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The Almanian

September 9, 1997

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 1

Opening Convocation signals new year

By Missy Crossnoe
News Editor

The long-held tradition of opening convocation marked the beginning of a fresh new year for Alma College administrators, professors, students and the surrounding community this past Thursday.

The purposes of opening convocation are to reunite those returning to Alma for the 1997-98 school year, to introduce new first-year students, faculty and administrators and to give special honors to deserving candidates.

"Opening convocation is the best day of the academic year," said President Alan J. Stone.

Stone said he appreciates convocation because it gives him the opportunity to welcome everyone to Alma, to talk about the new first-year students and of the many achievements Alma students can accomplish in the year ahead.

He mentioned in his speech the impressive statistics of the class of 2001 and declared them as "possibly the third best class in the state of Michigan."

"I've always liked opening convocation because it gives us a chance to see all the new faces

that will be on campus this year," said senior Jodie Bannan. "It's a tradition I think we should keep," she added.

Also, "eager to begin the new year," senior Dan Scripps, Student Congress president, spoke to students at convocation about academic life and involvement on campus.

Following Scripps, Provost Leslie Ellen Brown took the time to personally introduce the many new faces joining the college faculty and administration this year.

She recognized three professors who are joining the faculty in full-time tenure track positions. They are Kuldip K. Kuwahara, assistant professor of English, a prior lecturer at The University of North Carolina, Marc B. Setterlund, assistant professor of psychology, a former visiting professor at Concordia College and Akililu Zeleke, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, who comes to us from Temple University.

Also, a full-time temporary non-tenure track position has been given to Olivier Jean-Charles Nicaise, assistant professor of chemistry, and a continuing part-time non-tenure track has been

given to Bernhard Hansert, assistant professor of chemistry. In addition, eleven new faculty have come to Alma with part-time non-tenure track positions.

Brown also introduced new administrators for the 1997-98 year. Among those are Anthony Folino, football coach, Geoffrey Fortunato, assistant director of admissions, Kaye Raab, assistant director of admissions, Margo Greicar, athletic trainer, Alana Funk Hansert, EHS lab coordinator/administrative assistant, and Sarah Stinson, sports information director.

After the introductions, Brown then awarded Carol Slater, professor of psychology, with a token of appreciation for her thirty years of dedication to Alma College. She also presented the prestigious Reid-Knox Chair of American History to Edward Lorenz, professor of history/political science. The award was established in 1992 and recognizes excellence in teaching and scholarship in the field of american history.

Sophomore Dawn Smith was happy to hear that Lorenz won the award. "He always seemed so excited about the material he taught us in class," she said. "Plus, he is the one who taught me who Frank Knox was, so I think he



Senior Student Congress President Dan Scripps, addresses the faculty and students at opening convocation. Opening convocation marks the official beginning of the academic school year at Alma College. Photo by Derek Warner.

deserves to have won the Reid-Knox Chair."

In place of a key note speaker this year, a musical presentation was given by three members of the Ensemble Montage. The Ensemble Montage is a new nine piece chamber ensemble featur-

ing Alma's Wei Tsun Chang, instructor of music.

Lastly, Will Nichols, professor of music, led the traditional singing of the Alma Mater, which signaled the ending of convocation, the official beginning of a new academic year at Alma.

National News Briefs

Billions watched at home, while millions attended the funeral procession of one of the most influential persons of the 1990's, Princess Diana, on Saturday, September 6, 1997. She was killed in an automobile crash in Paris, France, along with her companion, Dodi Fayad, on August 30, 1997.

Mother Teresa, the most respected Roman Catholic nun, revered for her tireless dedication to the world's less fortunate, died Friday, September 5, 1997. She was 87.

The summer Olympic Games of 2004 will take place in Athens, Greece, bringing the Games back to their birthplace, after an absence of more than a century.

Campus News Briefs

The Center will be holding an informational meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, for seniors interested in participating in either the Columbus or Chicago In-City Interview program.

The Center will also be hosting "Study Skill's Workshops" on Wednesday, September 10, and Thursday, September 11, at 4 p.m. in the Center.

