

AT RANDOM

by Amber Mihm

College or Bust— or Both!

In October I visited Andrews University for College Days, and I can describe my experience in one word: Overwhelming. I attend Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) where there are only 240 students. All of the buildings are strategically positioned in a rectangle so you can walk out of any building and see all the others lined up neatly before you.

What a contrast to the Andrews campus! Lamson Hall alone seems bigger than our entire campus. If you've ever tried to find a certain room in the girls' dorm, you know what I mean. It's a maze! Also for the other buildings, well, all that brick tends to look suspiciously like all that other brick after awhile. I couldn't find my way from one place to the next without concentrating very hard.

Don't get me wrong—a big campus isn't such a bad thing once you learn your way around. Comfortable as it may be, I get quite tired of the brick rectangle that constitutes the GLAA campus. However, in the grand scheme of things, the size of the campus is not what I'm using to determine my choice of a college.

In my search, the most important factor is the academics. After all, the point of going to college is to learn, right? On that scale, Andrews University ranks at the top of my list. As I toured different departments, a common phrase was repeated over and over: "We're at the top of this field." I was impressed that an Andrews education can prepare me to be the best in whatever field I might choose.

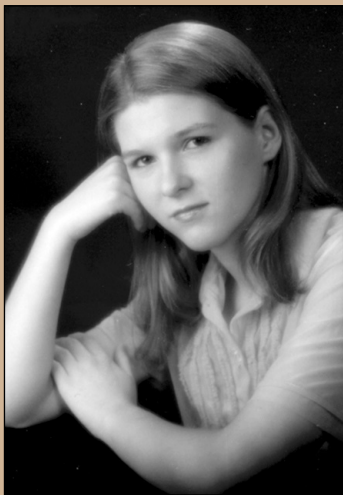
Other than academics, two very important factors are the food and lodging on a college campus. I give the cafe-

teria at Andrews an A. I was rather pleased, especially since my favorite meal in the world is a cold sandwich and a pop. I had that for each meal during College Days, and I was thrilled. Really, the only complaint I had during my visit was the freshman dorm rooms. They did leave something to be desired, but, of course, no college can have the best of everything.

My overall opinion of the Andrews experience is that it's an excellent school. Unfortunately, the better the college the flatter the wallet. There are ways to work around the costs of education, I know, but coming from a fairly low-income family, I know tuition is a major consideration for me. This is where college selection becomes frustrating. I don't want to be strapped with debt this early in my life. A logical move would be to choose a cheaper community college over the student loan, but I would hate to sacrifice a better education and higher pay down the road for that lower price tag now. The perplexities are endless. Each college has strong and weak points. Each is right for someone, and none is right for everyone, not even Andrews.

I guess I have a very important, yet difficult, decision to make, and that decision will affect the rest of my life on earth. This decision cannot and will not be made without the Master Professor, so I really don't need to worry. In the meantime, I am doing

my homework on different colleges. And through all my research I have reached only one unvarying conclusion: *I think I want to stay in high school!*



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Amber Mihm is a senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Michigan. She lives in Holland, Mich., and enjoys music and participating in the GLAA school gymnastics team, Aerokhanas. We hope she decides to attend Andrews University in the fall.