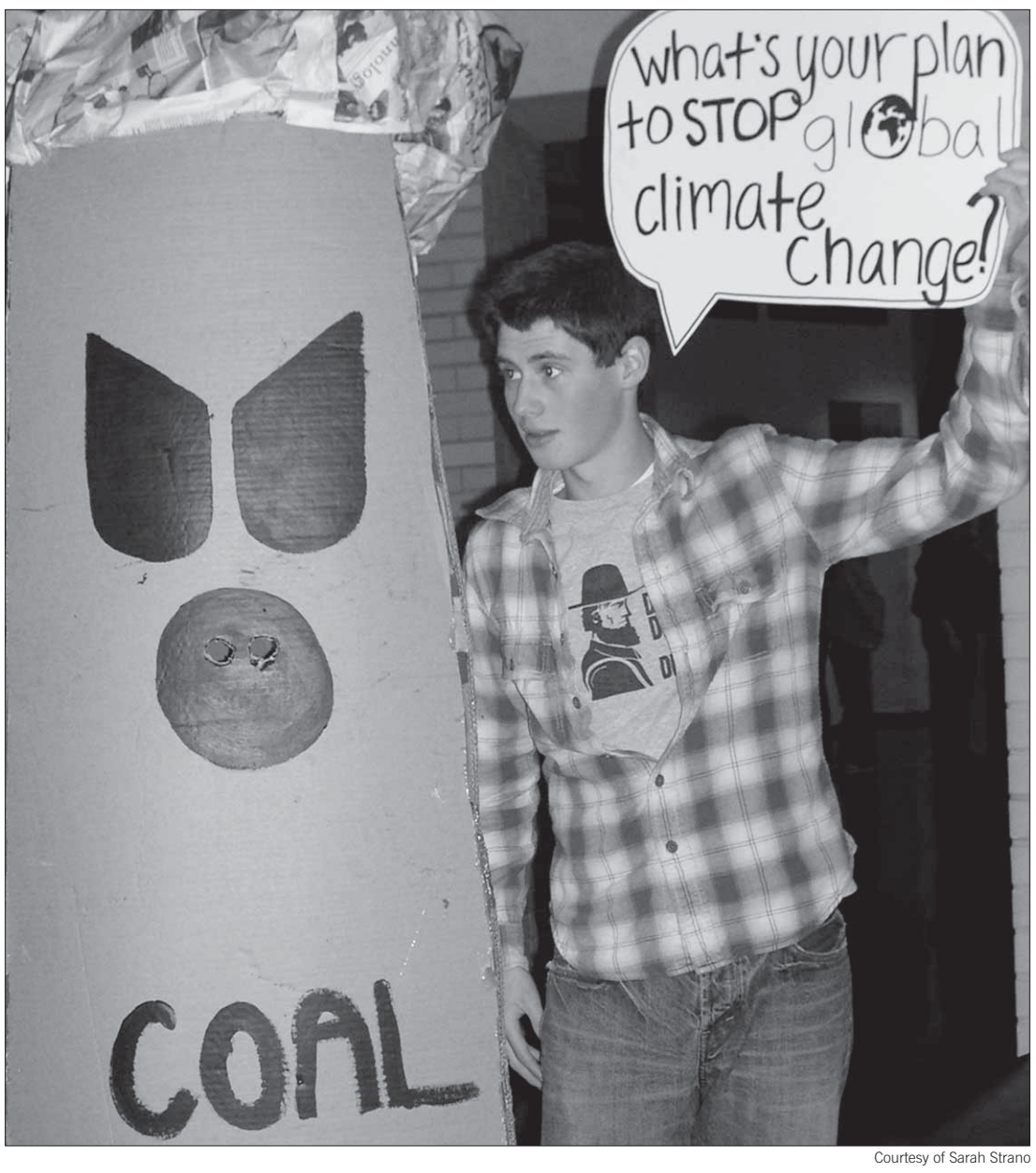
Colleges nationwide move from green student clubs to primary majors



Courtesy of Sarah Strano

GREEN, *from A1*

our immediate attention," Madsen said. "Programs at colleges and universities that will assist students to become adept as environmental problem solvers will likely be in demand for some time to come."

Cliff Davidson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, commented on the high level of need for undergraduates who are educated in environmentalism.

"We aren't doing a very good job now [of dealing with increasing demand] — the U.S. continues to have one of the highest levels of energy and materials consumption per capita," Davidson said. "Furthermore, China, India, and several other countries have rapidly increasing energy and materials consumption per capita. Continual increasing of [carbon dioxide] levels and resulting climate change is another factor adding to the importance of such majors."