First meeting for the Alma Pre-Med Club will be held in the Chapel basement on Wednesday, September 10, at 7 p.m., new and old members welcome.

Sorority open houses for fall rush will take place on Saturday, September 13, from 6-8 p.m.

Student art show

Annual art show displays student talent

By Galina Martin
Freelance Writer

The annual Juried Student Show is in full swing at the Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery. This year's show features an array of student and administrator's art work. Various media explored throughout the show include photography, graphic design, sculpture, printmaking and ceramics.

What makes this show unique for the Alma College community is how the works are selected and who the artists are. At the end of each academic year the faculty of the art department, along with two student representatives, choose the art to form the show for the following fall. The pieces are selected from every level of art study taught at Alma; from the most basic of courses to art of the

candidates for a Bachelor of Fine Art. Student work is selected based both on technical, as well as aesthetic value.

David "Tuc" Jakubowski, a senior art major said, "The best thing about this show is that it is truly for all students. You don't have to be an art major to have your talent showcased. It is good to see non-art major work on display."

Traditionally, the exhibit does not adhere to a theme. Sandi Lopez-Isnardi, assistant professor of art and design, has tried to group the art into similar categories. On display this year are pieces involving women in art, landscapes and various industrial interpretations.

The art department is having a difficult time with space this year.

"This is a very, very, strong

show," said Lopez-Isnardi. This strength is obvious from the sheer number of pieces selected. The show spills into the hallways of the Clack Art Center and into the entrance to the gallery itself.

Brett Eavenson, a senior business major with two works on display at this year's exhibit, said "The show has some really nice pieces and I really like it."

The show opened on August 23 and will run through September 25. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The public is encouraged to stop and enjoy the exhibit and to sign the guest register before departing.

Preterm eases student adjustment to Alma

By Rhonda Smith
Staff Reporter

Many questions entertain the thoughts of newly graduated high school seniors as they ponder their future at college. Will class work be more voluminous in college? Is the night life exciting? How is campus dining?

Preterm is an opportunity for Alma College's first-year students to adapt to college life. Various events during the week before Fall Term, like an Academic Dishonesty Seminar and the Moonlight Mixer, allow students to experience the academic and social aspects of college life.

One of many upsides to Preterm is the chance to meet fellow class-

mates. Instead of simply being thrown into the mix, activities such as Newberry Beach volleyball, assisted many first-year students in creating new friendships.

"I thought it was interesting. We met a lot of people. The activities planned were o.k. and helped us to meet people," said first-year student Brad Bohn.

One anxiety possibly relieved by Preterm is the question of whether or not academic life will prove to be too much work. Classes such as Lenny's Legacy and The Holocaust taught students the discipline needed to succeed scholastically.

Some first-year students found classes to be a comfortable amount of work. Others found class to be

only a shadow of what was to come.

"Preterm did help adjust rather than going to class the first day. I liked my class—the professor

I thought that Preterm was the busiest week ever. It was stressful and fun at the same time.

•Julie Whitmore (01)

didn't underwork or overwork us," said first-year student Branden Gettel. "The Preterm class wasn't as hard as this first week [of regular class] has been,

though," commented first-year student Jill McDonald.

The down side of Preterm is the sometimes stressful schedule tossed to the unsuspecting first-year student. Orientation Committee members helped by escorting their residents to many events throughout the day. Although they were constantly on the move, students found the planned activities—such as A to Z—worth it.

"I thought that Preterm was the busiest week ever. It was stressful and fun at the same time," said first-year student Julie Whitmore.

"I loved everything the O.C.s planned, but I didn't like how the day was so fully scheduled," said

first-year student Angela Fileccia.

Some students found the schedule stifling and would have appreciated the chance to acquaint themselves with Alma alone.

"I didn't like how they gave us only from nine to noon to move in and then they rushed us off to events. I would have liked to explore the campus on my own," commented Gettel.

