



Civic Engagement Newsletter

New Living/Learning Center Being Built at Gill Village



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn



A new Living/Learning center will soon house many after-school programs at Gill Village.

By Lindsay Shanley
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

The Housing Authority of the City of Meadville is breaking ground...literally! This spring has marked the beginning of construction of a new Living/Learning Center at William Gill Village, a housing complex for lower-income families in the Meadville area. The center will be 5,200 square feet, located in the middle of the complex, and will provide ample space for the many programs established by the Housing Authority intended to help residents move towards self sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty.

With a price tag of \$680,000, the Living/Learning Center is a substantial investment in Gill Village on the Housing Authority's part. Plans for the center began last year and completion is expected this fall. Its large community room, two computer labs, and

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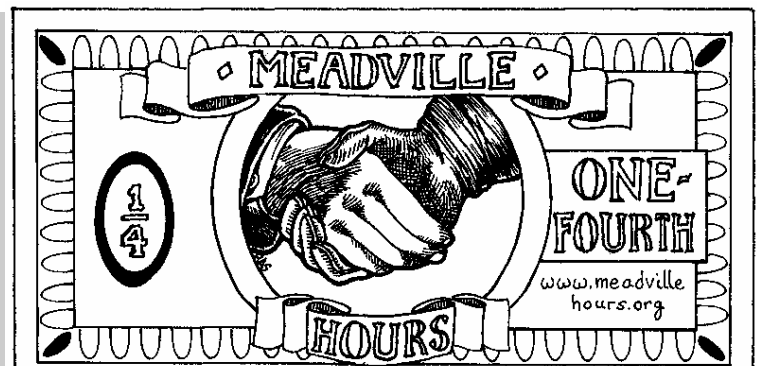
New Currency Program Hopes to Strengthen Local Economy and Community

By Nicole Kasnik
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Do you ever find yourself short of cash? Like many college students and community members you may feel tight on money and unable to afford certain items or services. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a way to pay for these things without costing you money? Meadville HOURS, a new program under creation through Allegheny College, may be the answer to

your budget difficulties.

Meadville HOURS is a type of organized barter system in which Allegheny students, community members, and businesses exchange services. HOURS, Meadville-based currency, are exchanged instead of actual U. S. currency. This unique money is called "HOURS" because the value of it comes from the time, skills, and hard work of



Currency designed by Richard Schindler

each individual participating in the program.

This program will allow people to be paid a "living wage" for their services. A living wage is a wage sufficient to provide minimally satisfactory living conditions. For this reason, one Meadville

See HOURS, page 9

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Learning By Doing

Students spread out across campus, posing questions, getting quotations, and revising, revising, all to produce the *Civic Engagement Newsletter* you're reading here.

Professor Bomberger's Technical/Professional Writing class confronted the challenges of writing for a publication by creating one. They set a high standard for themselves, encouraging one another to keep reorganizing their materials, fine-tuning their language, and double-checking for accuracy. We hope you enjoy the result of their hard work. Some students opted to



Back Row: Lena Gerber, Marcus Solomon, Kelly Stein, Sarah Klingler, Ashley Felker, Cody Switzer, Chrissy Policicchio.

Front Row: Nicole Kasnik, Megan McLachalan, April Tantalo, April Tirums, Lindsay Shanley, Katie Bauer, Julie Wilson, Nate Poole. *Not pictured:* Amy Weisgerber

write promotional materials for other organizations near and dear to them, both those on campus and those in the broader community. As a result,

- The Center for Family Services now has a newsletter on nutrition.
- The Allegheny Women's Rugby Team

can tackle recruiting with a new brochure.

- The United Way of Crawford County can tout their important work with a new brochure.



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn

Our motto, "Learning to Serve and Serving to Learn" is taken from The Council of Independent Colleges with permission.



Allegheny College, a selective liberal arts college of nearly 2,000 students in Meadville, PA, is one of the ten institutions to participate in Project Pericles, a national project of the Eugene Lang Foundation, committed to instilling in students a sense of social responsibility and civic concern.

Raise Your Voice Seeking Student Involvement

By Nate Poole
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

It's time for students to step up and raise their voices. February 15 to March 20 was Raise Your Voice month sponsored by Campus Compact, an organization of over 250 colleges and universities from around the country that encourages participation from students in political debate, civic engagement, and community service.

"One of the goals of this month is to encourage debate on several different levels," said Committee Chairman Jay Calvert. "We have to get students more involved and get more discussion from them. Many young people are cynical or feel that politics doesn't matter to them, but many of these issues really concern us and our future."

Much of the Raise Your Voice program involves the upcoming Presidential election in November. Issues such as weapons of mass destruction, funding for education, unions, and strikes will all be discussed. These issues are an integral part of the election, said Raise Your Voice advisor Judy Lynch. "We're hoping that students recognize that many of these issues affect them directly and will take part in the discussion."

Allegheny College received \$500.00 from Pennsylvania Campus Compact, the state branch of Campus Compact, to facilitate Raise Your Voice activities that increase student participation in the 2004 election.

Two actions that Raise Your Voice has taken is the creation of the Voting Brigade and the circulation of petitions requesting the administration provide registration forms to incoming freshmen.

