

The Almanian

September 13, 1994

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Issue 1

RAs, President Stone find themselves with roommates

By Kristin Allen
Co-Editor in Chief

A shortage of available housing forced several Alma College first-year male students into a temporary living arrangement with their Resident Assistants at the onset of fall term.

Currently, 10 first-year students are assigned to live with their RAs until adequate housing space is found.

"What happened was that we had more men accept to come to school than was anticipated," explained Dean of Students James Kridler.

"You never know how many students will end up choosing Alma as their school, and you never know if these students will be male or female."

With a slightly higher number of first-year men this year, the administration examined several options when, in mid-August, 17 males still needed housing placement. They

considered temporarily tripling rooms, an option Alma hasn't pursued in the past.

In addition, Alma investigated the alternative of allowing a few more male students to live off-campus. Though Alma is primarily a residential college where students must petition to live off-campus, these exceptional circumstances forced Kridler to send a letter to male upperclassmen living in residence halls to determine if any would be interested in living off-campus.

Receiving little response to the action, and not wanting to place three students in rooms designed for two, Alma ultimately chose to place the RAs in double rooms.

"They [RAs] are a part of the administration, chosen and selected to help students deal with their problems. If anyone could adapt to this situation for a short period of time, an RA could," said Kridler.

As compensation for having a

roommate, the RAs are given an \$80 credit for each week they have a roommate.

Although Kridler attempted to contact all of the RAs by phone before they moved in, some were unaware they would be assigned a roommate until they arrived on campus for training.

"They've understood from the beginning it wouldn't be the easiest thing to deal with," said Mitchell Hall Director Bill Arnold of the Mitchell RAs with roommates. "I think everyone's aware it isn't the most comfortable situation to be in."

Both Kridler and Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs John Seveland dispelled the belief that this temporary overcrowding resulted from an over-enrollment of first-year students this term. According to Seveland, the admissions target for new students this year was 370; actual fall-term enrollment ended up at 372. This num-

ber is, in fact, slightly lower than last year's fall-term enrollment of 385.

"This type of situation has occurred two or three times in recent years, as we still have had people to house in mid-August," said Kridler. "Two years ago we solicited female upperclassmen to live off-campus, as we had the opposite problem of slightly more females than housing allowed."

"We knew that within a couple weeks there are often places left vacant around residence halls. Some students fail to return to Alma in the fall, others leave after being here a short term. We have students who are going to live on campus that then decide to live at home. Still others become ill. But we just never know who these people are until they don't show up."

Kridler hopes moving five upperclassmen into a college-owned house by the end of this week will provide vacancies to move some of

the first-year students.

"Once we find rooms for these students, the RAs can feel much more comfortable doing their jobs. Likewise, residents will feel as though they can come to RAs without worrying whether someone will be in the room with them while they talk," said Arnold.

"We know the [residence hall] vacancies are there, we just have to wait to find them," said President Alan Stone, who temporarily opened his own home to two first-year students.

"These two particular students wanted to room together, and in an effort to accommodate them I invited them to live in the third floor of my house."

Stone admitted his two house guests were very quiet and polite, using the fire escape as their own private stairway.

"We've played pool together," added Stone, "and I never had to ask them to turn down the stereo!"

Opening Convocation marks "Wedding of Waters" at Alma

President Stone, Provost Brown address students and faculty

By Laura M. Paetz
News Editor

The 1994-95 academic year commenced last Thursday as President Alan Stone welcomed faculty and students at the Alma College Opening Convocation.

During his address, Stone compared the Alma College community to the Amazon River, where many different rivers of distinct characteristics merge together into what Brazilians call "the wedding of the waters." As these tributaries come together, they keep their unique features, creating pools of different colors, weights and speeds. Gradually, the tributaries take on a collective character and work together toward a common goal.

"We bring distinctive characters, talents and energies to this place and together we move powerfully toward the open sea beyond," explained Stone.