Myths were dispelled and hopes reaffirmed through Preterm. Days were full and bustling with activity. Friendships were made and interests heightened by the many organized activities. Throughout the week, Preterm demonstrated itself for students as the first step towards growth at Alma.

Bookstore complications frustrate campus

By Charlotte Grant
Feature Editor

By the second week of the term most Alma College students have visited The Scot Shop, and chances are many of them will have to go back again. Long lines, missing books and confusing return policies are just a few of the issues that have both students and Assistant Manager of The Scot Shop Liz Williams feeling frustrated.

"This is the busiest time of the year for us," said Williams. Several factors have made this year busier than in the past. Not only has the United Postal Service (UPS) strike delayed shipments, but The Scot Shop is also running short-handed.

"We don't have a head manager right now," Williams explained. "So I'm acting as head manager for the interim, and it's something I've never done before."

Williams estimated that only

five percent of previously ordered books have yet to arrive. However, some students are waiting for books they have ordered.

Books have a tendency to run out when professors over enroll their classes," Williams said. "So then students have to order them individually and this takes more time. We are putting out the new orders but because of the backlog that UPS is dealing with even two-day air shipments are taking at least a week."

Many of the books bought in the next few weeks will be returned by students at the end of the year. For students who need money, used book buy backs are a great way to recover one's text expenses. However the return procedure can be very frustrating for students who find that their books aren't wanted.

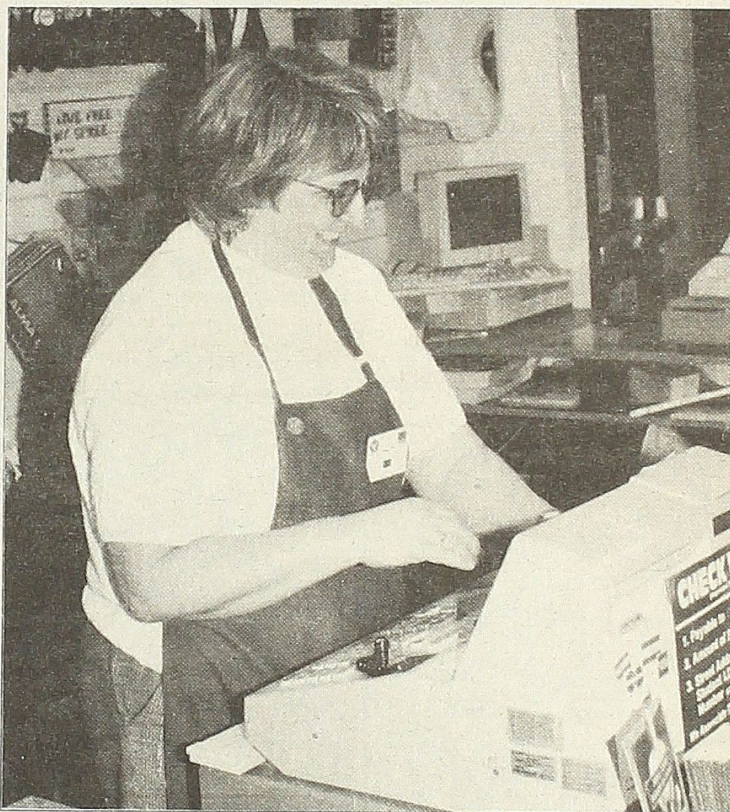
"We can't buy back used books at half price until we know that they will be needed for the next year," Williams explained. "And

if professors are late informing us of their book choices, then we can't buy back used books."

Williams said it's important to remember that The Scot Shop is not a part of Alma College. It is an independent retail organization run by the Follett corporation of Chicago. "We just rent the space for the store," Williams stated. "We operate as any other retail outfit would."

Students sometimes feel like The Scot Shop has a monopoly on text books and that they take advantage of students by charging high prices, but Senior Beth Knapp thinks that is an unfair statement. "My used biochem book was \$67.00 at the Student Book Store at Michigan State University," Knapp said, "And it was \$67.50 here."

Williams said that The Scot Shop's staff has done some checking around, "and we are always within a dollar of the prices at other stores."



