

The Almanian

September 12, 1995

Serving Alma College since 1907

Issue 1

Convocation opens academic year

By Trisha A. Warner
News Editor

Opening Convocation officially marked the beginning of the 1995-96 academic school year last Thursday. President Alan J. Stone welcomed the entire Alma College community in his traditional opening address.

"For the president of a college, convocation is the best day of the academic year," he stated. "A day laden with hope and expectation... promise."

Stone pointed out campus improvements completed over the summer, reminding students of Alma's dedication to the environment. Planting trees, according to Stone, is a planning act for the future. He stated that for each tree removed during the construction of a building, three more are planted. Additionally, two new trees have been planted in memory of Steve Christner, class of '98, and Anna Funk, class of '94, who died recently.

Stone likened education to the growth of the tree: Just as a tree must tap its deep roots for food and minerals to grow on, students tap the deep roots of our history and culture and use the information as guidance.

Following Stone, senior Julie Braun, president of student congress, addressed the audience. She encouraged all students to get in-

volved in the many campus activities, whether it be sports, clubs, or volunteerism.

"I urge you to find one that is right for you. Your presence and your voice make a difference," Braun stated.

She also explained this year's Senior Challenge project. According to Braun, the class of 1996 challenged itself to raise \$10,000 for the John Gamble Memorial Scholarship, further memorializing their lost classmate.

Provost Leslie Ellen Brown then introduced the new faculty to the student body including tenure track positions filled in four departments: Dr. Brian D. Ryenolds, assistant professor of biology, Dr. Karen K. Garner, assistant professor of history, Dr. Karen L. Ball, assistant professor of exercise and health science, and C. Sandy Lopez-Isnardi, assistant professor of art and design departments. She also awarded gifts to Professor of Sociology Verne Bechill, Professor of Business Administration George Gazmararian, Professor of Religious Studies Tracy Luke, Professor of English Eugene Pattison, retired Professor of History M. J. J. Smith, and Chairperson and Professor of Religious Studies Joseph Walser for their 30 years of service to Alma's students.

Finally, Alma conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science to Wilbert J. McKeachie.



Bagpipes provide a traditional opening to the convocation ceremonies. Photo by Jerry Stassinopoulos

McKeachie has taught at the University of Michigan for many years and also served as chairman of the Psychology department for 11 years. He studied undergraduate learning for three years and wrote a textbook that is currently in its ninth

edition.

Senior Lyle Simmons enjoyed convocation. "I've always enjoyed hearing the administration speak and feeling the anticipation of the new school year. This convocation was more moving than others be-

cause it is my last year at Alma."

The singing of the Alma Mater and "Traditional Scottish Tunes" by senior piper Andrew Duncan signaled the end of convocation and the traditional beginning of another year at Alma College.

Student injured in campus attack

By Joe Bogan
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, August 27, two students were physically assaulted in the parking lot between Gelston and Mitchell Halls.

First-year student Gaberial Edgecomb escaped the four man onslaught by running into Mitchell Hall; senior Don Hoffman was not so fortunate, suffering a broken nose and facial abrasions.

The last incident of assault that occurred at Alma College was six or seven years ago. However, it was resolved before any serious altercation took place.

Dean of Students James

Kridler, who believes no significant problems have existed between the town and the college in recent years, praised the police for their quick apprehension of the attackers.

"This is a very unusual occurrence," said Kridler. "It is very beneficial to be in a small town where the police can work so quickly."

"I am thankful for the people that stood behind me," said Hoffman.

The police's rapid apprehension was also due to other disturbances the men had created that night. At last notice, three of the four assailants had been arrested and arraigned for their role in the attack.

Student displacement a chronic issue in housing problems

By Joe Bogan
Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, Alma College Resident Assistants received roommates, and President Alan J. Stone hosted "houseguests" to resolve inadequate housing for incoming students.

At the beginning of preterm, 12 women and eight men were forced to live with RAs because no other rooms were available. Additionally four women resided with Stone for approximately five days.

"It is delightful and always fun to have students in the house," said Stone.

"They were very nice and hospitable," said Stone's first-year resident Sarah Lefke, "but it was sometimes inconvenient since all our things were in the basement."

