

## From the Desk of...

Allen H. Horstman,  
Professor of history

Albion College doesn't change, which is both a joy and a sorrow. During the quarter of a century I've taught Albion students, I've observed you first from the perspective of a much older brother, then as someone your parents' age, and recently with the eyes of a prospective resident of a nursing home. My easy answer when asked what I notice most about changes in the college is that you get younger every year. Other generalizations are more difficult.

Students are the great joy of the

place. You amaze me. Often, but not always, education works. Students I've taught in the first year can show wonderful growth four years later. You have always been polite, well behaved (in my presence) and ready for college. You groupies, those who suffer through three of my courses, will still laugh at a joke you've heard before, especially after being reminded that I give the grades.

Sadly, you have the same frustrations as students of the past—filled classes, expensive books, pitiful love lives and some new ones. I've wit-

nessed the coming of personal computers, the rise of e-mail, the surge of cell phones; but do you really need to talk to your mother every hour? Greeks seem to have the same role, despite efforts to change the "ethos," or monitor parties or return to using house-mothers. You drink more than your predecessors did and you claim to be stressed more; you make a connection of the two.

The student tone, or whatever you want to call it, has shifted several times. The '80s was a period of selfishness: "greed is good." While that is something that never completely disappears from our students, it does rise and fall. Lately, the self-centeredness of some students revolves around the certainty of their religion. A

faith that emphasizes "I am saved" and shouts "I'm a Christian" strikes me as an interesting twist of the message of Jesus.

But enough about you. As I came here during a truce in the Indian wars, I'm now teaching the children of students I taught when I first arrived. Their parents, our alums, remember Albion only as a joy, the best years of their lives. Scary, huh? I'll miss talking about you at dinner parties—yes, we faculty do that. No longer will I give my final speech in class when I alert students that I'll be tottering around Homecomings, and, upon seeing them, I'll ask two questions: "What are you doing to make the world a better place?" and "What book are you reading?"

How will you answer?

## LIBERAL MINDS AT WORK

### How do you feel about off-campus housing options?



"I think it's ridiculous that it's so hard to get off campus."

Zainab Savliwala  
Troy first-year



"I haven't tried, but I heard it's pretty hard to get off campus housing because you have to petition."

Katy Knight  
Cary, Ill. sophomore



"I think it would solve a lot of the problems we're having with housing if it were easier to get off campus."

Erin Toth  
Bloomfield Hills senior



"I think it's contradictory because we are so cramped for space, yet the college makes it difficult to get off-campus housing."

Stephen Fritz  
Spring Arbor senior

Liberal Minds at Work  
photos by Colby Brown,  
Pleiad photographer

## More Letters to the Editor Online

Due to a lack of print space on the Opinions page this week for *The Pleiad's* final issue, see additional letters on *The Pleiad's* Web site: <http://www.albion.edu/pleiad/>

*The views expressed in the columns, letters and other aspects of the Opinions page do not necessarily reflect those of The Pleiad. The Pleiad staff wants to hear your opinions.*

## Lack of emergency contraception at Albion equals discrimination

By Amanda Boundy  
Staff Reporter

As the new co-president of POWER, a women's issues group on campus, I feel it is important that everyone be kept updated on current events related to gender concerns. A prevalent issue on campus recently is the campaign for the availability of emergency contraception (EC) at Student Health Services (SHS). Currently, this service is not offered through the director of SHS, Dr. Martin Holmes, who is morally against prescribing EC.

In a meeting with Dr. Holmes, I experienced firsthand the moral objections used to justify the refusal of EC. Dr. Holmes conveyed that he found the prescription of EC equivalent to giving someone a gun to shoot another innocent person. Also, not only does he believe that pregnancy rarely results from rape, but also that, were such a case to arise and the woman to request EC, there would be two victims: the woman and the baby that she would essentially be killing.

When asked how he justified not offering the morning after pill when the result may be women needing

abortions or instead having a child and consequently needing to drop out of college, he responded with another question: "Which is worse: dropping out of college or killing a baby?"

The comments made by Dr. Holmes are both offensive and ignorant. His constant reference to "the fetus" or "the baby" ignores the fact that neither could possibly exist during the period of effectiveness for EC (only 72 hours after sexual intercourse). Equating taking EC to shooting someone is just ludicrous, and saying that pregnancy rarely results from rape is insulting.

Emergency contraception is not an abortion pill. It is a way to prevent pregnancy within the earliest stages of possible conception by not allowing tissues to attach to the uterine walls. Attaching the word "abortion" to such a process turns off the people who may be in need of EC, but have moral objections to abortion. They are NOT the same thing. In fact, the morning after pill contains the same drugs that are in the birth control pill, just in stronger dosages.

As part of the EC campaign, I decided to investigate the availability of EC at other GLCA schools. What

I found was striking. Of the GLCA schools—Oberlin, Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, Antioch, DePauw, Earlham, Kalamazoo, Wooster, Denison, and highly conservative Hope—all prescribe emergency contraception on campus. In fact, the only GLCA schools without EC are Albion and Wabash—a men's college!