Ann Walters rings up a text book sale to an Alma College student. The UPS strike, overenrolled classes and staff changes caused book shortages at the Scot shop. Photo by Derek Warner.

Distributive requirements changed for first-year students

By Amy Pardee
Staff Reporter

Distributive courses: every student plans a schedule to fit these requirements. This year, however, the first-year students are experiencing the first change in many years concerning these required courses.

Students may have noticed the new system of requirements listed in the course catalogue for 1997.

Registrar Karen Klumpp and the faculty on the Educational Policies Committee spent over a year tailoring these new distributives to allow future students to become better skilled in several areas. The committee made the new requirements flexible for scheduling while also offering more preparatory material in literacy and mathematics.

By restructuring the general education requirements, the faculty hopes to see some enhance-

ments of the curriculum in future years.

"An enormous amount of time was spent on this," Klumpp stated. The changes were "debated, critiqued and reviewed in a lot of

An enormous amount of time was spent on this.

•Karen Klumpp,
Alma College Registrar

detail by the faculty as a whole."

The main changes lie in placing history under the social sciences category. Previously, history was a separate category with a requirement of four credits. The combined areas of history and social sciences will now require sixteen credits.

Changes have also been made in mathematics, setting the proficiency level at 101 rather than 099. Students must also complete a foreign language requirement

by taking two years of one language in high school or four credits of the 112 level at Alma.

These changes are not expected to create more scheduling problems since they are relatively minor. Students are already required to take many distributive classes for the purpose of completing a certain major. The number of quill courses required will not be affected.

"Every major has a required quill course built into it," said Klumpp. She also stated that most students never have a problem completing quill courses because there are so many areas in the curriculum based on writing.

When students meeting these new requirements graduate, they should have a higher computational literacy, a higher level of cognitive ability and a better under-

standing of foreign languages. Klumpp said she is sure these changes will be successful be-

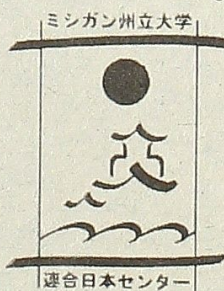
cause they have been formed by the faculty in the best interest of the students.

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Men's and women's soccer season under way

By Sean Babbitt
Sports Editor

This past weekend the Alma College men's and women's soccer teams competed in the Messiah College Classic and Wilmington Tournaments respectively. These tournaments served to kick off the seasons for the Scots.

In 1997 the women's soccer team is looking to improve on a record of 2-14-1 overall and 2-9-1 for sixth place in the MIAA. The young Scots will be led by interim coach Megan Owens, and senior captains Jill Braun, Stephanie Craig, and Stephanie Yatch. The captains will be lead-

ing a very young team that boasts more first year players than returning letterman. "No drastic changes from a year ago will be made, just some fine tuning of different areas by the new coaching staff," said junior defender Rebecca Raus.

The Scots got off to a rocky start in the Wilmington tournament held last Friday and Saturday. The team was defeated by host Wilmington 5-0, and Depaw 5-0. "This is still basically the preseason for us, a time to get used to each other and start working better together," said Raus. The next game for the Scots will be at home this afternoon at 4:00

p.m. against St. Mary's College.

On the men's side of the ball the team will be shooting for their first ever MIAA championship. To do so this team will have to improve on an 8-3-1 conference record last year to vault over perennial powerhouse Hope College. Senior team captains Jeff Bateson and Tom Jewett, both of which were all MIAA selections last year, will lead the team.

The Scots were at the Messiah College Classic on Friday and Saturday last week where they had a record of 1-0-1 in the two games. In the first match on Friday the Scots tied the host messiah College 1-1. The lone Alma

goal was scored by sophomore Matt Keller and assisted by senior Ben Hondorp. In the second game on Saturday the Scots recorded their first win of the season in a 1-0 shut out of Ursinus College of Pennsylvania. The goal was scored by sophomore Joel Stewart and assisted by sophomore Brandon Klumpp, the shut out was recorded by John Cullen.

