The Unexpected Valentino Deng’s Book Just Released

by Jen Wilmore
English 208

Valentino Deng is not an average college student. Sure, Allegheny boasts consistent academic excellence, but its snowy winters and minimal size sold it to Deng. Both the college and surrounding town are small, which allows Deng to keep a “low profile” in order to focus on his studies. On vacations, he returns to his national speaking circuit.

Deng was born in 1980 in southern Sudan. Southern rebels moved to liberate south Sudan when the government dishonored a 1972 agreement to grant them their freedom. The ensuing Civil War included invasions that targeted civilians and destroyed Deng’s hometown. He and many other boys walked hundreds of miles, enduring grueling conditions, to get to safety in Ethiopia. After three years in Ethiopia, Deng moved to Kenya.

The book written about Valentino Deng’s life has catapulted him into the pages of national publications like Time and People.

See Deng, page 5

Environmental Task Force Formed

Allegheny College President Richard Cook recently announced the formation of the Task Force on Environmental Responsibility to advise the administration on ways to implement economically-feasible, environmentally-friendly policies and to help integrate environmental issues into the college’s mission.

“The motivation behind creation of the Task Force on Environmental Responsibility is to bring together committed,
Prof. Ann Bomberger’s class explored the challenges associated with writing for a publication by creating one. Students encouraged one another to reorganize, fine-tune, and double-check their articles. We hope you enjoy the result of their hard work.

Some students opted to write promotional material for other organizations on campus and those in the broader community. As a result, the newsletter *Peace Psychology* contains a feature on Seeds of Peace. In addition, a student’s family business, the ASG Finance Committee, Man of the Year Alpha Chi Omega Fundraiser, the Pre-Health Club, the Men’s intramural volleyball team, and Kappa Alpha Theta all have new brochures.

BACK: ROB ABOOD, SEAN UNAL, MICHELLE HARRIS, ERIN VANDERVEER, RACHEL ATCHLEY
MIDDLE: LYDIA GEARHART, KATHARINE PLATT, JENNIFER WILMORE, ALEXANDRIA DUHAN, CHRIS KARNS, DAWN BEEMER, KAT BREGANT, PAUL MORRIS
SEATED: EDDIE MATTOCK, LAUREN PORTERFIELD, CRISTY BENBEN (AND SPECIAL GUEST ALEXIS BUCKMAN), PROF. ANN BOMBERGER, SINET NAM.
(ABSENT: RYAN PLACE)
Women Making a Difference in Politics

By Kat Bregant
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Are men running Pennsylvania? If you look at recent statistics that is the way it seems. Pennsylvania currently ranks 47th out of 50 states in terms of women’s political participation and is the only state in the nation where women are less likely than men to be registered to vote.

Additionally the number of college students who think politics aren’t relevant to their lives continues to increase.

Many believe it is a time for a change and Allegheny College has decided to aid in that mission by raising awareness and enthusiasm for participation.

Allegheny College’s Center for Political Participation (CPP) hosted the Women in Politics Round Table Discussion. The luncheon was held in the Tippie Alumni Center on October 19th at 12pm.

Guest speakers included Michelle Brooks, the Mercer County Commissioner running for state representative, and Catherine Zelazny, the first ever female chair of the Democratic Party in Erie.

Speakers talked about the difficulties that arise from gender stereotyping and getting over the hurdles of people expecting the worst from them. Michelle Brooks, for example, said that while in office people often expressed dismay that a mother of a thirteen year old was an elected official.

The speakers encouraged discussion about how to bring to the public’s attention that there is a place and a need for women in office. They left on the inspiring note that women should be strong and not be afraid to speak up and get involved.

Allegheny student Afua Osei, who helped set up this event, remarked, “I hope that Allegheny students will realize the importance of women participating in the political process. In particular, those young women who feel that their needs are not being addressed by the people in power are urged to do something about it and get involved.”

One of the Allegheny students in attendance, Silica Weary, received just that message. “There is a need for women’s voices.”

See Women in Politics, page 5

Love Locally: Shop Downtown

By Alexandria Duhan
Eng 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Rather than the usual convenience shopping or annual Make a Difference Day project, Allegheny students are finding new reasons to go downtown. Vowing to increase activity off campus, 300 students have pledged to improve relations between the college and the community in an attempt to show that they really do care and support the city of Meadville.

In August, Meagan Zeune, a senior at Allegheny College, proposed the “I Heart Meadville Project” at an annual leadership conference. This project encourages students to take the “Meadville Challenge,” a promise to shop only at locally-owned businesses in Meadville during the month of September.

Surprised by the overwhelming amount of support fellow peers shared towards this idea, Zeune claims that the project came together more quickly than she anticipated. With funding from Allegheny Student Government as well as the Dean of Students, 205 “I Heart Meadville” shirts were purchased. Publicity has been spread by brochures paid for by the Student Activities Office, while the shirts themselves have also helped to promote awareness of the project.

The “I Heart Meadville Project” was initiated with a duel purpose: to improve communication between the city and the campus and to aid Meadville’s dwindling tax base. Due to the fact that the college and hospital are tax exempt, students are able to receive the benefits of the roads, library, and services that the community offers free of charge. This is a way for students to support the community which has allowed Allegheny’s campus to thrive.

In just over a month, the project has received positive feedback and results. By bringing in $25 worth of receipts, students receive one of the free t-shirts. At present, over $6,700 in receipts have

See Meadville Challenge, page 8
Students Jump Into Creek Camp

You may have never seen a hellbender, but thanks to Creek Camp, some lucky Pittsburgh area high school students have. Hellbenders, a type of salamander, scurried in as one of the various aquatic critters seen at the first annual camp held this past summer at Allegheny College.