Actions were taken during housing sign-up last year to relieve potential housing problems (an addi-

aside for men and sections of Gelston Hall were made co-ed by room). However, because of this year's large senior class and a high rate of retention, housing remains a real problem.

Currently, all but two of the displaced students were reassigned housing by the end of the first week of classes. Additional upperclassmen were solicited to live off campus without petition (in addition to the 28 who entered last year's lottery for off-campus housing).

Campus housing has also been expanded to alleviate overcrowding. Apartment houses on Grant and Center Streets are now designated student housing. Some first-year students were placed in openings in South Complex.

This year's rapid reassignment of rooms showed a vast improvement over last year, when 17 first-year men lived with either resident assistants or in Stone's house for an extended period of time. The

last misplaced student was not assigned a room until halfway through fall term.

According to Stone, the college is full, but it is not overcrowded.

"It is more a problem of reshuffling than overcrowding. We are allowing more upperclassmen to live off campus now so the space will be available," said Stone.

"The trick is to move the students into the most appropriate spaces, while trying to identify those students who did not return this year. We don't know who is returning until everyone is registered," explained Dean of Students James Kridler.

Will this become a major problem in the future? Stone and Kridler both agree it will not. With a senior class of 420, student enrollment is projected to go down 20-30 students next year. But with students registering late, it is always difficult to put them in appropriate housing at a moment's notice.

Sept. 12, 1995

Regency entertains campus

By Joseph Johnston
Staff Reporter

After a brief introduction from senior Julie Johnston, the acappella group Regency opened their free concert Saturday night with a spirited rendition of the Jackie Wilson song, "Your Love (Keeps Lifting Me Higher)." Within seconds, a Presbyterian Hall crowd of 369 were on their feet, clapping and singing along to the soulful sounds of Motown.

Regency, from Baltimore, Maryland, entertained the diverse campus and community crowd with an interesting blend of fantastic vocals and between-song humor. This was their second appearance on Alma's campus, but their first performance for the entire student body.

Johnston, a member of the Alma College Union Board (ACUB), explained, "They were here for preTerm last year and were just

phenomenal. We had to have them back for the rest of the school."

Fellow ACUB members juniors Kathy Taylor and Cookie Swieczkowski agreed. "It's good! Good clean fun!"

Saturday's concert, courtesy of ACUB, brought together an interesting group of people. Although a few elderly ladies left halfway through the show due to loudness, nearly everyone seemed to enjoy the singers immensely. Children and grandparents danced in the aisles and crowd members clapped and sang along.

Enticing the audience with the first lines of the Isely Brothers' "Shout," lead vocalist DeWayne McNeil decided that Alma was a "country" crowd—he and the other four Regency members broke out into their rendition of Billy Ray Cyrus' "Achy Breaky Heart." At least 25 students immediately began to country line dance on the wings of the stage.

Regency provided something for everybody, and everyone enjoyed at least a part of it.

Regency's music was fantastic, but the stand-up comedy between songs left something to be desired. The singers seemed to enjoy their jokes and antics, but the crowd did not always understand—or enjoy—what they were saying.

Some took offense early in the show when the group commented on all the "good-looking women in the crowd" and how they "must have come to the right place."

All in all, though, the music was worth it.

After singing birthday dedications to two members of the audience and giving the philanthropic message, "Don't do drugs or practice racism," the five members of Regency encored with a soulful rendition of the classic, "In the Still of the Night." It was a beautiful night, and people left Presbyterian Hall with smiles on their faces.



Regency, an acapella group, performed for Alma College students and the Alma community on Saturday. The group performed such songs as "Your Love (Keeps Lifting Me Higher)" and "Achy Breaky Heart" before closing with "In the Still of the Night." The Alma College Union Board (ACUB) first booked the Baltimore band for Preterm 1994. After the phenomenal performance that Regency gave then, ACUB decided to arrange for the group to perform for the whole campus. (Photo courtesy of the Public Relations Office)

In the spotlight!

Renaissance Society sets sights high in preparation for new year

By Char Vandermeer
Feature Editor

Bored? Need a diversion? Do you love attention? Are you interested in art, music, dance or theater? How about magic, literature, public speaking or history? If so, Alma's Renaissance Society may be the campus organization for you.