"Because voting by college students is down all over the country, our goal is to increase voting by registering students in Meadville, if possible, thereby making it more convenient for students to vote," said Lynch. The petition to the administration to provide incoming freshmen registration forms will also hopefully encourage new students as they enter Allegheny to be more politically involved. (For more information on the Voting Brigade, see *Raise Your Voice* pg. 10)

Several Raise Your Voice speakers address pressing political issues that will impact the impending election and beyond such as the effect of globalization, NAFTA, and the perception of Islam.

One important aspect that has been accomplished was the agreement of the three parties on campus (the College Republicans, Young Democrats, and the Campus Greens) to petition the administration to encourage entering freshman to register to vote. "It was great to see them agree to get people involved, since they don't agree on much," said Calvert. "But they all realized that this was an important issue that needed to be addressed."

Although the events will only take place over the course of one month, Raise Your Voice plans a strong get out the vote campaign for the fall election. Hopefully, the funding we get can carry this through right up to the election, said Calvert. "We've done a good job so far, but we've got to keep people involved."

So far, Raise Your Voice has elicited strong participation.

See *RAISE YOUR VOICE*, page 4

R a i s e
Y o u r
V o i c e



Local Farmers Working Together

By Christina Policicchio
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

As a child I learned two heads were better than one. This concept lies at the heart of local farming cooperatives. Still in its infancy, a new project brings together area farmers attempting to pool their resources to increase overall sales.

Food cooperatives are worker- or customer- owned businesses, found all over the country, that provide grocery items of the highest quality and best value to their members. All food co-ops are committed to consumer education, product quality, and member control, and they usually support their local communities by selling produce grown locally by family farms.

The inspiration for a local farming cooperative, and Allegheny's interest, grew out of a senior project. The idea ex-

panded into a Local Foods Dinner, held in September, which featured locally produced foods, educated the campus community, and brought together local farmers interested in working collectively.

Co-chairs Jennifer DeHart, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, and Nicky Mason, Project Coordinator for Creek Connections, are working with two-dozen local small family farm producers. Their efforts have attracted assistance and consulting from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development specialist and from the Keystone Development Center, a nonprofit group dedicated to assisting the development of cooperatives in rural areas. "The specialists help to guide you and let you know what needs to be done; however, they will not do it for you," said DeHart. She added, "There is much more to a co-op than bringing people together. A co-op is a business venture with regulations and

paperwork."

By providing local products such as meat, milk, and other produce directly to local consumers, local farmers will be able to get good prices for their products by eliminating middlemen. The members of the Meadville farming cooperative may begin to work together very soon, but rules of operation and bylaws are needed to form a solid foundation for the organization. The farmers have already begun to investigate the possibility of setting up a stand or selling their goods at a previously existing farmers market.

The Co-Chairs of the project have recently applied for funding under CEED, Allegheny's Center for Economic and Environmental Development, to support student interns who will aid in the developmental success of the cooperative.

Extensive research needs to be com-

See *FARMERS*, page 4

Make a Difference in Politics, Too!

By The Center for Political Participation

In October, the Center for Political Participation held a week-long program entitled Make a Difference in Politics, Too! designed to show students the connection between community service and political participation.

Intern with U.S. Senators Rick Santorum or Arlen Specter

*The Rick Santorum Senate Internship Program allows students to earn academic credit and gain practical experience in national affairs and the Federal Government. All majors may apply. Go to www.senate.gov/~santorum/stateoff or call the CPP at 1-814-332-6201 for more information.

*Senator Arlen Specter's office also offers summer, fall and spring internships for college and postgraduate students wishing to experience life on Capitol Hill and gain a broad perspective of the daily operations of a United States Senator's office. Interns will assist in one of three areas: Legislation, Press, or Administration. In many cases, students are able to earn *academic credit*. Apply online no more than three months in advance at www.senate.gov/~specter/index.cfm - click on Constituent Services, then Internships.

To learn about other internships in politics or government, go to the Center For Political Participation web site: [Http://cpp.allegheeny.edu](http://cpp.allegheeny.edu)

Farmers *(continued from page 3)*

pleted before the co-op is fully functional. There are three main objectives that Prof. DeHart wishes to see accomplished. The first is a producer survey to investigate the amounts and diversity of goods that local farmers are currently and potentially capable of producing. Secondly, a market survey is intended to explore who would buy the produce and how much they would be willing to buy. Finally, the organization wishes to examine the status of local foods at peer institutions or colleges similar to Allegheny.

By supporting the local farms, the local economy may be revitalized. Public education is another large component of the process. In order to generate awareness and promote the benefits of a farming cooperative, consumers need to be educated on the value of fresh, local, quality products.

Nicky Mason, co-chair of the Allegheny Local Foods Committee, said a big element to the co-op formation is to get people talking, and the talking has begun! She also emphasized the value of local produce, "You can't beat the quality of locally grown foods." If you are interested in purchasing fresh, locally grown foods visit the Markethouse and Valesky's.

To find out more or see how you can get involved with the farming cooperative contact Professor DeHart jdehart@allegheeny.edu or Nicky Mason nmason@allegheeny.edu. ♦

The first event was a panel discussion on the current state of environmental policy, the reasons why people get involved in environmental conservation, and community environmental issues. The panel consisted of Environmental Lawyer David Gallogly from Meadville, English Professor Kerry Bakken, and student Bonner Leader Andrew Pugliese from the Meadville Community Energy Project.