This year, the class of 1998 is not the only "tributary" helping to make Alma stronger: new faculty and staff members have been hired to contribute to Alma's strong current. Tenure-track appointments have been awarded to Tom Morris, assistant professor of dance; Gwyneth Beagley, assistant pro-

fessor of psychology; David Clark, assistant professor of biology; Randi Davenport, assistant professor of English; Anna Gemrich, assistant professor of Spanish; Joanne Gilbert, assistant professor of communication; and Denise Johnson, assistant professor of economics.

Additionally, two temporary faculty have been hired: Joseph Macedonia will be working in the biology department, while Donald Rodd will serve in the exercise and health science department.

"With 150-200 applications for each of seven searches [for tenure-track faculty positions], there were probably more people applying to teach here this fall than there were applying to study here," Stone said. "The search processes were well done...[and] for the first time in the faculty's recollection, we secured our first choice candidate in every search."

After Stone introduced new members of Alma's faculty and staff, Carol Slater, professor of psychology and Chair of the Faculty, presented the Alden W. Hanson Memorial Award. This award of \$1,000 is given to a student who expresses intellectual creativeness in the development of new ideas. Senior Jennifer Tymrak received this year's award for her research titled

"Purification and Characterization of Bovine Herpes Virus DNA Polymerase."

"I was really surprised that I got the award," said Tymrak, who has spent years compiling the information that appeared in her research.

Student congress President Dana Grant delivered her welcome address, urging students to get involved not only in campus organizations, but also in the classroom. Leslie Ellen Brown, who gave her first address to the student body as provost, gave similar advice to students about academic challenge. Brown spoke of what it means to be an academic community and how these communities must have a "deep seated commitment to communicate."

As all these "tributaries" merge together in our academic community, students and faculty can be assured that this year will hold new and interesting experiences as the "wedding of the waters" continues here at Alma.

Sophomore bagpiper Mary Dahlberg leads recessional march at Opening Convocation on Thursday, September 8. Bagpiper involvement in ceremonies such as Opening Convocation has become a well-known tradition of Alma College. Photo by Brent Oeschger



Sept. 13, 1994

Alma welcomes new provost

By Brooke Hansen
Co-Editor-In-Chief

"There are no teachers here. There are only learners. At Alma, ideally, we are all students, we are all learners, we are all scholars."

In her premiere Opening Convocation speech entitled "There Are No Teachers Here," recently-appointed Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Alma College, Leslie Ellen Brown addressed the necessity for students to "take charge of their own education" and look not to the faculty to simply teach and answer questions but to consider them mentors.

Brown speaks from personal experience. As professor of music at Louisiana State University, she was encouraged by her mentors to pursue academic administration in order to make a different type of contribution to the academic field.

"In many ways, an awful lot of good things were done for me. That's one reason I chose to talk about mentors. I've had a lot of great help. I felt a sense that it was my turn to make a pay back."

Last spring, after a long process by the 13-member staff and student provost selection committee, Brown was chosen from among 104 candidates. Her appointment

became effective July 1 and includes the supervision and direction of all educational programs and personnel. Twenty-two department chairs, the Dean of Academic Services, registrar and directors of the library, computer center and international center fall under her direction.

"Obviously, we chose her because we felt she was the best of the applicants. The entire faculty is happy to have her on board," said provost selection committee chair Eugene Deci.

Senior Dana Grant, who served as one of two students on the selection committee, said "Provost Brown generates a huge amount of enthusiasm. In the short period she has been here, she has already had a positive affect on the campus."

President Alan Stone added, "Everyone is impressed with her eye for detail and her excellent sense of quality academics. It's wonderful to finally have a permanent person in that office."

Brown was drawn to Alma initially for its "reputation as a good-quality, private liberal arts institution; something that I was seeking. As the conversations with some members of the selection committee progressed, it became apparent that the school was much better

than even the materials and the facts said."