The balance attack will come from the two returning captains Jewett and Bateson, along with Matt Keller. Also needed for a run at the title will be first year starting mid fielders Kevin Gunns and Paul Aceto. Another lift will come when returning starter Ja-

son Passalacqua (99) returns from a bout of mononucleosis. To have a shot at dethroning the defending MIAA champions Hope College the Scots will also have to go through rivals Kalamazoo College and Calvin College, both of whom are expected to field strong teams. "Our primary goal this year is to win the MIAA championship. By beating Hope last year it gave our team the confidence and the focus to do just that," said head coach Scott Frey.

The Scots next contest will be this Saturday September 13th at home against Mt. Union College at 1:30 p.m. on the soccer fields.

Running in to a new year

By Sean Babbitt
Sports Editor

An almost unpleasantly warm day at Huntington College was the setting for this year's first men's and women's cross country meet. The Invitational featured a three team structure consisting of Alma, Huntington College and Marion College. The winding 8 kilometer course ran through the Huntington College campus, over both pavement and grass.

The Alma men placed second in the three team field behind the host Huntington College, and in front of Marion College. The men were paced by senior Jerry Howard. The women finished the meet third. Senior Joy Engleblade placed first on the team in a strong time of 20 minutes and 32 seconds on the 5 kilometer course. "The mixed performance was expected for the first meet, and it is a barometer for the season," said junior Pete Muccio.

The men's team is looking to improve on a fourth place MIAA finish last year. Key contributions must be made by a couple of

first year runners, Brent Warner and Mark Williams. "They have the potential to be strong contributors to the varsity team," said

**We will run between
30 miles and 80 miles
a week on the varsity
team.**

• Peter Muccio (99)

Muccio. When asked about improving on the men's fourth place finish in 1996, senior Jerry Howard said "Of course we are always shooting for first, but realistically we are looking for a top three finish."

The runners between meets will be training on a steady diet of mileage. "We will run between 30 miles and 80 miles a week on the varsity team," said Muccio. The increased mileage should pay off by the end of the season at the MIAA conference meet as the

runners round into shape. When asked about the difference between college and high school competition and training, first year student Chris Porco said, "high school is a 5 kilometer race where college is an 8 kilometer race. The training and racing is much more intense [in college]."

The women will be looking also to improve on a fourth place MIAA finish in 1996. This will also have to be accomplished by some new faces to the team, such as seniors Holly Bailey, Sarah Issacson and Joy Engleblade. Also joining the team are sophomores Amy Burns and Christina McGrain and first year students Stacy Turschak and Melisa Moeggenborg.

"This year a lot of new people joined our team, and not all of them are first year students. It will be an exciting year," said junior Carrie Reid.

The next meet for both the men and women will be September 13th at the IPFW Invitational in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Volleyball rebuilds program

By Cheryl Lenard
Staff Reporter

The women's volleyball team opened their busy season last Tuesday against Saginaw Valley State University. Although they lost 0-3 to the Cardinals, the third game according to head women's volleyball coach Penny Allen-Cook, was played respectably by the young team.

Over the weekend, the team traveled to a tournament at Hanover College in Kentucky. They left with a 1-3 record with losses to St. Mary's College, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Hanover College and posted a win against Earlham College. Allen-Cook commented that junior Ellen Bradbury had a good game leading the team in both kills and

blocks, and sophomore Katherine Nordin led the team in digs.

"The first year students are starting to come through as well, which is important, since at any given time we have four of them on the court," said Allen-Cook.

As mentioned previously, the women's volleyball team is young this season. With only four returning players, including juniors Bradbury and Nicole Markiecki and sophomores Nordin and Christina Johnson, the ten first year students have been forced to step up quickly. Allen-Cook said, "The sophomores have already stepped up to become great leaders and I am looking forward to them continuing that role. Our challenge this year is overcoming our youth and because of our youth we will be slow at progressing.

By the end of the season, though, we will see great strides towards success on the court."