While Alma offers a wide variety of extra-curricular organizations promoting student involvement, the Renaissance Society encourages students to share their talents with their peers without the pressures of class involvement. The Renaissance Society seeks to revive the visual, performing and literary arts on Alma's campus.

"The Society is the perfect forum for students to express themselves in ways that are not offered elsewhere," said senior Lisa Edwards, chairperson of the group.

Last year the Society sponsored a wide variety of performances including improvisational workshops, piano duets, interpretive dances and poetry readings.

"I would like to see a greater

degree of student involvement this year," commented one of the Society's theater representatives, senior Stephen Sobieski. "I would also like to see the Society's impact on the student body grow."

Students are encouraged to present any performance ideas to the Society. Ideas will be discussed and voted upon in weekly open meetings.

"There are a lot of talented students on this campus and the Society provides the financial and emotional support the performers may need to successfully promote and demonstrate their abilities," said Edwards.

This year the Society aims to sponsor a greater number of performances and utilize many different performative styles.

"Traditional ideas of performance are always welcome," said the Society's English Representative, junior Mark Andrews. "However, exposing the student body to the techniques and customs of non-European cultures will be strongly encouraged."

Not only is the Society interested

in promoting alternative forms of performance, but it also stresses the successful combination of artistic areas.

"I would like to see more shows that combine different aspects of

the arts to create a unified show. Something along the lines of performance art, for example," remarked Andrews.

The Renaissance Society is scheduled to have its first organi-

zational and promotional meeting on Saturday, September 23, at 11 p.m. in the library conference room. All interested students are encouraged to attend.

Campus Organizations

- *Alma Ambassadors
- *Alma College Christian Fellowship
- *Alma Pride
- *Alma Young Democrats
- *The Almanian
- *Association for Intercultural Understanding (AIU)
- *Boasting Alcohol
- *Consciousness Concerning the Health of Undergraduate Students (BACCHUS)
- *Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
- *College Republicans
- *Epic
- *Hall Councils
- *Mentoring Enhances Growth at Alma (MEGA)
- *Model United Nations
- *Pine River Anthology
- *Presidential Service Group
- *Renaissance Society

- *The Scotsman
- *Student Alumni Association (SAA)
- *Students Offering Service (SOS)
- *Students Organized Against Rape (SOAR)
- *Students United for Nature (SUN)
- *United Coalition of Students (UCS)
- *Vespers and Chapel Committee
- *Women's Issues Advisory Board (WIAB)
- *WQAC 90.9 FM
- *Academic Honor Societies
- Alpha Mu Gamma (AMG)
- Alpha Psi Omega (APSO)
- Beta Beta Beta (BBB)
- Chi Epsilon Mu (XEM)
- Exercise/Health Science
- Gamma Delta Alpha (GDA)
- Lambda Iota Tau (LIT)

- Lambda Pi Eta (LPIE)
- Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK)
- Phi Alpha Theta (ΦAT)
- Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK)
- Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (ΦMA)
- Pi Sigma Alpha (ΠΣA)
- Psi Chi (ΨΧ)
- Rho Chi Epsilon (PXE)
- Sigma Pi Sigma (ΣΠΣ)
- Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ)
- Society of Physics Students
- *Greek Organizations
- Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ)
- Alpha Xi Delta (ΑΞΔ)
- Gamma Phi Beta (ΓΦΒ)
- Kappa Iota (KI)
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ)
- Sigma Chi (ΣΧ)
- Tau Kappa Epsilon (ΤΚΕ)
- Theta Chi (ΘΧ)
- Zeta Sigma (ΖΣ)

Classified

Reminder for education students: Please stop by the Education Department as soon as possible to update the information contained in the Student Card file.

Attention Secondary Education Students: If you plan to student teach during the 1996-97 school year, please confirm your plans by contacting Dr. Anthony Rickard (AC 236; 7209).

Attention Students interested in Teaching: If

interested in Elementary Education or the Early Childhood endorsement, please contact Dr. Sue Root (AC 239; 7202) or Dr. Lynda Ludy (AC 238; 7166). If interested in Secondary Education, please contact Dr. Anthony Rickard (AC 236; 7209).