Creek Camp was sponsored by the Bayer Foundation and run by Creek Connections, a program that helps spread information about watersheds (areas that drain into larger bodies of water). The sleep away camp, which was for rising tenth and eleventh grade students, took place this past summer from July 23-28. Campers stayed on Allegheny’s campus and attended free of charge. Hope Scalercio, a camper and Quaker Valley High School student, attended the camp in search of knowledge. “I wanted to go to Creek Camp because I am interested in biology and wanted to learn more about the kind of animals and insects that live in the water in the areas near my home,” she said.

By Erin Vandeveer
Eng 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Insider’s Guide to Meadville Champions Local Businesses

“Enrich your community, revitalize the local economy, and care for Mother Nature,” encourages the Insider’s Guide to Meadville, a new, informative website promoting independently owned Meadville businesses. With tips on environmentally friendly consumerism, the Insider’s Guide encourages Allegheny College students and Meadville residents to explore the rich market and attractions of the town and surrounding areas.

The Insider’s Guide to Meadville began as a large scale project that professors Eric Pallant and Caryl Waggett created for their Environmental Science Junior Seminar. With the objective of improving the Meadville economy, students researched local restaurants and businesses to compile an Internet database for consumers. Helpful descriptions accompany each listing on the website, identifying such diverse locations as “a classy place to take a date” and “the oldest continuously operating farmers’ market in Pennsylvania.”

Located at 940 Park Ave., @thebank is one of the many stores described in the Insider’s Guide. @thebank features jewelry, scrapbooking supplies, and a specialty store with cooking supplies, jams, and spices, as well as women’s apparel and gifts, including candles, artwork, and holiday decorations. The store also includes a cafe with free wireless Internet service. Customers can order drinks, including sodas, to be made especially how they like them. With its comfortable atmosphere and an Allegheny College student discount, @thebank is a great place to shop, enjoy a latte, and relax.

Want to use the Insider’s Guide to Meadville? Visit the site at

http://insidersguide.allegheny.edu

By Katharine Platt
Eng 208: Technical/Professional Writing
The Autobiography of Valentino Ačak Deng by Dave Eggers finally came out in October 2006. It is a 450 page biographical novel for which movie rights have already been sold.

Amid working on his story, interviewing with People Magazine, CNN International, and Turner Broadcasting, and speaking across the nation as a Sudan advocate, Deng learned that colleges scarcely recognized his Kenyan high school diploma. He took the GED and TOEFL and applied to colleges.

He studied at Georgia Perimeter College at night and worked during the day for a couple of years. Concurrently, he paid for his brothers to go to high school in America. After Georgia Perimeter, Deng applied to colleges across the nation. Although schools such as Columbia and Cornell accepted him, he ultimately chose Allegheny.

He continues working on “projects.” He wants to found and lead an international organization to improve living conditions in Sudan. It will help educate Sudanese immigrants to America and will help Sudanese women. He also has plans to increase gender awareness throughout the country and provide opportunities for Sudanese children through leadership training and sports facilities. Lastly, he hopes to train more people in First Aid and crisis management.

No, Val Deng is not a typical college student, but he never feels overwhelmed by his past, present, or future. Rather than waiting until after school to begin another project or until he has a family and cannot travel on his speaking circuit, he maintains a carpe diem view of life. He reasons, “there is time to do everything, and this is the time.”

In 2003 Deng returned to Sudan to interview his family and explore his old home. He walked the paths he had trouble remembering and spoke with the people he hadn’t seen for 15 years. After four years work on his story, What is the What:
Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Caryl Waggett was awarded $57,691 by the US Environmental Protection Agency to determine the incidence of elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) in children in rural Crawford County, Pennsylvania, and to provide community outreach efforts to train regional social service agencies and targeted community members about strategies to reduce lead exposure. The program is part of the Center for Economic and Environmental’s (CEED) Environmental Health initiative.

**Rural children often not screened**

Lead exposure in rural low-income communities has been poorly documented, and few resources have been made available for prevention, in part because within any state, focusing on urban regions reaches more children more efficiently. The CDC recommends that all children be screened for lead at one and two years of age, yet economic realities often force states to make difficult decisions.

In sparsely populated rural regions, children are spread out across county and state boundaries, resulting in lower political incentive to address even this widespread issue. More than 13% of all children under age 18 in rural regions are living below poverty levels (US Census 2000). While this figure is lower than for urban children, it still represents more than 15 million children. In Crawford County, fewer than 1% of children had screening results reported to PA DOH, compared to 35% of children screened in one of the eleven Urban Lead Initiative regions of Pennsylvania (US Census 2000, Rudich 2004).

Key indicators of lead poisoning—housing age, population in poverty, and tenant-occupied housing—suggest that this region is likely to have a high percent of children with elevated BLLs. More than 80% of county homes were built before 1978, and 24.5% of county housing is tenant-occupied (US Census 2000). Approximately 5300 people are under age five, and of those families with young children, 18.7% are at or below the federal poverty level (US Census 2000). More than 20% of pregnant women in the county receive no prenatal care (PA DOH 2003). Other factors, such as parent’s occupational exposure to lead, place additional children at risk (McDiarmid and Weaver 1993, Roscoe et al. 1999).

**Why children?**

Children are at high risk from lead because their neurological systems are still developing, they engage in high-risk behavior, such as placing their hands in their mouths, and they absorb lead via the gastrointestinal track more efficiently (50% relative absorption) than adults (15%) (Xintaras 1992). Risks are exacerbated for impoverished children as nutritional deficiencies increase the absorption and toxicity of lead (Bloch 2000, Eu 2001). Annual costs of treatment and parental time off work for lead poisoning in children have been estimated at $43 billion nationwide (Landrigan et al., 2002), excluding...
Journalist Bradley Will ‘92 Slain

BY MATTHEW FELIX, ’92

Allegheny Alumnus Bradley Roland Will, 36, of New York City died of gunshot wounds Friday, Oct. 27th while covering the situation and turmoil in Oaxaca, Mexico.