First-year student Ann Thaylen commented, "We have a lot of talent and even though we're really young, we'll do pretty well....It's a lot of fun." "I'm excited to play. We all get along really well, and after we get some experience, we [the ten first year students] should be better than people expect us to be," said first-year student Sarah Anderson.

This coming Friday and Saturday, the team travels to Baldwin-Wallace University in Ohio for an invitational tournament. According to Cook, there will be many strong Ohio teams there, and she is expecting the team to perform better than they did in last week's tournament.

Fall Sports Schedule

VOLLEYBALL

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 12-13	Baldwin-Wallace	4:00 pm
Sept. 16	Invitational	11:00 am
Sept. 18	Kalamazoo College	6:30 pm
Sept. 23	Albion College	6:30 pm
Sept. 27	Calvin College	6:30 pm
Sept. 30	Adrian College	11:00 am
Oct. 7	Olivet College	6:30 pm
Oct. 11	Hope College	6:30 pm
Oct. 15	Kalamazoo	11:30 am
Oct. 18	St. Mary's at Kalamazoo	1:00 pm
Oct. 23	Albion College	6:30 pm
Oct. 25	Calvin College	1:00 pm
Oct. 29	Olivet College	6:30 pm
Oct. 31	Defiance at Albion	11:00 am
Nov. 1	Manchester at Albion	1:00 pm
Nov. 4	Adrian College	6:30 pm
Nov. 11	Midwest Volleyball	
Nov. 18	Invitational	TBA
Nov. 25	Hope College	6:30 pm

Head Coach: Penny Allen-Cook

MEN'S & WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 6	Huntington Inv.	10:00 am
Sept. 13	IPFW Invitational	10:00 am
Sept. 20	Ferris State Inv.	11:00 am
Sept. 27	MIAA Jamboree	11:00 am
Oct. 4	Earlham Inv.	11:00 am
Oct. 18	Spring Arbor Inv.	11:00 am
Oct. 25	Alma Invitational	11:00 am
Nov. 1	MIAA Champ.	11:00 am
Nov. 15	NCAA Great Lakes Regionals	11:00 am
Nov. 22	NCAA Division III Nationals	TBA

Head Coach: Dan Gibson

WOMEN'S GOLF

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 11	MIM at Albion	2:00 pm
Sept. 13-14	Michigan State	
Sept. 16	Tournament	TBA
Sept. 20	MIAA at Defiance	2:00 pm
Sept. 23	MIM at Alma	1:00 pm
Sept. 29	MIM at Calvin	2:00 pm
Oct. 4	MIM at Adrian	2:00 pm
Oct. 6	MIM at Hope	10:00 am
Oct. 11	MIM at Kalamazoo	1:00 pm
Oct. 14	MIM at Olivet	10:00 am

Head Coach: Charlie Goffnett

MEN'S GOLF

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 16	MIAA at Albion	2:00 pm
Sept. 20	MIAA at Olivet	1:00 pm
Sept. 22	MIM at Adrian	2:00 pm
Sept. 29	MIAA at Defiance	2:00 pm
Oct. 2	MIM at Alma	2:00 pm
Oct. 6	MIM at Calvin	1:00 pm
Oct. 13	MIAA at Kalamazoo	1:00 pm
Oct. 14	MIAA at Hope	1:00 pm

Head Coach: Brad Spatheif

MEN'S SOCCER

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 13	Mt. Union	1:30 pm
Sept. 14	Thomas More (KY)	1:30 pm
Sept. 17	Adrian College	4:00 pm
Sept. 20	Kalamazoo College	1:30 pm
Sept. 23	Calvin College	4:00 pm
Sept. 26-27	Wilmington College	
Sept. 26-27	Tournament	5:30 pm
Oct. 1	Olivet College	4:00 pm
Oct. 4	Albion College	1:30 pm
Oct. 7	Hope College	4:00 pm
Oct. 11	Adrian College	1:30 pm
Oct. 15	Kalamazoo College	4:00 pm
Oct. 18	Calvin College	1:30 pm
Oct. 25	Olivet College	1:30 pm
Oct. 29	Albion College	3:00 pm
Nov. 1	Hope College	1:30 pm