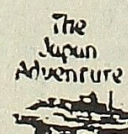
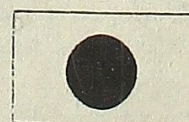
Attention aspiring journalists: The Almanian is looking for any Alma College students interested in working for the paper. The sports editor and staff reporting positions are currently available. Journalism

experience is preferred; however, it is not necessary. Contact Justin Bauer at 466-5306 or Laura Paetz at 7418 for an interview.

WANTED: Freelance writers and photographers: Students interested in working for The Almanian on a freelance basis should attend an informational meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Almanian office in the basement of Newberry Hall. No experience is necessary.

Live, Study, and Work in Japan!

Japanese Work Study Program



If you have a strong personal interest in acquiring knowledge of the Japanese language, society, and culture and have a sense of adventure- You should attend an informational meeting on:

September 22, 1995 at 12 p.m. in AC 214
Or contact Professor Gazmararian at AC 245

*Pizza & Pop will be served

Football

Scots gear up for '95 season with a win

By Maria Toscano
Staff Reporter

Alma College fans got a taste of the 1995 football season last Saturday when the Scots hosted Olivet Nazarene.

"First half we played well, but not great," said Assistant Coach John Leister. "We had a lot of breakdowns the second half, passes not caught at crucial downs and plays not made."

Although the team beat Olivet Nazarene 36 to 10, the coaches still are looking for improvement from the team.

"We grew as a team defensively this game," said Assistant Coach Bret Hyble. "We played low and hard, but we've got a lot to improve on."

Hyble stresses three goals for the year, including "winning as many games as possible." Hyble's other goals relate to the players as stu-

dents. "We want to produce quality people and good students."

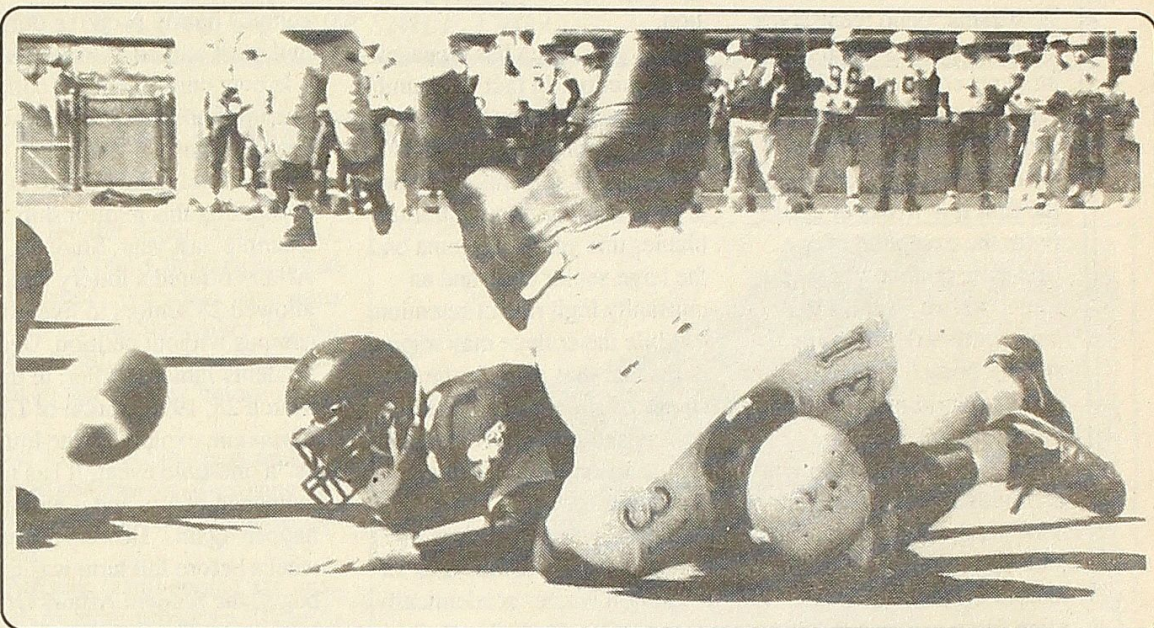
"We are a talented team, but not dominating. We have to fight for everything," said Head Football Coach Jim Cole. "Defense made some nice things happen this game, and the offense played well."