On Tuesday, the 22nd was a documentary on welfare followed by a discussion facilitated by Gretchen Sandy, the Bonner leader from the Fairview /Fairmont housing project. Students who attended told personal accounts of friends or relatives who receive welfare, and they proposed ideas on how to use politics to strengthen the system through voting and contacting members of Congress.

Students manned tables in the Brooks lobby and the Post Office that offered information on political participation, such as how to write a letter to a member of Congress and how to set up a meeting with your Representative. The goal was to tell students how they could take the information they learned about the environment and poverty in America and present it to their elected officials, and also to make informed voting decisions.

Thursday, Oct 24, was a fun wrap-up event in the coffeehouse where the Erie-based fusion jazz band Jubal performed to an enthusiastic crowd. ♦

Raise Your Voice *(continued from page 3)*

"We have a number of students who are very passionate about increasing student involvement," said Lynch. "Above all, Raise Your Voice intends that young people should take a stand on the issues that affect them."

"Younger people have to realize that older people are the ones who vote the most," said Calvert. "The bottom line is that this is going to be our country and we have to step up and discuss these issues so we have a bigger say in what happens in the future."

Some Raise Your Voice Events:

***February 25:** Speaker Barbara Garson addressed the issues of ground level dynamics and the effect of globalization at 7 pm in Quigley 101.

***March 1:** Speaker Sandi Polaski addressed the impact of NAFTA in the last 10 years at 7 pm in Ford Chapel.

***March 3:** Students viewed a Frontline tape, Chasing Saddam's Weapons, which concentrates on the Kay report in Quigley 101.

***March 9:** Speaker Michael Sells talked about the perception of Islam in Ford Chapel at 7:30 pm. ♦



Getting to Know the Neighborhood: Hog Heaven Hooved Animal Rescue Farm

By Sarah Klingler
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Windy used to be a rodeo horse. She lived in a cramped stall, was fed only enough to keep her alive, and worst of all, she was badly physically abused by her owners. Her future looked bleak.

That is, until Hog Heaven Rescue Farm stepped in.

Windy now lives in a wide, green field at HHRF's farm in Cochran, Pa where she is healing her physical wounds while slowly learning to trust humans again.

Windy is only one of about 140 animals who live at Hog Heaven, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit hooved animal rescue farm owned by Regina Martin and David Allman. The farm was founded in 2001 and has since rescued over 150 animals including pot bellied pigs, goats, horses, donkeys and mules, placing many of them in new, loving and *permanent* homes.

Animals come to the farm in a variety of ways. Some are surrendered by owners who no longer have the resources to

If you are interested in getting involved with Hog Heaven in any way, please contact representative Oiling Yu at yuo@allegheny.edu or 814-332-2229 or visit the farm website at www.hogheavenrescue.org.

care for the animal. Many, however, are taken by other agencies from abusive situations and brought to Hog Heaven. This was the case for a herd of horses found abused and starving in a field in southwestern Pennsylvania. When the agency arrived, 20 out of 50 horses were dead in the field. Ten of the animals who were still alive were immediately transported to Hog Heaven for some medical at-

tention and lots of TLC.

In cases such as this, Hog Heaven deals with so much more beyond just the physical and mental needs of these animals. Martin and Allman, both retired police officers and thus familiar with court proceedings, represent these animals in these situations. They spend countless hours beyond caring for the animals dealing with legal documents and court hearings. In the case of the horses above, their owner was charged with abuse and negligence and was found guilty in nine of the ten cases. However, the owner has appealed these charges and another hearing will be held sometime in March.

Additionally, the farm cannot regain any of the funding used for the care of these animals until a decision is made in court; to date, Martin and Allman have spent over \$18,000 caring for and rehabilitating these animals.

Hog Heaven needs your help.

- **Volunteer your hands:**
A farm produces a never-ending string of chores and thus extra hands are always needed for the day-to-day upkeep



"Precious Gem," a young goat rescued at Hog Heaven

and maintenance work of the farm. Volunteers are needed to muck stalls, check fences, build and repair sheds, and help with other seasonal farm work.

If you don't like to get dirty but you'd still like to help, Hog Heaven is always in need of volunteers for grant writing, fundraising and accounting services.

- **Volunteer your heart:**

Most importantly, the farm is home for nearly 150 animals who need extra love and attention as they learn to trust humans again. As one of Hog Heaven's goals is to place many of these animals into new, loving homes, extra help getting the animals used to people is a necessity. Come pet the horses and mules, feed the pigs and groom the goats... they'll thank you for your company!

- **Donate:**

Hog Heaven has an ongoing wish list for good grass hay, straw, wormers, leg wraps, bandages, horse grooming products, halters, saddles, bridles, supplements, first aid supplies, wood and building materials and a four wheeler for mucking.

Monetary donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Checks are tax-deductible and can be made out to Hog Heaven Rescue Farm, Inc. Donations using paypal or credit cards can be made at www.hogheavenrescuefarm.org. ♦

Making Renewable Energy Fun

By April Tirums
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

"We consider it a success," says Kathy Greely, co-director of the Meadville Community Energy Project (MCEP), in reference to the 20-panel solar array installed outside the Meadville Area High School last May. In cooperation with Meadville High School science teacher Robert Radnich, MCEP was able to implement the installation of the solar electric, otherwise known as photovoltaic array, as part of a local initiative to affect Meadville's energy choices. This achievement was just the first of several steps envisioned to intro-

duce the concept of renewable energy to the local community as well as spread the word that solar energy is a possible and efficient way to harness natural energy.