For over a decade, Brad had been an activist, photojournalist and chronicler of the downtrodden and the human struggle against injustice. He traveled frequently to global hot spots, taking special interest in the plight of the indigenous peoples of Latin America seeking more direct democracy and responsive governments.

He took up a number of causes throughout the years, from environmental issues in the Pacific Northwest to the preservation of community gardens and housing in Manhattan. In recent years, he often contributed articles and video to the Independent Media Center, a collective of volunteers around the world who cover events and disputes often ignored by the traditional media.

Brad was born in Evanston, Illinois, grew up in nearby Kenilworth, and was a member of the class of 1988 at New Trier High School. Survivors include mother and father, Howard and Kathleen, of East Troy, WI and siblings Wendy, Craig and Christy. A foundation is being established in Brad’s name by his family. Information relating to this foundation can be found at www.bradwill.org.

Creek Camp

(Continued from page 4)

Scalercio said, “such as, inspecting insects, catching fish in a giant net, and using a GPS system. I learned that you can tell how healthy the water is just by seeing what lives in it.” Campers like Scalercio gained knowledge and experience through work in the field. They did research projects on water chemistry and aquatic diversity. At the end of camp, campers presented their findings to their parents.

Field work and research projects were not the only activities at Creek Camp. Campers explored aquatic areas around Meadville, including French Creek, Shenango River, and Pymatuning Lake. On their travels, they encountered a variety of wildlife, including what Scalercio described as the largest salamander she had ever seen. Environmental experts visited and taught campers about a variety of watershed related topics, including stream restoration, wetland ecology, and reptiles and amphibians. “The environmental experts that came to the camp were really knowledgeable,” Scalercio said. “They told me loads of things I never would have known if I hadn’t met them.” Campers also participated in traditional camp activities, including a scavenger hunt, Ultimate Frisbee games, and a canoe trip.

The first annual Creek Camp appears to have been educational and enjoyable. “Every camper, in my opinion at least, got what they wanted out of the week,” said Matt Knittel, one of the Creek Camp counselors. Wendy Kedzierski, the Creek Connections project coordinator, is excited that many campers have already asked to come back next year. Summing up her experience, Scalercio adds, “I had fun at Creek Camp. I also enjoyed spending the week at Allegheny College.” Many students say they will write about their week at Creek Camp in school to spread what they have learned to more people.

Due to success of Creek Camp, Kedzierski plans to continue Creek Camp in future summers. She also wants to spread watershed education to younger students. The Bayer Foundation, which funded Creek Camp, works with science education in Pittsburgh area elementary schools. Ideally, Creek Camp will generate enough knowledge in high school students to train mentors for elementary school programs.

If Creek Camp continues, it will not only increase knowledge, but it will also give students a sense of attachment to the areas where they work. “I think the best thing is the kids get to take ownership of their stream,” says Kedzierski. “They start to care about it because it’s their stream.” What could be better reasons for students to jump in and get their feet wet...literally? §
been collected from the student body, primarily from gas and food purchases.

Residence life has even jumped at the opportunity to support the project. Jon Hamilton, a resident advisor on campus, hosted the “Be a hero, eat a hero” hall program. At this meeting, students consumed thirty feet, or $135 worth, of subs from “The Whole Darn Thing” while learning about how they could participate in and contribute to the project. Approximately 40 students attended the event sponsored by Residence Life, wherein only one student deterred from signing up for the challenge.

“This year I’ve learned more about resources in Meadville than I’ve known about all four years [at Allegheny],” Hamilton, a senior student said. “I never really experienced Meadville until this year.”

The students are not the only ones recognizing an increase in awareness of Meadville’s resources. Local businesses have already noted an increase in recorded profits for the month of September as well as enthusiasm for this new endeavor. Alice Sjolander of the Meadville Market House is thrilled about the campaign to shop in town. Speaking highly of the Meadville challenge, Sjolander reported an “influx of students since the project has started.” According to Sjolander, not only have the number of Allegheny students shopping at the Market House increased, but visits have become more consistent, almost routine.

With so much enthusiasm about the project arising from students and citizens of Meadville, the project has the potential to continue yearly until it becomes a habit to shop in town rather than making the one-stop Walmart trip. “People need to learn that they can choose where their money goes and who they support” stated Zeune. Until then, the “I Heart Meadville Project” is encouraging students to continue exploring the city of Meadville as well as its cultural and ethnic events.

Students should also begin to search for the “I Love Gators” signs that are going to be placed in store windows for businesses that will be offering discounts to students in response to the project.

Allegheny Receives Grant as Part of Princeton’s National Community-Based Research Networking Project

The Bonner Foundation and Princeton University will provide $7500 a year for three years to Allegheny to further community-based research; Allegheny has agreed to match those funds.

As part of the grant, written by Ann Areson and Dave Roncolato, Allegheny College students under the guidance of Allegheny faculty will conduct community-based research projects proposed by community partners. Community partners are groups such as social service agencies, schools, nonprofits and local government. Faculty members whose expertise and research interest suggest community connections will be asked to consider serving as CBR project supervisors. A brief description of each faculty member who agrees to participate will be developed and posted on a Web site created and maintained for this program.

Community agencies and organizations will propose research projects that will be reviewed by a committee to determine which are most feasible and promising. Under the guidance of a faculty member, students will conduct the community-based research over a one- or two-semester period as a senior project, an Independent Study or as part of a class taught by the faculty member.