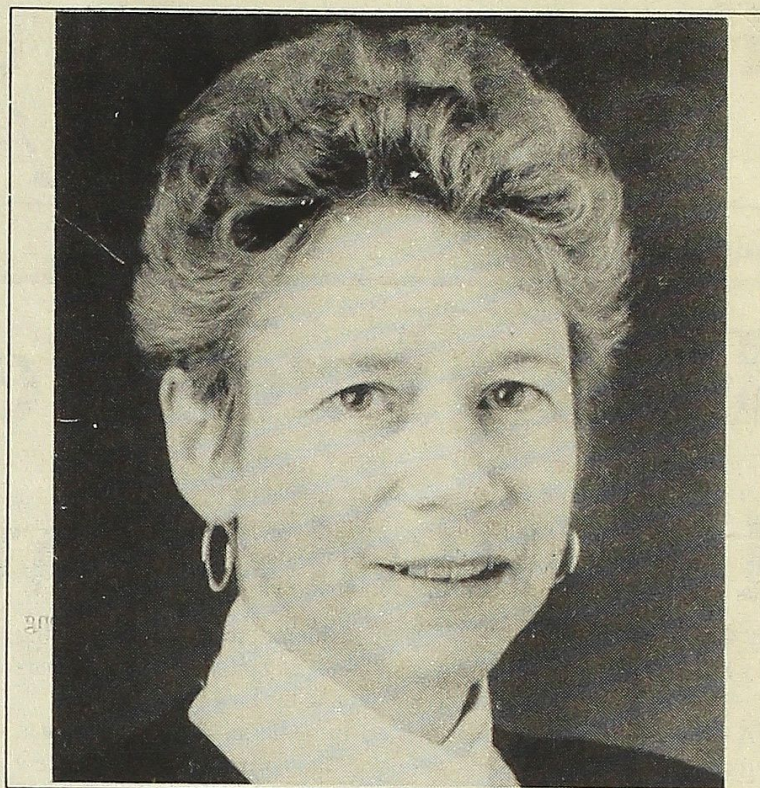
"The students I have met have an interest in trying things out and taking risks."

One of the features Brown said she likes best about Alma is the "very cared-for and loved appearance of the campus. I'm particularly fond of the mall. I like the way the plantings have been done and the color scheme of the tiles. I also enjoy the geese sculpture. It would be nice to have more outdoor sculpture on campus."

Brown has previously worked at Penn State's College of Arts and Architecture, Penn State Beaver Campus, West Chester University, Louisiana State University, Cotley College in Missouri, Converse College in South Carolina, Colorado State University and The Pennsylvania State University Commonwealth Educational System.

As a child growing up on a family farm in a suburb of Youngstown, Ohio, Brown always had an interest in music and history. However, she noted, "there were no musicians in my family whatsoever. I've always been fascinated with history. I guess it started early with family vacations to historical sites."

After junior and senior years as a flutist at Michigan's Interlochen



Provost Leslie Ellen Brown, professor of musicology, joins the ranks of Alma College scholars. Brown, whose appointment became effective on July 1, was chosen from among 104 candidates. File photo.

Arts Academy, Brown graduated in 1967, along with 98 other students of the academy's fifth graduating class. She continued to pursue a career in the performing arts, ultimately earning a Ph.D. in musicology (the study of the history of music) from the University of North Carolina. She has taken a particular interest in Mozart, the music of

eighteenth century France and Scotland and has performed publicly on the flute and transverse flute.

Brown currently resides between Alma and Mt. Pleasant in a country farm house. After some final packing, Brown's retired husband Robert Greene will join her at their residence in three weeks, along with their cat and dog.

Senior sequence challenges class of 1995 to face future

By Jessica L. VanSlooten
Feature Editor

Silence descends on the crowd of students assembled in Dow L1. Smiling faces have suddenly grown serious. As senior sequence commences, the reality of seniorhood hits members of the class of 1995.

Senior Sequence, an annual program presented Labor day weekend, is designed to provide seniors with valuable resources for successful life after graduation. First introduced in the late 1970s, it remains a thriving and popular program today.

The Center for Student Development organizes a myriad of seminars which address such diverse post-graduation plans as entering graduate school, pre-professional programs, and finding jobs in the fields of education and business.

Bringing humor and laughter to workshops on resume writing, interviewing and networking was Virginia Riser, associate director of placement services.

Although these seminars seem geared toward seniors entering the job force after graduation, they are also useful to graduate school bound seniors. These workshops "provide skills for students to carry away from here, which they will use again and again throughout their lives," said Mindy Sargent, associate director of counseling and student development.