Thanks to MCEP, along with other volunteers and sponsors, this awareness is already being felt by the Meadville community. Allegheny College students have developed various presentations ranging from kindergarten through grade 12 to introduce students to the benefits of renewable energy. In the past year, many presentations were given at local schools to educate children about these

See MCEP, page 8

Kids Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Vision Through Art

By Katie Bauer
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

On the ride back from the Awards Ceremony, Dave Roncolato smiled to Arwen Lavengood: "The thing that made it worth it was the way they stood up and cheered for each other."

A unanimous success, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Art Contest was a vital part of Allegheny College's 2004 MLK celebration: "Remember! Act! Celebrate! A Day On, Not a Day Off." The Art Contest began with an opening ceremony at Bethesda Children's Home on January 22nd. On February 9th, St. Bridgid's Church hosted the Art Contest Awards Presentation Dinner and Ceremony. The banquet, ending Allegheny's MLK celebration, was also a part of Black History Month.

The Art Contest paired Allegheny students with local youth from Bethesda Children's Home, Friends of Youth after school program, and Meadville Middle School. College students helped the local youth design posters that illustrated Dr. King's quote, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

Of the twenty-five participating children, eighteen turned in their projects to be judged. A group of five Allegheny faculty and students judged the artwork based on its artistic quality and thematic content. As participants rushed to receive their own framed certificate, their friends joyfully commended them, jumping with cheers and applause. Every participant won, and each award was unique and specific, ranging from Best Use of Color to Most Informative. Felicia Hawkins from Bethesda received Best in Show, her simple design depicting a collage of skin to form hands in prayer, cupping a collage of faces.

Before the ceremony began, smiles filled the room as people from Allegheny and the Meadville community greeted one another. Duchess Overton of Bethel A.M.E. led the assembly in song. "You have to understand," Overton reminded the assembly, "before Dr. King came along, nothing much happened." All participants respectfully remembered Dr. King, doing as Overton suggested by "celebrating Dr. King, not for the man that he was, but the man he represented."

The MLK Community Art Contest was the brainchild of a committee dubbed the "Dream Team," a MLK celebration committee consisting of Allegheny faculty, students, and administrators.

Co-chaired by Mounira Morris, Director of Diversity Af-

fairs, and Paul Knox, Secretary of Diversity Affairs, the Dream Team was comprised of several members of Allegheny's administration, from residence life to religious life. The student members, Lavengood and Pamela Sarkodee, are the Assistant Directors of Diversity Affairs for Allegheny Student Government (ASG). This is the first time Diversity Affairs has arranged a MLK event with students and a committee.

The project, being entirely collaborative, blended contributions and ideas from the Dream Team, the college students, and the community, helping with the event's success. Roncolato, Director of Community Service and Service-Learning, Morris and Knox shared the major responsibilities, such as bringing the groups together and contacting the sites. Twenty college students volunteered.



Kids and college students teamed up to design a poster that illustrated Dr. King's statement, "life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

costs.

Allegheny students learned of the project through posters, professors, organizations, and word of mouth. Morris commented that earlier advertisement was the event's only area for improvement, calling the project "very, very successful" and stressing it's "quality not quantity."

According to Morris, Allegheny students were excited to be "taking time to reflect on Dr. King's life and on the theme itself." The participating youth also had positive reactions to the project. Jenni Lawrence from Meadville Middle School said, "It was really cool. It was fun to get to know someone in the community." She even declared, "Other people were mad they didn't get to do it!" Victoria Carter from Bethesda said, "I was glad to say something about Dr. King and make a tribute to him."

The artwork was on display at the Meadville Council of the Arts for a week, starting February 10.

Knox is hopeful for future MLK Day celebrations: "The Art Project has laid the groundwork for the future. I foresee doing much more in all different aspects of the project." ♦

According to Knox, "the MLK, Jr. Day celebration was always a big deal at Allegheny, but this year we really wanted to make connections with the Meadville community." Meadville, with its city-wide Dr. King Dinner, has always emphasized MLK, Jr. Day, and readily welcomed the partnership with Allegheny. "The community was excited, and that is the most exciting thing," Knox remarked, noting that Bethesda offered to hold the opening ceremony while the churches, Bethel A.M.E. Church (the second largest local African-American church) and St. Bridgid's, helped with

Forever Young: Wesbury After School Arts Program

By Megan McLachlan
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Ever wonder where the generations of both Glenn Miller and Britney Spears can interact? Well, look no further than the Wesbury After School Arts Program, a program affiliated with the Wesbury United Methodist Retirement Community.

As a part of the retirement community activities, the Wesbury After School Arts Program is where the Wesbury retirement community can interact with fourth, fifth, and sixth grade elementary school children by participating in arts and crafts. Started in September of 2002 by Leah Konopka, the students and residents get together on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 5 pm and work together creating artwork while acquiring art-related skills.

This program has had a great impact on the Meadville community. Therefore, it is important that the Wesbury After School Arts program find a replacement for Leah Konopka when she leaves in May, because she plays a vital role in the whole operation. She gathered the ideas together and went to the school districts to get the children to participate in the program. Currently, Konopka's job involves 20 to 30 hours of



Wesbury's After School Arts Program brings children and the elderly together.

her time per week. Although there is a lot of work involved in order to get the program to run smoothly, in the end, Konopka's efforts are well worth the time and work because of the positive outcome of the program.

