albright created an optics track, is because of its importance in creating new technology. Virtually everything we do in our daily lives is impacted by optical science and engineering. Compact lasers are used for CDs and DVDs, in the grocery checkout line, for surgery and medical diagnosis, to inspect products for flaws and food for

freshness, to monitor pollutants in the air and the safety of bridges and buildings, and a host of other applications. The Internet would not be possible without the capability of sending extraordinary amounts of information over optical fiber. And everything from flat-screen television to weather satellites to the atomic clocks that keep the official time depend fundamentally on optical technology. Even more important, optics will drive tomorrow's technology, such as optical computers that are thousands of times faster than today's, and electronic newspapers and other foldable displays

that can be updated continuously.

The addition of physics and optics to the Albright curriculum will help Albright students be better prepared for the interdisciplinary demands of tomorrow and I am proud to be playing a role in that effort. In the future, technological literacy will be as important as knowing how to read and write. In the future, those who want to be successful will have to master the interdisciplinary task of melding science and the humanities, mathematics and language, technology and art to achieve common ends. At Albright, the future is now.

## horoscope

Meg Piasecki, Features Editor

**Aries Mar. 21- Apr. 19**

Now that you got that nice tan from Cancun it's time to come back to reality. Make amends now for slacking and remember, what happens on Spring Break stays on Spring Break!

**Taurus Apr. 20- May 20**

Remember bathing suit season is just around the corner. Start training now for a sleeker new you in the summer months!

**Gemini May 21- June 20**

Don't let fear control you this month. Take an emotional or physical risk that proves to everyone that you are a born leader.

**Cancer June 21- July 22**

Prepare yourself for occupational opportunities that await you in the coming weeks. But remember before signing on the dotted line to read the fine print!

**Leo July 23- Aug. 22**

As life tosses you many obstacles, this month you will face yet another crossroad. Take time to consider each path before selling yourself short.

**Virgo Aug. 23- Sept. 22**

Oh how the tables have turned. A family member will ask you for assistance in matters of the home. Be generous, willing and don't ask too many questions!

**Libra Sept. 23- Oct. 22**

Big decisions arise in affairs of residency. Think things out logically and with others to secure your deposit!

**Scorpio Oct. 23- Nov. 21**

It's time to stop being a doormat and start being a doorman. People are being intimidated by your new attitude. Make sure not to overdo it though!

**Sagittarius Nov. 22- Dec. 21**

Don't be tempted to take on too many projects. Focusing on a few big projects is much better than multi-tasking more.

**Capricorn Dec. 22- Jan. 19**

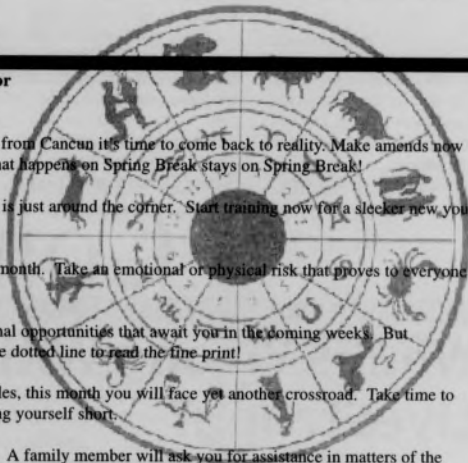
Once in a while you will meet someone that knocks you off your feet. Be prepared this month for fireworks in unexpected places!

**Aquarius Jan. 20- Feb. 18**

Try, try again! There has been something emotionally drawn from you. Be persistent in your endeavors and the results will shock you!

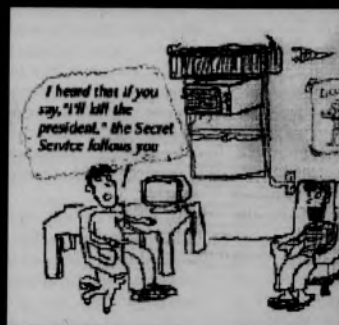
**Pisces Feb. 19- Mar. 20**

There will be a change in your finances this month, whether it be spending or receiving, you won't be dissatisfied!



## A FRESHER PERSPECTIVE...

Andrew Holets, Staff Cartoonist





## Alcohol Use Among Students Alarming

Julie Jones  
The Albrightian

According to Albright College security officer Michael Mulholland, alcohol violations are the biggest problems facing the safety and security department, despite the decreasing amount of drinking on campus. As more students move off campus to Deer Path Apartments and neighboring houses, increasing numbers of on-campus residents are leaving campus to drink.

Sergeant Mulholland admitted that security is part of the reason some students have moved off campus. "We really cracked down last year on alcohol violations," he said. Assistant Director for Community Standards Sandee Maung also admitted that the crack down on alcohol violations has caused more students to drink off campus, putting them in more danger.

"I'm trying to find a bal-

ance," said Maung, between keeping students on campus and continuing to enforce the alcohol regulations. The alcohol regulations enforced at Albright are the same as Section 6308 of the Pennsylvania Crime Code, which states that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess alcohol and illegal for anyone 21 or older to provide alcohol to anyone underage.