Mel Skillman, who coaches the Scots on receiving and kicking, was pleased with the players' performance overall.

"Our kicking game was exactly what we wanted," stressed Skillman. "We did everything right and even got in two trick plays. The players paid attention to detail and did it."

The coaches are keeping the season in perspective, focusing on each game one at a time.

"As for looking for a 9-0 season, I don't even think about that," said Leister. "I try to take it one game at a time. I try to keep the guys focused on that on snap or that one



An unidentified Alma player sees the ball within reach as an Olivet player puts an end to the play. Photo by Brent Oeschger.

series."

"It is always nice to win," said senior offensive lineman Bryant Martin. "The team is a lot better than we played, and we just want to take it one game at a time."

Senior team captain Jason Couch believes the team will continue to improve each game. "The defense played well and will continue to improve with each game, and the

freshmen did a great job."

Martin also complimented the first-year players on playing tough. "We've got the best freshmen class since I've been here," said Martin. "Every time we win it's because they give us a good look and they deserve the credit for it."

Cole is also equally excited for this year's newcomers. "We have got a good number of first-year

students who will contribute very soon," said Cole. "Bryan Bunch, Jim George, Rob Cooper, Nick Douglas, Kyle Cortez, Jim Townsend, and Gabe Sipe came to the forefront in camp."

Hyble is looking for a team that is going to keep working to improve.

"We were happy with the win, but we are still hungry."

New women's soccer coach has high expectations

By Emily Damstra
Staff Reporter

Last January, Alma College hired Tammy Anderson as women's athletic director, women's soccer coach, and women's tennis coach.

In August of 1994, Deb Mapes, the women's athletic director, soccer and tennis coach, resigned. Men's Athletic Director Denny Griffin, who had held his position for only a month, was suddenly in charge of both women's and men's athletics. An immediate replacement for the women's soccer coach was necessary since soccer season was only weeks away.

"Anderson was hired until the athletic department could do a national search for a women's athletic director this fall. Anderson saw a great opportunity to get involved in sports administration, and interviewed for the job in December of 1994.

"She interviewed well," said Griffin. "She is outgoing, personable, and did an excellent job with the soccer team last year. I'm excited to have her, and she is doing a good job so far."

Last winter term, Anderson was student teaching while she learned the ropes of her new position.

"It was a unique year for all of us," recalled Griffin.

Anderson played soccer and majored in physical education at Michigan State University. Coincidentally, she attended high school with senior Julie Braun, captain of this year's women's soccer team.

"[Anderson] was my idol," said Braun. "She was a great student, and has wonderful organizational skills. She is caring, motivational, and wants people to succeed."

These qualities, according to Braun, will make Anderson a successful athletic director.

"She is completely into sports, and is in a position where she can lead," Braun continued.

Anderson, who commutes to Alma from East Lansing, is finishing her teaching certificate this year. The "package deal" of women's athletic director includes coaching women's soccer and tennis, directing the pom team and overseeing the budget. In addition to these duties, Anderson also teaches EHS 150, Fitness for Life.