Not only does the after-school program give children a place to go, but it also prevents many of them from spending their

See WESBURY, page 11

The Arc Participants to Enjoy Organic Garden

By Ashley Felker
English 208:
Technical/Professional Writing

Each year incoming seniors always dread that one word: COMP, a.k.a the Senior Project. Half the challenge is designing a project that both captures your interests and fulfills the department requirements. However, every now and then some seniors are inspired, going above and beyond those expectations, and reaching out to the community as well.

This year Maureen Copeland, an environmental science major has done exactly that. Not only has she developed an environmentally aware project incorporating entirely organic methods to the campus garden, but she also involved The Arc program of Crawford County by allowing the members to grow and maintain the garden, and in return keep the crops they harvest.

The Arc program's basic mission states, "The Arc advocates for the rights of citizens labeled mentally retarded and enhances their lives by promoting maximum independence and affording them opportunities to enrich their

communities."

As part of an internship through Penn State in the summer of 2003, Copeland spent ten weeks on a bio-intensive farm in Spring Grove Pennsylvania. Along with learning the ins and outs of the bio-intensive design, it was during this time that she did a research project on insects and how and which vegetables they attack. Using the information she acquired over this span of time, she decided to develop a senior project from these ideas. The Allegheny organic garden is her stage, and she plans on incorporating more sustainable, or environmentally friendly, ideas into the growing.

Bio-intensive farming is a widely used technique. It is the principle method taught by the Peace Corps, and is also used in some developing countries. It remains an appealing method because it uses no pesticides or fertilizers and incorporates the use of a naturally grown compost pile, so nothing is ever wasted. The unused produce, and scraps go right back into the ground as natural fertilizers to add nutrients to the soil. Because the soil is so rich plants can be grown closer together, and less land is used.

Normally people, mostly professors

and faculty, buy into the school's organic garden and when the produce is ready to be harvested they each get a share.

This year, however, the routine will be a little different. As part of Copeland's design she decided to get the community involved. This is where the Arc came in. At The Arc participants are matched with life-skills coaches who teach them how to manage their money and find jobs. While talking with a spokesperson from The Arc she said that it was great to see "...people working together in the community." They view this project as a way to "help the two enrich each other."

Copeland will be spending a total of two semesters developing her project. She will design calendars and schedules that will show when the plants need to be watered and taken care of. The college has already had its own compost pile growing, so the fertilizer is already taken care of.

She will also have to order the

See ORGANIC, page 8

MCEP (continued from page 5)

benefits. These discussions engage them in the effort to preserve our natural resources by using more environmentally friendly techniques. There are already four presentations scheduled next month at local schools.

To complement these presentations, MCEP also has Solar Energy Kits available. Contained in these kits are a wide variety of items. Children of all ages can enjoy the use of phosphorescent or glow-in-the-dark stars to demonstrate the transformation of energy. Also included are small solar cells and motors used for solar powered cars. A solar balloon can also be found in these kits to further demonstrate energy transformation. However, some common items are included as well. Who would think that simple alligator clips could pertain to renewable energy? Yet these common items can be used to make electrical connections. Paint chips are also relevant to solar energy, in that the darker the color of the chip, the more solar energy is absorbed. However, the most unique item included is the solar cooker. Hot dogs and marshmallows can be roasted simply by harnessing the radiant energy from the sun and converting it to thermal energy by the use of aluminum foil. However, these pieces mentioned comprise just a few of the many items included in these kits. These kits are made available by MCEP for Crawford Central teachers to use in the classroom.

Further enhancing the success of this program is that this is the first installation of a solar array on a school in Pennsylvania outside the Philadelphia area. "I think it's neat. It's not like we're a big school someplace, but Meadville's doing it" said junior Rachel Smith last May. Other students joined in Smith's excitement over the new array early last year. Junior Amber Serrano had exclaimed "That's pretty cool. We're conserving energy." However, students are not the only enthusiasts over renewable energy. Within the last year, several schools outside the local Crawford Central School District have contacted MCEP to inquire about the project, in hopes of acquiring their own solar array.

With the assistance of sponsors such as PENELEC Sustainable Energy Fund, the College/Schools Collaborative, Vestar, Inc., and American Electric Power, the dream of providing energy choices became a reality for the Meadville community. However, this is only one of the many projects sponsored by MCEP in Crawford County. Other programs sponsored by this innovative collaborative are the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP), Home Energy Ratings (HERS), Partnership for Energy Performance (PEP), as well as energy training for local citizens and working with the Fraunhofer Center for Energy and the Environment to evaluate the feasibility of a new biomass energy plant for the Meadville area.

MCEP was founded in 1997 as a program of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) at Allegheny College. It grew out of a series of junior seminars by Allegheny students investigating energy consumption by the local community. From these seminars grew the groundbreaking program currently benefiting the local community. For information concerning this and many other projects sponsored by MCEP, call (814) 332-2986 or visit their website at <http://welcome.to/mcep>. ♦



Brian Hill, board member of the Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, delivers the keynote address at the grand opening of MASH's photovoltaic array in May 2003.

Organic (continued from page 7)

seeds and start the process off. Because most of the work will need to take place after she graduates, she has involved The Arc. Two members of the Penn State Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners will come and teach the members of The Arc basic concepts of watering and gardening crops. Copeland has altered the garden's crops this year to ones that the participants could have fun with after the growing is done. Crops such as corn, beans, tomatoes, and pumpkins— hopefully serving as carving crafts in the fall—are a few that have been selected. From here they will follow the plans she has laid out until the crops are ready. All the crops raised this year from the garden will be directly donated to those who helped grow them.