This semester Roncolato is talking with faculty who may be interested in connecting their research agenda with a wider community.
As well as promoting what Pallant labels as the “locally owned, non-chain stores,” students publicized the value of organic foods, a healthy lifestyle, and sustainability to visitors of the website. “A sustainable economy,” the Insider’s Guide describes, “encourages new kinds of development without depleting natural or human resources, and deemphasizes the value placed on consumption.” The Insider’s Guide suggests that individuals should actively engage in the community and invest their money in businesses that will improve the local economy. Because many of these businesses are within walking distance of Allegheny College and residential areas, consumers can also save money on gas.

Students Chrissy Ungaro ’07 and Kurt Hoffmann ’07 continue to expand the Insider’s Guide to Meadville since its conception in their Junior Seminar class. Aside from adding historic attractions, cultural events, and Amish categories to the site, they expanded the section describing sustainability to address Allegheny students and Meadville residents.

The Insider’s Guide to Meadville caught the attention of Allegheny College’s Office of Admissions, which led to Ungaro and Hoffmann’s creation of a brochure for prospective students and their families. This brochure lists local alternatives for accommodations, restaurants, and attractions to promote the small town charm of Meadville’s independent businesses. “Our hope was to create a recruiting tool that highlighted one of the least mentioned assets Allegheny has to offer: our town,” Hoffmann said.

Although working on the Insider’s Guide to Meadville has initiated more related opportunities, Ungaro and Hoffmann both stress how the project affected them personally. “I wish I had stumbled upon these places two or three years ago, and I hope this website allows others to do that and spread the word,” Ungaro said.

Both Ungaro and Hoffmann hope that the Insider’s Guide to Meadville will revolutionize how students and Meadville residents regard local businesses and their own consumer practices. “It’s very hard to explain the gratification of being a conscious consumer until you actually do it,” Ungaro added. “Meadville is a great place to start because . . . there’s so much here that you’ll never find out about until you just start looking.”

What does Meadville have in common with New York City and Los Angeles?

In addition to recipients in these big cities, Chrissy Ungaro ’07 and Kurt Hoffmann ’07 received a grant from the Center for a New American Dream selected to create a city business guide. Ungaro and Hoffmann’s business guide will give popular Meadville businesses a rating based on their environmental responsibility.

“We will use a formula to give each business a score, create an actual guide, and distribute them to businesses,” describes Ungaro. This publication can also function as a buying guide for consumers and provide businesses with advice for improving their rating.
Global warming and global climate change are quickly becoming two of the hottest topics in international politics. But while politicians sign protocols and nations struggle to band together to fight the problem, an initiative at Allegheny College is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions one person at a time. Things are starting to heat up—in more ways than one.

Research supports the idea that human emissions of greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide are warming the planet. While the effects of these changes are not known, the human component is clear. The administration, along with faculty and many student groups here on campus have been strong advocates for the reduction of these human emissions and have made significant contributions to the cause.

“The campus has made a number of extraordinary individual efforts,” said Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Caryl Waggett. This past summer, the idea to unify all the groups interested in climate change was proposed, said Waggett. Not long after, the Allegheny College Climate Change Initiative (ACCCI) was born.

The initiative began with the September showing of An Inconvenient Truth—jointly organized by the ACCCI and GAP to introduce the campus community to the issue of global climate change. The film is an eye-opener to the scale and complexity of the problem, but the sheer magnitude makes many people feel that the issue is too daunting.

“A lot of people who see An Inconvenient Truth feel helpless,” said Rachel O’Brien, Assistant Professor of Geology. In order to address this feeling of helplessness, the ACCCI has devised the Carbon Challenge. The intention of the Challenge is to show people how small, individual changes in behavior can help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere. To do this, students, faculty, and community members pledge to make a change in their personal habits in order to reduce carbon emissions.

At the end of the Carbon Challenge, an individual’s efforts are translated into a numerical value that shows approximately how much carbon dioxide they have prevented from going into the atmosphere.

So far it seems to be working. The ACCCI has already received over 50 pledges from students and the community and expects to double that in the near future, said Waggett.

You can help reduce carbon emissions by...

- Turning off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Changing to compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Turning off appliances & computers when not in use.
- Purchasing Energy Star appliances.
- Changing living temperature by: 2 °F cooler in the winter and 2 °F warmer in the summer.
- Walking or bicycling.
  - Taking mass transit & carpooling.
  - Buying local foods, organic foods and foods with a minimum of packaging.

Commonwealth Community Energy Project
The French Creek Project
The Henry Luce Foundation

Sponsors and Supporters

Commonwealth Community Energy Project
The French Creek Project
The Henry Luce Foundation
In November, Dan Becker, the Chief of the Global Warming Project for the Sierra Club came to campus to discuss the politics of global climate change. Donald Brown, the current director of the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy, will talk about the moral issues involved in global climate change when he comes to campus this January.

The ACCCI will finish off the year with fundraisers in the spring to support sustainable energy projects in Pennsylvania. The Carbon Challenge will culminate at the April 22nd Earth Day celebration where participants’ total contributions will be calculated and prizes will be awarded to those who have made the largest effort to reduce their emissions.

They aren’t stopping at the edge of campus, though. The initiative is spreading throughout Meadville in an attempt to get community members involved. People in the community are encouraged to take part in the Carbon Challenge as well as to attend any of the speakers and fundraisers. The hope is that through the ACCCI events, the Meadville community will begin to be more aware of the issue of global climate change, said Waggett.

The variety of events—from lectures to fundraisers to celebrations—exemplifies the ACCCI’s truly multifaceted approach that brings together a diverse gathering of students, faculty, and community members. The result? A global climate change taskforce that approaches the issue from all angles—scientific, moral, and political.

Though the approach is multidimensional, the heart of the initiative remains simple and powerful: educate people on climate change and start citizens down the road towards more efficient energy use and conservation. The hope is that the ACCCI can help dispel the myth that the problem of global climate change is too big for one person’s actions to have an effect. “Collectively, even small changes in personal behavior can have a large impact,” asserts O’Brien. “If [the ACCCI] makes you think just a little bit more, that’s a really big change.”