Especially pertinent for the graduate-school-bound seniors were workshops on the application process and writing a strong personal statement.

Chad Reagh, a senior who is looking into either attending gradu-

ate school or coaching, believes that senior sequence is a beneficial program, however he said "I have already began to research graduate schools on my own."

Similar sentiments were heard from other seniors, including Elizabeth Mitchell.

"Much of the information we received was valuable, but could have been presented before. I will be interviewing in a few weeks for accounting positions in which the hiring is done in the fall," said Mitchell.

While many seniors seem to know the general paths they want their lives to take, Robert Perkins, dean of student development, sees many

students who are undecided about their specific plans. Perkins witnesses the emotions which flit across seniors' faces upon contemplating the future.

"Every year it is basically the same; I see seniors who are shocked, stressed out, dazed, and panicked," said Perkins.

The staff at The Center hopes Senior Sequence can help lessen the anxiety which strikes most seniors. "It is a way of verbally helping out the students and instilling a level of confidence," said Sargent.

Yet nothing can quite prepare seniors for the reality of senior year. Bethany Noonan, a senior who is unsure of her post graduation plans,

said "I think senior sequence makes you realize everything you should be doing with applications, networking, and such. It feels like I need a whole year to do all this. I don't want to be a senior; it is overwhelming, confusing."

Erin Emery, a senior who is planning on pursuing neuro-psych rehab at the graduate level, also felt the reality of seniorhood set in. "This is my last term here (I will be at the Philadelphia Center next term), and it hit me at opening convocation that the next time I am at a convocation I will be in my cap and gown," said Emery.

After learning about the many things one has to do to enter the

"real world," it is no surprise that many seniors leave Senior Sequence puzzled and stressed. Yet, it is crucial to keep in mind the valuable resources which can be found in friends, alumni, faculty and staff.

Perkins feels strongly about assisting students in this difficult time. "I consider it a personal mission to help students realize the potential they are unaware of."

Perkins, Sargent and Riser are all available to aid students as they prepare for life outside the "Alma Bubble." They can be found in The Center for Student Development, which is located in the basement of Hamilton Commons.

Evergreen Plan serves as focus for annual faculty conference

By Amy Majestic
Staff Reporter

Alma College is expanding. New buildings, high enrollment and new faculty in recent years attest to perpetual growth.

On Thursday, August 25, 115 faculty and administrators traveled to Hidden Valley Resort and Club in Gaylord to brainstorm ideas on keeping the Evergreen Plan moving forward. Started two years ago, it is a strategic plan focusing on the goals of Alma College. The plan includes specific goals for each individual and department as well as larger goals such as enrollment and funding.

Although the summer conference occurs annually, it is rarely held off-campus and does not always focus primarily on the Evergreen Plan. President Alan Stone main-

tained that the plan was purposely avoided last year in order to challenge its strength. "Once we knew it was working, we knew it was time to revise [it] to keep it fresh." The retreat to Hidden Valley gave the new faculty and administrators a chance to integrate themselves into the community.

Psychology department chair and member of the planning committee Carol Slater said, "Faculty really did like having a chance to meet new people, and new people really could plunge in and become part of the changes [on campus] right away."

As all pre-school conferences, the retreat began with Stone's State of the College speech. Between activities and breaks, the faculty and administrators met in groups of 8-10 people to discuss the Evergreen Plan revisions.

Dean of Academic Services, Bill Potter, another retreat planning committee member, stressed the focus of the retreat was to gather the faculty and administrators together in an informal environment to voice concerns about rapid changes sweeping the campus.

"We found we had a lot more in common across disciplines," commented Slater.

There were no grants for the retreat, so the money came out of the school budget. "In general, we were very grateful for the funding money to get us all together," said Slater.

"It is a healthy thing to do periodically," said Potter, "but when it happens again really depends on staff and community changes."

The result of the retreat is a box of questions for the Evergreen Revision Committee, which is presently being formulated by the Provost's

Office. The questions address topics such as the college's future aspirations, sustaining the intellectual climate on campus, and the best way to use scarce resources.