Copeland has taken her love of the environment and of helping people and combined them into one magnificent project. Not only will it incorporate a totally organic method, it will also give those citizens who are mentally impaired a chance to get involved and see the effects of their efforts. As the final stage Copeland will showcase the entire project on the web, to be featured next year on the Allegheny web site. Certainly this should be an inspiration on designing a project that has objectives other than just a good grade. Check out her hard work next year on the Allegheny home page or visit the garden and see for yourself. ♦

The Human Watershed: How Collaboration is Working at Allegheny College

By Cody Switzer
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

All the streams, creeks, and rivers in a watershed drain to the same area, for example, French Creek. Starting last semester, Allegheny students and faculty from different departments have been mimicking actions of a watershed, pouring their unique knowledge and experiences into common studies, examining the surrounding French Creek Watershed in depth.

With a five-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, Coordinator Eric Pallant is giving professors the opportunity to present students with a variety of viewpoints about the

watershed, examining it from environmental, political, economic, and biological perspectives, all while helping the local community.

"A lot of benefit can be received from this program because people everywhere are living in watersheds. We hope that the students can carry what they learn back to their own areas," said Pallant

Classes this semester are looking for information to get a better sense of the locations of local family farms, soil quality, production capability, effects of local industry on the community, market value of produce, and the potential for the success of a local farming cooperative.

Some of the Allegheny staff

participating in the study includes environmental science professors Rich Bowden, Caryl Waggett, and Jen DeHart, Biology professor Brandi Baros, Political Science professor Dan Shea, and Economics professors Don Goldstein and Steven Onyeiwu.

Onyeiwu is happy to be a part of the project. "I feel very delighted and satisfied with the project. I derive a lot of joy knowing that students can apply what they learn in the classroom to practical problems in the local community," said Onyeiwu.

Last semester, Professor Onyeiwu's Economics 240 class concentrated on the tool and die industry, largest manufacturer in the watershed. The class looked at the impact of the industry

See *WATERSHED*, page 10

HOURS (Continued from page 1)

HOUR is comparable to \$8.00 because that is the minimum living wage that members of the community need. With Meadville HOURS people can supplement income and make their dollars go farther.

One of the main objectives of Meadville HOURS is to connect Allegheny students with the Meadville community while bringing additional shoppers downtown. For example, with HOURS to use instead of actual money, people will be attracted to the downtown businesses participating in the program, instead of going to large chain stores like Wal-Mart which pull money away from the downtown businesses and hurt the local economy.

The program will build "social capital," which is a community working together to successfully get things accomplished, benefiting the whole community. The creator of Meadville HOURS, Allegheny College Professor Mike Maniates, says, "The main goal hoped to be achieved is to contribute in some small way to the economic activity of Meadville."

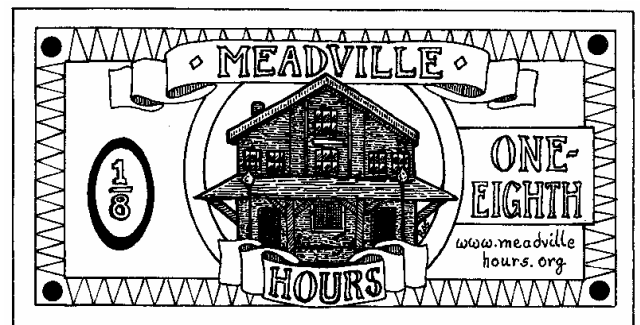
Maniates and eight Allegheny students working with him plan to launch Meadville HOURS by early March. They hope to have between 75 and 100 busi-

nesses, community members, and students involved in the program before the launch, with an ultimate goal of between 400 and 500 participants.

Several businesses and service providers have already expressed interest in participating in Meadville HOURS. Some of these include Pampered Palate, Pizza from Mars, Tattered Corners, The Meadville Community Energy Project, Artist's Cup Café, and Round Again Records. The aim is to have more than 50 businesses and service providers involved.

When new members join the program, each one is listed in a directory with the services or goods that they are willing to provide to other members of Meadville HOURS. Each member decides which service they plan on providing. Once new members agree to accept Meadville HOURS, they are given a set amount of HOURS in return to start them off. Others can then look at the directory, and based on their own skills or services, decide who they want to trade HOURS and services with.

Allegheny College has planned to buy some HOURS to boost the launch of the



Currency designed by Richard Schindler

program. They will distribute them to students such as freshmen and orientation leaders to promote the program and connect new students with the Meadville community.

With the future launch of Meadville HOURS, it is anticipated that it will contribute to the local economy of Meadville and promote shopping at locally owned businesses. Meadville HOURS will strengthen involvement in the community, thus supporting the economy and building social capital, improving the community of Meadville.

For more information on Meadville HOURS or if you are interesting in participating, go to <http://www.MeadvilleHOURS.org>.

Village (continued from page 1)

study room will provide space for recreational, educational, and social activities. It will also house a day care, laundry and kitchen facilities, a room for Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs, as well as a reception area and office space for social service agencies, bringing some of the conveniences of downtown to the residents of Gill Village.