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Sponsors and Supporters

Allegeny College:
- Center for Political Participation
- Student Activities Office
- Students for Environmental Action
- Environmental Science Club
- Religious Life Office
- Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED)
Allegheny Alumni Pursue Their Passions for Service

By: Michele Harris
Eng 208 Technical/Professional Writing

While graduate school and corporate careers are traditional routes to take after college, many alumni are finding service work to be an exciting way to build experience and make a difference. Service positions give graduates a chance to apply their Allegheny educations by improving health care, battling illiteracy, and working to end poverty.

“It’s important for citizens to take care of each other and build a sense of community,” said Eileen Gallagher, a newly minted Allegheny graduate. “There’s a need, and I’m motivated to make a difference.”

Many alumni are extending a commitment to civic responsibility to their whole lives. The Class of 2006 populates the ranks of the Peace Corps, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Women Against Abuse Legal Center, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, as well as other local and international service organizations. Gallagher is one of several alumni who found themselves attracted to the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Graduates from all fields of study are eligible to volunteer one year working to end poverty in their communities. In addition to recruiting other service leaders, Gallagher runs food drives and participates in the America Reads program, which promotes literacy in the community. She also helps coordinate Service Saturdays, where once a month, student volunteers rake leaves, paint houses, and tackle other projects in the Meadville community.

Gallagher admits she was inspired by her undergraduate service experience. “I think that there’s a great service movement on this campus,” she said. With opportunities such as the Values, Ethics, and Social Action (VESA) minor, service-learning classes, and the Bonner Leader program, it’s no wonder why Allegheny alumni are getting involved in service.

Allegheny’s service opportunities have also inspired former students to volunteer locally. In addition to Gallagher, ‘06 graduates Jeff Bradley, Corey Peterson, See VISTA, page 1

Frances Moore Lappé Visits Allegheny

By Lydia Gearhart
Eng 208: Technical/Professional Writing

From small towns to villages, from Ohio to India to Meadville, people are benefiting from Frances Moore Lappé’s new brain child, “living democracy”. In her latest book, *Democracy's Edge: Finding Our Place in the Walk of Hope*, Lappé identifies the difference between democracy done for us and democracy done by us.

She contends the crisis of powerlessness—not having the power to make a difference in our world—is the symptom of “thin democracy.” Political power in the hands of the few disempowers the majority; it erodes community.

Lappé, an author, activist and recipient of an honorary doctorate from Allegheny, recently visited campus. She gave a lecture based on her newest publication.

*Democracy's Edge* is the final book in a trilogy that showcases Lappé’s life work. It follows *Hope's Edge*, published in 2003 and written as mother-daughter collaboration with Lappé’s daughter, Anna. Both build upon the 1971 best seller *Diet for a Small Planet*.

Together the mother-daughter team fronts The Small Planet Institute. Lappé has co-founded the Institute for Food and Development Policy as well as the
Imagine that you and your four best friends decide to rent a house together for the next academic year. You find a five-bedroom, furnished house near campus that is owned by a friendly landlord. You sign a lease, put down your deposit, and look forward to the fun that you will have when fall semester begins. During the summer, however, the landlord sends you a letter informing you that two of your friends will need to find someplace else to live. The city council has passed a new ordinance—the kind of law produced by local governments—declaring that not more than three unrelated people may live in a house together. The council copied the ordinance from identical laws used in other college towns, such as West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University, and Springfield, Missouri, home of Missouri State University. These laws are intended to prevent overcrowding in rental housing and to limit the number of college students in residential neighborhoods.... You might also ask yourself an important question: Is there anything that you can do about this new ordinance? A distinguishing feature of democracy, the form of government in the United States, is that people have opportunities to influence the decisions of government.“ - excerpt from Living Democracy

Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Political Participation Daniel Shea has just finished writing and editing two new books penned to generate political interest in young Americans and help scholars understand the importance of youth involvement in politics. The first book, Living Democracy, was coauthored with Joanne Green of Texas Christian University and Christopher Smith of Michigan State. Living Democracy was written for a young introductory to American government audience. Shea’s book is a remedy for the stale government books of yesteryear, with topics such as off-campus housing ordinances and youth lobbying at the forefront. The book is chalked full of engaging photos, mini-quizzes, website links for future readings, and suggestions for how to create change in the readers’ own lives. Young people must be involved in the political process, according to Living Democracy.

The second book, Fountain of Youth: Strategies and Tactics for Mobilizing America’s Young Voters, was co-edited by Shea and John C. Green of the University of Akron. This book is a compilation of scholarly essays that showcase pilot programs that have succeeded in energizing young voters.

Shea Sports Two New Books

Dave Roncolato, Norma Yocco ’08, and Jude Shingle ’08 took a roadtrip to Bentley College to present at a conference about student leadership in service-learning on November 2nd. Roncolato and Alumna Rebecca Milbert ’06 presented about a chapter in a book that they co-authored with Andy Bennett ’04, Michelle Ferry ’04, and Karen Hoerst ’04.

Their chapter, “Allegheny’s Service-Learning Challenge: Capitalizing on Student and Faculty Strength,” was published in Students as Colleagues: Expanding the Circle of Service-Leadership (Editors Edward Zlotkowski, Nicholas Longo, and James Williams). The book was published by Campus Compact, a national organization devoted to civic engagement. Yocco and Shingle also presented to a packed audience about the Allegheny Service Network and the Service-Learning Challenge.
Getting to know the Neighborhood: Women’s Services

By: Sinet Nam
Eng 208 Technical/Professional Writing

It did not take long for me to realize the violent monster I was. I lived in fear constantly. I hate thinking about the lonely, pathetic person I became because I could not do anything about it. So I will tell my story to help other people avoid going through what I did.