According to Potter, "Sometimes you can have the people, the technology and the buildings, but there are still concerns that need to be faced. This was a good opportunity to voice those concerns."

The planning committee's job is to sort through the questions and come up with a revision proposal for the Evergreen Plan. It will be sent to the Board of Trustees and considered for funding.

Overall, the meeting was described as a success by those who attended. The real success of the meeting, though, will be determined next May when the Board decides which revisions are viable for funding.

Fall sports gear up for a successful season

Men's and Women's Golf teams tee off for 1994 season

By Alexandra Orr
Staff Reporter

The Alma College women's and men's golf teams have high expectations for this year's season.

Under the guidance of Coach Charles Goffnet, the women hope to surpass last year's third place title. The Scots have already completed two matches and secured first place with a 40-stroke lead.

"So far we are really looking good," said junior co-captain Maggie Taylor. "With two first-year students adding depth to our team, we are confident we will do well this season."

Fellow junior and co-captain Cathy Curly agreed: "Although the upperclassmen are not yet playing to their potential, we are confident we will improve as the season continues."

The women's team is also looking forward to participating in two invitational tournaments at Ferris State University and Michigan State University later in the season.

The Scots will host their next match Wednesday, Sept. 14.

New head coach Brad Spatfelt is preparing the men's team for its first match on Sept. 15 at Albion College.

"We have added a couple of first year students to our already solid team," said Spatfelt. "We are now concentrating on improving our games so that we can be in contention to shoot for first place in the league."

Junior co-captain Brad Tate said, "Most of the players have been with the program for several years and with the addition of several excellent first year students, we have a very mature team. Having the insight and knowledge from our coach, a PGA professional, as an asset coupled with our excellent attitudes, I think we will be strong contenders for first place in the league."

Enthusiastic squad faces big year

By Tera Biebuyck
Staff Reporter

The 1994 football season began with renewed hope and spirit as the Scots travelled to Chicago and defeated Olivet Nazarene. With disappointing seasons in the past few years, the Scots are ready to show Alma fans an exciting year on the field. Seniors are expected to shine this season and pull the team together.

"We anticipate a better year than we have had in the past," said head coach Jim Cole, beginning his fourth year as the Scots' head of the team. "We have a strong group of seniors who have worked very hard

and it should pay off."

"We are a much improved, more enthusiastic squad and are looking forward to the season," added senior captain Mark Gorczyca. "Everybody wants to win."

The Scots face a challenging football schedule. Alma will battle MIAA rival Olivet on Homecoming, while playing tough league foes Hope and Kalamazoo on their turf. Alma is hoping to bring home victory in these two key games.

Confidence is high for the 1994 football season. "We've had the best camp we have had in a long time. The chemistry we exhibit has shown that we can work together as a team," said senior Joel Reed.

Harriers prepare to showcase talent

By Tim Ketel
Sports Editor

The men's and women's cross country teams are off to a running start this season. With many veteran runners and several impressive recruits, both teams look very strong.

The men have returned six of their top seven runners from last year, including senior Adam Burhans, All-MIAA junior Ryan Donley and sophomores Jeremy O'Shea, Grant Woodman, Jon Makela and Jason Bandlerow.

Incoming first-year students include Matt Allen, Jerry Howard, Derek Boyer and Ben Witte, all of whom are expected to make a strong contribution to the team.

"We have a lot of potential," explained coach Dan Gibson. "Our goal is to be in the top two in the league and in the top three in regionals."

"We have a very young team with a lot of talent," said Burhans. "This is our biggest team in four or five years."

The women are also looking forward to an exceptional season.

Five of the top seven women runners are returning, including senior Peggy Lang, junior Tammy Watson and sophomores Tammy Adams and Lisa Wittenbach.

New assets to the team are Sara Jefferson, Sarah Kumpf, Katie Rodgers and Kendra Edwardson.

"It's a really diverse group," explained Lang. "There are some really talented people and we all get along really well."

Not only does the team have strength through variety, but it also has the ability to compete with high-

ranking teams.

After finishing third in last year's Conference Meet, the Scots must defeat Calvin and Hope, ranked second and fifth in the nation.

The women also hope to finish in the top two in the league and the top three at regionals.