Barb Houserman of the Housing Authority explains, "if we want residents to have a better life, we need to provide them with a well-rounded, holistic approach to becoming independent." The Housing Authority provides many classes for adult residents ranging from budgeting to parenting which will be easily accessible thanks to the new Living/Learning Center. Houserman also emphasizes the importance of after-school programs for the children because "they make education and learning fun for the kids."

The Meadville Housing Authority has been nationally recognized among its peers for its innovative and progressive approach to achieving its mission statement which Houserman condenses to "Up and Out." Through a partnership between the city of Meadville, Crawford County Regional Alliance Crawford County Career Link, Allegheny College, and others, a Technology Education Consortium (TEC) was formed to give low-income housing residents of Gill Village and Elm Street access to technology that helps them keep pace with the outside world. The housing authority was awarded the 2003 National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Merit Award for this ambitious and successful undertaking titled, "Bridging the Digital Divide."

Gill Village is already an important service-learning site for students and the new center brings the potential for new opportunities. Dave Roncolato, Director of Community Service and Service-Learning, ACCEL, explains, "Allegheny students who take advantage of these service-learning opportunities gain important knowledge, experience, and life lessons such as a commitment to the wider community."

Allegheny's commitment to Gill Village and the housing authority began in 1996 with then-Interim Director of the Office of Community Service, Jenny Linquist. Linquist determined that Allegheny would maintain an ongoing, supportive presence in the Gill Village community. About sixty children regularly take part in college-sponsored programs at Gill Village and Elm Wood Village such as the after school com-

"If we want residents to have a better life, we need to provide them with a well-rounded, holistic approach to becoming independent," Barb Houserman of the Meadville Housing Authority

puter tutoring program and America READS. Linquist's mission is still going strong as service-learning programs continue to benefit both the residents and students.

While the assurance of continual, ongoing support of the Allegheny Community is credited as being a driving force behind the development of the new Living/Learning Center, the Housing Authority of the City of Meadville should be applauded for their dedication towards taking a progressive approach to helping families. Soon it will be up to the residents and community to make the building come to life, but given all of the hard work and past successes of the housing authority, there is little doubt that the center will be a hit. ♦

Watershed (continued from page 9)

on the community, competition from Asia, and how tool and die makers respond to an increasingly competitive market. The class joined forces with another course interested in improving communities, Amara Geffen's Arts and the Environment course.

The classes collaborated to organize a meeting with the stakeholders of the local tool and die companies, applying what they learned in class to real world situations. Their efforts showed a common interest between art, economics, and environmental science.

Professors Caryl Wagget and Rich Bowden gave students in their Environmental Science 210 class the unique experience of developing a study that interested them. Students decided on a study of the long-term effects of local agriculture on the watershed. Agriculture affects many aspects of the watershed, especially the content of nutrients in the soil.

The students gather information from soil samples directly from trips to a variety of local farms and nearby forested areas. Back in the lab, the few square feet of extracted soil are examined for nutrients, bringing in elements of geology and biology to the course; Biology Professor Brandi Baros is also involved, checking for microbiological content. Students learn the effects of agriculture on the watershed in the long-term sense, encouraging students to advocate conservation. All of the findings are given back to the farmers involved, helping them maximize productivity.

"It's terrific [to be involved]. What's really super is the students decided on a topic that interested them all," said Professor Waggett. ES210 student Laura Cavagnaro, '07, shares her excitement. "It's really interesting to go out to the farms and see how local farmers are actually running things."

Allegheny is one of a small number of elite secondary institutions receiving the grant facilitating the interdisciplinary studies. The Luce Foundation, an organization established by the late Henry Luce, co-founder and editor in chief of Time, Inc. provided the highly competitive "invitation-only" grant. Other colleges receiving the grant include Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Berkeley, and Duke. "We got the offer because we have one of the best environmental science departments in the nation," said Professor Pallant.

For more information contact Eric Pallant at (814) 332-2870. ♦

Model Campaign USA Teams Up College and High School Students

By April Tantalo
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Not old enough to vote for President? Campaign! Allegheny College political science majors are helping high school students from all over northwestern Pennsylvania do just that.

Four local high schools (Meadville, Commodore Perry, Northwestern, and two teams from Fort Leboeuf) make up five teams of at least ten students who are interested in learning how to run an ethical, political campaign. These schools will be assisted by Allegheny College students to prepare for a "Model Campaign USA" campaign competition on Saturday, April 24th.

Twelve Allegheny students are taking a 2-credit independent study with Professor Dan Shea in order to gain the knowledge to assist these high school students with running their own campaign teams. These students, known as Model Campaign USA (MCUSA) Coordinators, are responsible for writing a handbook on ethical campaigning to hand out to their

groups, as well as passing the knowledge they have learned about campaigning on to the high school students.

In preparation to face their "political rivals" on April 24th, "all students will be provided with some basic demographic information," says Sara Schmitt, Fellow at the Center for Political Participation (CPP). The groups will take this information and then choose how they would like to campaign and which issues they feel are most important to address.

The teams are working hand in hand with their Allegheny representative in learning crucial campaign skills such as targeting, choosing a campaign, theme and writing television and radio speeches.

Though the program is well underway, the search for judges is still in effect. Professor Shea will be one of the judges of this competition along with some of the student Fellows at the CPP. Campaign workers and elected officials are also being considered to participate in the judging to get an insiders perspective on the progress of these high school candidates. ♦

Wesbury *(continued from page 7)*

after school time home alone.