Head Coach: Scott Frey

WOMEN'S SOCCER

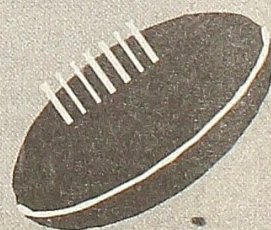
Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 9	Saint Mary's	4:00 pm
Sept. 16	Adrian College	4:00 pm
Sept. 18	Kalamazoo College	4:00 pm
Sept. 21	Northwood	1:00 pm
Sept. 24	Calvin College	4:00 pm
Sept. 27	Oberlin College	1:00 pm
Oct. 1	Olivet College	4:00 pm
Oct. 3	Albion College	4:00 pm
Oct. 7	Hope College	4:00 pm
Oct. 11	Adrian College	NOON
Oct. 15	Kalamazoo College	4:00 pm
Oct. 18	Calvin College	NOON
Oct. 23	SVSU	4:00 pm
Oct. 25	Olivet College	NOON
Oct. 29	Albion College	3:00 pm
Nov. 1	Hope College	NOON

Head Coach: Megan Owens

FOOTBALL

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 13	Valparaiso (IN)	Noon
Sept. 20	Olivet Nazarene (IL)	1:30 pm
Sept. 27	Elmhurst (IL)	1:30 pm
Oct. 4	Defiance (OH)	1:30 pm
Oct. 11	Adrian College	2:00 pm
Oct. 18	Albion College	2:00 pm
Oct. 25	Hope College	1:30 pm
Nov. 1	Kalamazoo College	1:00 pm
Nov. 8	Olivet College	1:00 pm

Head Coach: Jim Cole



September 9, 1997

Tipping: Obligations, expectations, and courtesy

By Timothy R. Caister
Opinion Editor

One of the foremost expressions of etiquette in today's society is tipping. Tipping is the complimentary sign of recognition given to those who provide services from persons receiving those services. The services in which garner these complimentary signs are encompassed within a broad spectrum. They include, but are not limited to: restaurant waitering/waitressing, bellhops, bag persons and others in the service industry.

For the purpose of this opinion, there must be a classification made between the food service industry and the recreation service industry. Waitering and waitressing, and others within the food service industry, will be classified separately from the others in the recreation service industry.

When people go out to eat at a restaurant where their services are provided by a waiter or waitress, it is customary to thank the server for the service by leaving a tip. This is directly out of the consumer's wallet, and into the servers' hands, bypassing the employer. Servers in a restaurant are usually paid below minimum wage and expect to garner the difference in the wage from tips. This has been customary, and for the most part, will continue. This will continue because employers/owners of restaurants don't allow the consumers to serve their own food, this place is called a fast-

food restaurant. The consumer pays the owner for their food, and their server for the service. This is not a problem, until the server expects a "minimum tip" wage from the consumer. When a consumer receives service below par, they are still expected to help cover the server's difference in wage, when in some cases, is not deserved. The owner/employer should be responsible for balancing the difference, not the consumer.

Those in the recreation service industry expect tips for a wide variety of services. Bag persons typically expect one dollar per bag, which is outrageous considering the amount of effort it takes. Additionally, these people provide a service which can usually be done by the customer. Although this is the choice of the consumer to make use of this service, but this is another example where the employer should cover the wage difference, not the consumer.

The food service industry is justifiably deserving of good tips, granted the service is exceptional, not just average. Those in the recreation service industry should exclusively be compensated by the employer and not a burden on the consumer. The consumer is entitled to equal service from the service providers, not arbitrary services based upon the amount of tips they receive.



Staff Editorial

Student computer access limited by class monopoly

In the most recent admissions catalog published by Alma College, the statistics state that "Alma's student-to-computer ratio is 8:1." What it does not say is that students have limited access to these computers. What perspective students are not told is that some students are deemed more "worthy" of a computer at one time than another.

Access to computers is limited because the computer labs are not open at all hours. During the day, students are further limited to computing access because of the questionable fairness of the computer usage policy. This policy states that first priority goes to scheduled classes, followed by workshops and, finally, class assignments.