Both teams await the MIAA Jam-boree, which will be held in Holland on September 24.

Soccer teams show promise

By Emily Damstra
Staff Reporter

According to head coach Scott Frey, the 1994 men's soccer team is a young but talented group whose success depends on "how well we come together."

Frey is facing his second year as Alma College's head coach optimistically, but said that with three freshmen and a transfer student at starting positions, the team must mature and improve quickly.

Senior captains Tim Helder, Dave Miller and Joe Oesterling lead the team, with support from sophomore Jim Allen. Though the team lost its first game against Central Michigan, 3-1, Oesterling said it was "a learning process for a lot of people," and maintained that the team will be competitive in the MIAA.

Goalkeeper Helder said although the team was "scrambling for numbers" early in the season, he remains "very excited" about the rest of the year.

The 1994 women's soccer team has the potential for a triumphant season as well.

"We have a good chance of winning the MIAA," said junior Julie Braun.

Captains Dana Grant, Kristin Snell and Braun led the team, along with junior Juli Schieli. First-year student Jill Braun and first-year coach Tammy Anderson are also assets.

Snell, a junior, appeared enthusiastic about the upcoming season.

"We're really excited. This is one of the best teams and best coaches we've ever had."

Anderson, a recent graduate of MSU, sometimes practices right along with the team, bringing the team even closer together.

The team lost its first game, but came back to win the following two home games. The Scots battle Olivet at home Saturday, Sept. 17 at 1:30p.m.

Volleyball team set for the challenge

By Tera Biebuyck
Staff Reporter

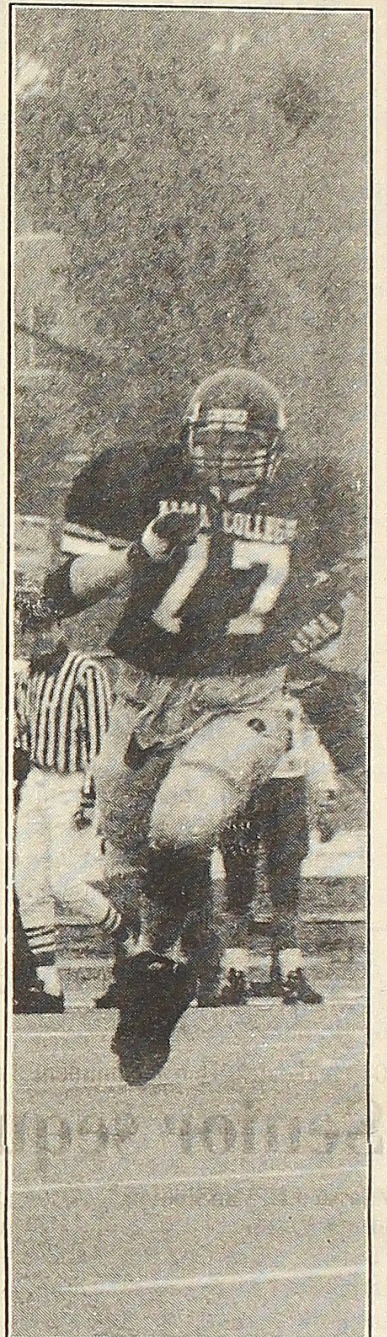
While one might think that with only one senior and several first-year students, the Scots' volleyball team is rebuilding, head coach John Chiodini feels this is far from a weak team. Alma's Sept. 7 victory over Olivet proved him right.

"Although we have a very young team this season, we have two first team all-conference players—setter Tina Klaczekiewicz and middle hitter Stephanie Degg," Chiodini said. "There is no reason why we shouldn't contend for a championship; we always have."

Although every game will pose a challenge for the women, the strongest teams in the conference are Calvin and Kalamazoo. Those will be the games that determine whether the women will contend for a championship.

Klaczekiewicz, a senior captain of the team, said, "I was a little nervous being the only senior this year, but so far everyone has impressed me. I feel very confident about the season, especially after Wednesday's strong victory at Olivet."