I grew up witnessing domestic abuse. My father beat my mom. When she was not there, he would turn on my little brother. I used to sit in my room and cry to myself so I could not hear the fighting and her screams. He never hit me. I do not know why, but I remember when my little brother got hit. I felt so helpless, because I could not help him. My father used to kick him hard or grab him by the hair. Witnessing and hearing the pain my brother and mom were experiencing hurt just as much as though I was being beaten. Even now I get scared when I see my dad. I feel like I might unintentionally provoke him and make him angry. To this day, I get scared if any man looks like he is going to get angry.

Until age twelve I had convinced myself it was normal. I never mentioned it to my friends or teachers. I told myself every family was like this, because I was in denial. Nowadays, things are better; my mom divorced my dad. My little brother still has emotional problems. He is a father now and thank God he is not like my father. He is a wonderful father and husband. But he still does not like to talk about the abuse. He does not understand why he got hit but my sister and I did not. Four years ago, all three of us sat down and had a serious conversation regarding the abuse. We got my dad on the phone to question him about why he did what he did. While I was questioning my dad, my twenty-four year old brother crawled up next to me and cried like a baby. That was when I knew I needed to seek help for myself in order to help him.

I am now thirty-one years old and I am still educating myself about domestic abuse. Through years of counseling, I am better now, and I have been confronting these feelings for a long time. I now realize the horror I faced when I was young. It has affected me in so many ways. I am still emotional when I hear stories of abuse. With the help of my friends and community I am better, but it has been a long road. It helped me understand what my mom went through. It has shown me to always be strong. I will never let a man hit me, and if he does, I will not give him a second chance. I will leave. I know many women like my mom find it hard to leave, but if it happens to me, I hope I can be strong enough to stop it.

Domestic violence can happen anywhere in your community. Let us get together and help put a stop to it. I want everyone to understand that I know how painful it is to live with abuse and how difficult it can be to talk about the situation. But know that there is help out there and you are not alone. I hope my story helps you realize that you do not have to live with abuse. There are services out there to help you in any shape or form. If you need it, they are there to support you. Become an advocate.

Ways You Can Help End Domestic Violence

• **Become a volunteer:** We have many opportunities where you can help; you can donate your time, you can volunteer in the office with paperwork, you can help baby-sit for our clients, or you can be a direct service where you are assisting clients. Before you can assist clients, you have to complete a sixty-hour training class. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Wisgirda at wsinwisgirda@alltel.net.

• **Give a monetary donation:** Donations help maintain the WSI so it can offer safer shelter and the ability to continue programs and expand our services. Any amount is appreciated, and you can make checks payable to “Women Services Inc.”

• **Become a leader in your community:** Speak with friends, neighbors, anyone to let them know that there is help; they do not have to do this by themselves. Domestic violence affects us all, and we can come together to end domestic violence and create a safe home and school and community for us all.
Stephanie Miller ’10 and Elysha Cloyd ’09 joined thirty other Allegheny students and a dozen community volunteers to weatherize the homes of 60 social service clients through Project Warm Winter, organized by CHAPS and the Commonwealth Community Energy Project (CCEP).

The work the students and community members performed will make the homes more comfortable and lower the utility bills this coming winter. For example, the four compact fluorescent lights installed in each home will save each household about $60 in electric costs every year. In addition, the students had the chance to learn about some of the challenges faced by those living in poverty in Northwest PA.

The men’s and women’s Track & Field teams, several Energy Project interns, Environmental Science Club volunteers, Delta Tau Delta members, Northwest PA Weatherization, Inc., and volunteers from the Taylor Stand Church all participated. Weatherization materials were purchased with funds supplied by the Crawford Heritage Foundation.

CPP Receives Grant for Voter Registration

The Center for Political Participation (CPP) received a $150,000 grant that they used this fall in a campaign to register young voters in Ohio and Pennsylvania. This campaign was part of a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register 350,000 new voters in 2006. To reach this goal, a massive peer-to-peer outreach effort was conducted. The CPP trained student leaders from Pennsylvania and Ohio community colleges to register voters on their campuses and in their communities. These student leader volunteers were out on the front line, recruiting their peers in the lunch room or before and after classes. In 2004, voter turnout among 18- to 24-year-olds increased 11 percent - a result of the efforts of similar peer-to-peer outreach groups.

Students Volunteer during Make a Difference Day

Nine hundred volunteers came early to Diamond Park on Saturday, October 7, to help out with Crawford County’s annual Make a Difference Day. Approximately 600 Allegheny students joined community members to do local service projects around the county. The day resulted in over 100 skilled and semi-skilled projects from gardening to house cleaning, and included the construction of 7 wheelchair ramps, a shed, and the repair of roofs and porches.
Lappé  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

Center for Living Democracy.

Lappé describes her latest work as “about hope—not sappy, wishful thinking but hope grounded in a grasp of the root causes of spreading misery. It casts aside the gloomy view that Americans are hopelessly divided, left vs. right and secular vs. religious and uncovers widespread shared sentiment and common democratic innovation across these supposed barriers.”

The solution she contends, not only to the fragile social and economic state of our country, but also to the same problem on a global scale, is living democracy.

This is the term used to describe the often invisible revolution that is rising in communities worldwide, a new stage of democracy. Real people are realizing democracy is not something we have. It is something we do. Something we should not only hold our leaders accountable for, but something we must also be accountable for. Lack of accountability is a symptom of thin democracy, democracy with no social capital—or sense of community—behind it.

Examples of people counteracting thin with living democracy are everywhere. Lappé’s book tells of Nelsonville, a small booming coal town in southern Ohio with a population of less than 5,000. The series of networks and connections that fostered community there died with the coal industry, leaving the charismatic town square desolate.

In 2003, Miki Brooks opened a coffee shop in the square. As one of only three businesses downtown, FullBrook’s became the hub of the community; students and business people alike now gather there to talk and to dream.