Carnegie Mellon has not been without its changes in academic affairs toward student environmentalism.

The engineering and public policy department, for example, was created in 1976 and has greatly expanded since then to focus on the problems of the environment, technology, and public policy as they particularly pertain to students studying math or science. The department offers an additional major for students in the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

However, students of all majors have the chance to expand their environmental knowledge.

Carnegie Mellon's Green Design Institute is a multidisciplinary research initiative, particularly for graduate students, aimed at forming partnerships with outside organizations to develop design and manufacturing policies that can improve environmental quality.

The university is also home to a number of environmental organizations that, although not academic majors, provide students with a broad knowledge base in environmentalism.

Sustainable Earth, for example, has partnered with the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, a pledge aimed at addressing global warming by encouraging institutional change.

Additionally, the Eco-rep program allows students in each residential area to represent their college and spread environmental awareness through such actions as recycling.

These organizations are just a few of the many open to students on campus who are looking to learn more about the environment in which they live.

Madsen suggested that the organizations are a reflection of increasing concern for the environment, as well as a means of addressing environmental change.

"The demand for graduates who have expertise in environmental issues has grown exponentially in the last few years," Madsen said. "It seems as if every major organization has jumped upon the 'green' bandwagon."

Carnegie Mellon has its own ways of paying for its environmental programs and initiatives.

"There are many who would argue, myself included, that the university has a duty to do research and educate students about the various aspects of the environmental crisis," Madsen said. "Thus, we are fortunate to have the Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research [SEER] which has been instrumental in stimulating much work on the environment here at CMU along with many other significant environmental programs spread throughout the campus."

SEER provides a considerable amount of funding to the university.

However, while Davidson praised Carnegie Mellon's green awareness, he mentioned that even more could be done.

"We are leaders in both research and education, but we need to do more," Davidson said. "As the importance of the environmental field continues to grow, the size of the CMU community devoted to environmental issues needs to grow as well."

Courtesy of Sarah Strano

Sustainable Earth, one of the campus environmental organizations, compiled a photo petition asking presidential candidates what their plan is for climate change. It was part of a larger petition put together by Student PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups).

From top to bottom: Adam Walker, sophomore physics and philosophy major; Alicia Marrie, sophomore chemical engineering major.

Politics go global at Carnegie Mellon

GLOBAL, *from A1*

interests in global studies."

SDS professor John H. Miller defended the major's lack of a foreign language requirement, explaining that most students in the global politics program will be inclined to study a language on their own, even without a set requirement.

There are other ways of endorsing the completion of modern language courses, he added.

"We strongly encourage students to combine the new major with the study of modern languages, and do this through our advising system, study abroad opportunities, and elective structures for the new major," Miller said.

"While the issue of dictating this requirement outright to the students was discussed at our College Council, it was felt that students are well placed to make appropriate choices in this area given the structure of the major."

Kenya Dworkin, a Spanish professor in the modern languages department, agreed with Miller.

"I think the SDS global politics program has left plenty of room for those students who already have the linguistic and cultural skills to want to continue these studies, and also for those who may not be so advanced but want to keep improving their foreign language and culture knowledge," Dworkin said.

As Dworkin pointed out, H&SS has always had strong collaboration among its departments, and which will enable faculty outside SDS to have an impact on global politics students.

"These programs of study are not mutually exclusive," she said.

More information on the new global politics major can be found at *www.cmu.edu/ir*.

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David Yaron *moderator*
Jay Apt
David Dzombak
Hung Kim

Panel Discussion:
Open Access in Chemistry
4:30-6 pm

Monday, April 28
Connan Room
University Center
Carnegie Mellon

PROGRAM Four Carnegie Mellon professors will cover the latest open access news and lead discussion about the future of open access in chemistry. Join the audience at the University Center to participate in Q & A.

BIOS **Jay Apt** directs the Electricity Industry Center at Tepper School and is a research professor in Engineering and Public Policy. **David Dzombak** teaches in Civil and Environmental Engineering and researches water quality engineering and environmental remediation. Since 2005, he has been Associate Editor of Environmental Science & Technology published by published by ACS. **Hyung Kim** is professor and head of the Chemistry department. His research centers on theoretical understanding of condensed-phase chemical processes, or the chemistry and physics of free energetics, dynamics and related spectroscopy. **David Yaron** teaches chemistry and leads the Yaron Research Group. Research focuses on the theoretical description of the photophysics of conjugated polymers and other organic semiconductors, to better understand the electronic structure theory of large systems.

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