An Alma College defensive football player leads the rush against the Hope quarterback in 1993 home game against the Flying Dutchmen. The Scots hope to improve this season. File photo

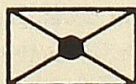


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Staff Editorial

Wild Water: Students brave raging rapids as fall term begins

As Alma College President Alan J. Stone cleverly alluded to in his "wedding of the waters" Opening Convocation address, it does, in fact, appear as though the Alma College community can finally look forward to some smooth sailing on tranquil seas. However, this peacefulness arises only following a two week trip through tumultuous rapids and rocky currents.

As the 1994-95 academic school year began, a small number of male first-year students, excited and somewhat apprehensive about beginning their higher education at Alma College, arrived on campus only to discover they had been temporarily placed in rooms with their Resident Assistants. In a wave of confusion, administrators worked diligently to alleviate the problem, as the students wondered how long they would have to live out

of a suitcase.

If the purpose of collegiate academe is, as the Alma College Mission Statement defines it, "to maintain and promote excellence in preparation, performance and attainment of vocational skills," can we consider these living conditions the most conducive way for a student to start their academic career? Probably not. Residing with your RA or the president of your college is certainly not the least intimidating or productive way to kick off what is termed by many as the beginning of a new life. What kind of message does this send to the students? Sorry, we weren't expecting you, but we can offer you a temporary stay in the Egyptian Room, complete with your own fire escape.

Although the situation evokes a type of comic relief, it is a serious problem which affects not only the RAs, Stone, a number of first-year

males and the excellent reputation of the college; it affects the entire campus. Fortunately, most of the housing problems have been solved. However, professors still find themselves with class waiting lists, students continue to stand in line at Hamilton Commons, parking spaces continue to disappear, computer availability becomes more limited and a select few remain housed in makeshift rooms.

In another raging journey, seniors returning for their final year found themselves whisked away by the whirlwind pace of Senior Sequence. Engulfed in this world of resums, job searches, networking and graduate school applications, they felt as if their stress would not subside until they sketched out their entire future. If seniors experience this much anxiety, is it the college that is failing to prepare them or have they only failed themselves?

As a result of school policy on conditions of returning to the college, many students spent most of Labor Day lugging couches and 50-pound suitcases up several flights of stairs, instead of readying themselves for another, or first, rigorous year. For those students "lucky" enough to be a member of a sports team, marching band, or college-employed, a few crucial extra days allowed enough time to mentally prepare for the challenge of Alma. But, just when it seemed as though they had braved the toughest of rapids, they spent the first day of classes waiting in registration lines to prevent getting a \$100 late-registration fee.

To some, the current problems of Alma may seem to exceed the benefits. However, administration assures that the wild water adventure we have embarked upon is one which is all but over.

Alma "Bubble" provides protection against media circus

By William J. Johnston
Freelance Writer

I've always found summers away from school particularly refreshing, in that they offer me a chance to escape the so-called Alma "Bubble" and re-discover the world around me. I have time to sit down and browse through my *Newsweek* and *New Yorker*, time to read the paper in the morning (as opposed to waking up 10 minutes before class and dashing to SAC, hot coffee scalding me all the way).

What I found especially exciting about this past summer was the inordinate number of "Big News Items" offered by the media for our consumption. If we weren't hearing about health care reform, we were hearing about Michael Jordan's batting average Double-A baseball. And if we weren't hearing about those things, we were hearing New York Senator Alphonse D'Amato sing "Old

McDonald Had A Farm" while discussing the recently-passed crime bill.

Of course, in a summer of big-name stories, none was bigger than O.J. No, not the big Florida citrus scam, but the murder of Nicole Simpson-Brown, ex-wife of football Hall-of-Famer Orenthal James Simpson.

From the moment Simpson-Brown's body was discovered outside her home, through her funeral and the low-speed car-chase on the Los Angeles freeways, to Simpson's arrest and pre-trial, Americans have been bombarded with Simpson-mania. Updates on the hour of how hairs would be split for DNA testing between the prosecution and defense teams. Legal experts on ESPN Sportscenter expounding about how wearing a tie affected Simpson's chances (and taking away from the Michael Jordan batting average updates).