“Everywhere is a field of potential... we have to dream together to begin to see and believe,” said June Holley, a Nelsonville local. The shop has rallied the townspeople together, helping them to realize their own potential as well as their community’s.

On a Global scale, the Grameen Bank, founded by Mohammed Yunus, is an even more compelling example of living democracy. Grameen uses a system of micro-credit—small business loans given to those who would normally be denied by typical institutions—to lift its 5.7 million borrowers from destitution. In five years over half the members, mostly poor women, have managed to pull themselves out of poverty.

Grameen was founded for the people and is run by the people. FullBrook’s coffee shop was opened for the community of Nelsonville. Self-sufficiency, participation and accountability of citizens are the common denominators of living democracy; living democracy is participatory social action at its best.

The “I Love Meadville” campaign, started by an Allegheny student, is an example of living democracy close to home (see related article on page 3). By encouraging students and faculty of the college to buy locally, one community is actively embracing another. The program is mutually beneficial; the local economy is stimulated and students learn they can have the power to influence politics. Reaching out to the town of Meadville teaches a valuable lesson about networking within a community.

Regardless of location—Ohio, India or Meadville—small collaborations are producing big outcomes. This is the crux of living democracy. §

For more information on Frances Moore Lappé and Democracy’s Edge, visit www.democracysedge.org.
Vista
(Continued from page 12)

Jen Knapp, and Tristan Green join the ranks of the motivated VISTA leaders in Crawford and Erie counties.

Alumna Amanda Kopnitsky, an AmeriCorps volunteer in Pittsburgh, is also passionate about VISTA. “The service sector has changed the way I see my community. Everyone I have met and worked with is so welcoming, helpful, and appreciative that I now consider [Pittsburgh] my community, too, although I do not live here,” said Kopnitsky. “Working with such extraordinary people really makes me want to work with a non-profit group, full-time.”

As Director of Community Service and Service-Learning, Dave Roncolato has noticed the growing number of graduates serving the community. Observing that “students at Allegheny engage in complex issues in society,” he is not surprised so many are passionate about service leadership. But he stresses that it is not just one isolated experience or class that motivates students.

Roncolato explains that the entire Allegheny experience aims to foster an ethic of service in its students. “At its best, Allegheny’s education is formation. Finding who you are is as important as what you want to do.”

Service positions are also a great way to keep some of the best and brightest in the community. “I had students,” said Roncolato, “who told me they’d been really involved in service and hoped to stay engaged in the Meadville community. Motivated, intelligent students often leave small towns to find jobs elsewhere, and programs like AmeriCorps VISTA are excellent ways to turn this ‘brain drain’ into ‘brain gain.’”

Service leadership positions not only benefit the community but also enrich students’ personal growth and education. “What I love best is connecting with people in the community,” explains Gallagher. “It’s a great way to give you perspective and dig deeper in your passions.”

Shea Reflects Upon Cheney’s Visit in Chronicle of Higher Education Article

Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Political Participation Daniel Shea had an article titled “When Candidates Visit” published in the August 4 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education.

In the article, Shea discusses the implications of the college’s decision to allow Dick Cheney to use campus facilities for a campaign rally in 2004. The visit marked the first time that a sitting president or vice president visited Allegheny. But hindsight growth and education. “What I love best is connecting with people in the community,” explains Gallagher. “It’s a great way to give you perspective and dig deeper in your passions.”

You can read the article in its entirety at: http://chronicle.com/v52/i48/48b02001.

Did you know? . . .

The U.S. News and World Report on higher education recently recognized Allegheny College’s Service-Learning effort as one of the outstanding academic programs in the nation.

“In service-learning programs,” according to U.S. News and World Report, “volunteering in the community is an instructional strategy – and a requirement of a student’s coursework. Service-learning relates to what happens in class and vice versa.”

This recent recognition places Allegheny College among the ranks of such schools as Brown University, Duke University, Stanford University, and the University of Notre Dame. Allegheny is one of only two schools recognized in Pennsylvania for excellence in service-learning programs.

events acceptable on a college campus? Are closed ticketed events consistent with the mission of higher education and with the spirit of democracy? And does the desire to foster greater political participation compel colleges to play host to controlled campaign situations? Answers to questions and more are discussed in Shea’s article. §
Feminist Leader Visits Allegheny

Female Majority President and Founder Eleanor Smeal, a major activist in the feminist movement for the last thirty years, came to Allegheny College on October 5th to talk about reproductive rights.

Smeal originally came from northwestern Pennsylvania and her brother graduated from Allegheny. Students Advocating for Reproductive Options (SARO) asked her to come to campus and she graciously did so for free. To find out more about Smeal and the Feminist Majority Foundation visit http://www.feminist.org/welcome/esbio.html.

The stakes are rising, and our efforts must be redoubled,” said Cook. “Global warming, resource and soil depletion, loss of habitat and species, water shortages, and contamination of air and water are among the many threats to a sustainable world. Colleges and universities must lead the way—in research, in education and communication, in political-social action, and by example in how we conduct our business and our daily lives. There is a growing sustainability movement in the higher education world that provides hope for awareness and change. We should strive to keep Allegheny College is a position of leadership within this growing movement.”

Lead

possible long-term decreased earning potential in affected children. Efforts to identify the incidence of lead poisoning and develop risk reduction strategies are vital to protect the health of children in rural low-income communities.

Waggett is partnered with Meadville Pediatrics, which will enroll children for lead testing (and the EPA grant will cover the costs of testing for uninsured patients), the Center for Family Services, which will hire a Community Lead Liaison to help with community training practices, Community Health Services, the Meadville Redevelopment Authority, and Allegheny College Center for Economic and Environmental Development.