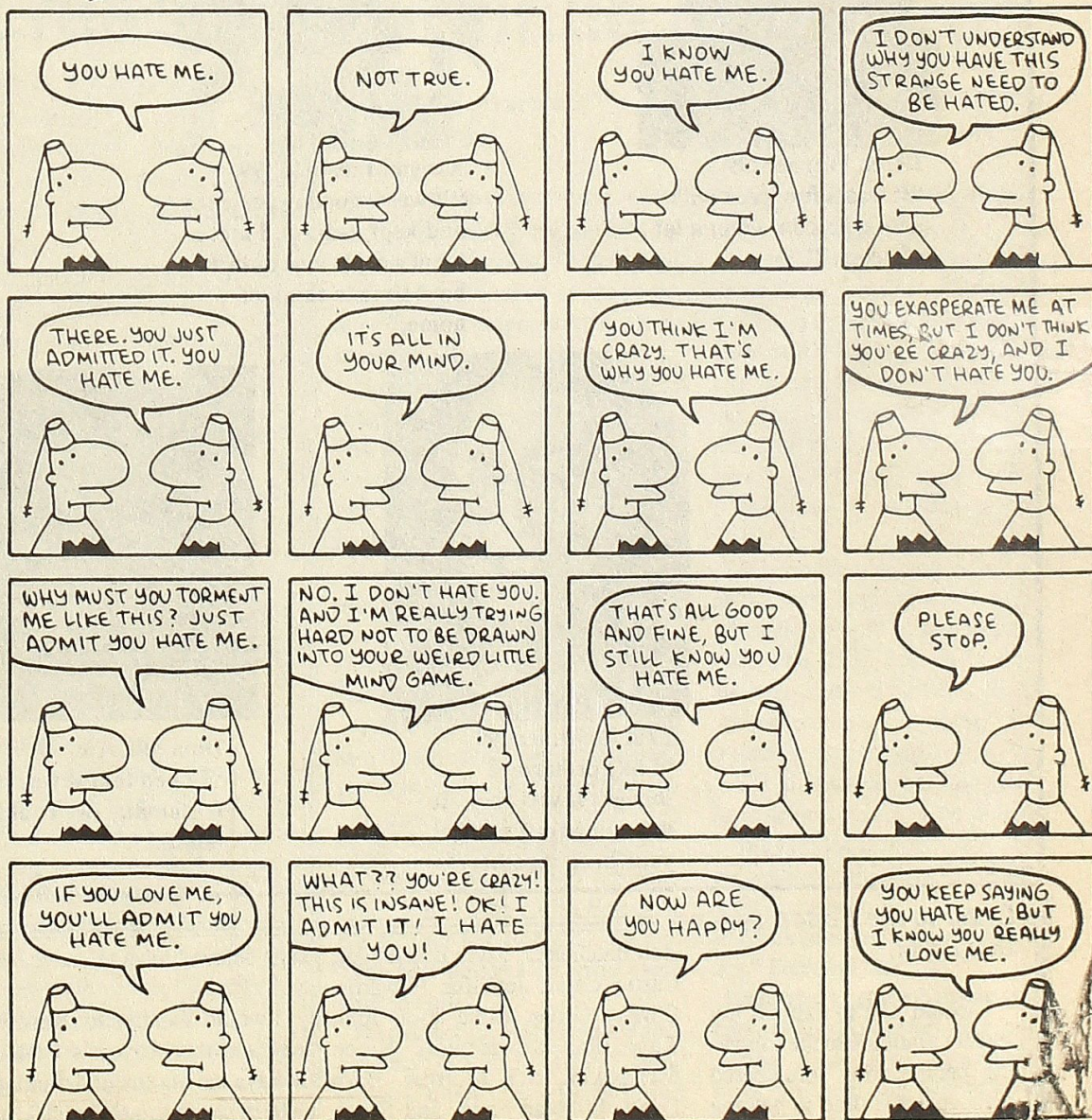
Her goal this year is to stay on top of things.

"I love everything about [my job]," said Anderson. "It was an unbelievable opportunity and is a great outlet. I am extremely busy but there is always someone willing to help. These are great people to work with."

Anderson is considering taking classes at Central Michigan University towards a master's degree in sports administration.

LIFE IN HELL

©1995
BY MATT
GROENING



Sept. 12, 1995

Staff Editorial

Housing problems continue

Last fall President Alan J. Stone and 10 Resident Assistants found themselves with roommates when more students enrolled at Alma than the administration had projected. Although this problem was relieved within the first few weeks of class (with the exception of one first-year student who was forced to live with his RA until midterm), the entire student body felt the effects of the over enrollment for the duration of the year.

Students lived in basements and study lounges of residence halls. On-campus parking turned into a nightmare. Computer labs were often filled to capacity. Class sizes increased noticeably. Professors had less time to spend with each student. Students found popular

classes filled and scrambled for open spaces during preregistration.

This year Alma has repeated this situation. In fact, the number of displaced students has risen, saddling Stone and 20 RAs with 24 displaced students at the onset of preterm. The administration blames this year's dilemma on the large senior class and an unusually high rate of retention.