Meanwhile, loyal television viewers everywhere watched in dismay as their regularly-scheduled programming was shoved aside in favor of Simpson hysteria. Soaps were cancelled, prime-time TV pre-empted for a two-hour-long scene of a white Ford Bronco traveling down a freeway at 40 m.p.h. (looking like a tamed-down version of the movie *Speed*). Even the Internet bristled with arguments about guilt and innocence and Simpson-Brown as the "forgotten victim." Even the storied *New Yorker* published an article speculating that Simpson was framed by a racist Los Angeles cop.

It was not uncommon to hear people exclaim, "Enough with this O.J. thing!" In face-to-face conversations, it seemed everyone expressed disinterest. Yet, when ABC dared break away from Simpson pre-trial coverage for its regular programming, ratings plummeted. Columnists spoke out against O.J.

hysteria, while others spoke out and told us that we were, in fact, asking for it.

Thus, for once I'm glad to be enveloped back in the Alma "Bubble." Away from the barrage that is contemporary media. Away from evening news programs where the number of hairs a prosecutor can test becomes a bigger story than a cold-blooded murder, a bigger story than a proposed invasion of a country we have no business interfering with a bigger story than historic peace-making efforts between long-time enemies.

I'm glad to be back in the bubble, with people I count as friends—people I can talk with or debate with, laugh with and cry with. Back in a place where I don't need to pick up the newspaper every day (but can if I want to). Some people might say I'm hiding, but I prefer to think that I've got a better grip on reality here than in the "real world."

The Almanian

Newberry Hall
Alma College;
Alma, Michigan
48801
(517) 463-7161

Editors-in-Chief:

Brooke Hansen
Kristin Allen

News Editor:

Laura Paetz

Feature Editor:

Jessica VanSlooten

Sports Editor:

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The Almanian Letter Policy

All Letters to the Editor must meet the following standards for publication: signed, include the author's phone number and address and pertain to the Alma College community. Letters are published on a first come, first serve basis, up to three per week. We reserve the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. Address letters to: The Editorial Board, *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801.

Classifieds

ATTENTION ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJORS: A senior comprehensive exam is required for graduation from Alma College. To meet this requirement, Elementary Education majors should select ONE of the following options: 1) Elementary Education Test (required for certification in your teaching major), OR 2) National Teacher Examination (Specialty Area Exam in Elementary Education) OR 3) Graduate Record Examination (Advanced Test in Education). Elementary Education Test information about dates and registration is available in AC 237. NTE and GRE information about test dates and registration is available in the Center for Student Development (lower level of Hamilton).

ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL: Registration materials for the Michigan Teacher Competency Testing Program are available in the Education Department. Registration for the Basic Skills and/or Subject Area tests must be postmarked PRIOR TO September 9, 1994 for the October 15, 1994 test date; December 2, 1994 for the January 14, 1995 test date. Additional dates are available in 1995. MICHIGAN TEST OBJECTIVES FOR THE BASIC SKILLS TESTS AND FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA TEST ARE AVAILABLE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND ON RESERVE AT THE LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK. Please see Mrs. Farrier in AC 237 for registration materials or for information about what tests must be passed prior to being recommended for certification to teach. Deadlines and policies will be strictly enforced by the State Department of Education.

I CAN'T IMAGINE who would want a 1981 red Western Flyer three speed men's 26" bike with wire side baskets in back, once licensed in Alma, bearing part of a WMLM decal. But that bike was stolen from the rack outside Swanson Academic Center Monday night, September 5, between 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. Since I contribute the worth of several similar bicycles annually in flowers for the campus, and in Research Writing Awards and other awards, perhaps you could help me recover the bike if you see it or hear about it. Call

Ext. 7132 or 466-2994, Eugene Pattison. Alma Police and College Security have a report of the loss.

I WANT TO THANK the Greek system and Order of Omega for honoring me with membership in the Order last March; I display the certificate and wear the badge with pride. I also appreciate, as always, the good wishes and recognition of nearly every member of TKE, who attended the Greek Awards Ceremony anticipating my surprise. The distinction between their recognition was not quite clear in the Almanian last April, and I appreciate the chance to give thanks where it is due. Eugene Pattison