On April 15 Sally Walker, vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Students, released a memo on Albion College's health care policy regarding EC, which read, "The result of this review is that the college continues to support Dr. Holmes' medical decisions as medical director, including his decision not to prescribe EC."

The college is no longer supporting only Dr. Holmes' right not to prescribe EC, but the actual policy not to prescribe it as well. Furthermore, the memo stated, "The basis upon which a medical director is hired and retained does not rest with one procedure or one student need."

To the women of Albion College: You are not important enough to be taken care of properly. You do not deserve the right to control your body because the other students on

campus need antibiotics and strep tests. Tough cookies.

Despite discontinuing the health care survey, the college maintains that the overall satisfaction with SHS is good. What evidence does it have to support this claim? There is no survey and there are people protesting at the front door of SHS. In addition, a faculty petition has been created and has collected numerous e-signatures in its circulation. Yet "the college" supports not prescribing EC? I guess we can say that "the college" is equal to "the administration," because in this case when they say "the college," they certainly don't mean the students or faculty.

If anyone should need a ride to Planned Parenthood or need support, I would like to offer the services of POWER until we can convince our doctor, our campus and our community that emergency contraception is basic health care and a necessary aspect of a woman's right to control her own body. Until there is adequate health care for Albion College women, we will continue to spread the news that Albion College policy supports discrimination.

## Letters to the Editor

To *The Pleiad* editors:

I am offended by the chalkings in front of Goodrich Chapel. Remarks such as "My God loves queers" and "Hate is not a family value" imply a negative stereotype upon Christians that "the Christian God teaches all who believe to hate queers."

Since homosexuals are often stereotyped negatively by society, it seems that extra caution would be taken in placing stereotypes on other groups. I, as a Christian, am supportive of gay rights but am tired of being negatively stereotyped. While I cannot speak for all Christians, I can employ God's word to represent Christian truth for His glory to say that not all Christians are against homosexuality.

The Christian faith is all accepting of everybody regardless of who they are. The Bible says nothing about how anyone who loves God should hate homosexuality. It does, however, claim that God specifically made the male and female to help each other in union of Christ Jesus (Genesis 2:20-25). He also maintains holding love for God first

and foremost in any of our relationships (1 Corinthians 7:1-9).

The Bible does not say it is wrong to desire someone of the same sex, but acting on that desire out of the sanctity of God is. As you can read in 1 Corinthians and Genesis, being a homosexual is certainly not in God's will because it is not the reason he made man AND woman, but neither is drunkenness, murder, stealing, lust or jealousy. Regardless of these things, we must still accept each other in God's love. God's commission for us all is to love one another (1 John 3:11-20).

So, please, before you make assumptions about a particular group of people, consider the facts. In this case the facts can be found from God's word, the Bible. I completely support anyone who stands up for what they believe in, but instead of putting up barriers, let's meet and have a dialogue. Our goal as humanity should be to work toward unity in our differences, not to cast each other out.

Bethany Ferdinand  
Suttons Bay senior

To *The Pleiad* editors:

Eloquence, tactfulness and political correctness are not my forte, so I don't often venture here, especially if there are political overtones and controversy. But last week's From the Desk of ("Michael Meloth..." April 15) fired me up a bit and caused in me the need to respond, lest my silence be misconstrued as condoning. I kind of feel like the proverbial "fish out of water," but I'm also one of those naively optimistic Bible-believing types that has confidence that God can and will work through my shortcomings.

I was incredulous at the way Dr. Martin Holmes, Albion College Health Services' medical director, was treated in last week's *Pleiad*. He was, among many other things, chastised for not presenting "irrefutable data demonstrating the grave consequences of prescribing" the Plan B pill. Meloth wrote that the Plan B pill "works by preventing ovulation, fertilization and possibly implantation."

What was not addressed is that some individuals believe that conception actually occurs when sperm enters the egg. If an individual believes this definition of conception, then they could also believe that preventing im-

plantation is the same as abortion. If someone does not believe in abortion and is forced to prescribe the Plan B pill, then the consequences for prescribing the Plan B pill are irrefutably grave to the prescriber. Now I abhor the thought of rape, but I also believe that the Plan B pill is not the answer.

Dr. Holmes is, in my opinion, a very professional, competent, caring, compassionate and patient man who certainly abides by the Hippocratic Oath ("First of all, do no harm."). He is not, as some would like, one to bend before and be unquestionably, personally answerable to the wishes and/or perceived needs of his patients. What type of physician would he be if he ignored all the facts and circumstances other than the prescriptive wishes of his patients?

And not to be flippant, but if a patient does not like the opinion of their physician, they can always get another opinion. It happens all the time, sometimes for the good and, unfortunately, sometimes for the bad as the patient may persist until they get an opinion that they want— not one that is necessarily the best. I have seen this happen.

Bob Moss  
Professor of physical education