While the college may rejoice in the fact that Alma is the first choice of so many high school seniors and that current students choose to stay, all of Alma's students lose.

Alma College advertises itself in its *Admissions Catalog* as an institution where "academically, strong and individualized relationships between faculty and students are a priority, as are small classes, excellent facilities and innovative career develop-

ment and foreign study opportunities...Our close-knit campus family is one of our best and most attractive features."

Is over enrollment the college's attempt to make a closer-knit campus family?

More likely, the college is dissipating this relationship. For example, last year, Student Affairs offered a lottery which allowed 28 seniors to live off campus without petition. Dean of Students James Kridler, in the March 28, 1995 edition of *The Almanian*, explained the lottery as "a one-time event. It has never happened before and it will never happen again." However, just weeks before fall term was to begin, the Student Affairs Office solicited still more upperclassmen, including juniors and sophomores, to live off campus.

By allowing the student body to grow at such a rate, the college

risks its reputation as a small institution dedicated to personalizing its students' education. This trend of over enrollment makes it increasingly difficult for students to get the kind of attention Alma promises--whether in the residence halls or in the academic center. Even if enrollment drops by 30 to 40 people next year, according to administration projectives, the student body will continue to grow significantly.

When the fall of 1996 approaches, maybe the college will find itself in a different position. Maybe enrollment will be exactly as they anticipated. Maybe there will be proper campus housing for everyone who needs it. Maybe students can adapt to a larger student body with the same small campus. Maybe.

The Almanian

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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. Letters may not appear in full due to layout or editing 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.

A Time and a Season...

Preterm initiates the Class of '99

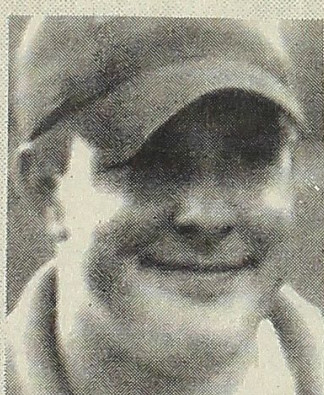
With the start of another school year, 430 first-year students began their journey at Alma College. Preterm gave these students their first glimpse of the courses, people and rituals which make up college life.

In this week's *Campus Comment*, we asked a few students from the class of 1999 how they felt about their first taste of the Alma College experience.



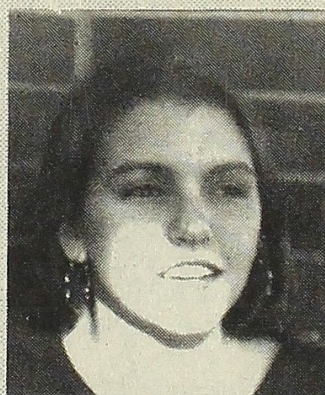
Derek Warner '99

"It was a fun week with a lot going on. I met a lot of people."



Aaryn Mansfield '99

"It was a good experience and kept us busy. I met a lot of people and didn't have time to think of home."



Stacie Burdette '99

"This was a great way to adjust to college life. Preterm was a good example of what college life was like."



Erin McMiller '99

"I like preterm. I thought it was cool. It lets you adjust and get your head together."



Dina Slikovic '99

"I liked that it was just freshman—we could bond."

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following people who volunteered their valuable time to helping me work on my thesis this summer: Christine Armstrong, Abbey Batchelder, Anne Win-

ston Batchelder, Myra Batchelder, Carrie Cater, Jennifer Edwards, Christy Gross, Mike Jura, John Kapp, Ray Kowalewski, Karen McConkie, Rick Morrow, Barb Priest, Lokman Sund, and Susan Walton. Without their willingness to assist me I likely would not have been able to finish collecting the

data before I have to leave for fall term.

I would also like to thank Security and the Provost's Office for always having the doors unlocked when I needed, and Media Services for allowing me to extend the use of a slide projector long past my original reservation.

Finally, thanks to Tom Batchelder, my thesis adviser, who has been ever so patient during the long, and still ongoing process of doing this research.

Hedlun Walton
Class of '96