The children who participate in this program get the opportunity to interact with adults other than their parents.

On the other hand, the residents from the Wesbury retirement community also benefit in being able to interact with the children of today. "I think it's wonderful to interact with the young folks, who we are privileged to work with," says one of the residents. The children often cheer up the residents within the retirement community who can get depressed and suffer from other ailments as they get older, according to Rebekah Gayley, Ameri-corps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America) in the Office of Community Service and Service-Learning. One of the students says she enjoys spending her time at Wesbury because often "the residents don't have anyone to visit with."

And while there is naturally an impact on the students and residents involved in the program, the college students who participate as leaders are also impacted by the unique opportunity to interact with the Wesbury residents and elementary-school-aged students.

The program is not limited to just craft-related activities. There is a strong focus on "the arts." Last year, the residents and students did a Christmas play, and in the spring, they plan on doing a talent show. However, it does not take a talent show to demonstrate to the children how gifted many of the residents are. For a majority of the year, a few of the male residents have led the students in wood-working projects. A resident musician also occasionally teaches the children about the art of music by giving them music lessons. To encourage more

Wesbury residents to get involved and share their knowledge and gifts with the children, Peer Project Leader Laura Ghering says they recently filmed a commercial for the retirement community residents, hoping to get more residents to join in the fun.

There are many possibilities as to who can and will take over Konopka's position. It is currently a paid

position, but may turn into a multi-volunteer position if Wesbury does not receive enough grant money to cover the cost of the position. Possibilities include Peer Project Leaders, Bonner Leaders, and even VISTAS. However, anyone can volunteer at Wesbury, whether you would just like to spend some time there or volunteer on a more frequent basis. If someone is interested in working with this program, he or she should contact Rhonda Thomas at Wesbury, 332-9000. ♦

Do you work for a non-profit organization? Does it need a brochure? Instructions?



Contact Ann Bomberger and her students may be able to help.
332-4334, <ann.bomberger@allegheny.edu>.

Vote and Be Heard

By : Lena Gerber
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Do you want to save money and have smaller loans to pay back after college? Do you wish your minimum wage job paid you more than just enough to get by? Or does a smaller college bill sound nice? Well, these desires can be more than just daydreams if the 80% of you who didn't vote in the last election get active and go to the polls this year. That's right, only 20% of people aged 18-24 voted in the last Presidential election and only 51% of people from all age groups voted.

Voting will be the hot topic on campus this year thanks to a new student initiative called the Voting Brigade. Students have the power to make their wishes known by voting and the brigade can help them accomplish it.

Raise Your Voice



"Why do you think so many politicians make campaign promises for better health care, Medicare, social security

benefits, and prescription drug benefits?" student voting brigade chair Jay Calvert asks. Senior citizens and retired workers comprise the largest percentage of the people that vote. These are issues that are pertinent to them. If 100% of people our age were voting instead of just 20%, politicians would pay closer attention to issues concerning us. And "If we don't vote, no one listens," Calvert says.

Along with several other Allegheny students, Calvert attended a conference in the fall in Harrisburg to join a nationwide effort to encourage students to raise their voice and vote. The students returned from the meeting with the idea of the Voting Brigade and funding from Campus Compact, an organization that encourages students to get involved through a wide range of activities.

The goal of the brigade is to sign students up to vote in the primaries and Presidential election, thus increasing turnout for our age group. This effort is one of a number of activities taking place during "Raise Your Voice" month on campus. The effort started February 15th and runs through March 20th, six days before the deadline date for registering for the PA primaries. Student volunteers for the Brigade will be walking around campus, entering classrooms, and tabling throughout this time period. All of the volunteers will be wearing red "Ask Me" buttons and will have the paperwork necessary to register and obtain an absentee ballot application.

Student volunteers believe the Brigade is a step in the right direction towards increasing turnout in elections and promoting good lifelong voting practices. "Voting is a privilege," argues a sophomore student volunteer. "People in many third world countries do not have

Not sure which candidate you like?



Go to <http://www.presidentmatch.com/Guide.jsp2> to see which Presidential candidate best matches your opinions.

com/Guide.jsp2 to see which Presidential candidate best matches your opinions.

a say in choosing their leaders. They live under a dictatorship and would give anything to have a say in who runs their country, and I think it is horrible that we have the right to vote and yet people do not take advantage of it." The Brigade wishes to increase the number of students who register to vote and will help to encourage students to make voting one of their priorities.

"Registering will only take a few minutes," says Judy Lynch, advisor for the Voting Brigade. Students can register on the spot with any of the volunteers. As long as you know your name, address, and some other general information there's nothing difficult about it. Just remember to bring your driver's license with you too because you'll need the license number for the application.

The brigade is encouraging students to register locally since school will be in session during both the primaries and the Presidential election. Students can take one of the shuttles the brigade is providing into town for quick and care-free voting when the time comes, and they won't have to worry about filling out absentee ballot applications. Of course, information on absentee voting will be available as well.

The opportunity to vote lies at your fingertips. Spend just a few minutes between classes or at the end of your day and take part in something that is both your right and your privilege. You have the power to influence policy and make the important issues in your life a top priority to politicians.

Judy Lynch encourages anyone with questions to stop by her office in 130 Brooks in the Center for Political Participation Office. ♦

Centers for Civic Engagement
<http://civicengagement.alleggheny.edu>