Therefore, if a student needs a computer to do work on a paper or a lab, it best not be during the times when a class is going to be there, or else a professor has the college-sanctioned right to tell a student to stop his work so that another student may take his place. There should be other computers available for students to use while classes require the facilities for their use. In the Colina Wing of the library, there is a computer classroom specifically designed for class use. If this is the case, and classes in need of several computers first head to the area created for them, then the computer labs in Swanson Academic Center (SAC) would be almost constantly available for use by individual students.

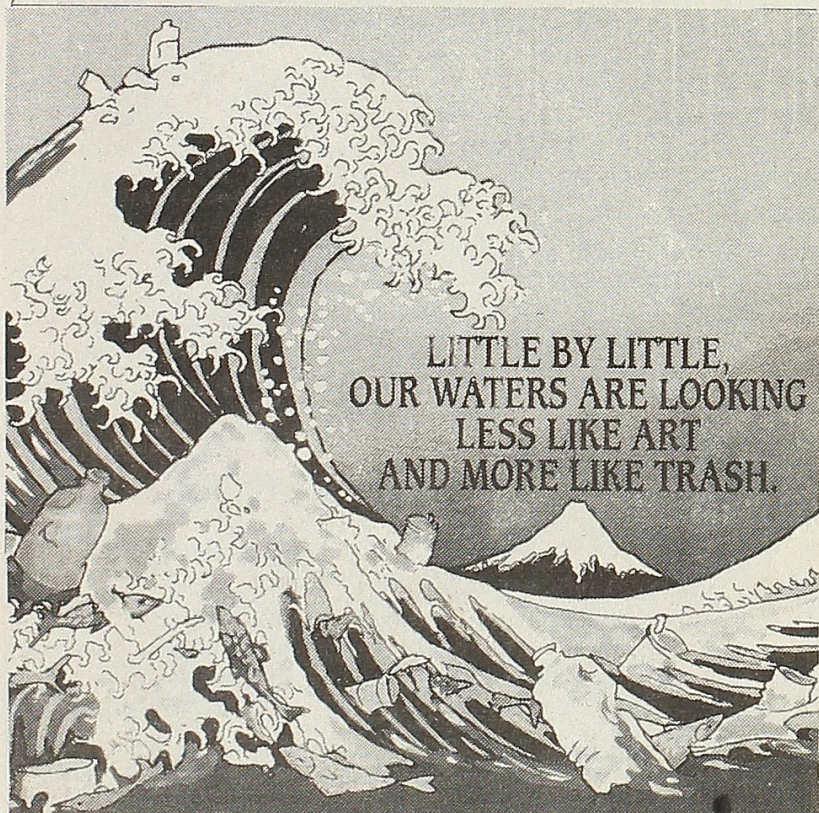
Yet this is not the case. No student is ever guaranteed access to a computer.

With this policy, it is easy to see how students could be kicked out of the first

floor computer lab in SAC for use by a chemistry class, denied access to the newly refurbished lab on third floor because of an English class learning about the Internet and then shut out of the library lab because a math class needed the technology for a project. The computer usage policy shows clear favoritism: student A cannot use this computer because student B, enrolled in a special class, is somehow more entitled to it.

When classes have first claim to the computer labs, logistics become an issue. Computer centers are open only limited hours throughout any given day, especially on weekends, and to further restrict access to students by claiming several hours for classroom use is clearly unfair. For example, consider only the first floor SAC computer center. On Wednesday alone, the lab is open for use from 7:30 a.m. until midnight. But nine of these hours are already reserved for classroom use. Using the statistics provided by the college, one lucky student could use a particular computer while seven others would be forced to search elsewhere for another terminal simply because he or she is not in a particular class.

It is unlikely that the college will soon be fortunate enough to supply every student access to a computer at any given hour. This is especially true if a student seeks a computer in the daylight hours—the college policy has already declared that a professor's need for a computer as a teaching aid is evidently more worthy than any one student who seeks technology to continue their own college education.



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