Mulholland said the security officers are worried about how students are getting back to campus from off-campus parties and their condition when they return. "Our concern is the aftermath of when they start drinking and come back to campus," said Mulholland. "We have to deal with medical issues like alcohol poisoning. Thank goodness nobody's died," he said.

Students leaving campus to drink not only face the danger of getting to and from the party,

they are also taking the chance of getting caught by Reading or Muhlenberg police; having it go on their criminal record. Albright has four sworn police officers who can go off campus to assist local police departments, allowing Albright security to get more involved with the off-campus drinkers.

When a student is caught at Albright, he or she has a judicial hearing before area coordinators, administration or the community standards hearing board depending on how many previous alcohol offenses he or she has had in the past.

If the student is found in violation, he or she is then sanctioned with online alcohol classes, a reflection paper, community service, a presentation or expelled from campus depending on the severity of the offense. Unlike a citation from the police, the violation from Albright is not put on the student's criminal record.

Maung, who has been at Albright since October, is currently coming up with a plan to track which sanctions work best and come up with more effective ones to prevent students from becoming repeat offenders.

According to Maung, 50 percent of first-time offenders become repeat offenders. "It's about drinking smart," said Maung. "The people who get caught are the ones who don't know how to drink."

Off-campus drinking is becoming a problem for the community as well as the college. According to Mulholland, several community members have lodged complaints about off-campus parties.

"The community thinks the



Associated Press

kids have no respect," said Mulholland. He said that the Liquor Control Board is working with the police and Albright to correct the problem.

In 2001 there were 103 alcohol violations, 222 in 2002 and 167 in 2003. The number of alcohol violations for the year of 2004 will not be tabulated until September or October. According to Mulholland there have been 17 incidents filed relating to alcohol violations and 41 students charged since January first.

## Commentary

opinion letters columns

## What's Wrong With LiveStrong?

Dan Ruedy  
The Albrightian

By now everyone has seen the bracelets. I mean the yellow ones – not the green, pink, red, multi-colored, or black. The original silicon bracelets that started it all last May are distributed by the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the cyclist's own fundraising operation, to benefit individuals fighting cancer. For a modest \$1 per unit, charity conscious consumers can either purchase the bracelets in bulk from the LAF website and distribute to their friends or family, or purchase them individually at select retail outlets (Discovery Channel Stores, some Build-a-Bear Workshops, and select Nike stores) and go home fulfilled, knowing nearly the full pur-

chase price has gone to cancer research. But maybe it did not.

In a possibly disturbing trend, more and more street-corner vendors and sporting goods shops are getting into the lucrative business of peddling the popular bracelet or a very similar knock-off for profit, holding no affiliation with Lance Armstrong or any charity at all. Similarly, frequenters of eBay's auction boards are inundated with listings for authentic bracelets with bids going well above the authorized \$1 purchase price. What's going on here? If you suspect foul play, your instincts are right, but against whom?

There is an irrefutable legal argument against selling counterfeit bracelets. NBC recently conducted an investi-

gative report on some street vendors that raised the brows of municipal authorities and criminalized individuals in that copyright infringement business. The argument against making a profit off of resell is a little less discernible. On a small scale, it is difficult to get the bracelets legitimately. LAF authorized retailers are out of stock more often than not and ordering directly from LAF requires up to several weeks delivery as well as a minimum order of 10 units. For the impatient and allowance-seeking youngsters in particular, that is not an option.

With low immediate supply but a high immediate demand, it is easy to see why people get suckered into paying up to four or five dollars for a piece of silicon with an original cost of one dollar that requires just pennies to actually make. Then comes the charity defense, "I want to support cancer research so I don't care how much my bracelet cost." Unfortunately, less than a dollar off of each eBay or physical LiveStrong scalping makes it to the LAF, and it is the dollar that has already been spent. There is a possibility some citizens turn their profit back to the LAF, but the frequency of that occurrence is so low that it can be dismissed as negligible.

The counterfeit bracelets result in zero yield to the LAF,

## campus spotlight



and each one sold means an authentic bracelet is not. The last word is that profiting off of a charity, either through a resell or a counterfeit, is unethical. The trendy fashion accessory principle defeats exactly what Lance and his compatriots were trying to do.

If you are a de facto supporter of the fight against cancer, rest easy. There is an almost endless supply of need when it comes to cancer patients who could use some financial assistance or other form of support. Unfortunately, not too many of your friends are interested in that particular product.

Considering the multitude of ways your intended donation might not make it back to Lance, perhaps we should consider alternatives. An anonymous donation to the

LAF or any other cancer charity is simple and fool proof. The money will get there. Too bad it can't be felt in the hands, won't increase one's social acceptability, and is not a simple accessory that can sass up any ensemble.

The fact that the craze will ultimately wipe itself out is bittersweet. It was a nice idea that has for the most part been tainted by equal parts ignorance and greed. LiveStrong supporters might say that the scarcity of the bracelets on store shelves is a testament to the campaign's success.

If only we could win the fight against cancer so that patient struggles and familial hardships could be equally as hard to come by.

Dan Ruedy is a senior columnist for The Albrightian



Gerald Herbert/AP File

Embracing the trend proved insufficient for John Kerry in 2004