Task Force

(continued from page 1)

creative individuals to inform and advise the senior administration on matters pertaining to environment both locally and globally,” said Cook. “This will include situating environmental matters within our mission and curriculum, studying technical and policy matters both regionally and beyond, and determining best practices for managing our campus in an environmentally responsible manner. To succeed, we need to recognize that our efforts must be based on sound technical and social principles, be economically feasible, be geared toward making a significant and measurable difference, and be an influence in the lives of a majority of our faculty, staff, and students.”

The task force roster includes Director of the Center for Environmental and Economic Development and Professor of Art Amara Geffen, Professor of Environmental Science Eric Pallant, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Scott Wissinger, Associate Vice President of Finance and Planning Larry Lee, Co-Director of the Commonwealth Community Project Kathy Greely, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Jennifer DeHart, Director of Allegheny College Dining Services Ron Simko, Associate Professor of Environmental Science Rich Bowden, Dean of Students Joe DiChristina, Kurt Hoffmann ‘08, Ashley Werner and Ashlee Hoffman ‘07, and

Allegeny Indulges at Local Foods Dinner

On September 21, 2006 over 730 Allegheny students attended the 4th Annual Taste the Bounty of Crawford County Local Foods dinner in Brooks Dining Hall. The menu included many dishes made from local foods. The dinner is organized annually by the Local Foods Network (Jennifer DeHart and Erin Kirk and summer interns) with much appreciated assistance from Allegheny College dining services. If you are interested in participating in the on-campus local foods movement, please contact Jennifer DeHart (jdehart@allegheny.edu) or Erin Kirk (ekirk@allegheny.edu).

Foods included:
• Bison Chili from Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm in Edinboro
• Sausage sandwiches from Smith’s Provisions of Erie
• buns from Creative Crust of Meadville
• Roasted squash from Nu-Way Farm of Fredonia
• Salad bar veggies from Paragon-Monteverde of Pittsburgh, Al’s Melons of Linesville and Meadville Area Local Growers members-B & C Farms of Springboro, Fresh from the Vines of Meadville and Cle Croft of Centerville
• Dairy products provided by Mong Dairy
• Seneca Apples from Valesky’s of Meadville
• Ice Cream by McCullough’s Ice Cream in Sandy Lake, PA
• Potato Chips from Troyer Farms in Waterford

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Many people think of maps as those well worn documents shoved in glove compartments or their high tech cousin, a printout from Mapquest. But those aren’t the only kinds of maps. Maps can be powerful tools to help researchers and policy makers understand all sorts of things. For instance, if you map data about environmental exposures (such as air pollutants) alongside data showing the recurrence of disease, you can start to get a better understanding of what factors might be causing those diseases. Maps can be used to pinpoint high risk communities so that the appropriate resources can be funneled there. They can even be used to identify clusters of diseases, or if some communities are being exposed to more contaminants than others.

Pennsylvania is undertaking such an ambitious project - - the PEACH Mapping project (Pennsylvania Environmental and Community Health Mapping Project) - - and Assistant Professor of Environmental Caryl Waggett is heading up the team. She has been awarded $100,000 from The Heinz Endowments on behalf of The Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy (PCIEP) Human Health and Environment Committee. The hope is that by sharing these maps, that:

- ordinary people will learn important information about the environmental risks found in the communities they live in and will be empowered to lobby for change
- government can make more informed decisions about policy
- agencies can focus their monitoring efforts to address gaps
- researchers will gain additional insight about possible links between exposures and disease

Researchers on Waggett’s team are collaborating with communities that have been identified as high-risk by the Pennsylvania Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) to let people know about specific environmental exposures and health concerns related to their communities, identify existing data resources such as air monitoring data and toxic releases that are monitored by USGS and US EPA that are already collected, and develop user-friendly tools needed for community groups to access, interpret and use these data for community empowerment. This empowerment will help low income and minority communities address issues of environmental justice.

Waggett’s team pulls together the expertise of five academic institutions and nine research centers, three state agencies and two federal agencies, in concert with four pilot communities to develop a proposal that will address these pilot efforts while building the infrastructure necessary for further steps to expand our capabilities to address environmental health concerns within the Commonwealth and as a model for other states.

Collaborating institutions include Allegheny College, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Cartographic Modeling Laboratory, The Penn State Institutes for the Environment, Penn State Hamer Community Design Center, Penn State Department of Geography, Penn State Medical Center—Hershey, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Carnegie Mellon University Center for Economic Development, Drexel University School of Medicine, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Health, Pennsylvania Environmental Justice Advisory Board, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Geological Survey, and MAYA Design.

$100,000 Grant to Map Diseases Received

Civic Engagement Course Grant Application

December 1st: Due date for courses offered spring semester 2007.
February 28th: Due date for courses offered fall 2007

This Application should be submitted to the Dean of the College. The entire application should not exceed two single-spaced pages. You should address the following items:

1. What is the name and number of the course? Will this be a new or existing course?
2. Please describe in some detail the scope of the planned innovations. That is, how do you intend to incorporate a civic engagement dimension in the offering?
3. Please discuss the impact that this new material will have on student learning.
4. Are there any ways that this material will affect the community? If so, please explain.
5. Please describe your mode of assessment. That is, how do you intend to gauge what students and/or community partners got from the course?
6. Please provide a detailed budget justification. Keep in mind that funds are generally made available for your time, travel, books, equipment and other related expenses.
Stop ‘n Shop Saturday
Saturday, November 18th

Before heading out of town to hit the chain stores on the day after Thanksgiving, start a new tradition and shop in Downtown Meadville on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

While you’re downtown, start the “Giving Season” by dropping off non-perishable food and new or slightly used coats at The Market House. All donations will go to The Center for Family Services.

The Clown City Clowns will be strolling around town to entertain the young and young at heart!

There will be live music at The Market House and some very tasty treats!

For more information go to: www.creativecrust.com